



(Please save time to complete the second activity at the end of the lesson)

ASK THIS:

What is one of your biggest fears about the future? How does this fear impact the way you live?

READ ALOUD: SERMON RECAP

The Day of the Lord WILL come and enemies of God's people will experience His wrath. The book of Obadiah is aimed at the Edomites, Esau's descendents whose capital was Petra, who had harassed and even plotted with Jerusalem's enemies to bring her down. Works of the flesh (Edom) are condemned as worthless for salvation. For believers it is important to understand that however you mete out justice and mercy, so it will be with you.

REVEAL

Take a few moments and ask God to help you discern, understand and apply the spiritual truth(s) of this week's lesson.

READ TOGETHER:

Obadiah 1:3-4

Your presumptuous heart has deceived you, you who live in clefts of the rock in your home on the heights, who say to yourself, "Who can bring me down to the ground?" Though you seem to soar like an eagle and make your nest among the stars, even from there I will bring you down. This is the LORD's declaration."

REFLECT

READ ALOUD:

Some Information About Obadiah¹:

- 1) A sense of outrage permeates this little book, outrage directed toward Edom. The precise context of the book may be elusive, but a wealth of intertextual associations provokes reading the book in the light of a larger literary context. For the Israelite reader Obadiah would have evoked a whole series of associative allusions beyond the context of the book itself.
 - a. The repeated use of the name Esau (vv.6,8,9,18,21) and the descriptions of Jacob as his brother (vv.10,12) move us beyond the realm of international politics and into the world of family relationships.
 - b. As one reads through this little book a clear picture emerges that the two nations-Israel and Edom-are inextricably bound together from their birth in the tents of Isaac and Rebekah.
 - c. Obadiah pronounces that Edom will be *despised* among the nations, the same word used to describe how Esau *despised* his birthright (v.2; Gen.25:34) The pride of Esau is at the forefront of Edom and leads them to judgement.

¹ Dillard, Raymond. *An Introduction To The Old Testament*. Zondervan, Grand Rapids, Michigan 1994. p. 389-390

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- d. Edom's attack on Israel was more than simply a matter of international politics and opportunism: it was the betrayal of a brother and a strike against God's plan for Edom established so many centuries ago when they came from Rebekah's womb.

RECOGNIZE

READ THIS:

Recall some main teachings from the message:

1. Many believe the faulty thinking that says "I'm righteous and good enough therefore Heaven is my destination." However, the message in Obadiah is clear; any attempt to appease God apart from the blood of Jesus will lead to God's judgment, and there is no escape.
2. Imbedded within the message of Obadiah is the incredible promise that while God will judge unrighteousness, He will bless the righteous in Him. Ultimately, the true believer (and only the true believer) will avoid the wrath of God.

RESPOND

DISCUSS:

- 1) In verses 1-2 of Obadiah God is calling the nations together to war against Edom. In verses 5-9 God makes clear that Edom's violence and pillaging of Israel is what led God's wrath to be unleashed upon them.
 - Is this an aspect of God's character that you are familiar with? If not, what impression does it make on you after reading these verses?
 - Do you believe the judgment against Edom has any relevance to your own life, attitude, or behavior? Why or why not?
- 2) In the study notes for Obadiah chapter 1 (page 1511 in the HCSB study bible) we read the following regarding verse 5:

Thieves...grape pickers is a twofold illustration of the thoroughness of the impending judgment (Jr 49:9). Even more completely than thieves pillaging from their victims' houses (cp. Ob 11, Edomites' ravaging of Israel's wealth) or farmers harvesting crops, this destruction would leave no remnant behind (v. 5; Jr 49:10). The mention of **grapes** (lit "gleanings of grapes or olives") alludes to the practice of leaving leftovers from the harvest in the corners of the field for widows, orphans, and aliens to gather (Lv 23:22, Ru 2). Whereas gleaning in the OT often entails a remnant (Is 17:6; Jr 6:9), Obadiah left no room for hope. No remnant would be left for Edom. (cp. Ob 18).

In these notes the extent of how angry God is with Edom is magnified. Essentially the Edomites were not only pillaging those in Israel who had possessions but also those who had nothing.

As 21st century Christ-followers, society has witnessed numerous injustices.

 - Name two or three injustices you've heard/read/experienced/witnessed. Share 1-2 of your thoughts from those moments.
 - How does reading some of the specifics of God's anger towards Edom help you understand God's attitude towards injustice?
- 3) Read aloud verses 10-14. Next read the study notes in the HCSB for verses 10-14. Using your own words what was the main point of conflict God had with Edom?
 - As of today what is the main point of conflict God could have with you?
 - How might your life group help you work through this conflict?

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- 4) Read aloud verses 15-16. In verses 15-16 God reveals that in the Day of the LORD all nations will have done to them what they have done to others. Then all nations will “be as though they had never been”. Notice God says “all nations”; to the Old Testament reader this means EVERYONE will suffer God’s judgment! There is no bartering with Him, He offers no escape clauses, and there is no changing His mind. EVERYONE will suffer God’s judgment.
- What initial thoughts come to mind as you reflect on the finality of God’s judgment?
 - Is the finality of God’s judgment something that causes anxiety for you? Why or why not?
 - For New Testament Christ-followers this pronouncement should come not as scary news because our life has been bought by the blood of Jesus Christ (Rom 6:23) This pronouncement should help us acknowledge that time is quickly fading and our commitment to spread the good news of Jesus Christ further and faster in our spheres of influence must be a priority!
 - If you evaluated your life, how motivated would people say you are to share the message of Jesus to others?
 - What would it look like for someone to live in such a way that those around them cannot help but feel the urgency of the message of Jesus Christ?

COMPLETE THESE TWO ACTIVITIES: (if low on time, complete activity 1 at home)

- 1) As a New Testament reader of the Old Testament book of Obadiah, it can be stated with confidence that any attempt to appease God apart from the blood of Jesus will lead to God’s judgment, and there is no escape. The enemies of God WILL be punished and feel the full measure of God’s wrath.
- Identify 2 or 3 people in your life whom you know are far from God.
 - Write out a prayer for each person on a sheet of paper. The prayer could be that God would send someone into his or her life to share Jesus. The prayer could also be for courage as you share Jesus with them. The prayer could even be that the Holy Spirit would make them feel conviction of their sin. No matter what type of prayer you pray, just make it your own and from the heart.
 - Keep the prayers in a safe place this week and during your quiet time take a few minutes and pray for those people you’ve identified.
 - Commit to follow-up next week with others in your life group. Ask each other: DID YOU PRAY FOR THEM OR SHARE CHRIST WITH THEM? If no, why not?
- 2) Divide the group into men and women. Make sure each group is in a different room to ensure privacy.

LEADER ASK THIS: What is one area of your life that is not in line with Scripture? (ex. ego, temper, honesty, finances, marriage etc.)

LEADER ASK THIS: What is one way (besides prayer) this group of men/women can help you take a growth step towards Christlikeness?