

**Victoria Fellowship Church**  
**International & Interdenominational**  
**Bible Study Worksheet – December 4, 2022**

**Theme:** The World Earnestly Awaits Your Manifestation **Topic:** Manifesting Obedience.

**Main Texts:** Matthew 1:18-24; Matthew 26:36-44

**Key verse:** Matthew 1:24 – “When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife.” (NIV)

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**INTRODUCTION:** Our quarter theme brings us today, to the subject of obedience. And this is emphasized both in the Old and New Testament. Holman’s Illustrated Bible Dictionary crisply defines biblical obedience as “to hear God’s word and to act accordingly”. This is what God requires and expects of His people, and that is what Joseph did. In Matthew 1:20 - 24, God appeared to Joseph in a dream and told him to accept Mary’s pregnancy without questions. And when Joseph woke up (from his sleep), he “took Mary home as his wife.” Doing exactly as instructed without equivocation. But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to her Son, a sign that he took God seriously!

**1. (a) If you were in Joseph’s shoes, which aspect of this whole scenario would have made it difficult for you to obey God? Why? (b) Let participants list other factors which contribute to making obedience hard. (c) Read Psalm 119:4; John 14:21. What does God’s word say to the argument that ‘obedience is harder for us now because, unlike the people in the Bible, we don’t hear directly from God on what to do on many occasions?’**

‘Obey before complaint’ is a popular maxim among the armed forces. This maxim echoes what God told King Saul, ‘To obey is better than sacrifice...’ (1 Samuel 15:22-23). By marrying the pregnant Mary, Joseph assumed responsibility for the pregnancy, embracing whatever backlash from his society. Similarly, as much as He wished otherwise, our Lord Jesus Christ had to drink the whole cup of God’s wrath. He couldn’t leave even a drop, and He knew His obedience had to be total. As King Saul found out, partial obedience, no matter how ‘wise’ our reasoning may be, is the same as disobedience. Neither can we choose which commands to obey and in what circumstances. David understood this and prayed: “Teach me your decrees, O LORD; I will keep them to the end. Give me understanding and I will obey your instructions; I will put them into practice with all my heart.” (Psalm 119:33-34 NLT).

**2. (a) Read Matthew 26:39,42; John 14:21,31. Why is it important that our obedience to God is made evident? (b) From our passages today and from your own experience, what can make total obedience difficult? (c) What can we learn from King David, Joseph, and our Lord, Jesus Christ to help us obey God no matter the cost/situation?**

‘If someone claims, “I know God,” but doesn’t obey God’s commandments, that person is a liar and is not living in the truth. But those who obey God’s word truly show how completely they love him’ (1 John 2:3–6). This is basically saying that without obedience, there is no Christianity. As our passages for today show, obedience comes with a huge price tag. We can only imagine what ridicule and inner turmoil Joseph had to endure. As for our Lord, Jesus Christ, He was obedient to the point of death (Philippians 2:8). One Bible dictionary defines **obedience** as a *willingness to submit oneself to the will of God and to put it into effect*. When we obey God, we show our love, trust, and faith in Him. This is what the world is looking to see from us. It takes a certain mindset to obey God completely in every situation. The Psalmist not only prayed about obedience but did something to help himself in this direction (Psalm 119:9,11). The more we read God’s Word, spend time with Him in prayers, and allow the Holy Spirit to change us from within, the more we grow in obedience to Christ. And we can be sure that we know Him if we obey His commandments.

**3. (a) What are the hinderances stopping us from manifesting obedience to the word? (b) Read Psalm 40:6-8; Matthew 26:39,42; 2 Peter 1:5-8. Concerning our obedience to God, what vital attitudes and actions do we see here, which we ought to emulate? (c) How can we apply these attitudes to overcome hindrances to obedience?**

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**Prayer:** Dear God, You have given us everything we need to manifest lives of obedience to You. Help us to courageously take hold of those resources to obey you completely, so we can be effective witnesses of Jesus’ death, resurrection, and the only hope of salvation to a perishing world, in Jesus’ name, amen.