

It's Not About Me

Lesson 1—It's Not About You

OVERVIEW

Bible Passages: Obadiah 1-21

Key Verse: 2 Corinthians 10:17-18—"But, 'Let him who boasts boast in the Lord.'"

BEFORE CLASS

Preparation: *Your preparation will determine the direction your class will go.*

- Consider how you use your words. What do you boast about? Why?
- Consider what it means to boast in Christ.
- Study and prepare your lesson so that you are familiar with the teaching outline.
- Use the Contact 1-2-3 system to follow up on students who have recently missed Sunday School.
- Pray for each student by name.

OPENING ACTIVITY

Discussion

- *What is the craziest thing you've ever done in your life? (i.e., bungee jump, etc.)*
 - *What is something you feel like you're really good at?*
- *Do you ever find yourself wanting to brag about these things or other things you've done?*
- *What are some things that students brag about? (Athletic abilities, crazy things they do, practical jokes, things they buy, what kind of car they drive, how much money they have...Some ungodly people brag about who they've slept with or how many people they've slept with, etc.)*
- *Why do you think people brag? (To make themselves feel or seem more important.)*
- *Have you ever been around people who constantly bragged about themselves? Did you want to spend time with these people?*

- *Why do you think a Christian should avoid pride and arrogance?* (Because they are ungodly virtues and God will judge them.)

SAY: Today we're going to look at what the Bible says about boasting.

BIBLE LESSON

See who can find the book of Obadiah the fastest.

While turning there, SAY:

The Book of Obadiah is in the Old Testament in a section known as the Minor Prophets. They are called the "Minor" prophets, *not* because their message is minor but their books are shorter. The longer prophetic books are called the "Major Prophets."

SAY: We're going to read a big section today out of the Bible but there's a few things you need to know before we do. Long before this time, Jacob and Esau were twin brothers, but since Esau was born first, he had the right to his father's inheritance, called the birthright. Jacob, however, tricked him into trading this for a bowl of stew. Jacob also stole his father's blessing by dressing up like Esau when his father was old and couldn't see well. Thus, Isaac, their father, blessed him instead of Esau. As a result Jacob fled for his life and although many years later Esau forgave him, there was always dissention and hate between their descendants, the Israelites and the Edomites. This is where the people of Edom came from and this is also one reason that they hated the people of Israel.

Choose a volunteer to read—Read Obadiah 1-4

(NOTE: While we read this passage listen for some things that the Edomites boasted about.)

- *What are some things the Edomites boasted about?* (i.e., making their home in the heights, "Who can bring me down to the ground?", etc.)
- *How many of you have ever seen the movie, "Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade?"*
At the end of the movie, they find the "Holy Grail" inside a large city-like structure carved out of stone—That scene was filmed at a place called Petra, which was a city of the Edomites.

Choose a volunteer to read—Read Obadiah 5-7

- *Why would thieves only steal what they wanted?* (Thieves can't take everything, but the idea is that here they will—nothing will be left as is shown with the illustration of the grape pickers.)

SAY: Grape harvesters in that day would typically leave small amounts of unripe or undiscovered grapes on the vines, but when God's judgment comes to the Edomites, nothing will be left. God's judgment will be severe.

SAY: The Edomites had allowed themselves to become overconfident and prideful, which had led them into other sins.

- *What is the difference between confidence and pride?*
- *How easily can our attitudes change from confidence to pride?* (Very easily if you take your focus off Christ and put it on yourself.)

Choose a volunteer to read—Read Obadiah 8-14

- *What are the seven different acts of pride that Edom committed against Israel in their day of trouble?* (They stood aloof, gloated, rejoiced over their destruction, mocked, appropriated their possessions, cut off fugitives from escaping, and handed over survivors.)

Choose a volunteer to read—Read Obadiah 15-21

- *In what ways will God judge Edom?* (The things they did, will be done to them [v. 15], there will be no survivors [v18], etc.)
- *Does this judgment sound harsh to you?*
- *Do you think Christians today downplay the fact that God judges sin?*
- *In what ways does God proclaim judgment on people today?* (Final judgment is death and hell but God also judges in this life—through events and situations. When a person is in rebellion against Him, He removes his hand of protection and blessing which opens them up for the pain and hurt that sin will always bring.)
- *God proclaimed judgment on Edom because of things they had done. Do you think there is an area of your life in which God may judge you because of things you are doing?*
- *Are there things in your life that you should be doing but you're not?*
- *How else does the book of Obadiah relate to you today?*
- *What is the Christian life all about?* (Knowing Jesus and making Him known.)
- *What is the Christian life not about?* (It's not about you—so boasting about yourself is contrary to Christian living.)

KEY VERSE

Choose three volunteers to read the following verses—Psalm 34:1-2, Psalm 44:4-8, 2 Corinthians 10: 17-18

- *What do you think it means to boast in the Lord?*
- *What is something about which you can brag on God?*
- *Is there something great that God has recently done in your life?*
- *How could boasting about what God is doing in your life help to bring others to Him?*
- *How often do you brag about God?*
- *How often do you brag to God? (This is called praise.)*

WRAP IT UP

Pray today specifically that your students will boast in the Lord and find their confidence in Him.

Prayer Time

List prayer requests below and on the back of this page and pray for your students throughout the week. *Ask if any of your students want to pray today.*

¹Based in part on following lesson: *Lifetrack 5.3*, “That Was Then, This is Now” series, lesson one, “It’s Not About You.” (Nashville: Lifeway, 2005), 84-91.