

Youth Study Guide

Focus Topic

Teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.

SET UP: Create an atmosphere for discussion as you begin this lesson. If possible, allow students to sit down in groups of two or three so that they have an opportunity to share with one another.

Ice Breaker Question

Think about the best teacher you've ever had. What did they do that made them stand out from the rest of your teachers? Allow time for students to respond.

Say:

Some of you have had teachers who impacted your life. Most of you, when thinking about what made them stand out from other teachers, mentioned things about their character or how they made you feel. As we look at the scripture focus, "Teaching them to obey everything I (Jesus) have commanded you," we will answer the following questions:

1. What kind of teacher was Jesus?
2. Why is it important to obey Jesus?
3. What did Jesus command us to do?

Pray

Open the Bible study time with prayer. Thank God for the example that He gave us in Jesus. Pray for the hearts of the students to receive what God has planned beforehand for every single one of them. Pray that God will speak through you. Pray that what the students learn will stir them to action.

Study the Bible

1. What kind of teacher was Jesus?

Jesus was called a Rabbi (John 3:2), the Hebrew word for teacher, by many different people. But His disciples were able to experience Jesus' teaching in a different way than most. For three years, Jesus spent time with His disciples.

Can you imagine spending every day with your youth leader and eleven other students for three years? *Give students time to share with each other what that would be like.*

Jesus didn't spend time with His disciples in a classroom Monday through Friday. Jesus **showed** them how to be a disciple as they journeyed together. What do you do when you wake up in the morning? *Give students time to share with each other.*

Let's look at what Jesus did in the morning.

Read Mark 1:35-39

Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed. Simon and his companions went to look for him, and when they found him, they exclaimed: "Everyone is looking for you!"

Jesus replied, "Let us go somewhere else—to the nearby villages—so I can preach there also. That is why I have come." So he traveled throughout Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and driving out demons.

"Everyone is looking for you!" Notice how Jesus started his day with prayer. He understood that He needed to spend time with God before life's distractions came and found Him,

"Let us go somewhere else—to the nearby villages—so that I can preach there also." Prayer gave Jesus guidance on what He should do.

"That is why I have come." Prayer reminded Jesus of His purpose on earth. What is something that we all do daily? This is not a trick question. *Give students time to share with each other.*

We all need to eat! Breakfast, lunch, and dinner is a part of everyone's day. Jesus used this opportunity to spend time with people.

Ask for student volunteers to read the following verses:

Mark 2:15

While Jesus was having dinner at Levi's house, many tax collectors and sinners were eating with him and his disciples, for there were many who followed him.

Luke 7:36

When one of the Pharisees invited Jesus to have dinner with him, he went to the Pharisee's house and reclined at the table.

Matthew 26:26

While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body."

John 21:12

Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." None of the disciples dared ask him, "Who are you?" They knew it was the Lord.

Why do you think the Bible has so many

references to Jesus eating with others? *Give students time to share with each other. Allow for them to share with the group.*

If you're not careful, you may look at these verses and think, "Oh, Jesus really liked to eat." In reality, Jesus **showed** us the value of fellowship. In simpler terms, He valued spending time with others.

The purpose of spending time with other believers AND with unbelievers is found in His Word. Mark 2:15-17 starts by stating that Jesus spent time with those excluded by the rest of society, like tax collectors and sinners. The reason Jesus spent time with them is found in verse 17. *"It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."* Jesus wanted to share God's love with everyone! That includes those who we don't think need it or want it.

2. Why is it important to obey Him?

Read Acts 2:42-47

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And

the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

Luke, the author of Acts, was a follower of Jesus who became a believer after Paul shared with him the good news of Jesus.

Take a moment to read Acts 2:42-47 silently and imagine that you are Luke, and you are seeing other believers fellowship together firsthand.

What stands out to you? What are the results of fellowshiping together? *Give students time to share with each other. Allow for them to share with the group.*

This passage explains what happened when believers obeyed what Jesus had called them to do.

- Because they fellowshiped together, their needs were met. *"They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need".*
- They were glad. *"They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people".*
- God was at work. *"...the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved."*

What a wonderful thing to look forward to when we obey!

3. What did Jesus command us to do?

When you first make a new friend or enter into a relationship, how do you know what makes your new friend, boyfriend or girlfriend happy or sad? *Give students time*

to share with each other. Allow for them to share with the group.

You communicate! You listen to them, and you talk to them.

When you give your life to Jesus, you enter into a relationship with Him. When you pray, you are talking to God. When you read your Bible, God is talking to you.

Read Mark 12:29-31

“The most important one,” answered Jesus, “is this: ‘Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ The second is this: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no commandment greater than these.”

Read Matthew 28:18-20

Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Can you find the three commands found in these verses? *Give students time to share with each other. Allow for them to share with the group.*

The first command is to love the Lord with all your heart, soul, and mind. The second is

to love your neighbor as yourself. The third is to go and make disciples. These are three life changing commands.

Mary Hill Davis Offering® for Texas Missions Connection

So, what does all of this have to do with the Mary Hill Davis Offering for Texas Missions?

The Mary Hill Davis Offering for Texas Missions understands the importance of teaching the younger generations to live a life like Jesus has called us to live. As a middle schooler and high schooler, you have multiple opportunities to gather with other like-minded students and have someone teach you. Devoted and Embrace are Texas Baptists ministries that want to provide the same opportunities to young adults who want to know more about Jesus and discipling others. Both ministries follow Jesus’ example as He taught His earthly disciples.

1. *Devoted* focuses on creating a space for young adults to connect, fellowship, and grow. Through quarterly events that include worship and teaching, Devoted gathers in locations where young adults typically go, like coffee shops.

2. *Embrace* is a program where young women are mentored to identify their calling and help them grow spiritually.

What can you do?

Pray: Pray for both ministries, the leaders and the young adults participating in each of the ministries.

Promote: You can find these ministries and more at iamtexasmissions.org. Tell others about them. Follow WMU of Texas on Facebook and Instagram and share what you learn.

Give: You can donate online at iamtexasmissions.org/give.

Activities

1. Notes of Encouragement

Write notes of encouragement to the mentees attending *Embrace*. Mail the notes to:

WMU of Texas
10325 Brockwood Rd.
Dallas, Texas 75238

2. Tic-Tac-Toe Missions

For two groups:

- Make a Tic-Tac-Toe board that is big enough for everyone to see. You can use a poster board and hang it on a wall or you can use painters tape to make a temporary board on the wall.
- Put the Tic-Tac-Toe Activities on separate pieces of paper and have the students draw one paper at a time. As students complete each activity, have

them place an X or an O in one of the squares.

Multiple small groups:

- Make a Tic-Tac-Toe board on a sheet of paper and print enough pages for your groups to have one.
- Each small group divides into two teams. Team one will be the X's and team two will be the O's.
- Put the Tic-Tac-Toe Activities on separate pieces of paper and have the teams take turns drawing one paper at a time. As students complete each activity, their team fills a square.

Tic-Tac-Toe Activities

1. Pray for Devoted and Embrace.
2. Talk to an elder from the church (not one of the leaders from the youth) and ask them to share a piece of advice with you.
3. Talk to a younger child from the church (not one of the students in the youth) and share something they can look forward to once they join the youth group.
4. Make a fun creative video about a church mission project or a mission opportunity near your church.
5. Find a Bible verse about mentoring and share with the group.
6. Write a birthday note to one of the missionaries found on the WMU of Texas website, wmutx.org/engage/prayercalendar.

7. Tell your pastor how the Mary Hill Davis Offering helps young adults become disciples who make disciples.
8. Lead a worship song with your group.
9. Take a picture of your group learning about the Mary Hill Davis Offering for Texas Missions and share it on Instagram or Facebook and tag WMU of Texas.

For more information about *Devoted*, contact David Miranda at david.miranda@txb.org. For information about *Embrace*, contact Teri Ussery at teri.wmutx@txb.org.

About the Writers



Marisol Sandoval

WMU of Texas Staff



Mary Hill Davis

Mary Hill Davis, president of Texas WMU from 1906 to 1931, saw Texas as a rich harvest field with its mixture of Anglo, Black, European, and Mexican populations. In 1910 she led the Baptist women of Texas to set aside a week to pray for the needs in the state and to take up an offering as was done for foreign and home missions. Following her death in 1934, the Texas missions offering was named in her memory.