



FILTER FOR OBEDIENCE



Skill

Filter for Obedience is practicing accountability to consistently obey the Lord's commands to love God, love each other, and make disciples of all nations.

Design

Filter for Obedience (filter/rocks/sand) > The picture is person shaking a filter as sand falls through. The rocks remain, and healthy plants grow in the distance. A movement leader is skilled at investing their time into the faithful few. The **sketch** is a woman holding a net illustrating the role of leaders to "catch" the right people as they fish.

Story

Disciples Abandon Jesus (John 6:53-71)

This story demonstrates Filter for Obedience as a kingdom skill because we clearly see Jesus speak jaw-dropping statements so controversial that many of His most faithful followers decided to reject Him as Master and go home. Jesus knew that many among His "followers" were not truly committed to obey Him as Lord, so He tested His followers with challenging truths to find the faithful.

Scriptures

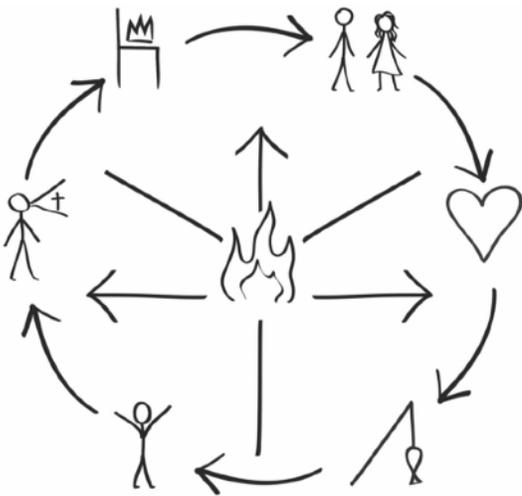
Isaiah 6:9-10 > And He replied, "Go! Say to these people: Keep listening but do not understand; keep looking but do not perceive. Dull the minds of these people; deafen their ears and blind their eyes; otherwise they might see with their eyes and hear with their ears, understand with their minds, turn back, and be healed.

2 Corinthians 13:5 > Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith. Examine yourselves. Or do you yourselves recognize that Jesus Christ is in you?

Lesson Summary

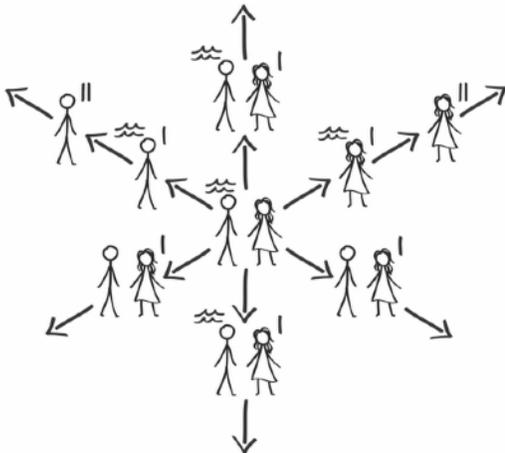
Filter for Obedience requires focus and the commitment to make difficult decisions that will lead to others rebuking and criticizing our leadership. The entire Exodus generation, except Joshua and Caleb, died in the wilderness because they rejected Yahweh's leadership and commands (Numbers 14:26-35). Yahweh knew the Israelites would break His covenant after they conquered and settled in the Promise Land (Deuteronomy 31:16-22). Because we have the Holy Spirit in us, we can obey Jesus' commands (1 John 5:1-5).

Gathering Guide



- Holy Spirit (fire): Let the Spirit guide your meeting.
- **Step One** (back arrow): Last week questions.
- Abide (worshipper): How did you abide last week?
- Harvest (witness): Whom did you share with?
- **Step Two** (up arrow): Discover this week's skill in Scripture as you discuss the Bible story.
- God (throne/crown): What do we learn about God?
- People (man/woman): What do we learn about people?
- Practice: Practice telling this week's story in groups.
- **Step Three** (forward arrow): Next week questions.
- Abide (heart): How will you abide?
- Harvest (fishing): Whom will you share with?

Generations Map



- People of Peace (people/arrows): Draw your disciples and their disciples. Share recent stories of how you and your team are engaging lost people.
- Baptism (waves): Update your map with those who have been baptized. What is the next step for each disciple who still needs to be baptized or become a baptizer by experience?
- Generations (number lines): Update your map with generations. How can we pray for this movement?