

## Leader Corner

Dependent Obedience

John 14:12-31

### Summary Statement:

Jesus calls His followers to a life of dependent obedience — obedience not driven by guilt or striving, but by love and reliance on the Holy Spirit. Our “greater works” are not accomplished through effort, but through surrender — by lifting the sail of obedience and allowing the Spirit’s wind to move us forward.

### Main Idea:

True obedience is not self-powered; it is Spirit-empowered. We love Jesus by keeping His words and trusting His Spirit to work through us.

### Main Passage:

John 14:12–31

### Practical Application:

This week, invite your group to reflect on one area of obedience that has felt difficult or wearying. Ask: “What would it look like to lift the sail — to depend on the Spirit rather than row harder?” Encourage group members to take one step of obedient surrender and watch how the Spirit meets them.

## Connect with Prayer & Praise

### Liturgical Prayer:

A Prayer of Dependence

Holy Spirit,

Breath of God and Giver of life,

Teach us to love Jesus by obeying His words.

Help us to lift the sails of our hearts,

That we might be moved by Your power and not our own.

Guard us from fear, striving, and pride.

Fill us with peace, courage, and joy in following Christ.

For Your glory and for the good of the world.

Amen.

### Worship Song Suggestions:

“Holy Spirit” – Bryan & Katie Torwalt

“Oceans (Where Feet May Fail)” – Hillsong UNITED

## with Principle

1. Start with the Sunday sermon. What Biblical points stood out or imprinted themselves on you?
2. Jesus said, “Whoever believes in me will do greater works than these.” What do you think He meant by “greater,” and how does this challenge or encourage you personally?
3. Read verses 15, 21, 23, and 24. How does Jesus connect love and obedience? Why is this connection important for spiritual growth?
4. The word “keep” (tērēō) means to guard or treasure. How does this change your understanding of obedience?
5. Jesus promised “another Helper” — the Holy Spirit — who would live within believers. How does this promise shape the way you think about following Jesus daily?
6. Think about a time when you tried to “row harder” spiritually instead of “raising your sail.” What did that look like, and what did you learn?
7. Where do you sense the Spirit inviting you to lift the sail right now — in relationships, habits, generosity, forgiveness, or trust?
8. How can our small group encourage one another to live out dependent obedience rather than independent effort?

## with Practice

**Choose one or both to practice this week:**

**Option 1 — Lift the Sail Together:**

As a group, spend 5–10 minutes in silence, asking the Holy Spirit to reveal one area where He’s calling each person to take a step of obedience. Afterward, invite anyone who feels led to share their “lift the sail” moment and pray for one another.

**Option 2 — Dependence in Action:**

Throughout the week, begin each day by praying:

“Holy Spirit, help me lift my sail today. Lead me to obey in love, not in my own strength.”

Then journal one way you noticed God’s Spirit empowering or guiding you. Share a short reflection at your next meeting.

## for Further Study

**Related Passages:**

- John 15:1–10 – Abiding in the Vine: fruit through dependence.
- Galatians 5:16–25 – Walking by the Spirit versus the flesh.
- Philippians 2:12–13 – God works in us to will and act according to His purpose.
- Romans 8:1–14 – Life and freedom through the Spirit.
- Ezekiel 36:26–27 – God’s promise to put His Spirit within His people to help them obey.

**Further Study Ideas:**

- Do a word study on *paraklētos* (“Helper” or “Advocate”) and how it appears in John 14–16.
- Reflect on the metaphor of the sailboat: Journal what “raising your sail” might look like practically in your current life stage.
- Read a chapter from *Forgotten God* by Francis Chan or *The Practice of the Presence of God* by Brother Lawrence for deeper engagement with Spirit-dependent living.