Introduction: Engage the group by thinking about a concept.

State the following to your group members: “I am going to give you a command. You will do as I say. The command is: Forget the number 13.” Then ask them, “What was your first thought after you heard this?”

More than likely, the number 13 popped into their head. Ask the question “Why do you think that is?” The purpose of this exercise is to show the difficulty (and in some instances the impossibility) of obeying a command that is contrary to nature or intuition. Connect this dynamic with how our sinful nature responds to authority, particularly God’s law.

Point 1: Check for understanding using the “Think-Pair-Share” technique.

Present the following instructions to group members: “Think back to a time when someone promised you something but failed to fulfill that promise. How did it make you feel? Do you have a tendency to doubt God’s promises? Why?”

Think-Pair-Share: Say something like the following: “Think for 30 seconds about the above statement and questions. Now I want you to discuss this in pairs with a person on your left or right who is not your spouse.” (Pause for 60 seconds.) Call on 3-4 pairs to share one idea.

Point 2: Engage their thinking by connecting with current events.

A few years ago, a Malaysian Airlines jet was shot out of the sky over Ukraine, killing all 298 people aboard. There has been an ongoing rebellion in the Ukraine from pro-Russian separatists living in the Ukraine. The thinking among the experts is that these separatists shot down the plane unprovoked.

Many of us think that our rebellion doesn’t affect other people. Ask, “What would lead these separatists to shoot down a civilian airliner?” The answers may indicate the rebels thought this would bolster their cause. Encourage the group comment on the effects of this act and how rebellion is not a victimless crime.

Point 3: *Challenge group members to live the lesson.*

Write this quote from Francis Schaeffer on the board: “The beginning and end of man’s rebellion against God was, and is, the lack of a thankful heart.”

Give group members a few moments to think about this quote and then ask them to spend a couple of minutes with God thanking Him for His love in spite of our rebellion and confessing our rebellion and unthankfulness.


Conclusion: *Challenge group members to live the lesson.*

The opposite of rebellion is submission. As believers, we are to be submissive to God in everything. When we choose to sin, we are telling God that we are on the throne.

Ask group members to take a few minutes for reflection, confession, and prayer dealing with the issue of rebellion (even subtle forms of it).

**Teaching Tip of the Week**

There are three main types of sensory perception: auditory, visual, and kinesthetic. It is crucial that the teacher understand the need to vary lessons based on learning styles. We use all three in varying degrees but tend to have a dominant one. A visual learner tends to learn by seeing and watching and using strong visual associations. They often need to picture in their minds what they are learning. The more visual learner usually learns best by associating pictures with the words or concepts being used.

When reading or remembering, visual learners may be constantly imagining what things look like and may be picturing something very different from the facts. My son likes to draw pictures during sermons. When I ask him to recall the message, he looks at the picture and is able to recount the points. If you believe you are dealing with a visual learner, try to reinforce what you talk about with something written. I usually have handouts with the points and a sketch or drawing when I teach to aid this type of learner.