

# WHAT IF?

ANSWERING LIFE'S TOUGH QUESTIONS

## LESSON 4 // ITS HARD TO OBEY

**Big Idea:** When it's hard to obey God's instructions, remember that He has good reasons for giving us instructions. It's also important to consider that our response to God's instructions reveals our heart, obeying His instructions brings blessings, and He gives us the power to obey His instructions.

**Deuteronomy 6:24 (NIV)** *The Lord commanded us to obey all these decrees and to fear the Lord our God, so that we might always prosper and be kept alive, as is the case today.*

**John 14:15 (NIV)** *If you love me, keep my commands.*

**Deuteronomy 30:17-20 (NIV)** *But if your heart turns away and you are not obedient, and if you are drawn away to bow down to other gods and worship them, <sup>18</sup> I declare to you this day that you will certainly be destroyed. You will not live long in the land you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. <sup>19</sup> This day I call the heavens and the earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live <sup>20</sup> and that you may love the Lord your God, listen to his voice, and hold fast to him. For the Lord is your life, and he will give you many years in the land he swore to give to your fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.*

**1 John 3:21-22 (NIV)** *Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God <sup>22</sup> and receive from him anything we ask, because we keep his commands and do what pleases him.*

### Start Talking:

Why do you think it's so hard at times to do what God instructs us to do?

### Start Thinking:

**Read Genesis 1:26-27; Deuteronomy 6:24 and Matthew 22:36-40.** What are some of the reasons why God gives us instructions as His people?

**Read 1 Samuel 15:22-23 and John 14:15.** In what ways does our response to God's instructions reveal our heart?

**Read Deuteronomy 30:15-20 and Matthew 7:24-27.** Why is it important to obey God's instructions? What happens if we fail to do this?

**Read 1 John 3:21-22; 1 John 5:3 and 2 Peter 1:3-4.** How do these verses encourage you about obeying God's Word?

### Start Praying and Doing:

Pray for God to give you the wisdom, grace and strength to obey Him for your good and His glory. Look for opportunities every day this week to say "yes" to His instructions as you face challenges and make choices.