

How to Use Sermon Resources

- **READ AHEAD TOGETHER** - MCG's should use the Devotional at the end of this resource as a reading plan for the week leading up to your meeting.
- **SIT UNDER THE WORD** - This resource is filled with scripture references. Read them aloud, together before you answer any questions.
- **APPLY TRUTH** - The goal is deep discussion and application, not necessarily to complete this resource. Don't squash a good discussion. If you get into something important along the way that's fine.

Small Group Discussion Guide

Opening Prayer [2 mins]

Use the Overview [5 mins]

- Cover any key points for people who missed parts or all of the sermon

Scripture Deep Dive [30-40 mins]

- Opening Question
- Read the scripture for each question then ask the question. Some have multiple scriptures.

Close in Prayer

- In this extended prayer time, ask others to pray as they feel led, pray in a circle, pray over one another, pray to your left, or pray for someone specific. Whatever seems best.

Split Time (if applicable)

- Men with men, women with women
- Share in a circle. "What's one thing you want to celebrate? What do you need prayer and accountability for?"
- After everyone shares, pray in a circle for the person to your left/right.

SERMON OVERVIEW

Obadiah - The Danger of Pride

Sermon Summary:

This sermon explores the book of Obadiah, focusing on the destructive nature of pride as the root sin beneath all other sins. Through the account of Edom's judgment, Pastor Matt reveals how pride deceives us into trusting our own strength, position, and power rather than depending on God. The message traces the historical conflict between Jacob (Israel) and Esau (Edom) back to Genesis, showing how Edom's arrogance led to their downfall when they stood aloof during Judah's destruction by Babylon, even gloating and looting during their relatives' suffering.

Key Points:

- Pride is the carbon monoxide of sin—silently and slowly killing us without our knowledge
- Pride is the root sin beneath every other sin we struggle with
- Pride deceives us into trusting our own strength, position, power, and wisdom rather than God
- A lack of spiritual disciplines reveals pride in our hearts
- Pride causes us to delight in the downfall of others rather than showing compassion
- Pride drives us to build our own temporary kingdoms instead of God's eternal kingdom
- Jesus drank the cup of God's judgment on our behalf so we don't have to face it ourselves
- Worship is the primary antidote to pride, redirecting our focus from ourselves to God
- When life is good, worship reminds us God is sovereign; when life is hard, worship reminds us we're dependent on Him

Scripture Reference:

- Obadiah 1:1-21 (entire book read and analyzed)
- Genesis 25:21-34 (the birth of Jacob and Esau, the selling of the birthright)
- Psalm 75:8 (the cup of God's judgment)
- Isaiah 51:17 (the cup of wrath)
- Jeremiah 25:15-17 (the cup given to nations)
- Matthew 26:39 (Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane asking for the cup to pass)
- Luke 6 (loving enemies and those who persecute you)

Stories:

- The historical account of Jacob and Esau from Genesis 25, including Esau selling his birthright for red stew and Jacob deceiving Isaac to receive the blessing.
- The destruction of Judah by Babylon (referenced from 2 Kings) and Edom's response of standing aloof, gloating, looting, and betraying fugitives
- Personal anecdote about Matt playing games with his children, refusing to let them win to teach them about earned victory and how arrogance deceives them into thinking they can win
- Story of a four-year-old boy crying at the beach because the sandcastle he worked hard to build was destroyed by the tide overnight, illustrating how we build temporary kingdoms that won't last

Scripture Deep Dive

Opening question

Think about your weekly routine (work, school, home, social media). In which setting are you most tempted to think or act like, “I’ve got this; I don’t really need God here”? How might that subtle attitude already be affecting your decisions and relationships?

Pride deceives you (Obadiah 1:3–7)

Read Obadiah 1:3–4; Jeremiah 9:23–24

Context: The Edomites trusted in their natural defenses and position (“you who live in the clefts of the rock”) and said in their hearts, “Who can bring me down?”

Question: Compared with Jeremiah 9:23–24, which calls us to boast in knowing the Lord, what are two specific “clefts of the rock” (abilities, resources, relationships, status, etc.) you are most tempted to rely on for security, and how does that reliance practically reduce your felt need to seek God in those areas?

Read Obadiah 1:6–7; Psalm 20:7

Context: Edom’s alliances and wisdom turned against them (“everyone at peace with you will deceive you and conquer you”). Psalm 20:7 contrasts trusting in chariots and horses with trusting in the name of the Lord.

Question: If your current support systems (job, savings, key relationships, reputation) were suddenly removed or turned against you, what specific spiritual disciplines or habits would actually remain as evidence that your ultimate trust has been in the Lord rather than in those supports?

Point 2 – Pride delights in the downfall of others (Obadiah 1:11–14)

Read Obadiah 1:11–12; Romans 12:15–19

Context: Edom moved from standing aloof to gloating over Judah’s calamity. Romans 12:15–19 calls believers to “weep with those who weep,” avoid revenge, and leave room for God’s wrath.

Question: Think of a person or group you struggle with (an opponent, rival, or someone who has hurt you). If they experienced a clear setback this week, what would your instinctive emotional reaction reveal about whether you are more aligned with Edom’s attitude or with Paul’s command in Romans 12?

Read Obadiah 1:13–14; Luke 6:27–28, 35–36

- Edom didn't just watch; they entered the city, looted, and helped capture fugitives—actively increasing Judah's suffering. Jesus commands us to love enemies, do good, and pray for those who mistreat us.

Identify one concrete way you currently *withhold* good (encouragement, help, prayer, fairness) from someone you dislike or resent. In light of Luke 6, what is one specific action you should start (or stop) this week to move from quietly “benefiting from” their hardship toward actually obeying Jesus' command?

Point 3 – Pride builds my kingdom instead of God's kingdom (Obadiah 1:15–21)

Read Obadiah 1:15–16, 21; Matthew 6:19–21; 26:39

Context: Obadiah warns that the “day of the Lord” is near and that God's kingdom will prevail while other kingdoms vanish. Jesus accepts the “cup” of God's judgment (Matt. 26:39) and teaches us to store treasures in heaven (Matt. 6:19–21).

Question: Looking at how you currently invest your time, money, and energy, which two areas most clearly show you are building *your* temporary “sandcastle kingdom,” and what is one specific, measurable change you could make in each area over the next month to reorient toward seeking God's kingdom first?