



Insights – Obadiah

Date: Sunday 1st May

Speaker: Jon Solway (City Centre Site), Eleanor Masters (South Site)

Key Verses: Obadiah (whole book), Philippians 2:5-8, Genesis 12:2-3, Proverbs 13:10

Talk Summary:

- Jon came up with the memory aid: **One Brother's Approaching Disaster Invites Active Humility** to help us remember how to spell Obadiah and, more importantly, to summarise its message. Eleanor explored the text through 3 'Acts'. Act One: Their Story; Act Two: Our Story; Act Three: His Story.
- We opened up the context for why Obadiah was addressing the Edomites, learning about the relationship between one brother, Jacob – who later became Israel – and his twin Esau, who would go on to father the Edomite people. We discovered that the acrimony between them was never resolved and instead was passed down generation to generation.
- Esau's pride was inherited by the Edomites, and they assisted/stood back and watched when the Babylonians desolated Israel. This was unacceptable to God who wanted them to remember that Israel was still family and God's people. Obadiah warns us all against such pride/gloating over others in times of disaster.
- Pride is often beneath struggles in relationships (Proverbs 13:10), or self-reliant thinking which blinds us into believing that we are above everyone else/they are worth less in some way than we are.
- Obadiah also offers us hope: there will be those who are saved and take refuge in God's eternal city (Mount Zion). We know this salvation is in Jesus, whose ultimate humility (Philippians 2:5-8) gave us all a way to be saved from our own pride.
- Obadiah offers us all the choice between standing on our own pride (like Esau) or living under God's promises and blessing (like Jacob).

Worship

Worship is not just singing, it is thanking God for who he is and what he has done and is lived out through a life of trusting obedience. Discussing this together is an act of worship.

(Small group worship resources can be found at bvc.so/sgworship)

- What are you thankful for this week?
- Where has God been at work in your life?
- When have you taken risks in faith and obedience this week?

If you have a time of singing you can skip the above questions but please do ask this question each week:

- What has God been speaking to you about this week? *(Go around the group quickly don't spend a long time on it)*

Discussion Questions (choose some which are most relevant to your group)

- Have there been any areas of your life/heart/thinking where pride may have crept in at all? Any negative patterns of communication with a loved one may also be a symptom of this.
- Do we stand on God's promises over us, or do we rely on ourselves? Where do you need to submit to and trust in Him again?
- Are there any unfulfilled promises you are waiting on God for/starting to lose hope over? Where do you need a breakthrough?
- God reprimands the Edomites who didn't join in but just stood back and watched Israel's suffering. Where in our lives do we turn a blind eye to injustice? How can we ask God to help us change this?

Witness - *How would you share what you have learned with a non-church friend?*

We want to be investing in authentic relationships with those who don't know Jesus yet and inviting them to anything where they might meet other Christians and Jesus. Pick one of the below each week:

- How would you share what you have learned with a non-church friend?
- What church events coming up would your friends appreciate an invitation to?
 - Upcoming Events (go to bvc.so/whats-on for details)
 - Young Adults Night – 14th May
 - Big Church – 22nd May