

# XXXIX

## THE OLD TESTAMENT

### Leader Conversation Guide – XXXIX: Obadiah

#### Main Idea

Size doesn't determine significance—function does. Though Obadiah is the shortest book in the Old Testament, its message carries weight: God opposes pride. Speaking to Edom in a season of comfort and security, Obadiah exposes how “the pride of your heart has deceived you.” This week's message reminded us that pride often grows quietly, not in obvious rebellion, but in subtle self-reliance. Comfort can quiet our dependence on God, security can reshape our view of Him, and structures can slowly replace true surrender.

Yet the story doesn't end in exposure, it points us to hope. Where pride elevates self, Jesus models surrender. Instead of clinging to status or security, Christ humbled Himself and submitted fully to the Father's will. True comfort and security are not found in position, systems, or strength, but in a high view of God and a surrendered heart. As we begin our discussion, let's ask the Lord to search our hearts, realign our view of Him, and lead us back to a posture of humility and trust.

**“The pride of your heart has deceived you...”**

OBADIAH 1:3

#### Make it Practical:

##### Pride Deceives the Heart

- “The pride of your heart has deceived you...” - Obadiah 1:3
- Comfort can quiet our dependence on God.
- Security can subtly reshape our view of who God is.
- God opposes pride but gives grace to the humble. (James 4:6)

##### A Low View of God Fuels Self-Reliance

- “Though you soar like the eagle...” - Obadiah 1:4
- A high view of God sees Him as sovereign, holy, provider, judge, and king.
- A low view of God reduces Him to helpful, available, supportive, affirming, or optional.
- “What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us.”  
- A.W. Tozer

##### Jesus Models the Surrender That Pride Resists

- Pride elevates self above surrender to God.
- Jesus came not to do His own will, but the Father's. (John 6:38)
- Christ humbled Himself in obedience to the point of death. (Philippians 2:6-8)
- True security is found in fixing our eyes on Jesus. (Hebrews 12:2)

## Talk About It

- Obadiah confronts the pride of Edom in a season of comfort and security. In what areas of your life do you feel most secure right now, and how can comfort subtly drift into self-reliance instead of deeper trust in God?
- The message contrasted a high view of God with a low view of God. When you think about your daily decisions, prayers, and worries, what do they reveal about how you truly see God? Where might your view of Him need to be realigned?
- The sermon emphasized that structures and programs can organize people, but only surrender transforms hearts. What would greater surrender look like for you personally in this season, and what might be holding you back from it?

**“Pride is the elevation of self above surrender to God.”**

## Prayer

Father, we thank You for speaking to us through Obadiah and for lovingly exposing the pride that can quietly take root in our hearts. Search us and show us where comfort has replaced dependence, where security has lowered our view of You, and where structure has replaced surrender. We don't want to be deceived, we want to walk in humility and truth.

Jesus, help us fix our eyes on You. Teach us to surrender our will, trust Your sovereignty, and live with a high view of who You are. Shape our hearts to depend on You daily and give us grace to walk in humility this week. In Your name we pray, amen.

## Next Steps

### 1. Identify and Confess Areas of Self-Reliance

Take time this week to prayerfully ask God to reveal where comfort or success may have led you to depend more on yourself than on Him. Write those areas down and intentionally surrender them in prayer.

### 2. Rebuild a High View of God

Spend time each day reading Scripture that highlights God's sovereignty, holiness, and authority (such as Obadiah 1:1-4 or Hebrews 12). Let your prayers reflect reverence, gratitude, and trust in who He truly is, not just what He can do for you.

### 3. Practice Intentional Surrender

Choose one specific area—your schedule, leadership, finances, family decisions, or ministry involvement—and consciously submit it to God's will. Instead of asking God to bless your plans, begin by asking what His will is and align yourself with it.