

Study Guide

Obadiah 1:1–9 — When God Is Big

Big Idea

When God is big in our eyes, pride loses its power. Obadiah reminds us that God sees all, rules over all, and is able to humble every proud heart that tries to stand against Him.

Sermon Summary

Obadiah is a short book, but it carries a weighty message. Edom, the nation descended from Esau, had grown proud. They trusted in their location, their strength, their wealth, their allies, and their wisdom. They lived in high, fortified places and believed no one could bring them down.

But the Lord saw their pride. He knew how Edom had treated Judah, and He declared judgment against them. Their pride had deceived them into believing they were untouchable, but God promised, “From there I will bring you down.”

This passage reminds us that pride always magnifies man and minimizes God. But when God is restored to His rightful place in our hearts and minds, everything else begins to be rightly ordered—our loves, fears, ambitions, worship, and obedience.

Key Themes

1. God Is Great

Obadiah begins with “The vision of Obadiah,” reminding us that God has graciously revealed His Word. The God whose thoughts are higher than ours stoops down to speak to His people.

God does not need counsel. He does not need advisors. He sees all things, rules over all nations, and accomplishes all His purposes. His greatness is not limited to one area. He is great in all that He is and all that He does.

Discuss:

How does God’s greatness comfort believers when life feels uncertain?

2. Pride Deceives

Edom's pride came from the heart. They looked at their fortified cities, their wealth, their strength, and their position, and believed they were secure.

Pride says, "Who can bring me down?"

Faith says, "God alone is my refuge."

Pride makes us believe we are bigger than we are and that God is smaller than He is.

Discuss:

What are some things people are tempted to trust in instead of God?

3. God Humbles the Proud

Edom thought they were safe, but God declared that He would bring them down. No height is too high for God to reach. No strength is too strong for God to overcome. No nation, person, or heart is beyond His rule.

This is both a warning and a mercy. God humbles pride so that sinners may see the truth: He alone is Lord.

Discuss:

Why is it loving for God to expose and humble our pride?

Gospel Connection

Edom shows us the danger of prideful self-trust. But Jesus shows us the beauty of humble obedience.

Christ did not exalt Himself in sinful pride. He humbled Himself, took on flesh, obeyed the Father perfectly, and went to the cross for sinners. Through His death and resurrection, proud rebels can be forgiven, humbled, and brought near to God.

The answer to pride is not simply "try harder to be humble." The answer is to behold Christ. As we see the greatness of God and the grace of Christ, pride is put to death and worship begins to grow.

Going Deeper Questions

1. What does Obadiah 1:1–2 teach us about God’s rule over the nations?
2. Why is it significant that God knew what Edom had done to Judah?
3. How does pride deceive the human heart?
4. What did Edom trust in, and how do people today trust in similar things?
5. How does a small view of God lead to a big view of self?
6. How does a big view of God reorder our fears, desires, and priorities?
7. What is one area of your life where pride may be tempting you to depend on yourself instead of God?
8. How does the gospel humble us without leaving us hopeless?
9. What would change this week if you lived more aware of God’s greatness?
10. When was the last time you sat in awe of God? What helped you do that?

Personal Reflection

Spend a few minutes honestly asking:

**Is God big in my thoughts, worship, decisions, and fears?
Or have I been living as though I am big and God is small?**

Pray:

“Lord, show me where pride has deceived me. Help me behold Your greatness and walk humbly before You.”

Family Worship Guide

Obadiah 1:1–9 — When God Is Big

Family Big Idea

God is bigger than everyone and everything. Pride lies to us, but God teaches us to trust Him and worship Him.

Memory Verse

Obadiah 1:4

“Though you soar aloft like the eagle, though your nest is set among the stars, from there I will bring you down, declares the LORD.”

Simple Summary for Kids

Edom was a proud nation. They thought they were strong, safe, and untouchable. But God saw their hearts. He knew their pride, and He promised to bring them down.

God wants us to remember that He is great. We should not trust in ourselves, our strength, or what we have. We should trust in the Lord, worship Him, and walk humbly before Him.

Family Discussion Questions

1. What does it mean that God is great?
2. Why was Edom proud?
3. What did Edom think could keep them safe?
4. Can anyone hide from God or stop God's plans?
5. What is pride?
6. How does Jesus help us when we are proud?
7. What is one way our family can remember that God is bigger than our problems?

Family Worship Plan

Day 1 — God Speaks

Read: Obadiah 1:1

Talk About: God gave His Word through Obadiah. God is kind to speak to His people.

Ask: Why should we listen carefully to God's Word?

Pray: Thank God for giving us the Bible.

Day 2 — God Rules

Read: Obadiah 1:1–2

Talk About: God rules over all nations. No king, army, or country is greater than Him.

Ask: How does knowing God rules over everything help us not be afraid?

Pray: Ask God to help your family trust His rule.

Day 3 — Pride Lies

Read: Obadiah 1:3

Talk About: Pride made Edom think they were safe without God.

Ask: What are some ways pride can show up in our hearts?

Pray: Ask God to help your family confess pride quickly.

Day 4 — God Brings Down the Proud

Read: Obadiah 1:4

Talk About: Edom thought they were too high to fall, but God said He would bring them down.

Ask: Why can no one escape God's power?

Pray: Ask God to give your family humble hearts.

Day 5 — Trust God, Not Yourself

Read: Psalm 95:1–7

Talk About: God is our Maker, Shepherd, and King. We worship Him because He is great.

Ask: What is one thing we can praise God for today?

Pray: Praise God for His greatness.

Day 6 — Look to Jesus

Read: Philippians 2:5–11

Talk About: Jesus humbled Himself and obeyed the Father. He is the perfect Savior for proud sinners.

Ask: How does Jesus show us true humility?

Pray: Thank Jesus for humbling Himself to save His people.

Family Activity

Take a piece of paper and write:

GOD IS BIG

Around those words, have each family member write or draw something true about God:

holy, strong, wise, loving, just, faithful, Creator, King, Savior.

Then talk about this question:

If God is this great, how should we respond to Him this week?

Closing Prayer

Lord, You are great and mighty. You see our hearts, and You know when we are proud. Please forgive us for trusting ourselves instead of You. Help our family behold Your greatness, love Your Word, and walk humbly with You. Thank You for Jesus, who humbled Himself to save sinners. Amen.