



Unit 1 Guide

SERIES: LESSONS FROM AN EXTINCT TRIBE

Lesson #1: Pride: The Silent Killer!

Obadiah 1-4

Open with Praise Time: *“Living the Word”* – In what ways does God’s Word give you a humility in your life?

The Bottom Line: Pride comes before the fall, even to those who think it can't happen to them.

LESSON PLAN



Connect: an opportunity for people to immediately interact and connect with each other; icebreaker/attention getters.

Question - What is the most prideful example you have seen in the news or in your community this week? Why do you think people become prideful?



Interactive Teaching Ideas: ideas for learner-focused teaching.

Today we are going to do something a little different. (Have the people break into four or five groups. Give them about 15 minutes, and then have them report their ideas.)

*Have people bring concordances and have each table look up passages on pride. When they are done, have them make a statement summarizing what they discovered. Have each table share their statement with the group.

Transition: *If pride leads us to a fall before God, then let’s see what we can learn about how easily we can fall into the trap of being prideful. This may be one of the greatest examples God recorded for us to learn from. We will look at the history of God’s people who allowed pride to destroy them.)*

Background: *The name Obadiah means “servant or worshiper of the Lord.” It is the shortest book in the Old Testament. It centers on the hostility of the Edomites toward Israel. The Edomites were the descendants of Esau, Jacob’s brother.*

Question - Can anyone tell me the story of Jacob and Esau and why there was a feud that lasted for generations?

Isaac loved wild game and loved Esau who was a great hunter. Rebekah, Isaac's wife loved Jacob most because he was quiet and a stayed home. The Family feud never really ended. The Edomites had been a thorn in Israel's side for centuries. The theme of the book of Obadiah has 2 points. 1) God will judge the Edomites for their harsh treatment of the Israelites, their brothers; and 2) God will cause the Israelites to prosper. After the fall of Jerusalem in AD70 the Edomites vanished from history. The book is written in the style of poetry and has to be interpreted as word pictures, paintings of what is happening and what will happen as a result!

Read Obadiah 1-4

The Edomites are coming! A Hebrew ostracaon, writing on broken pottery pieces, was discovered. It addressed to the commander of the Arad fortress. It warns of an impending Edomite invasion. This new evidence of Edomite expansion into Judah also helps explain the presence of a series of Israelite defense fortresses found at Arad during the seventh century BCE. Although archeologists have long known that a line of fortified Israelite outposts was erected in the eastern Negev at about this time, the reason for the protective barrier remained a mystery. It is now possible to affirm that these fortresses were built to protect against Edomite invasions, backing up the Biblical references to the conflict between the two peoples with concrete archeological evidence. "Here is an instance in which the Bible and archaeology splendidly illuminate one another," says Prof. Beit-Arieh. "The Biblical accounts of the relations between these 'unneighborly neighbors' can now be confirmed in large part by archaeological evidence."

1. What was Obadiah the prophet's message from the Lord?
2. What prophecy does God give concerning the results of that battle?
3. Why is God doing this to the Edomites?
 - ⌚ What are some ways God's people today can become prideful?
 - ⌚ What do you think God would expect out of us if we see someone becoming prideful?
 - ⌚ What does God expect of us if we are confronted for being prideful?
4. From where will God bring the Edomites down?

Look up Petra in a Bible dictionary or online. Imagine that the entire caravan with camels carrying goods had to pass through this opening. High up in the cliffs the Edomites made their

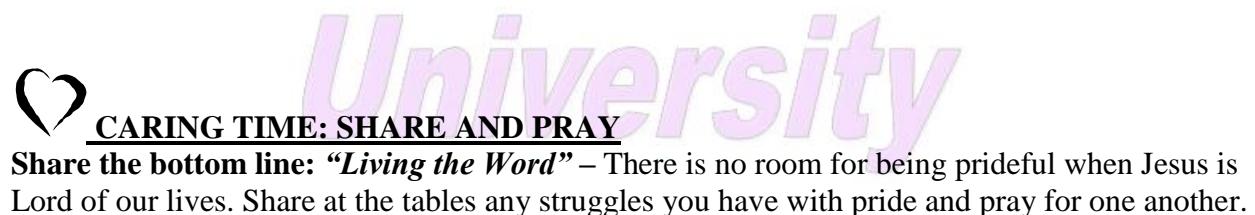
home. They were charging massive amounts of toll for the nations or traders to pass through the territory. They had become so filled with pride; they no longer cared for God's creation, but only for their glory and riches.)

5. What prideful claim were they making?

⦿ What instances can you side of prideful people who believe that God has no power over them?

6. What is God's response to their prideful statements that they are invincible?

⦿ What would you say to someone who truly believed that God has no power over them?

 **CARING TIME: SHARE AND PRAY**
Share the bottom line: ***“Living the Word”*** – There is no room for being prideful when Jesus is Lord of our lives. Share at the tables any struggles you have with pride and pray for one another.

Prayer

