

Questions for Your Journal

Use these following questions to evaluate what you learned from Sunday's sermon.

Summary:

- The main thing the speaker wants me to do, be, and/or feel as a result of this message.

Application to My Life:

- What did God say to me through this message?
 - How does my life measure up to this word?
 - What action(s) will I take to bring my life in line with this word?
 - What truth do I need to study further?
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The Law is Good

There are times when an activity's rules keep us from enjoying it like we should. For example, have you ever been to a hotel pool with a "NO DIVING ALLOWED" sign? Without fail someone breaks that rule. Can you really enjoy a swimming pool if you're not soaking everybody with the waves from your world-class cannonball? On the other hand, there are times when an activity's parameters actually increase our enjoyment of it. Just think, if you've never learned the rules of the piano—the scales, time signatures, or how to read music—your enjoyment of the instrument is severely limited. Maybe you can play "Chopsticks," but without learning the rules of music, you'll never know the joy of playing Chopin.

GOD'S LAW IN OUR LIVES

Which one of these examples best explains the function of God's law in our lives?

- Does the law keep us from behaviors that make life more enjoyable? or
- Can it actually enhance our joy?

When we look to Scripture, what we find might surprise you. Paul tells us "the law is good" (1 Tim. 1:18), and James describes it as the "law of liberty" (James 1:25; 2:12). So, though our obedience to it can never earn us a place in heaven (Rom. 3:20; Gal. 2:15–16), the law should be seen as serving a positive role in our lives. In fact, it reveals to us the lifestyle that God intends for his people to live. Of course, the law functions differently for believers today than it did for the Israelites in the Old Testament, and it has been fundamentally changed through the work and teaching of Jesus who rendered the sacrificial laws obsolete through his once-for-all death on the cross (Heb. 9). Nevertheless, we must strive to view the law positively.

One way to do that is by remembering this simple phrase: "Discipline without direction is drudgery."¹ God's law reveals to us the standard of living to which He calls us. Achieving perfection in this standard could never earn us God's favor or get us an extra "jewel in our crown," but it will

lead to closer fellowship with Him as we walk in His way and not our own. In a sense, then, the righteousness that Jesus calls us to pursue is a righteousness that is embodied in obedience to Him.

If God's law was simply a set of regulations given by an absent deity, it would feel oppressive—on the order of a “NO DIVING ALLOWED” sign. But since it comes from a loving and compassionate God, it is purposeful. He gives us the law for our good as he remakes us into the image of the One who lived in perfect obedience to him, Jesus. In that way it truly is a law of liberty and something we should strive to live out as we pursue the goal for which we were created.

Encounter

Take a few minutes to read Romans 5:1–5 in a couple of Bible translations. Make a note of any differences between the translations and anything that especially jumps out at you.

Reflect

Many of Jesus's teachings seem counterintuitive when compared with our patterns of thoughts and behavior, and when we commit our way to Him we find it difficult to live as He taught. **Read Matthew 7:16–23.**

According to this passage, how are our external behaviors indicators of our internal condition?

According to Sunday's sermon, “grace isn't opposed to effort, only earning.” As we saw in Matt. 7, our works can never earn us a place with God. **Read Romans 5:1–5. On what basis are believers justified (i.e., declared “not guilty” by God)?** Having been justified, Christians now begin a process of transformation. **How do “afflictions” or “tribulations” contribute to our transformation?**

Spiritual transformation happens in “the trenches” of everyday life. Most believers don’t participate in spiritual retreats, and that’s okay. God intends to remake us into the image of His Son right where we are. **How does this perspective change the way you look at the difficult people and circumstances in your life. Read James 1:1–5. Are you currently facing life’s difficulties with joy? Why or why not?**

As the passages above show us, spiritual transformation begins in the heart and happens as we respond to the difficult circumstances of life with faith in God. **Read Philippians 2:12–13. How does God’s work in us keep us motivated to stay true to Him when we’re struggling?**

Examine

Based on 2 Timothy 3:16 (“*All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness*”), this series of questions is intended to help you figure out what you should do or believe in response to this text. (*This passage may not have a clear answer for each question. Just use them to prompt your thinking.*)

1. What does this passage tell me to believe?

(How does it teach me?)

2. What does this passage tell me not to believe?

(How does it reprove me?)

3. How does this passage tell me not to live?

(How does it correct me?)

4. How does this passage tell me to live?

(How does it train me in righteousness?)

Embrace

After spending significant time with this passage, you've probably learned a lot and heard God speak to you through His Word. Look back at your responses to the previous questions and ask God to show you how you can respond to this text this week.

Write down some ideas for how you can respond to the truth of God's Word.

About The Map

The Map exists to help you consistently reflect on Scripture as you pursue maturity in Christ. When you devote yourself to reading God's Word, and meditate on what you read, you're allowing Him to shape your thoughts, attitudes, and behaviors.

NOTES:

1. Donald S. Whitney, *Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life* (Colorado Springs, CO: Navpress, 1991), 15.



Disciple-Making Guide

Kids Kindergarten through 6th grade receive Adventure Tokens for discipleship activities completed during the week. They can spend them at the Adventure Store on the last Sunday of the month.

Big Picture Questions for Unit 31: “The God Who Leads”

Preschool: Q: Why does God want us to obey Him?
A: *We obey because God loves us.*

Kids (1-6): Q: Why does God want us to obey Him?
A: *Obedience is our response to God’s love for us.*

This Week’s Family Reading Plan

for Preschoolers: *Daniel was Rescued from the Lions**

Day 1: 1 Samuel 1-2

Day 2: 1 Samuel 3, 8

Day 3: 1 Samuel 9-10

Day 4: 1 Samuel 13-14

Day 5: 1 Samuel 15-16

**Preschool readings are taken from [The Big Picture Interactive Bible Stories for Toddlers, Old Testament](#) (B&H Publishing Group), available at [Amazon.com](#) & [LifeWay Christian Store](#).*

Key Passage for Unit 31: “The God Who Leads”

Preschoolers: “I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me,” (Galatians 2:20, CSB).

Kids (1-6 grade): “I have been crucified with Christ, and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me,” (Galatians 2:20, CSB).

Northway’s Family Ministry uses *The Gospel Project* to help preschoolers, kids, and students grow in their knowledge of Scripture and of Jesus Christ, about whom it was all written (Luke 24:44-49).



Adventure Token Coupon

Fill this out and bring it to Bible Study for your tokens!

I worked on learning my big picture question and key passage _____.

I read my Bible at home _____.

Child’s Name _____.

Parent’s Signature _____.

30 BIBLICAL BASICS

CORE BELIEFS

God | 2 Corinthians 13:13

I believe the God of the Bible is the only true God; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Personal God | Psalm 121:1-2

I believe God is involved in and cares about my daily life.

Salvation by Grace | Ephesians 2:8-9

I believe a person comes into a right relationship with God by His grace, through faith in Jesus Christ.

Authority of the Bible | 2 Timothy 3:16-17

I believe the Bible is the inspired Word of God that guides my belief and action.

Identity in Christ | John 1:12

I believe I am significant because of my position as a child of God.

Church | Ephesians 4:15

I believe the church is God's primary way to accomplish His purposes on earth.

Humanity | John 3:16

I believe all people are loved by God and need Jesus Christ as their Savior.

Compassion | Psalm 82:3-4

I believe God calls all Christians to show compassion to those in need.

Stewardship | Psalm 24:1-2

I believe that everything I am and everything I own belong to God.

Eternity | John 14:1-2

I believe there is a heaven and a hell and that Jesus will return to judge all people and to establish His eternal kingdom.

CORE PRACTICES

Worship | Psalm 95:1-2

I worship God for who He is and what He has done for me.

Prayer | Psalm 66:18-20

I pray to God to know him, to find direction for my life, and to lay my requests before him.

Bible Study | Hebrews 4:12

I study the Bible to know God and his truth, and to find direction for my daily life.

Single-mindedness | Matthew 6:33

I focus on God and His priorities for my life.

Total Surrender | Romans 12:1

I dedicate my life to God's purposes.

Biblical Community | Acts 2:44-47

I fellowship with other Christians to accomplish God's purposes in my life, in the life of others, and in the world.

Spiritual Gifts | Romans 12:4-6

I know my spiritual gifts and use them to fulfill God's purposes.

Offering My Time | Colossians 3:17

I offer my time to fulfill God's purposes.

Giving My Resources | 2 Corinthians 8:7

I give my resources to fulfill God's purposes.

Sharing My Faith | Ephesians 6:19-20

I share my faith with others to fulfill God's purposes.

CORE VIRTUES

Love | 1 John 4:10-12

I am committed to loving God and loving others.

Joy | John 15:11

Despite my circumstances, I feel inner contentment and understand my purpose in life.

Peace | Philippians 4:6-7

I am free from anxiety because I have found peace with God, peace with others, and peace with myself.

Self-Control | Titus 2:11-13

I have the power through Christ to control myself.

Hope | Hebrews 6:19-20

I can cope with the hardships of life because of the hope I have in Jesus Christ.

Patience | Proverbs 14:29

I am slow to anger and endure patiently under the unavoidable pressures of life.

Kindness/Goodness | 1 Thessalonians 5:15

I choose to be kind and good in my relationships with others.

Faithfulness | Proverbs 3:3-4

I have established a good name with God and with others based on my loyalty to those relationships.

Gentleness | Philippians 4:5

I am thoughtful, considerate and calm in dealing with others.

Humility | Philippians 2:3-4

I choose to esteem others above myself.

The 30 Biblical Basics are the skeleton of a person being formed into the image of Jesus by His Spirit (Rom. 8:29; 2 Cor. 3:18), a helpful framework for the Christian's thoughts, actions, and character. As we commit ourselves to growing in Christ through the process of spiritual formation, we pray these statements become increasingly true of us. When they are, we'll be able to carry out the biblical mandate to "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind"; and, "Love your neighbor as yourself" (Luke 10:27), and to truly **love, live, and lead like Jesus.**