

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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Am I an Enemy of the Cross?

According to Scripture, we can approach our lives in two ways: we can live as if the things this world is all there is, or we can live with our eyes on Christ. These options aren't simply two, equally valid approaches to life. In fact, the Apostle Paul says that one of these ways turns out to make an individual an "enemy of the cross of Christ" (Phil. 3:18). That's not a title any of us want. So, what makes a person an enemy of the cross? Paul describes this type of life in Philippians 3:18–19:

"For I have often told you, and now say again with tears, that many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their end is destruction; their god is their stomach; their glory is in their shame. They are focused on earthly things..."

Those who live as enemies of the cross can be distinguished by the type of life they live. First, Paul says that "their end is destruction" (Phil. 3:19). While Christians are those who are destined for a future with God and an eternity spent as a citizen of God's kingdom, these people are destined for destruction. This is the end that Jesus warned about in Matthew 7, "Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it" (vv. 13–14). But, second, what leads them to this end? "Their god is their stomach." These people live their lives, not for the crucified Lord, but in honor and service to their own appetites. Paul is probably referring to people who have released themselves from any restraints and now pursue their desires without discretion.

Third, these enemies of the cross "glory" or "boast" in things that actually heap shame upon them. Their pride is in some form of shameful behavior, and here's the thing: they don't even know it. They are so disoriented they cannot see the reality that their behavior is actually shameful. These enemies live in unfiltered self-gratification, pursuing the sexual, culinary, and social luxuries and delicacies of the surrounding culture. Finally, in a word, they are "worldly." Though they once professed to be Christians—and maybe still do—the content of their life demonstrates that they do not live their lives for Christ, but they have become his enemies. They have determined that they

can live their life now with no regard for godly behavior. They exist only to please themselves and enjoy the time they have on earth.

I wish this was just a problem in ancient Philippi, but our churches are full of people who have adopted the world's definition of the good life. As a result, they've have settled into their brokenness and earthliness and have become all but indistinguishable from their unbelieving neighbors. We need to constantly remind ourselves that, "Whoever wants to be the friend of the world becomes the enemy of God" (Jas. 4:4). We should refuse to buy into this way of thinking, and daily recommit ourselves to the life Jesus calls us to live. Instead of gratifying our flesh, we should constantly seek to submit our whole lives to Christ and live as He lived.

Encounter

Take a few minutes to read Luke 12:13-21 in a couple of Bible translations. Make a note of any differences between the translations and anything that especially jumps out at you.

Reflect

In Luke 12:15, Jesus warns His listeners against, "every form of greed." **Look up some places in Scripture where "greed" or "covetousness" is mentioned. In your own words, what is "greed"? Read Matthew 7:20–23 and Romans 7:8. According to these passages, where does "greed" come from?**

Greed is "an excessive appetite for further goods or food, often linked with selfishness and gluttony."¹ This definition implies that there is an appropriate appetite for goods and food that "greed" distorts. **Read Ephesians 4:17–19. Why does the distorting impulse of "greediness" characterize a life lived apart from God?**

In Luke 12:16–21 Jesus tells a parable that illustrates a familiar truth, “Seek His kingdom, and these things [food and clothing] will be added to you” (Luke 12:31). **Read Luke 12:16–21. How does this man’s behavior reflect the definition of “greed” mentioned above? How does this same attitude show up in our lives?**

Since “greed” is opposed to the life God calls us to live, Christians should constantly be vigilante against its distorting presence in our lives. **Read Proverbs 28:6, Psalm 62:10, and Hebrews 13:5 for helpful reminders against greediness. How can you make sure you live according to the commands of these verses?**

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. Martin H. Manser, *Dictionary of Bible Themes: The Accessible and Comprehensive Tool for Topical Studies* (London: Martin Manser, 2009).



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 33: “The God Who Changes Us”

Preschool: Q: Who changes us?
A: *God changes us to be like Jesus.*

Kids (1-6): Q: Who changes us?
A: *The Holy Spirit changes us to be like Jesus for God’s glory.*

This Week’s Family Reading Plan

for Preschoolers: *Angels Spoke to Mary and Joseph**

Day 1: *Psalm 51*

Day 2: *2 Samuel 24; Psalm 24*

Day 3: *Psalm 1; 19*

Day 4: *Psalm 119:1-48*

Day 5: *Psalm 119:49-128*

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

Key Passage for Unit 33: “The God Who Changes Us”

Preschoolers: “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away, and see, the new has come! (2 Corinthians 5:17, CSB)

Kids (1-6 grade): “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away, and see, the new has come! (2 Corinthians 5:17, 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.**