

THE MAP

STUDIES FOR THE DISCIPLE'S TRAIL



NORTHWAY
CHURCH

GUIDED BY THE GREATEST TEACHER

MAY 13, 2018 | PSALM 25; JOHN 14 | RODNEY MILLS

F260 BIBLE READING PLAN

A BIBLE READING PLAN FOR BUSY BELIEVERS

WEEK 20 (MAY 14)

Proverbs 1-2 | Proverbs 3-4 | Proverbs 16-18 | Proverbs 31 | 1 Kings 11-12

MEMORY VERSES

Proverbs 1:7 | Proverbs 3:5-6

SERMON IN A SENTENCE

When we surrender our whole lives to follow the Greatest Teacher in The Way, His Truth leads us into the Good Life.

THIS WEEK’S BIBLICAL BASIC

Total Surrender: I dedicate my life to God’s purposes. *“Therefore, brothers and sisters, in view of the mercies of God, I urge you to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God; this is your true worship,” (Romans 12:1, CSB).*

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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Understanding Jesus' Role as Teacher

Most believers rightly recognize Jesus as their Savior. That is, as those who have experienced salvation and recognize the great cost required to secure it, we think first of this great gift and the One who provided it for us. Again, this is right for us to do, and it follows the pattern laid down in Scripture (2 Tm 1:10; 1 Jn 4:14). At the same time, one of the most common titles and roles attributed to Jesus by the women and men portrayed in the Gospels is "Teacher." Before He gave His life for us, He gave His teaching. He even certifies this way of speaking about Him in John 13: "You call Me Teacher and Lord; and you are right, for so I am" (v. 13). But what exactly is a teacher and what about Jesus made Him "the teacher *par excellence*"?¹

THE TEACHER IN SCRIPTURE

At its most basic level, a teacher is "one who instructs others," and throughout the Scriptures, various individuals are identified as serving this role for God's people. Moses stands out as the most prominent teacher in the Old Testament. As God's prophet, Moses was given the task of speaking God's Word to the people of Israel and their enemies (e.g., Pharaoh), but speaking God's Word requires more than simply relaying information. Moses was called to "teach them the statutes and the laws, and make known to them the way in which they are to walk and the work they are to do" (Ex 18:20). He even describes his task in that way. When he was making final preparations for Israel to enter into the Promised Land, he told them: "O Israel, listen to the statutes and the judgments which I am teaching you to perform, so that you may live and go in and take possession of the land which the Lord, the God of your fathers, is giving you" (Dt 4:1). Yet, while Moses' influence is clearly felt throughout the Old Testament, the prophets draw our attention to seeing God as the great Teacher. For example, Isaiah points to the orderliness of the farmer's work and the God who "instructs and teaches him" to do it (Is 28:26). And God speaks to His people, saying, "I am the Lord your God, who teaches you to profit, Who leads you in the way you should go" (Is 48:17).

However, even when God is recognized as the true teacher, He still gives humans guides. In Judaism these were Rabbis, and they developed an extensive library of helpful religious texts—

known as the Mishnah and Talmud. These Rabbis were seen as wise men, experts on Moses' Law, and even something like a "Sunday school" teacher.² In fact, Jesus himself was addressed by the term "Rabbi" (e.g., Mt 26:26; Mk 11:21; Jn 1:38) and its heightened form, "Rabboni" (Mk 10:51; Jn 20:16). Therefore, Jesus' ministry as teacher should be understood with the Old Testament and first-century contexts in mind. Jesus, like Moses, authoritatively speaks God's Word to His people and interprets its true meaning so that they would obey Him. Like the Rabbis, He deals with thorny legal issues and their ethical implications. And as the prophets anticipated, Jesus is God-in-flesh who goes beyond what any human teacher can do. He not only shows the way, He is the "Way" we should go (Jn 14:6), and by entrusting ourselves to His gentle care, we begin to learn how to love God and obey Him from our hearts while our souls remain perfectly at rest in Him (Mt 11:29).

Encounter

Take a few minutes to read Psalm 25 in a couple of Bible translations. Make a note of any differences between the translations and anything that especially jumps out at you.

Reflect

While the Psalms contain various elements (petition, complaint, supplication, etc.), each often reflects one primary request or praise. **Read Psalm 25. What do you see as David's primary request or praise (focus on the middle of the Psalm—vv.10–11—for a hint)? Is this emphasis reflected in your own prayer life? Why or why not?**

David's prayer for guidance is clearly shaped by the "enemies" who are threatening to celebrate his downfall (Ps 25:2). In response to this impending embarrassment and shame, David looks to God and places his trust in Him. **Read Psalm 25:1–3 carefully. Why is David so willing to place his trust in God? What tends to be your source of confidence when you are facing a potential "disaster" in your life?**

Last week's sermon on Psalm 23 contained a reference to God's leadership in the paths of righteousness—the right way of living mentioned in Psalm 23:3. Psalm 25:8–9 reflects on the same truth. **Read Psalm 25:8–9.**

What are the characteristics of a person led by God? Read Matthew 18:1–6. What are the characteristics of a person who enters the kingdom? Why must we be humble to follow God?

Psalm 25:14 contains the promise that those who fear the Lord will know His secret counsel. The New Testament interprets this hidden and secret plan as a “mystery. . . now revealed” (Col 1:26–27) in the gospel of Jesus. **Read 2 Corinthians 2:6–16. How does God teach us this mystery? How does this mystery distinguish itself from “human wisdom” (2 Cor 2:13)? What else from this passage jumped out at you?**

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. Jan H. Nylund, "Teacher," ed. John D. Barry et al., *The Lexham Bible Dictionary* (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2016).
2. Craig S. Keener, *Matthew*, vol. 1, The IVP New Testament Commentary Series (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1997).



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: *Jesus was Born**

Day 1: *Proverbs 1-2*

Day 2: *Proverbs 3-4*

Day 3: *Proverbs 16-18*

Day 4: *Proverbs 31*

Day 5: *1 Kings 11-12*

**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.**