





# Questions for Your Journal

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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 Old Testament Roots of the Kingdom***

“...The Kingdom of God is not some far off place for a future people. His kingdom rule is available to all generations. That rule is seen in God's faithfulness to his words and the graciousness of his actions toward His people. In fact, a careful reading reveals to us that the baseline understanding and “teaching about God in the Old Testament is His dominion over all creation forever and His immediate presence to all who call upon Him.”

You see, in even simpler terms, the Kingdom of God is where God is at work. God in action. From time to time, the people of God would catch glimpses of what it meant to truly live under the rule of God. If you use this lens to read the Old Testament, you will see it everywhere. We see it repeated throughout God's word, in Psalm 23, Psalm 55:22, Psalm 34:14, Psalm 73:28.

God in action. Not distant. Not passive. God who is powerful enough to sustain the whole universe, and yet is immensely loving enough to engage directly and personally in the lives of anyone who chooses to live under his rule. That is the center of God's Word, friends. God is at work for those who live under his rule. And so, as you look at the history of Israel, you can see from their Psalms, their history books, their prophets, that they would recognize that regardless of life's circumstances, God is still God and He rules from the heavens. He is the King of glory and will step in for his people at any time.

In a few places, like Daniel and Ezra and Nehemiah, the writers even start using the phrase or alluding to the Kingdom of the Heavens. Over the next few centuries, it gains steam and so by the time of the Gospel writers, Matthew, who is writing primarily to a Jewish audience, uses the phrase Kingdom of the Heavens even more emphatically. Like the writers of centuries past, this phrase Kingdom of the Heavens is about the direct and immediate availability of God to those who call upon Him.

You've got to get this, folks. You can't miss this. Jesus steps into the world at precisely the right moment in history from among God's chosen people. He came to a people that had been prepared by their experience to understand what the kingdom of the heavens and the kingdom of God are all about. Even prior to Jesus' own teaching, John the baptizer is preaching this very message to God's covenant people: "Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand." Let me say it again - what John was saying: God's Kingdom - or that realm where God reigns and is in action for the good of His people - is available to anyone who calls upon Him. You can live a life in this Kingdom of the heavens in the here and now. It's going to take a radical reorientation of how you've been thinking though. Repent! ..."<sup>1</sup>

## Encounter

Take a few minutes to read Psalm 2 in a couple of Bible translations. Make a note of any differences between the translations and anything that especially jumps out at you.

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## Reflect

Psalm 2 envisions the nations and their rulers rising in rebellion against God and His anointed king. **Read Psalm 2:1–3. What do you notice about these verses? Think back to Sunday's sermon. What is rebellion? How do people live out their rebellion against God? Does it have to be as overt and ominous as the rebellion described in Psalm 2? Why not?**

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The anointed king is described as executing judgment in Psalm 2:8–9. **Read Psalm 2:8–9 and compare it with Isaiah 11:1–5 and Revelation 19:11–16. What does the "rod of iron" represent? What role does the anointed King play in judging the unrighteous? Why is His judgment good?**

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The nations are encouraged to approach the Lord with reverent worship and “to rejoice with trembling” (Ps. 2:11). **Read Psalm 2:10–12. Why is this the only appropriate posture when approaching God? Read Hebrews 12:18–29. Should Christians still approach God with reverence and trembling? Why? How can you do that in your own life?**

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Psalm 2 concludes with a familiar pronouncement of blessing: “How blessed are those who take refuge in Him.” **Spend some time searching for this phrase in Scripture. Where else does it appear? What does it mean to take refuge in God? Consider offering a prayer to Him for the blessings He’s given you.**

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## 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?)*

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

*(How does it reprove me?)*

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

*(How does it correct me?)*

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### 4. How does this passage tell me to live?

*(How does it train me in righteousness?)*

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## 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.

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#### 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. Rodney Mills, "The Kingdom: The Workplace of Apprenticeship," January 21, 2018. Available at: <https://northwaychurch.org/sermons/the-kingdom-the-workplace-of-apprenticeship/>



## 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 Baptized\**

- Day 1:** *Jonah 1-2*
- Day 2:** *Jonah 3-4*
- Day 3:** *Hosea 1-3*
- Day 4:** *Amos 1:1; 9*
- Day 5:** *Joel 1-3*

*\*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.**