

THE MAP

STUDIES FOR THE DISCIPLE'S TRAIL

NORTHWAY
CHURCH

STAY SALTY, MY FRIENDS. THIS IS YOUR PURPOSE.

JULY 1, 2018 | MATTHEW 5:10-16 | RODNEY MILLS

F260 BIBLE READING PLAN

A BIBLE READING PLAN FOR BUSY BELIEVERS

WEEK 27 (JULY 2)

□ Zechariah 1:1-6, 2, 12 | □ Ezra 7-8 | □ Ezra 9-10 | □ Esther 1-2 | □ Esther 3-4

MEMORY VERSES

Zephaniah 3:17 | 1 Peter 3:15

SERMON IN A SENTENCE

In spite of persecution, we dedicate our lives to influencing and impacting our generation by enacting the good works of Kingdom righteousness, leading others to glorify our Father in heaven.

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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The Persecution of the Prophets

When Jesus told His disciples they would be treated “in the same way” as the prophets (Matt. 5:12)—i.e., they would be persecuted—He was drawing a significant parallel between the role and task of the prophets and the life of the church. The ancient Israelites reacted to the prophets with bitter hatred and violence because of the things they communicated and on account of the one by whom they had been sent. Jesus tells His followers people will react to them in the same way and for the same reasons. Therefore, we'll look to the ministry of the prophets to understand how believers should live their lives today. As we do, we'll see exactly why Jesus' comparison makes sense.

God sent His prophets to ancient Israel to communicate divine truth to the people. Moses, of course, stands as the prophetic prototype, and the direct promise he received from God gives shape to all prophecy that comes after him. Yahweh told Moses, “Now then go, and I, even I, will be with your mouth, and teach you what you are to say” (Ex. 4:12). Later the Lord promises the people through Moses that after his death, the Lord would “raise up a prophet. . .and I will put My words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him” (Deut. 18:18). In the cases of both Moses and the prophet who was to follow him, the key elements of their ministry are: 1) God calls them to be a prophet, 2) God sends them to His people, 3) they communicate the message received from God to the people. The prophets, then, stood as God's spokesmen to His people.¹

Eventually, after Israel took possession of the Promised Land their commitment to God began to wane. The collective sinfulness of the nation increased and as a result, “word from the Lord was rare in those days, visions were infrequent” (1 Sam. 3:1). However, it was into this quiet period of corruption that God called Samuel by name and gave him a word of coming judgment (1 Sam. 3). Samuel set a new mold for prophets under the kings of Israel. They became trusted advisers and at times renegades and exiles running from evil kings. In both cases the prophets were meant to remind the kings of the law of God and to push back against the tendency to drift away from faithfulness to God or to reign like the kings of the pagan nations. It was this unmoving and unwavering commitment to God's standard that eventually led the prophets to experience the hatred and violence that Jesus mentions in Matthew 5 and Matthew 23:29–39.

According to Jesus, then, the people of the church are like the prophets because they have been called by God to live completely for Him, regardless of the spiritual temperature of their cultural setting. They are to hunger and thirst for righteousness and then live that righteousness out in such a conspicuous way that it brings them into conflict with the sin of the world. They are to remind those around them of God's standard by embodying it and, when necessary, "speaking the truth" by calling sin, sin regardless of personal cost. At times the result will be persecution, insult, and having all kinds of evil spoken about us. At others, people will hear the truth as from God himself and give Him the praise that He deserves (Matt. 5:16).

Encounter

Take a few minutes to read Matthew 5:10–16 in a couple of Bible translations. Make a note of any differences between the translations and anything that especially jumps out at you.

Reflect

Jesus' final beatitude promises that those who are "persecuted for the sake of righteousness" will receive "the kingdom of God" (Matt. 5:10). In receiving the scorn and insults of the surrounding society, believers are like "the prophets who came before" (Matt. 5:12). **Read Matthew 23:29–39. What were the prophets sent by God to do? Why were they persecuted? How do believers continue the ministry of the prophets?**

In this week's sermon, we learned that there were many uses for salt in Jesus' day and His statement, "You are the salt of the earth" (Matt. 5:13) refers to the purifying and transforming effect believers can have on the world. **Read Colossians 3:5–6. Why must our speech be "seasoned with salt"? How does a believer's speech influence the people around them?**

In addition to being salt, Jesus also tells His disciples they are “the light of the world” (Matt. 5:14). **Read John 8:12. Who is the light of the world? How do believers reflect the light of Christ to the world around them? Read Philippians 2:14–15 for a practical start.**

Since the light that believers are shining is really the light of Christ reflected in them, their good deeds should not include a “parade of virtue” or an “attempt to win praise for oneself.”² Instead, Jesus envisions a life lived to the glory of their Father in heaven (Matt. 5:16). **List some practical ways believers can deflect praise or admiration from themselves to God. How have you made glorifying God your goal this week?**

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. Edward J. Young, *My Servants the Prophets* (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1952), 75.
2. Leon Morris, *The Gospel According to Matthew*, The Pillar New Testament Commentary (Grand Rapids, MI; Leicester, England: W.B. Eerdmans; Inter-Varsity Press, 1992), 106.



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 34: “God’s Plan for Paul”

Preschool: Q: When should we tell others about Jesus?
A: *We should tell about Jesus all the time.*

Kids (1-6): Q: When should we tell others about Jesus?
A: *We should always tell others about Jesus even when it is difficult.*

This Week’s Family Reading Plan

for Preschoolers: *Jesus Has Power Over Creation**

Day 1: *Zechariah 1:1-6, 2, 12*

Day 2: *Ezra 7-8*

Day 3: *Ezra 9-10*

Day 4: *Esther 1-2*

Day 5: *Esther 3-4*

*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 34: “God’s Plan for Paul”

Preschoolers: “For me, to live is Christ and to die is gain” (Philippians 1:21).

Kids (1-6 grade): “My eager expectation and hope is that ... Christ will be highly honored in my body, whether by life or by death. For me, to live is Christ and to die is gain” (Phil. 1:20-21).

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**.