

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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Fighting Worry By Trusting God

Worry is a common human emotion. Faced with unknown futures and foes, we consider all the *potential* things that we may face and how we can handle them when they come. Some of this is healthy. Farmers, for instance, know that their future harvests require planting seeds today. The rest of us do similar things since “almost everything that is worth doing requires some forethought and planning and preparation.”¹ But farmers plan for a future problem they know they will face, how do you plan for future problems you may or may not face? What if the stock market crashes and your retirement savings instantly vanish? What if you or your spouse or your child are diagnosed with cancer? What if it's a historically dry summer and the lack of rain keeps your crops from growing and despite the healthy planning you undertook, your silos end up empty anyway? These types of questions commonly lead us to worry, but that it's common doesn't make it right.

How, then, do we fight worry?

We begin by recognizing that worry is a common *human* emotion because there is nothing we can do to prepare for a future we don't know. But according to Jesus, there is One who knows all that we will face and He cares for us as a kind Father cares for His children (Matt. 6:32), and because He cares for us and deals with us according to our weaknesses (Ps. 103:13–14), we are wise to entrust our futures to Him. When the uncertain future becomes our overwhelming present, He will not allow us to be tempted—to worry?—beyond what we are able to resist with His help (1 Cor. 10:13), and He'll provide the bread we need for that day (Matt. 6:11). In other words, we fight worry by recognizing the limitations inherent in our humanity and trusting a good and sovereign God.

Whatever “trouble” (Matt. 6:34) we face each day must be understood in this light. It might be inconvenient and painful, but ultimately it's the “trouble” that our heavenly Father allowed to meet us. As the old hymn says,

“He whose heart is kind beyond all measure,
Gives unto each day what he deems best—
Lovingly, its part of pain and pleasure,
Mingling toil with peace and rest.

The challenge of the Christian life is believing this with our whole hearts and living it with our whole beings. But if we were able, with God’s help, to sing it on days of joy and on days of sorrow, we’d leave our worry behind.

Encounter

Take a few minutes to read Matthew 6:19–34 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 teaches His disciples to avoid the accumulation of wealth that is not used for His kingdom purposes and to instead “store up...treasures in heaven” (Matt. 6:19–21). One commentator suggests that while heavenly treasure “should be defined as broadly as possible—as everything that believers can take with them beyond the grave—e.g., holiness of character, obedience to all of God’s commandments, souls won for Christ, and disciples nurtured in the faith,” Jesus is calling us to use any wealth to serve others and Him.² **Read Luke 16:1–13. Why is the proper use of money so important? What keeps us from using “unrighteous wealth” well?**

In His teaching on money, Jesus is particularly concerned with the way people often choose to serve their money rather than God. **Read Matthew 6:19–24. How can a person tell if money has taken the place of God in their life? Read James 4:1–4. According to this passage, how are our prayers affected by our love of money? What is “friendship with the world” and how does it relate to the love of money?**

Jesus acknowledges that His disciples—disciples, not the world(!)—struggle with worry (Matt. 6:25–34). **Read Matthew 6:25–34. How does Jesus intend for us to fight our worry? How should God’s care for creation shape our attitude to the needs we have?**

The key verse in Matthew 6:19–34—and as suggested Sunday, the key to Jesus’ ministry—is Matthew 6:33, “But seek first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness, and all these things will be provided for you.”

Read 1 Timothy 6:3–10. How does the pursuit of godliness or “kingdom righteousness” lead to contentment? What happens to those who pursue wealth?

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. John Piper, "Today's Mercies for Today's Troubles, Tomorrow's Mercies for Tomorrow's Troubles," March 13, 1994. <https://www.desiringgod.org/messages/todays-mercies-for-todays-troubles>
2. Craig Blomberg, Matthew, vol. 22, The New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1992), 123.



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 36: “The God Who Makes All Things New”

Preschool: Q: What will happen when Jesus comes back?
A: *Jesus will make all things new.*

Kids (1-6): Q: What will happen when Jesus returns?
A: *Jesus will destroy all evil and make all things new.*

This Week’s Family Reading Plan

for Preschoolers: *The Widow’s Gift**

Day 1: *Matthew 3-4*

Day 2: *Matthew 5*

Day 3: *Matthew 6*

Day 4: *Matthew 7*

Day 5: *Matthew 8*

*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 36: “The God Who Makes All Things New”

Preschoolers: “Then the one seated on the throne said, “Look, I am making everything new” (Revelation 21:5, *Christian Standard Bible*).

Kids (1-6 grade): “Then the one seated on the throne said, “Look, I am making everything new” (Revelation 21:5, *Christian Standard Bible*).

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**.