

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?
-

The Source of Humility

The ancient Greek philosopher, Aristotle (384–322 BC), identified twelve essential characteristics for fulfilling one's purpose in a virtuous way. Some of them are familiar to us today (for example, courage, gentleness, truthfulness, friendliness, and modesty).¹ Others are foreign or antithetical to our own idea of "virtue," perhaps none more than temperance or righteous indignation. After Aristotle's works were rediscovered and translated into Latin during the 12th and 13th centuries, Christians began recognizing a degree of overlap between his understanding of virtue and Jesus's emphasis on the inner life of the soul, primarily in the way both suggest right action comes from a right heart (Matt 12:34; Mark 7:21–23; Luke 6:45). While the merits of this overlap are open to debate, one thing is certain, Aristotle did not recognize the value of humility.

Originally, humility described a state of poverty and the social ramifications that accompanied it, and for that reason, was despised by the high-minded philosophers of the Greek world.² Instead, they encouraged the pursuit of a good reputation and personal honor.³ They emphasized knowing one's "station" and improving one's standing in the world. Scripture, on the other hand, presents a far different picture.

Instead of pursuing our own interests or reputations at the expense of others, Christians are called to "bear with the failings of the weak" (Rom 15:1) and to "please his neighbor for his good, to build him up" (Rom 15:2). We are told to "outdo one another in showing honor" (Rom 12:10), to "consider others as more important than ourselves" (Phil 2:3), to "clothe" ourselves "with humility toward one another" (1 Peter 5:5). Jesus even says if we want to be "great," we won't get there by tirelessly striving for it, but by becoming a servant to all (Matt 20:26). So, Scripture paints a far different picture than the ethical life outlined by Aristotle and the philosophers who followed him. Humility is a central virtue to our lives as believers.

But where does it come from? How do we become humble people? Since humility is "being free from arrogance and pride and having an accurate estimate of one's worth,"⁴ we

begin by seeing ourselves accurately. We recognize that we are recipients of God’s extravagant grace (Eph 2:8–10) and that everything we have has come from him (James 1:17). This leads us to humility and gratitude for receiving what we never could have earned. This, in turn, shapes our attitudes toward other people. We will be free to forgive and not pridefully demand justice because we’re aware of the forgiveness we’ve received from God in Christ (Eph 4:32), and we’ll sacrificially love others because we’ve experienced the sacrificial love of Christ (Eph 5:2).

This humility may not be appealing to the philosophers of ancient Greece or modern America, but it is the way of Christ. Let’s pursue it together as we walk with him.

Encounter

Take a few minutes to read Matthew 7:1–12 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 expects His disciples to compassionately consider the failings of others, not to judge them harshly (Matt. 7:1–6). He suggests that we are able to do that when we first consider our own sin (Matt. 7:4–5) and then use the kind of merciful judgment we’d like to receive from God (Matt. 7:2, 12). **Read Romans 14:10–13 and Ephesians 4:32. What similarities do you notice between Paul’s instructions and Jesus’ teaching?**

Matthew 7:6 is a difficult verse to understand, but in context it seems clear that Jesus is talking about the timeliness and “winsomeness” of the correction we offer to others. **Have you ever been guilty of correcting a friend when they were unwilling to hear it or recognize their sin? How does a godly humility help us avoid this mistake?**

While Jesus gave His disciples a form for prayer in His model prayer (Matt. 6:9–13), He also encouraged them to pray because prayer is an effective means of receiving God’s good gifts (Matt. 7:7–11). **Read Matthew 7:7–**

11. According to this passage, what motivates God’s giving to us?

Matthew 7:12 contains one of the more famous principles from the Gospels, what is sometimes called the “Golden Rule.” Jesus teaches us that the entire revealed will of God to that point (the Law and Prophets) was fulfilled in “treating people the way we want them to treat us.” **Read Matthew 7:12 and Luke 6:31. What specific things would you have done differently this week if you had perfectly kept this rule?**

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. Charles Spurgeon, *Metropolitan Tabernacle Pulpit*, Volume 31, pp. 287f.
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: *Jesus’ Crucifixion and Resurrection**

Day 1: *Luke 9:10-62*

Day 2: *Mark 9-10*

Day 3: *Luke 12*

Day 4: *John 3-4*

Day 5: *Luke 14*

*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.**