





# 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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## ***A Demonic Opposition to the Kingdom Agenda***

As strange as it may sound, one of Jesus' strongest rebukes of demonic forces in the Gospels was directed at His own disciple, Peter. Though Peter had confessed Jesus as the Christ (Matt. 16:16), he failed to grasp how Jesus' mission of self-sacrifice—described in Matthew 16:21—would inaugurate God's kingdom on earth. Peter assumed the Christ would use God-empowered, human strength to accomplish His purpose, not weakness. Jesus' mission was radical in its rejection of normal political and military strategies and we must follow Him. As Pastor John Piper notes in a message from Matthew 16:

*"Christ's radical way of winning the nations is by the death of himself and the death of his people. The gates of Hades will not prevail. They will be unlocked from the inside.*

*Consider verse 18b: "I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it." The gates of Hades are the gates of death. Hades is the place of the dead in Jewish thought. The gates of Hades are the gates that make death look powerful and secure invincible – as if what is dead is dead forever and can never get out of death. But Jesus says, "These gates will not stop me from rescuing people from death."*

*How will he do it? He tells us in verse 21. After he makes it plain that he is the Christ and the Son of God and that all authority belongs to him in the universe and that he has the power over death, it says, "From that time Jesus began to show His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised up on the third day." He will open the doors of Hades from the inside. He gets in by dying. He gets out by resurrection. And now the gates are his. Revelation 1:18, "I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades." The keys were kept on the inside. That is*

*why he went in. And when he came out he brought the keys with him. Now he will build his church. Death will take none and keep none that he finally wills to have.*

*And what about us? How do we figure in? He tells us in verses 24-25, "Jesus said to His disciples, 'If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me. (25) For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it; but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.'" To follow Jesus means to join him on the Calvary road that leads into death and then out of death. "Whoever loses his life for my sake will find it." Lose it to find it. Die so you can live.*

*This is how we win the peoples with Jesus Christ. We do what he did..."<sup>1</sup>*

## Encounter

Take a few minutes to read Matthew 16:21–26 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

Last week we reflect on the different perspectives on Jesus in Matthew 16—the Pharisees’ perspective (vv 1–12), the disciples’ and the crowds’ perspective (vv 13–20), and Jesus’ own perspective (vv 17–28). However, the perspective presented in Matt. 16:21–28 also warrants our attention **Read Matthew 16 again. Where does a proper understanding of Jesus’ identity come from? How does Jesus’ death alter our understanding of His identity?**

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Peter responded to Jesus’ prediction of His coming death by “taking Him aside and rebuking Him” (Matt. 16:22). **Read Matthew 16:22 and Mark 8:31–38. How does Jesus’ teaching on “shame” in Mark 8:38 speak to Peter’s perspective? How do we act “ashamed” of Jesus’ identity and mission today?**

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The startling truth about Jesus' personal mission of self-sacrifice and redemption can become "old news" to Christians. The initial shock often wears off as we become more and more familiar with the Jesus' death on the cross. **Read Hebrews 9:11–15. Based on this passage, list the ways Christ's ministry of self-sacrifice goes beyond and describe its significance for believers (see esp. vv 14–15). How can we keep this good news fresh in our minds?**

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Matthew 16:24–27 contains Jesus' call to consider the blessing that awaits those who pursue God's agenda on earth. **Read Matthew 16:24–27. According to this passage, whose agenda should Christians pursue? What reward will come those who live for themselves? What reward will come to those who live for Him?**

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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. John Piper, "I Will Build My Church—From All Peoples," October 28, 2001. Available at: <https://www.desiringgod.org/messages/i-will-build-my-church-from-all-peoples>



## 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 1: “God Created Everything”

**Preschool:** Q: Who is God?  
A: *God is our Creator and King.*

**Kids (1-6):** Q: Who is God?  
A: *God is our Creator and King.*

### This Week’s Family Reading Plan

**for Preschoolers:** *God’s Covenant with Abraham\**

**Day 1:** *Acts 2-3*

**Day 2:** *Acts 4-5*

**Day 3:** *Acts 6*

**Day 4:** *Acts 7*

**Day 5:** *Acts 8-9*

\*Preschool readings are taken from *The Big Picture Interactive Bible Stories for Toddlers, Old Testament* (B&H Publishing Group), available at Amazon.com & LifeWay Christian Store.

### Key Passage for Unit 1: “God Created Everything”

**Preschoolers:** “..All things have been created through him and for him,” (Colossians 1:16b, *Christian Standard Bible*).

**Kids (1-6 grade):** “..All things have been created through him and for him. He is before all things, and by him all things hold together,” (Colossians 1:16b-17, *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.**