

THE MAP

STUDIES FOR THE DISCIPLE'S TRAIL

NORTHWAY
CHURCH

BASIC TRAINING & THE WORK OF THE MINISTRY

SEPTEMBER 23, 2018 | MATTHEW 4:19; EPHESIANS 4:11-16 | RODNEY MILLS

F260 BIBLE READING PLAN

A BIBLE READING PLAN FOR BUSY BELIEVERS

WEEK 39 (SEPTEMBER 24)

- Acts 10-11
- Acts 12
- Acts 13-14
- James 1-2
- James 3-5

MEMORY VERSES

James 1:2-4 | James 2:17

SERMON IN A SENTENCE

Like soldiers in basic training, we’re being equipped, we’re maturing in our Christlikeness, we’re growing in unity for the sake of the mission: to enact and proclaim the Kingdom Gospel.

THIS WEEK’S BIBLICAL BASIC

Sharing My Faith: I share my with with others to fulfill God's purposes. *“Pray also for me, that the message may be given to me when I open my mouth to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel. For this I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I might be bold enough to speak about it as I should,” (Ephesians 6:19–20, 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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How Can We Help Each Other Grow?

Ephesians 5:15 says, "Speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him, who is the head, even Christ." The plain answer to how we grow into Christ—how we become corporately like Christ and take on the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ—is right here: we speak the truth in love. "Speaking the truth in love, we grow . . ." Speaking the truth in love is HOW we build the body up. But what does this mean? Well, notice three things from this passage.

First, the equippers of the saints in verse 11 are all speakers of the truth, but in different ways. The apostles were the authoritative, foundational witnesses to the truth, the prophets were charismatic speakers of truth that apply it with supernaturally guided pointedness, the evangelists were those who did the work of evangelism with the truth of the gospel in regions where apostles had planted the church, and the pastors and teachers are those who take the truth and use it to feed and protect the flock of God. Every one of these offices centers on the truth of God and Christ and the gospel. These people are truth agents.

Second, verse 13 says that the goal of building up the body of Christ is to attain to the unity of the faith and the knowledge of the Son of God. So the building begins with equippers who are all agents of truth, and the aim of the building is unified knowledge, that is, unified grasp of truth.

Third, in verse 14, Paul's great concern is that as we grow into corporate Christlikeness. We are not to be babes who are blown around by every wind of doctrine. So again the issue is stability in true doctrine so that we will not be deceived by false doctrine.

In view of these three points: (1) the body is built up through equippers who are all truth agents; (2) the aim of the upbuilding is a unified vision of truth about the Son of God; and (3) the aim is also for individuals to be mature in their ability to use truth to avoid error—in view of this context, "speaking the truth" in verse 15 must mean "speaking truth about God

and about Christ and about the gospel." In other words, it means speaking biblical truth, spiritual truth, truth about life as God sees it.

So how do the saints minister to the body? Answer: by speaking truth about God and about Christ in love. Both are crucial. Knowledge and love. Knowledge without love puffs up, Paul said (1 Corinthians 8:1). But love without knowledge is confused and aimless, and disintegrates into sentimentality. That's why Paul prays in Philippians 1:9 "that your love might abound more and more in all knowledge and discernment." Love abounding in knowledge and discernment is what builds the body of Christ.¹

Encounter

Take a few minutes to read Ephesians 4:7–16 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' disciples were undoubtedly given a tremendous privilege in seeing Jesus' life lived before them. In fact, His method of discipleship was built on them observing the way He pursued and disciplined men and women so that they could in turn disciple others. **Read Matthew 4:18–19. Think back to Sunday's sermon. What did Jesus intend to teach His first disciples? How should our discipleship reflect this goal?**

According to Ephesians 4:7, each Christian has received a "portion" of Christ's gift. Taken together, our individual gifts are used by Jesus to build up His body as we serve one another. **Read Ephesians 4:7–12. According to this passage what role do pastors or ministers play in the church? What role do church "members" play?**

As Christians live out their individual calling in the church, Jesus brings us to the goal of spiritual maturity.

Read Ephesians 4:13 carefully and list the different ways Paul describes Jesus' goal for us. Describe how you could contribute to this goal in our church.

According to Paul, as we grow in spiritual maturity, we will be increasingly unmovable by the “winds and waves” of doctrinal fascination and fads—whether actually intended to derail us from faith or not. Instead, Paul envisions us lovingly reminding each other of the truth we profess to believe (Eph 4:14–15). **Read Ephesians 4:14–16. Describe a time when you benefited from the loving encouragement and instruction of a brother or sister. Thank God for His work in your life through them.**

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. From John Piper, "How the Saints Minister to the Body" October 25, 1992. Available at: <https://www.desiringgod.org/messages/how-the-saints-minister-to-the-body>



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: *Joseph Sent to Egypt**

Day 1: *Acts 10-11*

Day 2: *Acts 12*

Day 3: *Acts 13-14*

Day 4: *James 1-2*

Day 5: *James 3-5*

*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.**