

SERMON IN A SENTENCE

God uses the local church as a beachhead, establishing a base of operations, equipping and resourcing soldiers on the frontlines of Kingdom work.

THIS WEEK’S BIBLICAL BASIC

Church: I believe the church is God's primary way to accomplish His purposes on earth. *“But speaking the truth in love, let us grow in every way into him who is the head—Christ,” (Ephesians 4:15, 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 Church That Makes An Impact

According to Larkin, Acts 2:42–47 shows us that the Jerusalem church had “Four Commitments” that should shape the way we think about our life together at Northway—

“The outpouring of the Spirit produced not just momentary enthusiasm but four continuing commitments: to learn, to care, to fellowship and to worship. The apostles’ teaching probably included an account of Jesus’ life and ministry, his ethical and practical teachings, warnings about persecution and false teaching, and the christocentric Old Testament hermeneutic. But at its center was the gospel message. And so today, to devote oneself to the apostles’ teaching means evangelism as well as edification (4:2; 5:42; 15:35).

The apostles’ fellowship and breaking of bread was a sharing of possessions to meet needs and of lives in common meals (2:44–46). What an inviting way of life for our day, when “loneliness drives people into one place, but that does not mean that they are together, really” (Ogilvie 1983:74).

Finally, Luke portrays prayer as integral to the church’s life (compare 4:24; 6:4; 12:5; 13:3; 20:36). It is the essential link between Jesus and his people as they carry out his kingdom work under his guidance and by his strength (4:29–30; 6:6; 8:15; 14:23; 28:8). The reputation of the vital, growing Korean church as a praying church shows that the maxim is indeed true: “the vitality of the church was a measure of the reality of their prayers” (Williams 1985:39)...

Today growing churches manifest the same “metachurch” pattern: celebration, joining in large gatherings for worship and instruction, and cell group, meeting in home groups for fellowship and nurture.”¹

The result of this church life was daily additions to their number: “Every day the Lord Jesus by his Spirit saved some, incorporating them into their number” (Acts 4:27). What an encouraging thought! Every day people were being saved and joining the community of disciples called the church. Do you believe this is possible today? Could God do this at Northway? Larkin helpfully reminds us that “God’s plan is for churches to grow. The challenge for us is, ‘Will we meet the Scriptural conditions for growth: a dedication to be a learning, caring, fellowshiping, worshipping church?’ Will we meet the one essential condition?” Will we commit ourselves to prayer and a sacrificial care and concern for one another?

Encounter

Take a few minutes to read Acts 2:42–47 in a couple of Bible translations. Make a note of any differences between the translations and anything that especially jumps out at you.

Reflect

The Holy Spirit’s presence in the first 120 believers led to a pretty startling scene on the streets of Jerusalem.

Read Acts 2:1–41. What stuck out to you most about Peter’s sermon? What was his sermon about?

As the onlookers witnessed the Holy Spirit-empowered proclamation of the gospel in foreign languages, they were convicted of their sin and begged the apostles to tell them how to be rid of their guilt. **Read Acts 2:38–41.**

What was Peter’s answer to their question? How should the scene in Acts 2:1–41 influence Northway’s efforts to “bring the lost in”?

Acts 2:42–47 summarizes the daily activity of the church in Jerusalem after the Day of Pentecost. The hustle and bustle described here is very distant from the commitment demonstrated by the church today. **Read Acts 2:42–47 and Hebrews 10:23–25. How would a 21st-century version of Acts 2:42–47 better enable us to obey the commands of Hebrews 10? What could this look like in your life?**

Though the apostles were instrumental in spreading the gospel, Acts 2 emphasizes the Holy Spirit's role in building the church (e.g., note that the apostles preached under the Spirit's inspiration, and "the Lord was adding to their number..." Acts 2:47). **Write a prayer asking God to empower us for faithfulness to His mission in our city and lives.**

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. William J. Larkin Jr., Acts, vol. 5, The IVP New Testament Commentary Series (Downers, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1995), Ac 2:42–47.



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: *The Israelites Crossed the Red Sea**

Day 1: *1 Thessalonians 3-5*

Day 2: *2 Thessalonians 1-3*

Day 3: *Acts 18:18-28, 19*

Day 4: *1 Corinthians 1-2*

Day 5: *1 Corinthians 3-4*

*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.**