

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?

“Stand Fast”

In a sermon called, “Stand Fast,” the 19th-Century English Preacher, Charles Spurgeon, reflected on the doctrine underneath Paul’s encouragement in Colossians 1:22–23: “But now he has reconciled you by his physical body through his death, to present you holy, faultless, and blameless before him—if indeed you remain grounded and steadfast in the faith and are not shifted away from the hope of the gospel that you heard.”

“In connection with this there is the hope of final perseverance. I confess that to me it is one of the most attractive doctrines of God’s word, that “the righteous shall hold on his way, and he that hath clean hands shall be stronger and stronger.” For I am “confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ.” “I give unto my sheep eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall any pluck them out of my hand.” “He that believeth in him is not condemned.” “He that liveth and believeth in me shall never die.” There are many assurances to this effect, and if anything definite is taught in Scripture, I am confident that this is among the plainest of such teachings. I beseech you, do not shun this doctrine as though it would lead you into the least presumption if properly understood. Its legitimate effect is the very reverse of carelessness.

If it be true that, once enlisted in this army of the Lord, you must and shall fight until you are a conqueror, then there is no temptation to lay down the sword for a while in the hope of taking it up again at a more convenient season. If, as some say, you may be Christ’s soldier today and desert to-morrow, and then be enlisted again,—if it be indeed true that a man may be regenerated and then lose the divine life, and upon repentance be re-regenerated and re-re-re-re-re-regenerated I know not how many times, I am not aware that this novelty is hinted at in my unrevised New Testament. There I read of being “born again,” but not of being born again and again and again and again and again and again—I say I cannot find a trace of this in the Bible. On the other hand, I

find that if the one regeneration fails, which is impossible, there would remain nothing else to be done. God's best work is broken down, and he will never try it again.

... We have but made the supposition to show you the danger, upon whose brink you stand, and over whose verge you would slide if grace did not prevent. If you indeed believe in Christ Jesus, set this to your seal, that he will keep you to the end. Whatsoever happens, "I am persuaded that neither things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." For dear life hold on to the hope of final preservation; for there is a purifying, encouraging, stimulating power about that precious truth. "He keepeth the feet of his saints:" "be not moved away from the hope of the gospel."¹

Encounter

Take a few minutes to read Colossians 1:15–23 in a couple of Bible translations. Make a note of any differences between the translations and anything that especially jumps out at you.

Reflect

After explaining how God has transferred believers into the kingdom “of the Son he loves” and forgiven them of their sins (Col. 1:14), the Apostle Paul goes on to explain the supremacy of Christ over all creation. The phrase “firstborn over all creation” (Col. 1:15) speaks to this authority. **Read Psalm 89:19–29. How does God’s choice of David and his descendants point to Jesus’ identity as “firstborn over all creation” and king over all?**

Having established Jesus’ identity as the One with supreme authority, Paul points to His role in the creation of all things. **Read John 1:1–5 and Colossians 1:15–16. How should Jesus’ central place in the creation of the world shape the way we live our lives as believers?**

In Colossians 1:18–20, Paul tells us that Jesus is not just central in the creation of the world as it is, but also preeminent in the new creation that has already begun to take place as a result of His resurrection. **Read 1 Corinthians 15:20–23. According to this passage, how does Jesus’ resurrection relate to the future resurrection of believers?**

Colossians 1:22 reveals God purpose for every believer, namely, to redeem them from a life of sinfulness and conform them to Christ’s own holiness. **Compare Colossians 1:22 with Jude 20–25. On whose power should Christians rely for this process to occur? How can you consistently live with trust in Jesus this week?**

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. C. H. Spurgeon, "Stand Fast," in *The Metropolitan Tabernacle Pulpit Sermons*, vol. 28 (London: Passmore & Alabaster, 1882), 615–616.



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 2: “God Formed A Nation”

Preschool: Q: Why can we trust God?
A: *We can trust God because He is faithful.*

Kids (1-6): Q: Why can we trust God?
A: *We can trust God because He is faithful and does everything for His glory and our good.*

This Week’s Family Reading Plan

for Preschoolers: *The Conquest of Jericho**

Day 1: *1 Corinthians 15-16*

Day 2: *2 Corinthians 1-2*

Day 3: *2 Corinthians 3-4*

Day 4: *2 Corinthians 5-6*

Day 5: *2 Corinthians 7-8*

*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 2: “God Formed A Nation”

Preschoolers: “If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s seed,” (Galatians 3:29, *Christian Standard Bible*).

Kids (1-6 grade): “If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s seed, heirs according to promise,” (Galatians 3:29, *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.**