

Weekly Study of Sunday's Message.
Sunday May 23, 2021. "Thrive- Flourish. Resources."

I Intro.

Welcome to the weekly devotional that gives you some specific things to work through from the message this Sunday. Whether you were able to participate in this service or not, this devotion is free-standing and you can still use it to help you dig deeper into your own spiritual walk. We're deep into 2021 and thankfully, we're still gathering in person. A growing group who follow all the safety guidelines joins us at the church. We have opened our children's and youth area also and are seeing a good response. We're so encouraged with your love and presence when you gather with us. If you're still joining us online, we love and so appreciate your presence also. We still are your church family, and if there is ANYTHING you need, prayer, ideas or suggestions you have, please pass them our way. We feel just as isolated as you, and we want to maintain that connection with each of you.

II Recap.

We're in the fourth Sunday of our series called **"Thrive"**. The abundant life Jesus spoke about found in Matthew 10:10. There are people, and things, we either allow into our lives or attach to, that Jesus said try to **"steal, kill, or destroy"** this abundant life. The first week we spelled out a life of thriving is in our hands. We have ownership over the way we live, and it involves a mastery in growing the ability to incorporate things into our life that promote 'thriving'. To live the abundant life we are to grow our ability to hear and discern the voice of the shepherd, Jesus, over the voice of the thief'. The second week we looked at the specific aspects of relationships that help us live this abundant life. We realize we are to walk through life together. Then last week we learned we were created to live a life practicing rhythms of work and then rest rather than just out of routines. True thriving/flourishing comes from learning your own patterns and rhythms and living life within those natural rhythms.

III Scripture.

Sunday, we hit the final content portion of the **"Thrive"** series. And this was centered on growing a healthy relationship, how we hold, and carry, the resources in our life. Which are all the things we surround ourselves with because they are just important aspects of our life. And not to let fear, or our perceptions of threats to these resources **"steal, kill, or destroy"** the abundant life.

So, let's look at how we define, hold, and understand the things in our lives. We all are 'stuff' people, and we often aren't aware of how we hold our resources can grow fear and inhibit our ability to thrive.

What 'things' in your life do you find that you just get really attached to?

The scripture used is a familiar one, even for people who didn't grow up in the church. So, read **Matthew 6:25-34.**

What jumped out to you from this passage about our relationship to our wants and needs?

What in our lives, and messages from our culture, cause us to stress over our things?

In what specific areas do you struggle with your wants and needs?

This passage was a grounding point to ask some important clarifying questions about how we hold our stuff, and how doing some serious work can help us overcome living in fear, and move our lives to thriving and flourishing...the abundant life. The clarifying questions are:

What do I need...really?

This question helps us to separate our wants from our needs. We always expect this when we raise kids, but we're not always honest in putting our felt desire for things through the same filter.

What should my attitude be...really?

This moves from an external inventory of our relationship with our resources to an internal inventory of our desires, drives, and appetites to see what might be driving our wanting of things.

What does thriving look like when I trust God...really?

Jesus said, of all the things that would battle for our heart, hurt our ability to thrive, it's our belief that God cannot be trusted. This is the root of fear. We can believe God is the end all be all, but because our attention and focus is often on the comforts in life, we often don't feel like God is working as diligently as he should. So our trust is in what we think we should be getting rather than the source.

What do I simply need to remember...really?

This last question is drawn from the last verse in this passage. Jesus tells his followers to not get caught up in what is or isn't happening, not be controlled by fear, but just put all of our attention in what God is doing now. If we can focus on the work of God, it will grow our trust in him

So, go back and read AND answer each one of those questions.

These questions will help you design the kind of life that will grow thriving and flourishing.

IV Challenge.

We want to wrap up the entire "**Thrive**" series with some closing thoughts and some challenging questions. Next week we'll be gathering for a time of music and scripture, aligning all of who we are to live this life of thriving. So, this will be the last bit of content we provide.

We know some things to be true. We all desire a life of thriving/flourishing. We want an abundant life. But we let so many things scare us, pull us, and distract us, from what actually brings this life Jesus promised. So we languish; which we described as a joyless, aimless sense of stagnation. Motivation is dulled. Attention is fragmented. We know life is hard. This past year of COVID has just amplified all of this struggle and frustration in pursuing the abundant life. And we allow society to define what that life of thriving is rather than Jesus. And in these struggles, fear rather than thriving grows.

We discovered a thriving life comes from; learning to listen to the voice of the shepherd, Jesus, growing healthy relationships with people who can build good within us, finding the God-created rhythms of work and rest that invigorate us, and then answering the questions from above. THIS is what leads to a life of thriving/flourishing, the abundant life.

So, wrapping up this entire series, let me challenge you to go back through and review all of the material we presented. And to ask this one final question:

How much do you want the REAL life of thriving, and what are you willing to do, and give up, let go of, to grow your life in that direction?

BONUS

10. Things I wish I knew when I was graduating from ... wherever.

- 1. No one has it all figured out.**
- 2. Ignorance is not a bad thing. It's cool to learn new things.**
- 3. Virtually every mistake is survivable.**
- 4. You will live several lifetimes in your life.**
- 5. You will always believe things that will eventually be proven to be untrue.**
- 6. The successes you have will be directly correlated with the number of failures you have.**
- 7. How you feel is not reality, but will affect your perspective of it.**
- 8. Don't confuse excellent with perfect.**
- 9. 90% of what you worry about will never happen.**
- 10. Winning at life is helping everyone win.**
- 11. Never let tradition or the status quo define you. A list of 11 is better than 10.**
- 12. Make your own list.**
- 13. ?**