

Foundations: Making Disciples of Jesus

The Word of God and Prayer

Goal: To establish the Bible is the word of God and an everyday standard for our lives; To understand the necessity of prayer in our lives as well.

The Word

2 Timothy 3:16-17

- Wise for Salvation - The bible teaches us how to find salvation
- All Scripture is God-breathed - The bible is from God himself, communicated to us through chosen men
- Equipped for every good work - Scripture should be used to teach us in every aspect of our lives: marriage, parenting, relationships, decision-making, righteousness, and basically anything good and worthwhile.
 - Do you believe the Bible to be from God?
 - Do you see its relevance in your life?

Hebrews 4:12-13

- Alive and Active - The Bible can be applied to our lives today, not just a book written 2000 years ago, it means as much today as then
- It Judges - The word reveals our heart, our motivations, and our attitudes.
 - Why do you think the Bible is compared to a double-edged sword?
 - It shows the significance and power of the word of God
 - The Bible can be compared to a scalpel and sin is like cancer
 - The Bible can cut the sin out of our lives; it will hurt but we will be a lot healthier spiritually
- Uncovered and laid bare - God can see everything, even our thoughts and what is in our hearts.
 - What does it mean that everything will be laid bare before the eyes of whom we must give account?
 - We will give an account of our lives on Judgment Day
 - What kind of account will we give if we have not been reading our Bibles?
 - What does it make you think about the Bible judging the thoughts and attitudes of your heart?

2 Peter 1:20-21

- Understand it's origin - The origin of Scripture is not from any person, but rather the will of God
- Led by the Holy Spirit - God used His people to write down his words so that we can know how to have a relationship with Him
 - How does it make you feel to know that the bible is not a collection of "cleverly invented stories" but the actual word of God?

Mark 7:1-13

- Rules taught by men - Many people grow up learning and practicing religious tradition, some that contradict scripture.
 - Who are the Pharisees? Religious leaders of the day
- Scripture first - Following God's word is more important than honoring tradition.
- Hearts are far from me - Jesus was more concerned about their hearts instead of following a tradition
 - How can we honor God with our lips but our hearts be far from Him?
 - What does it mean to worship God in vain?

John 8:31-32

- Hold to Jesus' teachings - We are expected to "abide" in Jesus' teachings.
 - What is the difference between believing something and holding to it?
 - I can *believe* it's wrong to smoke, but if I am smoking I am not *holding* to that belief
 - Why is Jesus telling people to hold onto his teachings if they already believe in him?
 - Just believing is not enough, you need to hold onto his teachings to be a disciple
 - Truth will set you free - Jesus' teachings are a source of truth and will set you free
 - What will we be set free from? Our sin!
 - The only way to be set free from our sin is to hold onto the Truth
 - How can we hold onto the Truth if we are not reading the Scriptures?

Acts 17:10-12

- What qualities made the Bereans show noble character?
 - Eagerness - They were eager to hear God's word.
 - Examined daily - They examined the Scriptures every day
 - Pursuit of Truth - They did not just take Paul's (religious leader) word for it, they checked the scriptures themselves.

- Take the “Berean Challenge” and imitate these three characteristics:
 - Be eager to learn
 - Examine God’s word daily
 - Search for truth

John 12:47-50

- I did not come to judge the world - Jesus came to bring us hope, grace, and God’s word to a lost world
- There is a judge for the one who does not accept my words - We are allowed to make choices in our lives. Judgement will come on the Last Day. What will condemn us? Jesus’ word.
- His commands lead to eternal life - The hope of following God’s word is salvation.

Prayer

Mark 1:35-38

- Jesus prayed - Jesus would often retreat to a solitary place to pray
- Distractions - Life is full of things that want our attention, we need to set a priority on what is really important before we move on to other tasks.

Luke 11:1-11

- How to pray - Jesus’ disciples asked him how to pray. He gives us a model we can follow when we pray.
 - Begin with Praise
 - Pray for the Kingdom
 - His will in our lives, guidance
 - Our daily needs
 - The ability to forgive and change
 - Strength to overcome life’s challenges
- Pray Bold - We need to approach God with confidence that he will give us what we need; ask and you will receive
- Trust God - Jesus gives us the example that if we wicked people are able to give good things, then how much more will our Heavenly Father, who is perfect, take care of us.

Matthew 6:5-7

- Pray to your Father - Pray to God, not for men or in front of them for their approval.
Find a quiet place to talk with your Father alone and he will reward you.
 - In what ways do you think God rewards those who pray in secret?

Luke 18:1-8

- Be persistent in prayer - Jesus teaches his disciples to pray and never give up.
Sometimes prayer is answered not in our timing and we need to not quit.
- Prayer is an expression of faith - Jesus asks the question of whether or not he will find faith on the earth when he comes.
 - What are the things you are bringing to God in prayer?
 - Do you believe he can do all you ask or imagine?

Are you willing to:

- Accept the bible as the standard for your life?
 - Humbly let it reveal your heart and make the necessary changes?
 - Read and study everyday?
- Pray to your Father on all occasions, seeking his will for your life?
 - With faith believing he can do all things and has your best interest in mind?

Challenge: Start reading Mark

Further scriptures for study on God's word:

Deuteronomy 30:11-14 - The word is near you

Joshua 1:8 - Meditate daily and prosper

2 Samuel 22:31 - Word of God is flawless

Psalm 1:1-3 - Meditate daily and fruit comes

Romans 10:17 - Faith comes from God's word