

Sermon Summary: The Habit of Scripture

The sermon introduces the new discipleship series and focuses on **Scripture as a foundational habit of following Jesus**. The goal of discipleship is not simply to learn about Jesus but to develop habits that help us **walk more closely with Him, become more like Him, and experience the kingdom of God in our everyday lives**.

The pastor emphasizes that habits are powerful. Good habits can strengthen our faith, while unhealthy habits can pull us away from God. These spiritual habits are **not about legalism or earning God's love**. Instead, they are practices we intentionally develop **out of love for God and a desire to become more like Christ**.

Scripture is presented as God's gift to us—a way to know God, hear God's truth, understand our identity, and discern truth from the many competing voices around us. As we regularly read, study, memorize, and meditate on Scripture, God's Word becomes increasingly rooted in our hearts and minds.

The sermon also encourages us to develop these habits **in community** through discipleship groups, Bible studies, Sunday School, and relationships with other believers. Spiritual growth takes time, but through God's grace and intentional practice, Scripture can become a daily source of nourishment and a central part of who we are.

Key Points

1. Discipleship is about how we live, not just what we believe.

- Following Jesus means developing habits that help us become more like Him.
- These habits help us experience God's kingdom in our everyday lives.

2. Our habits shape who we become.

- Good habits can strengthen our relationship with God.
- Bad habits can become barriers that pull us away from God.

3. Spiritual habits are not about earning God's love.

- We don't practice spiritual disciplines to earn salvation or God's grace.
- We develop them out of love and a desire to follow Jesus more closely.

4. We can walk with Jesus today.

- We may not physically walk alongside Jesus as the first disciples did.
- Through Scripture and the Holy Spirit, we can still have a real, daily relationship with Him.

5. Scripture helps us hear God's voice.

- We live surrounded by countless voices—advertising, media, opinions, fear, anger, and sometimes lies.
- Knowing God's Word helps us recognize what is true and what is false.

6. The Bible is more than a book we read once.

- Scripture is described as "alive and active."
- The same passage can speak to us differently as we grow and experience different seasons of life.

7. God's Word gives us what we need.

- Scripture helps us know God, understand our purpose, and become who God created us to be.
- It provides truth, healing, guidance, and good news.

8. We need to make Scripture part of our daily lives.

- Read Scripture regularly.
- Study it deeply.
- Memorize passages.
- Follow the lectionary.
- Meditate on Scripture throughout the day.

9. Faith grows in community.

- Discipleship groups can help us establish and maintain spiritual habits.
- Bible studies and Sunday School give us opportunities to learn from others and understand Scripture more deeply.
- Encouraging one another makes new habits easier to sustain.

10. Scripture can become a daily provision for our souls.

- Over time, God's Word moves from something we simply read to something that shapes our thoughts, decisions, identity, and actions.
- The ultimate goal is to draw closer to Jesus and allow God to transform us.

Main Takeaway

The more we make God's Word a regular part of our lives, the more it shapes us into the people God created us to be. Scripture helps us know God's truth, recognize His voice, walk more closely with Jesus, and live as His disciples every day.