

SERMON IN A SENTENCE

It is our passionate pursuit of Christ and his ways that will ultimately give us success in discovering the home we were meant to build.

THIS WEEK'S BIBLICAL BASIC

God-Centered Home:

A dedicated disciple is building a God-Centered Home by practicing Family Discipleship through regular prayer, Bible reading, serving, hospitality & participating in church life.

Ephesians 6:4 "Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord."

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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Making God's Word Your Life's Foundation

If you take Jesus's words in Matthew 7:24–27 seriously, you'll make it a priority to build your life on the solid foundation of His instruction. If you look at this passage, you'll notice that he does not restrict the value of His words to those with children, or to married people, or to the spiritually mature. He intends for every person who "hears these words" to "act on them" (Matt. 7:24). That means they're essential for you in whatever life-stage or situation you find yourself.

We've been reading through the New Testament together over the past couple of weeks, so we've encountered Jesus's words every day. But let's be honest: while it's not hard to "hear" His words, it's the "acting on them" that causes us trouble. What we need is a way to take what we hear from God and apply it to our lives. How do we make God's Word our life's foundation?

Here are a couple suggestions to help you think through this question:

1. **Pray for God's help to understand.** The best way to move from "hearing" to "doing" is to ask God to help you understand how you should respond to His Word. You could follow the Psalmist's example by simply reciting this little prayer: "Give me understanding that I may observe your law and keep it with all my heart" (Ps. 119:34). Or, as you work through The Map's "Examine" section, seek to answer the questions *prayerfully*. Ask God to show you how the passage answers the questions and relates to your life.
2. **Obey what you read.** Once you've understood what God is calling you to through a passage, you've got to "act on it." There are no two ways about it, this is the part where most of us prove to be foolish.

Most of us know what God would have us do, we just don't obey Him. Brothers and sisters, this is dangerous. James tells us, "Remember, it is sin to know what you ought to do and then not do it" (James 4:17, NLT). Could it be that we have neglected the truth of God's Word for so long that we've forgotten what it feels like to live obediently before Him? The truth is, God's Word is not the foundation of our lives if it does not change the way we live, and if it does not change the way we live, we are on unstable ground indeed.

Encounter

Take a few minutes to read Genesis 1-3 in a couple of translations. Make a note of any differences in wording or phrasing.

Reflect

Genesis 1:26-28 gives us a glimpse into God's purpose in creating humanity – mankind exists to "rule" over creation as God's representatives (Gen. 1:26). **Read Psalm 8, and join with the Psalmist in praising our God for His care and provision for us.**

Genesis 2:18 describes God's desire for Adam to have a helper in the calling he was created to fulfill. This same incompleteness is felt by Christians today, whether they are single or married. If we're going to be faithful to the calling God has given us, we need each other. **Read 1 Peter 4:7-11 & 1 Thessalonians 5:12-24. What responsibilities do we have to other Christians?**

In Ephesians 5:22–33, the Apostle Paul calls it a “great mystery” that Genesis 2:24 is an explanation of Christ’s relationship to the church. Paul often uses “mystery” to refer to something whose meaning were once hidden, but have now been revealed in Christ (cf. Eph. 3:4–10). **Read Ephesians 5:22–33 and consider the ways Christ’s relationship to the church is a pattern for husbands and wives.**

Read Matthew 7:24–27 and ask the Holy Spirit to help you think about your attitude toward Jesus’s words. Are you building your life on the right foundation?

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.



Disciple-Making Guide

Kids Kindergarten through 6th grade receive Adventure Tokens for 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 22: "Jesus the Storyteller"

Preschool: Question: *Why did Jesus tell stories?*
Answer: *Jesus told stories to teach people about God.*

Kids (1-6 grade): Question: *Why did Jesus tell parables?*
Answer: *Jesus told parables to teach people about God and His kingdom..*

This Week's Family Reading Plan

for Preschoolers: *Jonah, Prophet to Nineveh**

Day 1: *Habakkuk 1*

Day 2: *Habakkuk 2:1-11*

Day 3: *Habakkuk 2:12-20*

Day 4: *Joel 2:1-17*

Day 5: *Joel 2:18-32*

*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 22: "Jesus the Storyteller"

Preschoolers: "He saw a large crowd and had compassion on them ... Then he began to teach them many things." Mark 6:34

Kids (1-6 grade): "He saw a large crowd and had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. Then he began to teach them many things." Mark 6:34

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 _____.

34 BIBLICALBASICS

11 MARKERS

A Dedicated Disciple...

1. has **Trusted Christ** as the Leader & Forgiver of their lives.
2. has publicly identified their life with Christ through **Biblical Baptism**.
3. is cultivating the Spirit-controlled life through daily repentance, consistent prayer, reading/meditating on Scripture, and other **Spiritual Practices**.
4. is faithfully attending weekly **Corporate Worship** gatherings.
5. is devoted to **Generous Living**, faithfully giving of their time, talent, treasures, tithes & offerings.
6. is building a **God-Centered Home** by practicing Family Discipleship through regular prayer, bible reading, serving, hospitality & participating in church life.
7. is a member of a **Small Group**, sharing & caring in deep fellowship with God's people.
8. is regularly engaging in **Relational Evangelism**, sharing their faith with others and inviting them to Corporate Worship gatherings.
9. lives a life that is increasingly characterized by the selfless, sacrificial, **Servant Lifestyle** modeled by Christ.
10. serves through giftedness within the church on **Ministry Teams**.
11. is involved in **Serving Outside** the church, such as short term mission trips, local service projects, compassion/justice initiatives, etc.

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10 COREBELIEFS

1. **Salvation by Grace** - Eph. 2:8-9
2. **Identity in Christ** - John 1:12
3. **Personal God** - Psalm 121:1-2
4. **Trinity** - 2 Corinthians 13:14
5. **Authority of The Bible** - 2 Tim 3:16-17
6. **Humanity** - John 3:16
7. **Eternity** - John 14:1-4
8. **The Church** - Eph. 4:15-16
9. **Compassion** - Psalm 82:3-4
10. **Stewardship** - 1 Tim. 6:17-19

13 COREVIRTUES

1. **God-Centered Thinking** - Matt. 6:33
2. **Integrity/Holiness** - Psalm 119:1
3. **Faithfulness** - Proverbs 3:3-4
4. **Self-Control** - Titus 2:11-13
5. **Joy** - John 15:11
6. **Peace** - Philippians 4:6-7
7. **Hope** - Hebrews 6:19-20
8. **Love** - 1 John 4:10-12
9. **Patience** - Proverbs 14:29
10. **Gentleness** - Philippians 4:5
11. **Kindness/Goodness** - 1 Thess. 5:15
12. **Humility** - Philippians 2:3-4
13. **Gratitude** - 1 Thessalonians 5:18



Developing Dedicated Disciples Who Make a Difference in the World!