

SERMON IN A SENTENCE

As we lay our whole lives before him as an offering, truly living a life of God-worship, he transforms what we value, causing us to reflect his goodness and character.

THIS WEEK'S BIBLICAL BASIC

God-Centered Thinking:

I realize that to become more like Christ, my thinking must change. *Rom. 12:2 - "Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect."* NLT

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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Call to Worship

When God's people gather before Him, they do so with a humility that comes from recognizing His mercy in saving them. This recognition also leads to praise. Psalm 95 is a "call to worship," a passage that encourages those gathered to remember that they are in God's presence "to participate in the gift exchange of worship itself, by hearing God's Word, by offering prayers and praise, and by receiving spiritual nourishment [from Him]."¹ The Psalmist first calls the assembly to praise God as Creator and King (Ps. 95:1-5), before considering his saving work in their lives (Ps. 95:6-11).

Within the second section we see the truth that **true praise is always offered in the context of a relationship**:

"For He is our God,
And we are the people of His pasture
and the sheep of His hand." (Psalm 95:7)

This context provides the basis for praise because it includes a relational history, the interactions of God and His people through the ages. God's people praise Him for the the historical interventions where He proved Himself to be "the rock of [their] salvation" (Ps. 95:1) and their God (Ps. 95:7).

The call to worship is a call to remember all that God is and all that He has done for us. For that reason, and perhaps it goes without saying, worship is something reserved for God's people; unbelievers lack the relational context in which the true worship of God takes place.² This is seen in Jesus's interaction with the Samaritan woman at Jacob's well: "You Samaritans worship what you do not know..." (John 4:22).

This relational context also goes a long way in helping us understand Paul's "therefore" in Romans 12:1. The salvation secured by God through Christ's work for us and applied by God in the Spirit's work in us – the focus of Romans 1-11 and what Paul calls the "mercies of God" – is the only foundation for "true worship."

A quick takeaway: if you ever arrive at church in a spiritual haze or struggle to focus your heart on God during your quiet time, perhaps you should call yourself to worship by remembering God's mercy to you in saving you from your sin by counting your blessings or reading Psalm 95, 47, or 66. The relationship you have with God is praiseworthy!

Encounter

Take a few minutes to read Romans 12:1-2 in a couple of translations. Make a note of any differences in wording or phrasing.

Reflect

Paul's call to worship in Romans 12:1-2 serves as an important synopsis of the Christian life. This is every Christian's calling in this world. It also represents a return to a topic he already addressed in his letter to the Romans. **Read Romans 6:1-19. How does your "true worship" intersect with your pursuit of holiness?** Can you worship on Sunday, but live a life of sin during the week?

Scripture gives us clear examples of believers who are led to worship as they reflect on God's goodness in their lives. This is most clear in the Psalms. **Read Psalm 47 and Psalm 66. How does sharing what God has done in your life call others to praise Him?**

Paul's call to a life transformed by God and lived for His glory finds a parallel in the Apostle Peter's writing. Both suggest that Christians have been saved for a purpose, namely, the glory of God. **Read 1 Peter 2:4-12.** **Does the proclamation (1 Pet. 2:9) and holiness (1 Pet. 2:11, 12) Peter mentions show up in your life? Ask God to transform you so that it does.**

When Paul thinks of the Romans' spiritual transformation, he sees it as the means to their ability to "prove what the will of God is" (Rom. 12:2). **Read Colossians 1:9-12.** If holiness seems impossible in your life, follow Paul's example and write out a prayer asking for "knowledge of His will" in your particular situation and struggle.

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.

Sources:

- 1. *The Worship Sourcebook* (Grand Rapids, MI: The Calvin Institute of Worship, 2004), 48.
- 2. Passages that speak of unbelievers glorifying God (e.g., Matt. 5:16; 1 Pet. 2:12) most likely have the conversion of unbelievers in view – i.e., their praise comes as they come to believe in Him.

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 23: "Jesus the Miracle-Worker"

Preschool: Question: *Why did Jesus perform miracles?*
Answer: *Jesus performed miracles to show He is God's Son.*

Kids (1-6 grade): Question: *Why did Jesus perform miracles?*
Answer: *Jesus performed miracles to glorify God and prove He is God the Son.*

This Week's Family Reading Plan

for Preschoolers: *Esther Saved Her People**

Day 1: *Jeremiah 27:1-15*

Day 2: *Jeremiah 27:16-28:9*

Day 3: *Jeremiah 28:10-17*

Day 4: *Jeremiah 31:1-26*

Day 5: *Jeremiah 31:27-40*

*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 23: "Jesus the Miracle-Worker"

Preschoolers: "These are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God." John 20:31

Kids (1-6 grade): "These are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name." John 20:31

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!