



**SERMON IN A SENTENCE**

*Freed from guilt and shame, as His masterpiece we find our worth, our confidence, and our belonging in Christ.*

**THIS WEEK'S BIBLICAL BASIC**

**Identity in Christ:** a person is significant because of his/her position as a child of God. *John 1:12, "Yet to all who received Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God."*

# Questions for Your Journal

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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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## ***"I Don't Care What People Think"***

*...They sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians. "Teacher," they said, "we know that you are truthful and teach truthfully the way of God. You don't care what anyone thinks nor do you show partiality."*

*Matthew 22:16, CSB*

What would it be like to not "care what anyone thinks"? Movies are sometimes based on this idea: a person finally frees him or herself from the expectations of a controlling husband or a nagging wife, a job they despise, or other "constraints" to finally live *their* life. They can travel, find true love, or fulfill their dreams without having to think of anyone but themselves. This is supposed to be the happy ending! But if we think that's what the Pharisees and Herodians saw in Jesus, we'd be totally wrong.

Jesus wasn't being "true to himself," as if He were a rugged individual bucking the expectations of society, family, and religion. He was being true to God, and that's something else entirely. Rather than massaging His message to make it more palatable to various groups of listeners, He always spoke **God's truth**. There were many times when this commitment to God's way brought the scorn of the religious establishment down on His head — not least of which was His refusal, under the threat of death, to say that He had made the whole 'Messiah' thing up (Matt. 26:63). There were times when His commitment to God left Him wholly isolated (see John 8:1-11 where Jesus stood up to a crowd ready to carry out the commands of Leviticus 20:10). Whatever the situation, Jesus was ready to say, "not what I will, but what You

will” (Mk. 14:36).

**See, Jesus’s secret to not caring about what people think is to live as if God is the only person whose opinion of us matters.** He even gave us instructions that remind us that God is the One we’ll have to deal with in the end, and it will be better for us if we go ahead and learn that now (Matt. 10:26–31). So instead of fantasizing about living an unfettered life, learn what it means to offer your life to God as a living sacrifice. Commit yourself to God’s way, despite the isolation, or the ridicule, or the shame that others would throw your way. God sees our faithfulness and He’s the only One who matters.

## **Encounter**

Take a few minutes to read Ephesians 2:1–10 in a couple of translations. Make a note of any differences in wording or phrasing.

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## **Reflect**

Genesis 3:6–10 records the immediate aftermath of Adam and Eve’s sin. They felt shame and fear and chose to hide from God. **Read Psalm 51. Does David express shame for his sin? Does he seem fearful of God? Why or why not?**

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Ephesians 2:1–10 explains God’s role in our salvation—He made us alive even while we were dead in our sins (Eph. 2:4–6). God takes the initiative in our salvation because of His great love for us. **Read John 3:16 and Psalm 63. Where does the Psalmist find his confidence? How does knowing God’s love for you change the way you live your life?**

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Christians are called to a life of humility and accurate self-judgment (Rom. 12:3), but we all know how quickly pride can take over. **Read 2 Corinthians 12:1-10. God gave Paul his “thorn” “to keep [him] from exalting [himself]” (2 Cor. 12:7). What keeps you humble? Where is your confidence?**

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Think back to Sunday’s sermon and read Proverbs 11:2. **Where does shame come from? How can God work in your life to relinquish shame’s hold on you? Write a prayer asking Him to do that for you.**

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## **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?)*

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**2. What does this passage tell me not to believe?**

*(How does it reprove me?)*

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**3. How does this passage tell me not to live?**

*(How does it correct me?)*

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**4. How does this passage tell me to live?**

*(How does it train me in righteousness?)*

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**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.**

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**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 24: "Jesus the Healer"

**Preschool And Kids (1-6):** Q: *What did Jesus heal people from?*

A: *Jesus healed people from sickness, sin, and death.*

### This Week's Family Reading Plan

**for Preschoolers:** *Jesus Was Born\**

**Day 1:** *Jeremiah 50:1-16*

**Day 2:** *Jeremiah 50:17-32*

**Day 3:** *Jeremiah 50:33-46*

**Day 4:** *Psalms 83*

**Day 5:** *Psalms 137*

\*Preschool readings are taken from *The Big Picture Interactive Bible Stories for Toddlers, New Testament* (B&H Publishing Group), available at Amazon.com & LifeWay Christian Store.

### Key Passage for Unit 24: "Jesus the Healer"

**Preschoolers:** "My soul, bless the LORD . . . He forgives all you iniquity; he heals all your diseases." Psalm 103:2-3

**Kids (1-6 grade):** "My soul, bless the LORD, and do not forget all His benefits. He forgives all your iniquity; he heals all your diseases." Psalm 103:2-3

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.

### Northway Church of The Woodlands

8200 Northway Dr.  
The Woodlands, TX 77382  
www.NorthwayChurch.org

## 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!