



**Alignment: Align Your Actions**

April 30, 2017 | James 1:19-2:26

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**SERMON IN A SENTENCE**

*A dedicated disciple will live a life characterized by both godly integrity and Christlike acts of compassion.*

**THIS WEEK'S BIBLICAL BASIC**

**Compassion:** God calls all Christians to show compassion to those in need.

*Psalm 82:3-4, "Defend the cause of the weak and fatherless; maintain the rights of the poor and oppressed. Rescue the weak and needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked."*

## 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?
- 

## The Law: Drudgery or A Blessing?

There are times when an activity's rules or regulations keep us from enjoying it like we should. For example, have you ever been to a hotel pool that had a sign posted: "No jumping allowed"? Without fail someone breaks that rule. Can you really enjoy a swimming pool if you're not soaking everybody within 15 feet with your world-class cannonball? Then there are other times when an activity's parameters actually *increase* our enjoyment of it. Just think, if you've never learned the rules of the piano (the scales, time signatures, or how to read music), your enjoyment of the instrument is severely limited. Maybe you can play "Chopsticks," but without learning the rules and conventions of the instrument, you'll never know the joy of playing Chopin.

Which one of these examples best explains the function of God's law in our lives? Is it meant to restrict the behavior that would help us enjoy life more? Or is it more like the rules that enable pianists to create beautiful music?

Scripture tells us "the law is good" (1 Tim. 1:18), and, as we've seen in James, the law is described as the "law of liberty" (James 1:25; 2:12). So, though our obedience to it can never earn us a place in heaven (Rom. 3:20), the law should be seen as serving a positive function in our lives. In fact, it reveals to us the behavior and lifestyle that God intends for his people to live. Of course, the law functions differently for believers than it did for the Israelites in the Old Testament, and it has been fundamentally changed through the work and teaching of Jesus who rendered the sacrificial laws obsolete through his once-for-all death on the cross (Heb. 9). Nevertheless, we must strive to view the law positively.

One way to do that is by remembering this simple phrase: “Discipline without direction is drudgery.”<sup>1</sup> If God’s law was simply a set of regulations given by an aloof deity, it would feel oppressive. But since it comes from a loving and compassionate God, it is purposeful. It is given for our good as He remakes us into His own image. Jesus describes his way of life – which was guided by His love for God and His love for people – as an easy yoke and a light burden (Matt. 11:30). In that way it truly is a law of liberty and something we should strive to live out as we pursue the goal for which we were created.

## Encounter

Take a few minutes to read James 1:19-2:26 in a couple of different translations. Make a note of any differences in wording or phrasing.

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Reflect

James relates the “implanted word, which is able to save your souls” (1:21) to “the perfect law, the law of liberty” (1:25). Read Jeremiah 31:27-34. **Taking these passages together (Jas. 1:21-25; Jer. 31:27-34), list the results of receiving “the implanted word” and having the law written on your heart.**

---

---

---

---

---

---

James’ instruction on the sin of partiality shows us that God’s work to save us provides a template for our behavior (2:1-7). Paul makes a similar point in Ephesians 4:32. **How does your experience of receiving God’s forgiveness and grace change the way you relate to others?**

---

---

---

---

---

---

In 1:27 and 2:14–16, James highlights the importance and necessity of concrete acts of service and love in the believer’s life. This is a consistent thread throughout Scripture. **Track down some cross references for these passages (e.g., Deut. 14:29; 1 Jn. 3:17–19), then list some ways we could fulfill this command in our city.**

---

---

---

In discussing the relationship between faith and works, James writes, “as a result of [Abraham’s] works, [his] faith was perfected,” i.e., his faith was brought to completion (2:22). **How does the way we live reveal the authenticity of our profession of faith (see Rom. 8:1–12)?**

---

---

---

## **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 USED:**

- 1. Donald S. Whitney, *Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life* (Colorado Springs, CO: Navpress, 1991), 15.

**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 21: "God Among Us"

**Preschool:** Question: *Who did Jesus say He is?*  
Answer: *Jesus said He is God's Son.*

**Kids (1-6 grade):** Question: *Who did Jesus say He is?*  
Answer: *Jesus said He is the Messiah.*

### This Week's Family Reading Plan

**for Preschoolers:** *Gideon\**

**Day 1:** *Isaiah 32*

**Day 2:** *Isaiah 35*

**Day 3:** *2 Kings 18:9-25*

**Day 4:** *2 Kings 18:26-19:7*

**Day 5:** *2 Kings 19:8-37*

\*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 21: "God Among Us"

**Preschoolers:** "I am the way, the truth, and the life." (John 14:6)

**Kids (1-6 grade):** Jesus told him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." (John 14:6)

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 Thessalonians 5:15
12. **Humility** - Philippians 2:3-4
13. **Gratitude** - 1 Thessalonians 5:18



Developing Dedicated Disciples Who Make a Difference in the World!