

SERMON IN A SENTENCE

By changing what goes into your heart, you can change the words of your mouth, changing the world by speaking life into the lives of others and your own circumstances.

THIS WEEK'S BIBLICAL BASIC

Self-Control: Through the power of the Holy Spirit, I am fully aware and in control of my thoughts, words, and actions. *Titus 2:11-13, "For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope—the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ."*

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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The Power of Words

The way children pick up language is amazing. Over a relatively short period time – something like 18 to 36 months – children go from cooing and babbling to speaking in simple, but complete, sentences. Some of these sentences are sweet and make parenting worth it: “I love you, mommy.” Others are a little hard to deal with: “Go away, daddy. Leave me alone.” Isn’t it amazing how even 2 and 3 year olds can use their words to lift someone up or tear them down? This power is part of what makes speech so meaningful.

When God created the world, He exercised His power through speech: “And God said, ‘Let there be light’” (Gen. 1:3). After creating mankind, “God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth...” (Gen. 1:28). When He called Abram from Ur, “the LORD said to Abram, ‘Go from your country and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. . . I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed” (Gen. 12:1, 3).

Speech is significant, not just for the way God uses it, but for how it reveals to us His very nature. John writes, “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God” (John 1:1). This Word is the Son of God, Jesus, and He “upholds all things by the word of His power” (Heb. 1:3). In fact, it is God’s speech that distinguishes Him from all other gods, who are like “scarecrows in a cucumber field. . . they cannot speak” (Jer. 10:5). God alone speaks to His people, giving them His instructions and revealing to them His saving power. The Bible is God’s Word, breathed out by Him and written down for our progress in spiritual maturity (2 Tim. 3:16).

If speech is inherently powerful and closely related to who God is and what God does, it is unsurprising that James would instruct Christians in its proper use. Christian, we must control our tongues. We must put away unedifying speech (Eph. 4:29), and be diligent to speak as “from God” to the world (1 Jn. 4:5–6). To put it simply, our speech must become more like God’s speech, “always. . .gracious, as though seasoned with salt” (Col. 4:6).

Encounter

Take a few minutes to read James 3:1–12 in a couple of different translations. Make a note of any differences in wording or phrasing.

Reflect

When James writes, “If anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is mature, able also to control the whole body” (Jas. 3:2), he is providing the mirror statement to 1:26. After reflecting on these two verses, think back to Sunday’s sermon. **How do our words demonstrate God’s work within us?**

When James writes about the relative size of a person’s tongue, he is really concerned about how easily we buy the lie that our words don’t matter. Read Matthew 12:36–37. **How significant are the words we speak (or type)? How can you remind yourself of their importance?**

In 3:8, James taps into the Bible's way of speaking of the deadliness of our words by writing that the tongue is "full of deadly poison." Find some other places in Scripture where this phrase is used. **Why is this such a powerful image?**

James 3:9 is perhaps the most indicting verse in the entire section. **Why would the way we speak to others have anything to do with God? What types of things should we speak? See e.g., Colossians 3:16-17**

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 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: *Ruth and Boaz**

Day 1: *Isaiah 40:1-17*

Day 2: *Isaiah 40:18-31*

Day 3: *Isaiah 42:1-17*

Day 4: *2 Kings 20*

Day 5: *Psalm 46*

*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.

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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 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!