

SERMON IN A SENTENCE

A proper attitude of humility toward others flows from godly wisdom, which begins by humbling ourselves before the Lord.

THIS WEEK'S BIBLICAL BASIC

Humility: In the Spirit of Christ's example, I choose to esteem others above myself. *Philippians 2:3-4, "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others."*

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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Walking in the Way of Wisdom

Have you ever seen a little kid walking around in their parents' shoes? The little girl playing dress up has to complete her look by wearing her mom's high heels; the little boy can't do his chores without his dad's boots. Of course they are clumsy in those big shoes, but with some care they can get around just fine. It has to be one of the cutest, and most spiritually instructive, things they do.

Throughout the Old Testament, God's people are exhorted to "walk in all the way which the LORD your God has commanded you" (Deut. 5:33), and they are judged when they "walk in the way which is not good" (Is. 65:2). The idea of "walking" in a "way," whether good or bad, refers to conducting one's entire life in a general direction. In James 3:13-4:10, Christians are exhorted to pursue a way of life characterized by wisdom and its results, or to use Old Testament language, to "walk in wisdom" (Prov. 28:26). James tells us that the person and community characterized by purity, peace, gentleness, reasonableness, mercy, good fruit, perseverance, and integrity is headed in the right direction and will be "exalted" by the Lord (Jas. 4:10)

In the same way that James directs his readers toward a life of wisdom, parents have a lot to do with the direction of their children's lives. Teaching them to walk, it seems, has just as much to do with the way they behave—their actions, words, and attitudes—as with their means of movement. In fact, when recounting the reigns of kings in Israel and Judah, the summary statement used in Kings and Chronicles is some variation of "he did evil in the sight of the Lord, and walked in the way of his father" (1 Ki. 15:26). If we really want to set them off in the right direction, we've got to be headed that way too.

The reality is that, like children in their parents' shoes, we may have to take it slow as we learn to walk in this way of wisdom, and, like Israel of old, we may even occasionally stumble and fall. Still, as difficult as it might initially prove to be, we have to affirm that Christians are called to walk in the way of wisdom. Over time and through consistent repentance and reliance on God's grace, we can be confident that the Spirit at work within us will remake us and shape us into the image of the Lord Jesus who is Himself the "wisdom of God" (1 Cor. 1:24).

Encounter

Take a few minutes to read James 3:13–4:10 in a couple of different translations. Make a note of any differences in wording or phrasing.

Reflect

In ch. 3–4, James follows the Old Testament's emphasis on the need to "walk in wisdom" (Prov. 28:26), or to live wisely. The Proverbs provide memorable dichotomies – forks in the road – that help us determine which way we should go. **Read Proverbs 16:18–23. What similarities does this passage have with James 3:13–18?**

James provides a short list of the characteristics that will manifest themselves in a wise person (Jas. 3:17–18). **Compare this list to Paul's list of the Spirit's fruit in the believer's life in Galatians 5:22–23.** What do these similarities tell us about the Spirit's role in producing wisdom (see Ex. 31:1–5; Deut. 34:9; Is. 11:1–5; Dan. 5:10–12)?

The simplicity of the Christian life is summed up in James 4:4b: “friendship with the world is hostility toward God.” Jesus referenced “God and wealth” (Matt. 6:24) and John wrote about “the world [and] things in the world” (1 John 2:15–17). **Why are we unable to commit ourselves to God if we’re committed to money, possessions, or status?**

The good news for sinners like James’s readers—and us!—is that God’s grace is stronger than the pull of this world. In 4:7–8, James gives the cure for sinful attitudes, humble repentance. **Look up some other calls to repentance in Scripture. What is common to all these passages?**

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: *The Boy Samuel**

Day 1: *Isaiah 43:1-13*

Day 2: *Isaiah 43:14-28*

Day 3: *Isaiah 44:1-20*

Day 4: *Isaiah 44:21-28*

Day 5: *Psalms 135*

*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!