

SERMON IN A SENTENCE

Your attitude toward God's word is the single-most important factor in your relationship with God, and it will determine the outcome of your life.

THIS WEEK'S BIBLICAL BASIC

Authority of the Bible: The Bible is the Word of God and has the right to command our beliefs and actions.

2 Timothy 3:16-17, "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work."

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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Getting Consistent with Bible Reading

If our attitude toward God's word is the most important factor in our relationship with Him, we'll want to make sure we adopt the right one. We'll want to be like the person described in Psalm 1, finding delight in Scripture and conforming our lives to it. This means we'll (at least) want to get consistent in reading Scripture. But how? Next week Northway will kick off a 91 day reading plan through the entire New Testament. We want you to go deeper in your personal relationship with Jesus, and we know that will happen as you reflect on God's word every day. Use this week to prepare your heart and life for this 3 month journey in Scripture.

Consider these tips from *Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life* by Donald S. Whitney:

"Here are the three most practical suggestions for consistent success in Bible reading. First, find the *time*. ... In no more than fifteen minutes a day you can read through the Bible in less than a year's time. Only five minutes a day takes you through the Bible in less than three years. And yet the majority of Christians never read God's Word all the way through in a lifetime of decades. ...

The second practical suggestion is to find a Bible-reading *plan*. ...

The third suggestion is to find at least one word, phrase, or verse to *meditate* on each time you read... Without meditation you may close your Bible and not be able to remember a single thing you've read. And if that happens, your Bible reading is not likely to change you. Even with a good plan, it can become a mundane chore instead of a Discipline of joy. Take at least one thing you've

read and think deeply about it for a few moments. Your insight into Scripture will deepen, and you'll better understand how it applies to your life. And the more you apply the truth of Scripture the more you'll become like Jesus."

This week, ask God to help you desire consistent time in His word, and go ahead and prepare to join us next week as we begin reading through the New Testament.

Encounter

Take a few minutes to read Psalm 1 in a couple of different translations. Make a note of any differences in wording or phrasing.

Reflect

Psalm 1 begins with a call to recognize the person who is "blessed." The blessing of God is a constant theme in Scripture. Search for a few different passages where the word occurs. Make sure to get Old Testament and New Testament passages! **In your own words, use these passages to describes what it means to be blessed.**

The blessed person of Psalm 1 meditates in the law of the LORD "day and night" (1:2). Joshua is also instructed to "meditate" on the book of the Law (Josh. 1:8-9). Biblically speaking, Christian meditation is not the emptying of your mind, but the act filling it up with God's word and reflecting on it. **Read Ephesians 1:3-12 and spend a few moments meditating on the blessings it describes.**

Jeremiah 17:5–6 could be thought of as an anti-Psalm 1, while Jeremiah 17:7–8 is a parallel passage to Psalm 1. Read that passage (Jer. 17:5–8). **What behaviors or attitudes distinguish the cursed man and the blessed man in that passage?**

Psalm 1 outlines the two paths of human existence: fellowship with God or rejection of Him. Jesus often presents life in that stark reality as well. **Read Matthew 7:13–29. What behaviors distinguish these two paths?**

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: *God Made a Covenant with David**

Day 1: *Isaiah 59:1-8*

Day 2: *Isaiah 59:9-21*

Day 3: *Isaiah 61:1-11*

Day 4: *Isaiah 66:1-9*

Day 5: *Isaiah 66:10-24*

*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

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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!