

SERMON IN A SENTENCE

Christian friendship is a sacrificial partnership that leads to spiritual progress and sincere praise.

THIS WEEK'S BIBLICAL BASIC

Love: I sacrificially and unconditionally love and forgive others. *1 John 4:10-12, "This is love: not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and His love is made complete in us."*

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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Disciple-Making is Ordinary Christianity

While Philippians 4 can teach us a lot about the type of friendships we should develop with other believers, it also gives us insight into the discipleship relationships of the early church. Another way to think about Christian friendship is to consider them as disciple-making relationships through which we encourage others and are encouraged by them to grow in our faith. Consider this from Pastor Erik Raymond and consider how you might disciple others this week:

What is your job as a Christian? If God gave you a job description for the Christian life, what would he put on it?

At the core of the Christian's job is the task of discipling. We read this clearly in our Lord's pre-ascension words:

And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." (Mt. 28:18-20)

What does it mean to make disciples? A disciple is a learner and a follower of Jesus. When we make disciples we are working to see people who do not follow Jesus come to follow him (conversion) and then teaching them to faithfully follow Jesus in every area of their lives (maturity).

Many Christians hear this and file it away in a cabinet of idealism. Sure, I'd like to disciple people but I really can't. They feel like discipling is above their pay grade. Is this true? Is discipling something only pastors, elders, and the "mature" do? Or is it for everyone?

Here's my main point: disciple-making is ordinary Christianity. It's fundamental to it. Like learning to count and say your alphabet in the natural realm, there is scarcely any part of the Christian life disciple-making does not touch. In so far as Christianity is a community faith, it's a disciple-making faith.

Source: Erik Raymond, "Disciple-Making is Ordinary Christianity," 9marks.org, August 26, 2014, <https://www.9marks.org/article/disciple-making-is-ordinary-christianity/>

Encounter

Take a few minutes to read Philippians 4:10–20 in a couple of different translations. Make a note of any differences in wording or phrasing.

Reflect

Paul commends and models rejoicing throughout his letter to the Philippians mentioning it 7 times (1:18; 2:17, 18; 2:28; 3:1; 4:4; 4:10). Look up some of the places where "rejoice" occurs in Philippians and in the New Testament. **In your own words describe what it means to rejoice and write a few of the things you can rejoice about today.**

"Contentment," mentioned by Paul in Phil. 4:11, is a highly significant concept in the believer's life. Look up some of the other places where it occurs in Scripture. **What does it mean to be content? How can you develop contentment?**

Paul tells the Philippians that they “have done well to share with me in my affliction” (Phil. 4:14). The word “share” comes from the same Greek root word (*koinos*) as “partnership” (Phil. 1:5, 7) and “fellowship” (3:10). **What should Christians partner to do? How can they accomplish it?**

Paul describes the Philippians’ gift as “a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, well-pleasing to God.” Look up some other places where these concepts occur in Scripture. **What makes a sacrifice acceptable to God?**

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 22: "Jesus the Storyteller"

Preschool: Question: *Why did Jesus tell stories?*
Answer: *Jesus told stories to teach people about God.*

Kids (1-6 grade): Question: *Why did Jesus tell parables?*
Answer: *Jesus told parables to teach people about God and His kingdom..*

This Week's Family Reading Plan

for Preschoolers: *Solomon Asked for Wisdom**

Day 1: *2 Kings 21:1-9*

Day 2: *2 Kings 21:10-18*

Day 3: *2 Kings 21:19-26*

Day 4: *Nahum 1:1-8*

Day 5: *Nahum 1:9-15*

*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 22: "Jesus the Storyteller"

Preschoolers: "He saw a large crowd and had compassion on them ... Then he began to teach them many things." Mark 6:34

Kids (1-6 grade): "He saw a large crowd and had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. Then he began to teach them many things." Mark 6:34

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 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!