

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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Judas' Betrayal of Christ

"Then one of the Twelve, the man called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said, 'What are you willing to give me if I hand him over to you?' So they weighed out thirty pieces of silver for him. And from that time he started looking for a good opportunity to betray him" (Matt 26:14-16, CSB).

While Jesus' friendship with his disciples serves as an encouraging model of the "one anothering life" he calls us to live, we should recognize the way his intimate relationship with the twelve disciples ultimately led to his arrest, trial, and crucifixion. Matthew tells us that Judas Iscariot, "one of the Twelve," arranged to be paid thirty shekels of silver for information leading to the arrest of Jesus. How is it that one of Jesus' closest friends could do something that caused him so much pain? Does the story confirm the old adage, "Keep your friends close and your enemies closer," or is there something else to learn from this story?

A Broken Relationship

By the time we get to the betrayal of Christ in our reading of the Gospels, it is hard for us to read. We see how he is innocent of any crime and how his enemies are motivated by jealousy and self-preservation. But our discomfort cannot match what the other disciples must have felt. Matthew, Mark, and Luke all refer to Judas as "one of the Twelve." They are at pains to show that Jesus' arrest is not the result of the Jews' plotting, but rather it happens from within his own inner circle, "as though this heightened the evil nature of [Judas'] act."¹ What's worse, the price that Judas received for the information of Jesus' whereabouts is not an exorbitant sum. Instead, 30 shekels of silver was equal to only two or three months' basic wage.² Judas significantly undervalued the life of Christ and betrayed the Lord.

For an event that has so much significance in the story of Jesus, it is surprising how little space is given to Judas' agreement with the Jews. We don't know who he talked to, when he actually

received the money, or even what motivated his actions. What we can say is that Judas' relationship with Jesus could have been a transformational friendship. Judas could have listened to the preaching about the coming kingdom and witnessed the many miracles performed by Jesus, and like the others, given his life to sharing this good news. Instead, he refused to believe and chose to use Jesus for his own personal gain.

If there is anything to learn from Judas' betrayal of Christ, it has to be this: the closer we get to Jesus, the more we should see his worth and importance. Our relationship with him must never be about what we can gain from him, but how blessed we are to know and live for him. As we get closer to Easter, ask God to help you treasure Jesus for who he truly is.

Encounter

Take a few minutes to read John 15:12-15; Acts 2:42-47 in a couple of Bible translations. Make a note of any differences between the translations and anything that especially jumps out at you.

Reflect

Jesus' relationship with his disciples went beyond the "professional" relationship of Master and Apprentices. Jesus considers his disciples his friends. **Read John 15:12–15. What does Jesus say qualifies his disciples to be his friends? What privileges are theirs as his disciples?**

If we are called to apprentice our whole lives to Christ, then our friendships should be transformed by Jesus' example. **Think back to Sunday's sermon and read Acts 2:42–44 and Hebrews 10:22–25. What should characterize friendships among Christians? How is this different than the friendship practiced by non-believers?**

Matthew, Mark, and Luke all tell us the story of Jesus' prayer in the Garden of Gethsemene on the night he was betrayed (Mark 14:32-42; Matt 26:36-46; Luke 22:40-46). Jesus was joined by his closest friends in this moment of deepest agony. **How often do you pray for or with your closest friends? How could you start praying for them today? Read Ephesians 6:18-20 for another example of friends praying for friends.**

When Christians live in community around Christ, they begin to have relationships that the lost find intriguing. **Read Acts 2:42-47 and John 13:34-35. What is the key element of Christian friendship? How can you invite those who aren't experiencing this community to be a part of your life?**

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.

Notes:

1. Leon Morris, *The Gospel According to Matthew*, The Pillar New Testament Commentary (Grand Rapids, MI; Leicester, England: W.B. Eerdmans; Inter-Varsity Press, 1992), 651.
2. John Nolland, *The Gospel of Matthew: A Commentary on the Greek Text*, New International Greek Testament Commentary (Grand Rapids, MI; Carlisle: W.B. Eerdmans; Paternoster Press, 2005), 1060.



Disciple-Making Guide

Kids Kindergarten through 6th grade receive Adventure Tokens 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 31: “The God Who Leads”

Preschool: Q: Why does God want us to obey Him?
A: *We obey because God loves us.*

Kids (1-6): Q: Why does God want us to obey Him?
A: *Obedience is our response to God’s love for us.*

This Week’s Family Reading Plan

for Preschoolers: *Poetry and Wisdom**

Day 1: *Numbers 20; 27:12-23*

Day 2: *Numbers 34-35*

Day 3: *Deuteronomy 1-2*

Day 4: *Deuteronomy 3-4*

Day 5: *Deuteronomy 6-7*

**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 31: “The God Who Leads”

Preschoolers: “I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me,” (Galatians 2:20, CSB).

Kids (1-6 grade): “I have been crucified with Christ, and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me,” (Galatians 2:20, CSB).

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 _____.

30 BIBLICAL BASICS

CORE BELIEFS

God | 2 Corinthians 13:13

I believe the God of the Bible is the only true God; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Personal God | Psalm 121:1-2

I believe God is involved in and cares about my daily life.

Salvation by Grace | Ephesians 2:8-9

I believe a person comes into a right relationship with God by His grace, through faith in Jesus Christ.

Authority of the Bible | 2 Timothy 3:16-17

I believe the Bible is the inspired Word of God that guides my belief and action.

Identity in Christ | John 1:12

I believe I am significant because of my position as a child of God.

Church | Ephesians 4:15

I believe the church is God's primary way to accomplish His purposes on earth.

Humanity | John 3:16

I believe all people are loved by God and need Jesus Christ as their Savior.

Compassion | Psalm 82:3-4

I believe God calls all Christians to show compassion to those in need.

Stewardship | Psalm 24:1-2

I believe that everything I am and everything I own belong to God.

Eternity | John 14:1-2

I believe there is a heaven and a hell and that Jesus will return to judge all people and to establish His eternal kingdom.

CORE PRACTICES

Worship | Psalm 95:1-2

I worship God for who He is and what He has done for me.

Prayer | Psalm 66:18-20

I pray to God to know him, to find direction for my life, and to lay my requests before him.

Bible Study | Hebrews 4:12

I study the Bible to know God and his truth, and to find direction for my daily life.

Single-mindedness | Matthew 6:33

I focus on God and His priorities for my life.

Total Surrender | Romans 12:1

I dedicate my life to God's purposes.

Biblical Community | Acts 2:44-47

I fellowship with other Christians to accomplish God's purposes in my life, in the life of others, and in the world.

Spiritual Gifts | Romans 12:4-6

I know my spiritual gifts and use them to fulfill God's purposes.

Offering My Time | Colossians 3:17

I offer my time to fulfill God's purposes.

Giving My Resources | 2 Corinthians 8:7

I give my resources to fulfill God's purposes.

Sharing My Faith | Ephesians 6:19-20

I share my faith with others to fulfill God's purposes.

CORE VIRTUES

Love | 1 John 4:10-12

I am committed to loving God and loving others.

Joy | John 15:11

Despite my circumstances, I feel inner contentment and understand my purpose in life.

Peace | Philippians 4:6-7

I am free from anxiety because I have found peace with God, peace with others, and peace with myself.

Self-Control | Titus 2:11-13

I have the power through Christ to control myself.

Hope | Hebrews 6:19-20

I can cope with the hardships of life because of the hope I have in Jesus Christ.

Patience | Proverbs 14:29

I am slow to anger and endure patiently under the unavoidable pressures of life.

Kindness/Goodness | 1 Thessalonians 5:15

I choose to be kind and good in my relationships with others.

Faithfulness | Proverbs 3:3-4

I have established a good name with God and with others based on my loyalty to those relationships.

Gentleness | Philippians 4:5

I am thoughtful, considerate and calm in dealing with others.

Humility | Philippians 2:3-4

I choose to esteem others above myself.

The 30 Biblical Basics are the skeleton of a person being formed into the image of Jesus by His Spirit (Rom. 8:29; 2 Cor. 3:18), a helpful framework for the Christian's thoughts, actions, and character. As we commit ourselves to growing in Christ through the process of spiritual formation, we pray these statements become increasingly true of us. When they are, we'll be able to carry out the biblical mandate to "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind"; and, "Love your neighbor as yourself" (Luke 10:27), and to truly **love, live, and lead like Jesus.**