

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 Cross of Christ and Our Salvation

Jesus' first disciples could hardly believe that their Teacher had been successfully quieted through Roman crucifixion. They had slowly come to the realization that He was more than a run-of-the-mill Rabbi and even confessed their faith in Him as the Messiah and Son of God (Mk 8:29). His death—understandably!—introduced doubt. However, after His resurrection, Jesus appeared to them and assured them that what had happened to Him was actually in accord with the Scriptures that predicted and laid the groundwork for His ministry (Lk 24:44–49). One of these passages is Isaiah 53.

The Suffering Servant

Isaiah is given a vision from God of an individual, a Servant, who will come with a very specific mission that will be misunderstood. Isaiah foresees that the people will see this Servant's suffering and assume that he was being "stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted" (53:4) for his own sin. But Isaiah has the perspective to see that the Servant is actually suffering on behalf of, and in the place of, others. Indeed, in Isaiah 53:4, he says, "Surely *our* griefs He himself bore, and *our* sorrows He carried" (emphasis added). Whatever people may have thought about the sorrows and sufferings they saw, the truth was dramatically different. The Servant wasn't suffering for his sins, he was carrying out the surprising mission of suffering on behalf of others.

Later in the vision, Isaiah makes explicit what is here only implied, namely, that the Servant is offering himself as "a guilt offering" (Is. 53:10). The guilt offering, which is described in detail in Leviticus 5:14–16, is the prescribed offering for repairing the breach in relationship between an individual who commits a transgression against God's law and God himself. If the guilt offering is not given, the individual is left to suffer the spiritual consequences of his or her sin—to live at enmity with God and to suffer under the weight of guilt. However, through the death of the unblemished ram, their sin is forgiven, and they come out from under the guilt of their sin to experience renewed fellowship with God (i.e., peace).

Isaiah recognizes that the Servant he sees has made a guilt offering on behalf of others, but instead of supplying the unblemished ram that the law requires, He offers Himself! Isaiah says, “He was pierced for our transgressions; He was crushed for our iniquities; upon Him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with His wounds we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all” (Is. 53:5-6).

As we approach Good Friday we see the many ways Isaiah’s prophecy, given 700 years before Christ’s death, vividly foretells the events recorded in the Gospels. This fulfillment should lead us to trust the God who gave Isaiah knowledge of the coming Christ and worship the One who suffered for us. And like the disciples, we should take the message of Jesus to all who can hear.

Encounter

Take a few minutes to read Matthew 28:16–20 in a couple of Bible translations. Make a note of any differences between the translations and anything that especially jumps out at you.

Reflect

In Matthew 28:16–20, we have a record of the mission Jesus entrusted to His disciples. Though initially given to his 12 apostles, we too are responsible for its fulfillment. **Read Matthew 28:16–20 and think back to Sunday’s sermon. What does it mean to make disciples? What are the indispensable practices?**

In the Great Commission (Matt 28:18–20), Jesus gives the apostles confidence by assuring them that He has received “all authority . . . in heaven and on earth” (Matt 28:18). **Look up some other places in Matthew where Jesus is recognized for His authority (start with Matt. 7:28–29 and 9:1–8). What evidence led the crowds to marvel over Jesus’ authority? Where did Jesus’ authority come from (see Matt. 21:23–27)?**

The Great Commission requires two major components in disciple-making: evangelism and training. If baptism is the evidence of a person's commitment to following Jesus, it is tied to the church's evangelism; training newly baptized disciples is teaching them to obey what Jesus commanded. **Think about your personal salvation experience. Were you baptized? Have you been trained to obey Jesus? What areas of your life stick out to you as places where your obedience to Jesus' commands needs to improve?**

Jesus' final words to His disciples contain the promise of His ongoing presence with His disciples, though He will not be physically present with them. **How does Jesus make Himself present to us now (See John 14:18–26)?**

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?)



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: *God Called Isaiah**

Day 1: *Joshua 5:10-15; 6*

Day 2: *Joshua 7-8*

Day 3: *Joshua 23-24*

Day 4: *Judges 2-3*

Day 5: *Judges 4*

**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.**