

SERMON IN A SENTENCE

A brokenness over our spiritual poverty leads to a perspective of humility and submission, and thus we can experience the blessed life of the Kingdom.

THIS WEEK'S BIBLICAL BASIC

Identity in Christ: I believe I am significant because of my position as a child of God. *“But to all who did receive him, he gave them the right to be children of God, to those who believe in his name” (John 1:12, CSB).*

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 Started with Scripture Memory

Though some Christians view Scripture memory as “modern-day martyrdom,”¹ it is actually a practice that is commended by Scripture (e.g., Jos. 1:8; Ps. 119:11) and holds great value for the Christian life. However, it *can* be daunting to get started. Since pastor Rodney has challenged Northway Church to memorize the Beatitudes together over the next few weeks, here are a few things to keep in mind as you begin your own memorization of the Beatitudes.

The Purpose of Scripture Memory

While there is some value in having memorized important information, the real benefit comes when the information is used. For example, we put in the hard work memorizing multiplication tables so we accurately calculate 3 times 5. In the same way, the benefit of memorizing Scripture comes when the memorized portion of Scripture is used to influence our lives. As you work to memorize the Beatitudes, spend time each day meditating on the truth they teach us—that God is looking to bless people who aren't impressed with themselves, but look to Him as their only good. Jesus pronouncement of blessing on “the poor in spirit” and “peacemakers” can be a motivation to ask God to transform you to be a person who is aware of your spiritual condition and seeks to live in peace with those around you. Resist the urge to mindlessly memorize, and instead meditate on God's Word.

The Practice of Scripture Memory

The keys to memorizing Scripture are *repeat, review, relate*. First, if you're serious about memorizing Scripture, you'll have to repeat the verse or passage over and over. To really store the information in your mind **repeat** the verse—and location (e.g., Matthew 5:3)—out loud multiple times until you can say it without looking at the page. I find it helpful to visualize what I'm saying, and even visualize the words on the page. Second, **review** the verse or passage everyday by reciting it out loud. This can be done as you're getting ready for the day, while you're working, and while you're falling asleep. Do this everyday for two weeks and that verse will be with you for the rest of

your life. During this review phase, make sure you're connecting the truth of the verse to the things happening in your life, which brings us to the last key to Scripture memory. **Relate** the information of the verse or passage to the things you're facing at work or home. Tell it to your friends and neighbors. Share it on Facebook. The key is getting the truth of God's Word out of your memory and into the very real and concrete things you're facing. You'll find that the Holy Spirit makes this the easiest part of Scripture memory. Once you store His truth in your heart, you'll always find opportunities to put it to use.

Encounter

Take a few minutes to read Matthew 5:3–6 in a couple of Bible translations. Make a note of any differences between the translations and anything that especially jumps out at you.

Reflect

While Jesus' "Beatitudes" are the most famous, Scripture contains other examples of these "pronouncements of blessings," particularly in the Psalms.² **Read Psalm 32:1–2, 34:8, 41:1, 119:1–2. What character traits stick out to you from these beatitudes? Do they characterize your life?**

In Sunday's sermon, we learned that to be "poor in spirit" means to stand "without pretense before God, stripped of all self-sufficiency, self-security, and self-righteousness."³ **Read Luke 18:9–17. Who embodies the spiritual poverty blessed by God? How can you cultivate a lack of spiritual self-sufficiency?**

Though it defies our way of thinking, Jesus pronounces a blessing on those who, having recognized their spiritual poverty, mourn for their sin. **Read 2 Corinthians 7:5–11. How does godly sorrow for sin differ from worldly sorrow? What is the result of godly sorrow? How does this relate to the “comfort” Jesus promises in Matt. 5:4?**

Jesus expects that His teaching will become the foundation for His disciples' lives (Matt. 7:24–27), a perspective that the psalmist had on God's Word (Ps. 119:11). Pastor Rodney challenged Northway to memorize the Beatitudes over the next few weeks. **Write out a prayer asking Jesus to help hide His Word in your heart so that you can live in a way that honors Him.**

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. Donald S. Whitney, *Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life* (Colorado Springs, CO: Navpress, 1991), 41.
2. Leland Ryken et al., *Dictionary of Biblical Imagery* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2000), 82.
3. Robert A. Guelich, *The Sermon on the Mount: A Foundation for Understanding* (Dallas, TX: Word, 1982), 98.



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 34: “God’s Plan for Paul”

Preschool: Q: When should we tell others about Jesus?
A: *We should tell about Jesus all the time.*

Kids (1-6): Q: When should we tell others about Jesus?
A: *We should always tell others about Jesus even when it is difficult.*

This Week’s Family Reading Plan

for Preschoolers: *Jesus Healed an Official’s Son**

Day 1: *2 Kings 17-18*

Day 2: *2 Kings 19-21*

Day 3: *2 Kings 22-23*

Day 4: *Jeremiah 1-3:5*

Day 5: *Jeremiah 25, 29*

*Preschool readings are taken from *The Big Picture Interactive Bible Stories for Toddlers, New Testament* (B&H Publishing Group), available at Amazon.com & LifeWay Christian Store.

Key Passage for Unit 34: “God’s Plan for Paul”

Preschoolers: “For me, to live is Christ and to die is gain” (Philippians 1:21).

Kids (1-6 grade): “My eager expectation and hope is that ... Christ will be highly honored in my body, whether by life or by death. For me, to live is Christ and to die is gain” (Phil. 1:20-21).

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**.