



Discovering
Who You Are
in Christ

STUDENTS

PERSONAL BIBLE STUDY GUIDE

iIDENTITY

iDENTITY

Discovering Who You Are in Christ

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PERSONAL BIBLE STUDY GUIDE

Week One:

Identity: Who Am I Really?

Week One: Day One

Twitter post. Everyone's got something to say, but only one opinion matters. God knows you best, and He loves you!

PREPARE

Which matters most to you, what you think, what other people think, or what God thinks?

PARTICIPATE

Read Psalm 139:13-15.

How long does it take to "knit" something together?
How much effort did God put into creating you?

Read 1 Samuel 16:6-7.

In this passage, Samuel goes looking for the next king of Israel. When Samuel sees Eliab, he assumes that God wants Eliab to be king just because he looks the part, but God has other ideas.

Who is better equipped to decide who is able to do what, people or God?

Read John 10:10.

What does Jesus have planned for you? What does the devil have planned for you? Whom should you listen to?

All things considered, whose opinion of you really matters?

PRAY

- Thank God for making you just the way you are and wanting the best for you.
- Ask God to help you focus on His voice alone.

PLAN

Today, I will:

- Understand that my circumstances do not define me.
- Resist the devil when he tries to confuse my sense of identity and lower my self-esteem.

PRACTICE

- Take a minute to read this week's memory verse, Ephesians 1:3-4.
- Close your Bible and write down as much of the verse as you can without looking.

- Use your Bible to go back and fill in any gaps.

Week One: Day Two

Twitter feed: Don't be discouraged. Hardships can be blessings in disguise!

PREPARE

Which do you focus on most, the blessings in your life or the hardships?

Participate

Read John 16:33.

What does Jesus promise in this verse? Is it a happy promise? What encouragement does He give with that promise? How is it supposed to help?

Read Romans 8:28.

When bad things happen, people who love God run to Him. Other people see the peace and comfort they find there and often turn to God, too. Can anything that brings people closer to God be completely terrible? Explain.

Read 2 Corinthians 4:18 and Ephesians 1:3.

Still, life gets really messy sometimes. What should we do when things get rough? How can we encourage each other?

PRAY

- Thank God for being faithful to work ALL things together for the good of those who love Him.
- Ask God to use you to point others to Him even in tough times.

PLAN

Today, I will:

- Focus on the unseen and all the ways God has blessed me.
- Welcome challenges as opportunities to point other people to God.

PRACTICE

- Take a minute, once again, to read this week's memory verse, Ephesians 1:3-4.
- Close your Bible and write down as much of the verse as you can without looking.

- Use your Bible to go back and fill in any gaps. Did you remember more than you did yesterday?

Week One: Day Three

Twitter feed: God doesn't serve you. You serve God...and rightly so!

PREPARE

Which do you value more, your relationship with God or human relationships? Why?

PARTICIPATE

Read Romans 5:8 and Romans 10:9.

What did God do for you? How does He want you to respond?

Read John 6:44 and Ephesians 2:8.

How does He help you respond?

Read 1 Peter 2:9 and Ephesians 2:10.

What does God want from you? Is that too much to ask? Why or why not?

PRAY

- Thank God for making a way for you to have a relationship with Him through Jesus Christ and for meeting you more than halfway in that relationship.
- Ask God to point out the good works that He has planned for you to do and to give you the words to say when you get the chance to tell other people about Him.

PLAN

Today, I will:

- Make my relationship with God my first priority.
- Watch and listen so I do not miss a chance to serve God with my words and through my actions.

PRACTICE

- If you still need to, read this week's memory verse, Ephesians 1:3-4, again.
- Write down as much of the verse as you can without looking.

- Use your Bible to go back and fill in any gaps. Are you making progress?

Week One: Day Four

Twitter feed: Salvation is a come-as-you-are affair!

PREPARE

Do you believe that God needs you or that you need God?

PARTICIPATE

Read Psalm 139:1-4, 16.

God knows every thought you have, every deed you do, and every word you speak. Does this thought encourage you or make you nervous? Why?

Read Romans 3:23, 6:23.

God is not shocked or surprised by your sin. In fact, He made a way for you to be saved from that sin before you were ever born. How does that make you feel?

Read Ephesians 1:11.

God does not need you. He wants you. He is going to work out everything according to His will with or without your cooperation, but He lets us help bring His will about. What a privilege!

Think about your life, everything that has happened to this point. What evidence do you see that God has been working in your life and drawing you to Himself?

PRAY

- Thank God for loving you in spite of your sin.
- Thank God for knowing what the future holds and for always taking care of you.

PLAN

Today, I will:

- Remember that my salvation comes from God and show Him how grateful I am for that in the way I live.
- Obey God in every little thing so I do not miss out on the blessing of being used by Him.

PRACTICE

- Try to write down as much of this week's memory verse, Ephesians 1:3-4, as you can without looking.

- Use your Bible to go back and fill in any gaps. Almost there?

Week One: Day Five

Twitter feed: Worry is a waste of time. Settle your forever today!

PREPARE

Does the way that you live your life prove that you belong to God?

PARTICIPATE

Read 1 John 3:1.

If you have put your faith and trust in Jesus Christ to save you from your sin, then you have been adopted into God's family. God is your Heavenly Father and loves calling you His child! How does that make you feel? Is it hard to believe? Why or why not?

Read 2 Corinthians 1:21-22 and Romans 8:38-39.

Adoption into God's family is permanent. The Holy Spirit's presence in your heart guarantees it. Nothing and no one (not even you) can ever separate you from your Heavenly Father once you belong to Him.

Knowing this, do you have any reason to fear the future? How should you be living your life?

Read 2 John 1:9.

Some people say they belong to God, but do not act like it. Not only do they make the kind of mistakes we all make even after we become Christians, but they also do not even take the things of God seriously and still show signs of being in love with the world. According to this verse, are people who act this way really Christians?

Do you know for sure that you have been adopted into God's family? How?

PRAY

- Thank God for sending the Holy Spirit to live in the hearts of His children so you do not have to live in doubt and fear.
- Promise to keep growing spiritually by reading your Bible, praying, listening to Him, and obeying Him.

PLAN

Today, I will:

- Argue with the devil when he tells me that no one can know for sure whether or not they belong to God.
- Only let people whose lives prove they belong to Christ influence me.

PRACTICE

- Try to write down as much of this week's memory verse, Ephesians 1:3-4, as you can without looking.

- Use your Bible to go back and fill in any gaps.
- Practice saying it out loud without looking. Have someone else listen for accuracy.

Week Two:

They Say. He Says.

Week Two: Day One

Twitter feed: Jesus is not A way to God. He is THE way to God!

PREPARE

*How would you describe God to someone else?
How did you form your opinion of Him?*

PARTICIPATE

Read Deuteronomy 32:4, Romans 3:23, and Romans 6:23.

God is just. He cannot change who He is to make room for our mistakes. It is only fair that a person get paid what they earn, and sin earns people a place in hell. Sin separates us from God.

Are you ever grateful that God is just? When?

Read 1 John 4:8 and John 3:16.

How did God's sending Jesus to die on the cross for our sin prove that He is both just and loving at the same time?

Read Hebrews 4:15 and Mark 10:45.

If Jesus had sinned, He would have earned Himself a place in hell, too, and would not have been in any position to rescue us. As the only sinless man to ever live, He was the only one in a position to rescue us, and He did.

Does it make sense for anyone to worship, follow, or trust anyone/anything else besides Jesus to get them to Heaven? Explain.

PRAY

- Thank God for being both just and loving.
- Ask God to remind you of the price He paid for your sin when you are tempted to serve yourself or someone/something else besides Him.

PLAN

Today, I will:

- Look for evidence of God's love and justice and thank Him for it.
- Make sure people know that Jesus is the only way to God when I notice them trying to get to God another way.

PRACTICE

- Take a minute to read this week's memory verse, Ephesians 1:7.
- Close your Bible and write down as much of the verse as you can without looking.

- Use your Bible to go back and fill in any gaps.

Week Two: Day Two

Twitter feed: Think it's impossible to forgive and forget? Think again. God does both!

PREPARE

Do you ever have trouble forgiving others?

PARTICIPATE

Read Ephesians 1:7 and Hebrews 10:18.

To be forgiven is to have your debt, or what you owe someone else, erased. The debt we owed for our sin was paid off by Jesus Christ through His death on the cross. Through Him, every bit of our sin is forgiven once and for all.

Why is this so hard to believe?

Read Psalm 66:18-19 and 1 John 1:9.

When we sin after becoming a Christian, we do not undo our adoption into God's family, but we do cause static in our relationship with God, making it hard to pray effectively and hear the Holy Spirit talk to us.

What should we do when we sin after becoming a Christian? What does God promise to do in return?

Read Isaiah 43:25 and Hebrews 10:17.

Why does God forgive? How does God forgive?

Read Colossians 3:13.

As followers of Jesus, we have to forgive people. If we do not, they might have trouble believing that God can forgive them.

Remember, sin is between God and man. When someone wrongs you, they actually sin against God, not you (Psalm 51:4). When you choose not to forgive, you are asking for payment that is not yours to collect and getting in the way of what God is doing in the other person's life.

Whom do you need to forgive? When will you tell them they are forgiven?

PRAY

- Thank God for forgiving you and promise to forgive others out of love for Him.
- Promise not to hold grudges against people so God can work in their lives.

PLAN

Today, I will:

- Refuse to punish myself for sin that God has already forgiven.
- Show God's love and mercy to other people by forgiving them willingly, whether they ask me to or not.

PRACTICE

- Take a minute, once again, to read this week's memory verse, Ephesians 1:7.
- Close your Bible and write down as much of the verse as you can without looking.

- Use your Bible to go back and fill in any gaps. Did you remember more than you did yesterday?

Week Two: Day Three

Twitter feed: People make mistakes, but God doesn't. Get advice, but obey God!

PREPARE

Do you study the Bible on your own, or do you wait for other people to explain it to you and tell you what you need to know?

PARTICIPATE

Read John 14:26 and 1 Corinthians 1:18-20, 27-29.

Through the Holy Spirit, God blesses His children with wisdom and insight that other people do not have. When ordinary people like us show extraordinary wisdom, people who do not want to believe in God are forced to agree that something supernatural really is going on in us. It brings God glory.

Read James 1:5.

What promise do you find in this verse? What encouragement?

Read 1 John 2:27.

As you grow in your faith, the Holy Spirit will help you tell the difference between the Truth of God's Word and the lies of the devil. He will remind you of everything Jesus said, but He cannot remind you of words you never read. The more you study your Bible, the easier it will become to figure out God's will.

It is good to get advice from other Christians, but people make mistakes. Nothing is better than letting the Holy Spirit be your tutor. Remember, the same Holy Spirit that lives in the "experts" also lives in you.

Knowing all this, does it make any sense for Christians to wait for Sunday sermons and Wednesday Bible study to hear what the Bible says and learn from it? What should you do?

PRAY

- Thank God for giving wisdom to His children when they ask for it.
- Promise to compare what people say to the Bible itself so the devil cannot trick you.

PLAN

Today, I will:

- Ask God for wisdom in all situations.
- Trust God over other people and watch out for the devil's lies.

PRACTICE

- If you still need to, read this week's memory verse, Ephesians 1:7, again.
- Write down as much of the verse as you can without looking.

- Use your Bible to go back and fill in any gaps. Are you making progress?

Week Two: Day Four

Twitter feed: You are a treasure. At least, God thinks so, and He ought to know!

PREPARE

Do you tend to focus more on what following Jesus costs you or on what is yours because of Him?

PARTICIPATE

Read Hebrews 2:11 and 1 Peter 1:3-4.

When you became a Christian, not only did God become your Heavenly Father, but Jesus Christ Himself became your brother. As a true and forever child of God, you share Jesus' inheritance.

Remembering what you have learned about God so far, why do you think He would give such a privilege to sinners like us?

Read John 10:27-30.

As a child of God, not only do you share Jesus' inheritance, but you are also an inheritance for Him. A gift from the Heavenly Father to His Son, you are cherished, protected, and kept.

What does this do for your self-esteem?

Read 1 Corinthians 6:19-20.

As Jesus' inheritance, what can you do out of love for Him, the brother who died for your sin and made your adoption into God's family possible?

PRAY

- Thank God for your inheritance and for placing you in Jesus' capable hands.
- Ask God to show you how to live like an heir to the Kingdom.

PLAN

Today, I will:

- Remember that I have an inheritance waiting in Heaven so that I do not get caught up in materialism and the things of this world.
- Resist the devil when he tries to make me feel worthless.

PRACTICE

- Try to write down as much of this week's memory verse, Ephesians 1:7, as you can without looking.

- Use your Bible to go back and fill in any gaps. Almost there?

Week Two: Day Five

Twitter feed: If you belong to Jesus, Heaven isn't an "if," but a "when."

PREPARE

Do you think of Jesus as being far away in Heaven or very near? How does your perspective affect the way you live?

PARTICIPATE

Read Galatians 4:6.

God the Father, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit form what we call the Trinity. They are equally God, but each one plays a different role in our lives. Because the Holy Spirit did not come to live in the hearts of God's children until after Jesus went back to Heaven, some people think of the Holy Spirit as some kind of substitute we have to settle for until we get to be with Jesus in Heaven someday. This is not true.

Once we put our faith and trust in Jesus, His Spirit fills us up completely. In Him, our future in Heaven is sealed and secure. Heaven is His home. Because we are in Him and He is in us, we know that we will eventually get to go to Heaven too.

Does this verse change the way you think about Jesus? How will you respond when the Holy Spirit encourages or corrects you now?

Read 2 Corinthians 5:17 and Galatians 5:22-23.

There is a difference between saying words to God you do not really mean just in case the Gospel is true and truly surrendering your heart to Jesus Christ. The first is not true conversion; it is an experiment. The second is the beginning of a new life in Christ. You can tell when a person truly surrenders to Jesus because they will change. Over time, they will look, sound, and act more and more like Him because His Spirit lives in them. They will show the fruit of the Spirit.

When did you surrender to Jesus Christ? Have you changed since then?

PRAY

- Thank God for the security, confidence, and accountability that the Holy Spirit provides Christians.
- Ask God to shape you into the image of Jesus and clear out the attitudes and habits that keep people from seeing Jesus in you.

PLAN

Today, I will:

- Remember that Jesus sees and knows everything about me and draw strength and courage from that.
- Make a conscious choice not to do or say things that make others wonder whether or not I really know Jesus.

PRACTICE

- Try to write down as much of this week's memory verse, Ephesians 1:7, as you can without looking.

- Use your Bible to go back and fill in any gaps.
- Practice saying it out loud without looking. Have someone else listen for accuracy.

Week Three:

The Truth About You

Week Three: Day One

Twitter feed: Sin is sin is sin. Thank God for Jesus!

PREPARE

Why do you do the good things that you do, because you love Jesus or to try to make up for the wrong you have done?

PARTICIPATE

Read Romans 5:12 and Psalm 19:12.

Adam and Eve were the first people to sin. When they sinned against God by breaking the rules that He laid out for their own good, sin became a part of both who they were and who we are today. Our sin condition is hereditary, like eye and skin color. We cannot help it. As a matter of fact, most of the time, we don't even realize that we have sinned, so it is impossible to be perfect.

How does this make you feel?

Read James 2:10.

To us, some sin seems small and unimportant while other sin seems big and heavy. Maybe that is because the consequences of some sin seem more obvious, painful, and lasting than others. However, to God all sin is the same because it all has the same effect; it separates us from Him forever, a fact He hates.

Read Romans 6:23 and 2 Peter 2:4, 9.

What is the punishment for sin?

Read Romans 3:20 and Romans 5:6.

Is there anything you can do to fix yourself and save yourself from hell? What would your future look like without Jesus?

PRAY

- Thank God for loving you and hating the sin that separates people from Him.
- Thank God for sending Jesus to rescue you from the consequences of your sin.

PLAN

Today, I will:

- Take time to imagine what my future would be without Jesus.
- Refuse to laugh at or joke about things that grieve God and separate people from Him.

Practice

- Take a minute to read this week's memory verse, Ephesians 2:8-9.
- Close your Bible and write down as much of the verse as you can without looking.

- Use your Bible to go back and fill in any gaps.

Week Three: Day Two

Twitter feed: Jesus didn't save your life for you to waste it. Live it "to the full"!

PREPARE

Are you making the most of your life in Christ or just lying low and waiting for Heaven?

PARTICIPATE

Read Romans 5:8 and John 10:17-18.

When did Jesus die to set us free? What kind of people were we at the time? Would you do what He did?

Read Romans 10:9 and Luke 9:23.

What does it mean to follow Jesus? How do we start? Where do we go from there?

Read John 10:10.

What is one reason that Jesus did what He did?
What does He want for us?

**Read Galatians 5:1, Romans 15:13, Ephesians 2:10,
and Isaiah 41:10.**

What does it mean to live life "to the full"? Is this how
you live? Why or why not?

PRAY

- Thank Jesus for giving His life for you when you did not deserve it.
- Thank God for the freedom, joy, power, peace, and purpose that you have through Jesus.

PLAN

Today, I will:

- Live my life the way God intended.
- Get rid of everything that is keeping me from living my life "to the full."

PRACTICE

- Take a minute, once again, to read this week's memory verse, Ephesians 2:8-9.
- Close your Bible and write down as much of the verse as you can without looking.

- Use your Bible to go back and fill in any gaps. Did you remember more than you did yesterday?

Week Three: Day Three

Twitter feed: Headed home to Heaven someday? Great! Who are you taking with you?

PREPARE

Do you live for right now, or do you make decisions with eternity in mind?

PARTICIPATE

Read John 3:16, Matthew 7:21, and Matthew 10:32-33.

Who gets to go to Heaven? Do any of these verses bother you? Why or why not?

Read Revelation 5:9-13, 21:4, and 22:1-5.

Some people think of Heaven as a consolation prize instead of the awesome inheritance it actually is. "Well, if I have to die, at least I get to go to Heaven," or something like that. Sure, the idea of leaving earth, everyone we love, and everything we know can be intimidating and a little scary, but can you imagine what Heaven will be like?

Think back to the highest spiritual high you have ever experienced, the moment of your deepest spiritual peace. Imagine feeling that good and that close to God—closer—forever. That is what Heaven will be like plus some!

Read Philippians 3:20 and Ephesians 2:19.

Once you become a child of God, you cannot feel completely at home here in this world. That is because your home is in Heaven. Things that never bothered you before will. Injustice, corruption, perversion, rebellion, and idolatry, the Holy Spirit in you will point out all of these things, warn you not to fall into them, and urge you to do something about them.

How do you feel when you know you have sinned or rebelled against God? Why does sin not bother everyone?

Read John 15:18-19 and 1 Corinthians 9:22.

When you do take a stand against sin, the world will not like it, and the people who love this world will not like you. That is okay. You are in good company. Stand strong and keep telling others how they can be saved before it is too late. Thoughts of Heaven are not for someday; they are for right now. Do everything with eternity in mind.

Do you know anyone who still needs to put their faith and trust in Jesus? Who? Make a list.

PRAY

- Thank God for the chance to represent Him here on earth, even when it costs you to do so.
- Ask God to use you to rescue others so they can spend forever in Heaven too.

PLAN

Today, I will:

- Accept the fact that this world is not my home and loosen my grip on earthly things.
- Tell those who do not know Jesus yet how they can be saved.

PRACTICE

- If you still need to, read this week's memory verse, Ephesians 2:8-9, again.
- Write down as much of the verse as you can without looking.

- Use your Bible to go back and fill in any gaps. Are you making progress?

Week Three: Day Four

Twitter feed: You don't have to wait until you get to Heaven to spend time with Jesus. Start now!

PREPARE

What does it mean to "walk with Jesus" here on earth? What does it look like? What does it feel like?

PARTICIPATE

Read John 14:1-4.

Heaven is a real place. We like to imagine what it will be like to get there and see Jesus and God face to face, but if Heaven is about seeing God and being with Jesus, then Heaven is not just a someday place. It starts right now.

Read John 14:5-21.

Remembering all we have learned so far about Jesus, Christians, and the Holy Spirit, is it possible for those of us who have never seen Jesus in human form to experience His presence here on earth? How?

How is it possible for us to do even greater things now as a group than Jesus did as one man?

How much of your being able to experience God's presence here on earth depends on you? Are you willing to do your part?

Read Philippians 3:7-10.

What kinds of things might "your part" include? Are you still willing?

PRAY

- Thank God for letting you experience Jesus here on earth.
- Ask God to do great things through you for His glory.

PLAN

Today, I will:

- Be aware of God's presence in and around me.
- Look for opportunities to be used by God.

PRACTICE

- Try to write down as much of this week's memory verse, Ephesians 2:8-9, as you can without looking.

- Use your Bible to go back and fill in any gaps. Almost there?

Week Three: Day Five

Twitter feed: Feeling far away from God?
Do something about it!

PREPARE

- How much effort do you put into your own spiritual growth? How much do you expect God and other people to do for you?

PARTICIPATE

It is natural for Christians to go through high points and low points as they grow in their faith. It is just impossible for human beings to stay on an emotional high forever.

Do not go by how you feel when making decisions or analyzing your relationship with God. Sure, you might feel emotional when the Holy Spirit talks to you. That is a big deal. However, emotion does not always mean that the Holy Spirit is trying to tell you something big. Remember, God does not contradict Himself. Base your decisions on what you read in the Bible, and you will not make mistakes.

Read Matthew 28:19-20, 2 Timothy 2:13, and 1 John 1:9.

What encouragement do you find in these verses?
What should you do when you feel far away from God?

Read 2 Peter 1:3-11.

According to this passage, what can happen when a Christian stops trying to grow and become more like Jesus? What is the solution?

Which of the attributes listed do you need to work on the most? How?

PRAY

- Thank God for giving you everything you need to be everything He wants you to be.
- Promise to make an effort to grow spiritually by adding the things listed in 2 Peter.

PLAN

Today, I will:

- Remember that God is strong and faithful even when I am weak and fickle.
- Make a list of spiritual attributes that I need to work on and start practicing them.

PRACTICE

- Try to write down as much of this week's memory verse, Ephesians 2:8-9, as you can without looking.

- Use your Bible to go back and fill in any gaps.
- Practice saying it out loud without looking. Have someone else listen for accuracy.

Week Four:

Building Unity

Week Four: Day One

Twitter feed: If Jesus treated you the way you treat other people, would you still love God like you do?

PREPARE

Does the way that you interact with others prove that you belong to God?

PARTICIPATE

Like it or not, the way that we interact with other people affects what people who are watching us think of our Heavenly Father. If we learn to treat each other the way our brother Jesus treats us, people who are watching will get the right idea about God and want to be adopted by Him too.

Read John 13:2-5.

Are you normally the one who washes other people's feet or the one who expects their feet to be washed? Give examples.

Read Matthew 19:13-14.

Do you pick and choose who deserves your time and attention, or do you reach out to everyone the same, even if they do not have anything to offer you?

Read John 20:26-28.

After Jesus rose from the dead, Thomas was one of the last disciples to believe in the miracle. Instead of judging Thomas or making him feel foolish, Jesus was patient and made an extra effort to help Thomas believe. Are you patient with people, or do you expect them to know what you know, act how you act, say what you say, and do what you do as soon as you learn it yourself?

Does the way that you interact with others give people the right idea about your Heavenly Father? What, if anything, needs to change?

PRAY

- Thank Jesus for treating you with humility, gentleness, and patience.
- Ask God to help you represent Him well in the way you interact with other people.

PLAN

Today, I will:

- Make a conscious effort to serve others instead of letting them serve me, not so I will look good, but so Jesus will look good.
- Be patient with people who are not the way I think they should be and let God be the one to work on their hearts.

PRACTICE

- Take a minute to read this week's memory verse, Ephesians 4:1-3.
- Close your Bible and write down as much of the verse as you can without looking.

- Use your Bible to go back and fill in any gaps.

Week Four: Day Two

Twitter feed: It's not okay to lie, and that's the truth!

PREPARE

Is telling a lie really a big deal? Why or why not?

PARTICIPATE

Read Proverbs 6:16-19.

How does God feel about lying? Would you have guessed that lying would be on the list of seven things God hates? Why or why not?

Look again. How many times does lying make the list? What does that tell you?

Read John 14:6.

According to this verse, who is Jesus? List all three titles.

Read John 8:44.

According to this verse, who is Satan?

Now that you know who Jesus is and who Satan is, why do you think it is so important for Christians to tell the truth?

When it comes to telling the truth, do you represent Jesus well? What, if anything, needs to change?

PRAY

- Thank God for the person(s) who loved you enough to tell you the truth about Jesus and God's plan for your life.
- Ask God to make your heart hurt when you are tempted to lie so you do not misrepresent Jesus. Promise to shut your mouth when God tells you to.

PLAN

Today, I will:

- Think before I speak and make sure no lies escape.
- Focus on sharing the Truth of God's Word so Satan cannot trick people.

Practice

- Take a minute, once again, to read this week's memory verse, Ephesians 4:1-3.
- Close your Bible and write down as much of the verse as you can without looking.

- Use your Bible to go back and fill in any gaps. Did you remember more than you did yesterday?

Week Four: Day Three

Twitter feed: Anger is a wild fire. Get over it quickly, or it'll get away from you and cause more damage than you might think!

PREPARE

Have you ever held a grudge? If so, did it help the situation? What did it do?

PARTICIPATE

Read Ephesians 4:26 and James 1:19.

Do these verses say that anger itself is a sin? What do they say?

Read Psalm 4:4-5, Matthew 5:38-48, and Colossians 3:13.

What is the right way to handle anger? What are we supposed to do when we feel angry at other people? Why is this so difficult?

Read James 1:20.

Why is it so important to learn how to handle our anger?

Read Galatians 5:22-23.

Is it possible to display the fruit of the Spirit and anger at the same time? Explain.

PRAY

- Thank God for not holding a grudge against you even though He could.
- Ask God to forgive you for the times you have let your temper get the best of you. Ask Him to show you how to make things right with the people who were affected.

PLAN

Today, I will:

- Focus on praising the Lord and displaying the fruit of the Spirit.
- Forgive immediately, for my own sake and everyone else's.

PRACTICE

- If you still need to, read this week's memory verse, Ephesians 4:1-3, again.
- Write down as much of the verse as you can without looking.

- Use your Bible to go back and fill in any gaps. Are you making progress?

Week Four: Day Four

Twitter feed: Are you a thief? Are you sure?

PREPARE

Do you struggle with jealousy? If so, how does it affect your relationships?

PARTICIPATE

Read Exodus 20:15 and Ephesians 4:28.

Most of us know not to steal. You can get arrested for taking other people's things, after all, but stealing can take other forms. In fact, whether we mean to or not, most of us have robbed people of intangible things like confidence, joy, freedom, reputation, opportunity, forgiveness, or peace of mind at one time or another.

Taking things from others that God meant for them to have is not only mean; it is a sin. While you might be able to fool others, God knows your thoughts and why you do what you do as well as your words and actions. He is not fooled, and He wants better for and from you.

Have you ever intentionally or unintentionally stolen from others? Explain.

Read Proverbs 14:30 and Proverbs 27:4.

Where does stealing start?

Read Matthew 6:20 and Matthew 5:23-24.

What should we do when we feel jealous of what someone else has? What should we do when we realize we have been stealing?

Read Philippians 4:19.

Do we ever need to steal? What if we do not get what we want from God? What can we assume?

PRAY

- Thank God for meeting all of your needs. Ask Him to help you be content with what He has given you.
- Ask God to forgive you for being jealous of others and for stealing from them intentionally or unintentionally as a result of that jealousy.

PLAN

Today, I will:

- Focus on my blessings rather than on what I wish I had.
- Look for opportunities to give and bless others and actually follow through.

PRACTICE

- Try to write down as much of this week's memory verse, Ephesians 4:1-3, as you can without looking.

- Use your Bible to go back and fill in any gaps. Almost there?

Week Four: Day Five

Twitter feed: Words are either building tools or weapons. Which will yours be?

PREPARE

Have you ever been affected positively or negatively by someone else's words? How?

PARTICIPATE

Read Ephesians 4:29.

How does "unwholesome talk" affect people who have to listen to it? How do you know?

Read Proverbs 19:5, Proverbs 16:28, James 3:9-11, and Ephesians 5:4.

What qualifies as "unwholesome talk"? Are you guilty of any of these? If so, what do you need to do about it?

Read Luke 6:45.

When a person has a fever, it means that something is wrong with their body. What do your words tell people about the condition of your heart?

Read Ephesians 5:18-20.

Sometimes, the best way to avoid going south is to head north. What can we do to make sure that the words that come out of our mouths are acceptable?

PRAY

- Thank God for the people in your life who have used their words to build you up, encourage you, teach you, and guide you. Ask God to bless them.
- Ask God to get your attention when you are about to say something you should not say. Ask Him to convict you when you say it anyway.

PLAN

Today, I will:

- Think before I speak and only let words that will benefit others get out of my mouth.
- Make an effort to encourage others and talk about Jesus.

PRACTICE

- Try to write down as much of this week's memory verse, Ephesians 4:1-3, as you can without looking.

- Use your Bible to go back and fill in any gaps.
- Practice saying it out loud without looking. Have someone else listen for accuracy.

Week Five:

Walking With Integrity

Week Five: Day One

Twitter feed: Where would someone who chose to imitate you be a year from now? Ten years from now? Would they be any closer to Jesus?

PREPARE

Do people ever say that you remind them of someone? If so, whom? Whom do you think you are most like?

PARTICIPATE

Read Acts 11:25-26.

The believers in Antioch were serious about living for God and stood out in their town. Other people gave them the nickname “Christian,” which means “little Christ.” For this nickname to catch on like it did, the difference that Jesus made in their lives must have been really noticeable, the same from believer to believer, and a little upsetting to those around them.

Does the nickname “little Christ” fit you? Why or why not?

Read John 6:38, John 12:49-50, Matthew 28:18, and John 14:10-11.

What was Jesus' purpose? Who told Him what to say? Who gave Him the authority to do and say what He was doing and saying? Who gave Him His power?

Read John 8:49-50, 54 and Mark 2:13, 16-17.

Whose glory did Jesus seek? How did He spend His time? Whom did He reach out to?

Read 1 Corinthians 11:1.

The apostle Paul wrote these words. Can you say the same? What, if anything, needs to change?

PRAY

- Thank God for the people in your life who set a good example in their faithfulness to Jesus Christ.
- Ask God to shape you into the image of Jesus Christ, chipping away anything and everything that is keeping you from looking like Him, even if the process hurts.

PLAN

Today, I will:

- Imitate Jesus by living for God's glory, relying on Him for everything I need, and reaching out to those who need to be saved.
- Tell those who have been a good example to me that I appreciate their faithfulness.

PRACTICE

- Take a minute to read this week's memory verse, Ephesians 5:1-2.
- Close your Bible and write down as much of the verse as you can without looking.

- Use your Bible to go back and fill in any gaps.

Week Five: Day Two

Twitter feed: How do you define success? Does God's definition match yours?

PREPARE

Do you serve God to please Him or to impress others?

PARTICIPATE

Read Philippians 2:5-11.

The Jews in Jesus' day had been waiting for the Messiah for hundreds of years. While they waited, they imagined what their Deliverer would be like. They thought He would be a powerful public figure by the world's standards, a military hero. He was not.

What qualities did Jesus show in verses six, seven, and eight that would have bothered people who were looking for a worldly leader? Was Jesus successful by the world's standards?

Was He successful by God's standards? How do you know?

Read Mark 10:35-45.

Even James and John, two of Jesus' disciples, had the wrong idea about Jesus, who He was and why He came. What did they ask of Him? Were they hoping to give or gain by following Jesus? Whom were they serving? Do you think they even realized it?

What does it take to be successful in God's eyes? Are you willing to do that?

PRAY

- Thank God for sending the servant-king, Jesus Christ, to be your Deliverer.
- Ask God to help you find contentment in just being obedient.

PLAN

Today, I will:

- Not be jealous when others are recognized for obeying God and I am not.
- Focus only on obeying God and leave the results up to Him.

PRACTICE

- Take a minute, once again, to read this week's memory verse, Ephesians 5:1-2.
- Close your Bible and write down as much of the verse as you can without looking.

- Use your Bible to go back and fill in any gaps. Did you remember more than you did yesterday?

Week Five: Day Three

Twitter feed: To love God is to love others...no way around it.

PREPARE

Do you ever feel like pulling away from God? If so, when? Why?

PARTICIPATE

Read John 3:16-18.

What do most people like about this passage? What do some people not like? Why?

Read John 3:19-21.

What does the way a person reacts to Jesus show about them?

Read 1 John 1:6-7 and 1 John 2:9-11.

Can you love Jesus and hate people? What do you know about a person who hates and/or cannot get along with others?

Read Ephesians 5:7-14.

Do Christians ever feel like pulling back from Jesus? When? What should you do, then, when you feel yourself pulling away from church, your Christian friends, Bible study, prayer, etc.?

PRAY

- Thank God for the light of Jesus Christ and ask Him to show you how to love others the way Jesus loves you.
- Ask God to show you any darkness in you that needs to come to light. Confess any sin that comes to your mind and accept His forgiveness.

PLAN

Today, I will:

- Remember that I used to live in darkness and show compassion for people who are still living there.
- Show genuine love for others no matter who they are or what they have done.

PRACTICE

- If you still need to, read this week's memory verse, Ephesians 5:1-2, again.
- Write down as much of the verse as you can without looking.

- Use your Bible to go back and fill in any gaps. Are you making progress?

Week Five: Day Four

Twitter feed: Want to be wise? Go to the source.

PREPARE

Do you make careful, thought-out decisions that match up with the Bible or impulsive, emotional decisions? Are you wise?

PARTICIPATE

Read Proverbs 2:1-11.

Where does wisdom come from? How does it help you?

Read Proverbs 14:12.

Why don't more people seek wisdom from God? What is wrong with relying on your own wisdom?

Read 1 Peter 5:8, John 10:10, 2 Corinthians 11:13-15.

What is our enemy up to? Is human wisdom enough to fight off an enemy like ours?

Read Proverbs 13:20, Psalm 119:11,105, Proverbs 23:12, and Psalm 1:1-2.

Do you really want to be wise? Are you doing all of these things? What more could you be doing?

PRAY

- Thank God for the Bible. Promise to read it, try to understand it, think about it, and memorize it so you can become wise.
- Promise to share what you learn with others and actually do the things that the Bible tells you to do.

PLAN

Today, I will:

- Notice what happens to people who rely on their own wisdom and do the opposite.
- Pay attention when God brings a Bible verse to mind and do what it says.

PRACTICE

- Try to write down as much of this week's memory verse, Ephesians 5:1-2, as you can without looking.

- Use your Bible to go back and fill in any gaps. Almost there?

Week Five: Day Five

Twitter feed: Submit. Obey. Honor. Forever.

PREPARE

How do you feel about marriage and family in general? Where do those feelings come from? Do those feelings affect the way you interact with others?

PARTICIPATE

Read Ephesians 5:21.

This verse is for all Christians. How does submitting to each other help us stand out? What does it show others about Jesus?

Read Ephesians 5:22-24.

Why do people get so worked up over these verses? How can they be misinterpreted and misused?

Read Ephesians 5:25-31.

What is a godly husband supposed to do? Would a wife have trouble submitting to a husband that did all of the things listed here? If she did, what would that say about her relationship with God?

Read Ephesians 5:30-33.

Marriage is a metaphor for the relationship between Jesus Christ and the Church. Why, then, does the world need to see healthy marriages between Christians?

Read Ephesians 6:1-4.

How should children respond to their parents? How does God bless children who do?

What responsibility do parents have to their children? How would a parent's obedience make their child's job easier? Should children stop doing their part when their parents do not do theirs? Whom are we trying to please?

PRAY

- Thank God for your family, flaws and all.
- Promise to hold up your end of the relationships in your life so that people can see Jesus in you.

PLAN

Today, I will:

- Show respect for the institution of marriage in my words, actions, and attitudes.
- Focus on what my family could be with God's help rather than on what we are right now and do my part to make it happen.

PRACTICE

- Try to write down as much of this week's memory verse, Ephesians 5:1-2, as you can without looking.

- Use your Bible to go back and fill in any gaps.
- Practice saying it out loud without looking. Have someone else listen for accuracy.

Week Six:

Becoming A Warrior

Week Six: Day One

Twitter feed: Don't give up the fight, friend! The person who led you to Jesus didn't.

PREPARE

Do you ever get tired of fighting Satan? What keeps you going?

PARTICIPATE

Read Ephesians 6:10-11.

People want to believe that all religions can coexist peacefully, but they are wrong. There is a war going on. It is God and His army (that's us) versus Satan and his army.

Do you see proof of a spiritual battle in the world around you? Explain.

Satan does not care about people at all, but he tricks them into thinking he does. He specializes in guerilla warfare and shows no mercy. Most of the

time, we do not even know he has been at work until a bomb goes off; i.e. a marriage splits up, a friendship crumbles, a spiritual leader falls, a church is crippled by fighting between members, etc. He uses deadly weapons that are difficult to detect until they have already done damage; i.e. doubt, fear, jealousy, malice, gossip, selfishness, perversion, lust, greed, idolatry, and he uses people like suicide bombers.

How do you fight an enemy like this? You stay strong and stand firm, trusting the armor that God has given you; and because the enemy never sleeps, you never take your armor off.

Read Ephesians 6:12.

Is Satan's army made up of people? What is it made up of?

Who are the real victims in this battle? Why is that so important that we remember this when doing battle with the actual enemy?

Read Romans 16:20, Revelation 20:10, 15, and 1 Corinthians 9:22.

The outcome of this war has already been decided. In the end, God wins.

What, then, is still undecided? What are we still fighting for?

PRAY

- Thank God for the chance to help rescue others before it is too late.
- Ask God to remind you that your battle is not against people, but against Satan and his spiritual army.

PLAN

Today, I will:

- See people for who they really are, soldiers in God's army or victims of Satan, helpless to understand what is truly at stake.
- Resist Satan's schemes and reveal them for what they are so that no one gets tricked.

PRACTICE

- Take a minute to read this week's memory verse, Ephesians 6:12.
- Close your Bible and write down as much of the verse as you can without looking.

- Use your Bible to go back and fill in any gaps.

Week Six: Day Two

Twitter feed: Sooner or later, Satan and his army WILL attack you. Be prepared!

PREPARE

Does the way that you respond when you are attacked glorify God?

PARTICIPATE

Read Ephesians 6:13-14.

God has given us spiritual armor. All we have to do is put it on.

Long ago, soldiers used a leather strap as a belt to cinch up loose clothing and hold everything in place. They tied it tightly so the enemy would not have anything to grab. As Christians, we put on the belt of truth so the enemy will not have any loose ends to grab.

Read Psalm 139:23 and Joshua 1:8.

How do we put on the belt of truth?

Long ago, soldiers wore tough vests of leather covered with animal horn and hooves to protect their vital organs from swords and arrows. When we make a conscious effort to follow God and know Him better, we put on the breastplate of righteousness and protect ourselves from the enemy.

Read 2 Corinthians 7:1 and Proverbs 4:23.

Are you guarding your heart? How?

Do you ever notice yourself slacking off spiritually? If so, what do you do when that happens?

PRAY

- Thank God for protecting you with spiritual armor.
- Ask God to show you any spiritual laziness in your life and promise to correct it with His help.

PLAN

Today, I will:

- Tie up spiritual loose ends so Satan cannot get to me.
- Ask someone to let me know when they think I am getting spiritually lazy.

PRACTICE

- Take a minute, once again, to read this week's memory verse, Ephesians 6:12.
- Close your Bible and write down as much of the verse as you can without looking.

- Use your Bible to go back and fill in any gaps. Did you remember more than you did yesterday?

Week Six: Day Three

Twitter feed: Stand and fight. With God on your side, you can't lose!

PREPARE

When was the last time you shared the Gospel with someone?

PARTICIPATE

Read Ephesians 6:15.

Long ago, soldiers wore boots with nails through the sole to help them stand their ground in battle. The Gospel, or good news about Jesus, gives Christians the confidence to stand our ground against Satan. We already know that we get to go to Heaven, after all, and God has already won this war we are in.

Read Romans 8:35-37 and 1 Corinthians 15:55-57.

Should anything that Satan does scare those of us who really know Jesus? Why or why not?

Besides holding us in place when Satan attacks, the Gospel gives us traction when we try to rescue others from hell.

Read 1 Corinthians 9:20-24.

How far are you willing to go to share the Gospel? What are you willing to sacrifice? Be specific.

Read Ephesians 6:16.

Long ago, soldiers held up shields to deflect the arrows and sword blows of the enemy. When we share the Gospel, we can expect Satan and/or his army to come after us. Sometimes his attacks are obvious. Sometimes they are sneaky. Either way, our trust in God, which is our shield of faith, protects us.

How does Satan usually attack you? What kinds of arrows does he usually use? What can you do right now to prepare for what you already know is coming?

PRAY

- Thank God for the Gospel and the strength it gives you to stand firm against the enemy.
- Promise to share what God has done for you with other people so their faith can be strengthened, too.

PLAN

Today, I will:

- Practice telling the story of how I came to know Jesus so I can remind myself when Satan tries to make me doubt and so I can share it with other people when I get the chance.
- Spend time looking up verses that remind me of God's faithfulness so I will not be discouraged when Satan attacks.

PRACTICE

- If you still need to, read this week's memory verse, Ephesians 6:12, again.
- Write down as much of the verse as you can without looking.

- Use your Bible to go back and fill in any gaps. Are you making progress?

Week Six: Day Four

Twitter feed: Want the Truth? You'll find it in the Bible!

PREPARE

Do you ever struggle with doubt? How do you move past it?

PARTICIPATE

Read Ephesians 6:17.

Long ago, just as they do today, soldiers wore helmets to protect their heads because the brain controls everything else in the body. As Christians, our minds are protected by the helmet of salvation, knowing for sure that we belong to Jesus now and forever.

Why is the brain such a popular target in battle? What kind of problems does brain damage cause the human body? What advantage does it give the enemy?

Why would Satan choose to attack our minds with doubt? What kinds of problems might doubt cause Christians to have? What advantage would that give Satan in battle?

Read 1 Peter 1:3-5.

When Satan attacks and tries to make us doubt our salvation, all we have to do is remind ourselves of what the Bible says. As Christians, our adoption into God's family is permanent. We did not do anything to earn our salvation, so we cannot do anything to lose it. It is a free gift from our Heavenly Father, and He has promised not to take it back.

Read Hebrews 4:12, 2 Corinthians 10:3-5, and Psalm 119:11.

So far, we have talked a lot about standing our ground and protecting ourselves in battle, but there comes a time when every soldier must fight. Long ago, soldiers fought with swords, knives, and arrows. Our weapon is God's Word. Our sword is the Bible.

How do we use the Bible to fight Satan? It does not do any good to have a weapon if you are not going to keep it handy. As Christians, how do we keep our weapon handy?

PRAY

- Thank God for the peace of mind you have in knowing your salvation is real and lasting.
- Thank God for giving you an effective weapon to use against Satan.

PLAN

Today, I will:

- Write out the story of when I became a Christian to settle my mind on the issue so I can move forward.
- Begin memorizing Scripture so that I can always have my weapon handy to fight Satan.

PRACTICE

- Try to write down as much of this week's memory verse, Ephesians 6:12, as you can without looking.

- Use your Bible to go back and fill in any gaps. Almost there?

Week Six: Day Five

Twitter feed: Pray. All day. Every day.

PREPARE

Is prayer a big part of your life or something you only do at meals, at church, and/or during times of crisis?

PARTICIPATE

Read Philippians 4:6-7.

How should you pray when you feel anxious? What will happen when you do?

Many people misunderstand prayer and its purpose. They think that if they pray for something and God does not give it to them, He is ignoring them or being mean. That is not true.

God has a plan, and, because He is God and knows more than we do, His plan is always best. However, we do not know the plan and sometimes ask for things that go against it. God cannot say “yes” to those prayers because His plan and purposes have to take priority. It’s as simple as that.

The purpose of prayer is not to get God to do what we want Him to do, but to get to know Him better. When we pray with a humble spirit and let the Holy Spirit guide our words, God shows us His plan a little

bit at a time and uses our prayers to bring about His will. Like the good Father that He is, He lets us help, and we can rest knowing that we have done our part.

Read Ephesians 6:18.

According to these verses, how often should you pray? What should you pray about? Whom should you pray for?

Read Philippians 2:13 and Romans 8:26.

How do you know what to pray? What happens if you cannot find the right words?

Read James 5:16.

What promise is in this verse? How do you know whether or not your prayers are helping?

PRAY

- Thank God for using your prayers to bless you and others.
- Ask God to teach you how to pray His will so He can say “yes” to your prayers.

PLAN

Today, I will:

- Be sensitive to the Holy Spirit’s voice and pray for people as I go about my day.
- Find peace through prayer knowing that God has everything under control and uses my prayers to bring about His will.

PRACTICE

- Try to write down as much of this week’s memory verse, Ephesians 6:12, as you can without looking.

- Use your Bible to go back and fill in any gaps.
- Practice saying it out loud without looking. Have someone else listen for accuracy.





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