## For whoever lacks KNOWLEDGE these qualities

SELF-CONTROL

is so nearsighted

that he is blind,

having forgotten that

**BROTHERLY AFFECTION** 

he was cleansed

### .UVE

from his former sins.



1 PETER - JUDE MARCH 2025

# MONTHLY PRAYER SHEET "...The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective." James 5:16 Who I Will Reach How I Will Do It How It Went **Other Requests** How It Was Answered Date Answered ontrack devotions C a

#### Name:

This sheet is designed to help you make personal commitments each month that will **help you grow in your walk with God.** Fill it out by determining

- 1. What will push you
- 2. What you think you can achieve

If you need help filling out your commitments, seek out someone you trust who can help you. Share your commitments with those who will help keep you accountable.

#### **Personal Devotions:**

How did I do with my commitment last month?\_\_\_\_\_\_ I will commit to read the OnTrack Bible passage and devotional thought\_\_\_\_\_\_day(s) each week this month.

#### Church Attendance:

#### Bible Memory:

How did I do with Bible memory last month? I will memorize \_\_\_\_\_\_ verse(s) this month.

#### Outreach:

How did I do last month with sharing Jesus?

I will share Jesus with \_\_\_\_

this month.

I will serve my local church this month by

#### **REASONS FOR TRIALS**

#### 1 PETER 1:3-12

Why do trials come into our life? At times it almost seems as if the closer we move toward God, the more difficult the circumstances become in our lives. In today's reading, Peter reveals one reason why God allows trials to come into our lives. That reason should cause us to be encouraged and rejoice at the trials we face. In verse 7, we learn that sometimes trials come so we can see that our faith is genuine. Trials help us know for certain that we have eternal life and give us greater confidence that we have a relationship with God. It takes our faith from theory to reality. It makes our faith becomes real? According to verse 7, it results in praise and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. God uses trials to show us the reality of our faith. What are the trials in your life revealing? Do you know for certain that you have eternal life and are on your way to heaven? It may be that the trials you are now facing have been placed there by God to give you the opportunity to make your faith real. Trials are the means to a deeper, more personal relationship with Jesus. Do you view trials this way?

#### SAY WHAT?

What trials are you facing right now?

#### SO WHAT?

How can you use these verses to help you face those trials?

#### NOW WHAT?

How can you use this passage to help someone you know who is going through a trial?

#### THEN WHAT?

In light of this passage, what personal commitment can you make?

### EXTRA READING

#### 03.02.25 | SUNDAY

#### 1 PETER 1:13-25

#### **EMPTINESS**

Have you ever read or heard something from the Bible that stuck with you for a while? You kept thinking about it and could not get it out of your mind for several days. Verse 18 could be one of those verses. Peter describes life before following Jesus as being empty. How true that is! Life without Jesus Christ is empty, even though it may be filled with many things. We may achieve success or gain wealth, but it will still leave us empty. Life with Jesus, however, is fulfilling even though we may not have much of what the world deems valuable. We may not have material wealth and may not be well known, but we will still have a very full life. When we follow Jesus and He becomes real to us, our lives are full and exciting. Jesus came to redeem us from an empty way of life. Do you feel empty or fulfilled? Who can help you figure out why?

#### SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

#### SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

#### NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

#### THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

### EXTRA READING

#### NOW

#### 1 PETER 2:4-12

Did anything you read today make you think of yesterday's reading? Look at the word "now" in verse 10. In today's reading, Peter talks more about life before following Jesus. Before Jesus, we had nothing and were nothing. But now, we are the people of God. He also tells us that before Jesus we were objects of God's wrath. We were sinners in need of forgiveness. But now, we have received mercy and our sins have been forgiven. Therefore, according to verse 11, we should live as foreigners in this world and stay away from sinful desires. We should live in such a way that even though the world accuses us of wrong, they will see our good deeds and glorify God. Our lives were empty because we were not the people of God and had not received mercy. But now our lives are full because we are the people of God and have found mercy through Jesus Christ. What life are you living?

#### SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

#### SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

#### NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

#### THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

### EXTRA READING

#### 1 PETER 2:18-25

#### **UNJUST SUFFERING**

How do you feel when you suffer for doing the right thing? Not only did you do nothing wrong, but you actually did the right thing. Today's reading gives us some ways to respond when we suffer unjustly. Peter tells us that it is commendable to be someone who suffers for doing good. In fact, it might sober us to know that we should expect to suffer for doing good. Peter says it is something that we are called to do. Jesus Himself went through the same thing. He did so because He wanted to give us an example to follow. Jesus is the ultimate example of someone who suffered even though He did nothing wrong. There was no deceit found in His mouth when he suffered. Is there any in yours? He hurled no insults to those who were mistreating Him. Do you? He did not retaliate when he was abused, but instead entrusted Himself to God the Father. Does this sound like you? What a powerful example this kind of life would be in our world today! What in your life needs to change for you to respond like Jesus did to unjust suffering?

#### SAY WHAT?

In what situations are you finding it difficult to respond as Jesus did?

#### SO WHAT?

How have you responded? Be specific.

#### NOW WHAT?

How can you use today's reading to help you respond like Jesus when faced with unjust opposition?

#### THEN WHAT?

In light of this passage, what personal commitment can you make?

#### EXTRA READING 1 PETER 2

#### WEDNESDAY | 03.05.25

#### SAME WAY

#### 1 PETER 3:1-7

What is Peter referring to in his challenge to wives and husbands when he says, "in the same way?" When we stop to think about it, we realize that this passage teaches that husbands and wives are to respond to their spouses in the same way that Jesus responded in yesterday's reading. When circumstances are difficult and seem unfair, husbands and wives are not to react to each other with insults, deception or retaliation. There is never a need to threaten, insult, or retaliate. We should trust God to handle the situation. Jesus Christ is the example, and we are to respond in the same way as He did. If God allows you to enter into a marriage relationship, or if you're already married, you must be prepared to respond as Jesus did, no matter what may take place. His example does not allow us the option of acting on our feelings. For those of you who are not married, are you reacting like Jesus to those you have a relationship with?

#### SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

#### SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

#### NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

#### THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

### EXTRA READING

#### 1 PETER 3:8-22

#### **PROVIDING A REASON**

Today, Peter continues the topic of how to respond to suffering that is undeserved. That is, being punished for something we did not do. In this passage, we are challenged in our responses to those who are evil toward us or insult us. Peter instructs us to continue to respond with kindness and goodness toward those who are in opposition to us. We must understand that we have been called to face this kind of suffering. In fact, in verse 14, Peter tells us that if we face this kind of opposition, we are blessed. He also tells us that our godly responses to this kind of suffering will often result in opportunities to share Jesus with those around us. Peter tells us that we need to be prepared to share with people the reason we are able to respond with kindness to those who are evil toward us. He tells us to not only be ready with the answer, but also be ready to share it with the right attitude with gentleness and respect. Are you responding to unjust suffering like Jesus? If you are, are you ready to tell others why? Are you ready to say it respectfully?

#### SAY WHAT?

What can you do to prepare yourself for unjust suffering?

#### SO WHAT?

What can you do to prepare yourself to give an answer to those who ask about your response?

#### NOW WHAT?

What can you do to prepare yourself to give the answer with the right attitude?

#### THEN WHAT?

In light of this passage, what personal commitment can you make?

#### EXTRA READING 1 PETER 3

#### FRIDAY | 03.07.25

#### MY ROLE

#### 1 PETER 4:1-11

In what ways has God gifted you to serve and encourage others? If you can't answer that question, you can't do what today's passage teaches. In verse 10, we're told to take the gifts God has given us and use them to serve others. Think about the importance of this in light of what we have been reading the past few days in 1 Peter. We have been told that sometimes we are called to face all kinds of unjust suffering. Even though our suffering produces positive results, it is still difficult. In the midst of our suffering, we can use our gifts to serve and encourage those around us. You can't afford to just sit back and not use your gifts. God has a purpose for your gifts. How can you use your gifts to serve others? If you don't know what your gifts are, who can help you discover what they are and how you might use them to serve others?

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

#### SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

#### THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

### EXTRA READING

#### 03.08.25 | SATURDAY

#### 1 PETER 4:12-19

#### SUFFERING

Before Peter closes this great book on suffering, he gives us a few final reminders. Did any of them stand out to you? Peter reminds us again that there are positive results from the suffering we face. He reminds us that we are able to be an example while we suffer. We have an opportunity to not only impact this world and grow closer to God through suffering, but it also allows us to meet Jesus with great joy. His final instructions on suffering are found in verse 19. First of all, we are to trust Him. Do not resist and worry, but give everything to Him. Secondly, continue to do good. Don't give in and don't stop doing what is right even in the midst of suffering. Allow God to use it in your life and in the lives of those who are watching. Why not take some time today to memorize this verse to help you face suffering. Use today's questions to help you apply what you have been learning.

#### SAY WHAT?

Name one principle on suffering that you will take away from reading this book.

#### SO WHAT?

How can you apply it to your life right now?

#### NOW WHAT?

How can you better prepare yourself to respond correctly when suffering comes?

#### THEN WHAT?

In light of this passage, what personal commitment should you make?

#### EXTRA READING 1 PETER 4

The book of Proverbs was designed to help us in "gaining wisdom and instruction; for understanding words of insight; for receiving instruction in prudent behavior, doing what is right and just and fair; for giving prudence to those who are simple, knowledge and discretion to the young." As you read through this chapter, write down the verses that are most significant to you in your present circumstances.

VERSE | WHAT TRUTH IT COMMUNICATES | HOW IT IMPACTS MY LIFE



#### 1 PETER 5:1-11

#### HUMBLE

What does it mean to be humble? The word translated here humble or humility means lowliness of mind. It means seeing ourselves as someone who is secondary to others. It is the opposite of pride, which is seeing ourselves as better than others. Being humble is not bragging or trying to promote our accomplishments. Peter admonishes us to be humble people and view ourselves as secondary and not be prideful. We need to face each day with this attitude. We need to consciously remember what Jesus has done for us and not seek to exalt ourselves, but others. Are you living successfully in this area? How can you become more humble?

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT? Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

EXTRA READING 1 PETER 5

#### TUESDAY | 03.11.25

#### **EVERYTHING**

#### 2 PETER 1:3-11

What does a godly life mean in verse 3? The word translated "life" in this verse means life in the physical sense. It refers to our conduct or manner of living. It includes everything we do in the course of a regular day. The word for "godly" is the spiritual aspect of someone's life. It is a life that is acceptable to God. It is not just inward holiness, but the outward manifestation of a walk with God. Peter is communicating that we have been given everything we need for the physical and spiritual areas of life. When someone follows Jesus, they receive everything they need to be effective in every area of their life, in both the spiritual and physical aspects. Some might think that following Jesus involves only spiritual matters. That is not true! Through salvation and God's Word, we have been given what we need both in the physical and spiritual areas of our lives. Are you using the Bible and the power of God in every area of your life? Why not begin using it today!

#### SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

#### SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

#### NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

#### THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

#### EXTRA READING 2 PETER 1

#### 2 PETER 1:12-21

#### MORE CERTAIN

How reliable is an eyewitness account? While it is most likely reliable, it is not 100% accurate. Why? Because even though we see something clearly, how we evaluate it or describe it can be influenced by many other factors. We each have our own opinions or biases that influence how we see something or interpret what we see. Knowing this makes the verses found in today's reading very important. Peter was an eyewitness to much of what is in Scripture, as were many of the authors. However, that is not why we can be sure that our Bibles are accurate. Peter tells us that the reason we can be sure that our Bibles are accurate is because they were not written according to the writers own interpretation. God is responsible for what was written in Scripture, and it is He who makes them accurate. Men recorded what they witnessed, but what they wrote was not their own opinions or interpretations of those events. It was God's. You can have confidence that your Bible can be trusted and what you read is accurate. Beyond having confidence in it, according to verse 19, you will do well to pay attention to it!

#### SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

#### NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

#### EXTRA READING 2 PETER 1

#### HANG ON

#### 2 PETER 2:1-11

Have you ever been in a difficult situation that you thought would never end? Or, have you ever gotten to the point that you felt like giving up? Have you ever wondered if God was even aware of the circumstances that were going on in your life? If so, you will find encouragement in these verses. Peter reminds us that God knows how to rescue us from trials. Peter also lists for us a number of examples of how God responded to sinful people and held them accountable for the wrong they inflicted. He used the example of Lot. He lived in the midst of evil and felt tormented for years. In time, God delivered him from it. Peter makes the point that God is able to deliver you as well. In the midst of incredible sin and hardship, God will deliver us while holding the evil people accountable. Do you need the hope that this passage provides to keep pressing forward? Is there someone who needs to hear this today? Never forget that God knows what you are going through and He cares for you.

#### SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

#### SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

#### NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

#### THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

#### EXTRA READING 2 PETER 2

#### 03.14.25 | FRIDAY

#### 2 PETER 2:12-22

#### **FALSE TEACHERS**

What can you learn about false teachers from this passage? What are the characteristics of false teachers that Peter provides? The first is that they take advantage of every opportunity to give in to their sinful pleasures. A second characteristic is that they use their positions for personal gain. Their true motivation is to make money and not to help people. Although they used to do good, the pattern of their lives shows their selfishness. We need to be careful who we place our trust in and whose example we follow. Are you following people who follow Jesus? In not, what changes do you need to make? Are you someone who people can follow?

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT? Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

EXTRA READING 2 PETER 2

#### SATURDAY | 03.15.25

#### COMING SOON

#### 2 PETER 3:1-10

Why hasn't Jesus returned yet? When will He come again? Does His delay indicate that He is not coming back at all? Peter closes this book by addressing those who claim that Jesus is not coming back and lets us know why His return has been delayed. Some say that Jesus will not return because things have been the same since the beginning of time. Peter reminds us that God judged the world by flooding the earth, which contradicts their point. Things have not continued the same since the beginning of time. Then, Peter explains that to God a day is like a thousand years. So to Him, it has only been about 2 days since He left the earth. Peter also explains that the return of Jesus Christ has been delayed to provide more people with the opportunity to follow Jesus. His delay is not the neglect of His promise, but the fulfillment of it. He will come. Use the questions to help you prepare for Jesus' return.

#### SAY WHAT?

In what specific ways can you tell if you really believe He will come back soon?

#### SO WHAT?

How can you better prepare for Jesus' return?

#### NOW WHAT?

How are you working to help others be prepared for Jesus' return?

#### THEN WHAT?

In light of this passage, what personal commitment can you make?

#### EXTRA READING 2 PETER 3

#### **PROVERBS 10**

The book of Proverbs was designed to help us in "gaining wisdom and instruction; for understanding words of insight; for receiving instruction in prudent behavior, doing what is right and just and fair; for giving prudence to those who are simple, knowledge and discretion to the young." As you read through this chapter, write down the verses that are most significant to you in your present circumstances.

VERSE | WHAT TRUTH IT COMMUNICATES | HOW IT IMPACTS MY LIFE

#### MONDAY | 03.17.25

#### **GETTING IT WRONG**

#### 2 PETER 3:11-18

Why do people have different interpretations of the Bible? One answer is found in today's reading. Peter concludes this book with a challenge to live like Jesus and encourages us to read what Paul wrote. Peter knows that some of what Paul wrote is not easy to understand. As a result, some people have distorted Paul's teachings and have led people astray with their wrong interpretations. Sometimes people will share interpretations that are wrong, intentionally or unintentionally. They are sometimes wrong because they do not have the knowledge or skills they need to correctly handle the passage. They might also be wrong because they go back and forth between positions and beliefs. They are not firmly grounded in the Bible. We need to be on our guard, lest we get carried away by false teaching. We need to make sure that our beliefs are based on solid interpretation and not just someone's ideas or opinions. It is too important to get it wrong!

#### SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

#### SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

#### NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

#### THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

#### EXTRA READING 2 PETER 3

#### 03.18.25 | TUESDAY

#### 1 JOHN 1:5-10

#### CHARACTERISTICS

Today you begin a journey through the book of 1 John. This book contains important information about salvation. It provides for us the characteristics of someone who is truly following Jesus and the characteristics of someone who is not. It is a book that can give you assurance or reveal that you are not really a follower of Jesus. With this in mind, read through 1 John and record your discoveries. Each day, read the passage given and write down your observations in the space provided. Then, at the end of this book, examine your life to see if the fruits of following Jesus are present. One important thing to keep in mind is that following Jesus is a process. While you may still struggle, those moments should diminish over time. You need to ask yourself if you see growth in those areas. You may not be happy with how much you have grown, but the question is are you making progress? Begin each day with prayer and ask God to reveal where you really stand before Him. You might want to involve others who will not only help you evaluate yourself, but help you do something about what you see.

#### SAY WHAT?

What are the characteristics of someone who is a follower of Jesus?

#### SO WHAT?

What are the characteristics of someone who is not a follower of Jesus?

#### NOW WHAT?

What do those characteristics reveal about your own salvation?

#### THEN WHAT?

In light of this passage, what personal commitment should you make?

EXTRA READING 1 JOHN 1

#### OBEDIENCE

#### 1 JOHN 2:1-11

Continue the project we began yesterday. Read through today's passage and continue to write down the characteristics John lists for true followers of Jesus and those who are not. Ask God daily to reveal the true condition of your heart through your discoveries from this book. Are you gaining assurance or becoming concerned with your findings?

#### SAY WHAT?

What are the characteristics of someone who is a follower of Jesus?

#### SO WHAT?

What are the characteristics of someone who is not a follower of Jesus?

NOW WHAT? What do those characteristics reveal about your own salvation?

THEN WHAT? In light of this passage, what personal commitment should you make?

### EXTRA READING

#### 1 JOHN 2:12-17

#### LOVING THE WORLD

Today we continue the project we began a couple days ago. Read through today's passage and continue to write down the characteristics John lists for followers of Jesus and those who don't follow Jesus. Remember to ask God daily to reveal the true condition of your heart through your discoveries from this book. Are you gaining assurance or becoming concerned with your findings?

#### SAY WHAT?

What are the characteristics of someone who is a follower of Jesus?

#### SO WHAT?

What are the characteristics of someone who is not a follower of Jesus?

#### NOW WHAT?

What do those characteristics reveal about your own salvation?

#### THEN WHAT?

In light of this passage, what personal commitment should you make?

#### EXTRA READING 1 JOHN 2

#### FRIDAY | 03.21.25

#### CONTINUED SIN

#### 1 JOHN 3:1-10

We are on day 4 of the project we began in 1 John. Again today, read through this passage carefully and write down the characteristics you see for those who follow Jesus and those who don't. Remember to ask God to reveal to you what your discoveries are telling you about your own spiritual condition. What have you been learning so far? Are you gaining assurance or becoming more concerned?

#### SAY WHAT?

What are the characteristics of someone who is a follower of Jesus?

#### SO WHAT?

What are the characteristics of someone who is not a follower of Jesus?

NOW WHAT? What do those characteristics reveal about your own salvation?

THEN WHAT? In light of this passage, what personal commitment should you make?

#### EXTRA READING 1 JOHN 3

#### 1 JOHN 3:11-24

#### LOVE YOUR BROTHER

We are on day 5 of the project we began in 1 John. Again today, read through this passage carefully and write down the characteristics you see that John gives. Remember to ask God to reveal to you what your discoveries are telling you about your own spiritual condition. What have you been learning so far? Are you gaining assurance or becoming more concerned? Are you becoming concerned about someone else?

#### SAY WHAT?

What are the characteristics of someone who is a follower of Jesus?

#### SO WHAT?

What are the characteristics of someone who is not a follower of Jesus?

#### NOW WHAT?

What do those characteristics reveal about your own salvation?

#### THEN WHAT?

In light of this passage, what personal commitment should you make?

#### EXTRA READING 1 JOHN 3

The book of Proverbs was designed to help us in "gaining wisdom and instruction; for understanding words of insight; for receiving instruction in prudent behavior, doing what is right and just and fair; for giving prudence to those who are simple, knowledge and discretion to the young." As you read through this chapter, write down the verses that are most significant to you in your present circumstances.

VERSE | WHAT TRUTH IT COMMUNICATES | HOW IT IMPACTS MY LIFE



#### 1 JOHN 4:7-21

#### LOVE FOR OTHERS

We are on day 6 of the project we began in 1 John. Again today, read through this passage carefully and write down the characteristics that John gives. Remember to ask God to reveal to you your own spiritual condition. What have you been learning so far? Are you gaining assurance or becoming more concerned?

#### SAY WHAT?

What are the characteristics of someone who is a follower of Jesus?

#### SO WHAT?

What are the characteristics of someone who is not a follower of Jesus?

#### NOW WHAT?

What do those characteristics reveal about your own salvation?

#### THEN WHAT?

In light of this passage, what personal commitment should you make?

EXTRA READING 1 JOHN 4

#### LOVE FOR GOD

We are on day 7 of the project we began in 1 John. Again today, read through this passage carefully and write down the characteristics you see that John gives for those who are followers of Jesus and those who are not. Ask God to reveal to you the truth of your own spiritual condition. What have you been learning so far? Are you gaining assurance or becoming more concerned? Are you becoming concerned about someone else?

#### SAY WHAT?

What are the characteristics of someone who is a follower of Jesus?

#### SO WHAT?

What are the characteristics of someone who is not a follower of Jesus?

NOW WHAT? What do those characteristics reveal about your own salvation?

THEN WHAT? In light of this passage, what personal commitment should you make?

#### EXTRA READING 1 JOHN 5

#### 1 JOHN 5:13-21

#### **FINAL THOUGHTS**

This is the last day of the project we began in 1 John. Again today, read through this passage carefully and write down the characteristics you see that John gives. Remember to ask God to reveal to you what your discoveries are telling you about your own spiritual condition. What have you been learning so far? Are you gaining assurance or becoming more concerned?

#### SAY WHAT?

What are the characteristics of someone who is a follower of Jesus?

#### SO WHAT?

What are the characteristics of someone who is not a follower of Jesus?

#### NOW WHAT?

What do those characteristics reveal about your own salvation?

#### THEN WHAT?

In light of this passage, what personal commitment should you make?

EXTRA READING 1 JOHN 5

#### THURSDAY | 03.27.25

#### THAT YOU MAY KNOW

We have just completed reading through this great book and jotting down our observations of the characteristics of those who follow Jesus and those who don't follow Jesus. Verse 13 tells us that John wrote this book so that we may know that we have eternal life. As you read through it, did you see evidence that you are following Jesus? What conclusions have you come to? Has your reading given you assurance? Has it revealed that you have eternal life, but you need help in specific areas? Or, has it revealed that you do not truly have eternal life? Use today's questions to help summarize what you have learned. Be honest about what you have found. Then talk to someone who can help you understand what it means, as well as how to respond. Has it caused you to become concerned about the spiritual condition of someone else? What can you do to be helpful to them?

#### SAY WHAT?

What characteristics did you see in your life that provide evidence of genuine salvation?

#### SO WHAT?

What characteristics did you see in yourself that are evidence of someone who is not saved? Have you observed any growth in these areas?

#### NOW WHAT?

Summarize what these answers tell you about where you stand in your relationship to God.

#### THEN WHAT?

In light of the conclusions you have come to, what do you need to do now? How are you going to do it?

#### EXTRA READING MISSED PASSAGES

off ontrack devotions

#### 2 JOHN 1-11

#### WALK IN TRUTH

What does it mean to walk in the truth? Knowing people were walking in truth brought John great joy. How do we know if we are walking in the truth? Walking in the truth simply means that you live your life according to the Bible. It means you know what the Bible says, and you are obeying it in every area of your life. In fact, according to verse 6, our love for Jesus is demonstrated by our obedience to His commands. To disobey what the Bible says is to show that we do not truly love Jesus. Additionally, walking in the truth means that we are honest. Walking in the truth means we do not gossip or make fun of others. Walking in the truth means that children are obedient to their parents and show them respect, even when they are not around to hear what they are saying. Walking in the truth means that our speech always reflects Jesus. You see, walking in the truth means that our lives and conduct are consistent with what the Bible teaches. Could it be said of you that you walk in the truth? Are there areas of your life in which you do not? Does your life bring joy to those around you? What needs to change?

#### SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

#### NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

#### EXTRA READING 2 JOHN

#### IMITATION

Who do people say you remind them of? The answer to that question could reveal a lot about yourself. John shares, in this short book, that we are to imitate what is good. We should not be imitating people or things that are wrong. John uses Diotrephes as an example of imitating what is wrong. He was someone who obviously imitated evil. John tells us that he was a man who loved to be first. He must have been very selfish for others to have observed this in him. Would people in your world describe you this way? John also wrote that he was someone who maliciously gossiped about others. What conclusions would we come to if we listened to what you talked about today? To make matters worse, Diotrephes refused to welcome other brothers. Do you? When a new person comes to your school, workplace or church, do you reach out to them and make them feel comfortable? Diotrephes wouldn't have. Does any of this sound like you at all? What kind of reputation do you have? Do your friends and acquaintances think of you like John did of this man? What needs to change or improve in your life?

#### SAY WHAT?

In what ways are you like Diotrephes?

SO WHAT?

In what ways are you unlike Diotrephes?

#### NOW WHAT?

What characteristics do you need to change in order to be less like him and more like Jesus?

#### THEN WHAT?

In light of this passage, what personal commitment can you make?

#### EXTRA READING 3 JOHN

#### PROVERBS 12

The book of Proverbs was designed to help us in "gaining wisdom and instruction; for understanding words of insight; for receiving instruction in prudent behavior, doing what is right and just and fair; for giving prudence to those who are simple, knowledge and discretion to the young." As you read through this chapter, write down the verses that are most significant to you in your present circumstances.

VERSE | WHAT TRUTH IT COMMUNICATES | HOW IT IMPACTS MY LIFE

#### PRAYING

#### JUDE 17-25

What does it mean to pray in the Spirit? How does someone do that? There is often confusion about what Jude is asking us to do in this passage, but the answer is really quite simple. To pray in the Spirit means to be guided and led by Him. It means that we are not led by our own selfishness when we pray. We pray in the flesh when we pray using our own intellect. We request what seems to make sense to us and do not pray according to God's wisdom. Praying in the flesh also might include asking God to do what we want instead of seeking His will and desires. Praying in the Spirit is not a mystical thing that only spiritual people can do. It is something we all can and should do. How do we accomplish this? By letting God control our wants, and seeking His will rather than our desires. Examine your prayer life. Are you praying in the flesh or in the Spirit? Is it God's will you are seeking or your own? Are you selfishly asking God to do what you want or are you asking Him to do what He desires? What needs to change in order for you to pray in the Spirit?

#### SAY WHAT?

How can you determine if you pray in the flesh?

#### SO WHAT?

In what ways do you see evidence that you are praying in the Spirit?

#### NOW WHAT?

What can you do to begin to eliminate your flesh from dominating your prayer life?

#### THEN WHAT?

In light of this passage, what personal commitment should you make?

### EXTRA READING



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