

## DAILY BIBLE STUDY SHEET

*Daily meditation on the Word of God is imperative to our growth. As the people of God, we should commitment reading Scripture every day. There are questions to help prompt your meditation. If you do not have a Bible, please contact the church office and one will be given to you. To locate the passages, use the Table of Contents to find the page number. The number before the colon will tell you the chapter to find. The numbers after the colon are the superscript numbers in your Bible indicating the verses to read.*

### **Monday, March 6<sup>th</sup> – Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7**

Our theme this Lent is “Giving It Up.” We will focus on fasting from those things that truly get in our way from a deeper walk with God. This week we will look at control. Now control issues are not a new thing. In fact, we see that again as we read the Genesis stories. What are God’s instructions in verses 15-17? Simple enough. But as we turn to chapter 3, what happens (vss. 1-2)? Compare what the serpent and the woman say God says to what God actually said in chapter 2. What differences are there? Now returning the chapter 3, what lie does the serpent tell the woman (vss. 4-5)? The seed of temptation is planted. How do we know this (vs. 6)? The control piece comes from the desire to have God’s wisdom. Control comes when God says, “Don’t do that” and we respond by doing it anyway. We decide that God did not “really mean it” or that God must have been mistaken. Or maybe the writers of the text were just not smart enough to know the difference. Truth is, when we do this, we take control away from God. Consider where you feel the need to control everything. What drives that need to control? Acceptance? Recognition? Desire? What would your life look like if you could give up control and just live obediently? Would it be that difficult? If so why?

### **Tuesday, March 7<sup>th</sup> – Isaiah 55:1-13**

God is always in control, even when we try to take it away from him. Read verses 1-5. What is the offer to Israel? What do we usually do instead? What does God ask us to do (vss. 6-7)? What kind of control are we called to give up? What reasons does God give for us to give up these controls (vss. 8-9)? What does this say about our thinking and logic compared to God’s? Now read verses 10-11. What illustration does God give to help us understand the faithfulness of His words? What does God promise will happen no matter what (vs. 11b)? What does this teach us about trying to have control over God? As you read this again, all eleven verses together, what good comes from letting go and giving up control to God? What kind of freedom would your life have, if you give up control?

### **Wednesday, March 8<sup>th</sup> – Luke 4:1-11**

While we have spent two days looking at the need to give up our addiction to control for Lent, we find today the example of what that looks like! This takes place after Jesus’ baptism. What happens (vs. 1-2)? We have spoken about 40 days meaning a time of testing or discipline. Which do you think applies to Jesus? What had Jesus been fasting (vs. 2)? What is the significance of Jesus being hungry? This indicates that Jesus is vulnerable to temptation, or as John Wesley would say, “He had the propensity to sin.” Just as the woman was tempted, so Jesus is tempted but with different results. What is the first temptation (vs. 3)? This points to Jesus’ ability to take care of himself without God meeting his carnal needs. How does Jesus respond (vs. 4)? Why is this a response that stays obedient and not sinful? (Look at the temptation again to figure it out.) Now let’s move to the next temptation (vs. 5-7)? This temptation is the promise of power. What is wrong with this promise? Does the Devil have this power to offer? What is Jesus’ response (vs. 8)? Why is that the right answer? What part of Jesus’ answer point to God being in control and having power? The final temptation of the day is found in verses 9-11. What is this temptation? Satan is quoting Psalm 91:11-12. This is the temptation towards pride. “Go on, show everyone how important you are.” How does Jesus respond (vs. 12)? In other words, don’t let your pride get the best of you. These are all common temptations to humanity. Many other sins stem from these. But Jesus knew God’s Word and was able to not fall into temptation. Since he did not “fall,” there was no sin. Now finish by reading verse 13. Were the temptations over? Nope, but only just for the time being. Spend some time in prayer today, asking the Holy Spirit to reveal to you where Jesus gave up control to God in each of these situations. Pray asking God to empower you to see and to do the same.

### **Thursday, March 9<sup>th</sup> – Matthew 16:24-27**

Today we will turn to Jesus’ call to us to give up control. What does Jesus tell us (vs. 24)? To deny oneself is to give up control of having it your way. It must be Christ’s way. What is the struggle in doing this and if we don’t learn this what will happen (vs. 25)? In clinging to control, by living our life the way we want to live, what do we lose (vs. 26)? What is more valuable: Having it your way or having your soul? How does what we just read tie into verse 27? Do you believe Jesus is stating truth here? If so, what does that tell us about the need to give up control and to follow humbly behind him? Jesus died for us on the cross. He now calls for us to die to our addiction to control and to walk in faith with him. Are you ready to give up your control to Jesus?

### **Friday, March 10<sup>th</sup> – Romans 8:1-11**

Paul has much to say about what it means to give up control. We spoke last week about how humanity cannot thwart God’s plan of salvation. How does Paul explain how God did this (vss. 1-4)? Now let’s read verse 5. Who is in control when living according to the flesh? Who is in control when living by the Spirit? What is the result of each option (vs. 6)? How does Paul explain these results (vss. 7-8)? Trying to live in control, according to Paul, is hostile towards God. Can you please God while you are still in control? But as believers, what should be different (vss. 9-10)? If you don’t have the Spirit, what does that mean (vs. 10)? Verse 11 speaks that our bodies will die because of sin. However, if in fact we have the Spirit as in verse 9, though our bodies will die, what will we have and why (vs. 11)? This only happens when we give up control over our destiny and give it back to God. Do you struggle with control issues? If so, are you willing to “Give It Up” for Lent?

### **Saturday, March 11<sup>th</sup> – To prepare for tomorrow’s worship, please read John 3:1-17.**