

## 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, August 14<sup>th</sup> – 1 Corinthians 14:1-25 (Make)**

This week we will look at Scriptures that help us understand our mission to Make, Nurture and Mature loving followers of Jesus Christ. We begin with Make, which seems to be a great mystery to most believers. It was an issue for the early church as well. They seemed to have gotten all wrapped up sometimes with everything happening in the church rather than outside it. What did the church in Corinth get all wrapped up about (vs. 2)? What two things does Paul wish they would do, rather than what they wanted to have (vss. 1, 3-5)? What illustration does Paul use to make his point (vss. 6-12)? Paul is discussing speaking in tongues versus speaking prophetically. Okay, let's pause for a moment and define "prophecy?" *Prophecy is defined as a "miracle of knowledge, a declaration or description or representation of something future, beyond the power of human wisdom to foresee."* (Easton's Bible Dictionary). Prophecy is also understood as the speaking forth of truth. The main prophecies of the Old Testament were about Jesus coming to earth. Both prediction and truth. So, we too have prediction and truth in the Gospel. Jesus had fulfilled all the Old Testament prophecies and we prophesy of a God who forgives all sins through Jesus, who is God incarnate, resurrected from the dead and who will come back to judge. This is what Paul is encouraging the Corinthians to practice. Speak prophetically in worship and in public, not in tongues especially, if no one can interpret. Today in the church we have what is referred to as "church language." Can you think of some words that you as a believer understand, but an outsider would be confused by? Consider what you might say, if you explain your faith to someone in hopes of helping them. What words might you need to change to help unbelievers understand what you are sharing? How does Paul affirm this suggestion (vss. 13-19)? What will be the reward for all of us to learn to speak prophetically in a language that outsiders can understand and relate to (vss. 20-25)? To make disciples, we must be able to communicate with non-believers prophetically and in a language they can understand. Spend some time today writing down a five-sentence explanation of your faith. Look at the language you used. Would an outsider understand? Would it convict them of their sin and draw them near to God in worship? Pray as you work on this and let the Holy Spirit guide your words, prophecy and language. Then go try it out!

### **Tuesday, August 15<sup>th</sup> – 1 Corinthians 12:12-27 (Make/Nurture)**

Today we continue our study of the Great Commission by looking at how the Body of Christ is put together. The body of Christ is made up of what (vss. 12-13)? What is the unifying factor (vs. 13b)? What is the wrong idea about how the body works (vss. 14-21)? There are several things to consider when we at Saint James think about us being part of the body of Christ. First, who is needed in the body? (Hint: EVERYONE.) We see that in verse 18. You are part of Saint James because God has put you here to use your giftedness. But have you ever considered that there might be gifts currently missing from our part of the body? This is why we need to make disciples, so that others can find their purpose and fulfillment in the body of Christ. There is no lasting contentment, until you are working with and for Jesus Christ in the power of His Spirit. Consider how you might see someone's giftedness and how would you invite them to use it for the glory of God within community. Now what does Paul say about the various parts of the body (vss. 22-24)? Not everyone is to be up front. And some are behind the scenes. Some are not to be seen, but offer us vital service. While those who do the stuff we don't like are cared and covered with the greatest honor. Why did God set things up this way (vss. 25-27)? This is how we incorporate new disciples into the body of Christ. We care for them and for each other. We teach them how to serve and love and as Jesus said, "to obey all that he had commanded." All of creation is invited by Jesus to be a part of His body. But this only happens when we make and begin the nurturing process of new disciples.

### **Wednesday, August 16<sup>th</sup> – Hebrews 5:11 – 6:3 (Nurture/Mature)**

Today we will focus on the journey of nurturing to maturity. As we will read today, this lack of maturity is not a new thing. What does the writer of Hebrews accuse the readers of being (vs. 11)? They had been part of the church long enough that the writer had expectations of them (vs. 12). What were these? To make his point, what illustration does the writer use (vss. 13-14)? What do you think it means to be an infant in the faith (vs. 13)? When we start as new believers, this is natural. But after a period of time, we as believers need to move beyond this to maturity or to a "meat-and-potatoes" kind of faith. Now keeping in mind that Jesus instructs us to "teach all that I have commanded," how does this tie into today's lesson (vs. 12)? What is the indication that you are mature (vs.14)? Notice it is just not knowing but practicing that indicates maturity. So what are we to be able to move on from (vss. 6:1-2)? In other words, we do not need to hear the salvation story over and over again, but we should know it well enough through learning and experience to teach it to unbelievers. In verse 3, we see that those currently doing the teaching are ready to move on. So how are you coming along in your nurturing and maturing in the faith? Are you still needing milk, and are unable to tolerate solid foods? What small group can you get involved with so as to nurture you in your walk to maturity? And if you are mature in the faith, then whom are you making into a disciple and nurturing?

### **Thursday, August 17<sup>th</sup> – 1 Timothy 4:6-16 (Nurture/Mature)**

Yesterday we began our look at nurturing to maturity. Today we continue that study with Paul's letter to Timothy. Begin by reading verse 6. To understand what Paul is speaking about, read verses 1-5. If Timothy does these things, what will be the result (vs. 6)? But in order to nurture, Timothy must continue his road to maturity in the faith. What does that look like and why does it matter (vss. 7-10)? In addition to practice, what else should Timothy be doing (vs. 11)? How is he to teach (vss. 12-15)? Notice that Tim's personal growth is tied to his ability to nurture. I once had a preacher remind me that "No one can lead someone beyond where they are at any given time." Therefore, we nurture while we continue to mature, always teaching and maturing others as we grow. What will be the result if we do this (vs. 16)? So how is your personal growth coming along? Who are you nurturing and maturing in the faith?

### **Friday, August 18<sup>th</sup> – 1 John 2:9-15 (Mature)**

We finish this week with a look at maturity. How does one know they are mature in the faith? What does John teach in verses 9-11? Mature believers do not hate. We should be children of the light, not the darkness. Now considering what we have learned this week about making, nurturing and maturing loving followers of Jesus Christ, go and read verses 12-15. Which lines relate to the baby Christian or to new followers (Making); which lines to the loving followers in doing and being nurtured; and which speak to the mature follower? If John was writing this letter to you personally, which phrase would he use to describe you? How do you move from newly made, to nurtured/nurturing to mature/making? What steps do you need to take with the Holy Spirit to move to maturity as a loving follower of Jesus Christ? Whom do you need to help make a loving follower of Jesus Christ? How will you today begin this process?

### **Saturday, August 19<sup>th</sup> – In preparation for tomorrow's worship, please read Acts 1:6-9**