

DAILY BIBLE STUDY SHEET

Daily meditation on the Word of God is imperative to our growth. As the people of God, we should commit to 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 28th – Luke 10:25-37 (Love God and Neighbor)

This week we will begin examining our first two core values. Today is an overview of the first core value, “Loving Relationships.” Jesus teaches us what this means and how we can get it wrong sometimes. Verses 25-29 are the setting for a story. As you read these 5 verses, what is the setting (vs.25)? What question does Jesus ask in answer to the scribe’s question (vs. 26)? What is the answer (vs. 27)? This is where our understanding of loving relationships comes from—the Old Testament instruction to Israel in the wilderness (Deuteronomy 6:4-5). This is the first part of the scribe’s answer. The second part is from Leviticus 19:18. What is Jesus’ response to the scribe’s answer (vs. 28)? Here Jesus confirms that the scribe is correct and that this is how we inherit eternal life. What then does the scribe ask Jesus (vs. 29)? Verses 30-37 are Jesus answer, so let’s look at what is a loving relationship and what misses the mark. Verse 30 sets it up for us. What has happened? Who is the first person to come by and what does this person do (vs. 31)? What about the second person (vs. 32)? Both of these acted out in a natural and even a “religious” way, as touching a dead man (if he were dead) would make them unclean and unable to serve in the Temple. Their desire to serve God left their neighbor on the road dying or dead. There was love for God, but it was warped by their inability to love others. By the way, the Priest and Levite would have been the well-respected example-setters for Israel. Who comes up next and what happens (vs. 33)? Remember, Samaritans were the remnant of the Northern Kingdom Jews (who believe in God), but who intermarried with Assyrians after the conquest around 722 B.C. They were despised by the Jews of Jesus’ time. What moves this Samaritan to stop (vs. 33)? How does he act out his compassion (vss. 34-35)? Loving your neighbor means getting your hands dirty and donating money. When Jesus finishes, what question does he ask the scribe in answer to the scribe’s question in verse 29 (vs. 36)? What is the lesson from Jesus (vs. 37)? Loving God can only be fulfilled when we love our neighbor too. How do you love God? How do you love your neighbor? Is it only in thought or is it in deed as well?

Tuesday, August 29th – John 14:15-21 (Love God)

Today we will focus on Jesus’ teaching on how loving God with all our heart, soul and mind is fulfilled. Right off the bat, how does loving Jesus (God the Son) look like (vs. 15)? Obedience to Jesus’ commandments matters. Obedience demonstrates our love for God. It is not done grudgingly, but out of our sincere desire to please and worship God. How are we able to do this (vs. 17)? Even obedience comes from God the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit teaches, reminds, convicts, guides, and comforts us, so we can be obedient. When we live in obedience, we are in the Lord and he is in us. What does this allow to happen (vss. 18-20)? As Jesus’ Holy Spirit dwells in us and gives us life, how does that fulfill what Jesus has promised in verse 18? We finish with verse 21. How are we to love God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit (vs. 21)? And when we are obedient, what happens? Has Jesus revealed himself to you? Are you obedient or still demanding your way and your own understanding? What does obedience look like based on yesterday’s story? Pray asking the Holy Spirit to help you become lovingly obedient to Christ today.

Wednesday, August 30th – 1 John 3:11-24 (Love One Another)

Now we will focus on loving one another. Keep in mind, obedience still matters here too. What does John write to the church, reminding them of what they ought to be doing (vs. 11)? In verse 12, John gives an example of what not loving others looks like. Who is his example? What happened that made this person a “non-loving one another” example? What is the warning John gives us about when we are being loving to one another (vs. 13)? What is his insinuation? What are the characteristics of one who loves and one who hates (vss. 14-15)? So how do we know if we are in the loving or hating category (vss. 16-17)? I do want to point out who those “brothers” (and sisters) are according to John (vs. 14). For John, the brothers and sisters are fellow believers. He is addressing the church, not the world. If we can’t love each other sacrificially, we will never be able to love the world as Christ did. So what does John call us believers to do (vss. 18-20)? What would we feel guilty or condemned about? Could it be not loving each other in the community of believers? Getting mad at others? Now read verses 21-24. How does this loving one another tie into yesterday’s teaching on loving God? In order to please and lovingly obey God, we need to love in action and deeds our fellow believers. How’s that working for you? Do you earnestly love your Saint James brothers and sisters? Do you know their names? Do you know what they do? Do you know who is in need? Do you work side-by-side? And if not, why not?

Thursday, August 31st – Hebrews 5:11-6:3 (Spiritual Growth)

We now shift to look at our second core value, Spiritual Growth. Yep, we are expected to grow and mature in the faith to the point that it is not about me, but all about God and others. We read this same text a couple of weeks ago regarding maturity. We cannot mature if there is no growth! Start by reading the whole passage. Now pause and ponder and ask yourself, “Am I still needing to be taught the basics, or am I able to teach others?” How long have you declared yourself to be a loving follower of Jesus Christ? If it is more than a year, should you not be at the point of maturing enough to teach the basics rather than just hearing the basics? Today, take time to go through the list of basics in 6:1-3. Write down what you know about the subjects listed that the writer says babies in Christ should know. What do you know about repentance and what examples from your own life do you have? What about what you know about baptism, laying on of hands, resurrection and judgment. If you are unsure, then get with Pastor Shirley or another person farther on their walk and learn so you can mature.

Friday, Ephesians 4:11-16 (Spiritual Growth)

We finish this week with a final look at spiritual growth. We are going to start with verses 14-16. In verse 14, what does Paul say is supposed to happen? That is because we are spiritually mature, so we are no longer fooled. How will we behave (vs. 15)? Whom will we look like (vs. 15)? And if we are all spiritually growing, what will God do (vs. 16)? Now all of this is predicated on what happens in verses 11-13. Looking back, how has Christ set up Spiritual Growth to happen (vs. 11)? What are these folks’ job (vs. 12)? How long will this happen (vs. 13)? If you are growing spiritually into maturity, it is safe to say that you will probably fulfill one of the roles listed in verse 11. You will go from student to teacher (not only go but expected to mature into these roles) and when we all measure up, to what standard? Spiritual maturity eliminates false teachings and new things, because you know the truth. You cannot be swayed to believe the lies. Spiritual maturity means you will grow in love for others and speak truth in this love. The body of Christ needs people who are spiritually mature to keep the body healthy. So how mature are you? Are you easily fooled? Do you know what the Bible teaches? Are you experiencing the Holy Spirit daily? Are you more about teaching others about Christ than expecting others to teach you?

Saturday, September 2nd – In preparation for tomorrow’s worship, please read Mark 10:41-45.