

SCHEDULE

DISCUSSION GROUPS

9:15 - 9:50 / 6:30 - 7:05

MOVE TO WORSHIP CENTER

9:50 - 9:55 / 7:05 - 7:10

WELCOME / ANNOUNCEMENTS

9:55 - 10:00 / 7:10 - 7:15

MESSAGE

10:00 - 10:45 / 7:15 - 8:00

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RESOLVED



RESOLVED

RESOLVED TO WALK IN YOUR POWER BY FAITH,
TO BE TRANSFORMED BY YOUR WORD, TO LOVE YOU EACH DAY.

RESOLVED TO TREASURE YOU ABOVE ALL,
TO PERSEVERE WITH ENDURANCE AND WAIT ON YOUR CALL.

RESOLVED TO LISTEN, RESOLVED TO PRAY,
BECAUSE OF YOUR LOVE, YOUR MERCY, AND GRACE.

RESOLVED TO BE WITH YOU. WHERE ELSE WOULD I GO?
YOU'RE THE ANSWER TO EVERY QUESTION. YOU'RE ALL I NEED TO KNOW.

RESOLVED.



Week 1

Discussion Group Questions

RESOLVED



1. INTRODUCTIONS:

- a. Please share your name with the group.
- b. If you could make a resolution and have a guarantee that you wouldn't struggle to keep it, what would it be and why?

2. SCHEDULE:

- a. Please check out the schedule in the front of your notebook. Notice that you're given 5 minutes between discussion group time and the message. If this were a game of Family Feud. What would the top survey say the most common things women do during those 5 minutes?
- b. What benefits might you experience if you come to your discussion group a few minutes early whenever possible?
- c. We'd like to honor your time, so we'll try to stick as closely to the schedule as possible. In order to help with that, Jonna (or someone) will text your leader with a 5-minute warning before you need to close in prayer.

3. DAILY INDIVIDUAL STUDY TIME:

- a. Please start each study time with prayer in order to invite the Lord to be part of your study time. He wants to meet with you and teach you from His word.
- b. We will have 5 days of individual study time. We recommend that you spend time in study each day rather than trying to get it in all at once so that you can get the most out of your study time. (Even if you don't get it all finished, you're still totally welcome here. Please come anyway.)
- c. Study questions with asterisks (*) will be the discussion questions for the coming week.

4. PREPARE YOUR HEART:

- a. What are some ways we cooperate with God in growing closer to Him?
- b. What are some of the most common reasons given for why we don't place our relationship with God as our highest priority in our everyday life?
- c. As you look forward to this study over the next six weeks, what is one topic that you hope to grow in understanding more? What is one topic you feel like you have a good handle on?

5. PLEASE CLOSE THIS TIME IN PRAYER.

- a. Please ask the Lord to prepare your heart for the message you're about to hear.
- b. Please ask the Lord to help you open your heart and mind to anything He wants to change in you over the next several weeks.

Week 1

Listening Guide

I AM RESOLVED

2 THESSALONIANS 1:11-12



Introduction

1. I am resolved to walk _____ of God's calling in _____ .

2. I am resolved to view every resolve as a _____ of _____.

3. I am resolved to _____ in every resolve.

Week 1

Homework

I AM RESOLVED

2 THESSALONIANS 1:11-12



DAY ONE

PRAY: Ask the Lord to guide your study this week as you commit to pursuing Biblical resolve in your daily life.

MEMORIZE: 2 Thessalonians 1:11a: *“To this end we always pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of His calling.”*

Please write 2 Thessalonians 1:11a on a notecard and place it in a spot where you will be reminded to review it. Please repeat it several times, emphasizing a different word each time.

STUDY: Throughout this study we will consider the concept of making annual resolutions from a Biblical perspective. Our goal is to look for the ways that Biblical resolve differs from the cultural idea of a New Year’s Resolution. During this study we will define resolve as a God-imparted resolution to do good or a gracious purpose with a good object in view. This week we will learn that these God given desires for a good outcome can only be accomplished as works of faith through the power of God believing the promises of God. This week let’s consider how it would change our perspective to move from making resolutions to having Biblical resolve. Please read 2 Thessalonians 1:11-12.

1. *Briefly explain your thoughts about “making resolutions”. Do you continue with your resolutions or give them up? Do you find them helpful or discouraging?

2. *As you read these verses, how would you summarize the ways that Paul is praying for the Thessalonian believers?

3. These verses contain several important concepts to encourage our growth in Christ. Which word or phrase is most challenging to you at this time? Why did you choose it?

4. Read the following passages. How could these verses encourage you to think about resolutions from a Biblical perspective?

a. I Corinthians 15:58

b. Philippians 3:12-14

c. 2 Peter 1:3

5. What is one area of your life where you feel that the Lord may be leading you to grow in Biblical resolve?

Spend a few moments prayerfully committing yourself to obeying the Lord as He leads you to growth in the area above.

DAY TWO

PRAY: Ask the Lord to help you understand more about what it means to become worthy of God's calling in our lives.

MEMORIZE: Please unscramble the following phrases to put 2 Thessalonians 1:11a in order:

we always pray

make you worthy of His calling

that our God may

To this end

for you

STUDY: These verses list several ways that Paul is always praying for the believers in Thessalonica. One of the things he asks the Lord for is that they be worthy of their calling. The idea of being worthy is an important one in the first chapter of 2 Thessalonians. It means “to match up” or “live up to”. As followers of Jesus Christ, in God’s eyes we are worthy of the kingdom of God (2 Thess 1:5), but while we are still living on this earth we are called to grow by living in a way that matches up to how God sees us. The ultimate purpose of any Biblical resolve is to enable us to walk worthy of the Lord’s calling in our lives. Please read 2 Thessalonians 1:11-12 & Colossians 1:9-11.

1. What do you learn from these two prayers of Paul on behalf of Christians?

2. One of the things he prays is that Christians would walk worthy of or live up to their calling in the Lord. What does this teach you about the importance of prayer in our lives?

3. From Colossians 1:9, what is needed to help us walk in a way that is worthy of the Lord?

4. According to Colossians 1:10-11, what are the outcomes of living in this way?

5. *Of the qualities listed in Colossians 1:10-11, which one do you feel is most needed in your life as you desire to walk worthy of what the Lord is calling you to? How could this help you live up to His calling in your life?

Close your study by personalizing Paul’s prayer in Colossians 1:9-11. You could begin like this: “Lord I come to you today, asking that you would fill me with the knowledge of your will giving me. . .”

DAY THREE

PRAY: Begin your study by asking the Lord to help you learn more about trusting God's power as you live out works of faith.

MEMORIZE: Please fill in the following blanks to complete 2 Thessalonians 1:11a:

To this _____ we always _____ for you, that our _____ may make you _____ of His _____.

STUDY: Yesterday we studied the idea of living in ways that are worthy of God's call in our lives. As we learn about Biblical resolve, we will understand that this is not something we do in our own strength. In our study today, we will look at the role of faith and God's power in our Biblical resolve. In 2 Thessalonians 1:11, Paul prays that the Lord would fulfill their good intentions and that through His power, their good works would be inspired by faith. This means that every resolve should be an overflow of what Jesus Christ has done for us. Through the lens of faith in God's power, we will also consider the role of our will in Biblical resolve. In his 2015 New Year's sermon, John Piper said, "The power of God engages itself beneath or behind and within our will, not in place of our will." This means that God's power in our lives is revealed in the strength of our will, not in the absence of our will. Please read 2 Thessalonians 1:11 & Philippians 2:12-13.

1. We read the phrase "work of faith" in the verses above. How would you describe a work of faith?

2. *How would it change your perspective on your resolutions to view them as works inspired by your faith in God's power?

3. How is a work inspired by faith different from works inspired by yourself?

4. *From Philippians 2:12-13:

a. What connections do you see between your will and God's power?

b. How does the fact that God works in your will impact your Biblical resolves?

5. Thinking back to your answer from Day 1, question 5, write a brief statement about how you could approach this issue as a work of faith in God's power.

Close your time by thanking the Lord for what you have learned from His words in this passage.

DAY FOUR

PRAY: Begin your study time today by praising God for what you have learned so far this week.

MEMORIZE: Please fill in the following blanks to complete 2 Thessalonians 1:11a:

To this _____ we _____ for you, _____ our _____ may
_____ you _____ of _____.

STUDY: As we focus on 2 Thessalonians 1:12, we will learn about the critical difference between making a resolution and a Biblical resolve. This verse presents our motivation and the goal of every good resolve - that the name of the Lord would be glorified. Lest we think this is in our own strength, we are reminded that the work of God in our lives and any glory of God that is revealed in our lives, is a gift of God's grace. Please read 2 Thessalonians 1:12.

1. *What does it mean to you to live in a way that the Lord is glorified in you?

2. *God's grace is unearned, freely given favor, love, and help. Why is it important to recognize the role of grace in Biblical resolve?

3. Read the following verses and record all of the ways that we should glorify God with our lives:

a. Psalm 63:3-4

b. 1 Peter 4:10-11

c. 1 Corinthians 6:19-20

d. 1 Corinthians 10:31

4. Consider your answer to Day 1, question 5. How do you see God's grace in this situation? What would it look like to glorify God in the way you approach this situation?

Please write a short prayer committing yourself to glorifying God in every area of your life and in every good intention that He places on your heart.

DAY FIVE

PRAY: Ask God to help you understand this passage so that your heart is challenged to obey His word.

MEMORIZE: Please use the first letter of each word to complete 2 Thessalonians 1:11a.

T T E W A P F Y, T O G M M Y W O H C.

What do you think it means for GOD to make you worthy of His calling?

How do we cooperate with God in making us worthy of His calling?

STUDY: Today we'll look at a scripture to help us have a deeper understanding of what it means to develop Biblical resolve in our lives. Please read 2 Corinthians 9:8 and answer the following:

1. Rephrase the passage in your own words.

2. From this passage, please list:

a. Words that refer to God.

b. Words that refer to you.

3. *How do the words listed in #2 impact your understanding of why Biblical resolve is important for your life?

4. *Please explain the obstacles that keep you from pursuing Biblical resolve, and what truths from this passage help you to overcome those obstacles.

5. How will you specifically apply this passage to your life:

a. In your view of God?

b. In your priorities?

c. In your choices?

Please write a prayer to God telling Him what you learn from this passage and how you will respond.

Week 2

Listening Guide

RESOLVED TO READ FOR TRANSFORMATION

PSALM 19:7-14



Introduction

1. _____ God's word and all its _____. (7-9)

2. _____ in God's word _____ than anything else. (10-11)

3. _____ on God's word as He uses it to _____ you, and not just to inform you. (12-14)

Week 2

Homework

RESOLVED TO READ FOR TRANSFORMATION
PSALM 19:7-14



DAY ONE

PRAY: Please open this time in prayer. Please tell the Lord what you need to lay down or calm in your heart in order to be ready to receive what He wants to teach you.

MEMORIZE: Today we'll add 2 Thessalonians 1:11b to what we have memorized, completing 2 Thessalonians 1:11. *"To this end we always pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling and may fulfill every resolve for good and every work of faith by his power..."*

Please write 2 Thessalonians 1:11 on a notecard and place it in a spot where you will be reminded to review it. Please repeat it several times, emphasizing a different word each time.

STUDY: God's word is called many things... His law, His testimony, His precepts, His commandments, His fear (worship), and His rules. This can be daunting. If God is not good, what does obedience to His rules look like? But if God IS good, then what does it look like? Today, we'll study Psalm 19:7-11 to see the blessings that come from His word. Please read Psalm 19:7-9 and answer the following.

1. *For each statement, please fill in the blank and describe what God's word is and what it isn't.

a. The law of the Lord is _____.

i. What does this mean?

ii. What is the opposite meaning?

b. The testimony of the Lord is _____.

i. What does this mean?

ii. What is the opposite meaning?

c. The precepts of the Lord are _____.

i. What does this mean?

ii. What is the opposite meaning?

d. The commandment of the Lord is _____.

i. What does this mean?

ii. What is the opposite meaning?

e. The fear of the Lord is _____.

i. What does this mean?

ii. What is the opposite meaning?

f. The rules of the Lord are _____ and _____.

i. What does this mean?

ii. What is the opposite meaning?

2. Please explain each of the 5 benefits of knowing God's word in verses 7-9. What are they, and how or why are they benefits?

a. For example, the first benefit is that His word revives the soul. How or why?

b. 2nd benefit:

c. 3rd benefit:

d. 4th benefit:

e. 5th benefit:

3. Please list the opposites of each of the benefits from #2.

4. *Which of the benefits from #2 do you struggle to believe? Why do you think that is?

5. Please read verse 10. What makes God's word better than gold and sweeter than honey?

6. Verse 11a says, "Moreover, by them is Your servant warned."

a. If God is a good God, how is this truth good?

b. If God is a bad God, how is this truth bad?

7. What truth from verse 11b along with the benefits from verses 7-9 help you determine whether God is good or bad?

Please close in prayer. Talk to God about your understanding of the benefits of His word.

DAY TWO

PRAY: Please open this time in prayer. Ask the Lord to prepare your heart for what He wants to teach you.

MEMORIZE: Please unscramble the following phrases to put 2 Thessalonians 1:11 in order.

we always pray for you

worthy of his calling

To this end

may make you

and may fulfill every resolve for good

by his power

and every work of faith

that our God

STUDY: Today we'll take a closer look at the value of God's word. Please read Psalm 19:12-14 and answer the following.

1. Verse 12a says, "Who can discern his errors?" What insight do the following verses give you in answering that question:

a. Jeremiah 17:9?

b. Proverbs 16:2?

c. Hebrews 4:12?

2. Please define and explain:

a. Hidden faults

b. Presumptuous sins

3. *In the rest of verse 12 and verse 13:

a. Who is the psalmist (David) speaking to?

b. Considering who this request is directed to and your answer to question #1, what does this reveal about your ability to make yourself blameless and innocent compared to God's ability to do so?

4. What two things does David pray will be acceptable to (be pleasing to) God?

5. *What words and thoughts do you sometimes dwell on that are not pleasing to God? According to this passage, how do you overcome this?

6. What do the following words or phrases from this passage tell you about God's authority, power, wisdom, and love?

a. Keep back

b. Let them not

c. LORD (Yahweh, God's personal name)

d. Rock

e. Redeemer

Please close this time in prayer. Talk to God about your response to what you learned today.

DAY THREE

PRAY: Please open this time in prayer. Ask the Lord to show you something you didn't know or to help you understand Him a little better than before.

MEMORIZE: Please fill in the following blanks to complete 2 Thessalonians 1:11.

To this _____ we always _____ for you, that our God may make you _____ of his calling and may _____ every resolve for _____ and every work of _____ by his power.

STUDY: In Psalm 19:7-11, we learn a lot about God's word.

- It is perfect, reviving our souls.
- It faithfully gives wisdom.
- It righteously brings joy to our hearts.
- It purely enlightens our eyes.
- It is forever.
- It is truly and absolutely righteous.
- It's better than food or money.
- It warns us when danger is coming.
- Obedience to His word brings great reward.

Today, we're going to look at other passages about God's word to see what insight they can give us about all the benefits of knowing His word. Please look up the following passages and explain:

1. *Psalm 18:30

a. What specific benefits they bring from the words listed in Psalm 19.

b. What reward comes in obedience to His word?

c. What do you miss out on by not knowing what His word says?

2. John 17:17

a. What specific benefits they bring from the words listed in Psalm 19.

b. What reward comes in obedience to His word?

c. What do you miss out on by not knowing what His word says?

3. 2 Timothy 3:16-17

a. What specific benefits they bring from the words listed in Psalm 19.

b. What reward comes in obedience to His word?

c. What do you miss out on by not knowing what His word says?

4. *Hebrews 4:12

a. What specific benefits they bring from the words listed in Psalm 19.

b. What reward comes in obedience to His word?

c. What do you miss out on by not knowing what His word says?

5. What can you apply from today's passage to a specific circumstance in your life?

Please close this time in prayer. Talk to the Lord about the passage that had the most impact on you today.

DAY FOUR

PRAY: Please open this time inviting the Lord to teach you what He wants you to learn.

MEMORIZE: Please fill in the following blanks to complete 2 Thessalonians 1:11.

To this _____ we always _____ for you, that our _____ may make you _____ of his calling and may _____ every _____ for _____ and every work of _____ by _____ power.

STUDY: God calls us to know His word, but not just for information. He wants us to apply His word so that we can be transformed. James tells us that when we are a hearer of God's word without applying it and following it, we deceive ourselves. Today, we'll look into the importance of letting God's word impact the way we live. Please read James 1:21-25, and answer the following.

1. James 1:21 starts with the word "therefore". Please look back at verses 19-20 and explain what the therefore is there for.

2. How do you think God's word affects how we listen, speak, and react?

3. *James 1:21 says to receive God's word with meekness, which also means gentleness and humility.

a. Why do you think meekness, gentleness, and humility are important in receiving God's word?

b. How would the opposite of meekness affect receiving God's word?

4. *Why and how do you think we deceive ourselves when we hear the word but don't apply the word?

5. From verse 23, please explain the illustration of a person who hears the word without applying it.

6. From verse 25:

a. What is God's word called?

b. What responsibilities belong to the one who reads the word?

c. What is the promise given?

7. In what area of your life are you tempted to let feelings take precedence over God's word:

a. In your listening?

b. In your speaking?

c. In your reactions?

Please close this time in prayer. Talk to the Lord about how you are doing with listening, speaking, and responding to Him.

DAY FIVE

PRAY: Please open this time in prayer. Ask the Lord to help you lay down anything that distracts you from learning what He wants to teach you.

MEMORIZE: Please use the first letter of each word to complete 2 Thessalonians 1:11a and b.

T T E W A P F Y, T O G M M Y W O H C A M F E R F G A E W O F B H P...

Who fulfills our resolve according to this verse? How does that impact your understanding of the connection you have with the Lord?

STUDY: Today we'll look at a scripture to help us have a deeper understanding of what it means to be resolved in reading God's word for transformation. Please read John 8:31-32 and answer the following.

1. Rephrase the passage in your own words.

2. From this passage, please list:

a. Words that refer to God

b. Words that refer to you

3. *How do the words listed in #2 impact your understanding of why reading God's word is important for your life?

4. *Please explain the obstacles that keep you from this resolve, and what truths from this passage help you to overcome those obstacles.

5. How will you specifically apply this passage to your life:

a. In your view of God?

b. In your priorities?

c. In your choices?

Please write a prayer to God telling Him what you learned from this passage and how you will respond.

Week 3

Listening Guide

RESOLVED TO PRACTICE PRAYER
MATTHEW 6:5-15



Introduction

1. The Spirit of Prayer: _____ with the _____. (5-8)

Week 3

Homework

RESOLVED TO PRACTICE PRAYER
MATTHEW 6:5-15



DAY ONE

PRAY: Thank the Lord for His power, mercy, and love in your life, and ask the Lord to open your eyes to see His greatness as you study.

MEMORIZE: Today we'll add 2 Thessalonians 1:12a to our memorization so far. *"To this end we always pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling and may fulfill every resolve for good and every work of faith by his power, so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him..."*

Please write 2 Thessalonians 1:11-12a on a notecard and place it in a spot where you will be reminded to review it. Please repeat it several times, emphasizing a different word each time.

STUDY: This week, we're taking time to explore what it really means to pray. What does prayer look like in our everyday lives? Why do we pray, and how do we do it? In what ways can you personally grow in prayer? As we study Matthew 6:9-13, we'll work through these questions together. Start by reading the Lord's Prayer. Today we'll focus specifically on Matthew 6:9.

1. Why is it significant that Jesus refers to God as "Our Father" rather than simply "God"?

2. How might Isaiah's vision of God's holiness in Isaiah 6:1-5 influence the way a person understands and prays Matthew 6:9?

3. *How could beginning your own prayers with a focus on God's greatness set the tone for prayer?

4. *In what ways can you personally "hallow" (honor and set apart as holy) God's name in your life and prayers?

5. How does Matthew 6:9 set the stage for the rest of the Lord's Prayer?

Write a short prayer using Psalm 145:1–3 that honors God's name and reflects His holiness.

DAY TWO

PRAY: Thank the Lord for His wisdom and ask the Lord to reveal ways that you can align yourself with His will and kingdom through time with Him today.

MEMORIZE: Please unscramble the following phrases to put 2 Thessalonians 1:11-12a in order.

and you in him

and every work of faith

To this end

that our God

so that the name of our Lord Jesus

we always pray for you

may be glorified in you

may make you worthy

and may fulfill

by his power

of his calling

every resolve for good

STUDY: What does it look like to live and pray in line with God's will and His kingdom? As you study, take time to reflect on areas of your life that may need to shift in order to align more closely with the Lord. Begin by reading the entire Lord's Prayer, then reread Matthew 6:10 slowly before answering the questions.

1. What does "Your kingdom come" mean in the context of Matthew 6:10?

2. Read Revelation 11:15 and Romans 14:17—how is God’s kingdom described in each passage? How does this help your understanding of Matthew 6:10?

3. How does “Your will be done” relate to the concept of submission to God’s authority?

4. *What contrasts do you see between praying for God’s will and praying for our own desired outcomes?

5. *Analyze the relationship between “God’s will” and “God’s kingdom”. How do they support each other?

Write a personal prayer that reflects your desire for God’s kingdom to come and His will to be done in your life. Specifically surrender areas of your life that you need to submit to His will and ways.

DAY THREE

PRAY: As you study today, begin by thanking the Lord for His provision, and invite the Lord to reveal to you the areas of your heart that need to rest more fully in Him.

MEMORIZE: Please fill in the following blanks to complete 2 Thessalonians 1:11-12a.

To this _____ we _____ pray for _____, that our _____ may _____
you _____ of his _____ and may _____ every _____ for _____ and
every _____ of _____ by his _____, so that the _____ of our Lord Jesus may
be _____ in you, and _____ in him.

STUDY: When we ask the Lord for “our daily bread,” we’re admitting that we are dependent on Him for our every need. Where do you notice worry or anxiety creeping in instead of resting in His care? Keep these things in mind as you study Matthew 6:11. Begin by reading the entire Lord’s Prayer, then reread Matthew 6:11 slowly before answering the questions.

1. How does Matthew 6:11 teach dependence on God for everyday needs?

2. What does “daily bread” represent beyond physical food?

3. How does Matthew 6:11 relate to the principle of trusting God rather than worrying about tomorrow (Matthew 6:25-34)?

4. *Compare Matthew 6:11 with Exodus 16:4-5. What similarities exist between God providing manna and asking for “daily bread”?

5. *Identify one area where you often worry about provision. How can you apply Matthew 6:11 to that situation?

Write a short prayer asking God for provision for today, incorporating gratitude, trust, and dependence on the Lord.

DAY FOUR

PRAY: Thank the Lord for the forgiveness and protection He provides. Ask Him to help you recognize the depth of His mercy and grace in your life as you study.

MEMORIZE: Please fill in the following blanks to complete 2 Thessalonians 1:11-12a.

To this _____ we _____ for _____, that _____
may _____ you _____ of _____ and may _____ every
_____ for _____ and _____ of _____ by _____
_____, so that the _____ of our Lord _____ may be _____ in you, and
_____ in _____.

STUDY: In Jesus's teaching through the Lord's Prayer, Matthew 6:12 reminds us that receiving God's forgiveness is inseparably linked to extending forgiveness to others. Matthew 6:13 calls us to depend on God for strength against temptation and protection from evil. Together, these verses reveal a prayer that shapes not only what we ask from God, but how we live before Him. Begin by reading the entire Lord's Prayer, then reread Matthew 6:12–13 slowly before answering the questions.

1. What does the term "debts" symbolize in Matthew 6:12, and how does this shape your understanding of sin and forgiveness?

2. *How does Jesus link God's forgiveness of us to our forgiveness of others, and why does that connection matter for our prayer life?

3. How do Jesus' words in Matthew 18:21-35 (the unmerciful servant) deepen your understanding of Matthew 6:12?

4. *How does asking God to "lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil" (v. 13) demonstrate dependence on Him rather than self-reliance? How does 1 Corinthians 10:13 support this truth?

5. What practical steps can you take this week to both forgive others and intentionally “watch and pray” (Luke 22:40) against temptation?

Write a personal prayer asking God to help you forgive someone who has hurt you and to lead you away from temptation, trusting Him to protect and deliver you from evil.

DAY FIVE

PRAY: Thank the Lord that you can freely come before His throne of grace in prayer today.

MEMORIZE: Please use the first letter of each word to complete 2 Thessalonians 1:11-12a.

T T E W A P F Y , T O G M M Y W O H C A M F E R F G A E W O F B H P , S T T N O O L J M B G I Y , A Y I H

According to what you’ve learned in this passage as you’ve memorized it so far, how is God’s name glorified in us, and us in Him?

STUDY: Today we’ll look at a scripture to help us have a deeper understanding of what it means to be resolved in prayer. Please read Philippians 4:6-7 and answer the following.

1. Rephrase the passage in your own words.

2. From this passage, please list:

a. Words that refer to God

b. Words that refer to you

3. *How do the words listed in #2 impact your understanding of why prayer is important for your life?

4. *Please explain the obstacles that keep you from this resolve, and what truths from this passage help you to overcome those obstacles.

5. How will you specifically apply this passage to your life:

a. In your view of God?

b. In your priorities?

c. In your choices?

Please write a prayer to God telling Him what you learn from this passage and how you will respond.

2. I am resolved to pursue eternal treasure by _____ the _____ with
my earthly cares. (25-34)

Week 4

Homework

I AM RESOLVED TO PURSUE ETERNAL TREASURE
MATTHEW 6:19-34



DAY ONE

PRAY: Ask the Lord to show you areas of your life where you may be prioritizing things of this earth over the eternal treasure He desires for you.

MEMORIZE: Today we will begin to complete our memorization by adding the rest of verse 12 to 2 Thessalonians 2:11-12. *“To this end we always pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling and may fulfill every resolve for good and every work of faith by his power, so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.”*

Please write 2 Thessalonians 1:11-12 on a notecard and place it in a spot where you will be reminded to review it. Please repeat it several times, emphasizing a different word each time.

STUDY: Jesus’ command to us in Matthew 6:33, “Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness,” forms the foundation of this entire passage. In the other verses, Jesus tells us how we can obey this instruction. John Piper writes that this focus on righteousness and God’s kingdom should be the normal way of life for Christians. As we will see in this passage, we should be characterized by “radical freedom from earthly things and earthly security, with a joyful pursuit of God and his righteousness as our treasure.” Please read Matthew 6:19-34.

1. As you read through this passage, list the repeated words you come across.

2. When we see repeated words in Scripture, they often point to key ideas in a passage. Which of the key ideas from this passage seem most relevant to your life right now? Why did you choose that?

3. *What is one big truth you can learn about God from this passage?

4. Based upon how you spend your time and money, what earthly treasures and cares are your priorities?

5. Why are these things important to you?

6. How would your attitudes and actions change if you were to view these things with a commitment to pursuing eternal treasure most of all?

Spend a few moments prayerfully committing yourself to obeying the Lord in making any changes needed to your attitudes and actions.

DAY TWO

PRAY: Ask the Lord to help you develop a greater desire to find your greatest joy in His eternal kingdom over any earthly treasure.

MEMORIZE: Please unscramble the following phrases to put 2 Thessalonians 1:11-12 in order.

of our God
and you in him
and every work of faith
according to the grace
To this end
that our God
so that the name of our Lord Jesus
and the Lord Jesus Christ
we always pray for you
may be glorified in you
may make you worthy
and may fulfill
by his power
of his calling
every resolve for good

STUDY: In Matthew 6:21, we learn that what we treasure will guide our hearts. In this context, treasure is not only money, but also the things that are uppermost in our affections - the source of our joy. The lesson to remember as we read these passages is that our hearts follow our treasure. Although it seems like the opposite should be true, the reality is that how we spend our money, where we focus our time and attention reveals our true heart's treasure. Please read Matthew 6:19-24.

1. *Based upon these verses, describe the two different ways that we can live on this earth.

2. How does verse 24 relate to verses 19-23?

3. *What are some signs that a person may be serving money or earthly priorities rather than the Lord?

4. Please read Luke 12:13-21. What do these verses teach about earthly treasure and eternal treasure?

5. Consider what you've studied today. Write a statement of resolve for yourself as you commit to being obedient in serving the Lord above all else.

Close your study by prayerfully committing to the Biblical resolve that you've made above.

DAY THREE

PRAY: Begin your study by asking the Lord to help you learn more about trusting God's provision for every area of your life.

MEMORIZE: Please fill in the following blanks to complete 2 Thessalonians 1:11-12.

To this _____ we _____ pray for _____, that our _____ may _____
you _____ of his _____ and may _____ every _____ for _____ and
every _____ of _____ by his _____, so that the _____ of our Lord Jesus may
be _____ in you, and _____ in him, _____ to the _____ of our God and the
_____ Jesus Christ.

STUDY: In these verses, Jesus seems to shift topics from treasure to anxiety, but as we read this in context, He is challenging us to consider our daily concerns and to recognize that the things that are at the root of our anxieties can reveal what we treasure. Here Jesus tells us to take our eyes off of our personal concerns and look at the world around us to learn how God's kingdom works. Please read Matthew 6:25-30.

1. Verse 25 starts with the word "therefore" which connects back to the previous section. How do you think these verses relate to verses 19-24?

2. *How would you answer if Jesus were to ask you the question in verse 25 - "Is your life more than food, and your body more than clothing?"

3. *Why do you think that Jesus is asking us to look at the birds and the flowers in the midst of our concerns about the things we need? How could this help with anxiety?

4. In verse 30, Jesus calls the listeners "people of little faith." Based upon these verses, what are characteristics of people with little faith? What are some of the areas of your life where you have little faith?

5. *Read Matthew 7:7-11. What do you learn from these verses about trusting God with your daily concerns?

Close your time by thanking the Lord for what He has shown you about yourself and what you've learned about Him today.

DAY FOUR

PRAY: Begin your study time today by praising God for some specific ways you have been challenged this week.

MEMORIZE: Please fill in the following blanks to complete 2 Thessalonians 1:11-12.

To this _____ we _____ pray for _____, that our _____ may _____
you _____ of his _____ and may _____ every _____ for _____ and
every _____ of _____ by his _____, so that the _____ of our Lord Jesus may
be _____ in you, and _____ in him, _____ to the _____ of our _____
and the _____ Jesus _____.

STUDY: In these verses, Jesus is summarizing this section of Scripture with some final thoughts about the pursuit of eternal treasure. He has encouraged us to learn from the world of nature and now He asks us to prioritize God's kingdom and righteousness. Please read Matthew 6:31-34.

1. What do these verses teach us about our priorities as believers in Jesus?

2. Read Philippians 4:6-8. What lessons do you learn from these verses to help you manage your anxiety?

3. How do you think Matthew 6:24 relates to 6:33?

4. *What does it mean to you to seek God's kingdom first? What are some practical ways that you could prioritize His kingdom and His righteousness over "all these things"?

5. Based upon what we've studied today, how could it help you to focus on today, rather than tomorrow?

Close your study today with a prayer of commitment as you resolve to seek eternal treasure over the temporary things of this life.

DAY FIVE

PRAY: Ask God to help you understand this passage so that your heart is challenged to obey His word.

MEMORIZE: Please use the first letter of each word to complete 2 Thessalonians 1:11-12.

*TTEWAPFY, TOGMMYWOHCAMFERFGAEWOFBHP,
STTNOOLJMBGIY, AYIH, ATTGOOGATLJC*

This passage says this is all according to “the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.” His grace can be thought of as the generosity of His love. Please explain how all of this would be different if it were according to our works rather than His grace.

STUDY: Today we'll look at a scripture to help us have a deeper understanding of what it means to be resolved in pursuing eternal treasure. Please read 2 Corinthians 4:16-18 and answer the following.

1. Rephrase the passage in your own words.

2. From this passage, please list:

a. Words that refer to God

b. Words that refer to you

3. *How do the words listed in #2 impact your understanding of why a focus on eternal treasure is important for your life?

4. *Please explain the obstacles that keep you from pursuing eternal treasure, and what truths from this passage help you to overcome those obstacles.

5. How will you specifically apply this passage to your life:

a. In your view of God?

b. In your priorities?

c. In your choices?

Please write a prayer to God telling Him what you learn from this passage and how you will respond.

**RESOLVED TO PERSEVERE
INTENTIONALLY AND RUN WITH ENDURANCE**
HEBREWS 12:1-13



Week 5

Homework

RESOLVED TO PERSEVERE
INTENTIONALLY AND RUN WITH ENDURANCE
HEBREWS 12:1-13



DAY ONE

PRAY: Please ask the Lord to open your heart to receive what He wants to teach you today.

MEMORIZE: This week we will review 2 Thessalonians 2:11-12 to make sure we have it hidden in our hearts.

From the words shown, please write down which phrase is missing:

“To this end we always pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling and every work of faith by his power, so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.”

STUDY: Today, we’ll look at Hebrews 12:1-2, which speaks of being “surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses.” Who are those witnesses? They’re the people spoken of in Hebrews 11. They were ordinary people who put their faith in God, and God was pleased with them. Please skim Hebrews 11 and read Hebrews 12:1-2 and answer the following.

1. *If we were to look back to the Old Testament, we would find that many of these witnesses made some very bad decisions, and yet in Hebrews 11, the author is commending them for their faith. What does this tell you about God’s focus on our faith versus our failures?

2. Please use Hebrews 11:1, 6 to explain what faith is. Please also write the opposite meaning according to what you see.

- a. What faith is:

- b. The opposite of faith:

3. What 4 commands are given in Hebrews 12:1-2a?

a. 1

b. 2

c. 3

d. 4

e. What place do you think faith has in carrying out those commands?

4. *Please list the opposite actions of the 4 commands given in Hebrews 12:1-2a.

a. 1

b. 2

c. 3

d. 4

e. Which of those behaviors are you tempted to get caught up in rather than following God's plan?

5. How do you differentiate between "weight that hinders" and "sin that entangles"?

6. According to Hebrews 12:2, please explain all the reasons Jesus is the motivation for our obedience. Of the reasons given, which reason most inspires your faith?

Please close in prayer and talk to the Lord about your faith and obedience, and His joy.

DAY TWO

PRAY: Please ask the Lord to give you a deeper insight into His motivation and purpose for discipline.

MEMORIZE: From the words shown in 2 Thessalonians 2:11-12, please write down which two phrases are missing:

"To this end we always pray for you, and may fulfill every resolve for good and every work of faith by his power, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ."

1. _____

2. _____

STUDY: Discipline in scripture is often a word that can be misunderstood. God's discipline for His children is not punishment, but training. Romans 8:1 says, "There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus." Today we'll study to understand God's motivation for discipling us. Please read Hebrews 12:1-7 and answer the following questions.

1. *According to verse 3, what is the first thing we need to focus on in overcoming sin? How does NOT focusing on that cause us to become “weary or fainthearted”?

2. According to verses 5-6, for what reason does God discipline us?

3. *We are often tempted to define God by our circumstances rather than defining our circumstances through the lens of God’s love for us as His children. Please complete the following statements to explain how they will impact your view your circumstances.

a. If God loves me and I am His child, then His purpose in allowing my circumstances is...

b. If I don’t matter to God, then His purpose in allowing my circumstances is...

4. Verse 7 begins, “It is for discipline (training) that you have to endure.” Please look back at Hebrews 12:1. What is God training us to do? Why is this important?

5. What “weights” or “entangling sins” is God training you to overcome in your life right now?

Please talk to God about how today’s passage impacts your view of Him and His discipline.

DAY THREE

PRAY: Please ask the Lord to help you understand how His discipline is different than the discipline of earthly parents.

MEMORIZE: Please fill in the blanks to complete 2 Thessalonians 2:11-12.

To this _____ we _____ pray for _____, that our _____ may _____ you _____ of his _____ and may _____ every _____ for _____ and every _____ of _____ by his _____, so that the _____ of our Lord Jesus may be _____ in you, and _____ in him, _____ to the _____ of our _____ and the _____ Jesus _____.

STUDY: One of the hardest struggles many people face is to not view our heavenly Father through the lens of our earthly father, especially in the area of discipline. Today's passage gives us a clear picture of how God's purposes and intentions are even higher than the godliest of parents. Please read Hebrews 12:7-13 and answer the following.

1. How is discipline a sign that you are someone's child?

2. Please use verses 7-10 to explain the differences between our earthly father and our heavenly Father.

3. Sometimes parents discipline for reasons other than the good of the child. What are some of those reasons?

4. *According to verse 10, what is God's purpose for disciplining us? How does His purpose impact your view of His discipline?

5. *Please read verse 11.

a. Why do you think God's discipline will seem painful when you're experiencing it?

b. What is the promised outcome of God's discipline?

c. What is our responsibility in being able to experience the promised outcome of God's discipline?

6. Verse 12 starts out with the word, "Therefore." What's the therefore there for?

7. What truths about God from this passage will help you to live out the commands of verses 12-13?

Please close this time in prayer. Tell the Lord any struggle you've had with understanding His discipline, and how today's passage will help you to persevere through it.

DAY FOUR

PRAY: Please open this time in prayer. Ask the Lord to give you a deeper understanding of the purposes and benefits of perseverance.

MEMORIZE: Please fill in the blanks to complete 2 Thessalonians 2:11-12. Only some of the smaller words are showing.

To _____ we _____ for _____,
_____ may _____ you _____ of _____
and _____ for _____ and _____
_____ of _____ by _____, so _____ the _____
of _____ be _____ in _____, and
_____ in _____, _____ to the _____ of _____ and
the _____.

STUDY: We've been looking at why God wants us to persevere and what place His discipline has in helping us persevere. Today we'll take a closer look at the obstacles that get in the way of our perseverance, and the reasons to not give up. Please read James 1:12-17 and answer the following.

1. According to verse 12, what is the blessing that comes in remaining steadfast under trial?

2. In what ways do we tend to blame God when we're under trials?

3. According to verse 13:

a. For what reasons does God not tempt us to sin?

b. Think about God as a good, spiritual Father as described in Hebrews 12. Why would a good Father NOT tempt His child to sin? (Ex. Why would a good Father not give his child illegal drugs?)

4. According to verse 14, what does tempt us to sin? Please give examples to explain your answer.

5. What is the progression from temptation to the finality of sin according to verses 14-15?

6. *Verse 16 says, "Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers." Then it follows with the truth of where good and perfect comes from.

a. Where does what is good and perfect come from?

b. What rationalizations do we use to justify that our sinful choices lead to what's good and perfect rather than to "death"? Please give an example to explain your answer.

7. *From what you've studied in Hebrews 12 and James 1, how would you summarize:

a. The importance of perseverance?

b. The difficulty of perseverance?

c. The hope of perseverance?

Please close this time in prayer and talk to the Lord about where you are in persevering with Him, and what good and perfect gifts you see coming from Him that motivate you to persevere.

DAY FIVE

PRAY: Please open this time in prayer. Ask the Lord to help you to be open to what He wants to teach you about the blessing of trials.

MEMORIZE: Please write 2 Thessalonians 2:11-12 from heart.

Please explain what you understand better about God's role as you've memorized this passage.

Please explain what you understand about your role from this passage.

What does this teach you about the importance of the bond you have with the Lord?

STUDY: Today we'll look at a scripture to help us have a deeper understanding of what it means to be resolved in persevering intentionally. Please read James 1:2-4 and answer the following.

1. Rephrase the passage in your own words.

2. From this passage, please list:

a. Words that refer to God

b. Words that refer to you

3. *How do the words listed in #2 impact your understanding of why intentional perseverance is important for your life?

4. *Please explain the obstacles that keep you from this resolve, and what truths from this passage help you to overcome those obstacles.

5. How will you specifically apply this passage to your life:

a. In your view of God?

b. In your priorities?

c. In your choices?

Please write a prayer to God telling Him what you learned from this passage and how you will respond.

2. Seek soul rest as you take on Christ's _____ and _____ from Him. (29-30)

Resolved Challenges



CHALLENGE - READING PLAN

Summit Point Church provides a Monday through Friday reading plan you can study daily. The Monday through Thursday passages refer to the passage that was preached the prior Sunday. Friday passages are what will be preached the following Sunday. If you would like to read a daily devotional email on the passages, you can sign up to receive the email, Climbing Up to the Heart of God.

Go to <https://summitpoint.org/climbing-up-to-the-heart-of-god> to subscribe.

A great way to study the passage is to follow the OPA method:

Before you do OPA, always begin and end with prayer. We NEED the Holy Spirit to reveal truth to us if we're going to learn and be changed.

O - OBSERVE: What are the details in the passage? Who is involved? What do you see about the heart of God? Why do we need this message?

P - PRINCIPLE: What principles, fundamental truths, or meaning can you draw from this passage?

A - APPLY: How can you apply what you see in this passage to specific circumstances, attitudes, or desires in your life? What do you need to confess? What can you praise God for?

CHALLENGE - PRAYER

Please use the following template to help you grow in your prayer life:

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Pray in the Spirit - Ephesians 6:18

Attitude of Prayer:

- Surrendered
- Sincere
- Humble
- Confident (in the Lord)
- Grateful

Motivation of Prayer - John 15:7-8

- Bear fruit for God
- Glorify God

OUR FATHER IN HEAVEN, HALLOWED BE YOUR NAME...

1. Romans 11:33-36

2. Lamentations 3:22-23

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

YOUR KINGDOM COME, YOUR WILL BE DONE ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN.

1. 1 Corinthians 15:57-58

2. Psalm 119:35-37

3. Psalm 62:8

4. People I want to pray for and scripture:

a. Person: _____ scripture: _____

b. Person: _____ scripture: _____

c. Person: _____ scripture: _____

d. Person: _____ scripture: _____

e. Person: _____ scripture: _____

GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY BREAD

1. Psalm 37:23

2. Proverbs 16:3

3. _____

4. _____

5. Issues for today: _____

FORGIVE US OUR SINS

1. 1 John 1:9

2. Psalm 103:10

3. Things I need to confess

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

d. _____

AS WE FORGIVE THOSE WHO SIN AGAINST US

1. Ephesians 4:32

2. Romans 12:18

3. People I need help from God to forgive

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

d. _____

LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION, BUT DELIVER US FROM EVIL

1. Ephesians 6:10-18

- a. Helmet of salvation
 - i. Romans 12:1-2/Proverbs 4:25
 - ii. That I would be transformed by the renewing of my mind and not be distracted from the Lord
 - iii. That I would not be deceived by Satan to believe that things are hopeless (Romans 5:3-5)
- b. Breastplate of righteousness
 - i. Hosea 10:12/1 John 2:15-17
 - ii. That I would love what God loves and hate what He hates
 - iii. That I would not be tempted to love the things of the world (1 John 2:15-17)
- c. Belt of truth
 - i. John 8:32
 - ii. That I would be held together by truth and not by my emotions
 - iii. That I would not believe Satan's lies and deceptions (John 10:10)
- d. Shoes fit with the readiness given by the Gospel of peace
 - i. Isaiah 52:7
 - ii. That I would walk knowing that my foundation is the Gospel
 - iii. That I would not be tempted to rely on myself (Proverbs 28:26)
- e. Shield of faith
 - i. Ephesians 3:14-21
 - ii. That I would hold up His shield of faith in ALL circumstances
 - iii. That I would not be tripped up by Satan's attempts to cause me to doubt (Romans 8:31-34)
- f. Sword of the Spirit which is the word of God
 - i. Psalm 19:7-9
 - ii. That I would only fight using God's word and nothing else
 - iii. That I would know God's word so that Satan can't twist His word to trip me up (Psalm 119:11)

PRAYER RESOURCES:

A Praying Life, by Paul E. Miller

Dark Clouds, Deep Mercy, by Mark Vroegopp

Waiting on God, by Andrew Murray

CHALLENGE - THE WORD

Psalm 119 is the longest chapter in the bible. It is a prayer to the Lord, broken up into 22 sections, each separated by a letter of the Hebrew alphabet. In each section, the psalmist speaks directly to the Lord about His word. For this challenge, please use the OPA method to study each section of the psalm. Please especially take note of the emotion and feeling behind each section. How does this help you in your understanding of how personal God's word is?

CHALLENGE - TREASURES

Please use the template for the White Hot Study method to study the following passages:

1. Psalm 62
2. Psalm 73
3. James 1:1-18
4. Colossians 2:1-15

WHITE HOT BIBLE STUDY

Study one passage: _____

1. Ask the Lord for insight before you start and dedicate this time to Him.
2. Rephrase each verse. (You can use thesaurus.com to help.)
 - a. The rephrase might be longer than the actual verse. Don't miss any aspect of it.
3. Write down all the action verbs.
 - a. Which ones are about God?
 - b. Which ones apply to you?
4. Write down all the words that repeat 3 X's or more.
5. Write down any purpose statements (i.e., in order that, so that, because, for) and the phrases they connect.
6. Do a deeper study on verses that catch your attention. Go to Biblehub.com for help.
7. Summarize the passage.
8. Write down what you learn about the character of God. His:

a. Love	e. Grace
b. Power	f. Mercy
c. Authority	g. Goodness
d. Wisdom	

9. Write down how you will specifically apply this passage to your circumstances.
- a. What sin do you need to confess?
 - i. What have you not believed about Him?
 - ii. What attitudes have not aligned with Him?
 - iii. What actions go against His character?
 - b. What can you thank Him for?
 - c. What do you need to surrender?
 - d. In what ways do you need to love your neighbor more like Christ?
 - i. In attitude?
 - ii. In action?
10. Pray: Tell the Lord what you learned, what you're thankful for, how you're going to apply this passage to your life...

CHALLENGE - ENDURANCE

Please use the White Hot Bible Study to study the following passages:

- 1. 1 Peter 5:6-11
- 2. Philippians 3:1-11

WHITE HOT BIBLE STUDY

Study one passage: _____

- 1. Ask the Lord for insight before you start and dedicate this time to Him.
- 2. Rephrase each verse. (You can use thesaurus.com to help.)
 - a. The rephrase might be longer than the actual verse. Don't miss any aspect of it.
- 3. Write down all the action verbs.
 - a. Which ones are about God?
 - b. Which ones apply to you?
- 4. Write down all the words that repeat 3 X's or more.
- 5. Write down any purpose statements (i.e. in order that, so that, because, for) and the phrases they connect.

6. Do a deeper study on verses that catch your attention. Go to Biblehub.com for help.
7. Summarize the passage.
8. Write down what you learn about the character of God. His ~
 - a. Love
 - b. Power
 - c. Authority
 - d. Wisdom
 - e. Grace
 - f. Mercy
 - g. Goodness
9. Write down how you will specifically apply this passage to your circumstances.
 - a. What sin do you need to confess?
 - i. What have you not believed about Him?
 - ii. What attitudes have not aligned with Him?
 - iii. What actions go against His character?
 - b. What can you thank Him for?
 - c. What do you need to surrender?
 - d. In what ways do you need to love your neighbor more like Christ?
 - i. In attitude?
 - ii. In action?
10. Pray: Tell the Lord what you learned, what you're thankful for, how you're going to apply this passage to your life...

Please use the Scripture Worksheet to study the following passages:

1. 1 Timothy 4:6-8
2. Galatians 6:9
3. Romans 5:3-5
4. 1 Peter 1:6-7
5. Philippians 3:12-14

DIVE DEEPER INTO SCRIPTURE

Please take a few minutes to focus on God's character and tell Him what you see in Him. Ask Him to help you to believe the truth of who He is. (He is faithful, holy, Redeemer, God of encouragement, God of peace, slow to anger, merciful, gracious, trustworthy...)

Passage: _____

1. Rephrase the passage in your own words.
2. List the action words from the passage
 - a. Words that refer to God
 - b. Words that refer to you
 - c. Words that refer someone else
3. What do you learn about God from this passage? His:
 - a. Love
 - b. Power
 - c. Authority
 - d. Wisdom
 - e. Grace
 - f. Mercy
 - g. Goodness
4. How will you specifically apply this passage to your circumstances?
 - a. What sin do you need to confess?
 - i. What have you not believed about Him?
 - ii. What attitudes have not aligned with Him?
 - iii. What actions go against His character?
 - b. What obstacles keep you from doing what God wants you to do?
 - c. What can you thank Him for?
 - d. What do you need to surrender?
 - e. In what ways do you need to love your neighbor more like Christ?
 - i. In attitude?
 - ii. In action?
5. Please write a prayer to God telling Him what you learn from this passage and how you will respond.