



VICTORIOUS SECRETS

The Word Became Flesh

In our Christian journey, we develop our faith over time. Spiritual disciplines, then, are habits, practices, and experiences designed to help grow and strengthen certain qualities of spirit — to build one’s character and expand the breadth of one’s inner life. Some spiritual disciplines are personal, inward exercises that are practiced alone; others require interpersonal relationships and are practiced in community. This series will take a deeper dive into how we can become victorious in developing our relationship with God.

- What is something that stuck out to you from last Sunday’s teaching?
- Circle Time: How often do you read scripture?
 - In what ways have you noticed scripture reading impact your life?
 - What are some things that stop you from reading scripture?
 - What are some ways you’ve disciplined yourself to make scripture an important part of your life?
- Read Deuteronomy 6:4-9
 - This section of scripture is commonly known as “*The Shema*”. Shema translated into English means “*Hear!*”. It’s the first word of v. 4. How does understanding the emphasis on hearing the Word of the Lord shape how you understand this passage?
 - What do you think it means to claim that God is one? *The Shema doesn’t allow for nominal attachment to Yahweh over other deities. It’s claim is that God is the ONLY deity and therefore should receive your total attachment to Him.*
 - A more literal translation of the Hebrew words for “*These commandments*” is actually “*These words*”. These words are to be upon the heart, but how? What do you think that means?
 - The heart in this context refers to the forming of a person’s character or disposition. How do you leverage God’s Word in your life to accomplish that?
 - How does The Shema instruct us to make *these words* a part of the living fabric of everyday life? *These instructions are to govern daily life and activities both at home where love of God is taught and modeled, and at the gates, the centers of public assembly where justice is given out. The practice of the love of God is to permeate every sphere of life.*
- Read John 1:1-17
 - In his message, Dave taught us that the written Word leads us to “*The Word became flesh*”. After reading this passage in John explain what you think that statement mean in its fullness.
 - Respond to this statement: *To fully understand Christ you have to have a relationship with scripture. To fully understand scripture you have to have a relationship with Christ.*
 - How have you found that to be true in your life?