

The Know and Grow Devo

Week 2 (Sunday, May 27th - Saturday, June 2nd)

Read: Psalm 1 out loud. All six verses.

Reminder: Last week we reflected on God's blessings in our life. We thought about how God's presence with us in life is a blessing and we also praised God for the other tangible blessings that we have received from him. The second half of verse one tells us about a person who is *not* experiencing God's presence and blessing.

Reading and Reflection: Read Psalm 1:1. Walks >> Stands >> Sits. A downhill progression.

1. It begins with *walking in the counsel of the wicked*. Perhaps you are not heeding the counsel, but it is still feeding you -- subtly seeping into your thoughts and attitudes. Is it less-than holy advice from a friend? Media with recurring ungodly themes? Do you have any "wicked counsel" in your life? What is it? Where is it coming from? "Blessed is the man who *walks not*" in this counsel. How can you guard against walking in that counsel?
2. It proceeds to standing. The man passively becomes more comfortable in the "counsel of the wicked". Eventually, this counsel will offer something interesting enough to make us stop walking and *stand*. Here is the word picture: Instead of passively being *around* ungodly influences, we semi-actively "stand in the way of sinners" hoping to meet others on this road. Are you semi-actively "standing"? Enticed by something you see in the way of sinner? Put another way, what sins or obstacles to God are you passively allowing in your life? "Blessed is the man who *stands not*" in the way of sinners. How can you guard against standing in the way of sinners?
3. Unchecked ungodly counsel leads to passive participation, and finally to *actively* sitting and relaxing in the "seat of scoffers". Godly wisdom is scorned and those who follow it are mocked. If you occupy this seat, God's grace is enough for you. He is calling you to rise from the seat of mockery, walk away from wicked counsel and walk into the life of Jesus. If you do not occupy this seat, let this final resting place be a warning. It is the end of the downward slope. The voices of the "counsel of the wicked" may seem harmless, but be careful. If they are left to stand in your life you may soon find yourself occupying the seat of scoffers -- having yourself become a mouthpiece of the counsel of the wicked! Oftentimes, Godly wisdom seems foolish to the world. Do *you ever* (perhaps unknowingly) scorn Godly wisdom? Do you need to repent of anything in that regard?

Pray: How great is God's grace! Were it not for grace, we would have no choice but to slide quickly down this slope of wickedness. Come to the Lord and praise him for his grace at work in your life. Pray that he would give you the grace to address the sin and obstacles in your life.

Memorize: Verse 1 by June 3.

The Know and Grow Challenge

Know the word; grow in the Lord.

What is it: A challenge to memorize all of Psalm 1 (know) in order to give our faith deep roots in God's word (grow). Weekly devotions will help apply what is being memorized and learned.

Who is it for: Every individual at Pathway Community Church who wants to be more deeply rooted in God's word.

Why do it: We are praying that...

1. Our church and each member of our church would more clearly see Jesus, know Jesus, and grow in their love for Him and His word (Hebrews 1:1-3).
2. Our households would take a new step forward in intentionally allowing God's word to shape our everyday life and practice (Deuteronomy 6:1-9).
3. We, as individuals and a church, would be more in awe of God's word (Psalm 19:7-11).
4. We, as individuals and a church, would begin to store more of God's word in our hearts (Psalm 119:11).
5. We, as individuals and a church, would learn how to delight in God's word (Psalm 1).

How to do it: First, *make the decision* to take the challenge and choose who to do it with. Do it by yourself, with a friend, or with your whole household. Second, pick up or print out your "Know and Grow Devo" pack. Finally, start memorizing and engaging with the weekly devo!

Suggested Memory Schedule (have it memorized by):

- Verse 1: June 3
- Verse 2: June 17
- Verse 3: July 1
- Verse 4: July 15
- Verse 5: July 29
- Verse 6: August 6

Steps to success:

1. Commit to a specific time in your schedule to memorizing/reviewing (in the car, doing chores, at the dinner table, etc).
2. Get *ahead* of the memory schedule (at the very least stay on target).
3. Review what you have memorized daily... try using different contexts for review (write it down, type it out, say it out loud to a friend/yourself, say it in your head, listen to it on your phone, etc).
4. Talk with your friends or family weekly about what you are learning from the Psalm. Talk about *everything!* The new things that you're noticing as a result of meditating on it; the things that God is teaching you; how you are seeing it applied in your life; the beauty of the poem; the emotions it evokes; etc!
5. Engage in the weekly devotion to help drive home all of your *knowing* and *growing*.