

The Know and Grow Devo

Week 5 (Sunday, June 17th - Saturday, June 23rd)

Read: Psalm 1 out loud. All six verses.

Reminder: So far we have reflected on the first two verses of this Psalm. We talked about the blessings that we have received from God and the great happiness in knowing that God is present with us. We reflected on how we can keep watch against ungodly influences in our lives. Then the last few weeks we learned about delighting in and meditating on God's instruction. That brings us to verse 3. The Psalmist here chooses to teach us more about the "blessed" person through imagery instead of just telling us what is true of such a person.

Reading and Reflection: Read Psalm 1:1-3. The physical land that the Psalmist knew was quite barren most times of the year. So the picture of a flourishing, well-nourished tree stands out! The Psalmist invites us to picture a healthy tree. So take a moment to immerse yourself in this image. Picture the sturdy, brown bark. The unwavering branches. The flourishing leaves. Breathe in the oxygen the tree provides. Smell the life it brings. Imagine the roots that are richly fed by the running water. That's the image of the man who is constantly nourished by God's word.

1. What elements of the tree image stick out to you? Why?
2. Why do you think the Psalmist uses this image?

Further Reflection: For a tree to survive and thrive in such a way would require very intentional care. The tree has been planted firmly in a highly cultivated area. A secure, thriving tree like this in Israel does not just happen by accident. Neither does a person thrive and become secure in their faith by accident. It is purely an act of God's grace. Unless God graciously reveals himself to us through his word and through Jesus we can never expect to be like this tree. We receive nourishment from God's word and from Jesus. As a result, our leaves never wither and we bear fruit. Our faith has deep roots and constantly feeds off of the word of the LORD. Reflect on these words that define a faith like the tree: secure, steadfast, deep-rooted, healthy, fruit-filled, lush.

Read: John 15:4-5.

1. It is by God's grace alone that we can have a deeply-rooted faith. In what ways can you embrace God's grace more in your life to gain even deeper roots?
2. What does it look like to abide in Jesus?
3. The tree bears fruit in its season, what fruit have you seen in your life as a result of the Know and Grow challenge? Or more broadly, how else has Scripture created fruit in you?

Pray: Thank God for his amazing grace that provides you with an abundance of nutrients and water which helps you grow strong and sturdy. Ask the Holy Spirit to bear more fruit in your life in order to bless others.

Memorize: Verse 3 by July 1st.

Mnemonic device: I picture a tree with the fruit and its lush leaves. It is prospering.

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*.