

The Know and Grow Devo

Week 6 (Sunday, June 24th - Saturday, June 30th)

Read: Psalm 1 out loud. All six verses.

Reminder and Reflection: After doing this devo you will be halfway done with the Know and Grow challenge! We have been praying that each of us would be less inclined to heed the “counsel of the wicked” and instead meditate on God’s word day and night. The picture the Psalmist uses for those who love God’s word is that of a healthy, thriving tree.

1. How has God’s word been giving you deeper roots in your faith recently?
2. Are you thirsting for God’s word as if it were the only source of vitality? If not, ask that God would grow your hunger for his word daily.
3. Now let’s get ready for today’s devo... how does the world define something or someone that is prospering? How do you think God defines it?

Reading and Reflection: Psalm 1:1-3. Last week we reflected on various elements of the tree image that the Psalmist uses. The last part of verse 3, however, reveals the major defining quality of the tree (and thus the major defining quality of the “blessed” person): “in all that he does, he prospers”. The Psalm is not saying, “follow God’s law so that you will prosper”. A person can do *nothing* to make themselves prosper. The verb “he prospers” is passive in form -- meaning something more like, “everything that he does is *made to prosper* (by God)”. Once again, God’s grace is *central* to the “blessed person”. They are prosperous because God is with them. Take a moment to reflect on how God’s gracious presence with you makes you “prosperous”.

Think back to the question of defining prosperous. Sometimes, prosperity in the eyes of God does not seem to match up with prosperity in the eyes of the world. A person with deep-rooted faith will know God’s will will certainly come to pass. They can therefore be assured that if their life is in line with the will of God, though the world may look down upon them, they are indeed prospering. How do we know the will of God? By studying what he has revealed to us in his instruction. What characterizes the blessed man? Delighting in the instruction of the Lord! **The more you know and love God’s word, the more convinced you will be that God is making your prosper** (even when it doesn’t seem like it).

1. Share a few ways that God has “made you prosper” as a result of obeying his word.
2. Diagnose your life. Are there things that are currently not “prospering”? Are they not prospering because (a) they are not in line with God’s will or (b) because you are using the world’s standards to define prospering? What do you need to repent of in that regard?

Pray: Thank God for being gracious enough to make his children prosper in his will. Ask that he would give you eyes to better understanding Godly prospering.

Memorize: Verse 3 by July 1st.

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*.