

Week 5

First Things First: Priorities

Jesus doesn't ask to be a priority among many. He asks to be THE priority among all — everything else finds its proper place after that.

Day 1 — Seeking First

Optional Reading: Psalm 27 • Haggai 1 • Matthew 6 • Philippians 3 • Matthew 13 • Luke 12

“But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be provided for you.”
(Matthew 6:33)

"Seek first" is a sequencing word, not a percentage. Jesus isn't asking for the biggest slice of your time; he's asking to go first, so everything else gets ordered around him rather than squeezed in around your own agenda.

Most disordered lives aren't lives with no room for God. They're lives that need to be reordered.

Bible Study Questions

1. Read Psalm 27:4. What is the “one thing” the psalmist asks of the Lord?

2. Read Haggai 1:4. What point is God making in this verse.

3. Read Haggai 1:9. What does God say happened to what the people brought home? Why does God say He ruined it?

4. Read Matthew 6:24. What is said happens if we are devoted and love something other than God?

5. Read Philippians 3:8. What does Paul say he considers everything else, compared to knowing Christ?

6. Read Matthew 13:44. What emotion does this man feel when he gives up everything for what he found?

7. Read Matthew 13:46. What does the merchant do after searching and finding one pearl of great value?

8. Read Luke 12:22-31. According to this verse, what should we do and what are we to trust God with?

Reflect: *What currently goes first in your day, your week, your decisions — before God even enters the picture?*

Journal: *What impacted you during this devotion? How will you apply this to your life?*

Day 2 — Who is Actually on the Throne

Optional Reading: Deuteronomy 6 • Exodus 32 • Exodus 20 • 1 Kings 18 • Ezekiel 14 • Matthew 6 • Colossians 3

“Do not have other gods besides me.” (Exodus 20:3)

Modern idols don’t often look like statues. They look like career, over commitment, comfort, seeking approval, a relationship, activities, a screen. An idol is whatever you protect over your daily walk with God. It is EVERYTHING that takes the place of your time with God.

Naming an idol honestly is uncomfortable, but it's the only way to actually dethrone it.

Bible Study Questions

1. Read Deuteronomy 6:14. What are the Israelites specifically warned not to follow?

2. Read Exodus 32:1. What do the people ask Aaron to make for them?

3. Read Exodus 32:4. What does Aaron make out of the gold?

4. Read 1 Kings 18:18-21. Write out the question Elijah asks the people.

5. Read Ezekiel 14:1-8. What does God say these men have set up “in their hearts”? v8 How does God respond?

6. Read Matthew 6:21. According to this verse, where will your heart be?

7. Read Colossians 3:5. What does this verse call greed? Have you ever considered greed in this way?

8. Read Colossians 3:2. What are believers told to set their minds on?

Reflect: *If you're honest, what competes hardest with God for first place in your life right now? What did you do last week instead of spending time with God, but then thought “I didn’t have time?”*

Journal: What impacted you during this devotion? How will you apply this to your life?

Day 3 — Four Habits That Reorder a Life

Optional Reading: Joshua 1 • Psalm 1 • Daniel 6 • Luke 5 • Acts 2 • 2 Timothy 3

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread, and to prayer.
(Acts 2:42)

The early church didn't stumble into spiritual maturity. They built it through repeated practices — learning together, prayer, community, and shared meals. None of these habits are impressive alone. Together, over time, they reorder a life around Jesus.

Priorities aren't proven by what you *say* matters most. They're *proven by what you practice* most.

Bible Study Questions

1. Read Joshua 1:8. When is Joshua told to meditate on the Book of the Law?

2. Read Psalm 1:2. What does the blessed person delight in, and when does he meditate on it?

3. Read Daniel 6:10. What habit did Daniel keep even after it became illegal and dangerous to do so?

4. Read Luke 5:16. What habit of Jesus is described in this verse? When did He do this?

5. Read Acts 2:42. List all four things the believers devoted themselves to.

6. Read Acts 2:46. Where and when did the believers meet, according to this verse?

7. Read Acts 4:31. What happened to the place, and to the believers, after they prayed?

8. Read 2 Timothy 3:16. List the four things Scripture is described as useful for, and what it accomplishes.

Reflect: Which of these habits — learning, community, prayer, shared life — is weakest in your week right now?

Journal: What impacted you during this devotion? How will you apply this to your life?

Day 4 — Evidence of a Reordered Life

Optional Reading: 1 John 3 • John 5 • Matthew 7 • James 1 • James 2 • Luke 6 • Titus 1 • Romans 12

“Therefore, brothers and sisters, in view of the mercies of God, I urge you to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God; this is your true worship.” (Romans 12:1)

It's easy to say Jesus comes first. Does the evidence support the claim? Paul's picture of worship isn't a feeling on a Sunday morning — it's a body, a schedule, every choice actually offered up.

If someone reviewed your last seven days like evidence in a case, what verdict would they reach about your priorities?

Bible Study Questions

1. Read 1 John 3:18. According to this verse, what two things does John say love must not be limited to?

2. Read Matthew 7:20. According to this verse, how will you recognize Christ followers?

3. Read James 1:22. What are believers told to be, not merely hearers? What are believers doing if only hearers?

4. Read James 2:17. What does James say faith by itself, without works, is? (*Remember, we are free for works, not because of works.*)

5. Read Luke 6:45. Where does this verse say the mouth speaks from?

6. Read Titus 1:16. According to this verse, what can someone's actions do to their claim of knowing God?

7. Read Romans 12:1. What word does Paul use to describe the offering of your body?

8. Read Romans 12:2. What are believers told to test and approve?

Reflect: Looking honestly at last week's calendar and spending, what evidence would it give of your true priorities?

Journal: What impacted you during this devotion? How will you apply this to your life?

Day 5 — A Week Audited by Jesus

Optional Reading: Ecclesiastes 3 • Psalm 90 • Psalm 46 • Luke 14 • Ephesians 5 • Matthew 25 • Colossians 3

“Martha, Martha,” the Lord answered, “you are worried and upset about many things, but one thing is necessary. Mary has made the right choice, and it will not be taken away from her.” (Luke 10:41–42)

Martha wasn't doing anything wrong — she was busy serving. Jesus' correction wasn't about her effort; it was about her priority. Mary had chosen the "one thing" — sitting at Jesus' feet — and Martha had let good activity crowd out the best activity she could have done.

Busy and prioritized are not the same thing. This week, plan one deliberate change that puts Jesus first, not just fit in.

Bible Study Questions

1. Read Ecclesiastes 3:1. According to this verse, what is there a time for?

2. Read Psalm 90:10. According to this verse, how does the psalmist describe the way our years pass?

3. Read Psalm 90:12. What does Moses ask God to teach us to do?

4. Read Psalm 46:10. What are you told to stop doing, and what are you told to know instead?

5. Read Luke 14:28. What does Jesus say to do before building a tower?

6. Read Ephesians 5:15–16. What two instructions are given about how you live and the time?

7. Read Matthew 25:21. Write out the phrase the master repeats twice to the faithful servant.

8. Read Colossians 3:23–24. According to this verse, what should everything we do be done for?

Reflect: *What's one specific, practical change you can make this week so Jesus is scheduled first, not squeezed in?*

Journal: What impacted you during this devotion? How will you apply this to your life?

Memorization: What verse this week impacted you in a way that you should commit it to memory?
