

Christmas Study

This last year has been anything but typical.

I am sure for most, we long for the calendar to turn 2021. However, the change year will not heal those wounds and fix those bad habits that follow us through life. To heal and grow takes a move of God and hard work. Although our holiday celebrations may look a little different this year, we still find ourselves distracted and busy. It is so important that we finish this year well and launch into 2021 on the right path! We must shift our focus, simplify everything and resolve to make Jesus the center of it all. While most Christians have these ambitions, many fall short of achieving their goals.

Join us as we discover how to make Jesus the center of it all.

- **What does it mean to make Jesus the center of it all? How do we practically shift our focus on Jesus? What most distracts you from living your life completely for God? What in 2021 would you like to change about your life and habits?**

- Read the following verses and discuss how they relate
 - Matthew 6:31-33
 - Jesus tells us to seek first the kingdom! What does this mean? It means to seek the things of God and make them a priority over the things of the world. It does not mean we become lazy and neglect the work needed to be done to complete our tasks. But means our attitude towards work and the mundane changes... because we find Jesus in everything! Seek Him first, even in those things that seem unimportant, He is always at work!
 - Proverbs 16:3
 - Matthew 6:24
 - Galatians 2:20
 - Colossians 3:1-4
 - Romans 8:5
 - Mathew 22:37
 - John 15:5
 - Proverbs 3:6
 - Deuteronomy 6:5
 - 1 Chronicles 16:11
 - Matthew 6:33

- **How do we know if we are seeking the Kingdom first? Where and on what do I spend most of my time and energy? Where and on what do I spend my money?**
 - Read the following verses and discuss how they relate
 - Psalm 25:4-5
 - Psalm 25:9
 - Psalm 119:105
 - Psalm 37:23-24
 - Deuteronomy 1:29-33
 - Jeremiah 29:13

These next few weeks, spend time in prayer and reflection and honestly answer the question, “Is God the center of my life?” To live a life that is Christ centered and seeks His kingdom and righteousness we must continually root out and repent of our sin, read and study the Bible and be in community with those who live like Jesus. Although 2020 threw some things at us that we were not prepared for, it exposed those areas in our lives where we need to grow. If Jesus is truly the center, if we are seeking first His Kingdom and righteousness, then external events will not knock us of course. If anything... the harder the year or circumstance, the brighter we shine to a very dark world.

- Read the following verses and discuss how they relate
 - Matthew 5:16
 - John 8:12
 - Ephesians 5:8
 - Daniel 12:3
 - Psalm 46:1-3
 - Proverbs 18:10
 - Nehemiah 8:10
 - Isaiah 26:3-4