



Give **CAREFUL**
THOUGHT
to Your **WAYS**

DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

 **RIVERSIDE**
CHURCH

Riversiders,

Everyone has a WAY of living (sometimes called a “rule of life” or “rhythm of life”). One might not be able to verbalize their ways, but you can easily see them in daily rhythms:

- where they spend their time, energy, and money
- what they treasure and seek fulfillment and satisfaction in
- what gives them a sense of purpose and meaning

At Riverside, we are called to help each other “Give Careful Thought to Our Ways.” There are many scriptures about paying attention to your daily rhythms and aligning them with God’s mission: for example, Haggai 1:5, Matthew 7:21-23, Mark 1:35, John 15:4-5, Romans 12:1-2, Colossians 2:6-8, 1st Timothy 4:8, Hebrews 12:1-2, and 2nd Peter 2:5-9.

Becoming more like Jesus requires a plan of action; otherwise, it will never happen. Because of this, Riverside’s main approach to ministry is helping one another live intentionally.

Make no mistake, we do not think someone can “will themselves” to become more like Jesus nor “earn” God’s love. But we each have a major role to play in structuring our lives and cultivating space for our growth. Riverside is committed to helping each other move beyond random, haphazard approaches to following Jesus. We pray this devotional aids us in growing to be more like Jesus together.

Love you all!

Keith

Pastor/elder

P.S. The devotional is also available online at riversidecommunity.org and you can subscribe to receive it daily in your email box.



WEEK 1

SUNDAY (10/6/19) - SERMON NOTES



GIVE CAREFUL THOUGHT TO YOUR WAYS

Last month we spent a lot of time & energy learning, memorizing, and reflecting on the things that become true of us as we are “in Christ” from Ephesians (see *doctrine box on page 6*). These things are given, or imparted, or made true of us, because of Christ and His work on our behalf.

This week, we heard Keith speak on “giving careful thought to our ways” from **Haggai 1:5**. Considering. Weighing. Examining.

This implies some action on our part. God has called us chosen, precious, valuable, sons and daughters, and much more. In light of those truths we can look at our lives from the past and the future. We can consider how we have lived, and then consider how we want to move forward. We can, like Daniel from the Bible, resolve to live lives that are carefully thought over.

Continued on the next page...



I am excited to make this true of myself and I hope you are as well. This week we are going to consider some more words of the prophets to the Israelites and then camp out in 2nd Timothy. Hopefully as you read words from Joshua, Isaiah, and Jeremiah you will be spurred on to pray and allow the Holy Spirit to examine the way that you have been heading as well as shed light on where He wants you to go.



DOCTRINE BOX

When we say “in Christ” or “faith in Jesus” or “salvation” we mean:

- Have you trusted that Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection is sufficient to remove your sins and separation from God?(1 Corinthians 15:17)
- Have you repented in a way that Jesus is now the boss of your life (aka, given allegiance to Jesus)? The word repent means to “turn around and head a different direction.” (Mark 1:15)
- If so, then you have been given the Holy Spirit and are sealed “in Christ” (Ephesians 2:8-9)

All of this is often summarized in the Bible as “To be IN CHRIST” (vs. to be separated from God because of sin). Titus 3:3-9 is a GREAT summary of “salvation” and what our response should be (towards God and towards the world) in light of God’s love and action.

MONDAY (10/7/19)

Read the following three passages aloud several times each.

Joshua 24:14-27

Joshua is the leader that God appointed to follow Moses and to lead the people into the Promised Land. As he is getting ready to die, he exhorts the people to consider how they are living and choose each one for themselves how they will order their lives.

Isaiah 44:13-20

Isaiah is a prophet to the Israelites as they have departed far from the Lord and His ways, despite their words to Joshua. In this passage he is asking the people to consider their thinking. They are at the point of being taken captive and headed into exile in a foreign land.

Jeremiah 6:16

Jeremiah is also a prophet about the time of the exile.

After reading these, consider this:

- ② What is the Lord impressing on your heart about your life & times?

- ② What does He want you to give careful thought to?


- ② Are there ways that you are saying “I will not walk in Your ways”?

TUESDAY (10/8/19)

The Old Testament prophets have encouraged us to consider our ways. For the rest of the week, we are going to look at a New Testament character: Timothy.

Timothy was a disciple of the Apostle Paul. He was a young pastor. Paul dearly loved him and referred to him as “my true son in the faith.” Paul wrote to Timothy near the end of his own life urging him to carefully consider how he lives, serves, and leads. We see this in the letter of 2nd Timothy. Let’s learn together!

Remember to spend time praying and asking the Holy Spirit to lead you while you are reading.

 If you want to watch **The Bible Project** video related to this, check it out here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=urlvnxCaL00>

 **Read 2nd Timothy 1**

② What are the ways that Paul described himself in this chapter?

② Is this picture of Paul appealing to you? Would you want to have dinner with him? Why?

② How does it seem that he feels about Timothy? How does he describe these feelings?

② How does it seem that Paul has encouraged Timothy to carefully consider his ways?

② Is there anything that the Holy Spirit is saying to you today?



WEDNESDAY (10/9/19)

Pray and ask for wisdom.

Read 2nd Timothy 2

Let's do the simple Know, Be, Do style of dissecting this chapter today!

KNOW (*What does the text say about God?*)

BE (*What does the text say about us?*)

DO (*What is the text calling me to do?*)

Take time today to think through those questions from this passage.

 KNOW:

 BE:

 DO:

THURSDAY (10/10/19)

Pray and ask for the guidance and leading of the Spirit.


 **Read 2nd Timothy 3**

② What does Paul warn will characterize the “last days?”

② Where do you see these things in our culture today?

② Whom have you learned from (v.14)? What is it about their life that moves you to imitate?


② How specifically does scripture equip you (the man or woman of God) to do His good works? Where do you feel not equipped?

 Is there someone you could learn from? Ask them this week to walk alongside of you.



FRIDAY (10/11/19)

Pray. Then read.

 **Read 2nd Timothy 4**

Let's do the simple Know, Be, Do style of dissecting this chapter today!

KNOW (*What does the text say about God?*)

BE (*What does the text say about us?*)

DO (*What is the text calling me to do?*)

 **KNOW:**

 **BE:**

 **DO:**

 Sit quietly and just enjoy some time with the Lord.

SATURDAY (10/12/19)

- 🎵 Spend a few minutes singing aloud whatever worship song comes to your mind.
- 📖 Then read all of **2nd Timothy** just like you'd read a letter.



SUNDAY (10/13/19)

2nd Timothy 1:12 says: *“That is why I am suffering as I am. Yet I am not ashamed, Because I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that He is able to guard what I have entrusted to Him for that day.”*

② Whom have you believed? From this past week of reading (and even the past months) describe the God you are (hopefully) knowing more each day. Look through 2 Timothy and reflect.

✍ Spend some time thanking Him for who He is to you. Use the free space to write down phrases that come to mind. Or write a letter to God thanking Him.



WEEK 2

SUNDAY (10/13/19) - SERMON NOTES

MONDAY (10/14/19)

Yesterday, Keith shared about the process of allowing our minds to be transformed and renewed. What an amazing blessing that our minds can actually be fundamentally changed. We all live in the story that we believe - about God and about ourselves. Telling ourselves a true story, believing the true story, changes everything.

This week, we are going to get to know a man named Job and some of his friends and see what story they believed about each other and about who God is.

We are going to do a “fly over” in the book of Job. I say a fly over because Job has 42 chapters filled with incredible thoughts, a heart wrenching pain, and few answers. We will hit some highlights that might prompt you to do further study. All week long we are going to ask similar questions that will move us on a path of examining how we perceive God versus who He reveals Himself to be.

Yesterday we pondered Paul’s words about “knowing whom he has believed in” to the extent that he could suffer joyfully. I want to grow that in myself. A steadfast knowing of God that walks with me through my circumstances.

The reading this week is a bit longer. The book of Job is a story that I hope we get caught up in.

The Bible Project has a great video on Job:

 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xQwnH8th_fs

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MONDAY CONTINUED... (10/14/19)

Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to teach and speak to you as you listen and read.

 **Read Job 1 and 2**


- ② What do we learn about God from these chapters (KNOW):

- ② What do we learn about evil/Satan from these chapters?

- ② What do we learn about Job?

- ② What about Job's friends? What do we learn about Job's wife? How do they strike you?

- ② How do you feel about the background conversation between God and Satan? Does this stir any feelings in you?

-  Share your feelings with the Lord in prayer. Perhaps write out some questions you have. However you best 'sit' with God, let Him in on your thoughts.

TUESDAY (10/15/19)

Today, after you pray for wisdom, read through the Doctrine Box on Suffering before reading the next chapter.



DOCTRINE BOX - SUFFERING

C.S. Lewis explains, “The Christian doctrine of suffering explains, I believe, a very curious fact about the world we live in. The settled happiness and security which we all desire, God withholds from us by the nature of the world: but joy, pleasure, and merriment He has scattered broadcast...The security we crave would teach us to rest our hearts in this world and oppose an obstacle to our return to God...Our Father refreshes us on the journey with some pleasant inns, but will not encourage us to mistake them for home.”

Truths about Suffering (adapted from DesiringGod.org)

- It is a normal part of our life here/God knew that we would experience suffering (Acts 14:22).
- It is experienced for various reasons; many times we are caught in the cross-hairs of spiritual warfare, impacted by the fallenness and sin in ourselves as well as those around us, and we have an enemy that is seeking to destroy us (1 Peter 5:8).
- Reminds us we are not in heaven, we are not “home” (Revelation 21:1,4).
- Is multifaceted/presents differently to us all (2 Corinthians 4:8-9).
- We are meant to suffer together (Galatians 6:2).
- Can equip us for ministry depending on our response (2 Corinthians 1:4).
- Is a battleground for my soul (Job 2:9-10).
- Prepares us for more glory (2 Corinthians 4:17-18).


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TUESDAY CONTINUED... (10/15/19)

 **Read Job 3**

 How does Job express his agony and pain?

 Are there sentences or thoughts that shock you? Remember in chapter 1, Job was “blameless and upright” and in agony he cries out.

 Describe a time of suffering that you have experienced. How did you respond? Who walked alongside you? Perhaps you are suffering right now- how are you feeling and doing?

 Express these feelings to the God who is running towards you, who is crazy about you, and who loves and pursues you (write out a prayer here):

WEDNESDAY (10/16/19)

Today we are going to take a run through some short passages from “the friends” and from a younger man who speaks after the three friends. They seemed to start out well, sitting alongside Job in the immediate aftermath of the painful loss (v. 2:13). But they (like us) often want explainable answers (Spoiler! God rebukes them in Job 42:7 for their incomplete and bad answers).

Read Job 4:1-9 (Eliphaz)

- ② What is he saying?

Read Job 8:1-7 (Bildad)

- ② What is he saying?

Read Job 11 (Zopher)

- ② What is he saying?

Read Job 32:1-5, 33:8-13, & 34:1-12 (Elihu)

- ② What is he saying?

- ② If you had to sum up what these friends belief about God - who is God to them?



THURSDAY (10/17/19)

Today we are going to read some of the statements Job makes to his friends throughout their conversations. Pay attention to his words, but also listen for his feelings. He has suffered enormous loss. He is a righteous and blameless man trying to make sense of a devastating situation.

Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to help you see through Job's eyes.

Read Job 9:14-18

❓ How does Job see the situation?

❓ How is he describing God right now?

Read Job 23:1-13 (Same questions as above!)

Read Job 27:1-6 (As above 😊)


Read Job 29:1-6 (You got it...)

Read Job 30: 20-22

❓ As you reflect on Job's words, and the words of his friends yesterday, where do you see yourself in their thoughts?

FRIDAY (10/18/19)

 **Read Job 38-41**

 Write out the ways that God reveals Himself? Who is He saying that He is?




SATURDAY (10/19/19)

 **Read Job 42**

- ② What has Job learned about who God is?

- ② How do you think Job KNOWS God differently from Job 1 & 2?

- ② Think about your past times of suffering or the present suffering you are in. Is your heart open to learning more about God and what He wants to show you about Himself? Or has the pain overwhelmed this desire and you are angry? (Be honest - God sees where you are at and cares so much about walking alongside of you).

 Share with someone you trust how they can pray for you right now.

SUNDAY (10/20/19)

- ✎ Spend some time rereading some of how God reveals Himself and the characteristics that popped out to you from **Job 38-41**. Take some time to just praise and adore the God who allows Himself to be KNOWN.



WEEK 3

SUNDAY (10/20/19) - SERMON NOTES

MONDAY (10/21/19)

Yesterday we heard the command to “think on these things.” What we pay attention to, what our mind focuses on becomes who we are. Last week we had a chance to see the story that Job and his friends were telling themselves about who God was and who they were. We saw God challenge this story with the true story about Himself and Job renewed his mind and adjusted his story to reflect God’s revealed truth.

This week, we are going to get to know another man, David. Through some Psalms that he wrote, we are going to have a chance to “think on these things.” To pay attention to God’s character, to how David relates to Him, and who he says that God is.

Pay attention, think on it, focus your mind, be renewed in fundamental ways to see who God is and to also see who you are in light of that.

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MONDAY CONTINUED... (10/21/19)

Today we will use the “Know, Be, Do” format for devotions this morning
We are going to use this all week to catch a glimpse of who David sees God to be.

Read Psalm 99

KNOW (what does the text say about God?)

BE (What does the text say about us?)

DO (what is the text calling me to do?)

Take time today to think through those questions from this passage.

 KNOW:

 BE:

 DO:

 Sit quietly and just enjoy some time with the Lord.

TUESDAY (10/22/19)

Read Psalm 100

KNOW (what does the text say about God?)

BE (What does the text say about us?)


DO (what is the text calling me to do?)

Take time today to think through those questions from this passage.

 KNOW:

 BE:

 DO:

 Write out a prayer of thanks for who God is according to this Psalm.
Space is provided on the next page.

TUESDAY CONTINUED... (10/22/19)

WEDNESDAY (10/23/19)

Read Psalm 103

KNOW (what does the text say about God?)

BE (What does the text say about us?)

DO (what is the text calling me to do?)

Take time today to think through those questions from this passage.

 KNOW:

 BE:

 DO:

 Spend some time writing out “His benefits” to you.

THURSDAY (10/24/19)

Read Psalm 111

KNOW (what does the text say about God?)

BE (What does the text say about us?)

DO (what is the text calling me to do?)

Take time today to think through those questions from this passage.

 KNOW:

 BE:

 DO:

 Sit quietly and just enjoy some time with the Lord.

FRIDAY (10/25/19)

Read Psalm 121

KNOW (what does the text say about God?)

BE (What does the text say about us?)


DO (what is the text calling me to do?)

Take time today to think through those questions from this passage.

 KNOW:

 BE:

 DO:

 Look up “The Psalms of Ascent” and picture this scene happening.

Listen and sit quietly before the Lord:

 Brian Doerksen : “I Lift My Eyes Up (Psalm 121)”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9g4eqKDkDiw>

SATURDAY (10/26/19)

Read Psalm 130

KNOW (what does the text say about God?)

BE (What does the text say about us?)


DO (what is the text calling me to do?)

Take time today to think through those questions from this passage.

 KNOW:


 BE:

 DO:

 As you sit quietly ask yourself, “what does my soul desire from the Lord today?”

SUNDAY (10/27/19)

Read Psalm 24

 Spend some time praying and sitting with Jesus in preparation for worship with the body this morning. Ask the Lord if there are ways that your heart is not pure, your hands not clean, or your heart lifted up to things that are false (v. 4)?



WEEK 4

SUNDAY (10/27/19) - SERMON NOTES

MONDAY (10/28/19)

The last two Sundays we've heard Keith speak on some passages from the book of Philippians. Let's take some time to read through the whole book together.

We've spent several weeks looking at who God reveals Himself to be. These next two weeks, we will spend some time looking at ourselves in light of knowing who God is.

Take some time to watch this overview of the book of Philippians from **The Bible Project**.

 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oE9qqW1-BkU>

Continued on the next page...



MONDAY CONTINUED... (10/28/19)

Read Philippians 1:1-11

As we reflect on “be transformed by the Spirit,” let’s look at these verses from that vantage point. Let’s also remember to ask the Spirit to speak and teach us as we seek to be transformed.

② Paul says that he is confident that God continues His good work in each of us. How have you seen God continuing to work in your life? What evidence do you see in yourself of transformation?

② Who is it in your life that you long for with the affection of Jesus because they are so in your heart? What are you praying for them?

 Write out what exactly Paul is praying for these people that he loves:

② How does each part of his prayer participate in their transformation? For example, how does my love growing in knowledge help transform me more into Jesus’ likeness?

TUESDAY (10/29/19)


Read Philippians 1:12-30

Paul is in a hard circumstances to say the least. Yet he explains that it has actually helped to advance the gospel.

② Think about a hard situation you are facing or have recently faced? How can God use you in the midst of this hard to advance His kingdom?

② Paul says in verse 27, “whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ.” In the situation you thought of above, how has your conduct been? Worthy, in what ways? Unworthy, in what ways?

② Paul continues to rejoice (v.18) despite his situation. Where is joy amidst the hard for you right now?

 Spend some time meditating on verse 29. Dwell deeply thinking and praying about Paul’s perspective that we are “granted to suffer for Him.” Suffering as blessing....Hmmmmm.

WEDNESDAY (10/30/19)


Read Philippians 2:1-11

Philippians 2:2 reminds me so much of John 17. Unity. Like-minded. Being one in Spirit and purpose.

② What does real humility (considering someone else above yourself) look like in your life right now? With whom? How? Be practical:

② What do you learn about Christ from verse 5-11?

② In what ways can our attitude be the same as His?

 Spend some time actually bowing your knee this morning and praying to the exalted Jesus.


THURSDAY (10/31/19)

Read Philippians 2:12-30

② There is a tension between verses 12-13. My work. The Holy Spirit's work. How do you see this worked out in your own life in practical ways?

② Where do you see God placing you so that you can “shine like a star” for His glory?

② Perhaps you, like me, have a hard time picturing God wanting you to shine like a star? Think back to Ephesians 1 (remember the bookmark from the devo 6-weeks ago?). How is God seeing you right now? What are the words He using to describe you?

 Spend some time just sitting with Jesus and picturing His face smiling at you.



FRIDAY (11/1/19)

Read Philippians 3

KNOW (what does the text say about God?)

BE (What does the text say about us?)


DO (what is the text calling me to do?)

Take time today to think through those questions from this passage.

 KNOW:

 BE:

 DO:

 Look back over the past days and pray for the things that stood out to you where you are wanting to be conformed into His image.


SATURDAY (11/2/19)

Read Philippians 4

We've heard sermons these past two weeks from this chapter. Those teachings have given some practical ways for all of us to work these words out into our lives.


 Look back/think back/listen again to those sermons.


 In what ways are you putting verses 4-9 into practice? What concrete changes have you made?

 In what ways are you putting verses 11-13 into practice? Again - be practical, be concrete? How are you being transformed in this area?

SUNDAY (11/3/19)

Paul ends the book of Philippians by sending greeting to those he knows and loves.

 Pull out your Riverside directory and pray through some pages. Greet and pray for your brothers and sisters.

 Incorporate some worship into your morning as you prepare your hearts for our corporate gathering.



WEEK 5

SUNDAY (11/3/19) - SERMON NOTES

MONDAY (11/4/19)

If you turn the next page in your Bible from Philippians, you will arrive at Colossians. We are going to spend the next two weeks in the books of Colossians and Philemon. You will notice the themes from our church's mission statement occur a lot in these two letters: **Know Jesus intimately. Be transformed by the Spirit. Do mission with God... Together.**


You will notice a lot of similar themes, prayers, and encouragement. Let these steep inside you and become a genuine part of your life and character.

The notes in my Bible say that these letters were probably written at the same time and carried together to the church at Colossae.

The link for the Bible Project's summary is:

 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pXTXIDxQsvc>


 **Read Colossians 1:1-2**

 Spend some time praying for His grace and peace to be not only felt by you personally, but that others would feel it extended to them from you.

TUESDAY (11/5/19)

 Read Colossians 1:3-14

② What specific things is Paul praying for them?

 Paul says in verse 11 that he wants us to be strengthened with all power so that...

② Where, right now, are you needing endurance and patience?

Spend some time giving thanks to the Father.


ADDITIONAL READING

Live a life worthy... Reflect on allowing this to be our great desire: to live a life that pleases and glorifies God.

- 1 Thessalonians 2:12
- Ephesians 4:1
- Philippians 1:27
- Colossians 1:10

WEDNESDAY (11/6/19)

 Read Colossians 1:15-20

 Who is Jesus Christ according to these verses:

This same Jesus also said in John 15:14-15 that He calls us friends if we follow and obey Him. Spend some time just pondering being an actual friend of the person described here in Colossians.



THURSDAY (11/7/19)

 **Read Colossians 1:21-23**

KNOW (what does the text say about God?)

BE (What does the text say about us?)


DO (what is the text calling me to do?)

Take time today to think through those questions from this passage.

 **KNOW:**

 **BE:**

 **DO:**

 Spend some time praying and asking the Holy Spirit what it looks like to firm and not moved from the HOPE held out in the gospel.

FRIDAY (11/8/19)

Read Colossians 1:24-29

- ② What do you think verse 24 means? (*Don't feel sheepish if you want to use a commentary - I will be! It's just a boggler!*)

Yesterday we meditated on being steadfast in the HOPE of the gospel. Today Paul tells us that “Christ in us is the hope of glory.” This is the mystery!


- ② Why do you think he frames it as a mystery- what about it appears mysterious?

- ② Who are you laboring to present perfect in Christ? Who has labored on your behalf?

- ② How do you feel prompted to respond to this passage today?



SATURDAY (11/9/19)

 **Read Colossians 2:1-23** (we will read this chapter two days in a row to give us a chance to soak in what Paul is trying to teach here)

KNOW (what does the text say about God?)

BE (What does the text say about us?)

DO (what is the text calling me to do?)

Take time today to think through those questions from this passage.

 **KNOW:**

 **BE:**

 **DO:**

 What pops out for you to pray and meditate on today?

SUNDAY (11/10/19)

Spend some time in worship and prayer preparing your heart for gathering together this morning.

Try these songs that reflect back into Colossians and Philippians.

🎵 **Andrew Peterson: “Is He Worthy?”**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Olahc83Kvp4>

🎵 **Lauren Daigle: “Remember”**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B9TE8D5Vs8k>



WEEK 6

SUNDAY (11/10/19) - SERMON NOTES

MONDAY (11/11/19)

 **Read Colossians 2:1-23**

- ② What kind of man do you think Paul is? How is he described/describe himself?

- ② Today, how do “fine sounding arguments” discourage your heart or disrupt your unity? Can you think of an example of this?

- ② Look at the instances of “in Him” throughout this section. What happens because we are “in Him”?

- ② How does this encourage you to not be judged? (v. 16 therefore...)

- ② Verse 19 reminds me of the vine and branches from John 15 - us holding on as God causes growth. How can you hold on actively today?

- ② Today, what are you thankful for?




TUESDAY (11/12/19)

 **Read Colossians 3:1-11**

② Because I've been raised with Christ (v. 1), according to verses 1-3 what should change in me?

② If I am saved "in Christ" why do I need to put off the old self? Aren't I already new?

② How, in practical ways, do you put on the new self? What motivates me to want to make this effort?

 Spend a few minutes just sitting and picturing verse 3. I, and you, are hidden inside Christ? What images does that conjure up? What implications for your daily living? How does that make you feel?


WEDNESDAY (11/13/19)

Read Colossians 3: 12-17

I visualize these verses as layers:

- First the inside layer (chosen one, holy & beloved). Being confident of this inside layer informs all the rest.
- Next my “clothes” of sorts: compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, patience, bearing with one another, forgiveness.
- Lastly, my “coat” of love. Holding everything together is this love that can only come from Him.

Now this might seem silly, but in the box provided, draw your version of the above.



Or just sit quietly and visualize it. Picture yourself really soaking into the truth that as a son or daughter of God, you are chosen, holy and beloved. The deep understanding of that changes your behaviors over time and you grow in compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, patience, bearing with and forgiveness. Then a large blanket of love tightly wraps all of this. You are being conformed into His image.

 As Paul asks (twice), spend some time giving thanks to your Father.

THURSDAY (11/14/19)

 **Read Colossians 3:18-4:1**

② Why do you think God has this orderly chain of submission and respect listed out? How does this reflect the Trinity?

② Do you work harder when you are being observed, you know your review is coming or your teacher starts to walk around the classroom?

② How does reverence for the Lord fit into how hard we work? Are there changes that you need to make in the way you go about your work?

② We all get placed into positions where we are leading someone. How does remembering that I have a master in heaven inform how I treat those I lead?

🔍 Ask the Holy Spirit to show you practical ways that He desires to transform this area of your life.

FRIDAY (11/15/19)

 Read Colossians 4:2-18

KNOW (what does the text say about God?)

BE (What does the text say about us?)

DO (what is the text calling me to do?)

Take time today to think through those questions from this passage.

 KNOW:

 BE:

 DO:

SATURDAY (11/16/19)

The connection between Colossians and Philemon is pretty cool. I could spend time explaining - but the video does a great job!

Read Philemon


Watch the summary from **The Bible Project**:

 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aW9Q3Jt6Yvk>

① Imagine that you are in the shoes of Onesimus - how are you feeling as you head back?

② Now stand in the shoes of Philemon- how are you feeling as you hear this letter read aloud? Whats going through your mind?

③ Paul shows incredible trust in these two men that they would work through their dispute in a way that would bring glory to God. How does being a part of the body transform the power dynamic that exists in our world? How have you seen this played out in your life as a believer?

 Sit quietly and ask the Lord to show you your heart in the area of forgiveness and reconciliation.

SUNDAY (11/17/19)

Read Philemon

KNOW (what does the text say about God?)

BE (What does the text say about us?)


DO (what is the text calling me to do?)

Take time today to think through those questions from this passage.

 KNOW:

 BE:

 DO:

 Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to transform your heart into one that moves towards others in reconciliation. You may be the one that has been wronged, or you may be the one that has wronged someone. God desires unity and love amongst us.

WEEK 7

SUNDAY (11/17/19) - SERMON NOTES

MONDAY (11/18/19)

Keith shared yesterday about how God has prepared a good work for us to do once we are sealed into His family as a son or daughter. It's so cool to me to think of God specifically designing me for a task that can serve Him and the Kingdom.

This week we are going to read through the book of Esther. This book is filled with specific tasks for specific people and I think we will enjoy learning together. Each day we will look at similar questions and hopefully see God moving and working throughout this story.


I know that we watch a lot of **The Bible Project** videos, but they do such a great job! Way better than me typing the background. So here it is!

 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JydNSlufRIs>

 **Read Esther 1**

② What's happening in the narrative?

② Where do you see God working?

 Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to help your eyes be open to seeing God at work around you.

TUESDAY (11/19/19)

Read Esther 2

② What's happening in the narrative?

② How do you feel about what's happening in this chapter - so different than our culture!

② Do you see God at work anywhere?

Esther has known pain - she's an orphan being raised by her cousin and then uprooted to the King's palace. Pain, it seems to me, can soften us to see the Lord at work, or harden us as we get angry.

② How have you responded to pain in your life to this point?

WEDNESDAY (11/20/19)

 Read Esther 3 & 4

② What is happening in the narrative?

② Where do you see God at work here?

② In the dialogue between Esther and Mordecai at the end of Esther 4, what can you glean about each of their characters?

🔍 What clues do we have about their faith?



THURSDAY (11/21/19)

 **Read Esther 5 & 6**

② What is happening in the narrative?

② Where do you see God at work?

② Where do you see evidence of faith in Esther?

🔍 As you've gone through the week, where have you seen God at work around you and through you?

FRIDAY (11/22/19)

 Read Esther 7 & 8

② What is happening in the narrative?

② Where do you see God at work?

② What do we learn about God's character from all that has happened?



SATURDAY (11/23/19)


 Read Esther 9 & 10

② What is happening in the narrative?

② Where do you see God at work?

② The Jews set up a time every year to remember and celebrate how the Lord took care of them. How can you help yourself remember the ways that the Lord has intervened in your life?

SUNDAY (11/24/19)

 Sit this morning and just “be” with Jesus. Listen to some worship songs, pray, and journal.

Remind yourself of who you are from Ephesians 1.

Ask the Lord to show you where He wants to use you to bring Him glory.



WEEK 8

SUNDAY (11/24/19) - SERMON NOTES

MONDAY (11/25/19)

Keith spoke yesterday on the necessity of doing life *together*. We cannot walk alone and hope to finish well. Life is just too hard, and the enemy is too devious and destructive.

We are going to look at passages in the New Testament that describe issues and sin that divide us. We want to be on guard for situations and ways that we get divided and split from our brothers, sisters, family and fellow workers.

John 17 is really clear - remember reading it earlier? Our unity is what reflects Christ to the world around us. So let's dig into the lessons sprinkled throughout the NT so our love will be genuine despite hard and painful situations..

 **Read James 2:1-13**


 What is the sin that is being confronted?

KNOW (What does the text say about God?)

BE (What does the text say about us?)


DO (What is the text calling me to do?)

Take time today to think through those questions from this passage.

 Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to reveal areas of favoritism that have a foothold in your life.

TUESDAY (11/26/19)

 Read 1 Corinthians 8 & 11:17-22

 What is the sin that is being confronted?

KNOW (what does the text say about God?)

BE (What does the text say about us?)


DO (what is the text calling me to do?)

Take time today to think through those questions from this passage.

 KNOW:

 BE:

 DO:

 Is the Holy Spirit bringing conviction in this area into your heart as you read? Stop and pray and listen.

WEDNESDAY (11/27/19)

 Read 1 Corinthians 1:10-17 & 3:1-9

 What is the sin that is being confronted?

KNOW (what does the text say about God?)

BE (What does the text say about us?)

DO (what is the text calling me to do?)

Take time today to think through those questions from this passage.

 KNOW:


 BE:

 DO:

 Where do you see this worked out in your life and heart?

THURSDAY (11/28/19)

 Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-26

 What is the sin that is being confronted?

KNOW (what does the text say about God?)

BE (What does the text say about us?)

DO (what is the text calling me to do?)

Take time today to think through those questions from this passage.


 KNOW:

 BE:

 DO:

FRIDAY (11/29/19)

 **Read Romans 12:18-21, Ephesians 4:31-33, & Matthew 5:23-24**

 What is the sin that is being confronted?

KNOW (what does the text say about God?)

BE (What does the text say about us?)


DO (what is the text calling me to do?)

Take time today to think through those questions from this passage.

 **KNOW:**

 **BE:**


 **DO:**

 Are you harboring unforgiveness towards someone? Ask the Lord to show you His way forward.



SATURDAY (11/30/19)

 **Read Matthew 18:15-17**

 What is the sin that is being confronted?

 Based on Matthew 18 and Matthew 5, how concerned is God that we work through our areas of anger and wronging/being wronged?

KNOW (what does the text say about God?)

BE (What does the text say about us?)

DO (what is the text calling me to do?)

Take time today to think through those questions from this passage.

 **KNOW:**

 **BE:**

 **DO:**

I know that we answered the “Do” question already. But since resolving conflict in Godly, healthy ways is so uncommon in our world, and in the church, it seemed good to ask one more question.

Reread the passages from **Matthew 5 and 18** one more time. **Matthew 5** is asking you to search your heart to see if you have wronged someone. **Matthew 18** wants you to again search your heart to see if someone has wronged you.

Truly spend some time with God being quiet, listen to His voice. And then, based on what He says, plan your response, which might include calling a friend, writing a letter, having a conversation you’ve been putting off for weeks/years, etc...?



SUNDAY (12/1/19)

It's been a heavy week reading about brothers and sisters divided, unforgiving, prideful, and the list goes on.

② As you prepare to worship with the body this morning, sit quietly before the Lord and ponder your contributions in our body. Are you bent towards unity? (Really - how do you know whether or not you are someone that promotes unity?)

② Are you willing to do the hard work that unity takes?

🔍 What has the Lord shown you this week?

🏠 Spend some quiet time just relaxing with the Lord. Kick back and imagine that the two of you are just sitting in your favorite spot together.





Know. Be. Do... *Together*

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