

DISCIPLES DEPEND ON GOD'S WORD

YEAR: TRANSFORM / FOCUS: LIVING IN PURSUIT / SERIES: DISCIPLE

BIG TRUTH: DISCIPLES DEPEND ON GOD'S WORD

Psalm 119:25, 103; Romans 10:17

BIBLE VERSE: MATTHEW 4:4

"But He answered, 'It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

BIG IDEAS

- Disciples believe that God's Word is authoritative and applicable for all of life.
- Disciples read and study God's Word.
- Disciples meditate on and memorize God's Word.

BIBLE PASSAGE: MATTHEW 4:1-11; 2 TIMOTHY 3:16-17

TRANSFORM - LIVING IN PURSUIT

In High School, the Transform Year is an exploration of what it looks like to have transformed influence as we seek to live for a Kingdom that is greater than our own. First, we recognize that we will never be transformed if we are not Living for Jesus. To do this, we must first know who Jesus is by looking at who He says He is (John 8:58), and then look at what the Bible says about how in Him, we live by faith (James 1:6). Next, we recognize that to have transformed influence means that we must live as disciples in pursuit of Christ and His Kingdom over ourselves and our own kingdoms.

SERIES AIMS



Every student should know that...

- Jesus is the only source of life
- God's Word is authoritative and applicable for all of life
- To follow Jesus is to pursue a life of sacrifice and surrender



Every student should feel...

- Thankful for the triune God who is worthy
- Convicted of how deception has led them to disobedience
- Responsible to use their influence to live for Jesus alone



Every student should strive to...

- Read through the gospel of John
- Memorize the Bible verse each week
- Implement regular rhythms of prayer and fasting throughout the semester



Every student should want to...

- Pursue obedience even when faith is a struggle
- Grow in living in step with the Holy Spirit
- Live their lives to glorify God the Father

GUIDES AND WORKOUTS

The Guide provides a commentary page on each week's Bible verse and on each Big Idea that unpacks the Big Truth. Each week also includes a Student Workout as a resource to help the student pursue spiritual disciplines on their own. Additionally, each week has a Family Workout that helps equip parents and guardians to have spiritual conversations with their student.



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BIBLE VERSE: MATTHEW 4:4

"But He answered, 'It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

Disciples trust God's Word for truth.

"But He answered, 'It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone...'"

- When Jesus responded to Satan's temptation of Him, He wasn't saying that actual bread wouldn't be enough sustenance to feed a person's body. He was teaching that the Word of God was more valuable and held the whole truth for every person who believed the Gospel.
- Those who follow Jesus trust that this is true. They believe that Jesus is Lord and they trust His Word, the Bible as truth. They do not dispute it or believe that it is full of error. They see it as the source of truth for all things in life. They understand that from it they grow and learn truth about God, the world, and themselves.

Disciples use God's Word to resist temptation.

"But He answered, 'It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

- Jesus is our example in all things. He came to the earth and took on human flesh and a human nature, yet He did not sin. He faced every temptation known to man and did so victoriously. Because He has gone before us and lived perfectly as a human, we can look to Him as our example.
- When He faced temptation, He used God's Word to resist the temptation to sin. Disciples of Jesus use His Word to overcome any feeling or desire to follow their sinful hearts. When they face temptation, they turn to God's Word to fight against it and they overcome it, just as Jesus did.

Disciples depend upon God's Word for encouragement.

"... 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

- We aren't meant to live this life alone. God does not leave us here to fend for ourselves or to face the brokenness of this world in our own power. God has given us His Word and His Spirit to help us. When we are feeling down and discouraged, we can turn to His Word to be built up.
- Disciples know this truth and they turn to Scripture to be encouraged. As we read of God's faithfulness, we are reminded of His goodness and the ways in which He always cares for His people. This brings us encouragement and helps us continue living for Him.

BIG IDEA #1: DISCIPLES BELIEVE THAT GOD'S WORD IS AUTHORITATIVE AND APPLICABLE FOR ALL OF LIFE.¹

[THIS]

Our words are powerful and often carry a certain authority, especially if we are in a position of leadership. As powerful as our words are, they are not as powerful as God's Word. In 2 Timothy 3:16-17, Paul reminds Timothy of the authority of Scripture. God's Word is authoritative because it is from Him. He spoke through human authors who penned His Word to the world. Though His Words were written down by human hands, they are no less divine in nature or hold less authority than when He spoke the world into existence. He is God and His Word is from Him. Disciples believe that God's Word holds all authority over their lives. They follow and obey God's Word as truth and trust it to be without error. They do not question its authority and see it as the written Word of God.

[THEREFORE]

A right view of God's Word can help us use it in our lives. How do you view God's Word and its authority? Does it help you use it in your life?

When we see God's Word as authoritative, we will obey it and use it for our lives. Psalm 119:105 shows us that it is a lamp for our path. 1 Peter 2:2 and Luke 11:28 both remind us of the desire we should have for it and how we should long for it.

[THIS]

It is one thing to believe the Bible to be God's Word and another to find it relevant and applicable to our lives. Some people may believe that God gave us the Bible and that it is useful sometimes. Disciples of Jesus know that the Bible is useful in all things. They understand that it is applicable to every part of our lives. In truth, we really can't separate a belief that God's Word is authoritative from a belief that it is applicable to all of our lives because the Bible says that it applies to all of life. In 2 Timothy 3:16-17, we see that Scripture is profitable for every part of a person's life, not just some of it. Disciples trust this truth and use the Word of God to guide their lives in every way. Disciples look to the Bible for wisdom and search it to find answers to their questions and to understand the world around them.

[THEREFORE]

How can the world's claim that the Bible is antiquated and irrelevant influence us to disregard its truth?

When we begin to doubt the authority and relevance of the Bible, we will become unstable and unsteady as James 1:6 points out. Ephesians 4:14 also warns us that we will be tossed to and fro by different ideas and doctrines. God's Word is truth and relevant always.

How have you found the Bible to be a relevant source of truth recently in your life?

In John 1:14, John describes the Word of God as Jesus taking on flesh and being full of truth. This means that the Bible is the actual Word of God and is full of truth. John 17:17 reminds us that we can find truth in it for every situation. When we have questions about anything in life, wisdom and understanding can be found in the Bible. We just have to look for it and seek it.

1. 2 Timothy 3:16-17: All of Scripture is profitable for the disciple's life.

BIG IDEA #2: DISCIPLES READ AND STUDY GOD'S WORD.²**[THIS]**

To depend upon something means a person can't be without it. When we depend upon things, they are necessary to our lives! We need them to live and to be happy. Disciples know they need God's Word, so they read it. It's important to read God's Word because it is how we learn about God and how to live for Him. If we do not read His Word, then we couldn't possibly know all there is to know about Him or even about ourselves. We would not know how to live for Him and how to please Him. Disciples will read the Bible daily in order to grow in their knowledge of Him. They desire to know Him and draw near to Him, believing that He draws near to them. As they continue to establish this daily habit, it becomes a part of who they are, and they cannot live without it. They depend so much upon His Word that they must have it every day in order to face that day. Being a disciple of God is being in a relationship with Him. His Word is how He speaks to us. As we grow in our love of Him, we will want to "hear" from Him. It's like being in a relationship with another person and desiring to talk with them every single day because you want to know them, and you want to know what they have to say.

[THEREFORE]**How can you establish a daily habit of reading God's Word?**

In 1 Corinthians 9:27, Paul teaches that he disciplines his body to keep it under control and to train himself. If we want to establish a habit of doing anything Godly, we will have to have discipline and self-control. Proverbs 25:28 and Romans 12:1-2 remind us of this truth.

[THIS]

When we depend upon something, we make sure we have it. Disciples know they need a knowledge of the Bible, so they, not only read His Word, but they study it, too. Studying something means we take time to really examine it to pull back the curtain to see every part of it that we might know all of it. We aim to learn all that we can about it, including every little detail. We do this so we can grow in understanding. Studying the Bible requires study skills and sacrifice. A disciple is willingly to give up other things in order to study the Bible. A disciple is willingly to work hard and to put in the time and effort to really know what God's Word says, so that he or she can be more and more like Christ. We won't know God's Word truly unless we put in the time and effort to really examine it and study it. This takes time and the right skills, but every follower of Jesus can do it because every believer is given the Holy Spirit as a teacher.

[THEREFORE]**What habits are necessary to study the Bible daily?**

2 Timothy 2:15 reminds us that we must study to show ourselves approved as servants of God. This means that studying God's Word requires work on our part to establish the right habits. We must set aside time and get the right study materials, such as a study Bible.

What can you remove from your day to make room for a study of God's Word?

Our lives will not magically have time for a study of God's Word. We will have to make room in our day for a study of the Word. Galatians 2:20 and Luke 9:23 remind us that we must deny ourselves in order to truly follow Christ. To study Scripture, we must deny ourselves and place a priority on studying God's Word.

2. 2 Timothy 2:15: As God's disciple, we are commanded to know Scripture, and to be able to handle it correctly.

BIG IDEA #3: DISCIPLE MEDITATE AND MEMORIZE GOD'S WORD.³**[THIS]**

To meditate on something is to focus one's thoughts on something. Disciples of Jesus meditate on God's Word. God's Word is important and necessary. It is the tool that helps us overcome temptation. Jesus showed this when He was tempted in the wilderness. Matthew 4:1-11 teaches us the importance of knowing God's Word. When we read God's Word and meditate on it, we will equip ourselves with truth to resist the temptation to sin. Meditation on Scripture means focusing our minds and hearts on God's Word. We intentionally think about Scripture and focus on it throughout our day or at certain times that we might grow in our knowledge. This shows we depend upon it.

[THEREFORE]

How does meditation on Scripture help you specifically overcome wrong thoughts or the temptation to sin?

When we think on Scripture, we focus our minds on truth and we equip ourselves to overcome wrong thinking and the temptation to sin. Joshua 1:8, Philippians 4:8, and Colossians 3:16 all remind us that focusing our minds on the right things is necessary and important.

What does the practice of meditating on God's Word look like?

Meditating on God's Word practically means we think about it and intentionally fill our minds with it. Psalm 119:11 tells us to store up God's Word and that means that we memorize it and think about it. We choose a verse and think about that verse for a set time and ponder its meaning and implication for our lives.

[THIS]

Depending upon God's Word also means memorizing it. When we memorize it, we hide it in our hearts. Hiding it in our hearts means we are placing it in our minds and immersing ourselves in it so that it shapes our thoughts and views. Memorizing Scripture is important because it helps us in our time of greatest need. When we face temptations or we need comfort, knowing God's Word helps us overcome sin and offers us comfort. The Holy Spirit works inside of us to remind us of God's Word that we have committed to memory. A disciple of Christ knows this truth and commits to memorize God's Word.

[THEREFORE]

What excuses do we often give for not memorizing Scripture?

Deuteronomy 6:6 teaches us that storing God's Word in our hearts is the right thing to do. Matthew 4:1-11 also gives us an example of what knowing Scripture can do for us when we face temptation. Often, though, we excuse ourselves from it because of our age or busyness.

What are some benefits you've personally experienced from memorizing Scripture?

Psalm 1:1-6 helps us understand that when we plant Scripture in our hearts, our minds are shaped by it. Our perspective is changed by it and when we look at this broken world, we do so with a Godly view. The benefit of knowing God's Word is that we know how to please Him. Our lives are so shaped by it that all we do and think are influenced by it. We become more and more like Him because we hide His very Word in our hearts.

3. Psalm 119:11: Disciples hide God's Word in their hearts. They memorize it and meditate on it.