

Day 4: The titles of Jesus

Read it: See the verses below

Think about it:

At different times in our lives we need Jesus in different ways. God knows this and His Word is descriptive about who Jesus is and how His character is revealed in many different ways in our life. Look up today's verses and match what you find with the corresponding title or name of Christ.

Isaiah 9:6

John 1:29

Romans 1:25

Hebrews 12:2

1 Peter 2:6

Revelation 19:11

The Cornerstone

The Author and Perfector of our faith

Faithful and True

The Lamb of God

The Creator

Wonderful Counselor, Prince of Peace

Which of those titles jumps out to you? Do any of them help you see Jesus in a new way today? Spend some time thinking about what a cornerstone really means, or what "lamb of God" is about—how Jesus is the sacrifice that bought our way into heaven. Consider that Jesus and His Spirit truly are your counselor and your way to peace in stressful times.

Act on it: Take some time to pray and talk with God about these names of Jesus. Thank Him for each one, for each unique way that He meets you at your point of need. When you pray, ask Him to teach you more about His character—and about how He is so relevant to you in any situation of life.



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Week 3
May 10,
2009

Purpose: To nail down this week's topic from Bethlehem's current series, "GPS".

How to use it: Individuals can do it on their own 4 times a week to cultivate this habit of reading and applying the bible. Families: adults are encouraged to do HammerTime on their own & then meet with their whole family to go through it together.

Example of time: Read verses (3 min), Discuss/think about (5 min), Pray (2 min)

For more tools: check out Bethlehembc.com or BethlehemToolbox.com.



HAMMERTIME

Day 1: Early Riser **Read it:** Mark 1:35, 6:46, Luke 6:12

Think about it:

Jesus knew how important it was for Him to have daily time with His heavenly Father. In a normal day He would have time to talk with others about God, serve others in God's name and pray with others as they cried out to God. But He knew that for His personal strength, wisdom and focus, He would have to spend regular time with God—alone. The same holds true for us today.

In Mark 1:35 we see Jesus getting up early and starting His day in solitary time with God. Like us today, He knew His day would be very busy, filled with choices to make and stresses to overcome. He made sure He was in tune with His Father's plans and that he was "recalibrated" or "centered" to start His day. His example is a pretty good reason to consider having our individual time with God in the morning of each day.

In the other 2 passages we see that Jesus frequently spent solitary time with God, especially before big decisions (for wisdom, direction, focus, etc.) or after "large" or "crucial" events. Presumably that helped Him recharge after a draining event and also allowed Him time to "download" or "decompress" the days events with His Father. God wants the same type of connection with us!

Act on it:

Spend solitary time with God each day this week, especially if that time can be in the morning. You can spend some of that time doing the HammerTime card, reading a Proverb, praying or just listening for God's voice. The more days you do it, the more natural of a habit that it will become.



Day 2: Spend time with Him to find strength

Read it: Philippians 4:11-13

Think about it:

There are many images of strength in today’s society. NFL football players, men that can lift hundreds of pounds, even people that have “strong wills” and can endure through difficult circumstances to succeed. One time we are encouraged to read and obey the bible is when we need strength that only God can provide. Maybe when facing cancer, a job loss, fear, anxiety, loneliness or lack of clear direction. There are many times in life when we need strength—and God shows us how to find strength, as outlined in Philippians.

Now this is a different type of strength than most of society chases after. This is about “learning to be content” as described in verses 11&12 and looking at things differently because Jesus makes a difference in our lives. After all, we have a different perspective—just see Philippians 1:21 (“for me to live is Christ and to die is gain”). So when 4:13 talks about being able to “do all things” through Christ who strengthens you, realize that the world may not think you are strong at all. This is strength to hold your tongue rather than lashing out, strength to make a choice of integrity, or strength to pray even when your faith is faltering.

What Paul is talking about throughout Philippians is having a different view—one that is molded and shaped by Christ. When we live for Him and when we strive for Christ-like contentment, that is when we can find strength that will help us succeed in this life. It is a wise choice to spend time in God’s Word when we need strength—and God promises to give it to us.

Act on it:

When you are faced with challenges this week, remember verse 13—“I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength.” If you know what God wants you to do in a situation, ask Him to give you strength to do it. He will give you the strength that you need!



Day 3: Like food and water—in the bible every day

Read it: Joshua 1:8

Think about it: If you are not really aware of Joshua’s story, here is a picture of what was going on: Moses (the previous leader of the Israelites) had died and God made Joshua the new leader. Moses had been very successful in his lifetime and Joshua was feeling a lot of pressure to take over for him, to lead the people effectively and to be the man God wanted him to be. The time was getting close to lead the people into the “Promised Land” (see Genesis 17:7-8) and Joshua really needed the strength and courage that only God could give. God made clear to Joshua in chapter 1, verse 8 how Joshua was to stay grounded in God, to truly be led by Him. We have the same command today; read the verse again to see the 4 step process that God is speaking of.

1. Keep God’s Word in your mouth (read it, speak it, make it a natural part of your conversation).
2. Think about it regularly, day and night, everyday (memorize, say it out loud, write it down).
3. Live according to it (don’t just learn it, but apply it & live it out each day).
4. Then you will be successful (God will pour out His blessings on you—people will see His hand working).

God wants us to live out this kind of process everyday—not as a rigid, legalistic structure, but as a vibrant relationship that molds and shapes us in Christ-likeness. When we speak His word, think about it and live it out, we can’t help but enjoy the blessings of God. But remember: like we saw in day 2, these blessings are not measured like the world measures success. These blessings are measured in an eternal view of things.

Act on it: Pick a verse and try this process. Read it, speak it, memorize it, write it down. Live according to it and watch and see what kind of changes God makes in your life.