

TO HELP YOU NAIL DOWN TRUTHS IN THE BIBLE

One of our goals at Bethlehem is for you to spend time with God daily - this **HAMMERTIME** Card can help. It is designed to help you spend 15 minutes (or more) with God, 4 days a week. Here is an example of how to use this card. Study notebooks are available in the Bethlehem lobby.

Read the Bible verses (4 minutes)

- Read through one time, then re-read and underline any key points.

Read the card/think about it/write in your notebook (6 minutes)

- Write down some of the main ideas from the passage.
- Write down a “key for me” that is your main point that day.

Pray (5 minutes)

- Write down some of the things you are praying about that day.

Current Series: “Letters from the Apostle Paul”
Current Message: “Letter to the Church”

Designed to supplement Pastor Dickie Spargo’s current Sunday series.

- ◆ **Listen to this message** (or other messages in the series) again online at <http://www.bethlehembc.com/mediacenter.htm>.
- ◆ **Study Notebooks & Audio Message CD’s** available at ‘Above the Grind’ Bookstore for purchase.
- ◆ **HAMMERTIME Cards** - available Sundays at Bethlehem Church or online at www.bethlehemtoolbox.com.
- ◆ Contact Matt Vanderbilt, Connections Pastor, at mvanderbilt@bethlehembc.com or 704-823-5050 x104 for additional information.

Day 1: Live Passionately for God

Read: Mark 12:30; John 4:24

Think about: As part of God’s Church, He wants you to love Him with everything you have! Mark 12:30 tells of our relationship with God involving every part of who we are - heart, soul, mind & strength. God is serious about His followers passionately living for Him, in every area of your life. These guidelines are not just for church, when people are watching or just when it is comfortable. He wants all of you - not just in commitment, but in surrender.

What does your worship of God look like? Is it full of passion? Think of contrasts that Jesus suggests in John 4:24 - worship God in spirit (praising Him with all you have, rather than just moving your lips) and worship Him in truth (totally sincere in what you are singing, not faking it at all or mouthing anything that you don’t completely believe and are willing to live out for Him).

Act: Read all of Psalm 150 and underline each of the creative ways to praise God. Especially note verse 6 and commit to Him to consistently use your breath to praise Him. This is the first step to showing the world that you do indeed live passionately for God.

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Day 2: Love One Another **Read:** John 13:34-35; Acts 2:44-45; 1 John 2:9-10

Think about: For the church to be the impactful force that Jesus wants it to be, we must have sincere love for one another (see 1 Peter 1:22). Jesus modeled love for you - now He wants you to love other followers of Him. This is how people will see that you are a disciple (or follower) of Christ.

Like the early church in Acts 2, Jesus desires for you to share what you have, receive from others & for enjoy caring for other brothers and sisters in need. Imagine how that would catch the attention of society today to see a church body of people who love each other - willingly letting anyone come into that environment of care. The verses in 1 John show how important this is!

Act: What is a tangible way that you can care for someone and show that you have sincere love for them? Look for ways to live out Acts chapter 2, even in small ways, sometime this week.

Day 3: Be a Light **Read:** Matthew 5:14-16; James 2:14-17, 26

Think about: Have you ever walked into a pitch black room? It was probably tense or even dangerous until you flipped the light switch on and flooded the room with light. Jesus wants you to have that same powerful positive effect through your daily actions in His Name. In Matthew 5, notice the purposefulness of the deeds that Jesus wants you to do. Let people see you do good deeds (not to be hidden) so that God will get the glory for them (no glory to the person doing the act). Jesus knew that in a dark world, the 'bright light' of His followers would make an eternal impact.

In James 2, James also addresses this issue. Your faith is important; your faith followed by Christ-honoring actions is better!

Act: Has your faith had any 'action' in it recently? This week, aim to be very purposeful and let your light shine through your actions.

Day 4: The Great Commission **Read:** Matthew 28:18-20; Ephesians 5:15-16

Think about: Why is the Matthew passage called 'The Great Commission'? Because Jesus has personally commissioned you, as one of His followers, carry out this exciting and vitally important mission. There is no 'Plan B'; your job is to tell people about Jesus, invite them to become His disciple (or follower) and encourage God's work in their lives. Remember - Jesus is with you in this mission!

Note Paul's words to the church at Ephesus to make the most of every opportunity. You can not be sure what tomorrow will hold and how many more chances you may have to show someone the difference Jesus has made in your life. The Great Commission is a daily project - one with urgency and great rewards. Jesus died for this mission and you are to live it out every day, teaming with other Christians to spread the love of Christ.

Act: Pray for people in your life who do not know Christ. Ask God to give you opportunities to share His love with them. When the opportunity arises, don't feel like you have to know all the answers - just show others God's love and pray for God's work in their lives!

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