

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 a Seeker”

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: Feeling stressed? God can fix that! **Read:** Philippians 4:4-13; 1 Peter 5:7

Think about: Are you stressed? Anxious? Worried? Fearful? As a seeker, or a person actively investigating who God is, be assured that Jesus wants to help you with these serious life issues. The apostle Paul wrote this Philippians letter while in prison - not exactly the most peaceful, comfortable setting. Yet he was dealing with his stress. Look at verses 6 & 7. Paul tells us the godly response to anxiety should be our prayers. With the right attitude (thanksgiving, humility, faith), God promises to send us a peace that we can’t even understand.

In verses 11-13, Paul talks about contentment and the secret to finding it. True contentment comes from a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and the strength that He provides. When you know Christ, you start thinking on the right things (verse 8). Thinking about the things listed in verse 8 can truly change our focus when we need to cast our anxiety upon Him (1 Peter 5:7).

Act: Talk with God this week about your stress! He wants you to be open and honest with Him. Read these verses in Philippians once a day this week and it will affect your thought process when anxiety comes your way.

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Day 2: No Condemnation **Read:** Romans 8:1-4; Galatians 5:1, 13

Think about: No one likes to be looked down on and judged. If you are a seeker, be assured that God has provided a way for you to leave your sin behind and never be under the weight of condemnation again. He did this through the death of Christ, His son, and offers it in the gift of salvation. Look at Romans 8. Read about the role Jesus lived - to be the sin offering for you, providing a way to overcome your sinful nature and live in heaven for eternity after this life.

Sin in you results in darkness, pain and death. Jesus offers life, hope and freedom to you instead. Read more about that freedom in Galatians 5. But be careful! Paul gives a warning in verse 13. Misusing this gift of freedom will displease God - instead it should be used to bless others.

Act: Take some time to pray and thank God that the death of Christ allows you to be forgiven from the sin in your past and it will no longer count against you.

Day 3: Join the Family **Read:** 1 John 3:1-10

Think about: The wonderful promise that God offers a seeker is that he/she can become a part of His family, literally a child of God. Once God calls you His child, that relationship can never be severed - your salvation is eternally secure. So whether you have a good or bad relationship with your earthly father or other family members, God offers to cover you with His love.

Look how God's love is described in verse 1 - "lavished." Not "just enough", "leftovers", or "secondhand." It is a love that will shock you, provide for you and always be with you. God wants every seeker to join His family, experience His love and live a life surrendered to Him.

Act: Do you need to accept this love? Maybe you need to tell someone else about this lavish love. Be sure to think of God as your Father and always remember how valuable you are to Him.

Day 4: Nic at Night - How to be Born Again **Read:** John 3:1-21

Think about: Read about the seeker who came to Jesus at night with heartfelt questions about life and death. Nicodemus was a smart man, holding a leadership position as a Pharisee. But he did not allow his 'religious status' to keep him from finding out the truth about Jesus. He came to Jesus wanting answers and Jesus laid out for him clearly how to be "born again" and enter heaven.

You may have heard verse 13 many times in your life - it lets us know how to get to heaven! Believing in Christ and His death and resurrection allows any person to have eternal life. Look at the relief shown in verse 14. Jesus did not come to condemn you, but to save you. No wonder this is called "good news!"

Act: This is the last day of a "letter to a seeker." You have read about freedom, contentment, family and eternal life. There is much to gain from entering in to a relationship with Jesus Christ. All you have to do is (1) Admit you are a sinner, (2) Believe Jesus died for your sins and is the only way to heaven, and then (3) Choose to live for Him the rest of your life. Contact us if we can help you take this step of salvation and guide you into the first steps of your new life in Christ!

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