

## TO HELP YOU NAIL DOWN TRUTHS IN THE BIBLE

One of our goals here 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 min)

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

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

- 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 min)

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

### “The Transformed Life”

A study about the Apostle Paul

You have **several options for tools to use during this study** (approx. 12 weeks):

- ◆ **HAMMERTIME Cards** - available Sundays at Bethlehem Church or online at [www.bethlehemtoolbox.com](http://www.bethlehemtoolbox.com).
- ◆ **Study Notebooks** - available at ‘Above the Grind’ Bookstore or the Information Center, \$5.00
- ◆ **“Paul: Living for the Call of Christ”**, by Gene Getz. Available at ‘Above the Grind’ Bookstore or you can purchase at Lifeway/Amazon/etc.
- ◆ For men, we offer several **small groups** that are studying the life of Paul over the next 3 months. Stop by the Info Center in the lobby or go to <http://www.bethlehembc.com/toolbox.htm> for more information. Contact Matt Vanderbilt, Pastor of Connections at [mvanderbilt@bethlehembc.com](mailto:mvanderbilt@bethlehembc.com) or 704.823.5050 x104 with additional questions.

**Day 1:** Misguided Passion **Read:** Galatians 1:13-14; Acts 26:9-11; 1 Timothy 1:13

**Think about:** Passionate belief doesn’t necessarily make something true. What if you completely believe that you can catch a falling piano? Once the reality of that piano lands in your arms and splats you on the pavement, the truth will be revealed.

Paul had a very passionate belief system before he came to Christ. Re-read today’s verses and see how Paul had misguided passion, until he was ‘hit by a piano’ - the reality of Jesus. Think about the things that you believe with passion. Are those beliefs molded and shaped by the Bible - or are you still hanging on to beliefs that come from your own desires? Even if you already know Jesus, having misguided passion can still creep in your life. Think about and deal with those wrong beliefs before you get ‘hit by a piano.’

**Act:** In your notebook, list some main points from these passages & write down the “key for me” (your main application from today).

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**Act:** In your notebook, list some main points from these passages & write down the “key for me” (your main application from today).

**Day 2:** Misguided Knowledge      **Read:** 1 Corinthians 8:1; Galatians 6:14

**Think about:** To get ahead in the world, we are encouraged to increase our knowledge, i.e. high school diplomas, college degrees, even Kindles. Knowledge is important, but more important is making sure our learning is taking us in the right direction - Christ Jesus' direction. Before coming to Christ, Paul was growing in knowledge, but lacking in love. Paul's boasting about learning and about himself changed drastically under the influence of Christ.

Think about how you are training your mind to think & the habits you are building in your life. Is your goal to have the mind of Christ? (1 Corinthians 2:16) Don't let your mind get off track and pull you away from Christ - it is a great tool to daily pull you towards Him.

**Act:** Use your notebook - main points & the "key for me".

**Day 3:** Power from the wrong source      **Read:** 1 Corinthians 1:17 & 2:4-5;  
Zechariah 4:6

**Think about:** Paul was living his life away from Christ & in his own power. He leaned on his own wisdom. Compared to other people, he was very wise and powerful. Once Jesus is your Lord, it is easy to see that you were not so wise, not so strong & that you were getting your power from the wrong place.

Whether the world says you are wise or not, or if you are weak or strong, remember that as God said in Zechariah 4:6 that it is not about your power but about His Spirit and His power working in you.

**Act:** Think about what God wants to do in you and through you. Really think about, even dream about, what He wants to do with your life. If you knew that He would give you the power, the courage, even the resources to do something amazing for Him, would you go for it? Write down some of these things in your journal and ask Him how to access His power - He wants to be your source!

**Day 4:** A different way of looking at things      **Read:** 1 Corinthians 1:25-27;  
Isaiah 55:8-9

**Think about:** God does not look at things the same way we do. He might use the weak or the simple-minded to show how strong and how wise He is. He might use someone who is strong or is wise, and in their humility show that even "successful" people submit to Him.

The verses in Isaiah teach us that we can constantly learn about God but we are never going to figure Him out entirely. He is too great, too powerful, too wise for us to wrap our minds around Him and His ways. That is where faith comes in - faith that God wants to constantly grow in you. At times, the world may mock you for that faith, but Jesus will mold and shape you, and ultimately honor you for having a different way of looking at things - His way of looking at things.

**Act:** Write down some of the areas that Jesus has changed in you (or that you need to allow Him to change). In next week's study, the change in Paul will be evident.

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