

## 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 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.
- ◆ Contact Matt Vanderbilt, Pastor of Connections at [mvanderbilt@bethlehembc.com](mailto:mvanderbilt@bethlehembc.com) or 704.823.5050 x104 for additional information.

**Day 1:** A Time for Growth

**Read:** Galatians 1: 11-17

**Think about:** Just like Paul, there are going to be seasons in your life where God wants to focus you on specific growth. For Paul, it was very shortly after his conversion to Christianity. You can see today’s verses that he spent one-on-one time with God (verse 12) and experienced a vital time of growth. Paul did not go to Jerusalem to learn from other Christian leaders (verse 17) but spent focused time in the Scriptures and in prayer to learn from God.

There will be times in your life where God wants to speak directly to you for your personal growth. When you sense these times, be sure to block out time apart from friends, family, small groups, etc., where you can focus on Scripture and can pray uninterrupted. This might take place at your kitchen table or at the corner booth at McDonald’s - either way, be sensitive to how God specifically wants you to grow.

**Act:** Take a few minutes today and in your prayer time to ask God how He wants you to grow. Think of the different areas of your life - individual, as a spouse, as a parent, an employee, a volunteer at church, etc. Like Paul, you can grow and be in tune to how God wants to work in you and through you.

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**Day 2:** Prophecy about Jesus **Read:** Isaiah 53:3-6

**Think about:** When Paul accepted Christ, he began to see the Old Testament prophecies in a totally different light. These were not just writings of David — these were prophetic words about the Savior that was to come. Read through these prophecies in the following left column and connect them with the associated passage in the right.

Psalm 22:1	Matthew 27:35
Psalm 22:18	Luke 23:46
Psalm 31:5	Matthew 26:23
Psalm 41:9	Matthew 27:46

**Act:** Visualize Jesus and the prophecies that describe what He went through for you (include the Isaiah verses as you think of Jesus). Like Paul, let these words impact you so that your devotion to Him is even stronger!

**Day 3:** Be an Encourager **Read:** Acts 4:36-37; Acts 9:26-30; Hebrews 10:24-25

**Think about:** Paul was making a radical change in his life but was experiencing some opposition from Christ-followers. After all, he had just recently been killing Christians. Paul may have fought discouragement, until a great encourager named Barnabas came into his life. In Acts 4, note the kind and generous spirit of Barnabas and in Acts 9 how Barnabas befriended Paul.

As you read the Hebrews passage, think about one purpose for gathering with other Christians - to encourage each other. This is a vital part of the Christian walk. Barnabas displayed it to Paul and what a boost it was to him as he started his ministry. Who does God want you to encourage today?

**Act:** Look for opportunities to encourage someone today. Through your words and actions, look for a chance in interactions with others to lift someone through encouragement.

**Day 4:** Need an Encourager? **Read:** 1 Thessalonians 4:18, 5:11

**Think about:** As you read today's verses, also re-read yesterday's passage in Hebrews. God wants us to be encouragers, but He also knows how important it is for us to have people in our lives that can encourage and motivate us with positive and energetic attitudes.

Life hits us with so many things that try to 'knock the wind out of us'. Be intentional to fill your life with friends who can encourage you when difficulties arise. Whether in a couples, mixed or men's/women's group, find some adults who love Jesus and will help you along in life's journey. They need to be honest enough to tell you the truth. Even in challenging times or when people turn against you, you need someone who cares and loves you like Barnabas loved Paul. God wants to encourage you...through other men and women that love Him!

**Act:** Be intentional to seek out friends that will challenge you in an encouraging manner. Pray for each other, check in on each other & build life habits where your friends help you faithfully run life's race.

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