

DAY 1 – SCRIPTURE, OBSERVATION, APPLICATION, PRAYER (“SOAP”)

CONVERSATION STARTER

Share a time when you took a wrong turn...how did you find your way again?

SCRIPTURE OBSERVATION (5 MINUTES)

Scripture:

Jesus said, “Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.” **Matthew 7:13-14 NLT**

The prophet Isaiah helped the Jewish people understand God’s heart for them: “O people of Zion, who live in Jerusalem, you will weep no more. He will be gracious if you ask for help. He will surely respond to the sound of your cries. Though the Lord gave you adversity for food and suffering for drink, he will still be with you to teach you. You will see your teacher with your own eyes. Your own ears will hear him. Right behind you a voice will say, ‘This is the way you should go,’ whether to the right or to the left. Then you will destroy all your silver idols and your precious gold images. You will throw them out like filthy rags, saying to them, ‘Good riddance!’” **Isaiah 30:19-22 NLT**

Sermon Insights:

Jesus describes the choices in life like two roads.

God is looking for his people to put the brakes on the forward momentum of following culture into moral destruction and make the *shift* to new Kingdom values, morals and behaviors.

APPLICATION SUGGESTIONS (5 MINUTES)

“Enter through the narrow gate.” This indicates that it is a personal, intentional, and difficult decision. Have you made a personal decision to follow Jesus?

What sacrifices are you willing to make to be on the narrow road that leads to life?

“Though the Lord gave you adversity for food and suffering for drink, he will still be with you to teach you.” What does that teach us about God?

Understanding that God’s relationship with everyone is personalized, how does God guide your life?

PRAYER SUGGESTIONS (5 MINUTES)

Lord, thank you for being with me during thick and thin. Thank you for teaching me the path of life! Help me listen for your voice and follow your guidance in my life!

DAY 2 – SCRIPTURE, OBSERVATION, APPLICATION, PRAYER (“SOAP”)

CONVERSATION STARTER

How do you know what is true?

SCRIPTURE OBSERVATION (5 MINUTES)

Scripture:

“My prayer is not for the world, but for those you have given me, because they belong to you. All who are mine belong to you, and you have given them to me, so they bring me glory. Now I am departing from the world; they are staying in this world, but I am coming to you.

“Holy Father, you have given me your name; now protect them by the power of your name so that they will be united just as we are. During my time here, I protected them by the power of the name you gave me. I guarded them so that not one was lost, except the one headed for destruction, as the Scriptures foretold.

“Now I am coming to you. I told them many things while I was with them in this world so they would be filled with my joy. I have given them your word. And the world hates them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. I’m not asking you to take them out of the world, but to keep them safe from the evil one. They do not belong to this world any more than I do. Make them holy by your truth; teach them your word, which is truth.

“Just as you sent me into the world, I am sending them into the world. And I give myself as a holy sacrifice for them so they can be made holy by your truth. I am praying not only for these disciples but also for all who will ever believe in me through their message. I pray that they will all be one, just as you and I are one—as you are in me, Father, and I am in you. And may they be in us so that the world will believe you sent me.

“I have given them the glory you gave me, so they may be one as we are one. I am in them and you are in me. May they experience such perfect unity that the world will know that you sent me and that you love them as much as you love me. Father, I want these whom you have given me to be with me where I am. Then they can see all the glory you gave me because you loved me even before the world began!

“O righteous Father, the world doesn’t know you, but I do; and these disciples know you sent me. I have revealed you to them, and I will continue to do so. Then your love for me will be in them, and I will be in them.” **John 17:9-26 NLT**

APPLICATION SUGGESTIONS (5 MINUTES)

There is a righteous road and a road of self-destruction; which road are you going to follow?

Describe Jesus’ heart for you based on his prayer.

Sharing Jesus’s heart of compassion for others involves speaking the truth in love. Who needs you to care for them in this way?

Jesus’ goal for his family is spiritual safety while being in the world. How does Jesus protect his family?

PRAYER SUGGESTIONS (5 MINUTES)

Lord, thank you for giving me everything I need to live a godly life. Keep me safe from the evil one because I no longer belong to this world. Help me be holy through your truth and powerful through the Holy Spirit.

DAY 3 – SCRIPTURE, OBSERVATION, APPLICATION, PRAYER (“SOAP”)

CONVERSATION STARTER

Define and describe faith...how can you tell when you have it?

SCRIPTURE OBSERVATION (5 MINUTES)

Scripture: *The Apostle Paul wrote, “For I am not ashamed of this Good News about Christ. It is the power of God at work, saving everyone who believes—the Jew first and also the Gentile. This Good News tells us how God makes us right in his sight. This is accomplished from start to finish by faith. As the Scriptures say, ‘It is through faith that a righteous person has life.’*

“But God shows his anger from heaven against all sinful, wicked people who suppress the truth by their wickedness. They know the truth about God because he has made it obvious to them. For ever since the world was created, people have seen the earth and sky. Through everything God made, they can clearly see his invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature. So they have no excuse for not knowing God.

“Yes, they knew God, but they wouldn’t worship him as God or even give him thanks. And they began to think up foolish ideas of what God was like. As a result, their minds became dark and confused. Claiming to be wise, they instead became utter fools. And instead of worshiping the glorious, ever-living God, they worshiped idols made to look like mere people and birds and animals and reptiles.

“So God abandoned them to do whatever shameful things their hearts desired. As a result, they did vile and degrading things with each other’s bodies. They traded the truth about God for a lie. So they worshiped and served the things God created instead of the Creator himself, who is worthy of eternal praise! Amen.

“That is why God abandoned them to their shameful desires. Even the women turned against the natural way to have sex and instead indulged in sex with each other. And the men, instead of having normal sexual relations with women, burned with lust for each other. Men did shameful things with other men, and as a result of this sin, they suffered within themselves the penalty they deserved. Since they thought it foolish to acknowledge God, he abandoned them to their foolish thinking and let them do things that should never be done.

Their lives became full of every kind of wickedness, sin, greed, hate, envy, murder, quarreling, deception, malicious behavior, and gossip. They are backstabbers, haters of God, insolent, proud, and boastful. They invent new ways of sinning, and they disobey their parents. They refuse to understand, break their promises, are heartless, and have no mercy. They know God’s justice requires that those who do these things deserve to die, yet they do them anyway. Worse yet, they encourage others to do them, too.

Romans 1:16-32 NLT

APPLICATION SUGGESTIONS (5 MINUTES)

How would you describe the good news of Jesus in your own words? Is it based on *faith*?

How does our culture worship idols made to look like people and animals?

Can spiritual darkness confuse very gifted and intelligent people? What is the remedy?

PRAYER SUGGESTIONS (5 MINUTES)

Lord, I don’t deserve your kindness, but I welcome it! Help me see and spread light and avoid darkness.

DAY 4 – SCRIPTURE, OBSERVATION, APPLICATION, PRAYER (“SOAP”)

CONVERSATION STARTER

Do you remember a time when you could not see clearly?

SCRIPTURE OBSERVATION (5 MINUTES)

Scripture:

Therefore, since we have been made right in God’s sight by faith, we have peace with God because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us. Because of our faith, Christ has brought us into this place of undeserved privilege where we now stand, and we confidently and joyfully look forward to sharing God’s glory.

We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance. And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation. And this hope will not lead to disappointment. For we know how dearly God loves us, because he has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with his love. **Romans 5:1-5 NLT**

The disciples saw Jesus do many other miraculous signs in addition to the ones recorded in this book. But these are written so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing in him you will have life by the power of his name. **John 20:30-31 NLT**

Therefore, since God in his mercy has given us this new way, we never give up. We reject all shameful deeds and underhanded methods. We don’t try to trick anyone or distort the word of God. We tell the truth before God, and all who are honest know this. If the Good News we preach is hidden behind a veil, it is hidden only from people who are perishing. Satan, who is the god of this world, has blinded the minds of those who don’t believe. They are unable to see the glorious light of the Good News. They don’t understand this message about the glory of Christ, who is the exact likeness of God. **2 Corinthians 4:1-4 NLT**

Sermon Insights:

The roads to heaven and hell begin now—in the present!

APPLICATION SUGGESTIONS (5 MINUTES)

What does the Apostle Paul (in Romans 5) say God accomplishes for us in response to our faith?

What should our response be when we face problems and trials? Where are you at in that process?

How do we know God loves us?

Oswald Chambers said, “It takes a tremendous amount of discipline to live the noble life of a disciple of Jesus.” Why do we never give up?

PRAYER SUGGESTIONS (5 MINUTES)

Lord, thank you for giving us great and powerful promises, making us right with you and giving us peace. Help my faith to grow as I continue to trust in you!

DAY 5 – SCRIPTURE, OBSERVATION, APPLICATION, PRAYER (“SOAP”)

CONVERSATION STARTER

In what ways are you like your parents?

SCRIPTURE OBSERVATION (5 MINUTES)

Scripture:

The Apostle Paul wrote to Timothy like a spiritual father to a son, “You should know this, Timothy, that in the last days there will be very difficult times. For people will love only themselves and their money. They will be boastful and proud, scoffing at God, disobedient to their parents, and ungrateful.

“They will consider nothing sacred. They will be unloving and unforgiving; they will slander others and have no self-control. They will be cruel and hate what is good. They will betray their friends, be reckless, be puffed up with pride, and love pleasure rather than God. They will act religious, but they will reject the power that could make them godly. Stay away from people like that!

“They are the kind who work their way into people’s homes and win the confidence of vulnerable women who are burdened with the guilt of sin and controlled by various desires. (Such women are forever following new teachings, but they are never able to understand the truth.)” **2 Timothy 3:1-7 NLT**

In those days Israel had no king; all the people did whatever seemed right in their own eyes. **Judges 21:25 NLT**

“You can enter God’s Kingdom only through the narrow gate. The highway to hell is broad, and its gate is wide for the many who choose that way. But the gateway to life is very narrow and the road is difficult, and only a few ever find it.” **Matthew 7:13-14 NLT**

Sermon Insights:

Along with discernment, we must make decisions!

Pastor Greg pointed out several key inhibitors for us in our culture:

- 1) Christians are fearful they may be rejected.
- 2) Many don’t stop to think and just follow blindly.
- 3) Children are a microcosm of their parents.

APPLICATION SUGGESTIONS (5 MINUTES)

Are you fearful of being rejected if you follow the “narrow road” and “speak the truth in love”? Does that stop you?

Paul said in the last days, people “...will act religious, but they will reject the power that could make them godly.” What does he mean by that?

Who is influencing you? Who are you influencing?

What happens in a culture where everyone is so “tolerant” that everyone does whatever seems right in their own eyes?

PRAYER SUGGESTIONS (5 MINUTES)

Lord, give me the strength to follow your path, speak the truth in love, and pursue my relationship with you above all else!