



2023-2024 Devotionals

Notes to Leaders:

Try answering questions first if your team is hesitant to begin discussions. When discussion questions are finished, ask if anything else from the scripture or discussion jumped out to anyone. This can spark great conversations that the questions did not capture. The Food for Thought question/note is meant to be spiritually challenging. Instead of discussing it, pose the question and then allow a moment of silence for reflection.

All scripture is NIV translation from BibleGateway.com. Developed by Josh Veronica. Special thanks to FCA Buffalo's Jake Hannon for his guidance and assistance.



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Week 1: Introduction

Leaders: the first week is chaotic, and time for a formal discussion is limited. Use the first week to get everyone acquainted with each other and with the league.

To set the table:

- Leader introductions
- League info – schedule, website, playoffs, etc.
- Team expectations
 - Explain devotionals & confidentiality of discussions
 - When devotionals happen (e.g. 30 min. before faceoff)
 - Encourage all to attend devotionals, regardless of faith background
 - How to communicate about absences
 - On-ice conduct

Next, go around the locker room and have everyone say:

- Name
- Hockey experience
- Church experience & which (if any) they belong to

Prayer:

God, thank you for assembling this team. We have faith that you have placed each member in this locker room for a reason. We look forward to seeing the work you will do in this league this year. Amen.



Week 2: Creation

Scripture: Genesis 1:1-4

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. **2** Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.

3 And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. **4** God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness.

Scripture: Genesis 1:26-31

26 Then God said, “Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.”

27 So God created mankind in his own image,
in the image of God he created them;
male and female he created them.

28 God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.”

29 Then God said, “I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. **30** And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds in the sky and all the creatures that move along the ground—everything that has the breath of life in it—I give every green plant for food.”
And it was so.

31 God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning—the sixth day.



Discussion

Main Idea: God created us in His image.

Questions:

1. In verse 26, we learn that God created us in his own image. However, we often fail or forget to see the value in others that God sees in them. What are ways we can treat other people that acknowledges that they were fearfully & wonderfully made by God in His image?

Food for Thought:

It's not just others who were created in God's image with inherent value – you were, too.

Prayer:

God, thank you for the wonders of your creation. Each day, we eat food you provided, drink water you created, and interact with people you made in your image. Help us see others the way you see them. Amen.



Week 3: The Fall

Scripture: Genesis 3:1-19

Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden?’”

2 The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, **3** but God did say, ‘You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.’”

4 “You will not certainly die,” the serpent said to the woman. **5** “For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

6 When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. **7** Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

8 Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. **9** But the LORD God called to the man, “Where are you?”

10 He answered, “I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid.” **11** And he said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?” **12** The man said, “The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it.”

13 Then the LORD God said to the woman, “What is this you have done?”

The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

14 So the LORD God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this,

“Cursed are you above all livestock
and all wild animals!
You will crawl on your belly



and you will eat dust
all the days of your life.

15 And I will put enmity
between you and the woman,
and between your offspring^[a] and hers;
he will crush^[b] your head,
and you will strike his heel.”

16 To the woman he said,

“I will make your pains in childbearing very severe;
with painful labor you will give birth to children.
Your desire will be for your husband,
and he will rule over you.”

17 To Adam he said, “Because you listened to your wife and ate fruit from the tree about which I commanded you, ‘You must not eat from it,’

“Cursed is the ground because of you;
through painful toil you will eat food from it
all the days of your life.

18 It will produce thorns and thistles for you,
and you will eat the plants of the field.

19 By the sweat of your brow
you will eat your food
until you return to the ground,
since from it you were taken;
for dust you are
and to dust you will return.”

Discussion

Main Idea: The details change, but the fundamentals of sin remain: we are tempted into ignoring God and all He has provided for us.

Questions:

1. God provided Adam and Eve with everything they needed, and yet, the serpent still convinced them to disobey God. How does the serpent tempt Adam and Eve?



2. Does Satan use the same tactics on you?
3. For those with children in the room, have you ever warned your child against doing something, and they disregard you and do it anyway? How does it feel? What must God feel when we do it?

Food for Thought:

In what ways has Satan convinced you that God's provision isn't enough?

Prayer:

Lord, like Adam and Eve, we are sinful people. We ask for your mercy and forgiveness. Please help us remain strong when Satan tempts us into disobeying you. Amen.



Week 4: Fulfillment of the Law

Scripture: Matthew 5:17-30

17 “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. **18** For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished. **19** Therefore anyone who sets aside one of the least of these commands and teaches others accordingly will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. **20** For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven.

21 “You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, ‘You shall not murder,^[a] and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.’ **22** But I tell you that anyone who is angry with a brother or sister will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to a brother or sister, ‘Raca,’ is answerable to the court. And anyone who says, ‘You fool!’ will be in danger of the fire of hell.

23 “Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, **24** leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift.

25 “Settle matters quickly with your adversary who is taking you to court. Do it while you are still together on the way, or your adversary may hand you over to the judge, and the judge may hand you over to the officer, and you may be thrown into prison. **26** Truly I tell you, you will not get out until you have paid the last penny.

27 “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ **28** But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart. **29** If your right eye causes you to stumble, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. **30** And if your right hand causes you to stumble, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to go into hell.



Discussion

Main Idea:

We are called not just to avoid outward sin and follow rules, but to go beyond that. Jesus calls and challenges us to address underlying issues within our hearts before they become outward sins.

Questions:

1. The Pharisees were known for being legalistic – outwardly very religious and obedient to the law. What does Jesus say about their approach?

Food for Thought:

What sin – that others don't see – are you allowing to linger in your heart? What do you need to do to flee from this sin?

Prayer:

Search us, God, and know our hearts. Test us and know our anxious thoughts. See if there are any offensive ways in us, and lead us in the way everlasting. Amen.



Week 5: The Way

Scripture: John 14:1-12

1 “Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. **2** My Father’s house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? **3** And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me, that you also may be where I am. **4** You know the way to the place where I am going.”

5 Thomas said to him, “Lord, we don’t know where you are going, so how can we know the way?”

6 Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. **7** If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him.”

8 Philip said, “Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us.”

9 Jesus answered: “Don’t you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? **10** Don’t you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak on my own authority. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. **11** Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the works themselves. **12** Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.”

Discussion

Main Idea:

Jesus is the way to Heaven.

Questions:

1. In verse 6, Jesus says that no one comes to the Father except through him. What are the implications of this statement?



2. All of us, including Philip, want to know God. Jesus says that the way to do so is to know him. How can we know Jesus? Not just know *about* Jesus, but really know him?
3. In the first line, Jesus commands us to not let our hearts be troubled. What in this passage brings you comfort?

Food for Thought:

In verse 12. Jesus says that whoever believes in him will do what he does. If you are a believer, what things are you doing that Jesus did? Does your walk look like his?

Prayer:

Lord, we thank you for the gift of your son, who came to our sinful world and modeled how you call us to live. We know he is preparing a place in Heaven for us – a place we do not deserve. We live in a troubled world, but our hearts will not be troubled because we have eternal hope in you. Amen.



Week 6: The Men on the Crosses

Scripture: Luke 23:32-43

32 Two other men, both criminals, were also led out with him to be executed. **33** When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified him there, along with the criminals—one on his right, the other on his left. **34** Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.” And they divided up his clothes by casting lots.

35 The people stood watching, and the rulers even sneered at him. They said, “He saved others; let him save himself if he is God’s Messiah, the Chosen One.”

36 The soldiers also came up and mocked him. They offered him wine vinegar **37** and said, “If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself.”

38 There was a written notice above him, which read: THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS.

39 One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: “Aren’t you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!”

40 But the other criminal rebuked him. “Don’t you fear God,” he said, “since you are under the same sentence? **41** We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong.” **42** Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.”

43 Jesus answered him, “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise.”

Discussion

Main Idea: We sinners are saved by Jesus’ willing acceptance of death on the cross.

Questions:

1. We know that Jesus has performed numerous miracles. Despite his power, Jesus does not come down from the cross. Why?
2. One criminal acknowledges that he committed crimes, and that being crucified is a just condemnation for his deeds (v.41). Yet, Jesus tells the criminal that he will be with Jesus in paradise. What does this reveal to us about salvation? About God’s mercy?



Food for Thought:

Like the criminal, you might have a checkered past. Was Jesus done with him? Is Jesus done with you?

Prayer:

Lord, thank you for being merciful. You see our sins and imperfections and offer us eternity with you anyway. Help us flee from our sinful ways. Amen.

***Leader note: look at next week's devotional to coordinate a speaker.*

Week 7: Testimony Night #1

Leaders: this is a chance for one or two team members to share their stories of how they came to the Lord. It is a great way to get to know each other better, but also to hear how the Lord works in a variety of circumstances. **Coordinate with the sharing team member(s) early in the week to allow him time to prepare.** Before beginning, reiterate that everything discussed in the locker room stays in the locker room.

Closing Prayer:

God, thank you for allowing us to hear [Name]'s testimony tonight. We are so thankful for the way you worked and continue to work in his life. Please continue to help him and help all of us as we strive to follow you better. Amen.



Week 8: Temptation to Sin

Scripture: Matthew 18:7-9

7 “Woe to the world for temptations to sin! For it is necessary that temptations come, but woe to the one by whom the temptation comes! **8** And if your hand or your foot causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life crippled or lame than with two hands or two feet to be thrown into the eternal fire. **9** And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into the hell of fire.”

Scripture: Hebrews 4:14-16

14 Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. **15** For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. **16** Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Discussion

Main Idea:

God takes sin seriously; we should, too.

Questions:

1. What specific temptations to sin have a grip on you? What would it look like to cut it off?
2. The first verse says, “woe to the one by whom the temptation comes.” Are there ways you are pushing other people in your life toward sin?
3. In Hebrews, we are told to draw near to God to find help in times of need. What might that look like?

Food for Thought:

What changes can you make this week to cut off a temptation to sin?



Prayer:

God, we sinners ask for mercy for our sinful ways. Please help us identify those temptations leading us to sin, and help us cut off those temptations. We thank you for your mercy, and for the example of your Son, who faced the same temptations as we did yet remained sinless. Help us follow His example. Amen.



Week 9: Repentance

Scripture: Matthew 4:17

17 From that time on Jesus began to preach, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”

Scripture: Luke 5:27-32

27 After this, Jesus went out and saw a tax collector by the name of Levi sitting at his tax booth. “Follow me,” Jesus said to him, **28** and Levi got up, left everything and followed him.

29 Then Levi held a great banquet for Jesus at his house, and a large crowd of tax collectors and others were eating with them. **30** But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law who belonged to their sect complained to his disciples, “Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?”

31 Jesus answered them, “It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. **32** I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.”

Discussion

Main Idea: We are called to repent from sin.

Questions:

1. Matthew 4 documents the beginning of Jesus’ ministry; his first message is a call to repentance. What does it mean to repent?
2. In Luke 5, Jesus is criticized for dining with sinners. What is his purpose for doing so? How is Jesus’ attitude toward sinners different from that of the Pharisees?

Food for Thought:

What sin are you struggling to turn from?

Prayer:

Lord, search our hearts and help us see the sin we need to repent from. Help us encourage others to turn from sin, and protect our hearts from temptation. Amen.



Week 10: While We Were Still Sinners

Scripture: Romans 5:1-11

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, **2** through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. **3** Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; **4** perseverance, character; and character, hope. **5** And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

6 You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. **7** Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. **8** But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

9 Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! **10** For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! **11** Not only is this so, but we also boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

Discussion

Main Idea:

Christ sacrificed himself for disobedient, undeserving people.

Questions:

1. A Christian life is NOT one without suffering. However, verses 3-6 tell us that there is something to be gained from our periods of suffering. What are those things? Does anyone have an example of this in their own life?
2. Verse 9 tells us we are saved from God's wrath. Do we deserve God's wrath?
3. Being justified, saved, and reconciled is the greatest news. What did we do to earn this?



Food for Thought:

In what ways are you trying to earn the love of Christ? Do you realize that he sees your sin and imperfections and undertook the ultimate act of loving sacrifice for you anyway?

Prayer:

Dear Jesus, thank you for paying the price of our sin. We do not deserve the love you show us amid our disobedience. Have mercy on us sinners. Amen.



Week 11: The Lord's Prayer

Scripture: Matthew 6:9-14

9 “This, then, is how you should pray:

“Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,

10 your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.

11 Give us today our daily bread.

12 And forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.

13 And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from the evil one.’

14 For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.

Discussion

Main Idea:

Many of us learned this prayer as kids, and we can mindlessly rattle it off like it's the Pledge of Allegiance. It is important to slow down and earnestly pray each line of this prayer.

Questions:

1. Why is God's name “hallowed”?
2. What does it look like to pray for God's will to be done, instead of our will?
3. Jesus asks God for today's provision of daily bread. Do we approach our lives with this sort of dependence on or confidence in God?
4. For what “debts” do we need to ask God for forgiveness? How are we to respond when others sin against us?
5. Why is it important to pray to avoid temptation?

Food for Thought: Jesus' prayer reminds us: God is good, powerful, generous, and merciful.

Prayer: Lord, thank you for showing us how to pray. We trust fully in your will and in your provision for us. Amen.



Week 12: Night of Prayer

Leaders: set aside at least 15 minutes for this. Be prepared to lead off, as many may be unfamiliar or uncomfortable with praying out loud. A few moments of silence is okay. Read through prompts, then allow the locker room to respond out loud.

Prompts:

1. God, thank you for working in my life by...
2. God, I trust you because...

Closing Prayer:

God, thank you for all you have done and are doing in our lives. Thank you for sending your son to walk with us, guide us, and pay the price for our sins. Amen.



Week 13: Rest

Scripture: Genesis 2:1-3

Thus the heavens and the earth were completed in all their vast array.

2 By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work. **3** Then God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done.

Scripture: Matthew 11:28-30

28 “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. **29** Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. **30** For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”

Discussion

Main Idea: We are called to regular spiritual rest.

Questions:

1. Between work, your family, hockey, and other errands, it often feels like there are not enough hours in a week. What does a normal week in your life look like? Do you take any time to rest?
2. When you are tired, what do you look toward to find rest and peace? Is it Jesus?
3. How can we put this concept into practice? What does spiritual rest look like?

Food for Thought:

Jesus is the ultimate source of peace.

Prayer:

God, you have won the ultimate victory on the cross. Although we face stress daily, it pales in comparison to the peace that is found in you. Help us remember and rejoice in that. Help us identify ways to practice rest weekly. Amen.



Week 14: The Church Body

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 12:12-31

Unity and Diversity in the Body

12 Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. **13** For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. **14** Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many.

15 Now if the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. **16** And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. **17** If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? **18** But in fact God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. **19** If they were all one part, where would the body be? **20** As it is, there are many parts, but one body.

21 The eye cannot say to the hand, “I don’t need you!” And the head cannot say to the feet, “I don’t need you!” **22** On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, **23** and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor. And the parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty, **24** while our presentable parts need no special treatment. But God has put the body together, giving greater honor to the parts that lacked it, **25** so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. **26** If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.

27 Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. **28** And God has placed in the church first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, of helping, of guidance, and of different kinds of tongues. **29** Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? **30** Do all have gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? **31** Now eagerly desire the greater gifts. And yet I will show you the most excellent way.



Discussion

Main Idea:

We all play important – but different – roles in the church.

Questions:

1. A hockey team with 15 goalies would not work. We have all probably been on teams with 15 people who want to do all of the goal scoring and none of the passing; this doesn't work, either. Great teams have some scorers, some passers, some defenders, some speedsters, a reliable goalie, and a coach/captain to strategize. Churches are called to operate similarly. Not all of us were given the ability to preach or to sing hymns. However, that does not mean we cannot serve the church. What spiritual gifts do you have? How can/have you used that gift for the church?

Food for Thought:

Do you view yourself as part of a church body with an essential contributing role? Or, is church simply somewhere you show up and listen?

Prayer:

Lord, thank you for giving us the gift of the church. We thank you for the comfort and encouragement that is found in convening with other believers. Help us better realize your vision for the church. Help us identify our gifts and use them for the church. Help humble our hearts so that we may appreciate the roles that others play. Lastly, we pray for unity within our body of believers. Amen.

***Leader note: look at next week's devotional to coordinate a speaker.*

Week 15: Testimony Night #2

Leaders: this is a chance for one or two team members to share their stories of how they came to the Lord. It is a great way to get to know each other better, but also to hear how the Lord works in a variety of circumstances. **Coordinate with the sharing team member(s) early in the week to allow him time to prepare.** Before beginning, reiterate that everything discussed in the locker room stays in the locker room.

Closing Prayer:

God, thank you for allowing us to hear [Name]'s testimony tonight. We are so thankful for the way you worked and continue to work in his life. Please continue to help him and help all of us as we strive to follow you better. Amen.



Week 16: Heaven

Scripture: Revelation 7:9-17

9 After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands.

10 And they cried out in a loud voice:

“Salvation belongs to our God,
who sits on the throne,
and to the Lamb.”

11 All the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures. They fell down on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, **12** saying:

“Amen!
Praise and glory
and wisdom and thanks and honor
and power and strength
be to our God for ever and ever.
Amen!”

13 Then one of the elders asked me, “These in white robes—who are they, and where did they come from?”

14 I answered, “Sir, you know.”

And he said, “These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. **15** Therefore,

“they are before the throne of God
and serve him day and night in his temple;
and he who sits on the throne
will shelter them with his presence.

16 ‘Never again will they hunger;
never again will they thirst.



The sun will not beat down on them,
nor any scorching heat.

17 For the Lamb at the center of the throne
will be their shepherd;
'he will lead them to springs of living water.'
'And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.'"

Discussion

Main Idea:

We have so much to look forward to by spending eternity in Heaven.

Questions:

1. Verse 14 says the people in Heaven "have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb." What does this mean?

Food for Thought:

God has room prepared for us in Heaven – a place where we do not hunger nor thirst; a place where God wipes our tears. Despite our sin and disobedience, God makes this eternity available to us. Knowing that, don't our earthly problems seem small?

Prayer:

Lord, we do not deserve Heaven. We are sinners in need of mercy. Instead of making us pay the debt of our sin, you forgive us and invite us into paradise. When we are troubled by anything, help us remember the beautiful eternity that you make available to us. Amen.



Week 17: The Great Commission

Scripture: Matthew 28:16-20

16 Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. **17** When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. **18** Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. **19** Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **20** and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Scripture: Romans 10:11-15

11 As Scripture says, “Anyone who believes in him will never be put to shame.” **12** For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, **13** for, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

14 How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? **15** And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!”

Discussion

Main Idea:

We are called to make disciples.

Questions:

1. Jesus tasks us with making disciples. Does anyone have a story of their own experience in sharing the gospel with someone else? Or, of someone else first sharing the gospel with you?
2. How would you explain the gospel to someone who has never heard it?

Food for Thought:

Who in your life needs to hear the gospel? What can you do to share it with them?



Prayer:

Lord, your love and mercy are the best news we could receive. Please help us share the good news with others – people close to us and people across all nations. Give us the words to teach about you, and the courage to do so without fear of the consequences. Amen.

Week 18: Season Wrap-Up

Leaders: this is our final week in the regular season. Use this as an opportunity to put on display the work God has done in your locker room this year.

Questions:

1. In what ways did God speak to you this season?
2. If you did not know Jesus before this season, are you ready to take a deeper step into following him? (*Leaders: if anyone says yes, speak to them privately after the discussion or connect them with Josh, but make certain that we follow up!*)
3. How can the team be praying for you?

Prayer:

God, thank you for the work you have done in our locker room this year. We are forever grateful for your goodness, your mercy, and your love. As our season ends, please help us continue to support each other and remain in fellowship and prayer. Amen.