

ONE Thing

Group Reading Plan

How to Use this Guide

For each sermon series, we want to provide questions you can use in small groups, family discussions, or as you are hanging out with your friends. Here are some steps for getting the most out of each series...

- 1) Spend time reflecting on the Get the Big Picture of the Sermon Series to see the overall purpose of the series and to understand the direction. Read the Overarching Message to see how the series is woven through each week's sermon as well as the scripture that we are discussing.
- 2) Read the Main Idea of each sermon to help you plan your study.
- 3) Use the GROW method to help you and your group engage the scripture together.
 - (G) God's Message-Spend time together doing a deeper dive into the passage through questions, personal reflection, and application.
 - (R) Respond in Prayer-Ask for God to work in your life and the world around you.
 - (O) One to Share-This will help each person not just think about a passage personally but how it can help someone else in their faith.
 - (W) Walk it Out-As with any group, it is good to have each person share one thing they want to remember as they apply the passage in their everyday lives. Feel free to read some of the Main Idea to summarize the study together.

Get the Big Picture of the Sermon Series

One of the most common misconceptions about Christianity is that it's a works-based religion where you do good things in hopes that God will let you into heaven when you die. But that's not what Jesus shows us at all! Christianity, from start to finish, isn't based on what you do, but on what Jesus did. The "one thing" that Jesus wants most from us is not work, but a relationship with him that reshapes our lives from the inside out. Over the next five weeks, we'll look more closely at five places in Scripture that show us "ONE THING" that will help us know Jesus more and become more like him.

Overarching Message

The primary goal of the Christian life is not wrapped up in activity, but identity. While Christian activity is important, finding our identity in Christ is the foundation for all that follows. In other words, Christianity isn't primarily about what we are doing, but about who we are becoming in Christ Jesus.

Week 1: Luke 9:1-25

Main Idea:

From beginning to end, salvation is a mysterious work of God, offered freely by His love and grace, through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. While no one can fully articulate the supernatural nature of this process, there's one thing that's beyond question—the transformative difference that Jesus makes in a person's life. This sermon will focus on the personal testimony/story of all who have been redeemed by Jesus.

GROW:

Talk through these questions with your Life Group, your family and friends or others who are growing with you in knowing Jesus more.

God's Message

1. Read John 9:1-25 about a man born blind. Make a short list of the people in this story and how they connect to the blind man. Re-read verses 1-8. What details do you notice about the blind man? What do you think his daily life was like?

2. What question do the disciples ask Jesus about the blind man and how does he reply (John 9:1-5)? What does this reveal about how the disciples viewed the man versus how Jesus viewed him? Look more closely at Jesus' response in verses 4-5. What pronouns do you see? What do you think he means by 'the night is coming'? Now that Jesus is no longer physically in the world (see verse 5), does that mean His light isn't either? Overall, do you think Jesus' response to the disciples about the man seems 'fair'? Can his response help us answer questions people ask about "why bad things happen in the world"? How would you answer this question if a Christian asks you? How would you respond to a non-Christian's question about suffering?

3. Look again at John 9:6-12. What does the man do and why? Who does he encounter? What do they ask him and how does the man respond? Why do you think Jesus had the man go through this process of healing rather than curing his blindness instantly?

4. Who enters the story in John 9:13-23? What new detail do you learn about the man's healing (John 9:14) and why is this important? How do the Pharisees react to the blind man's healing? What do their actions reveal about their beliefs? Why do you think they were so unwilling to believe that the man had been healed?

5. Look back over the entire story from John 9:1-25. What word do you see most often repeated? Why is that word so important in this story? Return to the list of people you made earlier. What different things make each of them unable to see Jesus and the reality of the Kingdom? How are these similar to the things that hinder people today from seeing Jesus clearly?

6. Our 'one thing' statement this week is found in John 9:25: Whether he (Jesus) is a sinner I do not know. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." Why is this a great response to the Pharisees' questions about Jesus? How does it connect back to John 9:1-7?

7. What is the 'one thing' that displays 'God's works' in your life? Read 1 Peter 3:14-16. How could the story of the blind man in John 9 help you to live out Peter's call to 'give reason for the hope that is in you'?

Respond in Prayer

Spend time in by singing or listening to "[Amazing Grace](#)". (This [Library of Congress article](#)

gives a great history of the famous song.)

One to Share

Who is one person I can share this message with? How could it encourage them and how could it help them know God more?

Walk it Out

What is one practical way I can walk out and obey God's message to me about this scripture?

Week 2: Luke 10:38-42

Main Idea:

There is a common misconception, particularly amongst Christians, that Jesus is intricately involved in the process of salvation but takes a backseat in our lives from that point. In this thought process, working for Jesus takes precedent over being with Jesus. This sermon will focus on the fact that Jesus values our presence with Him more than the work we might do for Him.

GROW:

Talk through these questions with your Life Group, your family and friends or others who are growing with you in knowing Jesus more.

God's Message

1. When you are feeling overwhelmed or stressed, what kind of impact does that have on you? What do you tend to do to try to get your focus back?
2. Read the passage.
3. Who are the people there? What is each person doing?
4. Why is Martha upset and what does she ask Jesus to do?
5. How does Jesus respond to Martha?
6. Mary and Martha are sisters and appear together in other stories in the Bible. Read John 11:17-44 about the story of Lazarus. How would you describe Mary and Martha in this story?
7. Between Mary and Martha, who do you most identify and why?
8. These two stories have differences of both Mary and Martha and how they approach situations. Comparing these stories, how would you describe their strengths and

weaknesses? (Hint: If they are strong in one, they are not as strong in the other).

9. With Jesus in the room, Martha began to lose focus and worry. What are some of your distractions that cause you to lose your sight of God at times?

10. What is the “one thing” Jesus says to Martha she needs as it relates to Mary?

11. To understand Jesus is our “portion”, read Numbers 18:8-29 and Lamentations 3:23-24.

How do these passages help us understand what Jesus is saying about Mary’s choice?

12. As we think about our own lives, what are ways we can keep our focus on God even during the busyness of life?

13. What are times of day for you to help you gain your focus on Christ and what are some resources you use to help you spend time with God?

Respond in Prayer:

It is no coincidence, that Jesus taught the Lord’s Prayer in the following passage in Luke 11:1-4. Have someone read that aloud. Spend some time praying together through the Lord’s Prayer by the following...

- Praise God for His character and for His works.
- Confess silently to God your need for Him.
- Thank God for the ways He has been part of your life.
- Request for God to answer particular needs.

One to Share:

Who is one person I can share this message with? How could it encourage them and how could it help them know God more?

Walk it Out:

What is one practical way I can walk out and obey God’s message to me about this scripture?