

Follow-Up Studies

Building Convictions: Communion & Contribution

**Make sure you look at these scriptures before their first Sunday*

Goal: To understand why we take communion and develop a conviction about contribution.

- What do you think the purpose of communion is?

+Communion= The last supper

Matt 26:26-29

- Bread = body, juice = blood

1 Cor 11:23-32

- Jesus instituted communion/the lords supper
- It is a proclamation of the Lord's death until he comes
- We are to examine ourselves BEFORE taking communion

Acts 20:7

- We follow the example of the early church who came together and took communion once a week on the first day of the week.

John 6:48-58

- Jesus is the bread of Life
- Taking communion (correctly) we remain in God

+Contribution

Q: Why is it hard to give money to God? Do you do it? Do you think God cares?

Q: Why would you not give?

Matt 6:21-24

- Our money can threaten our love of God & reflects our heart
- If you are not giving financially to God, what does that say?

Prov 3:9-10

- God wants us to give to him out of faith so he can take care and bless
- **Dt 14:22** God instructed the Israelites to give 10% of first fruits to him

Malachi 3:6-12

- If you hold back from God, he says you are stealing from him

1 Cor 16:1-2

- Also supposed to take up collection to meet needs of poor

2 Cor 9:6-7 (read 2 Cor 8&9 for HW)

- You should plan out your contribution b/w you & God

HW: Come up with your own conviction about contribution and at least 2 scriptures to back up your goals and decisions for your life as a disciple.

Building Convictions: Member of the Body/Church Study

Goal: To see that it is expected that they are now a functioning & contributing member of the Body of Christ. To develop their own conviction about being a member of the body.

Rom 12:1-8

- We choose a life of sacrifice. Our sacrifices in our lives = worship God
- What are the patterns of this world? vs. patterns of God?
- How are you at thinking of your brothers & sisters as more important than you?
- How does God describe his church? (many members working together)
- How can you contribute to the working of the church?
- "each member belongs to all the others" what does that mean?

1 Cor 16:1-2

- We are expected to contribute to the body financially also (10%)

2 Cor 9:7

- We give contribution as a gift to God. It is an offering/sacrifice to him

Acts 2:42-47

- This is the example of a church God gives us. How would you describe them? What do you see?
- What would this look like in your life? How can you imitate this?

Heb 3:12-14

- What instruction do we see here? Is this hard?
- What is your responsibility?
- How can you do this?

Heb 10:23-25

- What instruction do we see here? Is this hard?
- What is your responsibility?
- How can you do this?

HW: Come up with your own conviction about what it means to be a part of the body. What does the bible teach? What do you believe it is calling you to do in your own life? Write a conclusion about what your conviction is and where you get that in the bible. Be specific and include goals for your life

Follow-Up Studies

Building Convictions: The Holy Spirit

Goal: To teach about the Holy Spirit they received at baptism.

- What is the Holy Spirit? What do you know about it?

John 16:5-15 (also 14:25-26)

- What is a counselor do? (The Holy Spirit is our guide). How can you use the Spirit as your counselor.
- The Holy Spirit came after Jesus. Jesus say it is better to have the Holy Spirit than him in his flesh "it is for your good"
- The Holy Spirit: convicts sin, makes us aware, guides us to truth

Acts 2:1-4 & 32-33

- This is how the Holy Spirit came to the disciples of Jesus, from heaven
- The miraculous gifts have passed away (1 Cor 13:8-10)

Acts 2:38

- We receive the Holy Spirit through baptism

Eph 1:13-14 (also Rom 8:16)

- The Holy Spirit marks us to God,
- A deposit showing us God is coming back for us & we have an inheritance

Gal 5:16-17&22-25

- If you are living by the Holy Spirit, it should produce these things
- You need to stay in step with the Spirit, not go your own way

Acts 8:29

- It can lead you and give you direction. Learn to listen

Acts 4:25

- It can speak through you. Learn to get out of the way

Eph 4:30

- Sin grieves God's spirit inside of us

1 Thes 5:19

- You can smother the Spirit.

Ps 51:11

- God can take his Spirit away from us. Remember, God is Holy and can not be with us if we insist on being unholy

HW: Write a conclusion on this study. What does the Holy Spirit mean for your life? How can you use it? Go onto biblegateway.com and put in the search "Holy Spirit", read all the verses in Acts that come up. Write a paragraph on what you see.

Building Convictions: Personal Bible Study

Goal: To develop a conviction of why they need to daily be in the word.

Eph 6:13-18

- Would you ever go into battle without armor? Without a sword?
- Daily we enter into battle. Us + God vs. world + Satan
- Why do you need to read the word? (it's your sword to fight)
- **Mt 4:1-11** How did Jesus fight Satan?(the word)
- What is your food? (vs. 4:4) What sustains you? Is it the word or is it other things in your life?

2 Tim 3:16-17

- Why do we need to know our bibles? (To train ourselves)
- Is it just ment to be read because we should? Is it just a book?
- It will train you and equip you for what you need to do as a disciple
- Are you allowing the word to train you?

Heb 5:11-14

- Why do we need to know our bibles? (it matures us)

Heb 2:1

- Why do we need to know our bibles? (So we don't drift)
- We need the constant reminder of how we should live.
- It is our mirror **James 1:22-25**

2 Tim 2:15-16

- Why do we need to know our bibles? (to help others)
- We have to be able to correctly handle the word

1 Peter 3:15

- Why do we need to know our bibles? (so we can be prepared to answer any questions and help others)

Acts 17:11

- How should we study our bibles?

Dt 6:4-9

- How much should we study our bibles? (all the time!)
- The word should always be around us and on our minds

HW: Come up with your own conviction about why being in the word is important. What does the bible teach about this topic? What do you believe it is calling you to do in your own life? Write a conclusion about what your conviction is and where you get that in the bible. Be specific and include goals for your life

Follow-Up Studies

Building Convictions: Prayer

Goal: To develop a conviction of why it is important to pray.

- How do you feel about praying?
- Why do you need to pray? Is it important?

Mark 1:35-37

- Was Jesus busy? Did he find time to pray?
- How can you imitate Jesus when it comes to praying?
- Make time, find a quiet place, get up early if necessary, pray in the morning to start your day with God, etc

Luke 6:12 & Heb 5:7

- How did Jesus pray? How often? Was it important to Jesus?
- Why do you think Jesus felt so close to God?
- How can you get that close relationship with God?

Luke 11:1-13

- Vs 1-4 Jesus' disciples had to learn to pray
- We need structure in our prayer. Try ACTS = balanced prayer
- A(adoration/praise) C (confession) T (thanksgiving) S(supplication/ask)
- Vs 5-13 What does this teach us about God when we pray?

Mark 11:22-24 & 1 John 5:14

- We need to have faith in what we pray & ask God!

James 5:16-17

- Pray for each other!
- The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective

Phil 4:6-7 & 1 Peter 5:7

- Pray when your stressed! Put it on God. Rely on him and allow him to put peace in your heart.

Eph 6:18 & Col 4:2 & 1 Thes 5:17

- Pray on ALL occasions. Pray all the time. Be devoted to it
- Being constantly connected to God through prayer helps us walk with God throughout the day and through all situations. Have special times to pray with God, but also pray other times.

HW: Come up with your own conviction about why praying is important. What does the bible teach about this topic? What do you believe it is calling you to do in your own life? Write a conclusion about what your conviction is and where you get that in the bible. Be specific and include goals for your life

Building Convictions: Push Yourself to Grow (Examining Your Heart)

Goal: To teach how to call themselves higher in their own walk with God

- What are your daily quiet times like?
- How are you at examining your own heart looking at scripture?

Heb 5:12-14

- Do you want to be a spiritual infant forever?
- We are supposed to mature spiritually. How?
- We grow by constant use of the word, and train ourselves by it

James 1:22-25

- Examine yourself by looking in the scriptures
- Daily practice: Look at word and compare to self
- After examining, what should you do? (act on it!)

Heb 12:10-11

- Allow God to train you and make you stronger spiritually
- God has a miraculous way of teaching us.
- Think, what is God teaching me? What do I see in myself through this situation?

Heb 4:12

- Allow the word to disciple you. Pain is ok. This is how we train ourselves to be more godly

Ps 4:4

- Take time to be still and search your own heart before God

Josh 1:7-8

- Examining our hearts requires meditation on God's word.
 - 1) Read the word
 - 2) Examine your heart/mind to see if we are at fault
 - 3) If find fault, repent

"Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left...Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it"

HW: Practice this week doing a better job of meditating on God's word and allowing it to train you. Examine your heart so that the word can point out things that are ungodly, and work on repenting of what you find. Keep a journal.

Follow-Up Studies

Building Convictions: Faith & Works & Grace

Goal: Understand the important balance of faith, works, and grace

- What role does faith play in your walk with God? Works? Grace?
- Why is a balance of the 3 important?

Heb 11:1

- In your words, what is faith?

Heb 11:2-5

- What do you see is common in these illustrations? (faith → action)
- These people did something because of their faith. How are you?

Heb 11:6

- Why is faith important?
- Why is it hard to have faith? What are we like w/o faith?
- In what circumstances is it hard for you to have faith?

James 2: 14-26

- You need both faith + works!
- How are you at putting your faith into practice?
- Faith is more than intellectual belief – it results in action
 - o Ex: Abraham (Gen 22) → Faith → Obedience
- If you believe, you will do it. Do you believe God's word enough to do what it says?

Eph 2:8-10

- What actually saves us? (God's grace) Not our faith or works so that we can't boast. Because of our faith in God, he shows us his grace
- God expects us to follow his plans for us. We are expected to obey

Conclusion: *How are you doing with your faith? Do you feel faithful? Why or why not? How are you doing at putting your faith into practice? Do you have an appropriate dependence and perspective of God's grace? What do you need to work on or repent of this week?*

HW: *Come up with your own conviction about why faith and action is important in your walk with God. Where does grace come in? Write down specific thoughts and scriptures about your new conviction in your journal so that you can build on this conviction and put it into practice in your life.*

Building Convictions: One-Another Relationships

Goal: Understand why we have discipling relationships and their importance

- How do you feel about "discipling"? Do you think it is important?

Heb 3:12

- We are responsible for one-another. Keeping each other from turning from God. What would that look like?

2 Tim 2:2 + Matt 28: 20

- We are to teach & train the next generation of Christians
- Teach to obey. How can I teach you to obey?
- Sometimes that will take correction if you are not obeying. How do you feel about correction?

Col 3:16

- What does admonish mean? (Admonish = counsel, warn, correct)
- Are we supposed to teach and correct each other in church?
- We are to help each other with the "message of Christ" as guide

Col 1:28-29

- Goal of teaching: be spiritually mature
- Teachers are to rely on God's wisdom & strength to help others

Prov 11:14

- Get advice! God has given us each other as guides
- A part of one-another relationships will be YOU seeking advice
- We will be more successful with advice

Goals/practical: consistent contact, get LOTS of advice, regular discipling time

Conclusion: *How do you feel about discipling? Are you afraid? Why?*

HW: *Come up with your own conviction about discipling. Is this something you want in your walk with God. It is your decision to have a teaching relationship with someone, do you want to be taught? Find scriptures to go along with the concluding conviction. Set practical goals for this relationship.*

Follow-Up Studies

Building Convictions: Continue in Confession & Repentance

Goal: You have not arrived. You need to confess your sin & live a transparent live continuing to repent and grow.

- How have you been doing about being open about the sin in your life?

*CONFESSION

Prov 28:13-14

- You cannot grow if you are not open and working through sin
- How will not confessing sin harden your heart?

Ps 32:1-5

- You have to acknowledge your sin to find relief

James 5:16

- Confessing can heal & Cleans you
- It is important to confess to others for prayers, support, accountability. As well as confessing & praying to God.

Q: Why don't we confess our sin? (Pride)

Ps 51:7-17

- Here David is humble and is acknowledging that he sinned
- He recognizes that God wants a humble, broken heart
- If you do not keep with repentance, God can take away the Holy Spirit

*REPENTANCE

1 Cor 10:12

- Don't think you are too strong to sin. You must continue resisting

2 Pet 3:17/Heb 2:1

- We are not guaranteed salvation, we must keep repenting

Matt 3:7-10

- What if you stop repenting?
- We are no better than the Pharisees if we stop repenting
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Goals/practical: Use your discipling time to get open & advice, use your quiet times to examine your heart and study what you need to repent on.

Conclusion: *How are you doing with repentance and your openness?*

HW: *Come up with your own conviction about confession & repentance. Will it be an important aspect of your relationship with God? Why/how?*

Building Convictions: Setting an Example

Goal: Understand that even as teens, they should be an example to the rest of the church not an exception.

- Who do you look to as an example of a great disciple and respect?
- Are you are a good example in the teens as what it means to be a like Jesus? What about to the rest of the church? To your parents?

Heb 3:12

- We are responsible for one-another. Keeping each other from turning from God. What would that look like?

2 Tim 2:2 + Matt 28: 20

- We are to teach & train the next generation of Christians
- Teach to obey. How can I teach you to obey?
- Sometimes that will take correction if you are not obeying. How do you feel about correction?

Col 3:16

- What does admonish mean? (Admonish = counsel, warn, correct)
- Are we supposed to teach and correct each other in church?
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- Goal of teaching: be spiritually mature
- Teachers are to rely on God's wisdom & strength to help others

Prov 11:14

- Get advice! God has given us each other as guides
- A part of one-another relationships will be YOU seeking advice
- We will be more successful with advice

Goals/practical: consistent contact, get LOTS of advice, regular discipling time

Conclusion: *How do you feel about discipling? Are you afraid? Why?*

HW: *Come up with your own conviction about being an example. What are you being an great example? How are you falling short in other areas? Find scriptures to go along with your concluding conviction. Decide what ways you can grow in being an example, and how you will grow.*

Follow-Up Studies

Building Convictions: In the World But Not of the World

Goal: How to have relationships at school, reach-out, yet be different

- How are your relationships at school going? Are you reaching out?

Mark 1:14-20

Matt 28: 16-20

- What was Jesus' mission on earth? As a disciple/follower what should yours be?
- Being a "fisher of men" and "go make disciples" is the first and last thing he ever said to his disciples. Do you think it should be an important aspect of your life? Is it?

Matt 9:9-13

- Who did Jesus spend his time with? Why? (b/c **Matt 9:35-36**)
- Who do you spend your time with? How do you view the lost?

Mark 2:17

- You are here to help the lost, to those who already know God

John 17:13-19

- Jesus is sending us into the world, but we are not to be "of it"
- What does "not of the world" look like?
- Following Jesus' example is going to automatically set you apart, God's way is very different than the way of the world. You must still follow God even surrounded by the world

1 Cor 9:19-23

- You need to be relatable & have relationships if you are going to impact people. Jesus built relationships.

Goals/practical: How can you reach out to your friends at school and build relationships?

HW: Come up with your own conviction about being set apart and yet building relationships. What will your life look like in this area? What are some scriptures you will use to build your conviction?

Building Convictions: Christ's Ambassador

Goal: To see that God has entrusted them with his mission to save the world.

- Does your life reflect that evangelism is important to you? Is it?

Matt 28:16-20

- This is a HUGE aspect of what it means to be a disciple, how is this going? Are you ignoring this part?

2 Cor 5:10-11 & 16-21

- Are you afraid for your friends that they will have to face God?
- God & Jesus have made you their messenger/ambassador
- Do you have a new perspective or old perspective of the lost?
- You get to be a reconciler, making people right with God

Rom 1:16-17

- You have a message that can save, are you ashamed/embarrassed?

Luke 9:23-26

- If we are embarrassed to call ourselves disciples, Jesus will be embarrassed of us.

Acts 4:29-31

- Pray for God to make you bold!

Col 4:2-6

- Ask for God to open doors, look for opportunities, and use them
- Make your conversation "salty" or deep
- Consider the way you treat people

Matt 10:16

- Be wise. Don't put yourself in a bad situation
- Be gentle when appropriate, and strong when appropriate

Goals/practical: How can you grow in your evangelism? What are your weaknesses?

HW: Come up with your own conviction on evangelism. Is it important? What should your life look like if you are imitating Jesus in being a fisher of men? Find at least 2 scriptures that will encourage you to live this way.

Follow-Up Studies

Building Convictions: Keeping a Soft Heart

Goal: See that the hardening of our hearts is what will pull us away from God. Develop a conviction of how to keep a soft heart.

Mark 7:18-23

- Sin in our hearts is like a weed. You need to constantly be weeding it out or it will grow back. Have you seen any sin growing in your heart?

Heb 3:12-14

- The hardening of your heart by sin is what will turn you from God
- Does that scare you? What are you doing about that?

Ps 51:17

- We have to fight to have this type of heart that honors God. David is humble, acknowledging his sin, and is responding to the word
- How does your heart look compared to David's?

Ps 119:9-16

- How can you stay free from sin? Meditate, meditate, study, meditate!
- If the word is not in your heart, it will get hard.

Prov 3:5-6

- Root out your pride by relying on God and not yourself

Prov 4:23

- Satan is looking to attack your heart. Use the tools in the scriptures above to guard it.
- Do you feel like your putting in the effort to guard your heart and protect your spiritual life?

Goals/practical: How can you grow in guarding your heart? What practical things can you do?

HW: *Come up with your own conviction about guarding your heart. Why is it important? What will happen if you don't? How can you guard your heart? Choose at least 2 scriptures to back up your concluding conviction.*

Building Convictions: Being a Servant

Goal: to learn to follow Jesus' example as the ultimate servant.

Mark 10:45

- Do you more often serve or are served?
- We need to follow Jesus' example of giving rather than taking

Matt 20:26-28

- How are you at being the least important?
- What would it look like at home, in the teens, at school, if you lived in this way?

Phil 2:3-8

- How is this difficult for you?
- Whose needs do you need to work on meeting? (Mom, Dad, siblings, younger teens, unpopular people, etc)
- In serving we are imitating Jesus who served us by going to the cross
- Without complaining or arguing (vs. 14)

Luke 17:7-10

- Serving is our duty, it is expected. We should not look for reward

Col 3:23-24

- Serve to honor God! Do it with all your heart.

(Ps 100:2, Prov 3:27-28, John 13:1-17, Gal 6:2&10, Eph 6:7-8, Phil 4:4-5)

Goals/practical: How are you at serving at home? In the teen ministry? At school? What practically can you do starting this week to become more of a servant?

HW: *Come up with your own conviction about serving. Why is it important? What should your life look like. Come up with some practical goal for yourself and some areas you can repent. Choose at least 2 scriptures to back up your concluding conviction.*

Follow-Up Studies

Building Convictions: Balancing School, Extracurricular, and Discipleship

Goal: to learn to follow Jesus' example as the ultimate servant.

Matt 6:31-34

- Above all, the kingdom must be first and God will provide the rest

Ps 127:1-2

- What you are building in your life, are you building it with or against God's plans for you?

Col 3:22-24

- Obey your teachers/"masters", God has put them there
- Work hard in school and it will honor God! Do it with all your heart.

1 Thes 4:11-12

- Do you think people respect your life and how you live?
- Your life in itself can impact people, it should be an example
- God wants us to be responsible and independent

Mark 7:37

- We can follow Jesus' example and do everything to the best of our abilities. Are you doing too much to do it well?

1 Tim 4:15-16

- Persevere & do the hard work, others will respect your life & growth

Goals/practical: Are there some changes that need to be made in your life? How are you doing in school? Is your life honoring you or God? Would he be disappointed by how hard you are working?

HW: Come up with your own conviction about how to balance being excellent and yet not allowing your life to come before God. Choose at least 2 scriptures to back up your concluding conviction.

Building Convictions: Relationships

Goal: To understand the God's expectation for relationships.

2 Cor 6:14-18

- Relationships are like invisible ties. God says we should not be tied to those who are not in the light
- God has made us a separate people

Deut 7:3-4

- Why does God not want us to marry those who are not disciples?
- God takes marrying non-Christians seriously (Ez 10:1-4)

Matt 5:29-31

- We have to remove things in our lives that can come between us and God. (dating or friendship)

2 Cor 5:16

- We are supposed to look at people in a new light. Disciples & the lost

1 Tim 5:2

- Treat your brothers & sisters as such, with total purity
- How can this be difficult?

Heb 3:13 (also 2 Cor 13:11, 1 Thes 4:18, 1 Thes 5:11)

- "Encourage one another!"
- You are meant to have relationships with your brothers and sisters in Christ, but it needs to push them toward Godliness, not hinder them

HW: Come up with your own conviction about your relationships now and in the future. What should they look like? Who should you date and one day marry? Choose at least 2 scriptures to back up your concluding conviction.