

HOW THE LILIES GROW

unit 24 | session 5



CHRIST CONNECTION

Jesus is the great Provider. He takes care of all our needs, especially our need to be rescued from sin, guilt, and death. Through His sacrifice on the cross, we are forgiven and have new life in Him.

TREASURE OF YOUR HEART

This week, we're covering the passages and main points below. But we encourage you to dig in and read all of the content on this timeline.

Luke 12

WORLDLY WEALTH CAN'T GIVE US PEACE

LUKE 12:13-21

13 Someone in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me." 14 But he said to him, "Man, who made me a judge or arbitrator over you?" 15 And he said to them, "Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions." 16 And he told them a parable, saying, "The land of a rich man produced plentifully, 17 and he thought to himself, 'What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?' 18 And he said, 'I will do this: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. 19 And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry."' 20 But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' 21 So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God."

SEEKING GOD'S KINGDOM GIVES US PEACE

LUKE 12:22-34

22 And he said to his disciples, "Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat, nor about your body, what you will put on. 23 For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. 24 Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds! 25 And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? 26 If then you are not able to do as small a thing as that, why are you anxious about the rest? 27 Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. 28 But if God so clothes the grass, which is alive in the field today, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you, O you of little faith! 29 And do not seek what you are to eat and what you are to drink, nor be worried. 30 For all the nations of the world seek after these things, and your Father knows that you need them. 31 Instead, seek his kingdom, and these things will be added to you. 32 Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. 33 Sell your possessions, and give to the needy. Provide yourselves with moneybags that do not grow old, with a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches and no moth destroys. 34 For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."

MAIN POINT.

The cure for our worry and anxiety is faith in God's ability to care for us.



THEOLOGY CONNECTION

ADOPTION

Adoption into God's family is one the positive benefits of justification. Not only are we freed from the judgment against us through justification, but we also experience a change of identity—we become children of God (John 1:12; Gal. 4:5). Through adoption our relationship with God, which was once lost through the fall, is now restored, resulting in the benefits of being an heir of God and a coheir with Christ (Rom. 8:16-17).

DISCUSSION

WORLDLY WEALTH CAN'T GIVE US PEACE

LUKE 12:13-21

- Would people today say the rich man was holding on to things that didn't matter or living the good life? What do you think?
-  • What do we turn to for security or comfort? Where did Jesus say we will and won't find security?
-  • Why do we struggle with greed, envy, or worry? How can knowing that everything we have comes from God help us?

SEEKING GOD'S KINGDOM GIVES US PEACE

LUKE 12:22-34

- Jesus said worry isn't good for us, so why do we stress about the details of our everyday lives?
-  • What would be different if we viewed every moment of stress and worry as an invitation to trust God instead?
-  • What did Jesus say would happen when we seek God's kingdom? What did He mean?



WHERE ARE YOU CLINGING TO TIME, RESOURCES, POSSESSIONS, OR PEOPLE BECAUSE OF FEAR OR WORRY? HOW CAN YOU TRUST GOD IN THOSE AREAS?

CULTURAL CONNECTION

What do you do, who do you look for, and where do you go when you want a moment of peace? Some of us might try deep breathing, venting to or crying with a close friend or family member, or spending time in nature. None of those things are wrong, but they simply aren't enough. At times, the world around us seems to spin out of control. Because we can't do anything to stop it, we stress, worry, and let anxiety steal our peace. No matter what we're facing in the moment, we can't solve anything with stress or worry. Or, as Jesus asks, can you really make your life any better by worrying (Luke 12:25)? Of course, the answer is "no." Our worry can't give us anything and can only steal from us—our peace, joy, self-discipline, and even our sense of security. But worry's biggest flaw? It takes our eyes off Jesus. When our eyes move away from our compassionate Savior, through whom God has provided for our greatest need, we sink. Thankfully, Jesus is always ready to catch us and keep us from drowning (Matt. 14:28-31). When we trust Him, we have everything we need.



DAY ONE

GALATIANS 3:27-4:7



Some teams and clubs are exclusive. Everyone is welcome to join but must meet certain qualifications to get in and stay in. Academic clubs require certain grades. Service clubs ask you to commit to a minimum number of volunteer hours each semester. Band requires that you have and learn to play an instrument. Drama clubs select actors who best fit the parts for their production, and choirs choose only a few vocalists to perform solos. The soccer team requires athleticism and, at the very least, the potential to become a skilled soccer player. No matter what club or team we try to join, we all want to be chosen, to find our place on the team, and to remain there throughout our school years.

While being a Christian, being part of God's family, might sound exclusive, here's the cool thing: Jesus met every qualification for us. God sent Him for this very reason: to live perfectly according to His law; to die in our place as the perfect, once-for-all sacrifice for sin; and to rise from the grave and offer us eternal life with Him. The only qualification to become children of God is faith—believing that Jesus is who He claims to be and trusting Him as our Savior.

In His death and resurrection, Jesus not only offers us the hope of salvation, but He also offers us a place to belong as God's sons and daughters. No matter what our family looks like here on earth, we have a perfect heavenly Father who loves us and chose to send His own Son to die in our place so that we could be part of His family, along with all other believers—our brothers and sisters in Christ.

- **WHEN HAVE YOU WORRIED THAT YOU DIDN'T MEET THE QUALIFICATIONS FOR FOLLOWING GOD? HOW DOES IT HELP TO KNOW JESUS MET ALL THE QUALIFICATIONS FOR YOU?**
- **WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE TO LIVE LIKE A SON OR DAUGHTER OF GOD? WHY DO YOU THINK THIS IS SO DIFFICULT?**

PRAY

HEAVENLY FATHER, THANK YOU FOR SENDING YOUR SON
SO WE COULD BECOME YOUR SONS AND DAUGHTERS.
SHOW ME HOW TO LIVE OUT OF THAT IDENTITY AND
LOVE MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN CHRIST.



DAY TWO

ROMANS 8:14-17; EPHESIANS 1:11-14

Have you ever received a discount, gift, or even special privileges because of someone you were with? Like getting an employee discount on your coffee because your best friend is the barista. Or being allowed backstage at a concert for your favorite artist because your brother works at the concert venue. Or maybe your last name kept you from getting into trouble for being in the teacher's lounge after school because your mom is a teacher at your school. Perks of knowing the right people at the right time can allow us more freedom.

Being "in Christ"—trusting Jesus for salvation and living in the new life He offers us—provides the ultimate perks. Think about it: When we're with the right people here on earth, we often receive extra benefits, and these things can be cool or good for us, but they're temporary and not always necessary. But God doesn't just provide for our daily needs; He provided for our biggest need by sending His Son. We can experience freedom from sin and receive eternal life through Jesus.

Although believers are children of God and in Christ, this doesn't mean we're equal with Jesus. He has always been God's Son by nature; we are God's children through adoption. However, because we are in Christ when we trust Him for salvation, we are Christ's coheirs (Rom. 8:17). Far greater than any discount or special privileges, as coheirs with Christ, children of God receive an inheritance of salvation, eternal life, and the kingdom of God (Eph. 1:11-14; 1 Pet. 1:3-4). We don't do anything to deserve this inheritance, and we could never earn it; God gives it to us freely through Jesus because of His work on the cross. And no person or passing of time can ever take it away from us.

- **WHAT COMES TO MIND WHEN YOU THINK OF INHERITANCE? HOW IS OUR INHERITANCE IN CHRIST BETTER?**
- **WHY IS IT IMPORTANT FOR US TO REMEMBER THAT WE ARE COHEIRS WITH CHRIST BUT NOT EQUALS?**

PRAY

GOD, YOU ARE A GOOD FATHER. YOU HAVE PROVIDED FOR ME BEYOND WHAT I CAN IMAGINE, FULFILLING MY GREATEST NEED IN JESUS, YOUR SON. THANK YOU FOR WHAT YOU'VE GIVEN ME NOW AND FOR MY FUTURE INHERITANCE.



DAY THREE

PSALM 16:8-11; PROVERBS 3:5-6

We all know what it's like to feel stuck—whether it's a fallen log that makes a trail impassable, a problem on a math test that seems unsolvable, or a defensive line you worry you can't break through. In these moments, we look around for another path, another solution, or a weakness in the defense so we can make our way forward and move toward the goal. Life finds us in lots of places where we feel worn down or even hopeless because we can't see a way forward, but God promises to make our path clear when we trust in Him.

Here's the thing: God makes a way through what seems impossible to us because nothing is impossible to Him. All of us were once stuck in our sin and needed His rescue (Rom. 3:23), so He sent Jesus to redeem us, to free us from our sin. Jesus plainly says He is the only way for us to be saved from our sin and have a restored relationship with God. This is a clear answer to our greatest question, but God is good and kind and doesn't leave us to figure out life in Christ on our own.

Through His Word and His Spirit, God is our ever-present Protector and Guide who doesn't abandon us even when life feels uncertain but shows us “the path of life” and “fullness of joy” in Him (Ps. 16:11). He promises that when we trust Him and put His will and Word above our own, He will show us clearly which way to go (Prov. 3:5-6). No matter how overwhelming life feels right now, God is right there, walking with you through your stress and pain. Trust Him to guide you; know that He will hold you securely all the way through (Ps. 16:8; John 10:28-30).

- **HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE WHAT IT MEANS TO TRUST GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART? ARE YOU DOING THAT? WHY OR WHY NOT?**
- **WHERE DO YOU NEED GOD TO SHOW YOU THE WAY FORWARD RIGHT NOW? WHAT WOULD IT LOOK LIKE FOR YOU TO ASK HIM FOR HELP?**

PRAY

**GOD, RIGHT NOW I FEEL STUCK, AND I NEED YOU TO
SHOW ME THE WAY FORWARD. HELP ME TO REST
SECURELY IN YOU AND YOUR WISDOM AS YOU GUIDE
ME FORWARD ON THE BEST PATH.**



DAY FOUR

JOHN 1:4-5; ROMANS 5:3-5

Think about how much less intimidating darkness feels once someone flips the light switch. Or how much less you stumble over your feet on a trail or sidewalk once someone turns on the flashlight. Or even how much clearer photos turn out if enough light filters through the lens. Light makes a difference in the way we see everything—in what we see.

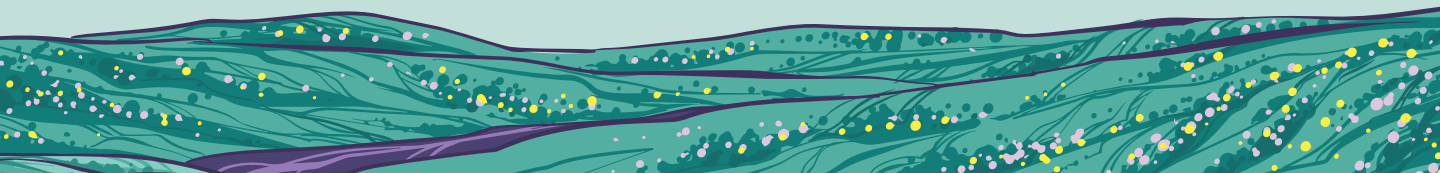
Let's be real: Sin and evil in the world around us and in our own lives can sometimes make life seem really dark. And the darker life gets, the more we struggle to cling to hope. We begin to wonder if things will ever change or why God hasn't changed them already. Truly, God made us for a world full of light, full of hope, full of Him, so it's no surprise that we feel uncomfortable in the darkness. But because of sin, we're here. So, how do we live as "children of light" (John 12:36; 1 Thess. 5:5)? How do we hold on to hope, even during the darkest days? We turn our eyes to Jesus—the Light of the world (John 8:12).

Jesus is the light that shines in the darkness and can't be overcome (John 1:4-5); His light is life. He is our hope and steadying anchor when the rest of life seems hopeless and chaotic (Heb. 6:19). And this hope will never fail because it is secured in the blood of Jesus Himself and sealed with the presence of the Holy Spirit within us (Rom. 5:5). Although these dark days may seem pointless to us, God uses them to refine us and produce godly character in us. No matter how crushed, persecuted, or weighed down we might feel, we are never without hope—because we are never without Him (2 Cor. 4:8-9).

- **WHERE HAS THE LIGHT OF JESUS MADE THE MOST DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE LATELY?**
- **HOW DO YOU NEED JESUS'S LIGHT TO BRING HOPE TO THE DARK PLACES IN YOUR LIFE RIGHT NOW?**

PRAY

**LORD JESUS, YOU ARE MY LIGHT WHEN THE WORLD
AROUND ME SEEMS DARK. HELP ME TO CLING TO
THE HOPE I HAVE IN YOU, KEEPING MY EYES FIXED
ON YOU AND THE HOPE OF SALVATION.**





DAY FIVE

MATTHEW 6:25-34

Today, we often struggle to determine what we want versus what we need. We might say we need things like new clothes or shoes when our old ones fit but aren't in style; a smartphone; social media; a new car when our car's paint is peeling, but it runs well; or a favorite soda instead of water. However, when we get down to the basics, our needs are pretty straightforward: food, water, a place to live, clothing, sleep and rest, and connection with others.

Jesus sums up our needs in three questions we ask ourselves: What will I eat? What will I drink? What will I wear? These three questions are sandwiched between a command—"do not be anxious" (Matt. 6:31)—and the keys to not worrying about our needs being met. Those keys are: (1) Trust that God knows we need "all these things" (v. 32). (2) Seek God's kingdom, meaning we love God above all, and we love others the same way and amount we love ourselves. We don't do this with a bad attitude but with willing hearts, letting love lead the way in our thoughts, words, and actions (Matt. 22:36-40). (3) Remember that, when you trust God and seek His kingdom, "all these things will be added to you" (v. 33).

The cause of our doubt and uncertainty about how our needs will be met is ultimately a lack of faith in who God is—a good and loving Father, who wants to provide for His children. While God knows we will struggle and suffer in this life, He promises to care for us through it all. So, we don't worry about what's ahead; we don't have to let anxiety overtake our faith. Instead, we trust that God means what He says and that He will take care of us because He is faithful.

- **WHAT ARE SOME WANTS YOU TEND TO VIEW AS NEEDS? WHY IS KNOWING THE DIFFERENCE IMPORTANT?**
- **WHAT WOULD IT LOOK LIKE TO TRUST GOD TO MEET YOUR NEEDS? HOW COULD THAT BE DIFFICULT FOR YOU?**

PRAY

GOD, THANK YOU FOR BEING MY PROVIDER. FORGIVE ME FOR THE MOMENTS WHEN I WONDER IF YOU'LL TAKE CARE OF ME, AND REMIND ME OF HOW YOU'VE TAKEN CARE OF ME IN THE PAST.



PUBLISHING TEAM LEAD

ALECIA BRYANT

We know Jesus is the Son of God—our Messiah, our Savior. We read about His miracles and His teachings on the kingdom of God. We realize that He is so unlike us: perfect, holy, righteous. But what we sometimes forget is that somehow, miraculously, Jesus is like us. He was human. He felt what we feel. Instead of distancing Himself from sinners, outcasts, and those who were called “unclean,” Jesus bent low. He sat at their tables. He reached out to touch them when others recoiled, afraid of and disgusted by their diseases and their sin. But this was precisely why Jesus came. He descended from heaven, exchanging a throne for our dirt and poverty, to save us. He came to heal us from a sickness far worse than any physical sickness—our sin. Jesus purchased our freedom and showed us a better way to live, as citizens of heaven and counter to our culture. And though living this way will set us apart, we can follow Jesus’s lead. We can lean on our Father to care for us. And we can rejoice in the knowledge that He has already taken care of our deepest need.

Alecia Bryant



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- This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.