



DISCIPLESHIP GUIDE

DIFFERENT: A DIFFERENT HEART | WEEK 03 | SEPTEMBER 20, 2026

KNOW GOD | FIND FREEDOM | DISCOVER PURPOSE | MAKE A DIFFERENCE

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

We are called not simply to hear God's Word, but to allow it to transform the way we live. This guide is designed to help you carry Sunday's message into your week—growing in your relationship with God, engaging in meaningful conversation, and putting what you're learning into practice.

Read the Scripture. Reflect on what God is teaching you. Apply it to your life. Pray with purpose. Go deeper. Use the guide on your own as a personal study or journaling tool, with your family, or in your Connect Group.

Our hope is that as we spend time in God's Word and respond to what He is teaching us, we will know God, discover His purpose for our lives, and make a difference.

WEEKLY SUMMARY

A Different Heart

In Matthew 6, Jesus moves the conversation from what we think (Phil 4:4-9) to what rules our hearts. Our hearts are the center of our desires, priorities, and devotion—and sometimes what has captured them isn't obvious. One way to uncover what is happening beneath the surface is to ask some honest questions:

*Where does my time go? What receives my attention? What am I continually pursuing?
What am I afraid of losing?*

The danger isn't always something bad. Sometimes a good thing becomes an ultimate thing: something we love, depend on, or protect begins occupying a place it was never meant to hold. Jesus makes the issue one of devotion. Our hearts cannot serve two masters. Following Him isn't simply about giving Jesus a place in our lives. It's about giving Him first place.

What I treasure reveals what truly has my heart.

KEY VERSE

“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

MATTHEW 6:21

What we continually pursue shapes our desires, our decisions, and ultimately our devotion. Jesus calls us to pay attention not only to what we say matters most, but to where our hearts are actually being drawn.

GOING DEEPER



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THIS WEEK IN THE WORD

Five passages to read, reflect on, and apply this week.

GUARD

PROVERBS 4:23

*What thoughts, words
and choices are flowing
out of your heart?*

DESIRE

PSALM 73:25-26

*Close your eyes and imagine
what your life would look
like if God Himself was all
you desired.*

REORDER

PSALM 139: 23-24

*Ask God to show you what is
going on inside your heart;
you can't change what you
can't see*

SURRENDER

GALATIANS 2:20

*What does it mean for
Christ to live through
you?*

FOLLOW

PSALM 16:11

*How does knowing where
God's path leads change
how you walk today?*

DISCUSSION/JOURNALING

STARTER:

When you hear the phrase “give Jesus first place,” what does that mean to you?

QUESTIONS:

- Why can a good thing becoming an “ultimate thing” be harder to recognize than something we know is wrong?
- How can something else begin to have the final say in our decisions, even when we genuinely love Jesus? *Think about: when obedience is inconvenient • when God's way conflicts with what we want • when following Jesus costs us*
- What is the difference between including Jesus in your decisions and actually surrendering those decisions to Him?
- How do you recognize when your heart has begun to drift—and what helps bring it back?

APPLICATION

Last week, we used Philippians 4:8 to test what we allow to occupy our minds. This week, take that same test one step deeper. Think about something that currently has a strong pull on your heart—something you want, pursue, protect, or prioritize.

RUN THIS DESIRE OF YOUR HEART THROUGH THE PHILIPPIANS 4:8 TEST:

Is it true? • Is it honorable? • Is it right? • Is it pure? • Is it lovely? • Is it admirable? • Is it excellent? • Is it worthy of praise?

Even if it passes the test, has this GOOD thing begun to take a place in my heart that belongs to Jesus?

PRAY

Lord, search my heart and show me what I cannot see on my own. Teach me to want You above everything You give. When other things compete for my devotion, draw me back to You. Give me the courage to surrender what I hold too tightly and the faith to follow where You lead. Shape my desires, guide my choices, and let my life reflect a heart that belongs fully to You. Amen.