

Lesson 12: Growth & Direction

Lesson Focus

“Increase in God’s Will”

Base Scripture

Ephesians 3:14-19

Aim

In this week’s lesson you will be studying passages from God's Word that will help you keep on growing as a disciple, also help you learn to discern God's will and help you make spiritual plans that God can bless.

Memory Verses:	Philippians 3:14 14 I press on towards the goal
	Ephesians 3:14-19 17 so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, 18 may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth
Goals: Student will learn:	Over the next week, the student will learn Growth and Direction through the study of how to increase in the knowledge of God’s will for their life. Thus contributing to how one shapes a new disciple in growth for God.

DAILY ACTIVITIES: For the Week

Introduction

As we grow in the Lord, let His word guide us in all things. Seek encouragement from His word in hard times and search His word for wisdom as we make big decisions and ask hard questions. But don't wait for only the major life events in which to consult the Word. Write the Word of God into our hearts and let it light every small step of our journey of life as well. Getting accustomed to living each moment in the light of the word will allow us to see God's will more clearly when those bigger challenges do come.

Wednesday Keep on Growing

1. Many seem to believe that the normal thing is for a person to grow as a Christian to a certain point and then level off. Read the following passages and see what you think:
 - a.) Hebrews 5:11-14
 - b.) 2 Peter 1:5-8
 - c.) 2 Peter 3:17-18

2. It has been said that as Christians we either grow or dry up. Do you think this is true and if so, why?

Thursday Going After it

Spiritual growth is something you must go after. The following are four keys to growth.

1. **Make a Decision to Grow.** Very seldom does any significant growth occur without this decision. Read Philippians 3:7-12. What is Paul's attitude toward growth? "In my own life, what am I willing to give up in order to grow?" (Write it down in your journal)

2. **Concentrate on Specifics.** Change takes place not in the vague or general but in the specific. "I want to be like Jesus." Okay! But how?

3. **Push Yourself to Grow.** We need to be willing to put ourselves in situations where we must grow and where we must depend on God for his

help. Read 1 Timothy 4:7. Why is the word "train" an important word here? When an athlete trains what does he do? What are some ways you can be pushing yourself to grow right now? (Think about areas where growth does not at all come naturally for you.) (Record these areas in the journal)

4. **Have a vision for what you can become.** Read 2 Peter 1:3-11 and realize that you can become everything that Jesus would have you to become. What type of growth will these qualities produce? End your time today by reading Philippians 1 :6.

Friday

Not Growing? Take Inventory!

1. If we are not growing, then what does that mean? Read each of the following passages and complete this statement for each:
If I am not growing, then it may mean that...(Write it below on the lines)

- a.) John 12:24 _____
- b.) Ephesians 4:15 _____
- c.) Philippians 3:12-14 _____
- d.) Hebrews 12:1-2 _____
- e.) 1 Corinthians 9:19-23 _____

Saturday

Knowing God's Will

All of us make plans. Hopefully we have some dreams for our lives, some goals. How can we know whether or not we're doing God's will? How can we know that decisions we are making are in keeping with God's will? The next four studies will deal with this topic.

2. I. Read Romans 12:1- 2. What does this passage teach about knowing God's will? The word here for transformed is the word "metamorphosis." The usage of this word implies a radical or drastic kind of change. What are some ways in which God has had to radically change you in order to make known his will to you?

3. Read Ephesians 5:8-17. How does tolerating darkness in our lives keep us from knowing God's will? Why are we being foolish?

Sunday**The Importance of Plans**

1. Read Psalm 20:1-5. From v. 4 we can draw two conclusions:
 - a.) God wants his people to have plans, and
 - b.) when his people have godly plans, he wants to bless those plans.
2. Why do you think that many religious people have no real plans for their spiritual development, but at the same time have various plans for other aspects of their lives? (Use your journal)

Monday**The Desires of Your Heart**

1. Psalm 37:1-11. Look especially at v. 4 and make a list of the desires of your heart that you know are God's desires as well.
2. Look at v. 5. Can you give some specific examples of how you need "to commit your way to the Lord." What is the promise made to you in v.6?

Tuesday**Your Heart at Peace**

1. Read Philippians 4:4-7. What words do you read here that relate to your life?
2. What is Paul saying that we can do once we have committed our present and our future to God? What is he saying God will do for us once we have made that commitment?
3. As you seek to grow and please God with a lifetime of service, you will be challenged. There will be hardships. There will be pain. There will be trouble. But look at what Jesus said about this in John 16:33. Life is difficult. Right? But what else is true?