

Application:

What is it we need to do?

- The fall has created an ache in us that can only be filled with Grace.
 - Have you noticed that ache in your own life?
○ _____
 - What are some things you have tried to fill that ache with?
○ _____
 - Is there an area of your life where you are asking “Did God really say”?
○ _____
 - Have you found yourself disagreeing with what God says and approving of sinful behaviors?
○ _____

Prayer Focus:

- Pray this prayer: “Heavenly Father, help me to apply these truths to my life this week. Help me to not just know this truth, but to apply it to my life so that you may transform me for your Kingdom purposes.”

Tuesday:

When you have kids, you learn a lot of things. You learn things about yourself because you start to see them come out in your kids. So, when you go to try to figure out why they are acting the way they are, you discover the ugly truth that they learned it from you.

You learn other things when you have kids too. They give you perspective that you didn't used to have. One of the great perspectives I've been able to get comes in those times when we are playing games.

For instance, there was a time when we were playing the game Sorry. If you're not familiar with the game, you get four game pieces. The goal is to get all your pieces home first. But, along the way, if someone lands on the same space as you, then you get sent back to start. And you get to say that little snarky word, “*sorry!*”

As a father I try to find a balance between letting my kids win and teaching them to lose graciously. During this particular game, I was trying to let my kids, particularly Henry win. Of course, I was having all the luck. I'd get the exact number I needed on my roll. And Henry would get a one. I knew he wasn't going to win. Unless I let him. But, that's the thing - I knew.

I could tell where he was in the game compared to where I was. And I could see what I or others in the game needed to so that he could win. I could see his progress, I could see what needed to happen so he could get to the end. I could see it all.

But he couldn't. He didn't know any of that. All he knew was that by the time we were done, he had all his pieces home. He didn't know my thoughts or my plans. He didn't know that I wanted him to win or that I was making a way for him to succeed.

From where he was sitting, he was still on the journey. He was still in the process of trying to win the game. From where I was sitting, the end of the game was already decided. I knew where I was taking him, and it was just a matter of time before he got there. The work of him winning the game, even though not technically complete, was complete because I had completed it in my mind. The end of the game had been decided, but he still had to finish it.

The work is finished, but we aren't.

Pray these prayers:

- "Heavenly Father, help me to continue to apply the truths I learned last week to my life this week. Help me to not just know this truth, but to apply it to my life so that you may transform me for your Kingdom purposes..."
- "...Through the power of your Spirit, prepare me to be able to apply the truth I am learning this week..."

Wednesday:

Memory Verse:

- Philippians 1:6
 - "Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."

Read the verse out-loud 5 times then, Go to www.68church.com to download wallpaper for your computer or smartphone to help you learn this scripture throughout the week.

Prayer Focus

- "Heavenly Father, help me to continue to apply the truths I learned last week to my life this week. Help me to not just know this truth, but to apply it to my life so that you may transform me for your Kingdom purposes..."
- Pray through the verse. Simply read the verse with an attitude of worship:
 - "Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."
 - Heavenly Father, would you create such a deep longing in my soul for you that I can't rest until I have more of you in my life.

Thursday:

Study the passage in context from Wednesday.

- The context of this passage is the first part of this chapter. This is the introduction to the book. Often times, you will find an introduction to the theme of the book in the into.
- Since it's a short book, why don't you go ahead and read all four chapters!
- Philippians 1:6
 - "Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."

When studying sections of scripture, here are four questions that are helpful to ask:

What is the context of this passage? (What was going on in the chapter(s) leading up to this passage?)

What does this passage say?

What is the timeless truth that is being stated?

How do I apply this truth to my life?

Prayer focus

- "Heavenly Father, help me to continue to apply the truths I learned last week to my life this week. Help me to not just know this truth, but to apply it to my life so that you may transform me for your Kingdom purposes..."
- "...as I seek to understand more of your written word, would you open my mind to your truth. Teach me to understand your ways and give me strength to live in them..."

Friday:

There has been some confusion around the topic of Salvation. There has been an idea that has permeated a lot of popular thought in Christians circles. This is the idea of praying a prayer.

Of course there is nothing wrong with beginning our journey with a prayer. In fact, I think it's the best way to begin this journey. But the problem is and has been for too long that the prayer isn't the beginning of our spiritual journey, it's the end. We say the prayer, and then we're good. As though there is nothing that has to be done in our lives after that. We just added God to our lives, and we can go on living however we please.

This is not a Biblical concept. Just as our verse week indicates, the work that God began on us still needs to be completed. Later in Philippians, Paul tells us to continue to work out our salvation with fear and trembling. The work that needs to happen in our thinking and our action is one that will take the rest of our lives to complete.

In another letter, Paul says to the Colossians:

“But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. **9** Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices **10** and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.” Col 3:8-10

There is the old life we have to rid ourselves of (with the help and power of the Holy Spirit) and the new life we must put on. We have to take off the old self with it's bad habits and put on the new self which is constantly being renewed in the image of its creator.

This is where we are, and how we see things. But the good new of the gospel is that from where God sits, he sees things from a totally different perspective. For now, we see through a mirror dimly - a blurry reflection that we can't quite make out. But God sees us for who we already are - his sons and daughters.

The work of salvation is done, once for all mankind:

Just as people are destined to die once, and after that to face judgment, **28** so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him. (Hebrews 9:27-28)

The work is finished, but we aren't. God sees us through the righteousness of his son, but God sees in a way we can't see. Just like I talked about in playing a game with my son, God knows how everything is going to work out. He sees the end result. He knows everything (He is omniscient). So, for us, we simply do our part of shedding the old life and putting on the new.

Prayer focus:

- “Heavenly Father, as we continue to think about what we learned last week, help me to not be satisfied with knowing the facts. Give me a deep desire to live out with my actions what I know with my intentions...”
- Ask God to remind you of things He has done in your life this week so that you can share them with some of us on Sunday.
- Pray and expect God to create opportunities for you to invest in your relationship with one of your 8 to 15 and then invite them to church on Sunday.

Saturday: Rest