

Week Three: *Define Victory*

John 1:1-28

Spend FIFTEEN – Day One

1. As we dig deeper into what it means to set a course and a purpose for our life that “defines victory,” please spend time in the first chapter of the Gospel of John. Read to verse 28 with an eye to what God defines as victory.
2. After you read this section of John, take this space to jot down two or three key points to remember from this passage that point to what God wants for your life.
3. Draw your mind to verse 12 and 13. What does it mean to be “born of God”?
4. What role do you think John the Baptist played in order for God to have victory?
5. Why do you think people were compelled to go out of their way to see John?
6. John had a very clear and distinct message. Examine the message that you send in your life and actions. What message does it send?
7. Over the next week, we are going to take a hard look at defining victory as God sees it. As you finish your FIFTEEN, pray that God will grant you clarity about things that are needful and things that He cares about.

Spend FIFTEEN – Day Two

8. We will continue reading the first chapter of John. Pick up with verse 29 and read to the end of the chapter. Again, read with a sense of what it means to define victory and how to live as a child of God.
9. As you read, take some time to jot down thoughts related to characteristics that marked the disciples as children of God.
10. The question that Jesus asked in verse 38 is very direct and to the point. In your relationships, what does asking a question like this indicate to the person to whom it is directed?
11. To be John’s disciple meant that you were actively seeking truth. To engage with Jesus and to follow him also means that you are seeking truth. Why is the action of seeking important to understanding truth when it is offered?

12. Nathaniel had some bias to overcome in verse 46 in order to come to the truth. Recall times in your life when bias has made itself an obstacle to understanding a person's wants.
13. Make a list of the qualities of a life that is full of truth and what makes it attractive to people who are seeking.
14. As you finish your FIFTEEN in prayer, pray that the love that you show others because of Jesus will draw them to him.

Spend FIFTEEN – Day Three

15. Let's move in our reading to 1 Timothy 1:1-11. As you read, focus on how we are to relate to people who try to distract us from the truth.
16. Record your thoughts on these verses in the space below.
17. Think of a time when you were focused on winning a debate or argument. Describe your feelings on both the winning side and the losing side of an argument.
18. What do you think gets in the way of Christians expressing or experiencing unity? Think of some examples today of the "meaningless talk" that distracts us from the goal, which is love.
19. Verses 8-11 focus on the Law. Traditionally the Law has three or more uses. One that can act as a curb (keep evil behavior in check), a mirror (to show us our sin), or a rule or guide (used as a measure for Christian life). How do you think Paul is using the Law here?
20. How should we be careful to use the Law when professing truth?
21. As you close your FIFTEEN in prayer, ask God for help in having the right motives in things you care about. Also, ask for the help of the Spirit to convict you of sin and deal with your own shortcomings, beginning with asking for his grace and mercy.

Spend FIFTEEN – Day Four

22. We will go back to 1 Timothy and continue reading in chapter one beginning with verse 12 through verse 20. Read today's section with a focus on God's grace.
23. Take the space below to record your thoughts on God's grace revealed in these verses.

24. Recall a story or a time when someone underwent a radical transformation likened to Paul. What do you think about the faith of such a person? (Do you admire, respect, doubt, question...)

25. Now more so, we are hearing of those who have “suffered the shipwreck of their faith.” Why is it so important to have a proper understanding of grace? Why is the knowledge of the Law necessary for the Gospel?

26. At this point in your life, whom is God asking you to show great patience toward?

27. Finish your FIFTEEN by asking God to reveal tangible ways in which his patience with you can inspire and motivate as you show patience and grace to others. Pray for the person you identified in the question above.

Spend FIFTEEN – Day Five

28. Today we will spend time in 1 Timothy chapter 2. We began this week with a focus on defining victory. Read verses 1-10 with an eye on what a victorious Christian life looks like.

29. Use this space to jot down two or three key thoughts about what you just read.

30. According to this section of scripture, what does victory look like for God?

31. What role do you play in helping people to “come to a knowledge of the truth”?

32. Take this time to reflect on others that helped lead you closer to the truth. What qualities to they possess that you would like to emulate? Take some time to reflect on how those qualities might be reflected in your life.

33. As you finish your FIFTEEN, please note that the Christian life is that of growth. We base our relationship with the Father by defining victory for ourselves through what Christ has done. Ask for help from the Spirit to provide you with a renewed mind and sense of purpose to live the victory you have in Christ. Furthermore, pray that your peace and grace would be evident to all.