

At Our Core: Disciple; Psalm 1

Summary

In this sermon, Pastor David explores the core values of First United Methodist Church, focusing on the commitment to making disciples of all ages through Bible-centered spiritual development. He emphasizes the importance of meditating on God's Word, as illustrated in Psalm 1, which describes the prosperity and fulfillment that come from living a life guided by Scripture. The sermon also includes a reflection on the story of the rich man and Lazarus from the Gospel of Luke, highlighting the consequences of ignoring God's teachings and the importance of living a life of compassion and generosity. Pastor David encourages the congregation to study Scripture diligently, allowing it to shape their lives and bring them closer to God.

Key Verses

- Psalm 1:1-3
- Luke 16:19-31
- Matthew 7:24-27

Life Application

This week, commit to setting aside a specific time each day to study a passage of Scripture. Reflect on how it applies to your life and share your insights with someone else.

Key Takeaways

- True prosperity comes from delighting in and meditating on God's Word.
- The way we live our faith creates either bonds or separation between us and God's kingdom.
- Studying Scripture is essential for spiritual growth and understanding God's will.
- Generosity and compassion are key aspects of living a life aligned with God's teachings.
- Having God's Word at the center of our lives leads to true fulfillment and prosperity.

Devotionals

Day 1:

Choosing the Right Path

Devotional Every day, we face countless decisions that shape our path in life. Some of us try to navigate these choices alone, while others let the world's influences guide them. But there's a better way - allowing God to be the author of our path. When we choose to walk with God, we're not just making random decisions; we're following a divine blueprint for our lives. This journey begins with a simple yet profound choice: will we delight in God's Word and let it guide our steps? The beauty of this choice is that it leads to true prosperity - not necessarily material wealth, but a rich, fulfilling life rooted in God's truth.

Bible Verse

Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or take the path that sinners tread, or sit in the seat of scoffers. But their delight is in the law of the Lord. - Psalm 1:1-2

Reflection Question

What influences are currently shaping your life's path? Are they leading you closer to or further from God's design for your life?

Quote All of us will walk a path in this life. And some of us will author our own paths. Some of us will allow the world or others to alter our paths. And some of us, the Psalter says, will allow God to be the author of our path.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, help me to choose Your path today. Give me the wisdom to recognize Your guidance and the courage to follow it. Let Your Word be my compass as I navigate life's decisions. Amen.

Day 2:

Planted by Living Waters

Devotional Imagine a tree planted by a stream, its roots constantly nourished by fresh water, producing fruit in season and maintaining green leaves even in drought. This is God's picture of a person who stays connected to His Word. Just as a tree needs consistent water to thrive, we need regular nourishment from Scripture to grow spiritually. When we remain connected to this divine source, we don't just survive - we thrive. Our lives bear fruit naturally, not through striving, but through staying connected to the source of life.

Bible Verse

They are like trees planted by streams of water which yield their fruit in its season. And their leaves do not wither. In all they do, they prosper. - Psalm 1:3

Reflection Question

What practical steps can you take to ensure you're consistently 'planted' near the living waters of God's Word?

Quote If you want to know the path that you are to walk upon, study Scripture. If you want to know the best life that you can live right now, study Scripture.

Prayer

Lord, draw me closer to Your living waters. Help me establish strong roots in Your Word so that I can bear fruit that honors You. Keep me steadfast in seeking You daily. Amen.

Day 3:

The Heart's Treasure

Devotional Our hearts are like treasure chests, storing what we value most. What we consistently feed our hearts will eventually show up in our words, actions, and character. If we fill our hearts with God's Word, it becomes a wellspring of life, producing good fruit in every area of our lives. This isn't about perfect performance; it's about allowing God's truth to transform us from the inside out. When we make His Word our heart's treasure, our lives naturally reflect His character.

Bible Verse

No good tree bears bad fruit, Jesus said. Nor again does a bad tree bear good fruit. For each tree is known by its fruit. - Luke 6:43-44

Reflection Question

What kind of treasure are you storing in your heart, and how is it reflected in your daily life?

Quote Our heart is of the utmost importance, because out of it flows our character.

Prayer

Dear God, examine my heart and help me treasure what You treasure. Transform me from the inside out through Your Word. May my life bear good fruit that reflects Your character. Amen.

Day 4:

[Living Word, Living Life](#)

Devotional Scripture isn't just a collection of ancient writings - it's alive and active, ready to transform our lives when we engage with it. When we study God's Word, we're not just gaining information; we're inviting divine transformation. This living Word has the power to reshape our thoughts, redirect our actions, and renew our spirits. It's through consistent engagement with Scripture that we begin to see life through God's eyes and understand His heart for us and others.

Bible Verse

If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced, even if someone rises from the dead. - Luke 16:31

Reflection Question

How has God's Word been alive and active in your life recently? What changes have you noticed as you've engaged with Scripture?

Quote This word, this book, is truly alive. It's more alive than I am. It is the holy living Word of God.

Prayer

Father, thank You for Your living Word. Help me to approach Scripture not just as a book, but as Your active voice in my life. Transform me through Your truth. Amen.

Day 5:

Kingdom Living Now

Devotional God's kingdom isn't just a future hope - it's a present reality we're called to live out today. When we align our lives with God's Word, we become channels of His kingdom values: generosity, compassion, and care for others. This isn't about following rules; it's about allowing God's character to flow through us into a world that desperately needs His love. As we study Scripture and submit to its guidance, we become living testimonies of God's kingdom here and now.

Bible Verse

There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. - Luke 16:19

Reflection Question

How can you demonstrate God's kingdom values in your relationships and daily interactions this week?

Quote God's kingdom is one of generosity, of compassion, of visiting those who are in need of feeding the hungry and clothing the naked and caring for others.

Prayer

Lord, help me live as a citizen of Your kingdom today. Show me opportunities to express Your love, generosity, and compassion to others. Make me a channel of Your grace. Amen.