

Dear friends,

Thank you for your faithfulness in downloading our weekly devotionals. We know that these provided valuable content for some of our groups and for individual study. We are eager to support you on your journey to study the Bible.

After our annual summer hiatus, we will continue to pause on providing these guides. Based on feedback and our own research of best practices, we are working on a resource that will model for groups how to generate their own questions for the weekly sermon and Scripture.

We believe wholeheartedly in studying God's Word, but we also believe there are resources that will make us better lifelong learners and students. We are eager to lean into that space.

In the meantime, please consider using the study guide questions and resources below. You can bring these with you whenever you study a passage or sit down with a group to discuss the weekly sermon. We hope these will provide you with a template you can use to engage with God's Word on a regular basis.

### Questions for Bible Study and Sermon Reflection

1. What does this passage or sermon say to us? What stood out to me as a new idea? Was there something here that I'd not heard before; what was it? Was there a once-familiar passage that this sermon or Scripture recalled? Take a moment to name what came to mind for you as you listened or read.
2. Understanding context is one of the most important elements in studying the Bible. Of course, the Bible is relevant for us today, but it was originally written to communities of people who lived centuries ago. What clues to context do you find in this passage? If the sermon provided any contextual clues, what were they? What do you think this passage meant for the people who first heard it?

3. What was confusing to you in this passage? Scripture can either feel clear to us or be confusing. Often, it is a combination of both. Bible passages are often nuanced and can offer multiple layers of meaning. As you listened to the sermon or read the passage, what seemed unclear to you? Where did you find yourself eager to understand more? Perhaps you were skeptical of an idea put forth in a sermon, what was that idea? What about it made you curious or confused? If you are in a group setting and there are a lot of similar questions, why do you think you all landed in that place?
4. The Bible is a source that often convicts and comforts people. What in this passage brought you comfort? What in this passage might comfort others? What convicted you? Was there anything that made you squirm a bit and wonder about how God might be calling you to shift the way you live?
5. Where have you heard the ideas in this text/sermon before? For example, Jesus often quoted the Old Testament in His teachings. Most of us are not biblical scholars and therefore don't know about all the cross-references, but did anything you heard sound like another passage? Or did anything you hear sound like an idea or concept you read or experienced in literature, movies, art, culture, etc.? What are the parallels you see? What are the differences?
6. How might you live differently if this passage and sermon were true? If you deeply believed it and spent time living out the principles you found within it, what would you shift in your life? Take a step further back and wonder about how the Church around the world would be different if we all lived out the principles in this passage? And taking an even bigger step back, what might change in our world if everyone tried to live out the truths of God in this passage?
7. Where can I learn more? There are many good books and resources that offer companions to us when we study the Bible. If you are in a group, ask if anyone in the group can recommend anything. A few good resources are listed on our Christ Church resource [page](#). We also have books that pair with our sermon series in the Christ Church bookstore. If you are looking for a few online resources that you can turn to, consider the following:

**The Bible Project | [BibleProject.com](https://BibleProject.com)**

- A significant website with video content and resources to study most of the Bible.

**Download the YouVersion Bible App | [YouVersion.com/the-Bible App](https://YouVersion.com/the-Bible-App)**

- This app is both a great way to access Scripture on your phone as well as find Bible studies and companion notes to passages. You can also find daily devotional guides.

**The Four Minute Bible Study | [FourMinuteBibleStudy.com](https://FourMinuteBibleStudy.com)**

- An easy and comprehensive way to study God and the Bible

**Logos Bible Study Resources | [Logos.com](https://Logos.com)**

- Often used for sermon preparation or in-depth studies, this is a robust online resource that offers insight on everything from biblical languages to significant theological libraries.