

# THE JOURNEY

April 25, 2010 - Lesson 8

## What does God expect of me?



*God doesn't want us to be "parked"—  
He wants us moving for His Kingdom.*

1. *"Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things." (Philippians 4:8)*
2. *"Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me." (John 15:4)*
3. *"Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—His good pleasing and perfect will." (Romans 12:2)*

### The Apostles' Creed

**Opening prayer:** *"Dear God, thank You, Lord, for being with us every step of this journey. Thank You for all You have taught us, Lord. We ask that You continue to fill us with Your Holy Spirit and guide us on your path. In Jesus' name, Amen."*

- Share and record Joys and Concerns in notebook.
- Have students complete and turn in Homework Log.
- Review their Scripture Memory Verse options from above.

*(Large Group)*

**Nooma video:** *"Rich"* by Rob Bell *(running time: 12 minutes)*

As Christians we are called to see the world in a different way. But, how does what we have compare with the rest of the world? Maybe God has blessed us with everything we have so we can bless and give to others.

**Today, we are going to talk about what God expects of you as a Christian.**

We are made in God's image, but we are not God. We were given free will to make decisions and since we are not perfect, we will make mistakes.

God gives us the two greatest Commandments.

*(Small Group)*

**1st Commandment: To love God with all your heart, mind, soul and strength.**

- Abide in Him (stay close to God).
  - To grow in your knowledge and love of God by practicing spiritual disciplines: Bible study, worship (attending church, praising God), solitude, meditation, service, praying, fasting, fellowshiping with other believers, serving, etc.
  - To seek first the kingdom of God. To make Him our priority.

**ACTIVITY: Make God a Priority:**

Have students take index cards. On each card have them write an activity they spend time doing each week, such as watching TV, playing soccer, texting, spending time on the computer, going to Sunday School etc. Do a separate card for each activity. For each activity have them write down how much time they spend doing this activity each week. Have them spread the cards out in front of them.

**Ask:** *Do you like each of these activities equally?  
How do you feel about how much time you spend doing these?  
Are some more important than others even if you don't like them as well?  
Do you ever get tired of some of them?  
Did you choose to do all these things?  
If you could get rid of some of these which would it be?*

Now take your cards and stack them in the following categories family, school, friends, fun, physical, spiritual. God wants you to have a balanced life. He doesn't want you to spend all your time doing one thing. So, pick an activity or two from each category that you want to continue doing. When you get home talk to your parents about the choices you have made. When you are looking at your priorities in life they should be God, Family and then Others.

- To be obedient to Him.
- To be a living sacrifice – a way of presenting yourself to God through praise, worship and offerings (ie., time, talents, money, possessions). Take your everyday, ordinary life – your sleeping, eating, going to school and walking around life – and place it before God as an offering. Through all that you do, keep your attention on God and think about pleasing Him.
- Take good care of your body for you are your own temple filled with the Spirit of God. Do not do anything that is harmful (drugs, drinking, smoking, etc.).

**2nd Commandment: To love others as you love yourself.**

- Loving others is critical. Even love your enemies.
- Golden rule: do unto others as you would have them do unto you.
- Forgive them as Christ forgives you.
- Serve others. Be the hands and feet of God to others. Care about and help the poor, oppressed and orphans.

Scripture examples of servanthood:

- Mark 10:42-45...the Son of Man came to serve....our example
- John 13:3-15...Jesus washes the Disciples' feet...another example

- Be concerned with not just your own salvation, but with the salvation of others. Share the good news with others:

Sharing your faith doesn't just mean that you tell others how to be a Christian. It can also mean that you ask God to give you the strength to live out your faith so that others can see you live your Christian life. It can also mean asking God for the right words to say at the right time. Sharing your faith in Jesus is an invitation to show the love of God, not a demand to force our faith on others.

### **How are we to look and act differently than the world?**

1. Matt. 7:15-16— *Be known by our fruit.* Fruits of the Holy Spirit: love for others, inner peace, outer joy, patience in difficult circumstances, kindness in dealing with others, generosity in all things, faithfulness in relationships, gentleness and sensitivity, and self control of thoughts, words, and deeds. (Galatians 5:22-26)
2. We are to be salt and light to the world (Matthew 5:13-16) As salt and light, we are to be holy, pure and distinctive (as is salt), and to be an illuminating witness (a light) to God's presence, so that others will come to know Him. If we are neither salt nor light – if we are indistinguishable from non-Christians – how will others be drawn to consider the claims of Christ? As is often said, Christians are called to **be in the world but not of the world.**
3. Christian Values vs. Worldly Values: Romans 12:2 says, *“Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.”* God wants us to live in this world but not let the world change our actions or thoughts from what we know is good and pleasing to God.

### **Being a Christian is not an easy job.**

**Ask:** *How many of you want to follow Jesus? Read Matthew 5:10-12. After reading this passage how many of you have changed your mind? What are some of the dangers of following Jesus? (Losing friendships, not getting to do some things, making choices between church and other activities)*

### **Your servant job description** might read like this:

Servant, needed immediately to: help build a kingdom of enormous proportions. Must be willing to work long hours with no recognition whatsoever for yourself. Must be willing to leave everything behind, including family, friends, reputation, and possibly own life. No experience necessary; in fact everything you have done up to this point will be counted as rubbish. Compensation: eternal reward, recognition by the Master as a good and faithful servant

**Ask:** *What about this description would make you think twice about accepting the job? Which of these qualities seem reasonable? Which seem impossible?*

### **Being a Christian at School makes me different**

You spend about 7 hours a day in school, 5 days a week. That is 35 hours per week. Then say you're in school approximately 40 weeks a year. Do the math. You are in school about 1,400 hours each school year. That is a lot of teachers and books. But, it also means that you have a great opportunity to do something great for God.

### ***Closing prayer***

# Homework

Pick one of the following Scriptures to memorize for next week's lesson, write it on a note card and put it somewhere you can see it and reflect on it daily:

1. *"That if you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved."* (Romans 10:9)
2. *"You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in Heaven."* (Matthew 5:14,16)
3. *"Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all of its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ."* (1 Corinthians 12:12)

**Complete the Spiritual Gifts Inventory from your Student Lesson Guide.**

**Journaling:**

1. Read James 2:8- 9 from your Bible. *What does James say is the one thing that might get in the way of us loving our neighbor? (prejudice or racism)*
2. Jesus was the example of how to love others no matter what their race or background. Read the story of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37). *Who do you have in your class or school that you might not act loving toward because of the way they look, dress or act? How would Jesus want you to act toward them?*

**Family Homework:**

What activities does your family spend time doing? What does each family member enjoy most? Take the time as a family to do the **ACTIVITY: Make God a Priority** (page 72 of the Student Lesson Guide). Your student can lead you through this activity—but instead of doing it as an individual student, do the activity as a family. After you are done, ask:

- Does each member of the family like these activities equally?*
- How do you feel about how much time as a family you spend doing these?*
- Are some more important than others even if you don't like them as well?*
- As a family, Do you ever get tired of some of them?*
- Did each member of the family choose to do all these things?*
- Asking each member of the family, If you could get rid of some of these which would it be?*

Now take your cards and stack them in the following categories family, school, friends, fun, physical, spiritual. God wants you to have a balanced life. He doesn't want you to spend all your time doing one thing. So, pick an activity or two from each category that as a family you want to continue doing. When you are looking at your priorities in life they should be God, Family and then Others.

**The Journey Continues next week: Lesson 9: What is the Church?**

*In preparation for next week's lesson, read page 78, "What is a United Methodist?"*

# Homework Log

Fill out and turn into your instructors each week



Confirmation Homework Log for: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Student Name)

Lesson # \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Name one thing you learned from this past week's Lesson:
2. How will you make changes in your life since you learned this?
3. What is one question you still have from last week's lesson?

Each day, write if you did any of the following and explain:

- homework
- attended a Reynoldsburg UMC student activity this week. . . Which one?
- provided community service. . . What did you do?

Sunday:

Monday:

Tuesday:

Wednesday:

Thursday:

Friday:

Saturday:

Circle which worship service you attended (or will attend) this week:

**Saturday:** 6:00 pm **Sunday:** 8:00am 9:15am