



STUDY GUIDE

FEBRUARY 19

SERMON SCRIPTURES

Luke 1:16-20

Mark 1:4-8

Luke 3:19-20

Mark 1:9-11

LOOKING BACK

Last week we talked about submission and connected it with the words “bow” and “obey.” We realized that these two words were linked to “worship” and “love” respectively. You were encouraged to meditate on the song “Take My Life and Let It Be” each day. How did this impact your week? Another challenge was to read the book of John and rediscover why you love Jesus. If you did this, share with your group or if you were on your own, reflect back in your journal what you wrote about the love you have for Jesus. Do you find it easier to want to obey when you consciously are thinking about your love for Jesus?

LOOKING FORWARD

In our study of submission this month it’s been interesting to have found “connecting” words each week. Take a look at what we have found (and feel free to go back over the February study guides if you are just jumping in):

- Submit → Unity**
- Submit = bow → Worship**
- Submit = obey → Love**

Do you notice that the “s-word,” which is often uncomfortable to us, is really connected to all things good?! Unity, worship, love. Do you get the idea that God knows what he is doing when he calls us to submission? Discuss how you feel about submission. Has your view of this changed lately?

What kinds of feelings does the idea of submission stir in you (oppression, excitement, etc.)?

This week’s sermon challenges us to think really personally about

submission. We’re moving more and more from theory into practice. We learned that this submission thing could actually cost us our lives (John the Baptist). How does that tie in to all things good?

Jesus’ disciples had been following him for quite a while now. Their first act of submission was to follow Him. (Read Matthew 4:19, 10:38, 16:24) In heart and action the disciples decided to follow Jesus. Consider whether you have taken this first act of submission—both in heart and in action. If not, are you in?

Submission then begins to press down deep into everything we have and are. Read Matthew 6:19-34, 8:18-22 & chapter 10. Talk about these passages and how that impacts your excitement for personal submission.

We cannot soften what it means to submit to Jesus. There is a cost. The question is...Is it worth it? We started today’s study with the reminder that submission is connected to all things good. Read Matthew 16:24-28, 19:28-30 & Luke 12:22-34, John 17:3. Jot down what is good about complete & personal submission.

Did you find another connection to submission?

Submit = trust → LIFE/kingdom

Sounds good, but that’s a lot to give up. How is this kind of life possible? The final message of this

week's sermon was "trust." Full and total submission cannot be done on your own; it takes trust. Trust in the One who is truly good. C.S. Lewis once said that the root of all sin is believing God is not truly good. Ask yourself that fundamental question – do I believe God is truly good? Talk to your group about how your life reflects your answer (or at times does not reflect your answer). Does doing things your own way, keeping control of your life, lack of submission (unity, worship, love), etc., reflect what we truly believe about God? We have already seen that in God's economy, submitting leads to all things good, so what happens when we take back control? Are we essentially saying that our way is better? Share examples from your life (current or past). Is there something right now that you need to submit to God in trust, knowing that He is good?

CHALLENGES

Submission is a daily act. If someone says they are an "athlete" you would assume that they focus on being an athlete on a daily basis and that it is "holistic" (diet, exercise, sleep, focus, etc.). New athletes start with what they can and gradually increase until it becomes who they are. You probably would not think an athlete works out for a few hours one day a week and then perhaps eats bonbons and sits on the sofa the rest of the time, doing nothing 'athletic.' Think of submission in this way. Each day begins to shape who you really are. If you

want to "be" someone entirely, each day counts. If you want to be a person of submission to God, each day makes you that person. Ponder this quote this week and see how this changes your daily life of submission—which includes unity, worship (bow), love of Jesus (obey), true life/ the kingdom (trust):

Who you are daily;

becomes who you are weekly;

becomes who you are monthly;

becomes who you are yearly...

Focus on the idea of "trust" this week & ask yourself daily whether you truly trust the Lord and believe He is good. Look for this in your actions. Meditate on scriptures that talk about who God is. Romans 12:12 says, "...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." Worship Him. Read the following scriptures and pick one or two to meditate upon. (Psalm 40 & 62, Proverbs 3:5-6, Jeremiah 17:7, Acts 14:23). Read through the Psalms and underline all words that remind you that God is worthy of trust and praise.

Ponder the Message Version of Proverbs 3:5-6:

Trust God from the bottom of your heart; don't try to figure out everything on your own. Listen for God's voice in everything you do, everywhere you go; He's the one who will keep you on track. Don't assume that you know it all.