



WEEKLY STUDY

Week One

Pastor Jacob kicked off a series called Jesus Changed My Life. Some of the most memorable moments in this movement of God called Providence Church have been around people of all ages saying “yes” to Jesus and responding with the outward sign of baptism. In this message, we heard a bit about John the Baptist and his role in preparing people for the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

If you are studying with your Providence Small Group, you can share from daily readings as well as the additional question at the bottom of this guide. If you would like to get connected to a Providence Small Group visit prov.church/smallgroups.

Find a time each day to read the passage of scripture, follow the daily prayer prompt, and then pray this or your own prayer.

*God,
I confess that I can get in my own way,
and so I pray for the world to see less of me
and more of you in me.
Let me be busy living for you today.
Amen.*

DAILY STUDY

MONDAY: JOHN 3.27-30

“A person can receive only what is given them from heaven.²⁸ You yourselves can testify that I said, ‘I am not the Messiah but am sent ahead of him.’²⁹ The bride belongs to the bridegroom. The friend who attends the bridegroom waits and listens for him, and is full of joy when he hears the bridegroom’s voice. That joy is mine, and it is now complete.³⁰ He must become greater; I must become less.”

- John the Baptist had people’s attention. A person with his charisma can garner quite a following of his own. But John was adamant about who he was in relation to Jesus. He said he was like the friend of the bridegroom—the one who is filled with joy when the bridegroom comes for his bride. He said that his joy is complete because Jesus is here. Acts of humility like this are rare

today and throughout history. It's hard to comprehend. Becoming less when you could become more in order to glorify God is the way of Christ.

- *Pray for a heart of joy that celebrates the high position of Jesus Christ.*

TUESDAY: 2 CORINTHIANS 12.9-10

“My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me.¹⁰ That is why, for Christ’s sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

- Paul is not revelling in weakness, he is recognizing that when he allows himself to be low, Jesus can be lifted up, and when Jesus is lifted up, his followers are made strong. Paul is playing the long game.
- *Pray for an understanding of your own weakness as a change for Jesus to be lifted up.*

WEDNESDAY: PHILIPPIANS 3.7-11

But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ.⁸ What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in^[a] Christ—the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith.¹⁰ I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death,¹¹ and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead.

- Life can not be all about us and all about Jesus at the same time. The trophies on your shelves are nice, but do they point to Jesus? If not, how could you begin to talk about them differently? Is Jesus more important than all of your accomplishments? Paul (who was quite proud of his own abilities and accomplishments) was able to consider it all as garbage for the sake of the higher purpose of Jesus.
- *Pray for a vision of the higher purpose of Jesus in your daily interactions and decisions.*

THURSDAY: GALATIANS 2.20

I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

- Saying yes to Jesus results in a whole new orientation of your life. You can continue to do great and meaningful things—you can have great success, but your success is for Christ who lives in you.
- *Ask God for success that points to Christ.*

FRIDAY: MATTHEW 6.24

“No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.

- Jesus seems to be talking about money here, but really he’s talking about treasure. Do you treasure yourself, your security, your pleasure, more than God? You can only serve God or something else. Is God at the center of your life?
- *Pray that God revealed in Jesus Christ would be your treasure.*

SATURDAY: PSALM 145.1-7

I will exalt you, my God the King;

I will praise your name for ever and ever.

²*Every day I will praise you*

and extol your name for ever and ever.

³*Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise;*

his greatness no one can fathom.

⁴*One generation commends your works to another;*

they tell of your mighty acts.

⁵*They speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty—*

and I will meditate on your wonderful works.

⁶*They tell of the power of your awesome works—*

and I will proclaim your great deeds.

⁷*They celebrate your abundant goodness*

and joyfully sing of your righteousness.

- Worship is how we keep God at the center of our lives. If we are ever tempted to worship our own goals or success, we can turn to God and he will put it in perspective for us. God wants us to thrive, and God has designed us to worship.
- *Worship God in prayers using the words of Psalm 145.*

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

Pastor Jacob shared the story of a youth pastor taking time to remind him who he is. It was a small act that helped to keep him focused on Jesus when it would have been easy to focus on himself. Has anyone ever spoken a word or wrote a note that helped fix your eyes on Jesus? Have you said “yes” to Jesus?