



WEEKLY STUDY

Week Three

This was a powerful weekend at Providence Church. Beginning on Thursday night, we saw dozens of people respond to God and say yes to Jesus in baptism or recommitment to their baptism. Pastor Jacob paved the way by outlining the human condition and the development of core questions that identify how humans see themselves. The questions went from Billy Graham's "What is truth?" to Rick Warren's "What is the point? (What's my purpose?)" to Jacob Armstrong's "What now?" This last question comes as a result of moving through a shake-up of sorts. After the pandemic, after national division...what now?

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,
You have seen what I have been through.
You have been with me through it all.
What now?
What can stand between me and the waters of baptism?
Guide me and send me with the power of your Spirit.
Amen

DAILY STUDY

MONDAY: ACTS 8.26-31

²⁶ Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Go south to the road—the desert road—that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." ²⁷ So he started out, and on his way he met an Ethiopian eunuch, an important official in charge of all the treasury of the Kandake (which means "queen of the Ethiopians"). This man had gone to Jerusalem to worship, ²⁸ and on his way home was sitting in his chariot reading the Book of Isaiah the prophet. ²⁹ The Spirit told Philip, "Go to that chariot and stay near it."

³⁰ Then Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. “Do you understand what you are reading?” Philip asked.

³¹ “How can I,” he said, “unless someone explains it to me?” So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.

- Jacob said that the Spirit of God is active leading up to and during our baptism. The Spirit even led Philip into the encounter with the Ethiopian eunuch. When we are open to the Spirit of God like the Ethiopian and Philip, we may find that God is regularly calling us to Himself and the waters of baptism and remembrance. When was the last time you felt God drawing you back to Him?
- Pray for a clear view of the activity of the Holy Spirit.

TUESDAY: PSALM 27.7-8

Hear my voice when I call, LORD;
be merciful to me and answer me.

⁸ My heart says of you, “Seek his face!”
Your face, LORD, I will seek.

- In baptism, the person is seeking. A heart posture of desire for more of what God offers is an important aspect of baptism. You see it in the seeking of the Ethiopian in Acts 8 as well as every other story of a person searching for God. The Psalmist says, “Your face, Lord, I will seek.” What are the indicators that you are seeking after God?
- Pray for a heart posture of desire for more of what God offers to you through Jesus.

WEDNESDAY: ROMANS 10.11-13

As Scripture says, “Anyone who believes in him will never be put to shame.”¹² For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him,¹³ for, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

- There is a confession of belief that takes place in baptism. Those who call on the name of the Lord will be saved. Baptism is the outward sign of that inward salvation worked by God. Have you professed belief in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior? Have you professed it today? The promise that we will never be put to shame is an important one in a world that often seems at odds with the teachings and work of Jesus.
- As you pray, tell God who you believe Him to be.

THURSDAY: MARK 9.22-24

if you can do anything, take pity on us and help us.”

²³ “If you can?” said Jesus. “Everything is possible for one who believes.”

²⁴ Immediately the boy’s father exclaimed, “I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!”

- This desperate father professes his belief even when he doesn’t have it all together. He asks Jesus to help him to overcome his doubt and lack of full understanding. This is the beauty of anyone who

comes to Jesus. Don't wait until you are perfect in your belief and understanding, but honestly seek God. God knows your heart.

- *Pray the prayer of the father that might have been echoed by the Ethiopian in Acts 8. "I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!"*

FRIDAY: LUKE 5.18-19.

Some men came carrying a paralyzed man on a mat and tried to take him into the house to lay him before Jesus. ¹⁹ When they could not find a way to do this because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and lowered him on his mat through the tiles into the middle of the crowd, right in front of Jesus.

- Just as the paralyzed man depended on others to carry him to Jesus, someone has to help you to the waters of baptism. Oftentimes it is family or friends who help you get to the water of baptism or recommitment. Have you ever been called upon to carry the mat for someone else who was in need of Jesus?
- *Pray for the people who have helped carry you to Jesus at different times in your life. Pray for those you might help to the waters of baptism.*

SATURDAY: 1 CHRONICLES 16.8-11

*Give praise to the LORD, proclaim his name;
make known among the nations what he has done.*

⁹ *Sing to him, sing praise to him;
tell of all his wonderful acts.*

¹⁰ *Glory in his holy name;
let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice.*

- In baptism there is rejoicing. We saw it at Providence this weekend. Great rejoicing that extends from worship on earth all the way to heaven where there is rejoicing over each one who gives their life to Jesus.
- *Pray for a spirit of rejoicing over those who are finding their way to life in Christ.*

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

Who else in your life might be experiencing the wooing of the Holy Spirit to say “yes” to Jesus?