



SESSION 4

THE PRIORITIES OF A DISCIPLE

Following Jesus means living a life that
reflects His character and priorities.



WORSHIP

READING PLAN

Read through the following Scripture passages this week. Use the space provided to record your thoughts and responses.

Day 1

Romans 8:1-30

Day 2

Romans 13:1-14

Day 3

Galatians 4:1-20

Day 4

Ephesians 4:1-16

Day 5

Ephesians 4:17-32

Day 6

1 Peter 2:11-25

Day 7

Colossians 3:1-17

JESUS' UPWARD PRIORITIES

Part of following Jesus is developing the character and priorities of Jesus. The two personal studies for this week will dive into some of those priorities—both upward and outward. Carefully examine these priorities so you can replicate them in your own life. Use the passages under each priority as your guide.

First, Jesus made the Word of God a priority. Jesus saturated His heart and mind with Scriptures. At the age of 12, Jesus' parents found Him in the temple discussing Scriptures with the religious leaders. When Jesus was tempted, He resisted by quoting God's Word. Jesus often quoted and referred to Scriptural stories, never diminishing but always exalting the authority and validity of the Word.

He answered, "It is written:
Man must not live on bread alone
but on every word that comes
from the mouth of God."

MATTHEW 4:4

In what ways have you used Scripture to protect yourself against temptation in the past?

Jesus said to the Jews who had believed Him, "If you continue in My word, you really are My disciples. You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

JOHN 8:31-32

What does Jesus instruct us to do in this passage?

How have you experienced the truth setting you free?

Second, Jesus made prayer a priority. Jesus also lived His life saturated in prayer to His Father. When you look at Jesus' life, He prayed over every major event. He prayed at His baptism. He prayed as He chose the Twelve. He prayed during busy seasons of ministry. He prayed when He was grieving. He prayed when He was hurting. His last physical act on earth was to pray from the cross. And Jesus taught His disciples to pray as well.

Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, He got up, went out, and made His way to a deserted place. And He was praying there.

MARK 1:35

Yet He often withdrew to deserted places and prayed.

LUKE 5:16

He went out and made His way as usual to the Mount of Olives, and the disciples followed Him. When He reached the place, He told them, "Pray that you may not enter into temptation."

LUKE 22:39-40

Jesus clearly had a pattern of prayer. Why do you think this was important?

Do you follow a certain pattern of prayer? If so, what is it?

We've looked at two key priorities of Jesus. As you reflect on these priorities, think of someone who you think models these priorities of Jesus.

How are these priorities lived out in a practical way in this person's life?

What can you do to implement these priorities into your life?



JESUS' OUTWARD PRIORITIES

In the same way Jesus made the Word of God and prayer a priority, He also revealed upward priorities.

First, Jesus made obedience a priority. Jesus was always obedient to His Father. There was never a time when Jesus resisted or pulled aside from doing what His Father told Him to do. As a young boy, Jesus learned obedience to His parents. And as a grown man, Jesus lived a life of obedience to His Father, even when it meant suffering and death.

⁷ During His earthly life, He offered prayers and appeals with loud cries and tears to the One who was able to save Him from death, and He was heard because of His reverence. ⁸ Though He was God's Son, He learned obedience through what He suffered. ⁹ After He was perfected, He became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey Him.

HEBREWS 5:7-9

What do we learn about Jesus' obedience from this passage?

¹⁵ "If you love Me, you will keep My commands." ... ²¹ "The one who has My commands and keeps them is the one who loves Me. And the one who loves Me will be loved by My Father. I also will love him and will reveal Myself to him." ... ²³ Jesus answered, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word. My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him."

JOHN 14:15,21,23

How would you like to respond to Jesus' words in this passage?

What is stopping you from responding that way?

Jesus also made love a priority. Jesus loved people in a deep and profound way. Jesus loved His parents. Jesus loved His disciples. Jesus loved the outcast and oppressed. Jesus even loved those who rejected and criticized Him. Jesus spoke often about the power and priority of love and compassion. Jesus also loved the Father and exalted the Father in everything.

³⁵ And one of them, an expert in the law, asked a question to test Him:
³⁶ “Teacher, which command in the law is the greatest?” ³⁷ He said to him, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. ³⁸ This is the greatest and most important command. ³⁹ The second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself. ⁴⁰ All the Law and the Prophets depend on these two commands.”

MATTHEW 22:35-40

What did Jesus say about the priority of love in this passage?

⁹ God’s love was revealed among us in this way: God sent His One and Only Son into the world so that we might live through Him. ¹⁰ Love consists in this: not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

1 JOHN 4:9-10

What does Jesus’ model of active love tell us about how we should love?

Finally, Jesus made investing in people a priority. Jesus drew large crowds, but His priority was training a few disciples who would change the world.

The next day He decided to leave for Galilee. Jesus found Philip and told him, “Follow Me!”

JOHN 1:43

Jesus sought out Philip and said “Follow Me!” In what other passages have you seen Jesus investing in people—making disciples that make disciples?

What one thing can you do this week to make people more of a priority in your life?