



**Victory
of
the Lamb**

Spiritual practices: Path to Victory

Big Idea

In the “Path to Victory” sermon series, we learned the five practices of the Early Church. Here is how we are trying to apply those practices in our setting:

- Gather (Committed to weekly worship service)
- Groups (Committed to a “Life Group” for encouragement and accountability)
- Give (Committed to serving God’s kingdom with time, talents, and treasures)
- Grow (Committed to daily meditation on God’s Word)
- Go (Committed to sharing the Gospel with those who don’t know Christ)

In your Life Group meetings take time to focus on one practice each time you meet. You don’t need to feel obligated to get through all the material. The most important thing is that you try to practice what Jesus and his Word teaches.

Breakdown of practices

Gather to Worship

The Early Church met regularly in the Temple courts to worship Jesus together. These were the same Temple courts where Jesus was recently put on trial and carried off to be crucified.

Read Acts 2:42-47

1. The Early Church was devoted to meeting for worship. Do you see the same devotion in your own heart? Why or why not?

Read Luke 4:14-21

2. What was Jesus’ practice? Give specific steps that you could take to follow Jesus’ example of meeting for regular worship.

3. What are some concrete ways that you could be more prepared for worship?

4. What are some ways you can be more engaged in worship? How can you make worship more meaningful?

5. Describe one thing you are going to try based on this conversation.

Groups for Encouragement

No one has ever seen God, but the Apostle John says, “When we love one another God lives in us and is made complete in us.” So when we participate in a Life Group and love one another, we get the unique opportunity to experience the loving presence of God among us.

Read Mark 1:16-18

1. Jesus did life with his disciples. How can we do what Jesus did?

Read 1 John 4:7-21

2. John says that true love is show in what God did for us. Explain how the work of Jesus is the essence of love.

3. How might we do a better job listening to the real needs of each other in this group?

4. What are the concrete ways that we can change this group from just a “Bible study” to a group that “does life together”?

Groups for Accountability

Worshipping Jesus in a large group is a huge blessing. But there are some things you can't do in a large group. We can't build intimate and trusting relationships. We can't “spur one another on towards love and good deeds.” That's why we need to gather in Life Groups. In a Life Group, we experience the powerful blessing of holding each other accountable to the Word of God.

Read Galatians 6:1-3

1. The “law of Christ” is to love one another. How does confronting someone in sin an act of love? Are we comfortable doing that to each other?

2. How might we bear each other's burdens in this group?

Read Hebrews 10:24-25

3. In what ways can we “spur one another on toward love” in this group that we can't in the worship service?

4. Describe how we can practice correcting others and accepting correction.

Give to Support

“Whoever sows generously will also reap generously.” Giving to church isn’t about obligation. We give offerings, use our abilities to serve Jesus, and offer up our time out of love to Jesus and to our church. God blesses the gifts we give cheerfully to His Kingdom. When we commit to serving God’s kingdom with time, talents, and treasures, we will see the benefits of our generosity in our church, community, and in our own hearts.

Read 2 Corinthians 8:9

1. How does this verse teach us the proper motivation for giving?

2. In what ways did Jesus practice giving generously?

Read 2 Cor. 9:6-15

3. What is Paul teaching us about giving in these verses?

4. How can we put Paul’s teaching into practice?

Read Luke 12:32-34

5. What is Jesus telling us in these verses?

6. What are ways that we can put in to practice what Jesus is teaching?

Grow in Faith

We know that Scripture is “God-breathed” and is “useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness”. But many of us have difficulty building a habit in reading God’s word regularly because of perceived time constraints or being intimidated by the size or complexity of the Bible. Using tools such as devotion series, reading plans, and videos on Scriptures helps us to be committed to daily meditation on God’s Word.

Read 2 Timothy 3:14-17

¹⁴ But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, ¹⁵ and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶ *All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, ¹⁷ so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.*

1. Paul tells Timothy to “continue” what he has learned. Why do you think it is so easy for so many of us to give up on daily Bible reading and spiritual growth?

2. Paul says the Bible is “God-breathed”. What parts of the Bible don’t seem “God-breathed”? What parts of the Bible continue to surprise you and prove God’s participation?

3. Paul says the Bible is “useful...for every good work”. What are some areas in your life that you hope God’s Word can “correct” and “train” to do good work? Do you struggle with worry? Control? Patience? Sadness? Greed? Envy? Lust? Anger? Selfishness?

4. When it comes to daily Bible reading, what has and has not worked for you?

5. This week’s challenge:

If you don’t have a daily Bible reading plan, **read the Bible through The Biblical Storyline Plan** with the YouVersion App with Victory. Go to Votl.life/Bible to sign up. We start the New Testament on October 14. **Let the group know what Bible reading plan you are going to follow, whether the YouVersion plan or something else.**

Go with the Gospel

Victory’s mission is to “reach today’s people with Christ’s victory”. This mission comes directly from Jesus, who commanded his disciples to share the Gospel with the world. As followers of Jesus, we grow in our own faith when we are committed to sharing the Gospel with those who don’t know Christ.

Read Matthew 28:18-20

¹⁸ Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Read Acts 1:8

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

1. These verses above are Jesus' mission statement for the church. Jesus wants his kingdom of forgiveness and love to extend to the ends of the earth. In what ways have we followed Jesus' mission? In what ways have we gotten distracted from his mission?

2. List all the reasons that keep us from sharing our faith with others.

3. Our church uses digital tools to share God's Word. How might we use technology personally to share our faith?

4. Describe a time when you missed an opportunity to share your faith. Describe a time when you took advantage of an opportunity to share your faith.

4. **This week's challenge:** Tell someone you know what Jesus means to you. Maybe tell them a story from the Bible or an illustration from a devotion or sermon. Or just tell them how you have personally been changed by the Gospel. **Text or email the group how it when as a way of encouraging each other.**