

TO HELP YOU NAIL DOWN TRUTHS IN THE BIBLE

One of our goals at Bethlehem is for you to spend time with God daily - this **HAMMERTIME** Card can help. It is designed to help you spend 15 minutes (or more) with God, 4 days a week. Here is an example of how to use this card. Study notebooks are available in the Bethlehem lobby.

Read the Bible verses (4 min)

- Read through one time, then re-read and underline any key points.

Read the card/think about it/write in your notebook (6 min)

- Write down some of the main ideas from the passage.
- Write down a “key for me” that is your main point that day.

Pray (5 min)

- Write down some of the things you are praying about that day.

“The Transformed Life”

A study about the Apostle Paul

You have **several options for tools to use during this study** (approx. 12 weeks):

◆ **HAMMERTIME Cards** - available Sundays at Bethlehem Church or online at www.bethlehemtoolbox.com.

◆ **Study Notebooks** - available at ‘Above the Grind’ Bookstore or the Information Center, \$5.00

◆ **“Paul: Living for the Call of Christ”**, by Gene Getz. Available at ‘Above the Grind’ Bookstore or you can purchase at Lifeway/Amazon/etc.

◆ Contact Matt Vanderbilt, Pastor of Connections at mrvanderbilt@bethlehembc.com or 704.823.5050 X104 with additional questions.

Day 1: The New You

Read: Ephesians 4:22-24

Think about: Jesus wants to change you - He wants you to look back at who you were before you accepted Him and see a different person from who you are now. There were many radical changes in Paul after he accepted Christ - God gave him a renewed mind, a renewed heart & a whole new perspective.

How about you? How have you changed? Have you put on a “new self” like Paul describes in today’s verses? God created you in His likeness and He wants this “new self” to look more and more like Him and His character. The more time you spend reading and applying the Bible, talking to God in prayer, and living out good spiritual habits, you will become increasingly like Jesus. Check out how John the Baptist described it in John 3:30. God wants this ‘new you’ to be radically different from the old you!

Act: Think about areas in your life that you are still working to ‘take off the old self’ and ‘putt on the new self.’ Share with someone close to you one of the ways you want to change and give them freedom to check in with you to help you progress toward that change.

Day 2: From Law to Grace **Read:** Exodus 20:1-17; Philippians 3:4-6; Galatians 3:23-25

Think about: Maybe you can relate to Paul - wanting to be free from a life of laws and rules, to live under grace and true freedom. Read the passages in Exodus and Philippians to see the original laws under which Paul lived. As Paul said, the laws did have value, because they pointed him to God and pointed out Paul's sin. You also need to have recognition of sin in your life.

Paul describes in Galatians how the purpose of the law has been fulfilled - grace now reigns over broken rules, and mercy triumphs over judgment (James 2:13). Don't allow Satan to weigh you down with burdens that God has already forgiven and therefore does not intend for you to carry. Understand His grace and allow it to steer your life.

Act: Take some time today to pray and ask God to help you understand more about His grace/law relationship. More to come on this topic tomorrow.

Day 3: Freedom, With Limits **Read:** Galatians 5:1-16 (esp. verses 1 & 13)

Think about: Freedom is a wonderful thing to experience. As Americans, we have political freedom and as followers of Christ, we can enjoy spiritual freedom. Just as American men and women died for our national freedom, Jesus died (and rose to life again) for our eternal freedom.

Paul had previously lived a life of unattainable rules, regulations & limitations. It was rigid life with no grace. When he came to Christ, he began to experience the freedom-filled life that he describes in today's verses. He also includes a warning in verse 13 that misuse of this freedom by knowingly indulging in sin mocks the work of Jesus on the cross and dishonors Him.

Act: Write in your notebook some of your main thoughts from the passage and then the 'key for me.' Does God want you to focus on His freedom right now? Or is He leading you to a time of confession for misuse of His grace? Spend time seeking God's message for you, then work on applying it in your life.

Day 4: It's a Process
4:25-5:4

Read: Ephesians

Think about: It can be intimidating to have the desire to grow in Christ yet feel it is unattainable to change. God wants you to know that your walk in Christ is a process - an enjoyable, yet challenging journey. Below are some of the habits God wants to change in a person. Write in the verse number where each is found in today's reading. Be encouraged - the people around you are working on these changes, too!

_____ falsehood	_____ anger	_____ stealing
_____ unwholesome talk	_____ grieve the Holy Spirit	_____ bitterness
_____ rage	_____ slander	_____ obscenity
_____ sexual immorality	_____ foolish talk	_____ malice

Act: Circle which of these are things you are working on or need to work on. Talk with God about them, asking for His help. Connect with another Christian soon and talk with them about these things. They can pray for you, encourage and challenge you as you grow in these areas.