

Thinking Like Jesus

Christianity is a Thinking Faith

Consider:

What does this _____?

Luke 14:28

What is the _____ of my life?

Luke 9:23

What does this _____ for me _____?

Philippians 3:8

How am I living _____?

Romans 12:1-2

Proverbs to Think Through in This Season

- Am I _____, _____, _____?
James 1:19
- Do I want to _____ or only to be _____?
Proverbs 18:2-3
- Do I expect _____ behavior from those who don't follow Jesus?
Matthew 7:6
- Does all of my wisdom begin in the _____ of the Lord?
Proverbs 1:5-7
- Do I think and live in an _____ that doesn't invite _____?
Proverbs 12:15
- Do I fall for the trap of those who just want to _____ my anger?
Proverbs 26:4-5
- Do I have a habit of _____ who have no intent of _____?
Proverbs 26:4-5
- Do I control my _____, or does my _____ control me?
Proverbs 29:11
- Do I overreact to one side of the story, or do I leave room for the _____ to be revealed?
Proverbs 18:17

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Christianity is a Thinking Faith

Consider:

What does this **COST**?

Luke 14:28

What is the **NORTH STAR** of my life?

Luke 9:23

What does this **MEAN** for me **TODAY**?

Philippians 3:8

How am I living **SET APART**?

Romans 12:1-2

Proverbs to Think Through in This Season

- Am I **QUICK, SLOW, SLOW**?
James 1:19
- Do I want to **UNDERSTAND** or only to be **HEARD**?
Proverbs 18:2-3
- Do I expect **JESUS-LIKE** behavior from those who don't follow Jesus?
Matthew 7:6
- Does all of my wisdom begin in the **FEAR** of the Lord?
Proverbs 1:5-7
- Do I think and live in an **ECHO CHAMBER** that doesn't invite **WISDOM**?
Proverbs 12:15
- Do I fall for the trap of those who just want to **PROVOKE** my anger?
Proverbs 26:4-5
- Do I have a habit of **ENGAGING PEOPLE** who have no intent of **LISTENING**?
Proverbs 26:4-5
- Do I control my **ANGER**, or does my **ANGER** control me?
Proverbs 29:11
- Do I overreact to one side of the story, or do I leave room for the **TRUTH** to be revealed?
Proverbs 18:17

Life Group Study Questions

For the week of October 4, 2020

QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or something that caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

1. This weekend we saw how Paul persuaded the Jews to join him in following Jesus. Growing up, were you more likely to:

- persuade one of your friends and/or family members?
- be persuaded by one of your friends and/or family members?

2. As we are continually learning to love God with our minds, we tend to show love to others and receive love from others in preferred ways. One common way to describe these expressions of love is by using the 5 love languages. (Take the quiz here: <https://www.5lovelanguages.com/quizzes/>) From the list below, which one or two love languages tend to mean the most to you? Which one or two are your least favorite?

- Acts of Service (doing things for others they might like)
- Quality Time (sharing undivided attention)
- Words of Affirmation (expressing love with words that build others up)
- Gift Giving (giving a meaningful or thoughtful gift)
- Physical Touch (providing physical, non-sexual contact)
- Other

3. This weekend, Christopher mentioned the Shema (Jewish prayer), which Jesus reaffirmed as one of the greatest commandments, to love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength. Which one of these four elements of loving God do you tend to lean into most often?

Which one might seem the most unclear or difficult?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. This weekend Christopher said, "The Gospel calls us to practice love in the way we think and respond to an increasingly reactive world around us." In many ways, our current culture climate is similar to what Paul and Silas experienced in Acts 17. The hopeful thing for us is we can lean into God's Word, know we are not alone and that we are not the first group of people to walk through a similar situation. How might James 1:19-27 help us in our response to the world around us?

James 1:19-27 New International Version (NIV)

¹⁹ My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, ²⁰ because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires. ²¹ Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you.

²² Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. ²³ Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror ²⁴ and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. ²⁵ But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do.

²⁶ Those who consider themselves religious and yet do not keep a tight rein on their tongues deceive themselves, and their religion is worthless. ²⁷ Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.

Just as we look at our face in the mirror (verse 23) to remember who we are and what we look like, how might viewing the Word of God like a mirror help us to remember who God is?

How does remembering who God is help us to respond to the world around us?

In the passage above, verse 19 says, "...everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to become angry." Can you think of a time when you might have made a better decision if you would have applied this wisdom?

If someone wants to apply the "quick, slow, slow" principle (verse 19), what are two to three steps they could take to actively pursue this truth in their life?

James mentions that our tongue has high consequences and has the power to make our religion worthless (verse 26). When you think about all the ways we use our words (speaking, writing, typing, texting, posting, etc.), think of a person who lives this out well in their life. What makes them unique?

2. This weekend we were given nine "Proverbs (bits of wisdom) to think through in this season." As you look through the list below:

- Put a *star* next to the two to three items you feel come most easily for you
- Put a *checkmark* next to the two to three items that resonate most as an area of growth for you
- Am I **QUICK, SLOW, SLOW**?
James 1:19
- Do I want to **UNDERSTAND** or only to be **HEARD**?
Proverbs 18:2-3
- Do I expect **JESUS-LIKE** behavior from those who don't follow Jesus?
Matthew 7:6
- Does all of my wisdom begin in the **FEAR** of the Lord?
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- Do I think and live in an **ECHO CHAMBER** that doesn't invite **WISDOM**?
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Take a moment to reflect on the items you *starred* above. Why might those come more easily for you?

Pick one of these areas and share with the group what has helped you live out this wisdom.

We all have areas in our life where we want to improve in this season. Take a moment to reflect on the items you *check marked* above. What is one step you could take to work on these areas of your life? (i.e. praying on a topic, sharing with a group, serving others, reading Scripture, talking to a wise mentor or friend, pausing and listening more)

TAKING IT HOME

Looking back at your notes and study questions, what's most important for you to remember and why?

PRAYER REQUESTS

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COMMUNITY SERVICE IMPACT

Community Service is a ministry of North Coast Church dedicated to being the hands and feet of Jesus and showing God's love in tangible ways through service to the community. There are many options for you to serve. For ideas, check out

[NorthCoastCommunityService.org](https://northcoastcommunityservice.org)
<https://northcoastcommunityservice.org/community-service-impact/>

NORTH COAST CLASSES

Preparing for Marriage, The Unknown Road: An Unemployment Class, and more
<https://www.northcoastchurch.com/north-coast-classes/>

NEW: FAMILY SUPPORT MINISTRY

Find yourself suddenly teaching your kids at home? We have some help for you!
<https://northcoastfamilysupport.com/>