



Ministry of Biblical Studies

Trust

MAY BIBLE STUDY SERIES

"Learning to Trust: Our God First"

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Welcome to the Metropolitan Community Church
Ministry of Biblical Study Classes
May 22, 2024

“Learning to Trust: Our God First”

To put God first means to love Him more than anyone or anything else. It means I choose my attitude, values, responses, and how I use my time with Him in mind. When someone asks me to do something, I run it by Him first. Is this something You want me to do?

Putting God first means being filled with the Holy Spirit and inviting Him to guide and empower me (Ephesians 5:18). This means other people and fickle emotions must submit to the Lord’s will for my life. When I want to react to a cutting remark, I submit my tongue to Him and refuse to give in to the flesh. Paul said, “For me, to live is Christ.” In other words, every aspect of his life was under the influence of Christ Jesus.

Is It Biblical to Put God First in Our Lives Always?

Yes. In fact, when a young man asked Jesus which commandment was the greatest, “Jesus answered, ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind’” (Matt. 22:37). Jesus not only taught this; He demonstrated it. All Jesus said and did was under His Father’s guidance (John 5:19, 30; 8:28; 14:10).

Bible Verses about God's Priority in Our Lives

- “You shall have no other gods before me” (**Exodus 20:3**).
- “I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing” (**John 15:5**).
- “So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God” (**1 Corinthians 10:31**).

- “I don’t try to do what I want but what the One who sent me wants” (**John 5:30 GW**).
- “I speak as the Father taught me” (**John 8:28 GW**).

10 Ways to Put God First

1. Seek God’s kingdom over your own interests.

“But first, be concerned about his kingdom and what has his approval. Then all these things will be provided for you” (Matt. 6:33 GW). Jesus understood that we are drawn to worry like buzzards are drawn to roadkill. We worry about our health, what we’ll eat, where we’ll sleep, and even about what we’ll wear. He told His disciples not to worry over those things. Instead, put God’s concerns first, and He will take care of us.

2. Live to please Jesus.

Matthew 6:24 says “No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other.” Your kids want you to spend your family vacation at Disneyland. Your in-laws want you to visit them. Your boss dangles a juicy incentive for you to stay home and take on an extra project. What do you do?

When we try to please our in-laws, our kids, and our boss, no one wins. But when we put Christ first, He guides our interactions. If we’ve pleased our Lord, it’s okay to disappoint someone else. Living to please Jesus simplifies life. We only need to please One.

3. Listen to the Word instead of the world.

"Don't become like the people of this world. Instead, change the way you think. Then you will always be able to determine what God really wants—what is good, pleasing, and perfect" (Romans 12:2 GW).

We won't be able to discern God's perfect will if we allow the world to shape our thinking. Depending on what aspect of the world we're listening to, we receive conflicting advice. God's word shapes our values and mind so that we can discern His voice and follow His lead (John 10:27). We can't put God first if we are ignorant of His will and His ways.

4. Start your day with God.

Begin your mornings with prayer and Bible reading to set the tone for the day. Starting each day talking to God will align your thoughts with His. Psalm 5:3 (NIV) - "In the morning, Lord, you hear my voice; in the morning I lay my requests before you and wait expectantly."

5. Prioritize Worship

Actively engage in worshipping God - both in community at church and in your own home. Put on your favorite old hymns or listen to encouraging Christian music on the radio and keep it on throughout the day to keep our heart in a place of worship. "Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs." - Psalm 100:2

6. Pray Continuously

Maintain an ongoing conversation with God throughout your day, seeking His guidance and strength. From the first moment your eyes open till you lay down your head at night, you can seek God's presence and ask for his comfort. "Pray continually." - 1 Thessalonians 5:17.

7. Serve Others

Show God's love by serving and helping those in need, following Jesus' example. Look for small and big ways throughout the day to make a difference in someone else's life. There are countless ways we can bring hope to our world by small acts of kindness. "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." - Mark 10:45

8. Give Generously

We all know how precious our time, money, and energy is. When we help financially to those in need and serve others with our time and energy, we are being God's hands and feet. Whether it's volunteering to coach a kids sports team, donating at a food drive, or tithing at a local church, sharing what we have with others is one of the best ways to put God first with what He has given us.

9. Listen to Christian Content

Christian podcasts and sermons can help you put God first by providing valuable spiritual content, teachings, and discussions that inspire and guide you in your faith journey. Listening to these podcasts can deepen your understanding of Scripture, offer insights into practical ways to live out your faith, and keep you connected to a community of believers, all of which can encourage you to prioritize God in your daily life.

10. Practice Gratitude

When you cultivate an attitude of gratitude, you become more aware of the many ways God is actively involved in your life. It shifts your perspective from self-centeredness to God-centeredness, helping you appreciate His role as the source of all your blessings. Keep a list of the things you're grateful for and see how it shifts your focus onto God's love and care. "Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." - 1 Thessalonians 5:18

