24/7 DISCIPLE SERIES • WEEK 4

Live It

From the Page to Monday Morning

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Bring your Bible and follow along. Scripture is the NIV, written out in full.

1. Opening

Good evening, church, and welcome! This is Week 4, the last night of our **24/7 Disciple Series**.

Your comments are welcome anytime as we go. Unmute and jump in. If a question comes to mind, write it down and send it to me after. Or text or email me anytime.

We've learned **how the Bible works**, how to **study it yourself**, and the **one big story**. Tonight's question: **How does the Bible change my decisions, my relationships, and my Monday morning?**

Prayer: Lord Jesus, make us doers of your Word, not hearers only. Meet us in our homes and at our jobs. In your name, amen.

> **QUESTION TO ASK YOURSELF**
>
> *What has God shown me in the last three weeks?*

2. The Mirror: Hear It and Do It

Recap: *We know how the Bible works, how to study it, and the big story. Now, the mirror.*

READ: James 1:22-25 (NIV)

Setting: James, the brother of Jesus, writes to Jewish believers scattered from home, about faith that shows up in real life.

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.

A mirror shows you what needs fixing. If you see spinach in your teeth and walk away without fixing it, the mirror did its job. You didn't.

The Bible is that mirror. **Hearing without doing is fooling yourself.** And look where the blessing is: "they will be blessed **in what they do**." The blessing is in the doing.

KEY WORDS

Doer of the Word: Someone who puts into practice what Scripture says.

QUESTION TO ASK YOURSELF

What has the Bible shown me that I haven't done yet?

3. Decisions: A Renewed Mind

Recap: *The blessing is in the doing. Now, how does the Word shape our decisions?*

> **READ: Romans 12:1-2 (NIV)**
>
> **Setting:** After eleven chapters on God's mercy, Paul turns to how we live. "Therefore" points back to all of it.
>
> 1 Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's
> mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and
> pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. 2 Do not
> conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by
> the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and
> approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect
> will.

God's will isn't mostly a hidden puzzle. As the Word **renews your mind**, you start to see it. You "test and approve" it.

Here are five questions for any decision:

Word: Does Scripture speak to this? Use the three steps from Week 2.

Wisdom: What would a wise, godly person do? Proverbs is full of this.

Worship: Does this honor God with my body, my time, and my money?

Witness: How does this affect the people watching me?

Wise counsel: Who in my church family should I ask?

Take a real one. A better-paying job that takes every Sunday. **Word:** God made us for worship with our church family. **Wisdom:** more money isn't always better. **Worship:** what would I be giving up? **Witness:** what do my kids learn? **Wise counsel:** talk to your pastor and your family before you decide.

> **KEY WORDS**
>
> **Renew:** To make new again; God reshapes how we think through his Word.
>
> **Conform:** To be squeezed into the shape of something.

QUESTION TO ASK YOURSELF

What decision am I facing that I haven't run through God's Word?

4. Relationships: Put On Love

Recap: *A renewed mind and five questions. Now, our relationships.*

> **READ: Colossians 3:12-14 (NIV)**
>
> **Setting:** Paul writes to a young church. He has just told them to take off the old life; now, what to put on.
>
> 12 Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved,
> clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility,
> gentleness and patience. 13 Bear with each other and forgive
> one another if any of you has a grievance against someone.
> Forgive as the Lord forgave you. 14 And over all these virtues
> put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

This is a wardrobe. "**Clothe yourselves.**" You choose to put these on every morning, like clothes. Compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience.

The hardest piece is **forgiveness**, and the standard is high: "Forgive as the Lord forgave you." Not as they deserve. As Jesus forgave you. And over it all, love.

> **READ: Colossians 3:15-17 (NIV)**
>
> **Setting:** The same passage continues.
>
> 15 Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members
> of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. 16 Let
> the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach
> and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms,
> hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with
> gratitude in your hearts. 17 And whatever you do, whether in
> word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving
> thanks to God the Father through him.

Verse 16 is the engine: "Let the message of Christ **dwell among you richly**." When the Word lives in us, it changes how we treat each other at home, at church, and next door.

> **KEY WORDS**
>
> **Grievance:** A complaint against someone who wronged you.
>
> **Dwell:** To live in, to make a home.

QUESTION TO ASK YOURSELF

Who do I need to forgive?

5. Monday Morning: Work for the Lord

Recap: *Put on love, and forgive as the Lord forgave you. Now, Monday morning.*

> **READ: Colossians 3:23-24 (NIV)**
>
> **Setting:** Paul wrote this first to slaves (Colossians 3:22), people who had the least choice about their work.
>
> 23 Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, 24 since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.

If Paul could say this to people with no choice about their work, it's true for us. Mowing, nursing, driving a truck, teaching, raising kids, retirement.

"**It is the Lord Christ you are serving.**" If Jesus is your real boss, no work is small. **Monday is ministry.**

> **KEY WORDS**
>
> **Inheritance:** What God promises to give his children, now and forever.

> **QUESTION TO ASK YOURSELF**
>
> *What would change Monday if I worked for the Lord?*

6. One Monday Habit

Recap: *Monday is ministry. Now, one simple habit.*

Here's one simple habit. **Five minutes with the Word before the phone.** Before email, before the news, before social media.

One verse. One prayer. One thing to do today. That's the three steps from Week 2 in five minutes.

> **QUESTION TO ASK YOURSELF**
>
> *What do I reach for first in the morning?*

7. Pass It On

Recap: *Five minutes with the Word before the phone. Now, pass it on.*

> **READ: 2 Timothy 2:2 (NIV)**
>
> **Setting:** Paul's last letter, written from prison to Timothy, a young pastor in Ephesus.
>
> 2 And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others.

Count the people in that verse: **Paul, Timothy, reliable people, others.** Four generations of disciples in one sentence.

That's how the gospel reached us. Somebody taught somebody, who taught somebody, all the way down to you. **You were taught. Now teach one.** That's how 30 people become 60.

> **KEY WORDS**
>
> **Disciple:** A follower and learner of Jesus who helps others follow him.

> **QUESTION TO ASK YOURSELF**
>
> *Who taught me the faith, and who am I teaching?*

8. Go and Make Disciples

Recap: *Paul to Timothy to reliable people to others. Now, the mission Jesus gave us.*

> **READ: Matthew 28:18-20 (NIV)**
>
> **Setting:** The risen Jesus meets his disciples on a mountain in Galilee and gives his church its mission.
>
> 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."

Jesus didn't say "make converts." He said "**make disciples**... teaching them to obey." That's what these four weeks have been about. And he promised: "**I am with you always.**" You don't go alone.

> **QUESTION TO ASK YOURSELF**
>
> *Who can I help follow Jesus this month?*

9. Four Weeks, One Disciple

Recap: *Go and make disciples; he is with us always. Now, look back at all four weeks.*

Look back at the whole series. **Week 1:** how the Bible works. **Week 2:** study it yourself. **Week 3:** one big story. **Week 4:** live it and pass it on.

You can open your Bible with confidence. You can study a passage alone. You can tell the story. Now live it.

> **QUESTION TO ASK YOURSELF**
>
> *Which week helped me most, and why?*

10. Practical Tools and Close

Recap: *Study it, see the story, live it, pass it on. Now, your plan for this week.*

> **READ: James 1:22 (NIV)**
>
> **Setting:** The same mirror passage we started with tonight.
>
> 22 Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.

This week: keep reading, one chapter a day. Run one real decision through the five questions. Put on one piece of Colossians 3 at home. Try the five-minute Monday habit.

And **invite one person to read Mark with you**, one chapter a day, using the three steps. That's how we pass it on.

Thank you for these four weeks. You came, you opened your Bible, and you learned. Now go live it.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, make us doers of your Word, not hearers only. Renew our minds, clothe us with love, and meet us at work on Monday. Send us to pass it on. In your name, amen.

> **QUESTION TO ASK YOURSELF**
>
> *Who will I invite to read Mark with me?*

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