

How to Kill Persistent Sin – Meditate on God’s Word

Psalm 1:1-3 – Message Discussion Guide

Connect

- We often say we have something (song, movie, experience, words of others) *stuck in our head*. When have you experienced this lately? What causes something to get *stuck in our head*?

Discover

- Which statement or experience stood out to you from the worship service?
- Read Psalm 1:1-2.
 - What specific associations is the writer warning us against when he says to not “walk in the advice of the wicked,” “stand in the pathway with sinners,” or “sit in the company of mockers?”
 - Looking closely at verse 2, what strategies should a believer employ to avoid the damaging associations mentioned in verse 1?
 - How can we increase our “delight” in God’s word?
 - What separates Christian meditation from the practices of non-Christian meditation?
- Read Psalm 1:3.
 - What does it mean that a regularly meditating Christian will be like a tree planted beside flowing streams? What would the opposite of that look like?
 - What does it mean that a regularly meditating Christian will be like a tree that bears its fruit in its season? What would the opposite of that look like?
 - What does it mean that a regularly meditating Christian will be like a tree whose leaf does not wither? What would the opposite of that look like?
- Read Joshua 1:8 and Deuteronomy 17:18-19.
 - According to these two passages, how often should a believer meditate on God’s word? What does that frequency of meditation look like in our world today?
 - What do these two passages suggest about a link between meditating on God’s word and overcoming persistent sin? Is this link an automatic connection? What else is involved for meditation to lead to sanctification (overcoming persistent sin)?
- Read Romans 12:2.
 - What danger is the author of Romans pointing to when he says, “Do not be conformed to this age?” How does that conformation take place? Why is it so bad?
 - What does this passage say is the key to knowing (and living) the good, pleasing, and perfect will of God?
 - What are the key elements or steps to having a renewed mind?

Respond

- How would you counsel a friend who said he or she just couldn’t stay faithful reading and meditating on God’s word? What if they said that honestly, reading God’s word was just drudgery to them, that it was an arduous chore? How can a person “delight” in God’s word?
- What are some key differences between reading God’s word and meditating on God’s word? What are some methods of Bible meditation you think are most helpful?

Bonus for Thinkers

- Passages such as Joshua 1:8, Psalm 1:2-3, and Deuteronomy 17:18-20 connect Bible meditation with success in life. What is the connection between the two? Why would the Lord have it written in the Bible like it is written? How far can that connection be pushed while at the same time being faithful to the whole counsel of God’s word?

First Baptist Nacogdoches Bible Reading Plan

Day	Scripture
Monday (10/28)	Psalm 1, Psalm 19
Tuesday (10/29)	John 10:22-42
Wednesday (10/30)	John 11:1-27
Thursday (10/31)	John 11:28-57
Friday (11/1)	John 12:1-26

Daily Devotion Questions

Monday (10/28) — Psalm 1, Psalm 19

- Review the “Respond” questions on the reverse side of this devotion guide.

Tuesday (10/29) — John 10:22-42

- In 10:28-29 Jesus declares that both he and the Father are in total control. He says that we, as his children, are in his hand and his ultimate protection. Because of this we can turn all our fears over to him. Write down a couple things that tempt you to be fearful. What is something you worry about? Then ask God to remind you that you are in the protection of his hand.
- In 10:35, Jesus says the Scripture cannot be broken or set-aside. This means that if you believe in Jesus, then you must also believe in the Scripture, because he believed in the Scripture. So, if we know the Scripture is reliable then that means the promises can be banked on and the warnings must be followed. Write down one promise from the Bible that gives you encouragement. Write down one warning or prohibition that you need to give more careful attention to.

Wednesday (10/30) — John 11:1-27

- Sometimes it is easy to forget the humanity of Jesus. But notice throughout this account there is evidence that Jesus was often in and out of the home of Mary, Martha and Lazarus. In 11:11, Jesus called Lazarus a friend. So, there were some normal things in Jesus’ life. In what ways does it encourage us to know that Jesus is a real person who lived a somewhat normal life?
- In 11:22, 24 we see the incredible faith of Martha. She never doubted that whether in this life or in eternity, Jesus would come through for Lazarus. The Bible tells us that God is pleased by our faith and trust. Write down a couple areas of your life where you need more faith. Ask the Lord to help you.
- In 11:23, we see Jesus’ confidence. Raising Lazarus was not even going to be a challenge for him. Do you know that nothing is too hard for the Lord? Write down something you desire the Lord to do for you or others. Pray for God’s power to be expressed in that need.

Thursday (10/31) — John 11:28-57

- In 11:35, it simply says, “Jesus wept.” In those two words we see something of how much Jesus loves individuals. It is not some detached, academic or feeling love. He really cares. Take a minute and think about Jesus loving you enough to cry over your hurts. Write down two or three ways that encourages or inspires you.
- Jesus gives Martha an instruction in 11:39 that did not make sense to her. She questioned Jesus. Jesus responded by essentially saying just trust and obey. Is there something the Lord has told you to do that you don’t understand why? Ask the Lord to help you trust and obey especially in that matter.
- What happens in 11:45-47 amazes me. Even after seeing and admitting to the validity of Jesus’ miracle of resurrecting Lazarus, many still didn’t believe and even opposed Jesus. This teaches us that believing in Jesus is not a matter of the mind. It is a matter of the heart. Who do you know who despite all evidence still refuses to believe and surrender? Write down some names. Pray that God will change their hearts.

Friday (11/1) — John 12:1-26

- In 12:3, we see an extravagant expression of Mary’s love and worship of the Lord. This isn’t something we can do every day, but occasionally we should go over the top and declare our love for Him. Write down some ways you have done this in the past and one way you could do this in the near future.
- Judas criticized Mary’s worship, and his criticism said more about him than it did about her. Think about the last time you criticized some else’s worship practice, style or attitude. Write down what your criticism may say about your own heart, motives and insecurities.
- 12:13 describes the people of Jerusalem praising Jesus by waving palm branches and crying out the name and title of Jesus. This pleases the Lord. Write down three ways, big or small, you could praise the Lord today and bring attention to something great about him before your family, friends or co-workers.

Visit www.FBCNac.org to sign-up to receive devotion plans by email on Monday mornings.