

WEEKLY GUIDE

SEPTEMBER 26, 2021

1 GATHER!

SUNDAY AND
THURSDAY

2 TALK!

DISCUSS THE
LESSONS

3 DO!

PUT THE
LESSONS INTO
PRACTICE

4 PRAY!

MAKE YOUR
REQUESTS
KNOWN TO GOD

BIBLE READINGS:

Matthew 3:13-17, 4:13; John 1:29, 8:41; Luke 2:21-22; John 1:12-13; John 3:3-6

MATTHEW 3:13-17

13 Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. 14 But John tried to deter him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" 15 Jesus replied, "Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness." Then John consented. 16 As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. 17 And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

MATTHEW 4:1-3

1 Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. 2 After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. 3 The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread."

JOHN 1:12-13

12 To all who receive him, to those who believe in his name, he gives the right to become children of God— 13 offspring born not of physical birth, nor of human passion or planning, but who are born of God.

JOHN 3:3-6

3 Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again." 4 "How can someone be born when they are old?" Nicodemus asked. "Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother's womb to be born!" 5 Jesus answered, "Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. 6 Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit.

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DISCUSSION:

Life affirming words speak life into others. They affirm and encourage and give hope. Take a few moments and write down any life affirming words you that come to mind.

Can you think of a time when someone spoke life affirming words over you? How did it make you feel? Why do you think it made you feel the way it did? Why is affirmation so important? Why did the Father speak over Jesus the words, "This is my beloved Son in whom I am well-pleased?" How does this relate to you?

How did the devil try to sow doubt in the very area the Father affirmed? In what ways does the devil test you in regard to your standing in Christ? What does the devil try to get you to question? Why is it so important you know who you are in Christ? What is the basis of your claim to God as your Father (John 1:12). Does this change from Sunday to Monday to Friday night?

How should a child of God talk? Do you think your speech is characterized by life affirming words or the opposite? Do you tend to be positive or negative when it comes to the words that come out of your mouth? Are you quick to find the negative or affirm the positive in others? How can you speak life to those around you? Who is someone you know that needs to hear life affirming words?

APPLICATION:

What impacted you the most from this lesson? What were your big takeaways? What will you apply to your life? How will you put what you learned into practice in your life this week?

SUMMARY:

Life affirming words are so important. They were important in the life of Jesus. As Jesus was preparing for his public ministry, he went out to the Jordan river to be baptized by John. When Jesus came up out of the water, he heard the Father's voice from heaven, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased" (Matthew 3:17). The Father made it known publicly that he loved his Son and was proud of him. Only one verse later, Jesus went into the wilderness where he was tested by the devil. The tempter said, "If you are the Son of God..." (Matthew 4:3). It's vital you know who you are in Christ. If you don't others will decide it for you. The devil tried to sow doubt in the very area the Father affirmed. How about you? Have you heard the Father's voice speak life affirming words over you? Have you heard God say, "I love you and I'm proud of you?" Do have the assurance that you are a child of God? You can, because of Jesus. The Bible tells us that "as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in his name" (John 1:12).

PRAYER REQUESTS:

