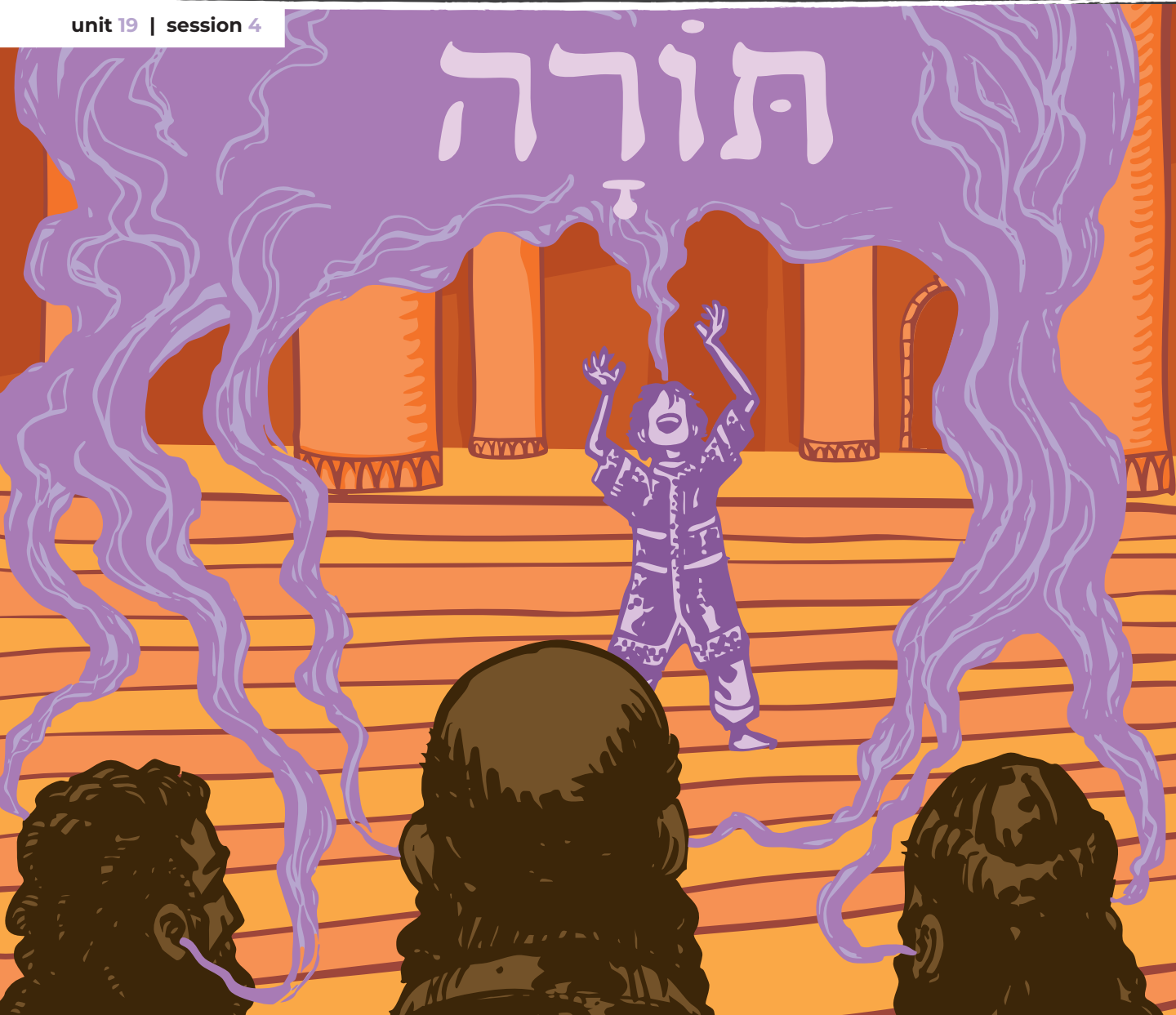


IN MY FATHER'S HOUSE

unit 19 | session 4



CHRIST CONNECTION

As Jesus grew, He increased in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and with people. Each step of His life prepared Him for the eternal mission His Father had given Him: to live a life of complete obedience, to die on the cross for our sins, and to rise again in victory.

BREAD AND PRESENCE

This week, we're covering the passages and main points below. But we encourage you to dig in and read all of the content on this timeline.

Luke 2:39-52

PRIORITIZE GOD'S WORD

LUKE 2:39-47

39 And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. 40 And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him. 41 Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. 42 And when he was twelve years old, they went up according to custom. 43 And when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, 44 but supposing him to be in the group they went a day's journey, but then they began to search for him among their relatives and acquaintances, 45 and when they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, searching for him. 46 After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. 47 And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers.

SPEND TIME IN GOD'S PRESENCE

LUKE 2:48-52

48 And when his parents saw him, they were astonished. And his mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been searching for you in great distress." 49 And he said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" 50 And they did not understand the saying that he spoke to them. 51 And he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them. And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart. 52 And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.

MAIN POINT.

We grow in our faith by following Jesus's example.



THEOLOGY CONNECTION

JESUS'S HUMANITY

In addition to being fully divine, the Bible also affirms that Jesus is fully human. Not only does the Old Testament affirm that the Promised One (Messiah) would be a man (Isa. 7:14; 9:6; Mic. 5:3), but the New Testament also affirms that Jesus endured all the marks of being a human. He experienced the circumstances common to living as a human being, such as hunger (Matt. 4:2), thirst (John 19:28), weariness (Matt. 8:24), sorrow (John 11:35), and pain (the crucifixion).

DISCUSSION

PRIORITIZE GOD'S WORD

LUKE 2:39-47

- What passion or hobby could you talk about for hours? Why do you think Jesus was drawn to the temple and to talking about God?
- Why do you think the teachers were shocked (v. 47)? Where did Jesus's answers come from?
- What excuses do we give for not prioritizing time in God's Word? Why do we need to read it consistently?

SPEND TIME IN GOD'S PRESENCE

LUKE 2:48-52

- What do you think of Jesus's reaction to Mary's question (vv. 48-49)? What did Jesus know?
- Read Psalm 84:1-2,10. Compare the writer's desire to Jesus's desire to be in the temple. How does loving God first affect our desires?
- What did Jesus do to grow in wisdom and in favor with God and others? How can you apply this?



WHERE ARE YOU SPIRITUALLY? ARE YOU GROWING IN WISDOM? WHY OR WHY NOT?

CULTURAL CONNECTION

How would you answer this question: "What can you not live without?" You may say you can't live without your family, your friends, your phone, your favorite food, your car. But how many of us would say that we can't live without God's Word? Ouch. The Bible actually teaches that we need it to live (Deut. 8:3), so how are so many of us living without it each day? Well, the quick answer is that if we try to live a meaningful, abundant life without taking in God's Word each day, we'll starve spiritually. Trying to live for the Lord without ingesting His Word as spiritual food leads to performing, striving, and checking off boxes to feel "good enough." But Jesus showed us a better way. We can't thrive spiritually without spiritual food—God's Word and His presence. Thinking we can get by with what we get from church or youth group is a lie; we need more, daily. The truth is that the enemy, Satan, would love to see us starve. God offers us a feast—His Word and His presence.



DAY ONE

1 PETER 2:2-3



A soda company once built an entire advertising campaign around the slogan, “Quench your thirst.” Their commercials showed athletes working out or playing sports, then reaching desperately for a soda as if it could satisfy their need for hydration. While the ads were catchy and may have convinced some people, the reality is that no soda can give your body what it needs the way water can.

In the same way, our spiritual needs can only be satisfied in God. We live in a culture consumed by an abundance of content and entertainment that may capture our attention and fill our minds, but this content can’t refresh our souls or lead to real spiritual growth. In today’s passage, Peter explained that believers need the pure milk of God’s Word to grow in salvation. Salvation isn’t the finish line but the starting point of a lifelong process of spiritually maturing and becoming more like Jesus. The most critical component of our growth and maturity is the Word of God with the help of the Spirit.

The Bible is no ordinary book. It is living and active (effective), the very words of God given to us for our good (Heb. 4:12). Through Scripture, God teaches us, corrects us, and trains us in righteousness so that we can be fully equipped to live out His purposes for us (2 Tim. 3:16-17). This is why, if we want to grow into the fullness of our salvation, we must build our lives around God’s Word. We need to read it, study it, memorize it, and apply it daily. Just as soda can never truly quench your thirst the way water does, only God’s Word gives us what we need to grow and mature spiritually.

- **IN WHAT WAYS DOES GOD USE HIS WORD TO HELP US GROW SPIRITUALLY AND BECOME MORE LIKE JESUS?**
- **WHAT NEEDS TO CHANGE SO THAT YOU’RE FILLING YOUR HEART AND MIND WITH GOD’S WORD INSTEAD OF WORLDLY IDEAS?**

PRAY

**THANK YOU, GOD, FOR YOUR WORD. BY YOUR SPIRIT,
HELP ME TO HUNGER FOR YOUR WORD LIKE NEVER
BEFORE SO THAT I CAN BECOME MORE LIKE YOU.**



DAY TWO

HEBREWS 5:11-14

Why do we accept certain truths in one area of life yet ignore or reject them in others? For example, we expect that anyone who has been doing something for any length of time should be improving. Time and experience should lead to growth. We embrace this truth in school, sports, music, and hobbies. But when it comes to our spiritual lives, we often ignore and even deny it; time doesn't always lead to spiritual growth. In today's culture, it's common for Christians to remain stagnant in their faith. Spiritual growth and maturity are rare, almost exceptional, while spiritual infancy is normalized. While this may be culturally acceptable, it is biblically unacceptable.

In today's passage the writer of Hebrews challenged believers who should have been teachers but still needed someone to teach them the basics (v. 12). They are described like infants who need "milk" rather than "solid food," like those who have grown and are growing. The writer identified one of the root causes for spiritual stagnation as laziness (v. 11). God's desire for us is growth and maturity in Him. But just like any other area of life, growth doesn't happen by accident; growth requires intentional effort. We must engage with God's Word, apply its truth to our lives, and consistently practice obedience to Jesus. Over time, this kind of intentional engagement moves us from milk to meat, from immaturity to maturity, and into a deeper understanding of God's Word and His ways (v. 14). Rather than settling for cultural norms that make excuses for spiritual immaturity and stagnation, let's answer the biblical call to growth and maturity in Christ. Let's give ourselves to God's Word, apply it to our lives, and live in obedience to Jesus.

- **WHY HAS IT BECOME ACCEPTABLE FOR BELIEVERS NOT TO GROW AND MATURE SPIRITUALLY? HOW HAVE YOU FALLEN INTO THIS TRAP?**
- **WHERE DO YOU NEED TO GROW SPIRITUALLY? HOW CAN YOU TAKE STEPS TOWARD GROWTH IN THESE AREAS?**

PRAY

GOD, I DON'T WANT TO LIVE A LIFE OF SPIRITUAL STAGNATION. I WANT TO LIVE A LIFE OF SPIRITUAL GROWTH, PURSUING YOU AND YOUR PLAN. HELP ME TO MAKE CHANGES TO GROW IN MY WALK WITH YOU.



DAY THREE

DEUTERONOMY 8:1-3

How do you get somewhere if you don't know how to find the location? Either you get lucky or you use a map. Today we have something even better: GPS. By simply typing in the destination, we get step-by-step directions to take us where we need to go. Like GPS, the Bible serves as the primary way God leads us to the purposes and promises He has for us.

God has great plans for our lives! Even more, He has given us great and precious promises through what Jesus did on the cross (2 Pet. 1:4). God desires for us to live in a way that fulfills His purposes for us and for us to experience all He has made available to us through Jesus. But how do we do that? How do we arrive at this destination? We can't get there on our own but must carefully follow the commands God has given us in His Word.

In today's passage, God spoke to the children of Israel, showing them how to reach the place He had promised. He told them that if they followed His commandments, they would live, enter the land He prepared for them, and be blessed in it (v. 1). Even though we live under the new covenant thousands of years later, the principle is still true for us today. Living according to God's commands and plans for us leads to blessing. The Bible teaches that the life God wants for us isn't found by doing whatever seems best in our own eyes but is found by living according to His Word (v. 3). God's Word is like a map that guides us into His purposes and leads us in wisdom. So rather than living life blindly trying to figure it out ourselves, let's seek His will in all we do and allow Him to guide our lives (Prov. 3:5-6).

- **WHAT SIMILARITIES CAN YOU FIND BETWEEN GOD'S PURPOSE AND PROMISES FOR THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL AND HIS PURPOSE AND PROMISES FOR OUR LIVES TODAY?**
- **WHY IS IT IMPORTANT NOT TO LEAN ON OUR OWN UNDERSTANDING BUT TO TRUST GOD IN ALL OF OUR WAYS?**

PRAY

GOD, MY DESIRE IS TO EXPERIENCE ALL YOU HAVE FOR ME. I CHOOSE NOT TO FOLLOW MY OWN DESIRES OR LIVE BASED ON WHAT I CAN SEE. RATHER, I CHOOSE TO TRUST YOU AND TO LIVE ACCORDING TO YOUR COMMANDS.



DAY FOUR

PHILIPPIANS 1:9-11

Have you ever had to humble yourself and admit that you couldn't do something? That can be painful and even humiliating. Why? Because we all want to prove to ourselves and to others that we're capable of anything if we just put our minds to it. But the truth is that we're not always capable. We all have limits, and no matter how hard we try, we simply can't do some things on our own.

This truth is that God does the work in our hearts to make us new. Do we have a role to play? Absolutely! But our role is one of cooperating with God, not replacing Him. The work of transformation in us is divine and supernatural. Scripture reminds us that Jesus is both the Author and the Finisher of our faith (Heb. 12:2). He is the One who begins His work in us, and He is the One who brings it to completion (Phil. 1:6).

In today's passage, Paul prayed that God's work would continue in us so that we might be pure and blameless for the day of Christ. Notice Paul didn't pray for human willpower or determination; he prayed for God's ongoing work. He asked that our love would grow, our discernment would deepen, and our lives would overflow with righteousness that comes from Christ. This shows us two things. First, although we must be diligent in seeking God, our part is not the main part. Second, because the part we play is one of cooperation, we must, like Paul, prayerfully acknowledge that we can't finish what God has started. He finishes His work in us! We join Paul in his prayer that God would keep shaping us and filling us with His love and righteousness as we surrender and cooperate with Him.

- **HOW DOES IT CHANGE THE WAY YOU APPROACH YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD KNOWING THAT HE IS THE ONE WHO IS DOING THE WORK?**
- **ARE YOU COOPERATING WITH GOD OR WORKING AGAINST HIM? HOW CAN YOU COOPERATE WITH WHAT GOD IS DOING?**

PRAY

**GOD, THANK YOU FOR DOING THE WORK IN MY LIFE!
HELP ME TO RECOGNIZE AND BE AWARE OF ALL YOU
ARE DOING SO THAT I CAN COOPERATE WITH YOU
AND SEE YOUR PLANS FOR MY LIFE.**





DAY FIVE

JOHN 15:1-8

Have you ever bought someone flowers? They look beautiful sitting in a vase, but their beauty doesn't last long. Soon they begin to wilt, wither, turn brown, and eventually, die. The dried petals fall off, and what was once beautiful ends up being thrown away.

Why do flowers die once they're given? Because they've been disconnected from their source of life. Flowers are not self-sustaining; they need the nourishment the vine once provided. In the same way, we must never forget that we are not as self-sustaining as we think we are, especially in our spiritual lives. Just like flowers depend on the vine, our spiritual lives depend on staying connected to Jesus.

Jesus tells us that He is the vine and we are the branches. He says that apart from Him, we can do nothing, but if we remain in Him, we will bear much fruit (v. 5). In other words, a life disconnected from Jesus may look good for a while—especially by worldly standards—but ultimately fades away and has no eternal significance. A life connected to Jesus bears fruit that glorifies God now and forever.

The key to remaining in Jesus is remaining in His Word and allowing His Word to remain in us (v. 7). We don't just read our Bibles and then move on with our day. We let God's Word take root in us, shaping how we live, think, and act. When His Word is alive in us, it goes with us everywhere we go so that no matter where we are, what we're doing, or who we're with, we remain connected to Him. This is a life that bears much fruit, glorifying and honoring God.

- **WHY IS IT SO EASY TO GET DISCONNECTED FROM JESUS? CAN YOU SEE PATTERNS IN YOUR LIFE THAT DISCONNECT YOU FROM HIM?**
- **HOW WOULD YOUR LIFE BE DIFFERENT IF YOU TOOK GOD'S WORD WITH YOU WHEREVER YOU GO AND INTO ALL YOU DO?**

PRAY

GOD, I WANT MY LIFE TO GLORIFY AND HONOR YOU NOW AND FOREVER. PLANT YOUR WORD DEEP WITHIN MY HEART AND GO WITH ME WHEREVER I GO AND IN ALL THAT I DO.