

Dig Deeper @Home – “Letters to Finland”

Complement to lesson on 06/13/21 – “Letter to Finland from Noel Santiago”

ICE BREAKER – Questions to open dialogue and learn more about those gathered

1. What is one thing you have intentionally pursued with a laser focus?
2. To what does your mind go when you daydream? What about when you are bored?

MEMORIZE – 2 Corinthians 3:2-3

You yourselves are our letter of recommendation, written on our hearts, to be known and read by all. And you show that you are a letter from Christ delivered by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.

READ Psalm 27:4 & Colossians 3:1-4

Questions to ponder/discuss:

1. What does the Holy Spirit draw your attention to as you read these passages?
 - a. What general observations can you make? Is anything repeated? Contrasted? Compared?
 - b. What do the two passages have in common?

 2. How do these passages point us to Jesus?

 3. Colossians 3:1 says that Jesus is seated “at the right hand of God,” which sounds familiar because it is referencing back to Psalm 110. Take a minute to read it! Did you know that no other passage from the Old Testament is quoted more by New Testament authors than Psalm 110:1? What is the significance of the right hand of God, and in particular the fact that Jesus is seated there?
(For a hint, check out <https://www.gotquestions.org/right-hand-God.html> or scan the QR Code)
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- A square QR code located at the bottom right of the page, which likely links to the website mentioned in the text above it.
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4. Both of this week’s passages deal with setting your mind, zealously seeking, or intently gazing on the things of God. Can you think of any other passages that deal with this theme?
(Examples: Philippians 4:8, Romans 8:5-11, Mark 12:30)

Experiential activity – Focus by Repetition

We've all heard the story of, or perhaps experienced for ourselves the punishment for bad behavior called "writing lines" or "chalkboard punishment," where a parent or teacher requires a misbehaving child to copy a line over and over again as a means of reinforcing right and wrong behavior.

(ie- "I will not burp in class," or "Crayons are not for walls." (Sorry mom!))

While as a punishment this practice is experienced as tedious and boring, repetition does help cement an idea or concept in our minds, and can be helpful in memorization.

Psalm 27 declares that the writer asks the Lord for **one thing**, and that **one thing** he desires to seek after. This week, as a means of seeking that "one thing" ourselves and "setting our minds," handwrite Psalm 27:4 a set number of times. (Perhaps 10, 20, or even 100!) Leave the list somewhere you can see it, and take note how this truth embedded in your heart is brought to mind as you go about your week!

"One thing have I asked of the Lord, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to inquire in his temple."

SING (Suggested songs to sing. Use these, or any favorites of the gathered group, to worship Jesus!)

Arise - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UoHskr0lp90>

Better is One Day - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=idE03zRJtxw>

Fairest Lord Jesus - (Mennonite Hymnal #97)

PRAY

This is a time to gather around for prayer requests and to share how you have seen God at work. A time to hear where God is showing up in our lives and where we need Him to help us in our lives.

Sending prayer based on the series:

Father, thank you for removing my heart of stone and replacing it with a heart of flesh. Guide me by your indwelling Spirit to walk in your decrees and obey your laws. (Ezekiel 36:25-27)

Shape me into what you would have me be, and may my life be an open letter to all who cross my path so that I may be a faithful witness to Jesus, my Lord and King. (2 Corinthians 3:2-3)

Amen.