

THE JOURNEY

Bible Reading Schedule

May 10	1 Kings 21, 22	John 3:1-21
May 11	2 Kings 1, 2, 3	John 3:22-36
May 12	2 Kings 4, 5	John 4:1-30
May 13	2 Kings 6, 7, 8	John 4:31-54
May 14	2 Kings 9, 10, 11	John 5:1-24
May 15	2 Kings 12, 13, 14	John 5:25-47
May 16	2 Kings 15, 16, 17	John 6:1-21

Jesus and Nicodemus [John 3:1-21]

Why do you think Jesus came to Nicodemus at night?

- He worked during the day
- Couldn't wait till morning
- Afraid of being seen.
- Wanted time alone with Jesus

Who does Nicodemus remind you of?

- philosophy student
- misguided "religious" person
- a close friend of mine
- me
- TV evangelist

What do you think Jesus meant by "you have to be born again to see the Kingdom of God"?

- we must have a specific conversion experience
- We can only be accepted by turning our lives over to him
- Our spirits are destroyed by sin and need God's help to be reborn
- Our spiritual lives have a beginning just like our physical lives

What is the most significant part of this passage for you right now?

- Spiritual rebirth is indeed possible (vv.3-7)
- Heaven is waiting for those who believe in Jesus (vv 14-16)
- God loved us enough to give us his only Son (v 16)
- God doesn't desire to condemn us, but to save us (vv 17-18)
- If we live by the truth, we will come into the light (vv 19-21)

How are you like Nicodemus?

- I come only at night
- I too have questions
- I still don't understand

My Life is... BIG

NEW BEGINNINGS

God loves to do the extraordinary with ordinary people
Our influence is being felt around the world.

▶ They lived **Abundantly**

An Abundant life is a gift received, not a reward pursued

The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly! John 10:10

▶ They lived a life of **Significance**

Significance is not what we attain, but what we long to attain.

Through Christ, God gave me the special work of an apostle, which was to lead people of all nations to believe and obey. I do this work for him. Romans 1:5

▶ Life **Mattered**

*They thought beyond the **Now** ~ "a crown is being held for me"*

*They lived for a Big **Dream** ~ "I have fought the good fight"*

*They defined success **Differently** ~ "for being right with God"*

Living the Great Exchange

(1) Calling – what God has uniquely gifted, equipped, and empowered you to do

"I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received." Eph.4:1

(2) Connect – No one can remain an island and say they lived.

"You are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it." 1 Cor. 12:27

(3) Christ – Every encounter is a purposeful Christ-filled encounter

It is not you who will be speaking—it will be the Spirit of God speaking through you. Mt 10:20



2 Timothy 4:6-8 (NCV)

My life is being given as an offering to God, and the time has come for me to leave this life.⁷ I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.⁸ Now, a crown is being held for me—a

crown for being right with God. The Lord, the judge who judges rightly, will give the crown to me on that day—not only to me but to all those who have waited with love for him to come again.

*It has always been my ambition to preach the gospel where Christ was not known, so that I would not be building on someone else's foundation. **Romans 15:20***

*On the contrary, they saw that I had been entrusted with the task of preaching the gospel to the Gentiles, just as Peter had been to the Jews **Galatians 2:7***

Thank you, God, for leading me in paths I might never choose, and for giving the journey of my life meaning. Amen.

Where your gifts, talents and passions meet the needs of the world crosses, there lies your calling. A calling is like a candle lighting another candle. It not only loses nothing but increases the total brightness as it lights up another.

The minute you begin to do what you are called to do, it's a different kind of life. R. Buckminster Fuller (1895 - 1983)

This is the true joy in life, the being used for a purpose recognized by yourself as a mighty one – George Barnard Shaw

To forget one's **purpose** is the commonest form of stupidity.” ~ Friedrich Nietzsche quotes

A faith to live by, a self to live with, and a purpose to live for.” ~ Bob Harrington

Where your gifts, talents and passions meet the needs of the world

“It is not you who will be speaking—it will be the Spirit of God speaking through you.” Matt 10:20

Even a single hair casts its shadow. - [Syrus \(Publilius Syrus\)](#), Maxims

Communion Liturgy

L: The Lord is here.

P: God's Spirit is with us.

L: Lift up your hearts.

P: We lift them to the Lord.

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

P: It is right to offer thanks and praise.

We give you thanks, O God, through your beloved servant Jesus Christ, through whom you have created all things.

By the power of the Holy Spirit, Christ was born of Mary, and shared our human nature.

L: With loving arms outstretched upon the cross for us, Jesus broke the chains of evil and destruction.

By His resurrection your will was fulfilled and you gathered a holy people to offer you praise.

Now with all creation we raise our voices to proclaim your glory, as we say:

P: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

L: To you indeed be glory, Almighty God, because on the night before he died, your Son, Jesus Christ, took bread; when he had given you thanks, he broke it, gave it to his disciples, and said:

Take, eat, this is my body which is given for you; do this to remember me.

After supper he took the cup; when he had given you thanks, he gave it to them and said:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood poured out for you; do this as often as you drink it to remember me.

God of hope and joy, we thank you for counting us worthy to stand in your presence and serve You. With this bread and this cup we proclaim the mystery of our faith.

Response: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again in glory.

L: Therefore, loving God, recalling now Christ's death and resurrection, we ask You to accept this our sacrifice of praise.

Send your Holy Spirit upon us and our celebration, that we may be fed with the body and blood of your Son and be filled with Your life and goodness for all eternity. Strengthen us to do your work, to be your body in the world and to proclaim the Good News of our faith. Unite us in Christ and give us your peace.

May we praise you and give you glory through your Son, Jesus Christ.

Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, we worship you, O God, in songs of everlasting praise.

Blessing, honor and glory be yours, here and everywhere, now and forever.

All: Amen.