

God Time – Overcoming Generational Sins

These scriptures are selected to help you gain a deeper understanding of who Jesus is. They are intentionally designed for you to engage in your time alone with God. You will find them complementary to the teachings on the weekend (gatherings) and to the LIFE Group materials.

Some tips:

Use a Bible that is easy to read. The ESV or The NLT are both good translations.

Use a prayer journal. After you read the passages jot down what “jumped out” at you while

There are only five days of reading provided so if you miss a day you have time to catch up. Do not get legalistic! If you miss a day or even a week...God still loves you!

Monday: Luke 12:2-3

Tuesday: 1 John 1:9-10

Wednesday: Ephesians 1:5-7

Thursday: Isaiah 1:18

Friday: John 1:29-30

Diving Deeper

Jesus on Relationships – Overcoming Generational Sins

John 4:35: Don't you have a saying, "It's still four months until harvest.? I tell you open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest.

Jesus looks for opportunities. He desires to do the will of His Father and please Him in all that He does. In John 4, we see that Jesus has just completed His encounter with the Samaritan woman at the well where He discloses that He is the Messiah. Jesus did not care who she was or what her race was. On the other hand, the disciples are curious about Jesus' encounter with a Samaritan woman. By their standards, she is off limits, someone who should be avoided. But the disciples are oblivious to what has just transpired, and while they are quite curious about this encounter, they do not press the point. The Samaritan woman went back to the village to tell everyone that she had seen the Messiah. The townspeople on hearing this made their way to the well to see if this could truly be the Messiah. It makes sense that while the disciples were concerned about food, Jesus was looking at the harvest that was approaching. Jesus wanted the disciples to open their eyes and see the opportunity headed their way. To get their attention He used an agricultural analogy of the farmer who sows, waits until the harvest is ripe and then reaps the harvest. The problem he had with the disciples thinking was threefold: First, they prejudged the people based on race and accepted cultural practices, second, they did not see the harvest coming, and third, they did not seize the now (the opportunity) to impact the Kingdom of God. They were like farmers who sat around waiting for the harvest to ripen when it was obviously ready for them now. Jesus expects us to be active in sowing the seed and reaping the harvest. We must not be like the farmer and delay; we must act now as we help Jesus impact the Kingdom.

The key is that racism destroys the opportunity to do God's work. When we see people differently and treat them differently, we show prejudice toward them and cast them as not being worthy. Jesus is breaking this thought process down as he travels between Jerusalem and Galilee, which takes Him directly into Samaria, where He makes many encounters with those who have been rejected by the Jews and racism is at its height. How do you fight racism, you do so through the love of Jesus for He did not come to save a specific type of person or person a certain color; no, He came to save all, the rich, the poor, the downtrodden, the Samaritan, the Jew, the Gentile. Color or race does not matter and should not matter to you. What should matter is the opportunity that lies ahead.

1. What is your mindset toward winning souls to Christ?

2. Do you have a wait and see mindset, or do you charge forward to take advantage of the now to advance the gospel?
3. Do you see a similarity in the harvest of the men of Samaria following the woman to the well that is discussed in John 4:29-36 and the ministry of the young men and women at Gary Job Corp or the Hispanic men and women on Garza Road?
4. What opportunities do you see to share the gospel to those of another race?
5. What impact would we have in the world, if we as Christians stood strong against racism, knowing that Jesus stood against racism as He traveled through Samaria?