

#relationshipgoals

God's relationship goal for humanity is that we foster an authentic relationship of mutual love and respect with the Word of God.

KEY POINTS

- ❖ In Mark 4, our key scripture, Jesus speaks to the crowd around Him about the Lamp on a Stand.
- ❖ House lamps were made from clay and were small enough to be carried in the palm of the hand. This example highlights the irony of the question Jesus asked in verse 21: when it is dark enough to light a lamp, should one cover it with a bowl or put it under their bed?
- ❖ The obvious answer is no. What you would do is set it high enough on a lampstand to illuminate everything around you.
- ❖ The Lamp in Jesus' example represents the Word of God. The stand/lampstand is your life.
- ❖ Psalm 119:105 says, "Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path."
- ❖ The purpose of the Word of God is to illuminate, to shine a light, on your life. If you want to live a life full of purpose, do you put the Word of God under your pillow? Do you store the Bible on a shelf, only to never read it? No, you open your Bible and you read and meditate on it day and night.
- ❖ Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. (Joshua 1:8)
- ❖ In a world full of darkness and immorality, Jesus teaches us that when we read and meditate on the Word of God we will find hidden treasures of truthful living. What kind of treasures can you find in the Word of God that will help you live?
- ❖ When you read and meditate on the Word of God and carefully apply the Word to your relationship with God, your life will be lit up for His glory. You will be able to discern what is good and what is not good for your life and the lives of those around you, according to the Word of God.
- ❖ The desire of our Lord Jesus Christ—His ultimate goal—is for us to foster an authentic relationship of mutual love and respect with the Word of God.
- ❖ So, how do we love and respect the Word of God?
 - **BE THANKFUL** (Psalm 100:4). You are in the presence of the Most High when you are reading or studying the Word of God. Enter into this experience with God by being thankful.
 - **BE HONEST** (Proverbs 6:17). The Lord hates a lying tongue. God knows everything, so be honest to God by disclosing your mistakes and concerns to Him. He is faithful, loving and merciful to those that seek Him (Deuteronomy 7:9).

KEY SCRIPTURE: Mark 4:21-25 (NIV)

- **BE HUMBLE.** Humility is the fear of the Lord and its reward are riches and honour and life (Prov. 22:4). When you respect the Word of God above your own views, you will be more spiritually pliable to His transformation of your life.
- **BE OBEDIENT.** Do not merely listen to the Word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says (James 1:22). Obedience is better than sacrifice (1 Samuel 15:22). If you do all that the Lord commands, good things will happen to you (Jeremiah 7:21-23).
- ❖ It is great to do exploits for the Kingdom of God. But be mindful that these activities do not replace reading, meditating and obeying the Word of God.
- ❖ A committed relationship with the Word of God is most important. What matters is not merely what you *do* in Jesus Christ's name, but that you are *in* Christ. Being in Christ is being obedient to His Word (Matthew 7:21-23).
- ❖ So, let us devote ourselves to reading the Word of God, to delving deeper into His Word and learning more of this great, big wonderful God that we serve.
- ❖ Only when we do so can we foster an authentic relationship of mutual love and respect with the Word of God.

DISCUSSION/REFLECTION TOOLS

1. Do you have certain #relationshipgoals with those around you? What #relationshipgoals do you have when it comes to God and His Word? How are the two relationship goals similar/different? In your opinion, what causes this similarity/disparity?
2. Do you believe your relationship with God and with His Word is where it ought to be? If not, what can be done to improve this relationship?
3. "Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path" (Psalm 119:105). Relate one or two instances where the Word of God has been a lamp/light. What do you believe would have happened if that "light" had not been there?
4. The following question was asked in the lesson text: What kind of treasures can you find in the Word of God that will help you live? Share with the group these treasures.

PRAYER TIME

"More about Jesus would I know,
 More of His grace to others show;
 More of His saving fullness see,
 More of His love who died for me."

WEEK OF SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2020

NOTES

Meditate as you read through/listen to this week's message. If it helps, use symbols for your notes.

✓ (Reminds me/Confirms) 💡 (New idea) ☁️ (Think about)

! (Do this) ❤️ (Speaks to my heart) ↔️ (Must share)

PRAYER NEEDS/THANKSGIVINGS

Go deeper with your Life Group family.
 CONNECT-REFLECT-DISSECT THE WORD
 Your Life Group ~ Your Lifeline

Start-up: What adjectives (words) would you use to describe a healthy/unhealthy relationship?