

Parent Study Guide – Bonus Verse 2009-10

THE ROOT OF PROSPERITY – Psalm 1:2-3

Passage: *But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers.* -- Psalm 1:2-3 (NIV84)

Theme: THE ROOT OF PROSPERITY – God wants us to be fruitful and prosperous in all that we do.

Metaphor: MEDITATING ON GOD’S WORD IS LIKE THE ROOTS OF A TREE – extending to a stream.

Message: GOD’S WORD IS YOUR MOST IMPORTANT RESOURCE FOR SUCCESS -- in God’s Kingdom.

Action: MEDITATE ON GOD’S WORD – in order to grow healthy, mature and fruitful.

Discussion Questions: Answers are Underlined

1. Why does this passage begin with the word “But”? – There is a contrast being made. Verse 1 tells what the “blessed” person does not do. Verse 2 tells what he or she does do.
2. Who is this passage talking about when it says “his delight”? – The blessed person (Ps. 1:1).
3. What is the “law of the Lord” (vs.2)? – God’s written Word, the Torah (then), the Bible (now).
4. What is the blessed person’s attitude toward God’s Word (vs.2)? – He delights in it.
5. What is his habit of action toward God’s Word (vs.2)? – He meditates on it day and night.
6. What does the tree represent? – The blessed person (us, if our roots are in the right place).
7. What do the streams of water represent? – God’s Word (nourishes the blessed person).
8. What does “fruit in season” represent? – Health and maturity (result of deep roots, well-placed, well-nourished).
9. What do leaves that never wither represent? – Life and vitality that never ends (eternal life).
10. What is the prosperity that God promises us? – Fruitfulness in season (spiritual health and maturity, fruit of the spirit).
11. How do you extend your roots into the stream of God’s Word? – By meditating on God’s Word -- thinking deeply and prayerfully about the inspired words of scripture.

12. What is the root of prosperity (in God's Kingdom)? – Meditating on God's Word day and night. Success and prosperity in God's Kingdom is measured in the economy of spiritual fruit.
13. What does it mean to meditate on God's Word? – Prayerful and focused concentration on the inspired words of scripture; reciting them, hearing them, focusing on them, until those words become a conversation between you and God.

Biblical & Theological Background:

1. Psalm 1 is often thought of as a prologue to the entire collection of Psalms, contrasting the blessed life of the righteous with the destructive life of the wicked.
2. David and Jeremiah both describe the blessed man with the metaphor of a tree planted by water "that extends its roots by a stream," which grows mature and becomes fruitful (Jeremiah 17:5-8).
3. Joshua and David both speak of "meditating on God's law day and night" which leads to prosperity and success according to God's standard (Joshua 1:8).
4. Biblical meditation rests on the doctrine that all scripture is inspired by God (breathed out by God) and is profitable for instruction, correction and training (2 Timothy 3:16-17).
5. Meditation relies on the "illuminating" work of the Holy Spirit for understanding the meaning of scripture (1 Cor. 2:9-10).
6. Rather than just turning inward to oneself, Biblical meditation always begins with the external source of God's revelation, hearing the divinely inspired words over again, and reviewing them carefully.
7. Biblical meditation is one of the life-long purposes for memorizing scripture. Reading, studying and memorizing a passage may only take minutes or hours, but meditation should continue for a lifetime.

For additional study materials on the Bonus Verse and a copy of the "Ten Step Bible Memory Method for Life," go to www.icsva.org/student-life/bonus-verse on the Immanuel Christian School website.