

VERITAS PRACTICE DEVOTIONS

PRACTICE 1 – GET ACQUAINTED

Take this time to introduce yourself to your players and let the players introduce themselves to each other.

Ask each player to state their name and their favorite hobby.

Close with prayer.

PRACTICE 2 – GOD CREATED ME AND LOVES ME – PSALM 139:14

The Bible teaches us that God created everything that exists. In the beginning He created the earth, the sky, the stars, the moon and all the animals. And then He created people. He created Adam and Eve, the first man and woman. God said that the man and woman were special. They were made in His image. And just like Adam and Eve were made in God's image so are you. Each of you were created by God and you are important to Him. The Bible says that you are "fearfully and wonderfully made" (Psalm 139:14). The Bible says that not only did God create you but He loves you. He cares about you. He wants what is best for you.

So let's begin with that truth. Know that you are created by God and He loves you. It doesn't matter what anyone else may say about you – God says you are special and you are loved! And God wants you to know Him and to love Him. God wants to be your best friend.

Verse of the Week: *"I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made"* (Psalm 139:14).

Close with prayer.

PRACTICE 3 – I HAVE SINNED – ROMANS 3:23

After God created Adam and Eve He gave them a beautiful place to live. It was called the Garden of Eden. Everything there was perfect. He gave them everything they needed. However, there was one rule. He told them they could not eat fruit from one tree – the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. But, even though God was so good to them, they chose to disobey Him and eat from that tree. Their disobedience is called sin. A sin is anything that we do, say or think that is disobedient to God. From that moment on every person that God created has also chosen to disobey Him in some way.

Because of that the Bible tells us that we are all sinners. We have chosen to disobey and sin against God. What are some sins that we are guilty of committing? The Bible says that all of us have sinned. Even though God loves us so much and made us special we have all disappointed Him by disobeying Him. Our disobedience has caused us trouble. Sin always causes trouble. We will talk more about that next week.

Verse of the Week: *"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God"* (Romans 3:23).

Close with prayer.

PRACTICE 4 – OUR SINS HAVE CONSEQUENCES – ROMANS 6:23

Remember last week we said that we have all sinned and chosen to disobey God in some way. Today, we learn that there are consequences for sin. Adam and Eve learned that lesson. After Adam and Eve disobeyed God the Bible says that they had to leave the beautiful place where they lived – the Garden of Eden. Their relationship with God – the one who created them and loved them – was broken. Their sin separated them from God. And their sin brought the penalty of death.

The Bible teaches us that our sin has consequences. Does everyone know what a consequence is? A consequence is the result of an action. If you do not do your homework, the consequence will be a bad grade. If you eat too much candy the consequence will be a stomach ache. When we sin there are consequences. God told Adam and Eve that if they sinned the penalty would be death. The Bible says that the penalty for sin is death. That doesn't mean that when we sin we will die right then. It does mean that sin keeps us from having a relationship with God – the One who created us and loves us. It means that sin keeps us from going to heaven to live with God forever.

All of the consequences of sin are bad. And that leaves all of us in trouble because we have all sinned. It means that we don't have the relationship with God, He wants us to have. It means we will not go to heaven and be with God forever. Sin is serious.

But remember God created you and loves you and wants you to be in heaven with Him forever. So, He made a way for our sins to be forgiven and us to know Him and go to heaven one day to be with Him forever. We'll learn about that next week.

Verse of the Week: *“For the wages of sin is death”* (Romans 6:23).

Close with prayer.

PRACTICE 5 – GOD SENT JESUS TO DIE FOR OUR SINS – ROMANS 5:8

Remember last week we talked about the consequences of sin. The Bible says that the penalty or consequence of sin is death. It means we do not get to go to heaven to be with God forever. And because we have all sinned we all are facing that consequence.

But God loves us. He doesn't want us to miss heaven. He wants to have a relationship with us. He doesn't want us to face the penalty of death. But God is also just and righteous. That means that He never does anything wrong. So, that creates a problem for God. If God said that the penalty for sin is death then He must keep His word. The penalty for sin must be paid. So what did God do.

God sent His Son Jesus to die for our sins. He paid the penalty for our sins so we can be forgiven. Jesus, God's Son, was born as a man and lived a perfect life – never sinning. Then He died upon a cross – not for any sins he had done – but for our sins. And because He died for our sins, now God can forgive our sins and still remain righteous and perfect.

God loves you so much that He gave His only Son to die for you and pay the penalty for your sins so you could be forgiven and spend forever in heaven with Him.

Verse of the Week: *“But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us”* (Romans 5:8).

Close with prayer.

PRACTICE 6 – JESUS ROSE FROM THE DEAD – LUKE 24:1-8

Remember last week we learned that Jesus died for our sins. That's how much God loves you. Jesus paid the penalty for our sins. Though He never sinned, He died on the cross so you and I can be forgiven of our sins and live with God one day in heaven.

But after Jesus died an amazing thing happened. He did not stay dead. After Jesus died on the cross they placed His body in a tomb. A tomb is like a cave in a rock where they buried people. After 3 days some ladies came to visit the tomb where Jesus was buried. But His body was not there. Instead, an angel was there. He told them, "I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for He is risen." The women were both frightened and excited. Jesus had defeated death. He had risen from the dead.

Because He was raised from the dead we can know that He is God and our Savior. It means that God the Father accepted His sacrifice for our sins and because of what He did our sins can be forgiven. Because of what Jesus did we no longer have to fear the penalty of death. It means He is alive now and if you ask Him, He will forgive you of your sins and give you a forever home in heaven.

Verse of the Week: *"Knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over Him"* (Romans 6:9).

Close with prayer.

PRACTICE 7 – JESUS IS THE ONLY WAY TO HEAVEN – JOHN 14:6

Last week we learned that after Jesus died on the cross for our sins, God raised him from the dead. Because of his death and resurrection Jesus has made a way for us to be forgiven of our sins, have a relationship with God and go to heaven one day. In fact, Jesus not only made a way, he is the way.

When speaking to his friends Jesus told them, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me" (John 14:6). Jesus tells us that he is the way to heaven. Not only is he the way, but he says that he is the only way. That means that if we want to have our sins forgiven and go to heaven we must look to Jesus. There is no other way. The only way for you and I to make it to heaven is Jesus. He knows the way, he is the way. Only by trusting in him and following him will we get to heaven.

Verse of the Week: *"Jesus said to him, I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me"* (John 14:6).

Close with prayer.

PRACTICE 8 – I MUST TRUST AND FOLLOW JESUS TO GET TO HEAVEN – ROMANS 10:9

Last week we learned that Jesus is the only way to heaven. If we want to have our sins forgiven and go to heaven one day we must trust in and follow Jesus. The Bible says *“that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus Christ and believe in your heart that God has raised him from the dead, you will be saved”* (Romans 10:9). To be saved means to have your sins forgiven and to get to go to heaven one day. For that to happen we must believe in Jesus. We must believe that he died on the cross for our sins and that he was raised from the dead so we could be made right with God. If we believe then we must call upon Jesus with our mouth and ask him to forgive our sins and save us. And with our mouths we must profess that he is our Lord and Savior.

Do you know what Lord means? It means boss. If Jesus is your Lord then it means you are going to listen to and obey him. It means you are going to follow him. And if you do that you will reach heaven one day. Remember, Jesus is the only way to heaven. You and I can only reach heaven by following him because he is the only way to heaven.

To start following Jesus you need to first believe that he died for your sins and was raised from the dead so you could be forgiven of your sins. Then you need to pray and ask him to forgive you of your sins. As you pray you need to commit yourself to follow Jesus as the boss of your life from now on. When you do that and follow Jesus you are assured that you will get to heaven one day.

Verse of the Week: “If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved” (Romans 10:9).

Close with prayer.

PRACTICE 9 – THE BIBLE IS GOD’S WORD – 2 TIMOTHY 3:16-17

I hope that you have thought about the importance of following Jesus. When you trust him as your Lord and Savior it changes your life. It means your sins are forgiven and you have a new best friend. Jesus will be with you to guide you to the best life you can have. It means that he will one day lead you to heaven where you can spend forever with him.

The most important way that Jesus guides us is through the Bible. The Bible is God’s message to us. It tells us about Jesus and what he did for us on the cross and through his resurrection. It also tells us what it means to follow him and how to do that. So, if you want to follow Jesus you must read your Bible. The Bible is God’s instruction manual for how to live life. But we must do more than just read the Bible. We must also obey it. It doesn’t help to have instructions if we don’t follow them. Likewise, we must do what the Bible tells us to do. It will show us how to follow Jesus and if we follow Jesus we will one day make it to heaven.

Verse of the Week: *“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work”* (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

Close with prayer.