

GNCOMMUNITY BIBLE STUDY GUIDE

SERMON SERIES: "MAKE IT TO MATURITY"

SERMON TITLE: "LEVEL PLAYING FIELD"

DATE PREACHED: SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 24TH 2019

PREACHER: CODY BALCH



◆ **Facilitator NOTE:** AS YOU PREPARE AHEAD OF TIME, LOOK THROUGH THE PASSAGES/QUESTIONS BELOW TO HELP YOURSELF PRIORITIZE THE THINGS THAT YOU **DEFINITELY** WANT TO COVER WITH THE TIME YOU HAVE AVAILABLE. YOU LIKELY WILL NOT BE ABLE TO COVER ALL THIS MATERIAL. TRY TO KEEP THE STUDIES TO AROUND AN HOUR FOR THE KIDS/KIDS-HELPERS SAKE.

•✎ SERMON IN A SENTENCE:

"EVERY PERSON, WITHOUT EXCEPTION, IS CALLED TO GIVE UP WHAT FEELS MOST NATURAL, IN ORDER TO FOLLOW THE ONE WHO IS SUPERNATURAL."

(use the questions you want to use, ignore the ones you don't want to use, and add any that you think would be good)

WARM UP QUESTIONS:

- ✎ What is your absolute favorite food that you would never want to live without?
 - ◆ Would you be willing to give it up entirely if Jesus Himself told you that He didn't want you to eat it anymore?
 - ◆ How is this a microcosm of Jesus calling us to give up temptations and sins that are our most natural and "favorite" sins?
- ✎ Can you name something that you've personally had to give up in order to faithfully follow Jesus? What has that looked like for you? How hard has it been. Why was it worth it?
- ✎ Why do you think that people treat certain sins differently than other sins? What are the negative implications of this way of thinking?

DIVE IN DEEPER:

Luke 9:23 — "23 Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me."

- ✎ According to Jesus, what is the cost of following Jesus?

- 🗨️ Who does this apply to? {some or all?} Are there any exceptions?
- 🗨️ How does this challenge you personally?

1 Timothy 1:8-11 — “**8** We know that the law is good if one uses it properly. **9** We also know that the law is made not for the righteous but for lawbreakers and rebels, the ungodly and sinful, the unholy and irreligious, for those who kill their fathers or mothers, for murderers, **10** for the sexually immoral, for those practicing homosexuality, for slave traders and liars and perjurers—and for whatever else is contrary to the sound doctrine **11** that conforms to the Gospel concerning the glory of the blessed God, which He entrusted to me.”

- 🗨️ Do you personally fall somewhere on Paul’s list?
- 🗨️ How do you allow your beliefs, convictions and doctrine to be shaped by what God says is true, as apposed to what you thought or want to be true?
- 🗨️ How have you seen people take some of the truths listed above and mishandle them because they didn’t use humility and love? Have you ever been the target of someone else’s unloving attitude?
- 🗨️ Why do you think that sexual immorality and homosexuality are such sensitive and hot-button issues for many people?

1 Corinthians 6:9-11 — “**9** Or do you not know that wrongdoers will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor men who have sex with men **10** nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. **11** And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.”

- 🗨️ How does this passage strike your heart?
- 🗨️ What does verse 11 mean to your soul?

***BONUS* Romans 13:8-10** — “**8** Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law. **9** The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery,” “You shall not murder,” “You shall not steal,” “You shall not covet,” and whatever other command there may be, are summed up in this one command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” **10** Love does no harm to a neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.”

***BONUS* Galatians 5:19-25** — “**19** The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; **20** idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions **21** and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God. **22** But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, **23** gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. **24** Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. **25** Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.”

TAKE THIS HOME WITH YOU “TAKEAWAY”:

- ☀ How can you begin living with less of a mindset that other people’s sins are worse than your own?
- ☀ How will you show sincere love towards those who you disagree with or who are living a sinful lifestyle?

❖ Close in prayer.

MATCHING THEME IDEAS FOR THE KID'S LESSON:

- I'd encourage a worship time if possible (youtube works great {Lifetree Kids & Bible Project}).
- Ask them if they have any things in their life that they need Jesus' help with, and then pray for the requests of the group.
- And feel free to ask any of the kids if they'd like to say a prayer for the group.

▶ Read **Luke 9:23** — “**23** Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me.”

Ask the kiddos questions like:

- What is your favorite food? Would you be willing to stop eating it forever if Jesus told you that He didn't want you to eat it any more?
- What is your favorite TV show or Movie? Would you be willing to stop watching it forever if Jesus told you that He didn't want you to watch it any more?
- What is your favorite toy or game or sport? Would you be willing to stop playing it forever if Jesus told you that He didn't want you to play it any more?

Activity Ideas:

- 👤 **OPTION A:** When giving out the snack, give them twice the amount that you would normally give them, and then ask them to give one-half of it back to you.
- 👤 **OPTION B:** Give people the option to skip snack time altogether as a practice of self-control to give things up for Jesus (kind of like a super small short-term fast).