

6. **Go to His Word.** Psalm 119 describes God's Word as a **lamp and light for our path**. What does that mean for daily decision-making? What are some obstacles that keep people from **regularly reading and applying the truths of the Bible**? What is one practical step you could take this week to **spend more time in God's Word**?

7. **Be In Fellowship.** Ecclesiastes 4 teaches that **two are better than one**. Why is spiritual growth difficult when we try to follow Christ alone? How have Christian friendships, small groups, or church community **strengthened your faith**? For someone who feels private or hesitant, what might be a **first step toward deeper Christian fellowship**?

8. **We Love Because He First Loved Us.** How does understanding God's love for us change the way we **treat people around us**? In what areas of your life (work, home, community) do you find it **most difficult to show Christlike love**? What are some simple ways we can **demonstrate God's love in everyday interactions** this week?

9. **Closing Reflection.** Looking at all these lessons, which one **speaks most strongly to your life right now**? What is one **specific action step** you will take this week to grow in your walk with Christ?

Sermon Notes

Benefits of Biblical Practices Sermon Series
"From Knowing About Jesus to Trusting & Following Him"
Various Texts
March 15, 2026
Michael Abernathy

Growth Group Homework

For the week of 03-15-2026

1. **Pray First.** When you face a problem or decision, what is usually your **first response**—prayer, planning, or worry? Why do you think that is? Looking at the example of Hezekiah in 2 Kings 19, what does it look like in practical terms to “**spread something out before the Lord**” in prayer today? What is one situation in your life right now where you need to **pause and go to God first** instead of trying to solve it yourself?
2. **God Has a Purpose.** Romans 8:28 says God works in **all things for good**. Can you think of a difficult situation in your life where you later saw God’s purpose? Why is it often **hard to trust God’s purpose** when we are in the middle of hardship? How might believing that God has a purpose change the way we respond to challenges or disappointments?
3. **God Gives Us Challenges.** According to 2 Corinthians 1:8–10, what was one reason Paul said God allowed him to experience extreme difficulty? How can trials or struggles **teach us to rely on God rather than ourselves**? When facing hardship, what are some practical ways we can **turn toward God instead of away from Him**?
4. **We Are Not in Control.** Why do you think people naturally want to **stay in control of their lives** instead of surrendering to God? Think about a time when you tried to handle something entirely on your own. What happened, and what did you learn from it? What are some practical ways we can **remind ourselves daily that God is sovereign and in control**?
5. **Whose Problem Is It?** When conflicts happen in relationships, why is our first instinct often to blame someone else rather than examine our own heart? How does remembering that **Christ forgave us while we were still sinners** (Romans 5:8) help us forgive others? What role do humility and confession (Psalm 51, 1 Peter 5:5–6) play in **healing broken relationships**?