

Beyond Sunday with Scripture References

What's in Your Bucket?

A Sermon Application Guide

This guide is designed to offer a simple tool for those wanting to take the next step with Sunday's message. You can print this guide to study on your own, or use it in a group and experience transformation together.

Message Theme & Prayer Focus

What's On Your Bucket List?

"Father, help me hear all that you're saying to me in this message. Reveal the hidden things in my heart that my love for you might deepen. Bring to mind the things in my life that have blinded me from seeing who you made me to be and what you have called me to do. Holy Spirit, lead me into every truth that you have for me to see. Let my life reflect Jesus and glorify you in all I say and do, in Jesus' name. Amen!"

Key Concepts/Truths

Jesus brings peace, but in the world's current hopelessness, it can sometimes be confusing and hard for people to know who is telling the truth.

We are carriers of God's truth and His message to this world that needs Him so desperately.

Satan has blinded people in order to try to keep them in bondage. He doesn't want the world to see the glory and reality of Christ because He knows that if people could just see a little bit, their lives would be changed.

Many times, people fill up "buckets" in life with things they chase after while looking for fulfillment. The things we chase may not be wrong things, such as education, a healthy and balanced family, or accomplishments, but if those things take the place of Christ in our lives then they are blinding us to all He is calling us to be and do.

The world says things like wealth, career success, power, education, physical looks, and other accomplishments are the cure to all our problems, but none of these things can provide true hope and peace like Jesus.

Even though the "good" things we chase can look really nice and profitable, we can't put our final hope, apart from God, in them, because they are ultimately empty.

It's not wrong to be excellent at what we do, have wealth, be beautiful, or achieve great things, but when those things become gods in our lives they blind us to bigger things that God has.

If we find our identity in anything other than Christ, we will fail and come up empty in the end. Life happens, things come and things go. God outlasts it all into eternity. Even while going

through tough and imperfect things, we will be solid and endure when trusting in God and His Word for our strength.

We are all on this Earth to know God and make Him known.

Key Verses:

2 Corinthians 4:4-6 • Philippians 4:6-9

Which one truth do you already have evidence of in your life today? Ask the Lord for new ways to see even more of it for you and others around you. Write your answers out.

Which one truth is the most challenging or least existing in your life today? Why do you think this is? Ask the Lord if there are any beliefs or barriers that are keeping you from believing that particular truth. Write it out.

Daily Application

Why do we chase things like education, wealth, or beauty? God offers something higher than education -- wisdom. He has something richer than wealth -- providence. He freely gives the greatest form of beauty -- knowing our identity in Him.

The things of this world, even “good” things, will fail us every single time we try to place our hope in them. We may know that we have a God who gives all of those things, but are we making that plainly known to a world that doesn’t know?

Sharing the gospel of the Kingdom is meant to be a joy. It’s really a very simple thing -- we yield to God, reflect Christ in what we do, and live by following what the Holy Spirit says. We can’t prove the hope of Jesus by having the best “gotcha” Christian comeback to an argument, by cutting ourselves off from those He calls us to influence, or by winning the world’s rat race. To reflect the hope and peace that is only available through Jesus, we need to think differently -- the way that He thinks. We can’t do that apart from Him.

The good news is that as we remain in Him, He remains in us, and His light, hope, and peace shine through. When we begin to live as we were created to be, we will point people to Christ out of the overflow of Him inside of us. There can be no truer witness than Christ, inside of us, spilling out to a lost and dying world.

This week, take the time to sit and ask Jesus where we have the most room to grow in reflecting Him. We know that there is such richness in Christ, so let’s do all we can to live the life He designed for us, reflecting Him, and showing the hope that is only found in Him. It will change the world.

This Week’s Declarations

“I look first to Christ for my direction, response, and leading in all things. In Christ, my life has substance, fullness, and hope. I am filled with His Spirit and everywhere I go is affected by His presence and His hope that is inside me. I no longer look to the wealth, education, or beauty

that the world provides as security for myself. I choose a life of love instead of an empty and unfulfilled life that fails to reflect the heart of my Father. As I walk in the light of who Christ made me to be, I shine His hope to the world and bring Him all the glory, in Jesus' name!"

What's Next?

Now it's time to write down anything that the Lord has spoken to you. Praise Him, Thank Him and ask the Holy Spirit to help you walk this out.

If hearing God or anything mentioned in this study is new to you then we invite you to take the Next Step. Further information can be found at reslife.org/nextsteps

Scripture References from *What's in Your Bucket?*

2 Corinthians 4:4-6 AMP

4 among them the god of this world [Satan] has blinded the minds of the unbelieving to prevent them from seeing the illuminating light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. **5** For we do not preach ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves [merely] as your bond-servants for Jesus' sake. **6** For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," is the One who has shone in our hearts to give us the Light of the knowledge of the glory *and* majesty of God [clearly revealed] in the face of Christ.

Hebrews 9:27 NKJV

And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment,

Philippians 4:6-9 AMP

6 Do not be anxious *or* worried about anything, but in everything [every circumstance and situation] by prayer and petition with thanksgiving, continue to make your [specific] requests known to God. **7** And the peace of God [that peace which reassures the heart, that peace] which transcends all understanding, [that peace which] stands guard over your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus [is yours].

8 Finally, believers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable *and* worthy of respect, whatever is right *and* confirmed by God's word, whatever is pure *and* wholesome, whatever is lovely *and* brings peace, whatever is admirable *and* of good repute; if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think *continually* on these things [center your mind on them, and implant them in your heart]. **9** The things which you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things [in daily life], and the God [who is the source] of peace *and* well-being will be with you.