



Month 1: Crave Pure Spiritual Milk

Based on 1 Peter 1:22-2:3

This month we kick off our “God-Lived Life” Stewardship Series, with God’s reminders that a God-Lived Life is the life of a disciple (a learner).

Connect to Each Other

- The sermon talked about cherishing time in the Word. Share what is your biggest motivation for spending time in God’s Word. What helps you overcome obstacles? Share what’s your biggest obstacle to time in the Word. Why is that?
- (Optional) Who in your life do you think of as a great example of prioritizing time in the Word? What about their example is so powerful for you?

Connect to the Word

- The sermon text (1 Peter 1:22-2:3) follows a chapter of Paul reviewing what God has done for us and our response. Read 1:3-2:3 and list (and discuss) as many of the cause/effect relationships you see there.
- (Optional) In v. 1-21, where do you see an example of someone who cherishes the Word of God.

Connect to Life

- The sermon talked about the battle between our sinful flesh that doesn’t cherish time in God’s Word and God’s powerful Word that the Spirit uses to create that desire. Talk to someone who says, “I know I’m supposed to want to read God’s Word and go to Bible study, but I just don’t. Does that mean I don’t really believe?”
- How does God’s command, “Crave pure spiritual milk” make an impact on your life now?

Leader Notes

Answers for the “Connect to Each other” section:

Answers will vary.

Answer for the “Connect to the Word” section:

- There are tons of cause/effect relationships here. Try to get people talking about how each particular cause/effect works and the comfort it brings you.
 - **Praise to God because of his giving us new birth into living hope** (v. 3)
 - **New birth because of God’s great mercy** (v. 3)
 - **Living hope because of new birth and because of Jesus’ resurrection** (v. 3)
 - **An imperishable inheritance because of new birth** (v. 4)
 - **Great rejoicing because of inheritance (even though griefs here)** (v. 6)
 - **Faith refined and proved genuine because of trials** (v. 7)
 - **Praise to God when he returns because of the faith that is refined** (v. 7)
 - **Inexpressible and glorious joy because you know goal of faith/salvation of souls is coming (even though don’t see him now)** (v. 8–9)
 - **Prophets and angels studying Word because they knew good stuff there** (v. 10–12)
 - **Prepare for action (because gospel has been preached to you)** (v. 13)
 - **Do all the imperatives in 13–15 because you have gospel** (v. 13–15)
 - **Be holy because God is holy** (v. 16)—this one talk about how God’s holiness is cause for our need to be holy—which is why we need that redemption he’s about to talk about
 - **Live as strangers (since God doesn’t compare your lives with others but with his standard)** (v. 17)
 - **Your faith and hope are in God because you were redeemed by Jesus (and he was revealed to you)** (v. 18–21)
 - **Because you are pure through truth—love** (v. 22)
 - **Because you have been born again through imperishable Word—love** (v. 23)
 - **Because living and enduring word was preached to you—rid self of sin** (2:1)
 - **Crave the Word (milk) because you’ve tasted it is good (and to grow)** (2:2–3)
- **Examples –**
 - *V. 10 – Prophets who wrote the Word studied it “intently”*
 - *V. 12 – Even angels long to look into these things*

Answer for the “Connect to Life” section:

- **Response to person struggling with desire and doubt in causes:** *When we look at ourselves for assurance, we can never be certain because we are sinful. If I look to myself for the strength of my faith—it will falter. When my faith looks to God it is absolutely solid. The sinful nature uses everything to distract us from the importance of the Word, but it is the Word that gives us strength against that. Best thing you can do is use the Word, encourage that person by supporting them in their time in the Word—“I’ll come with you to Bible study.” “I know how you feel. The thing that gets me out of that funk is making the time for the Word—and letting God do the work through it, changing my heart and my attitude. Let’s read the Word together. Come to Bible study with me.” When doubt arises, do what Peter did in the first part of chapter 1. Point the person’s eyes straight to the cross. Ask, “Did Jesus do that for the world?” They will say yes. “Are you part of the world?” They will say yes.*
- **Command to Crave:** *For it to make sense, I have to realize and remember what I have tasted—that the Lord is good. Thank you brothers and sisters for talking through the Word with me and reminding me how sweet God’s promises and our futures are.*