

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Rooted Study Guide! This Guide aims to establish disciples in the faith and to encourage all to walk with Jesus gratefully and to share his love with others. Being rooted in gospel essentials is vital for every new disciple of Jesus and every church member to thrive. Returning to the essentials of the faith can revitalize all believers and provide solid foundations for new believers to build on for years to come.

In the Bible, we read that Paul and his church planting teams made many new disciples by proclaiming the gospel, but they didn't stop there. They rooted these disciples in gospel essentials and strengthened them so they would walk with Jesus faithfully. When Paul was torn away prematurely from the new believers in Thessalonica, he became concerned that they might not stand firm in the Lord. That caused him to deploy Timothy, a coworker in the gospel, to establish them in their faith. Paul then wrote then

"Therefore when we could bear it no longer, we were willing to be left behind at Athens alone, and we sent Timothy, our brother and God's coworker in the gospel of Christ, to establish and exhort you in your faith..."

—1 Thessalonians 3:1-2, English Standard Version

Rooting new disciples and church members in gospel essentials was practiced by the early church and this has continued down through the centuries. This Rooted Study Guide is a contemporary approach to a biblical and historical practice. It not only roots a participant's understanding in the essentials of the faith, it also encourages one's heart to delight in God's grace while preparing to tell their story and the gospel story. Read, reflect, and answer questions in each of the five sections of the Guide:

/// Section 1

The Gospel Story

/// Section 4

Water Baptism

/// Section 2

Leaving Idolatry,
Celebrating Gospel Identity

/// Section 5

Connecting Relationally,
Following Personally

/// Section 3

Telling Your Story

/// Appendix

Resources for Going Deeper

/// SECTION 1 THE GOSPEL STORY

Jesus explicitly taught that he was central to the grand story in Scripture. He made this point when he corrected the religious leaders who had the Scriptures but were missing out on life found through a relationship with him (John 5:39-40). After Jesus rose from the dead, he continued to teach that all Scripture points to him and the gospel (Luke 24:26-27, 44-53). This preeminence of Jesus and God’s grace offered through him is written about over and over again throughout the Bible. That’s why we emphasize the person and work of Jesus Christ as central for both unbelievers and believers. We never graduate from this good news to us about Jesus, so it is wise to be rooted in it.

Though much more could be included here, it’s helpful to be rooted in the gospel using a memorable story and a short creed. After you read The Story and The Creed, respond to Jesus Christ and record your responses below.

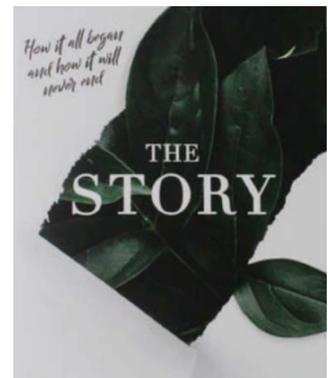
THE STORY

If you have the booklet called The Story, now read the four brief chapters entitled:

- 1) Creation / How did it all begin?, 2) Fall / What went wrong?,
- 3) Rescue / Is there any hope?, and 4) Restoration / What will the future hold?

If you don’t have the booklet, read or watch The Story online at <https://thestoryfilm.com/watch>. Others may prefer to download The Story app to their phone or tablet.

See <https://thestoryfilm.com/apps> about downloading the app to read or listen to The Story.



THE CREED

Short creeds or summary statements about the faith were used by the early church and down through the centuries to help believers grasp the essentials. Believers learned these as they prepared for baptism. These encapsulated gospel truths were also used to protect believers from false teachings that distorted the gospel. These helpful summaries of the faith were circulating at the time of the writing of the New Testament. The disciples of Jesus wrote in Scripture to be faithful to protect, practice, and proclaim sound doctrine with the help of the Holy Spirit (1 Timothy 6:20- 21; 2 Timothy 1:13-14; 4:1-4; Titus 1:9; 2:1; 1 John 4:1-6; Jude 3). Short creeds can help with this. An example of one of these is referred to by Paul in his letter to the Corinthian church. He wrote,

“Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.”

—1 Corinthians 15:1-4

Even after the New Testament was written, we learn that church leaders continued using brief summaries of the faith based on Scripture to instruct and protect against false teaching. The letter of Ignatius of Antioch to the Smyrnaeans,

written in the decade of the 110s C.E., does this. Irenaeus of Lyons, who wrote in the decade of the 180s C.E., passed on the faith and battled heresies using many of the summary phrases that were similar to those in the widely accepted Apostles' Creed that came later (pp. 17-21, *The Gospel in Christian Tradition*, Ted Campbell, Oxford Press). It's called The Apostles' Creed, not because the apostles wrote it, but because it reflects a good summary of the faith the apostles of Jesus proclaimed and passed on that we can now read about in Scripture.

Read aloud through the Apostles' Creed at least twice. As you do, notice that it is an affirmation of belief in the triune God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. When reading, listen to how much of The Creed is focused on the person and work of Jesus Christ, and ponder all that it affirms.

THE APOSTLES' CREED¹

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic²
church, the communion of saints³,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

YOUR RESPONSE

What has been your personal response to the good news of God's grace presented in The Story and The Creed?

We read about different responses to Jesus in Luke 15. Jesus ate and socialized with sinners who responded to him with faith. As he ate and socialized with them, the proud religious leaders responded by trying to censor him for being too friendly with sinners. Jesus then told a parable about two brothers who represented the need for repentance by two groups of people who were both estranged from God, the immoral and the moral. These two groups still exist today.

¹ *Modern English Version: From the English Language Liturgical Commission, 1988.*

² *catholic = universal or world-wide.*

³ *saints = believers set apart by faith in Jesus Christ.*

Though very different, both make futile attempts at self-saving that still leave them estranged from God. Immoral people often try to fill their emptiness by “doing their own thing” or choosing a lifestyle they know is wrong in God’s sight. Individuals from this group can find forgiveness and full acceptance when they turn back to God with faith in Jesus. This group was represented by the younger brother in the parable Jesus told. Another group is the moral crowd, who are often religious. Individuals in this group need to repent of self-righteous efforts to save themselves by their own good works, represented by the older brother in the parable.

Which group have you found yourself in? Remember, God sent his Son to rescue us from our sin and its consequences and to offer us hope. This good news is offered to both the immoral and self-righteous sinners. Anyone who turns to God from their self-saving efforts and trusts in the Lord Jesus Christ is saved. God graciously promises forgiveness, a reconciled relationship with him, and eternal life to all who trust in Jesus Christ alone.

Are you trusting Jesus Christ alone for your salvation? Explain briefly.

What excites you the most about the gospel story of God’s grace to you through Jesus?

/// SECTION 2 LEAVING IDOLATRY, CELEBRATING GOSPEL IDENTITY

Everyone who is united to Jesus Christ by faith receives a new identity under grace. The Bible often refers to our union with Christ and this new standing under grace simply as being “in Christ.” Being in Christ by faith means we are no longer under condemnation and God’s wrath. Rather, God now relates to us as his fully accepted and beloved children. This frees us to stop chasing cultural and heart idolatry and gives us reason to celebrate!

LEAVING IDOLATRY

Paul rejoiced with the new believers in Thessalonica and affirmed their genuine response of faith in the gospel. He wrote that others gave a good report that they had “turned to God from idols” (1 Thessalonians 1:9). This is important for us too, because like these Thessalonian believers, God’s grace frees us to stop practicing our functional idolatry and to instead experience life in Jesus. This doesn’t mean that a believer won’t lapse or be tempted to return to familiar idols, even if these never ultimately satisfy. Being aware of our functional idols can help us avoid compromise and reject these futile attempts to satisfy our hearts. This is important because King Jesus requires exclusive allegiance to his supremacy. Also, because he is the ultimate treasure that truly satisfies the heart (Matthew 13:44; Mark 8:34-38; Colossians 1:18). The good news is that we can now find our greatest delight in Jesus and the gospel of God’s grace, but we must leave our functional idolatry.

The following twenty statements will help you probe the functional heart idols you need to reject as a futile attempt to find life apart from Jesus. Before you start, pray and ask God to help you with this next exercise. Begin by reflecting on the 20 statements below to deeply probe your functional idols (adapted from pp. 203-204 in *Counterfeit Gods*, Timothy Keller). Identify the top one or two areas of functional idolatry that you may personally struggle with at times.

After you have identified areas of idolatry, then continue to the biblical texts about God’s gracious rescue of you and your true identity in Christ.

PROBING FUNCTIONAL IDOLATRY

“Life only has meaning / I only have worth if...”

1. I have power and influence over others. (Power Idolatry)
2. I am loved and respected by . (Approval Idolatry)
3. I have this kind of pleasure experience, a particular quality of life. (Comfort Idolatry)
4. I am able to get mastery over my life in the area of . (Control idolatry)
5. People are dependent on me and need me. (Helping Idolatry)
6. Someone is there to protect me and keep me safe. (Dependence Idolatry)
7. I am completely free from obligations or responsibilities to take care of someone. (Independence Idolatry)
8. I am highly productive and getting a lot done. (Work Idolatry)
9. I am being recognized for my accomplishments, and I am excelling in my work. (Achievement Idolatry)
10. I have a certain level of wealth, financial freedom, and very nice possessions. (Materialism Idolatry)

11. I am adhering to my religion's moral codes and accomplished in its activities. (Religion Idolatry)
12. This one person is in my life and happy to be there, and/or happy with me. (Individual Person Idolatry)
13. I feel I am totally independent of organized religion and am living by a self-made morality. (Irreligion Idolatry)
14. My race or culture is ascendant and recognized as superior. (Racial/Cultural Idolatry)
15. A particular social grouping or professional grouping or another group lets me in. (Inner Ring Idolatry)
16. My children and/or my parents are happy and happy with me. (Family Idolatry)
17. Mr. or Ms. "Right" is in love with me. (Relationship Idolatry)
18. I am hurting, in a problem; only then do I feel worthy of love or able to deal with guilt. (Suffering Idolatry)
19. My political or social cause is making progress and ascending in influence or power. (Ideology Idolatry)
20. I have a particular kind of look or body image. (Image Idolatry)

What are the top one or two areas of functional idolatry you may struggle with? (from the list above or another type of idolatry in your heart that wasn't on the list)

RESCUED "IN CHRIST"

Everyone who repents and believes the gospel receives a new standing in Christ. This new identity under grace helps us experience joy and walk in freedom. However, we all have some bad "tapes" running through our head and heart that may keep us in bondage to empty idols or to sinful practices that God has rescued us from in Christ.

Our rescue by God is like a young boy falling through the ice into the frigid waters of a lake while ice skating. He is unable to save himself. When his father sees his son's desperate condition, he quickly finds a rope, runs to his son and rescues him from the icy waters. After the boy is rescued, his dad carries him safely home. He's given dry clothes and a seat near the fireplace with the rest of the family. Our rescue by God is much like this boy who was rescued from the deadly waters to the safety of a warm home to be with his father and his family.

Apart from Christ we needed God's rescue. But now in Christ, God's rescue has provided all believers a new standing under grace that's filled with hope. If you are a believer in Jesus Christ, God has rescued you from your old condition to a new identity in Christ. Scripture declares,

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come."

—2 Corinthians 5:17

The following sampling of biblical passages contrast who you were apart from Christ with who you are now in Christ through God's rescue. Record in the right column spaces the truths about who you are in Christ. Then, read through all that these verses affirm about who you are in Christ now, in contrast to who you were apart from Christ.

APART FROM CHRIST I WAS...	"IN CHRIST" I AM NOW...
Lk. 15:8-10, 3-7, 32...lost	Lk. 15:7, 10, 32...
John 3:18...condemned	John 3:18...
Rom. 2:5...storing up God's wrath	Rom. 2:5...
Rom. 5:10-11...God's enemy	Rom. 5:10-11...
John 1:12-13...not God's child	John 1:12-13...
Eph. 2:4-6...spiritually dead	Eph. 2:4-6...
Col. 1:13...under the domain of darkness	Col. 1:13...
Rom. 3:9-10, 20...unrighteous & my works would never cause God to declare me justified (right with him)	Rom. 5:1...
Rom. 8:9...without the indwelling of the Holy Spirit	1 Cor. 6:19-20...
John 10:26...without the Good Shepherd	John 10:27-30...
Eph. 2:11-12...a stranger to the covenants of promise... far off...cut off by a dividing wall of hostility from God's people	Eph. 3:6...
Eph. 2:12...without hope and God in the world	Titus 2:13...

Now that you've considered this good news about your rescue, it's time to celebrate! List below the top one or two biblical truths about your rescue and your true identity in Christ that's most encouraging to you.

After you've listed these, pause and pray. Talk with God and confess any known idolatry. Remember what God has said in his word about your true identity, then thank God for his grace to you in Christ.

As our hearts are captivated with the spiritual blessing we have in Christ under grace, we are motivated to love and serve Jesus more faithfully as his loyal disciples. We must remember, grace is never a license to disobey God. Rather, God's grace to us fuels our motivation to love him back with steadfast loyalty, godly living, and all-out-service for others in love (1 Cor. 15:58; Titus 2:11-14; 1 John 4:10-11). Now that you have been reflecting on God's love and grace for you in Christ, it's time to personally love God back with your actions. Record below just one step of obedience or act of service you will freely take that you believe will honor God.

/// SECTION 3 TELLING YOUR STORY

WHY TELL YOUR STORY?

Telling your story is a great way to remember God's grace in your life. It's also an effective way to be his witness to others.

PREPARE YOUR STORY

Prepare to tell your personal story by using the simple outline* Beginnings, Obstacles, Hope, and Future. Write in the space below or use a separate document to prepare to tell your story. Be brief. There is much that could be said, but plan to tell your story verbally in about 5-10 minutes. End this written preparation by considering whether Jesus is the Hero of your story. If not, do some editing to ensure you turn the spotlight on him. In preparing, some like to write out the entire story you will tell verbally. Others prefer to just write down the main bullet points to help them remember what to share. Choose either approach using the simple outline below.

Beginnings... Every story has a beginning, including yours. Your birthplace. Your family members. Childhood home and places lived. Friends growing up. Choose a favorite memory or key aspect of you story to share.

Obstacles... Despite our stories being exclusively our own, all stories include obstacles. You have had to face difficulties or disappointments. You may have regrets or something about yourself you came to realize. Choose a notable obstacle and describe this.

Hope... Consider ways hope has made its way into your life story. Was it a certain person who pointed you in the right direction or an event that changed your outlook on life? What do you look to for hope and fulfillment? What has brought deep satisfaction or joy into your life? Choose a key aspect of your life to share that brought you hope. Describe why it's important to you. How has this shaped you?

Future... Though we live in the present, we can imagine the future. What dreams do you have about the future? What do you want to do before your story on earth ends? What's the legacy you want to leave? What do envision in the life beyond this life? Choose a key aspect of what you envision to weave into your story.

Is Jesus the Hero of your story? As you reflect on your story, do you genuinely believe that Jesus is the Hero of your story? If so, does this come through as you've written it? Do you see any needed changes or edits as you prepare to tell your story so that Jesus is acknowledged as the Hero? How can you genuinely turn the spotlight on him?

**This personal story outline was adapted from the Life as We Know It booklet, at <http://gospel.spreadtruth.com/life>*

Prepare Your Story...use Beginnings, Obstacles, Hope, Future...ask is Jesus the Hero?

(Beginnings)

(Obstacles)

(Hope)

(Future)

Consider...Can you genuinely say that Jesus is the hero of your story? If so, review your story you've written and consider whether it sounds like you've made Jesus the hero of your story. Need any edits to better spotlight on him?

/// SECTION 4 WATER BAPTISM

If you have believed on the Lord Jesus Christ and haven't been baptized, you should do so. While baptism doesn't save a person, it serves to publicly identify you with Jesus and it's a way to honor the triune God as you are baptized in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Sadly, rigid institutionalism, empty religious tradition, controversy and confusion has often characterized far too many Christian traditions when it comes to the sacraments of the church. That said, reacting against these by neglecting something good that Jesus intends for us to practice is not the answer either. Here is why and what baptism is.

WHY BAPTISM?

We practice water baptism because it's part of Jesus' lasting commission to us. This commission is recorded at the end of Matthew. It says,

"And Jesus came and said to them, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.'"

—Matthew 28:18-20

The central command in this passage is "make disciples of all nations." There are three phrases connected to this command to make disciples: going, baptizing, teaching. We go to people among the nations to proclaim the gospel. The words translated all nations is much closer to the idea of all ethnic groups rather than countries with governments as we might think of. The commission also involves baptizing disciples of Jesus and teaching them obedience to his commands. This commission and these practices were not limited to just the original apostles and the first century church. Jesus expects ongoing faithfulness to his commission until he returns in glory. He makes this clear because he promised his presence to be with us "until the end of the age" as we continue to carry out his commission and these practices.

Here are just a few biblical examples of new disciples being baptized and relationally connecting with the church:

"And Peter said to them, 'Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit'...So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls. And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers"

—Acts 2:38-42

"And they said, 'Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.' And they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house...and he was baptized at once, he and all his family"

—Acts 16:31-32

"Crispus, the leader of the synagogue, believed in the Lord with all his household, and many of the Corinthians when they heard were believing and being baptized"

—Acts 18:8

WHAT IS BAPTISM?

Scripture teaches that water baptism is a visual portrayal of being personally united with Jesus in his death, burial, and resurrection. Baptism publicly pictures one's initiation into Christ by faith. Each individual is then to be received by the church community who is in covenant with Jesus, their Lord and Savior. When someone is baptized, it is a public profession of being forgiven, dead to the old life under sin, and alive to life with God by the Spirit through Jesus (Romans 6:1-11; Acts 2:38). It is announcing a relationship with the living God in three persons—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:18-20).

We can learn from Scripture and follow the Spirit while practicing water baptism with heart and meaning so that it portrays the good news of grace. Preaching makes the gospel audible and the sacraments make it visible. God uses both! Water baptism can be experienced with joy in loving obedience to Jesus in alignment to his word.

BEFORE YOUR BAPTISM

Take time personally to read from Matthew 28:16-20; Acts 2:29-47; Ephesians 2:8-9; and Romans 6:1-11. Remember:

- you are saved by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone;
- you are saved by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone;
- you are not saved by your own good works or ceremonies, including water baptism;
- you will be personally and publicly identifying with Jesus in baptism as an outward sign of the inward reality of your faith in him alone for salvation;
- you have been made alive to God in Christ by the Holy Spirit;
- you will be baptized in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (i.e. one God in three persons).

/// SECTION 5 CONNECTING RELATIONALLY, FOLLOWING PERSONALLY

A disciple must take responsibility for their daily walk with Jesus. That means connecting daily with Jesus personally and learning from him through Scripture as a self-feeder. That said, no one walks alone!

The Bible is clear that all disciples of Jesus are to connect with other disciples in the church. The New Testament regards local churches as communities of disciples (Acts 6:1-7; 11:26; 14:21-23). We need relationships with other gospel-centered disciples as we learn to obey Christ's commands, grow in his likeness, and make more disciples (Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 2:41-47; Colossians 1:28-29; 3:15-17; 4:2-6, 12). God has provided analogies in the Bible to help us understand how we are to connect relationally and function as part of his local church. We are to think of ourselves as God's household, Christ's body, and ambassadors of reconciliation, to name a few. Together as God's household, we love our heavenly Father back because of his love for us. Despite our differences, God calls us to love all our brothers and sisters in Christ and to welcome new family members the Father is adopting who had been spiritual orphans just like we were (John 1:12-13; Romans 8:12-17; 15:5-7; 1 Timothy 3:14-15; 1 John 4:7-21). As his body, we are to stay connected with Christ the head, and we are to serve interdependently with our diverse gifts and abilities to build up his body (Romans 12:3-8; 1 Corinthians 12:1-12; Ephesians 4:11-16). As ambassadors of reconciliation, together we enjoy our reconciled relationship with God, we model reconciled relationships with one another, and we urge unbelievers to be reconciled to God through Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17-21; Ephesians 2:13-16; 5:15-21). God has designed us to grow and serve in community with others. Therefore, each individual disciple needs to engage with a local church body for biblical teaching, worship, group life, service, and disciple making mission.

CONNECTING RELATIONALLY IN YOUR LOCAL CHURCH

Review your local church's gatherings, groups, service opportunities, and disciple making initiatives.

Pray, dialogue with your church's leadership, and take your next step to connect relationally to grow and build up the body through active involvement. Get going now and participate soon in one of your church's upcoming membership classes if you haven't yet.

FOLLOWING JESUS PERSONALLY

Following Jesus daily in all spheres of one's life is what a faithful disciple seeks to do. SOAP Journaling is a practice to help you keep centered on Jesus daily. SOAP is an acronym for Scripture, Observation, Application, and Prayer. It provides a format to read, reflect, and respond to Jesus through Scripture with the Holy Spirit's help. Read about how SOAP Journaling works on the following pages and try it.

SOAP JOURNALING

Many aspire to read Scripture daily, but often ask the practical question, “What should I do when I read the Scripture each day?” The SOAP method is a simple way to grow as a self-feeding disciple of Jesus. SOAP is an acronym for Scripture, Observation, Application, and Prayer. Using SOAP helps one learn from Jesus as the Holy Spirit guides. SOAP involves reflecting on a particular verse or two from one’s daily Scripture reading, making observations, and then responding with a personal application and prayer.

Jesus explained that Scripture points to him (John 5:39-40; Luke 24:27, 44). That means it’s important for disciples of Jesus to consistently read God’s larger story about Jesus revealed throughout all Scripture. Jesus also taught that faithful disciples will stay connected to him and make time to be taught by him (Luke 10:38-42; John 15:1-8). Using SOAP daily along with a Bible reading plan is a great help in this.

Note: It’s best to have a reading plan where one reads through the Bible, at least a chapter or more a day. For those looking for a Bible reading plan, consider [Bible Reading Plan - OT & NT](#), or other plans at esv.org/resources/reading-plans or <https://www.navigators.org/resource/bible-reading-plans>.

Here is how to journal using the SOAP format each day you read the Bible.

S – SCRIPTURE

After reading the section of Scripture from your Bible reading plan, write out the verse (or verses) that you believe God’s Spirit is highlighting for you to further reflect on.

O – OBSERVATIONS

Make some observations about this verse by asking some key questions. What is the context of this verse? What does this verse reveal about God? About humanity? Is there a command to keep? Is there a timeless principle to live by? How does this verse point to Jesus and the good news found in him?

A – APPLICATION

Consider how this verse applies to your life. Write the personal response you believe God wants you make.

P – PRAYER

Write out a simple prayer to God. Express your heart-felt response related to what he illuminated to you that day from Scripture. Pray this written prayer and expand on it with spontaneous prayers of praise, thanks, confession, or petitions.

The following page provides an example of what journaling using the SOAP format looks like. Use the blank page to give SOAP journaling a try. Of course you’ll want to find a journal that you can write in daily as you reflect on Scripture using SOAP. For those who prefer to journal digitally, use whatever notetaking app you already use.

¹ This SOAP method is adapted from Wayne Cordeiro’s *The Divine Mentor*.

Today's Reading: Luke 10

S. Luke 10:39-40 "And she had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to his teaching. But Martha was distracted with much serving..."

O. Jesus entered the house and each woman responded differently. Mary chose to be with Jesus and listen to his teaching. Martha was distracted away from Jesus with much serving, being anxious & troubled by many things. There was cultural pressure on both of them. Jesus said one thing is necessary and that Mary made that choice (10:42) principle... first be with Jesus and listen to his teaching. Don't let life's demands distract away from Jesus.

A. I will now start each day by meeting with Jesus and listening to him teach me as I read Scripture. This means I will stop checking distracting emails, texts, and other social media when I first wake up. I'm now choosing the one main thing as my first thing.

P. Lord, thank you for this teaching that reminds me that you want to be with me. I praise you for dying on the cross to reconcile me into a relationship with you. I look forward to meeting with you and hearing from you each day. Thank you for making me your disciple and teaching me!

SOAP JOURNAL

DATE:

TODAY'S READING:

S

O

A

P

APPENDIX

Going Deeper: You've completed the Rooted Study Guide. For those who want to deepen their understanding, additional free resources are recommended in this Appendix related to topics covered in this Guide. May you thrive in your daily walk with King Jesus as you center on him and the gospel of grace!

1. Gospel Centrality

- [The Centrality of the Gospel](#), Tim Keller

2. The Gospel Story

- [The Story-Line of the Bible](#), Craig Bartholomew and Michael Goheen
- [The Plan](#), Colin Smith
- [Christ's Redemption](#), Sandy Willson

3. The Creed and Confessions of Faith

- [The Apostles' Creed](#), III Millennium
- [Confessional Statement](#), The Gospel Coalition
- [Cape Town Confession of Faith \(Part I-10 Loves\)](#), Lausanne Movement

4. The Church

- [The Church: God's New People](#), Timothy Savage
- [Baptism and the Lord's Supper](#), Thabit Anyabwile and Ligon Duncan