

# LIFE GROUP LESSON

Bigger on the Inside - Week of September 14

This new message series, **Bigger on the Inside**, directs our attention onto *how* we live out our faith in practice and spiritual disciplines. Christ Church holds to a six-fold covenant as fully devoted followers of Christ commit to—

(1)Worshiping (2) Praying (3) Serving (4) Learning (5) Tithing and (6) Inviting.

Today we focus on the two spiritual disciplines of LEARNING and TITHING.

## Introduction

In June 2025 Andrew McCarthy captured what many consider a once-in-a-lifetime, astro-photographic picture of the international space station silhouetted against the flaring sun. In the picture, the space station, some 250 miles above us, looks microscopic, like a little bug, against the backdrop of the vast blazing ball of brilliant light and radiance 93,000,000 miles from earth. What power in the sun! In 2018 NASA launched the Parker Solar Probe, a space probe in the works for fifty years but announced in the 2009 fiscal budget year. The probe was designed to come into the outer atmosphere of the sun's 'corona' and, in fact, came within 3.8 million miles per a report released December 27, 2024. Still, several million miles away.

Think about this. Nothing can come close to the sun. We would be obliterated if we attempted to come even halfway. Yet, how vitally important (and pleasant on a warm fall day) is the sun to our existence. Now, try to imagine the power of the One who spoke and created the sun! ... positioning earth the perfect distance away. All creation points to the power and majesty of our LORD.

## Opening Discussion:

- God's glory far exceeds the sun. Take a moment and hear our Creator speak, and out of a cold, aimless, lifeless mass of nothingness, envision beauty, warmth, life, and order emerge.
- Referring to Genesis 1:1-5, 14-19, 26-27, as someone in your Life Group reads slowly, listen to God's voice speak into being: (1) light on the first day; (2) the sun, moon, stars on the fourth day; (3) our very existence on the sixth day of Creation.
- The Lord has not only provided a place for us on a planet designed to sustain life, but he also said he was going away to prepare a place for us (John 14:1-2). How may we be actively preparing for the day we stand before the Lord?
- What do *learning* and *tithing* have to do with worshiping such a Creator/Savior?

## Background

Practicing the two spiritual disciplines of LEARNING and TITHING is like walking through a door with the right key. Learning God's Word expands our understanding of who God is, his ways, what he speaks. Tithing our income expands our hearts and unlocks access into his presence, while *also* opening our eyes to what the Lord is doing around us. Notice the LORD's words to Moses —

**A firstborn donkey may be bought back from the LORD by presenting a lamb or young goat in its place. But if you do not buy it back, you must break its neck. However, you must buy back every firstborn son. "No one may appear before me without an offering" (Exodus 34:20).**

Listen to what Charles Spurgeon has to say about this passage:

"You must redeem the firstborn *donkey* with a *lamb*.

But if you do not redeem it, you must kill the donkey by breaking its neck!" Exodus 34:20

Every firstborn creature must be the Lord's; but since the *donkey* was unclean, it could not be presented in sacrifice to Him. What then? Should it be allowed to go free from the universal law? By no means! God admits of no *exceptions*. The donkey is His due, but He will not accept it; He will not abate the claim; but yet He cannot be pleased with the unclean victim. No way of escape remained, but *redemption*—the *donkey* must be saved by the *substitution* of a *lamb* in its place; or if not redeemed, it must die!

My soul, here is a lesson for you! **That unclean donkey is yourself!** You are justly the property of the Lord who *made* you and *preserves* you—but you are so sinful that God will not, cannot, accept you! It has come to this: the Lamb of God must stand in your stead—or you must die eternally! Let all the world know of your gratitude to that spotless Lamb who has *died* for you, and so *redeemed* you from the fatal curse of the law! Charles Spurgeon's interpretation of Exodus 34:20 points to the ultimate sacrifice Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God, made for us. God told Moses to tell the people of Israel: "... No one may appear before me without an offering" and at the cross of Calvary, Jesus did that for each of us, all of humanity! We are the unclean donkey. The unclean must be bought back. We cannot pay the required offering to redeem our uncleanness. Only Jesus can. Either the Lamb stands in your stead or death awaits.

## Read Galatians 1:1-10

The apostle Paul says, "Jesus gave his life for our sins, just as God our Father planned, in order to rescue us from this evil world in which we live..." (v4). He goes on to say: "I am shocked that you are turning away so soon from God, who called you to himself through the loving mercy of Christ... You are being fooled by those who deliberately twist the truth concerning Christ" (v6a, 7b).

- How does the spiritual discipline of LEARNING keep us from falling prey to lies?
- Think of a time the Holy Spirit revealed something to you through Scripture that corrected your thinking. Share briefly how such revelations from the Lord motivates you to keep learning.

Read Paul's closing words to the churches in the province of Galatia—

## Read Galatians 6:1-10

How is it we can even fathom approaching God our Father and standing in the presence of His GLORY, surrounded by the holy angels, if we ignore his gift of redemption and choose? The second spiritual discipline we commit to is tithing. Refusing to tithe makes a mockery of God's tithe, the Lord Jesus, his own Son.

- Are you worshiping as the Lord requires – by bringing an offering? For he said, “No one may appear before me without an offering” (Exodus 34:20). How does refusing to tithe, in fact, show that we have chosen to remain in our broken state of selfishness and sin?
- Most days if we are honest, it seems the problems, pressures, and yes, pleasures of life keep us distracted from learning and tithing. In the space below write down one practical way you will live more fully into learning and tithing this week.

### In Closing

Just as we can never stand before the fierce brilliance of the sun, we can never approach the One of whom Scripture says, “... he lives in light so brilliant no human can approach him. No human eye has ever seen him, nor ever will. All honor and power to him forever! Amen” (1 Timothy 6:16). We must know Christ as Savior who *is* the transport to heaven, who shields us, and provides a new body to withstand immense glory. Only in Christ is the way to God’s glorious presence provided.

Through the daily practice of *learning* – committing our minds to God – and the regular discipline of *tithing* – committing our hearts to God – do we understand who the Lord is and what is required of us. Accept the way God has come down to you. He is the One whose face shines like the Sun in all its brilliance (Revelation 2:16) and beckons you to enter his presence via the way he has provided, his Son, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

### One Year Bible Reading For This Week:

September 14: Isaiah 15:1-18:7, Galatians 1:1-24, Psalm 58:1-11, Proverbs 23:12  
 September 15: Isaiah 19:1-21:17, Galatians 2:1-16, Psalm 59:1-17, Proverbs 23:13-14  
 September 16: Isaiah 22:1-24:23, Galatians 2:17-3:9, Psalm 60:1-12, Proverbs 23:15-16  
 September 17: Isaiah 25:1-28:13, Galatians 3:10-22, Psalm 61:1-8, Proverbs 23:17-18  
 September 18: Isaiah 28:14-30:11, Galatians 3:23-4:31, Psalm 62:1-12, Prov. 23:19-21  
 September 19: Isaiah 30:12-33:9, Galatians 5:1-12, Psalm 63:1-11, Proverbs 23:22  
 September 20: Isaiah 33:10-36:22, Galatians 5:13-26, Psalm 64:1-10, Proverbs 23:23

# BIGGER ON THE INSIDE

**Text: Luke 21:34-36, Exodus 34:20, Galatians 6:1-10**

## PLAIN TRUTH

Those bigger on the inside \_\_\_\_\_ to  
 \_\_\_\_\_ and reflect God’s radical  
 \_\_\_\_\_.

1. By \_\_\_\_\_ God’s nature and \_\_\_\_\_ in Jesus you meet God face to face.
2. Being \_\_\_\_\_ with the \_\_\_\_\_ is  
 \_\_\_\_\_ for being bigger on the inside.
  - A. A life bigger on the inside cares enough to  
 \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
  - B. A life bigger on the inside doesn’t care to  
 \_\_\_\_\_.
  - C. A life bigger on the inside recognizes the  
 \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ leaders and steps up to  
 serve.
  - D. A heart bigger on the inside \_\_\_\_\_ a  
 \_\_\_\_\_ spirit with \_\_\_\_\_.



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**September 14, 2025**