



The Journey
A BIBLE STUDY WITH
ANTHONY MILLER

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CULTIVATE REVIVAL BIBLE STUDY SERIES

A Bible study series.
Designed to cultivate revival
and to grow stronger, together.



WEEK 1

RUN THE RACE

Do you not know that in a race all the runners run,
but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize.

1 Corinthians 9:24

There we were in my parents front yard, several of us lined up getting ready for a race. The new girl in town was sure she could beat me, but as a young energetic boy I had never lost a race. I was quite certain that today would not be the day that I lost. On your mark, get set, GO! I ran towards the finish line with so much zeal and fervor determined that I wouldn't lose to a girl. To my dismay and complete shock, she passed me as if she wasn't even trying and made it across the finish line in first place. This was a day I will never forget.

As Christians we are called to run this race with zeal, passion and determination that we will cross the finish line in first place. 1 Corinthians 9:24-27 says; "Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last, but we do it to get a crown that will last forever. Therefore I do not run like someone running aimlessly; I do not fight like a boxer beating the air. No, I strike a blow to my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize."

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There are times that I forget that we are called to be focused, have our eyes on the goal, and run! How many of you have ever felt like you're somewhat aimlessly walking through

life with no real purpose or goals? You're not heading in any specific direction but rather somewhat aimlessly wandering through life hoping that you arrive at some vague destination someday. I have been there before and I've met many young people who don't really know what direction they're called to go in life. Don't get me wrong, it's okay to not have everything figured out, or maybe you don't have that perfect clear vision/direction on what the next step should be. I would however, like to encourage you to take time to find your calling in life. Once that direction has been made clear to you, run with endurance towards the goal and with a determination that you will be the best in whatever you're called to do.

Be still and listen for
the Fathers voice,
His direction.

Perhaps you may be in a situation where you believe you've been called a certain direction and all you're facing are closed doors. You begin to question your calling, did you hear correctly or was that your flesh desiring what it wanted? Do I keep running or should I stop and wait, or is this God testing my faith? We've all had these questions before. Every situation will be different when you encounter a closed door, or what may be perceived as a closed door. The

first thing we need to do is be still and listen for the Fathers voice, his direction. Secondly what does his word say about this? Thirdly ask yourself: If I walk through this door, will it lead me closer or farther away from an intimate relationship with Jesus? When God gives you new beginnings they always start with an ending. Be thankful for closed doors, because they often lead us to the right ones.

I've ran many races since that day in my parents front yard, some I've lost and others I've won. Not all have looked the same, I've faced some closed doors and some open doors, and what I've come to realize is that all God requires of us is obedience, and to give it your best as if you're working or serving Christ and not man.

Colossians 3:22-25 “Servants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh; not with eye-service, as menpleasers; but in singleness of heart, fearing God: And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ. But he that doeth wrong shall receive for the wrong which he hath done: and there is no respect of persons.”

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**ALL GOD REQUIRES OF US IS OBEDIENCE,
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THIS WEEK'S QUESTIONS

Do you know what your calling in life is?_____

Are you easily distracted and lose focus of the goal?_____

Is there an area in your life that you could change and do things with singleness of heart, as unto the Lord and not unto men?_____



WEEK 2

**WHERE ARE
YOU?**

But the Lord God called to the man, “Where are you?”

GENESIS 3:9

“Where are you at son?” asked Tió (my Uncle) I was in South America, in the middle of a city called Pereira. I was asked to drive La Tia (my Aunt) and a few others into the city and then head back to a small town where we all lived, about 30 minutes away. I had no GPS on my phone and I could hardly speak a word of Spanish at the time. The Aunt had been giving me directions to where she wanted to be dropped off, and she made it clear that they were going to get a taxi once they were finished shopping, so I wouldn’t need to pick them up. I was confident that I could remember my way back home in the dark even though I was completely unfamiliar with this area. After driving around for roughly thirty minutes without getting anywhere, the realization hit me. I don’t know where I’m at. A lot of people have a difficult time knowing the direction God is calling them or what his plans are for them in life. We know that we’re called to live our lives as if we were working for Christ. As if the house we live in isn’t our own, but Christ owns it. We’re just managing it. But how do we know which direction to go?

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for Christ.

In Luke 18:18-22 we read the account of the “Rich Young Ruler.” ‘And a ruler asked him, “Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” And Jesus said to him, “Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone. You know the commandments: Do not commit adultery, Do not murder, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Honor your

father and mother.” And he said, “All these I have kept from my youth.” When Jesus heard this, he said to him, “One thing you still lack. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.”

In this account, the ruler approached Jesus and by all appearances he had his life put together. He was financially set and this ruler must have made some very wise choices early on in life. His vision and passion for what he did, including upholding the law to the best of his abilities, made him stand out from the rest of society. He came to Jesus with most likely one thought on his mind “I’ve really done well for myself, I really haven’t missed anything.” He hoped in his heart that Jesus would validate what he was feeling. But Jesus goes straight to his heart because he knows what this ruler is holding onto. For you, it may be fame or recognition on some level, it may be your name or where you go to church. Maybe it’s your family name or the business you run. Not a single one of these things are wrong. Seek direction from the Holy Spirit and open those areas in your heart. You need to be honest with yourself when he asks you “Where are you at?”

If I don’t know my own value from the Father, how can I value others?

In the garden of Eden, as the Lord walked during the cool of the day he called Adam and said “Adam, where are you?” And he said, “I heard your voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.” I’ve found myself in a place where sin had been revealed in my life and my first instinct was to hide from the truth when God’s light exposed the sin. God doesn’t want us wandering around wringing our hands and wondering if we’re walking in the

plans he has for us. Too often we create this image of who we think we are and many times we fall short of reality! Over time I have learned to let his light expose the deepest areas of my heart that I thought I had control of; then I allow his light to shine on the path for the direction I should go as he leads me.

Just like driving through that city in South America with so much confidence at first, when I thought I knew where I was at and definitely didn't need help or directions to get out of the place I was in. Until I was honest with myself and said, "I'm lost" and asked for help; then, and only then did I slowly begin to find my way back home.

God knows your heart, and if you care enough to ask him where you're at, he will answer you and you will know it's the voice of the Holy Spirit touching that one area in your life that he still wants. What are you going to do with Christ?

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THIS WEEK'S QUESTIONS

What is that “one thing you still lack?” _____

Are you willing to lay down whatever God reveals even if it costs you? _____

Have you ever been honest with yourself with where you are at in your life? _____



WEEK 3

**WHERE ARE
YOU GOING?**



Where there is no vision, the people perish.

PROVERBS 29:18

It was three days before Christmas. You could feel the excitement in the air, we were going home for Christmas for the first time in three years. The evening before we left on our trip flights started to cancel. I began to stress out because booking another flight looked next to impossible and I already had my days at home packed full of meetings and appointments with friends and family. Disappointment began to settle in when it seemed like we weren't going to make it back home in time for our family gathering. Once again, I began to try to take ownership of the situation. My sweet wife remained so positive and held onto faith as I felt like things were falling apart. Once I arrived at the airport, and made it through security I sat down by my gate and listened to the frantic chatter around me. Some were laughing, others crying and panicking because the flight was so full, and they had missed it again. What are we going to do now? Across from me sat two people who were strangers to each other and the inevitable question was asked, "Where are you going?"

This is a question I've asked myself over and over as we journey along the road of life. It is an important question to ask, yet this question desperately needs an answer. As we look at the greatest example we have, Jesus Christ himself was asked this very important question from one of his disciples. John 13:33-36 'Little children, I shall be with you a little while longer. You will seek Me; and as I said to the

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Jews, ‘Where I am going, you cannot come,’ so now I say to you. A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.” Simon Peter said to Him, “Lord, where are You going?” Jesus answered him, “Where I am going you cannot follow Me now, but you shall follow Me afterward.”

Many of us have been asked that same question, “Where are you going?” Even Simon Peter asked Jesus that same question. We tend to follow the mass yet it is so important that we stop and ask ourselves, where are we going?

If you aim at
nothing you’ll
hit it every-time.

Proverbs 29:18 says, “Where there is no vision, the people perish.” We should begin to ask ourselves this question, what is our vision? Having a vision for where we want to end up in life is critical for spiritual growth. If you aim at nothing you’ll hit it every-time. Whatever your vision/goals may be, they all should be based on a deep love for one another, a love that motivates you to go the second mile, a

love that portrays Christ to everyone around you. A practical step that you can take towards your goals you have is to write them down. That may not seem spiritual but its very practical and will help you begin your journey towards you goal. Have a wise individual who you trust to read over your goals with you and give you advice on what direction you should take. Most importantly seek the heart of God for what direction he wants you to go. He will give you a deep inner peace even if the way doesn’t seem perfectly clear.

My wife and I ended up making it home for the holidays, I realized that taking ownership of the situation wasn’t going to help out at all. So I committed everything into the hands of Jesus and asked him to take over. No not everything went as planned, we arrived a day late and my wife’s suitcase was lost for several days. But originally we knew where we wanted

to end up at, it wasn't smooth sailing at all but once we committed everything over to the Lordship of Jesus Christ we knew he would take care of us regardless of what happened. Instead of viewing things through the eyes of a failed situation we looked at everything through the eyes of an opportunity to reach people we wouldn't have met otherwise. Divine encounters that God set up along the way for us to display his love and glory as we journeyed towards our goal.

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EVERYONE AROUND YOU.**

THIS WEEK'S QUESTIONS

Where are you going?_____

Have you begun to take ownership of the journey?_____

Does where you're going/your vision include others?_____



WEEK 4

**WHO ARE YOU
TRAVELING
WITH?**

Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor:
If either of them falls down, one can help the other up.
But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up.

ECCLESIASTES 4:9-10

It was a cold winter evening in western Montana. We were just finishing up at work, I shut my machine off and serviced it. I told my Dad I would start walking out and that he could pick me up as soon as he was finished fueling the equipment. The snow was deep yet with a full moon I was looking forward to walking for a short ways before being picked up by the rest of the crew. As I began walking, I noticed that no one was coming. If they were coming, it was taking them a long time to show up. But I wasn't worried, there was no way possible for anyone to miss me on their way out of the forest on that logging road. I continued walking along in the snow as the cold crept in, I began to wonder if something was wrong on the job. After one hour no one had arrived and I began to worry, but turning around and walking back up the mountain didn't seem like a very good idea to me. Two hours had gone by yet still no one had arrived, I was convinced somehow they had drove right past me but that was impossible, there was only one road into the job. Finally after walking what felt like half the night a co-worker came down in his truck and picked me up, everything was fine they had just, well, took their time to fuel the machines.

Have you ever
felt like you were
walking alone
in the dark?

What I thought would be a short half mile turned into a several mile hike at night in the wintertime. Have you ever felt like you were walking alone in the dark, danger could be lurking around you yet because of the darkness you couldn't see? Yet you continued to

press on not knowing when your deliverance would come.

There's a quote that says "Show me who your friends are and I will show you your future." It is so important who you surround yourself with on your journey through life. Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 explains the value of a friend, "Two are better than one, Because they have a good reward for their labor. For if they fall, one will lift up his companion. But woe to him who is alone when he falls, For he has no one to help him up."

As we look at Jesus our perfect example he shows us that even he saw the importance of having a team around him on his earthly mission. I can get frustrated with people around

Even Jesus saw the importance of having a team around him on his earthly mission.

me for not living up to my expectations that I place on them. But there are times that we need to stop and realize that we would not be where we are at today if it wasn't for the people we've surrounded ourselves with. Don't always expect people to be there for you, learn to lean on Jesus and allow him to carry you through the good days when all is going well and on dark nights when you can't see where you are going.

Even Jesus' disciples let him down in the garden of Gethsemane. Matthew 26:38, "Then He said to them, "My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. Stay here and watch with Me. He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, "O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will." Then He came to the disciples and found them sleeping, and said to Peter, "What! Could you not watch with Me one hour? Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."

It is incredible to see how in Jesus' darkest hour up to that point in his earthly ministry, his disciples were nowhere to be found in his hour of desperation. But he leaned on his father and drew his strength from him through prayer.

As a young boy/toddler I went ice fishing with my dad and siblings. As the day progressed the ice began to crack and even melt in places, I was sure we were all going to get stuck out on the ice and possibly even drown. As my wild imagination began to run so did my eyes with tears of fear as I begin to head towards what I thought was the shore. My Dad cried out to me and told me to stop several times but I was so gripped by fear I continued to head towards what I thought was the shore, but it was open water in the bay. At the very last minute my dad ran out and grabbed me just before I fell in, that same individual who I thought I had left me to walk out of the woods that night was the same person who saved my life that day on the ice.

Invite someone else to walk this journey with you because when fear of what may happen blocks your view, someone else will be there looking out for you and will help guide you to shore. If you want to go fast, go alone, but if you want to go far, go together.

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THIS WEEK'S QUESTIONS

Do you have someone in your life who will lift you up when you fall? Who is that person for you?_____

Are you there for your friends when they need you? If so, in what way?_____

How are you going to get to your destination, Do you have a plan?_____



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