



MOVING FORWARD IN
JESUS

***Discussion Guide &
5 Day Devotional***



DISCUSSION GUIDE:

Moving Forward in Jesus | Pastor Monique Adams | Sunday 1.26.25

Summary

The sermon emphasizes the importance of recognizing Jesus as the only true path to salvation, contrasting Him with 'little gods' that distract us from our faith. It calls for maturity in our spiritual journey, urging believers to move beyond and embrace a deeper relationship with Christ. The message highlights the necessity of aligning faith with actions, trusting in God's plan, and allowing His peace to replace our worries. It encourages believers to listen to God's voice above all others and to make a conscious choice to follow Him daily.

Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, we come before You with open hearts and minds, ready to receive Your word. Help us to discern Your voice above all others and to grow in maturity and faith. May we be receptive to the lessons You have for us today, and may Your Spirit guide our discussion. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Ice Breaker

What is one thing you can't live without, and why?

Key Verses

- Acts 4:12
- Hebrews 6:1
- James 2:14-18
- Philippians 4:6-7
- Proverbs 3:5

Questions

- What are some 'little gods' that can distract us from our faith?
- How can we move from spiritual immaturity to maturity?
- What does it mean to align our faith with our actions?
- How can we trust God more in our daily lives?
- What role does prayer play in exchanging our worries for peace?
- How can we ensure that God's voice is the loudest in our lives?
- What does it mean to move by choice in our spiritual journey?
- How can we apply the concept of being a 'lender and not a borrower' in our lives?

Life Application

This week, identify one area in your life where you can replace a 'little god' with a deeper trust in Jesus. Take a practical step towards maturity in that area, whether it's through prayer, study, or action.

Key Takeaways

- Jesus is the only true path to salvation.
- Spiritual maturity requires moving beyond elementary teachings.
- Faith must be accompanied by actions to be genuine.
- Trusting in God brings peace that surpasses understanding.
- Listening to God's voice is crucial for spiritual growth.

Ending Prayer

Lord, thank You for the time we've spent together in Your word. Help us to carry these lessons into our daily lives, growing in faith and maturity. May we always seek Your voice and trust in Your plan for us. In Jesus' name, Amen.



Moving Forward in Jesus: 5 Day Devotional

Day 1: Identifying Our Little Gods

Devotional

We often don't realize how many things compete for the throne of our hearts. These 'little gods' can be subtle - a relationship we can't let go of, a career that consumes us, or even our social media presence. They feel essential, even good, but they slowly take the place that belongs to God alone. Today, let's examine our hearts honestly. What occupies our thoughts most? What do we turn to first when we're stressed or lonely? These answers reveal what might be functioning as a 'little god' in our lives. Remember, God doesn't want part of our heart - He desires all of it. When we surrender these competing attachments, we create space for a deeper, more fulfilling relationship with our Creator.

Bible Verse

For God's wrath is revealed from heaven against all godlessness and unrighteousness of people who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. - Romans 1:18

Reflection Question

What is one thing in your life that you find yourself saying you 'can't live without'? How might this be affecting your relationship with God?

Quote There are a lot of times we say God, God, God, but there are a lot of gods with a little G. Little gods are things that attach us, attach to our flesh. They feel good, you know, money, fame, sex, all that stuff. Little gods, stuff that we say we can't do without.

Prayer

Father, help me identify the 'little gods' in my life that compete for my devotion. Give me the courage to surrender them to You, knowing that You alone can truly satisfy my heart. Amen.



Day 2: Living an Authentic Faith

Devotional

Authenticity in our faith journey isn't about perfection - it's about consistency. When our public persona matches our private life, we demonstrate genuine faith. It's easy to appear spiritual on Sunday mornings or when others are watching, but true faith manifests in our everyday choices, especially when no one's looking. God sees beyond our carefully curated image to the reality of our hearts. He's interested in who we are when the doors are closed and the masks come off. Today, consider the alignment between your public faith and private actions. Are they telling the same story?

Bible Verse

What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but does not have works? Can such faith save him? - James 2:14

Reflection Question

In what areas of your life do you notice a disconnect between your public faith and private actions? What steps can you take to bridge this gap?

Quote Your public life, which is how you show up to the world, and your private life, which is what you do behind doors when nobody sees you.

Prayer

Lord, help me live authentically before You. Give me the strength to align my private actions with my public profession of faith. May my life be a true reflection of Your work in me. Amen



Day 3: From Worry to Prayer

Devotional

Worry often feels like a default setting in our lives. We worry about our future, our families, our finances - the list goes on. But God offers a better way. Instead of letting anxiety consume us, we're invited to transform our worries into prayers. This isn't just positive thinking; it's actively choosing to trust God with our concerns. When we bring our anxieties to Him, He promises to guard our hearts and minds with His peace. This peace isn't dependent on our circumstances changing - it's a gift that comes from knowing Who's in control.

Bible Verse

Don't worry about anything, but in everything, through prayer and petition with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. - Philippians 4:6-7

Reflection Question

What specific worry can you transform into a prayer right now? How might your perspective change if you viewed this concern through the lens of prayer?

Quote

Instead of worrying, pray. That's why we invite you to Wednesday prayer, because on Sunday, you full of faith. On Monday, you already tired, you getting a little. Tuesday, you wondering what happened. Wednesday, you shaky. Thursday, you sleepy. Friday, you done gave up. And Saturday you just crawling back in here again.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, teach me to bring my worries to You first. Replace my anxiety with Your peace as I learn to trust You more fully with every concern. Amen.



Day 4: Transforming Our Thoughts

Devotional

Our thoughts shape our beliefs, and our beliefs determine our actions. This simple truth holds profound implications for our spiritual growth. When we allow negative thoughts, doubts, or worldly perspectives to dominate our thinking, they inevitably influence our faith walk. The good news is that we can choose what we dwell on. By intentionally focusing on God's truth and promises, we can reshape our thought patterns and strengthen our faith. This isn't about positive thinking - it's about aligning our minds with God's perspective.

Bible Verse

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own understanding.
- Proverbs 3:5

Reflection Question

What thought patterns do you need to change to align more closely with God's truth? How can you practically begin this transformation today?

Quote

The way we think is how we believe and what we believe is what we do.

Prayer

Lord, renew my mind with Your truth. Help me recognize thoughts that don't align with Your Word and replace them with Your promises. Transform my thinking to reflect Your perspective. Amen.



Day 5: Choosing Christ Daily

Devotional

Every day presents us with choices - choices about who or what will guide our decisions, influence our attitudes, and shape our actions. While we might think we're choosing between different options or paths, ultimately, we're choosing whether to follow Christ or something else. This choice isn't a one-time decision but a daily commitment to surrender our will to His. When we consistently choose Jesus over other influences, we position ourselves for genuine spiritual growth and transformation. Remember, no one can make this choice for us - it's our personal response to God's invitation.

Bible Verse

My sheep hear my voice, I know them, and they follow me. - John 10:27

Reflection Question

What competing voices or influences make it challenging to choose Christ daily? How can you make your commitment to follow Him more intentional?

Quote

Choose you this day whom you will serve. Will you serve Jesus or something else? Will you say yes to him or say yes to someone else?

Prayer

Jesus, help me choose You above all else today. Give me wisdom to recognize competing influences and courage to consistently follow Your leading. May my life reflect my choice to serve You. Amen.