



# encounter.

a step-by-step guide through Scripture

## **disciple:**

// someone who follows Jesus and leads others to do the same.

Studying God's Word is one of the best ways to grow your relationship with God, be tuned to the Holy Spirit, and get to know Jesus intimately. John 1 tells us that the Word is God, the writer of Psalms tells us it will light our path, and Jesus tells us in John 8 if we abide in His Word, we are truly His disciples.

This tool is just one of the many ways to study the Bible and dive deeper into the passages we will be studying each weekend together. Our hope is that you begin to deeply understand the scripture we will be unpacking and allow God to speak to your heart before you even walk through the doors on Sunday.

This tool is designed to help guide you as you seek to understand the context of each verse, what it meant to its original audience, and what it means to us today.

There are a few ways you can utilize this PDF.

- 01** Print the PDF.  
-or-
- 02** Download the PDF, open in a notes app (GoodNotes, Notability, etc), fill it out digitally.  
-or-
- 03** Use the PDF to transcribe into a notebook or journal.

### **5 Marks of a Disciple**

- Know Jesus Intimately
- Follow the Holy Spirit Relentlessly
- Obey God's Word Completely
- Love His Church Wholeheartedly
- Seek the Lost Intentionally



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Week of January 1<sup>st</sup> // Conversation January 7<sup>th</sup>  
**Unless The Lord Builds The House**

Today, we're going to be in a section of Scripture that you've probably heard before. Try to approach it with fresh eyes and a new heart this time. See what God has to speak to you for this day.

## pray.


Psalms 100:5 says, "For the Lord is good. His unfailing love continues forever, and His faithfulness continues to each generation." As you're settling into the Word today, take some time to thank God for His goodness. Praise Him for His unfailing love that continues forever. Recall times He showed Himself to be faithful to you and talk to Him about them.

## observe.

Marking key words in passages of Scripture helps to draw your attention to the main ideas/themes. It causes you to slow down and absorb what you're reading.

**01** Put a  over every reference to the Lord and God.

**02**  the word "unless".

**03** Put a  over the phrase "loved ones".

**Psalm 127:1-2 (NLT)**

1 Unless the Lord builds a house,  
the work of the builders is wasted.

Unless the Lord protects a city,  
guarding it with sentries will do no good.

2 It is useless for you to work so hard  
from early morning until late at night,  
anxiously working for food to eat;  
for God gives rest to his loved ones.

# interpret.

- 01** Why would the work of builders be wasted according to v. 1?
- 02** Why would guarding a city with sentries do no good? Whose protection is needed?
- 03** Why do you think v. 2 says that it's useless for you to work anxiously for food to eat? What does that have to do with God's rest?

# apply.

**01** Have you ever labored over something in vain because the Lord wasn't in it? Have you tried to bring about something outside of God's will? How did it go?

**02** How can you tell that God is "building the house"? What are signs that you know you're in God's will?

**03** Do you ever feel like you're laboring anxiously? Do you need the rest that God provides to His loved ones? Talk to God about what's on your heart today.

# bring it together.

The city of Edinburgh, Scotland has a Latin motto, “Nisi Dominus Frusta”. It means “Without the Lord, Frustration”. Whatever we do should be as unto the Lord. We’re not told to stop working, nor are we told not to work hard. But we are instructed that unless the Lord is involved in the work, it’s all in vain.

God gives rest to His loved ones, and they (including you) can sleep easy knowing that God is at work. There’s no need to be anxious for food or clothing, as Matthew 6:25-34 explains. God knows that we need all of these things. He wants us to trust in Him. He needs to be in the middle of all our work. Unless He’s there, “Nisi Dominus Frusta”.

## connect.

We are available to answer any questions you might have.



[info@gtwy.church](mailto:info@gtwy.church)

We believe life is better in circles. Groups are a great place to grow in your relationship with other believers and find encouragement and accountability as you grow in your relationship with God.



[www.gtwy.church/groups](http://www.gtwy.church/groups)

[we value your input. click or scan here to provide feedback](#)

