



[study guide]

IN GOD WE TRUST: Week 1

5.19.13

[set up]

Define trust. What are some words that are synonymous with the word “trust”?

When it comes to trust, most people put their trust in _____ (fill in the blank with all the answers that come to mind)

How does a person who deeply loves and trusts God look different than those who do not?

[digging deeper]

Look up and Read Jeremiah 17:5-8 and Psalm 1:1-3. How is the imagery in these passages so appropriate for contrasting those who trust in God and those who do not?

Make a list of the types of “droughts” and “heat waves” that typically come into our lives, especially regarding our finances. (Job loss, emergencies... etc.) How will Satan/ our sinful nature/ the world use these things to make us question God’s trustworthiness?

Why does trusting in God cause us not to fear when the heat comes? What does not fearing the heat or being anxious in the drought tell others about God’s character? (Read Isaiah 41:10, Hebrews 13:5-6, Joshua 1:9, and Matthew 28:20 for more insight)

When have you felt like a shrub in a dry desert or parched wilderness? How did your trust in God sustain you during a time of “heat” or “drought”? Did you have any specific biblical promises that reinforced your trust in God during that time?

When have you felt like the flourishing tree “planted by streams of water” because of your trust in God? Did you feel blessed? How so? What “fruit” did you see coming from your life during those times? How is it possible to be faithful and fruitful when we are in a season of difficulty? What about when we are in a season of abundance?

Read Matthew 6:19-24. What does where you spend your money say about who your master is/ who you are trusting in? Where is the real battle being fought regarding our faith and trust in God (see verse 21)

Additional verses to look up for extra study or support:

Is. 26:4	Luke 22:35	Is. 50:10	Prov. 3:5	Ps. 118:8	Ps. 84:12
Ps. 40:4	Ps. 31:14	Ps. 20:77	Ps. 9:10	Prov. 11:28	



[study guide]

[living it out]

Select 3 verses from the above section to memorize and speak over the next few weeks. (You can make flash cards, post it notes or even put in your phone as a daily alarm/alert)

Think of someone in your life that is an influence or model of the flourishing tree. Reach out to them and ask some of the questions from this study that you think would encourage you or reinforce your trust in God.

Go to CVC's webpage and take the INVESTOR portion of the Fruit of New Life Assessment to see your strengths and growth areas in this area of your spiritual development.

<http://cvconline.org/images/uploads/DiscipleshipAssessment.pdf>

Here are a few sample questions:

- I am overcoming a consumer mentality and growing in an eternal perspective.
- I hold loosely onto material things and give away possessions to help others
- I financially support the ministry of the church cheerfully and faithfully to further its mission as God directs.
- I have identified that how I view/use my money is related to the Lordship of Christ in my life.

What would it look like for me to take a risk and trust God with my finances (what's my next step of demonstrating trust in God with my financial perspective and practices)?

How can we as a community and church family encourage one another to trust God with how we spend our money collectively?

Close in prayer, and spend some time really laying your heart before the Lord and asking Him to help you trust Him even more than you do and to show it with how you use the financial resources He provides you. Pray for our church leadership and church body, that we would faithfully and powerfully use the resources He makes available to impact this world and grow the kingdom of God.