

COMMITMENT

*Making a plan
and putting it
into practice*



LEADER and PARENT GUIDE

If you stop and think about it, we do things every day that take commitment, like finishing homework, playing on a sports team, making music, creating art, or running in a race. Commitment means making a plan and putting it into practice. In our relationship with God, we need commitment so that we can fully develop our faith. Throughout the New Testament, we can learn about how we can practice commitment by hearing from God, praying to Him, talking about Him, and living for Him daily.

At the end of His Sermon on the Mount, Jesus taught us about commitment when He shared the parable of the two builders. The wise builder built his house on solid rock, while the foolish builder built his house on shifting sand. Jesus said that whoever hears His words and puts them into practice is like the wise builder, yet anyone who does not put His words into practice is like the foolish builder. Hearing from God through His Word helps us grow closer to Him and guides us through the challenges of life. When we encounter trials, it's not enough to merely understand the Bible; we have to put God's Word into action. If you make a commitment to practice hearing and acting on God's Word, you'll be able to trust that you are living your life on a firm foundation that will get you through all of life's storms.

Another way to practice commitment is through prayer. Jesus's disciples strongly desired to know God, and they asked Jesus how to pray. Jesus responded with a prayer that still serves as the perfect model for how we can talk to God today. Instead of only focusing on our own needs, we should pray by honoring God, thanking Him, asking for His will to be done, for His provision, for His forgiveness, and for His kingdom to come. Jesus loved to pray, and He often slipped away from the crowds to talk His Father. Just like Jesus, you can talk to God anywhere, anytime, and about anything. Praying is a great way to grow closer to God and you can simply say what's on your mind, but it does take practice to remember to talk to God. Sometimes we forget to talk to God because we've forgotten how much we always need Him. That's why it's important to make a commitment to practice talking to God daily.

Not only should we commit to talking to God, but we should also be intentional about talking about God. One day, Jesus asked His disciples who they thought He was. Peter responded that Jesus was the Son of God. Later, Peter would courageously share the truth about Jesus' death, resurrection, and salvation with everyone he met. Like Peter, we can share the truth of Who Jesus is by talking about God. Jesus used questions to help His friends understand that He was the Messiah. In the same way, it's helpful to talk to other believers about any questions or doubts you might have, and you should also share the good news of Jesus with others. Talking about God takes practice. When you commit to talk about God with others, it becomes easier to understand and share the good news of Jesus.

When Jesus was with His disciples, He observed the offering box near the treasury. Many rich people donated great sums of money, but they could easily afford to do so. On the other hand, a poor widow gave only two coins, yet it was all she had. Jesus saw the widow's heart, and He understood that she had given her money as a selfless act of worship. Jesus explained to His disciples that the widow gave more than the wealthy people because she loved God and trusted Him with everything. Likewise, we can choose to trust God, live fully for Him, and worship Him daily in more ways than just singing. We can worship God by serving others, using our time and talents, and by obeying God. We point people to Jesus by following Him and living the way He did—with courage, generosity, and compassion. Through the power of Jesus, we can make a commitment to practice living for God.

Paul used the example of running in a race as a way to talk about our relationship with God. Just like it takes commitment to train for a race, it also takes commitment to practice growing in your relationship with God. In order to do that, we need to make a practical plan that allows us to prioritize growing strong in our faith and growing in our personal relationship with Jesus. When we put our faith first, we can focus on what Jesus said matters most in life: loving God and loving others. By having the commitment to hear from God, pray to Him, talk about Him with others, and live for Him, we can live our lives through the power of the Holy Spirit and pour out God's love to everyone around us.

Training the body has some value. But being godly has value in every way. It promises help for the life you are now living and the life to come. - 1 Timothy 4:8

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Read Matthew 7:24-29, Mark 12:41-44

1. How can we build our lives on a firm foundation? We can build our lives on a firm foundation by hearing and living out the Word of God.
2. How did the poor widow live out her faith in God? The widow lived out her faith in God by giving everything she had as an act of worship. She trusted God fully with the last of what she owned.

Read Luke 11:1-4, Matthew 16:13-20

3. What are some of the things Jesus taught us to pray for? Jesus taught us to praise God in our prayers, to pray for His Kingdom to come and not just our own needs, to pray for His provision, forgiveness of sins, for us to forgive others, and to not be led into temptation.
4. Who did the disciples say that Jesus was and how can we talk about that with others? Peter said that Jesus was the Christ, the Messiah, the Savior, the Son of the living God. We can practice talking about God with our family and friends, and we can tell them about the good news of Jesus when we feel led by the Holy Spirit. We can ask questions or share information about Jesus.

Read Memory Verse

5. Why should you commit to being godly? You should commit to being godly because when you understand how much Jesus loves you and sacrificed for you, you can't help but desire to become like Him. Being godly promises help for this current life and for the life to come.
6. How can you practice growing your relationship with God? You can grow in your relationship with God by hearing Him through reading His Word, praying to Him, talking about Him with others, and living for Him.

Life Application Questions

7. How can you commit to hearing from God and praying to God on a daily basis? You can make a plan and figure out a good time each day to spend time with God. You can pray out loud, through journaling, by using a devotional, by using Scriptures or by simply just having a conversation with God anytime or anywhere. You can ask a friend to help hold you accountable.
8. In what areas of your life could you show more commitment? Answers may vary. Could be schoolwork, practicing a sport or a musical instrument, helping out around the house, spiritually, etc.
9. Name three ways that you can commit to worshipping God with your whole life (outside of singing and dancing). You can worship God in many different ways. You could worship Him with your time, your talents, your leadership, your projects, your care for those around you, etc.

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