

<https://youtu.be/SpNUmHWTXHQ?si=bHGKXn4YaJZnwtZL>

Knowing and loving God is my first priority.

Video Key Points:

- Week 1 – Find your identity in Christ – being a son/daughter of God
- Week 2 – Put Christ in charge of your life – He is our Lord and King
- Week 3 – Give to the Lord every aspect of your life – Christ is at the center.
- Week 4 – Make growing in Christ your first priority.
- Our lives are full and that does not change whether or not we are a Christian. God is not calling believers to pull themselves out of the world, join a monastery and do nothing but pray. We are called to live out our faith in the world, which then means we have things to do beyond just spiritual/church activities.
- Read the 1st paragraph Pg. 41 in the CODE, does that seem to capture how life feels?
- This affirmation is a declaration that of all the things we do, seeking to know and love God is the most important. I had a boss, the divisional director for eastern U.S. who repeatedly told us, “Jesus Christ is the most important thing you do.” What he was saying was the same idea as this affirmation. Of all the things we do on a given day, seeking the Lord and connecting with Him is the most important.
- Read Deuteronomy 6:1-9 and look to answer two questions:
- *What reasons does it give to put the Lord God first above all other things?*
- *What does it say to do, to keep the Lord at the forefront of our thoughts?*
- The worship chorus that best describes this for me is Step by Step

O God You are my God

And I will ever praise You

O God You are my God

And I will ever praise You

I will seek You in the morning

And I will learn to walk in Your ways

And step by step You'll lead me

And I will follow You all of my days

Questions for Understanding:

- Read Deuteronomy 6:1-9 – Why does Jesus quote from it in Matthew 22:37-39
- *What reasons does it give to put the Lord God first above all other things?*
- *What does it say to do, to keep the Lord at the forefront of our thoughts?*

Life Questions:

- Which of the 5 devotional days spoke most to you this week?
- There are two parts to this. First is deciding that seeking Christ is the most important thing, and the second is how to hold to that decision when life is hectic and other demands are pressing. Which part is more of a challenge for you?

- What time of day is best for you to seek to spend time with God and in the Scriptures and prayer? What can you do first thing in the morning to set your mind on following Christ at the beginning of the day? What do you need to do before bed to keep the Lord first in your life? How can you get a reset in the middle of the day?

Code, p.38: *What do I need to do to know better? How am I doing in seeking to know and love Him more?*

Code, p.42: *What are the things in my life that get prioritized before my relationship with the Lord? How can I align my life better to keep the Lord as my first priority?*

Use one of the Devotion prayers or Pray using your own Words

https://youtu.be/QnTtaL9kgv8?si=VmGtF5CHV_vbluIM

Before all things, I will seek first His Kingdom
and righteousness, trusting Him for my needs

Video Key Points:

- Matthew 6:25 – Jesus says do not be anxious for your life...
- Exercise: Draw a Circle and put your name in the Center. Then list within the circle as many things in your life as you can think of in 3-4 minutes.
- Matthew 6:24 – We have to settle once and for all who is the Master in our life.
- To be a Christian is to declare Jesus Christ is Lord. We have officially given Christ the title of Lord, but within our heart we are often seeking to reclaim the throne for our self or some other master. When that happens, there is anxiety because we are conflicted between two masters.
- Galatians 2:20 - To seek first the Kingdom is to put Christ at the center of life and decide that no one but Christ will rule in your life.
- Exercise Part Two: Draw a new circle – put Christ instead of self at the center. *What changes in your life if Christ is the one in charge of running your life?*
- The 2nd part of this affirmation is to know and trust in our Father. What leads us to reclaim authority over our life is a lack of trust in God the Father. There is something we feel like we just have to have and we don't get it, we can't be happy and so we reclaim the throne.
- In the Kingdom we have been adopted as sons and daughters. This means we can trust in God our Father – who knows what we need before we even ask Him, and so if we do need it He will provide it – or He will give us what we need to live without it.

Questions for Understanding:

- Read Matthew 6:24-34 – Why can't we have two Masters?
- What is the connection between anxiety and who is the master of our life?

Life Questions:

- Which of the 5 devotional days spoke most to you this week?
- Life Circle Exercise: What are the things in your life over which you have anxiety? Or, what in your life most often triggers anxiety?

Code, p.23: *Do I really think Jesus is a good King? Do I trust him to rule over me completely?*

Code, p.26: *What do my current priorities look like? How can I serve God in my marriage, my parenting, my friendships, my workplace, my school, my hobbies?*

- Life Circle Exercise: What changes in my life if Christ is at the center?

Use one of the Devotion prayers or this Prayer: *Father help me trust you in _____ [this area of my life] so that I am not ruled by anxiety but am keeping Christ at the center.*

Additional Questions for Week 2 – The Code

- Day 6 - When you read the opening line, “There is nothing more important than the kingdom of God,” what was your reaction? Did you have a ‘but’ hanging on the tip of your tongue? Were you in emphatic agreement? Were you indifferent?
- Did you follow how the author got to righteousness meaning attending the needs of others? If not, maybe this short video will help: [The Meaning of Righteousness in the Bible | BibleProject™](#)
 - Have you ever loved someone so much that you wanted to support their dreams and ambitions? Or were willing to put their needs above your own? That is what our love for God (and others) should look like. A love that leads us to put the kingdom first.
- Day 7 - If you’ve never encountered a season of worry for your provision as described here, what are other things that make/have made you worry? Maybe exams, presentations, or deadlines? Maybe sickness or a health scare? Maybe concerns about how others perceive you?
- Why are you worrying about these things? Is there a root fear or concern that these worrying thoughts are trying to protect you from? Is there a lie you believe that is leading to these worries?
 - Can you think of a time where it was clear that your worrying was unfounded and God worked everything out? Or maybe you’ve heard stories from others about how God has provided? How can remembering God’s provision in the past help you with the worries you are facing today?
 - Is God’s provision of your needs dependent upon how well you obey Him?
 - If you’re not worried, is it because you are at peace with God and others? Or is it because you’ve idolized comfort over Jesus? Or numbed yourself to the point that you feel?
- Day 8 - If anxiousness is a big issue for you, coming face to face with it and being asked about steps to fix it may seem overwhelming (and produce more anxiety). Start with one thing. What is one thing you can do to either build trust between you and God or start to determine the root of your anxiety? Maybe there’s a lie you’re believing or an experience that negatively shaped you. Maybe you don’t know God well enough and therefore trusting Him is difficult. Start with identification of these things, then take a small step forward.
- Day 9 - What does it look like to submit to authority? Are we ‘yes’ men & women?
- What qualities or characteristics would a person you were willing to submit to have? Does Jesus have these qualities?
- Affirmation # 2 - General
- What is God’s Kingdom? Watch the short video below. Does this align with your definition of what God’s kingdom is?
 - [The Meaning of Basileia \(Greek Word for “Kingdom”\) in the Bible](#)
 - Why do you think seeking first The Kingdom and trusting God for our needs falls under ‘Loving God’?