

ENTITLED

DAY 1 and 2

READ John 3:22-26.

As you read through the verses, use the **PICTURE IT** Bible study method. The crowds coming to hear his preaching and to be baptized were growing every day and the movement they were part of was at the forefront of the religious scene.

What must it have been like to be a disciple of John the Baptist?

LOOK at verse 26. *As a disciple, what's the underlying concern?*

What could be at the root of their concern?

What attitude/sense of entitlement could be at work in their hearts?

READ John 3:27-30.

The entitlement attitude believes we're owed something - because of who we are, what we have done/given/sacrificed, or simply because we think more of ourselves than others. **LOOK** at John's response in verse 27.

How does that differ from an attitude of entitlement?

Entitlement inflates our own importance, contribution, and giftedness.

It causes us to see everything through the selfish lens of

"How-does-this-affect-me?"

How does that view differ from John's view of self? (verses 28-30)

Who do you more readily identify with, John's disciples or John the Baptist?

What attitude/perspective causes you to identify with one over the other?

If you identify with the disciples, what belief feeds that sense of entitlement?

How can embracing the truth (it's all about God and for God), change an attitude of entitlement?

DAY 3

READ 1 Samuel 13:8-15.

What Saul desired foremost was the blessing (*protection in battle*) from God. **What does Samuel tell Saul that God was seeking?** If our desire to seek God is fueled by hopes and expectations of receiving His blessings, we seek with an attitude of entitlement. We may begin to view our prayers, our devotion, our service, and our worship as payment for those blessings we seek. This kind of relationship to God serves as a means to get something from Him rather than desiring the relationship itself.

We're familiar with the marriage vows, "For better, or for worse, for richer, or for poorer, in sickness and in health..." The point of the marriage covenant is the relationship – no matter the blessings or lack thereof.

The Old Testament book of Job gives us a picture of a heart intent on seeking God Himself - with or without blessings.

Though He slay me, yet will I hope in Him.

Job 13:15

CONSIDER the following questions:

What's my response when God doesn't provide the blessing I want?

Does it affect how I view God? Does it alter my behavior toward God?

If so, **CONFESS** this to God, **RECEIVE** His forgiveness and **COMMIT** to seek God, as He is.

DAY 4

READ Psalm 62, Psalm 63:1-4, and Genesis 15:1.

READ those verses again using the **PERSONALIZE IT** Bible study method.

According to the Psalmist, where or on whom is the focus?

We move away from entitlement and toward maturity when we begin to see our life as it relates to God instead of how it relates to us. The ultimate end is God; our current circumstances (*whether blessings or trials*) have the potential to deepen our faith in and relationship with God, or feed an attitude of entitlement which drives us further from God. **It's our choice.**

In your current circumstances (as you experience abundant blessings or face trials), what steps can you take to draw closer to God?

How can you keep Him as the center of your affection and desire?

Last week we committed to thanking God for ten things each day.

THANK God for who He is and that He Himself is the ultimate reward.

DAY 5

READ Acts 17:28, Jeremiah 29:12-13, 1 John 4:19, and Romans 8:38-39.

What does it mean to have our being/life in Christ?

LIST the truths and promises God gives us in these verses.

What comfort can you draw from these truths?

REFER to the verses in Samuel from Day 3. God seeks those after His own heart and promises that when we seek His heart, we will indeed find Him.

PRAY:

Father, give me a heart which seeks after Your heart. Give me a stubborn love and devotion to seek You above all else. I'm thankful that You're a God worthy of my undivided devotion and worship. Thank You for calling me Your own.