



Take Home Faith | Shawn Johnson | 2.2.19
Weekly Study

START

To get things started, go around the circle and answer the following question:

If you could eliminate one thing from your daily routine, what would it be and why?

SHARE

Welcome to Week One of Take-Home Faith. This year we are getting serious about equipping the church with the necessary tools to follow Jesus throughout the week. Christianity is not about creating churchgoers; it's about building Jesus followers. The calling of Jesus is to follow him in every part and every hour of your life!

This week, Shawn kicked off this series by giving us four ways we can get back to our first love! Before we dive in, take some time to check in with your group by answering the following questions:

Rate your week on a scale of 1-10. Why did you choose that number?

What was the best conversation you had this week? Who was it with? Why was it so good?

GROW

Read Ephesians 3:13-21

Paul is writing the letter of Ephesians to a church he planted eight years earlier. As you just read, he spends a significant amount of time kneeling before God, praying that the church in Ephesus would know God.

“And to know this love that surpasses knowledge” (Ephesians 3:19).

The Greek word Paul uses for “know” is *ginosko*. This word means, more than just understanding a bunch of facts about something.

Imagine two people who want to know about a famous restaurant in Europe. The first person reads a book about the restaurant, but the second person travels there and experiences it. While it’s true that the first person knows things about the restaurant, the second person knows (*ginosko*) the restaurant at a whole new level. The second person has smelt the aromas, tasted the food, and paid the bill.

Ginosko is knowing something by experience! Think about the person you love the most in this world. While it’s true that you know things about them (height, hair color, etc.), you also know (*ginosko*) them at a deeper level.

Every parent has experienced this. In the months leading up to becoming a new parent, there are so many things you try to learn. You read books, take classes, seek counsel, and all of those are good things. But the real knowing begins the day you finally get to take your child home!

Faith works the same way. Sunday’s are amazing opportunities to learn, worship, and connect with God. But the real fun begins when we start taking our faith home with us!

For the next several weeks, we want to give your Group practical tools you can use to take your faith home. Each tool will fall into one of these four categories:

1. Prayer
2. Word
3. Worship
4. People

Which of these four categories are you best at? Why do you think it comes so naturally to you?

Which of these four categories do you struggle with the most? Why do you think that is?

What is something you know (ginosko) by experience?

M O V E

Re-Read Ephesians 3:13-21

What did you notice about this prayer the second time around that you missed the first?

Rate your prayer life on a scale of 1-10 (you don't have to share your number with your group). What is the biggest thing standing in the way of having a thriving prayer life?

Prayer is a vehicle that moves us closer to God! It is a beautiful way to truly know (ginosko) God. One of the reasons we may not pray as often as we should is because we don't know what to say. Fortunately, Scripture gives us several examples we can use.

Praying the Scriptures is a fantastic tool to add to your toolbelt. Before we start overthinking our own prayers, we can always go back and use the prayers that are already laid out for us. This isn't the only way to pray, but it certainly is a way.

Ephesians 3 is a perfect example. Paul falls on his knees and prays for the church that he loves so much. Let's take our faith home by using this prayer to intercede for our family and friends.

Take-Home Assignment: Praying Paul's Prayer

Step 1: Make a list of five people you want to see either begin a relationship with God or strengthen their relationship with God.

#1:

#2:

#3:

#4:

#5:

Step 2: Pray Paul's Prayer For Them By Putting Their Name In The Space

Father. I pray that out of your glorious riches you may strengthen _____ with power through your Spirit in their inner being, so that Christ may dwell in their heart through faith. And I pray that _____, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that they may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

Step 3: Repeat

Pray this prayer for one of the people on your list every morning this week!

P R A Y

As a group, spend some time praying Paul's prayer for your friends and family.

T O G O

I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, and his incomparably great power for us who believe.

– Ephesians 1:18-19