

STEP OF REUBEN

WEEK 1

REUBEN - רֵאוּבֵן

“Behold, a Son”

THE WEAKNESS WE ARE STRENGTHENING

Believers are distracted & unfulfilled because Family, Work, & Leisure often have a higher priority than the Kingdom of the God.

FOCUS

Correcting Priorities

KEY VERSE

Seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. (Matthew 6:33)

KEY POINTS

- God must be our FIRST priority.
- Jesus did not come to give us a perfect life, financial wealth or a great reputation.
- Jesus came to INVITE us to join Him, to follow Him in His work of expanding His kingdom.
- In response to obedience, God blesses us, in our families, our finances, and in the eyes of others.

The Reuben step is about getting our priorities in the right order. Without this first step, it is very difficult to move into spiritual strength.

ICE BREAKER

“Two Truths & A Lie.” Ask each group member to share, in turn:

- A.) Their name
- B.) Why they joined the group, and
- C.) 3 things about themselves. 2 of those things should be true;
1 should be false.

After each person, the group should take a vote on which of the things they think was the “lie”!

GROUP DISCUSSION

- 1.)** *What are some of your dreams & aspirations? What are some things you’ve always wanted to do but haven’t done yet?*

- 2.)** *How often do you think about those dreams & aspirations?*

- 3.)** *Who do you think is more likely to accomplish their dreams, someone who thinks about them often, or someone who rarely thinks about them?*

4.) *Do you aspire to be closer to God? How often do you think about your relationship with Him?*

5.) *When you wake up in the morning, what are your first thoughts about? What do our first thoughts reveal about what is most important to us in life?*

6.) ***For silent consideration:*** *Do you always put God first? What activities/events would you be unwilling to cancel in order to put Jesus first?*

The FIRST Step in the Path 2 Strength is the **STEP OF REUBEN.**

Reuben was the first-born son of Jacob and the first Tribe of Israel. The name **Reuben** means “Behold! A Son!”

This is prophetically pointing us to **Look at THE Son!** *The Son of God, Jesus, of Nazareth, King of Kings and Lord of Lords!*

7.) *Who is Jesus to you? What do you love most about Him?*

8.) ***For Silent Consideration:*** *Isn't Jesus worth being first in your life?*

9.) **READ** *the following passages:*

Matthew 6:24 – “No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon [money].”

Matthew 6:33 – “Therefore, do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.”

Luke 14:26 – “If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple.”

(NOTE: “To hate” in the passage above means “to love less”, not “to detest.”)

Revelation 3:15-16 – “I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth.”

Revelation 3:21 – “To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.”

Today, many Christians are living for their own dreams and aspirations rather than the Kingdom of God. We have our plans, our goals, and they are our focus. We think constantly about the house we want to have, the blessings we want for our children, the vacations we would like to take, etc. We’re often just wanting God to bless whatever it is we personally want to do.

Essentially, we are treating God as if He were some “fertility god.” In the ancient world, farmers would go to pagan temples and perform little fertility rituals in order to secure from their idol material blessings over their fields so they could have a better harvest and get more money.

Isn’t this actually what too many Christians do? They do their little rituals, go to church, generally behave well, maybe even tithe, all because they want to secure God’s blessing over what they want to do. If we do this, we are insulting God and treating Him like a servant rather than our Lord.

This should put the fear of God in us!

For Jesus said, “because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth.” (Revelation 3:16) Yet, He also said, “To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne.” (Revelation 3:21a)

God is our Creator. We are supposed to be focused on His Kingdom before our own.

Jesus is calling us to something much higher. In baptism, we died to ourselves and became His. It is time we lived like that – with the Kingdom first before all else. He is calling us to join Him, to follow, to the work of expanding His Kingdom for His glory.

Jesus did not come to provide a way for us to have the perfect family. Jesus calls us to put Him and His Kingdom before our families, and He then responds by blessing our families with peace and blessed relationships.

Jesus did not come to bless us financially. He came to call us to self-sacrifice and generosity. In response, He opens the floodgates of Heavens and promises we will lack for nothing we need.

Jesus did not come to give us the ability to gain honor or a great reputation for ourselves. He calls us to glorify the Father in humility, and in response He lifts us up and honors us.
Behold, the Son! *Behold the Person of Jesus!*

Nothing is more important than Him! He does not exist to serve us; we exist to serve Him. Let us live that way!

9.) *During this session, what things did God bring to mind that you may need to change in your life? Are there any places where you may need to reorient your priorities?*

ACTION STEPS & HOMEWORK

Action Step

DECLARE to another believer, tonight or during the week, that from this day forward, you intend to make Jesus & His Kingdom the most important thing in your life.

WORK to make God the first thing you think about each morning as you wake up. *The more you are in love with Him, the easier this is!*

Homework

MEMORIZE Revelation 3:16.

GROUP PRAYER NEEDS
