

Greg Coble

A Life Verse: **words** from Scripture that seem to speak directly to you.

*“Your life verse can be your **anchor** in the stormy seas and your **compass** to direct you forward.”* Christa Hutchins

Words are powerful.

I have hidden your **word** in my heart, that I might not sin against you.
Psalm 119:11

In the beginning was the **Word**, and the **Word** was with God, and the **Word** was God. *John 1:1*

The **Word** became flesh and made his dwelling among us... *John 1:14*

HE greater than **I**

*“The real root of all of our problems is our tendency to put **too much** importance on ourselves.”* Bill Miller

People from Jerusalem and from all of Judea and all over the Jordan Valley went out to see and hear John. *Matthew 3:5*

So John’s disciples came to him and said, “Rabbi, the man you met on the other side of the Jordan River, the one you identified as the Messiah, is also baptizing people. And everybody is going to him instead of coming to us.”
John 3:26

John replied, “No one can receive anything unless God gives it from heaven. You yourselves know how plainly I told you, ‘I am not the Messiah. I am only here to prepare the way for him.’” *John 3:27-28*

“He must become **greater** and greater, and I must become **less** and less.”
John 3:30

What will happen if you decide God must become greater and you must become less?

You will take the emotion out of your daily decisions.

You will be able to manage your future.

You will focus on internal change.

But don’t just listen to God’s word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves. *James 1:22*

“Study this Book of Instruction continually. Meditate on it day and night so you will be sure to obey everything written in it. Only then will you prosper and succeed in all you do.” *Joshua 1:8*

Owe nothing to anyone—except for your obligation to love one another... *Romans 13:8*

How do you pick a life verse?

1. What do I need from God?
2. What are my strengths and passions?
3. What “themes” will make a difference in my life?
4. Pray over the verses you find.

WEEKLY BIBLE READING

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|-------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| ONE YEAR NEW TESTAMENT | SUNDAY Acts 21:37-22:16 | MONDAY Acts 22:17-23:11 | TUESDAY Acts 23:12-35 |
| this week | july 3 | july 4 | july 5 |
| WEDNESDAY Acts 24:1-27 | THURSDAY Acts 25:1-27 | FRIDAY Acts 26:1-32 | SATURDAY Acts 27:1-20 |
| july 6 | july 7 | july 8 | july 9 |
| WEEKLY MEMORY VERSE John 3:30 | | | |



For Group Discussion

Answer these questions prior to your Small Group meeting this week.

Check-in

Last Week's Action Step

From the information we discussed the last time we met, what did you apply to your life in a practical way?

Introduction

It's easy to make decisions that prioritize our happiness, our comfort, and our desires as the most important. We tend to place too much of a priority on ourselves, which actually leads to most of the problems we encounter. What would happen if we changed our perspective from thinking about ourselves as most important to truly prioritizing God as most important? Most likely, our entire decision-making process would change and our life's outcome would point others to Christ.

Discussion Questions

1. If you only had the words on one t-shirt to describe your life right now, what would it say? Why?
 2. Bill Miller said, "The root of our problems is our tendency to put too much importance on ourselves." Share a time when you struggled in an area (relationships, finances, job, family, etc.) because you had elevated the importance of yourself?
- If we find that we have elevated the importance of ourselves in the different compartments of our lives, why would we expect it to be any different in our relationship with God? How are you susceptible to edging God out of being the main priority in your life?
3. At the time Jesus began his ministry, John the Baptist was drawing large crowds, gaining popularity and increasing his influence among the Jews. READ Matthew 3:5 and John 3:23-30. With all the success of John the Baptist, how do you think he managed to remain humble? What are some lessons you could learn from looking at John's life?
What would happen if you made the decision to live life through the perspective that "He (Jesus) will become greater and I will become less?" How

Small Group Questions Continued

would this perspective shape your daily decisions, your future hopes and dreams, and aide you in advancing God's kingdom?

4. Managing this type of life-altering perspective takes internal change. Write down a few compartments of your life where you know you are placing yourself (and your desires) above Jesus (and His desires for you). Once written down... What action steps will you take to begin making the shift to a "HE > I" perspective?

Action Step

Fill in the blanks below for this upcoming week.

My action steps are _____

I'm accountable for _____, and their action steps are

My memory verse is _____

This coming week, I'm praying for:

Outreach: Groups in Action

OUR CHURCH

We are in a big need for Host Team volunteers for each of the campuses. We need 13 for Franklin, 20 for Banta and 10 for Greenwood. Come serve as a group or individual. This is a great way for groups to serve together! Email ltorrison@eclife.org if you'd like more information or to sign up!

OUR COMMUNITY

The Refuge has several summer dates that meals are needed on Tuesday mornings or Thursday nights. Join with your small group to provide 30-40 servings and come help serve. They would need 3-8 people to help serve the meal. Email kjones@eclife.org if you are interested or need more details.

OUR WORLD

Make encouragement bags for our team that will be going to Haiti. Fill a sandwich size baggie with gum, mints, and a prayer note for their travels. These can be dropped off by July 10 to outreach counter, or the office by July 13.