



WEEK 12 1ST SEMESTER · FOUNDATION & IDENTITY

Looking Back and Moving Forward

My Path in Christ

SPIRITUAL THEME

Review & Reflection

PERSONAL THEME

**My spiritual path – setting goals,
prayer, calling**

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Spiritual Theme: Review & Reflection **Personal Theme:** My Spiritual Path – Setting Goals, Prayer, and Calling **Main Scriptures:** Philippians 3:12–14; Habakkuk 2:2; 2 Timothy 4:1–5 **Jesus' Parable:** Matthew 25:14–30 – The Parable of the Talents **Main Message:** Look back with thankfulness. Move forward with faithfulness.

Teacher's Aim

By the end of this lesson, the students should understand that Bible School is not the end of their journey. It is the beginning of a more faithful walk with Christ. They should look back at what God has taught them, and then write down simple spiritual goals for prayer, Bible reading, character, and ministry.

1. Introduction: The Journey Continues

In Uganda, if a man wants to walk to a distant town, he must know the path. He must remember the map. But he must also keep walking.

Over the last weeks, we have studied many important truths: grace, repentance, identity in Christ, the Word of God, prayer, family, leadership, and the fruit of the Spirit.

But learning these things is not enough. A map is useful only if we walk the road.

Bible School is not only for knowledge. Bible School is for faithfulness.

A certificate is good, but a faithful life is better.

Today we look back with thankfulness, and we move forward with faithfulness.

Ask yourself:

- What has God taught me?
- What must I leave behind?
- What is the next step God wants me to take?
- How can I remain faithful after this Bible School ends?

2. Philippians 3:12–14 – Press On Toward Christ

Bible Reading: Philippians 3:12–14

"Not that I have already obtained, or am already made perfect; but I press on, that I may take hold of that for which also I was taken hold of by Christ Jesus. Brothers, I don't regard myself as yet having taken hold, but one thing I do: forgetting the things which are behind, and

stretching forward to the things which are before, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 3:12-14, WEB)

Simple Explanation

Paul was a great apostle. He preached the Gospel. He suffered for Jesus. He planted churches. He wrote letters that are now part of the Bible.

But Paul did not say, "I have finished. I know everything. I am already perfect."

He said, "I press on."

This means Paul was still growing. He was still hungry for Christ. He still wanted to know Jesus more deeply.

A mature Christian is not someone who says, "I have arrived." A mature Christian is someone who keeps moving toward Christ.

"Not That I Have Already Obtained"

Paul was humble. He knew that Jesus had saved him, but he also knew that God was still working in him.

This is important for every leader.

A leader must always be a learner.

If a leader stops learning, he becomes proud. If he becomes proud, he becomes dangerous.

We never stop needing Jesus. We never stop needing the Word of God. We never stop needing correction.

"Forgetting the Things Which Are Behind"

This does not mean Paul had no memory. It means the past did not control his direction.

There are two things we must leave behind.

First, we must leave behind our past sins.

If God has forgiven you, do not live as a prisoner of your old sin. Confess it. Repent of it. Receive God's forgiveness. Then walk forward with Christ.

Second, we must leave behind our past successes.

Sometimes success can also stop us. We begin to think, "I have already done enough." We become proud. We become lazy. We live on yesterday's obedience.

But yesterday's obedience is not enough for today.

God calls us to walk with Him today.

"Stretching Forward"

Paul speaks like a runner in a race. A runner does not look backward while running. If he keeps looking behind, he may fall.

The runner leans forward. He gives his strength. He keeps his eyes on the goal.

The Christian life is like this. We do not run to earn salvation. We run because Christ has saved us.

We do not run to make God love us. We run because God has already loved us in Christ.

The Goal Is Christ

Paul's goal was not fame. His goal was not money. His goal was not a title. His goal was Christ.

A pastor can have a church and still lose his hunger for Christ. A teacher can teach the Bible and still become cold in his heart. A leader can serve many people and still forget the Lord.

So we must ask:

- Am I moving toward Christ?
- Do I love Jesus more than ministry?
- Do I love Jesus more than being seen by people?
- Do I love Jesus more than my plans?

Application for Students

Maybe you have failed in the past. Do not stay on the ground. Repent and move forward.

Maybe you have done well in this Bible School. Do not become proud. Thank God and move forward.

Maybe you feel weak. Remember this: Paul wrote many words of hope while he was suffering. Your circumstances do not stop your path with Christ. Poverty does not stop you. Opposition does not stop you. Sickness does not stop you.

A cold heart can stop you. Pride can stop you. Secret sin can stop you. But hard circumstances cannot stop a heart that keeps trusting Christ.

Key Sentence: A true leader is not perfect, but he is moving forward with Christ.

3. Habakkuk 2:2 – Write the Vision Clearly

Bible Reading: Habakkuk 2:2

"Yahweh answered me, 'Write the vision, and make it plain on tablets, that he who runs may read it.'" (Habakkuk 2:2, WEB)

Simple Explanation

Habakkuk lived in a difficult time. He saw evil, violence, and injustice. He asked God serious questions.

God answered him and said, "Write the vision, and make it plain."

This teaches us an important principle: what God makes clear to us should not remain confused in us.

A leader must learn to think clearly, pray clearly, speak clearly, and walk clearly.

Many people have good desires, but no clear direction. They say:

- "I want to serve God."
- "I want to grow."
- "I want to preach."
- "I want to help people."

These are good desires. But they must become simple next steps.

A Clear Vision Is Not Pride

Writing a goal is not the same as trusting yourself.

A Christian writes his goal and says, "Lord, this is my desire. Please lead me. Correct me. Open the right door. Close the wrong door."

We do not write goals because we are strong. We write them because we want to be faithful.

Do Not Write Too Many Goals

Some people write many goals and do none of them.

It is better to write a few simple goals and obey them.

For example:

- I will pray every morning before work.
- I will read the Gospel of Mark this month.
- I will speak the Gospel to three people in my village.
- I will meet once a month with a brother for prayer.
- I will ask an older Christian to guide me.

Application for Uganda

In many villages, people work hard. There is farming, family responsibility, church activity, and many needs. If a leader has no clear direction, he can become tired and confused.

He may do many things, but not the most important things.

A clear spiritual goal helps a leader use his time wisely.

Key Sentence: A calling in the heart should become a clear path in life.

4. 2 Timothy 4:1–5 – Be Faithful in Your Ministry

Bible Reading: 2 Timothy 4:1–5

"I command you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at his appearing and his Kingdom: preach the word; be urgent in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with all patience and teaching. For the time will come when they will not listen to the sound doctrine, but, having itching ears, will heap up for themselves teachers after their own lusts, and will turn away their ears from the truth, and turn away to fables. But you be sober in all things, suffer hardship, do the work of an evangelist, and fulfill your ministry." (2 Timothy 4:1–5, WEB)

Simple Explanation

These are very serious words. Paul wrote them to Timothy, a younger leader. Paul knew that his own life was near the end.

So these words are like a final charge from an older servant of God to a younger servant of God.

Paul does not say, "Timothy, become famous." He does not say, "Timothy, make people like you." He does not say, "Timothy, build your own name."

He says, "Preach the word."

"Preach the Word"

A Christian leader must be ruled by the Word of God.

He must not preach only his opinions. He must not preach only culture. He must not preach only stories. He must not preach only dreams. He must not preach only money and success.

He must preach the Word.

The Word of God corrects us. The Word of God comforts us. The Word of God shows us Christ. The Word of God protects the church from false teaching.

"In Season and Out of Season"

This means: be ready when it is easy, and be ready when it is hard.

Sometimes people will be happy to hear the truth. Sometimes people will reject the truth.

Sometimes ministry feels fruitful. Sometimes ministry feels dry.

Sometimes people thank you. Sometimes people criticize you.

But the leader must remain faithful.

"They Will Not Listen to Sound Doctrine"

Paul warns Timothy that some people will not want true teaching. They will want teachers who say what they like to hear.

This is still true today.

Some people want a message without repentance. Some people want blessing without obedience. Some people want power without holiness. Some people want ministry without suffering. Some people want Jesus as helper, but not as Lord.

So the leader must be strong in the truth.

"Suffer Hardship"

Paul does not hide the truth. Ministry includes hardship.

There may be poverty. There may be rejection. There may be tiredness. There may be misunderstanding. There may be spiritual attack. There may be loneliness.

But hardship does not mean God has left you.

Sometimes hardship is part of faithful ministry.

"Fulfill Your Ministry"

This means: finish the work God gave you.

Do not compare your ministry with another man's ministry.

Do not despise small beginnings.

Do not run away when the work becomes hard.

Be faithful with the work God placed in your hands.

Key Sentence: God does not first call leaders to be popular. He calls them to be faithful.

5. Jesus' Parable of the Talents – Be Faithful With What God Gave You

Bible Reading: Matthew 25:14–30

"For it is like a man going into another country, who called his own servants and entrusted his goods to them. To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one; to each according to his own ability. Then he went on his journey. Immediately he who received the five talents went and traded with them, and made another five talents. In the same way, he also who got the two gained another two. But he who received the one talent went away and dug in the earth, and hid his lord's money. Now after a long time the lord of those servants came, and reconciled accounts with them. He who received the five talents came and brought another five talents, saying, 'Lord, you delivered to me five talents. Behold, I have gained another five talents besides them.' His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a few things. I will set you over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.' He also who got the two talents came and said, 'Lord, you delivered to me two talents. Behold, I have gained another two talents besides them.' His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a few things. I will set you over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.' He also who had received the one talent came and said, 'Lord, I knew you that you are a hard man, reaping where you didn't sow, and gathering where you didn't scatter. I was afraid, and went away and hid your talent in the earth. Behold, you have what is yours.' But his lord answered him, 'You wicked and slothful servant. You knew that I reap where I didn't sow, and gather where I didn't scatter. You ought therefore to have deposited my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received back my own with interest. Take away therefore the talent from him, and give it to him who has the ten talents. For to everyone who has will be given, and he will have abundance, but from him who doesn't have, even that which he has will be taken away. Throw out the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'" (Matthew 25:14–30, WEB)

Simple Explanation

Jesus tells a story about a master and his servants. The master gives something valuable to each servant.

One servant receives five talents. Another servant receives two talents. Another servant receives one talent.

They do not all receive the same amount. But all of them receive responsibility.

This is very important.

God does not give every believer the same gift, the same education, the same opportunity, or the same ministry. But God calls every believer to be faithful.

The Master Looks for Faithfulness

The servant with five talents gained five more. The servant with two talents gained two more.

The master said the same words to both of them:

"Well done, good and faithful servant."

He did not say, "Well done, famous servant." He did not say, "Well done, rich servant." He did not say, "Well done, powerful servant."

He said, "faithful servant."

This is the heart of the lesson.

God wants faithfulness.

Do Not Compare

The servant with two talents was not judged because he did not have five. He was judged according to what was given to him.

This helps us.

Maybe another person can preach better than you. Maybe another person has more education. Maybe another person has more money. Maybe another person has a bigger church. Maybe another person has more opportunities.

Do not compare yourself with him.

God will not ask you why you were not like another man. He will ask if you were faithful with what He gave you.

The Danger of Fear

The servant with one talent hid what he had received. He was afraid. He did nothing.

Fear can make a leader bury his gift.

Some people say:

- "I am not educated enough."
- "I am too poor."
- "I cannot speak well."
- "People will laugh at me."
- "I made mistakes in the past."
- "Someone else can do it better."

But fear is not an excuse for disobedience.

Start with what God has given you.

If you can teach one child, teach one child. If you can pray with one family, pray with one family. If you can encourage one brother, encourage one brother. If you can read the Bible with one younger believer, do that faithfully.

| Application for Students

This Bible School has given you something. You have received teaching. You have received encouragement. You have received truth from God's Word.

Now the question is: What will you do with what you received?

Will you bury it? Or will you use it for Christ?

Key Sentence: Be faithful with what God has placed in your hands.

6. Calling – Not First a Title, but Faithfulness

Many people think calling means only becoming a pastor.

But the Bible teaches that every believer is called by God.

| General Calling

Every Christian is called to belong to Christ.

Every Christian is called to holiness.

Every Christian is called to love God and love people.

Every Christian is called to be a witness.

Every Christian is called to serve.

Every Christian is called to obey Jesus.

Specific Calling

God may also give a person a specific work.

One may be called to preach. One may be called to teach children. One may be called to disciple young men. One may be called to serve the poor. One may be called to strengthen families. One may be called to lead worship. One may be called to work faithfully in farming, business, or another job. One may be called to be a godly father or mother.

Do not think calling is only a microphone.

Calling begins with obedience where God has placed you.

If you are faithful in your home, that matters to God. If you are faithful in your village, that matters to God. If you are faithful in your church, that matters to God. If you are faithful when nobody sees you, that matters to God.

Internal and External Call

There is often an internal call and an external call.

The internal call is the desire God places in your heart to serve Him.

The external call is when mature believers, church leaders, and the church recognize your fruit and confirm your service.

This is important because our hearts can be wrong. We need the Word of God, prayer, and wise believers to help us discern our path.

Key Sentence: Calling is not first a title. Calling is faithfulness where God has placed you.

7. Looking Back: What Has God Taught Me?

Now we look back with thankfulness.

Over these weeks, we have learned important truths.

Salvation by Grace We are saved by God's grace, not by our good works. Question: Am I still trusting Christ, or am I trusting myself?

Repentance Repentance means turning away from sin and turning to God. Question: Is there any sin I must confess and leave behind?

Identity in Christ We are not slaves to fear. In Christ, we belong to God. Question: Am I living as a child of God?

Jesus as the Center Jesus is not only part of life. He is the center of life. Question: Is Jesus truly first in my decisions?

The Word of God The Bible is our lamp, our authority, and our spiritual food. Question: Am I reading and obeying the Word?

Prayer Prayer is dependence on God. Question: Am I trying to serve God without seeking God?

The Fruit of the Spirit True leadership is seen in character. Question: Can people see Christ in my character?

Calling God calls us to serve Him faithfully. Question: What next step of obedience is God showing me?

8. My Path in Christ – Personal Commitment

Give the students time to write simple answers.

They should not write big words to impress others. They should write honest words before God.

My Prayer Goal I will pray at this time: I will pray in this place:

My Bible Goal I will read or study this Bible book: I will read at this time:

My Character Goal One area where I need to grow is: For example: patience, self-control, love, humility, purity, courage, forgiveness.

My Ministry Goal One person or group I want to serve is: One practical step I will take is:

My Accountability Partner One person who can ask me hard and loving questions is: He can ask me:

- How is your heart?
- Are you reading the Word?
- Are you praying?
- Are you staying pure?
- Are you obeying what God showed you?

- Are you serving faithfully?

9. Discussion Questions

1. Which lesson from these weeks changed your thinking or your heart the most? Why?
2. What is one thing from your past that you must leave behind so you can move forward with Christ?
3. What is one danger that could stop your spiritual growth after Bible School ends?
4. What has God placed in your hands? How can you use it faithfully?
5. What is one simple goal for prayer, Bible reading, character, or ministry that you will start this week?
6. Who can walk with you and help you stay faithful?

10. Final Encouragement

Dear brothers and sisters, this Bible School may end, but your walk with Christ does not end.

Do not only be a hearer of the Word. Be a doer of the Word.

Do not only talk about faith. Walk by faith.

Do not only remember what you learned. Use what God has given you.

Press on toward Christ.

Write the vision clearly.

Preach the Word.

Endure hardship.

Be faithful with what God placed in your hands.

And one day, by the grace of God, may we hear these words from our Lord:

"Well done, good and faithful servant."

Closing Prayer

| Lord Jesus Christ,

Thank You for Your Word. Thank You for saving us by grace. Thank You for teaching us during these weeks.



Please help us not to forget what we have learned. Help us to press on toward You. Help us to leave behind sin, pride, fear, and laziness.

Give us clear hearts and clear steps. Teach us to pray. Teach us to love Your Word. Teach us to serve with humility.

Help us to be faithful with what You have placed in our hands. Help us in our homes, our churches, our villages, and our work.

Make us servants who love You, obey You, and finish the work You give us.

We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ.

Amen.