

HIT SO Project



Bible Study

LESSON 1: GOD'S FOCUS

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HE so I Bible Study - Introduction

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God's Focus

MEMORY VERSE

The good person out of the good treasure of his heart produces good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure produces evil, for out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.
Luke 6:45

As we work to be disciples of Christ, the challenge we have is what we should focus on. Is this supposed to be training in knowledge, becoming an intellectual activity? Should the focus be on practical activities and actions we should follow that demonstrate the life of a disciple? Is it about creating experiences that result in feeling like a disciple?

The answer is none of these.

In multiple places, God clearly communicates that He looks beyond the outer activity of a person, "...what man sees..." but looks at who the person is. The call that God gives is for us to *be* a disciple.

This is more than a call to change our knowledge, actions, or feelings. We are called to change who we are.

The goal of this lesson is to develop an understanding of what defines who we are. We will also search the scriptures for God's perspective on who we are.

Read Matthew 12:1-14.

What is the confrontation described in these passages?

In response to this conflict, Jesus made a statement in Matthew 12:33-37. He made a similar statement during one of His sermons in Luke 6:43-46.

Make 10 observations about the focus that we should have from these passages.

1	
2	
3	

4	
5	
6	
7	
8	
9	
10	

What do you learn about God's focus from these passages?



In the Bible, the word “heart” is frequently used, but it does not refer to the physical organ that pushes blood through the body, or the cute figure displayed at Valentine’s Day. In the Old Testament, the Hebrew word *leb* is a broad, inclusive term that represents the core self, as the location of intellectual, moral, ethical and spiritual activity and attitudes. In the New Testament, the Greek word translated as heart is *kardia*, which has a similar meaning to the Old Testament, representing the psychological core of the person. The importance of the “heart” in scripture cannot be underestimated.

Based on this understanding of the “heart” from the Bible, how does this impact your interpretation of God’s focus from these passages?

To develop a more complete understanding of the Biblical use of the “heart,” find 5 passages from the Bible that include the concept of the “heart.” Try to find passages from both the Old Testament and New Testament. Identify the passage and write at least one observation about the “heart.”

	Passage	Observation
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		

Based on your observations from the Bible, what interpretations can you make about the focus that God has regarding us?

How do your interpretations about the Biblical concept of the “heart” impact your focus for spiritual transformation?

Read Ephesians 4:17-24 and Galatians 5:16-25.

Incorporating what you have learned about the Biblical concept of the “heart,” what observations can you make about the transformation God is looking for?

The modern term used to describe who a person is at their core is *identity*. To make sure we are using the same definition, here is the one we will use for identity.

Identity is the set principles, perspectives, purposes and priorities, at the core of a person, that consciously or unconsciously guides our decisions, feelings, and behaviors.

The impact of identity cannot be underestimated, because who we are, our identity, defines what we do.



How does the modern concept of identity relate to the Biblical concept of heart?

Take the 5 verses that you found previously in the lesson and replace “heart” with “identity.” How does this impact your understanding of the passage? What new insight does this provide?

Take some time to reflect on what you have learned from this study. What is one key lesson you have learned?