



Week One: Stepping Into Maturity – Study Guide

By Josh Miller

January 11, 2014

When turning the corner of a new year, many of us reflect on the previous year with an eye of determination toward the things we want to change or grow in for the upcoming year. Most of us would agree that we all have areas we desire to improve. In the start of this new series, we'll discuss spiritual maturity, growth, and what these look like in the life of a believer.

Where Am I Today?

- 1) What are some areas where you want to see spiritual growth or change in this year? What challenges will you face if you make some of these changes?

Into the Bible

- 2) Not much is known about Jesus growing up as child, yet we know that He too grew in maturity. Read **Luke 2:42-52** to learn more. In what way would you say that Jesus was immature, and yet mature beyond His years? Do you think there's a difference between immaturity and sin? Why or why not?

28 DAYS

WEEK ONE: STEPPING INTO MATURITY – STUDY GUIDE

- 3) When it comes to spiritual maturity, it's easy to confuse outward growth and what really matters in order to grow spiritually. Sometimes, we can be more concerned about appearing to have fruit in our lives rather than wanting to grow in our relationship with Jesus. Take a look at what **Matthew 7:17-19** says about this. What does Jesus tell us is the only possible way for someone to bear good fruit and how does this happen?

- 4) Jesus wants us to grow first not in our works, but in our relationship with Him. Growth takes place when we recognize that trust in Jesus is more important than trying to produce our own fruit for others to see. Remember, if we aren't healthy internally, we won't bear good fruit externally. Take a look at **2 Peter 3:17-18**. What does Peter tell us to grow in, and what does it mean to grow in these things?

How Does This Apply?

- 5) Similar to what Jesus' family experienced, we can let mistakes that aren't necessarily sin put a strain on our relationships. What are some things that can bring tension to your relationships that may be caused by simple immaturity? How are you able to respond in a way that creates an atmosphere that allows you and others to grow?

- 6) As we read in Matthew, if you're healthy, you'll grow and bear good fruit. Be more concerned about your spiritual health than you are about your fruit. Growing in spiritual maturity is all about staying healthy. If you want to stay healthy, remain connected to Jesus. It's simply stated, yet not as easily done. What are some things you do to remain spiritually healthy?

28 DAYS

WEEK ONE: STEPPING INTO MATURITY – STUDY GUIDE

- 7) The more of your life you pour into Jesus, the more of Him that will pour out from your life. Far too often, we're more concerned with our fruit rather than getting to know Jesus who works through us. Consider your own life. In what ways might we struggle with looking good for people over having a good relationship with Jesus?

Continue Learning on Your Own

- 8) Luke has a way of using the word *amazed* when there is evidence of something significant going on in a person's life or event. We read in Luke 2 where the teachers were amazed at Jesus' understanding of Scripture. Let's take a look at a few other times Luke uses this word and see what we can learn. Read **Luke 8:49-56**, **Acts 2:5-12** and **Acts 9:20-22**. Do these verses change your view of how you look at Jesus knowing so much at such a young age? Why or why not?