



**Educate
+ Engage**



ANCHORS:

perspective



OVERVIEW

The lowest denomination of money in the United States is a penny. Pennies are small and seemingly insignificant. Some people even discard them on the ground. Yet even something as small as a penny can change your perspective.

Hold a penny with your thumb and index finger. Close one eye and slowly bring the penny closer and closer to your open eye until it dominates your view. Now, toss the penny away from you. The size and the value of that penny never changed, but depending on its position, it changed your perspective. It could even block out the sun which is about 865,000 miles in diameter.

In lesson three of this Anchors series, we need to know that what we allow to take the dominate position in our minds and spirits will absolutely determine our perspective. I Corinthians 2:16 is a reminder that we should have the mind of Christ. Our thoughts and our perspective should match up with God's.

The focus of this series, Acts 2:42, reads: "And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers." This particular lesson focuses on "breaking of bread."

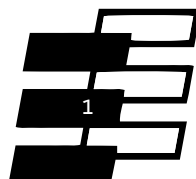
Scripture Passage

I Corinthians 11:24–25

And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me. After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me.

EDUCATE

First Corinthians 11 describes a special ceremony called communion that originated from Jesus breaking bread with His disciples. He instructed them to do this in remembrance of Him. Through communion we remember the sacrifice of Jesus Christ—His body that was broken and His blood He shed. We are to celebrate His resurrection and the salvation from sin He provides for us.



Lesson 3

Remembering Jesus should not be just a passing thought; it should be a constant awareness. Remembering Jesus should inspire us not to just live for today, but to live with eternity in mind. For us to survive spiritually, we must live with the anchor of perspective.

Text Neck

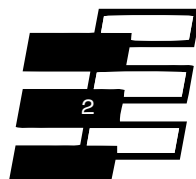
Doctors and chiropractors address all kinds of different health conditions. One relatively new condition is called “text neck.” Text neck is a worldwide health concern caused by excessive texting and overuse of all handheld electronic devices. Have you seen someone in the text neck position who totally walked into something or someone? It’s pretty embarrassing but it’s a result of a limited perspective. It happens because someone has a singular focus on something, and they are not aware of what’s around them. Much like the penny example, the Text Neck epidemic is a visual example of many people’s spiritual perspective: head down, self-absorbed, and focused on their immediate issues, needs, wants, and desires.

II Corinthians 4:18 (NLT) instructs: “So we don’t look at the troubles we can see now; rather, we fix our gaze on things that cannot be seen. For the things we see now will soon be gone, but the things we cannot see will last forever.” It’s so easy to get caught up with the cares of this life and throw all our time, talent, and treasure into them. But please remember Luke 12:34 (NLT): “Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be.” And I John 2:15–17 (NLT): “Do not love this world nor the things it offers you, for when you love the world, you do not have the love of the Father in you. For the world offers only a craving for physical pleasure, a craving for everything we see, and pride in our achievements and possessions. These are not from the Father, but are from this world. And this world is fading away, along with everything that people crave. But anyone who does what pleases God will live forever.”

Crossing the Jordan

In the Book of Joshua we read about the time the Israelites crossed the mighty, muddy Jordan River. The children of Israel had been wandering in the wilderness for forty years. One obstacle in their way was the Jordan River. And they set out to cross the Jordan during harvest season, a time of year when the water levels were unusually high. Crossing the river on their own would have been impossible with all their families, animals, and supplies. But the Lord told them that the Ark of the Covenant—the wooden box overlaid with gold that symbolized the presence of God—was going to lead them across the Jordan River.

The Ark of the Covenant represented a sacred way of remembering what God had done for His people. Inside the Ark were the Ten Commandments God gave Moses. There was also Aaron’s



rod, or walking staff, that miraculously budded to show Aaron as the true priest in Israel. And finally there was a gold jar filled with manna God miraculously provided in the wilderness when the children of Israel needed food. God told them to move forward with the Ark, a hallowed object of remembrance, that would allow them to have the right perspective—to know that just like God parted the Red Sea for Moses, God would also part the Jordan River for them. Then all the people crossed over near the town of Jericho. And the rest is history.

Closing

We must do our very best to obey the admonition of Jesus to remember Him. As Proverbs 3:1 (NLT) advises: "My child, never forget the things I have taught you. Store my commands in your heart." And Psalm 77:11–12 (NLT) states: "But then I recall all you have done, O LORD; I remember your wonderful deeds of long ago. They are constantly in my thoughts. I cannot stop thinking about your mighty works."

Pleasing Jesus Christ is the most important thing in our lives. He shouldn't be an afterthought at the end of our day; He should be our focus from the very beginning! When we have the anchor of perspective in our lives, we will find it easier to make Jesus our priority.

There is an old song called "This World is Not My Home" that reminds us we are just passing through this life. One wise man or woman said "This world is more like a hotel than a home." We are here to get ready for Heaven. Having the sure anchor of perspective is living with Heaven in mind. "Since you have been raised to new life with Christ, set your sights on the realities of heaven, where Christ sits in the place of honor at God's right hand. Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth. For you died to this life, and your real life is hidden with Christ in God. And when Christ, who is your life, is revealed to the whole world, you will share in all his glory" (Colossians 3:1–4, NLT).

ENGAGE

What can you do today to remind you of Heaven? Make a Heaven playlist of songs that remind you Jesus is coming and we are going to be forever with Him. Read passages like Matthew 25 and I Thessalonians 4:16–18 to remind yourself of the rapture.

We must have the anchor of perspective and learn to live with Heaven in mind! Nothing else matters except seeing Jesus Christ one day. When we allow the anchor of perspective to direct our plans, passions, and priorities, we find it easier to live a life focused on Jesus Christ and eternity with Him. Let's plan a special time of communion with our youth group to remember what Jesus Christ has done for us until Jesus comes back for His church.

