

Omnipotent GOD

REVELATION 19:6

BIBLE STUDY OUTLINES

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Omnipotent God - Revelation 19:6

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FOREWORD

It's a breaking of a new year! A year of opportunities! Yes, opportunity to know God, serve him and be down to earth with Him - no camouflage, no hypocritical living - wherein we should be ashamed to face or meet him.

It is a year to give and pour our unalloyed loyalty to the Master and Saviour of our souls as we worship Him.

God has all power over all things at all times and in all ways! As we study God's Word this year, may we come to the unequivocal convictions that will make us truly declare with all of our hearts and minds and souls that we are convinced beyond all reasonable doubt that this Omnipotent God can-do anything and everything. Nothing and no one can upset or thwart His plans.

Go, walk and even run in this assurance and be blessed in Jesus' mighty name, Amen.



Chaplain

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1ST QUARTER

SUB-THEME:

**ENTERING INTO OUR
INHERITANCE**

JOSHUA 14:14



STUDY ONE:

GOD'S ETERNAL PURPOSE

TEXTS: Ps. 8:1-9; Eph. 1:7-14; 3:4-13.

MEMORY VERSES:

God's purpose in all this was to use the Church to display His wisdom in its rich variety to all the unseen rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was His eternal plan, which he carried out through Christ Jesus our Lord.

Eph. 3:10,11(NLT)

INTRODUCTION

God's purpose from the beginning was for man to reflect His glory, power and excellence. This He kept a secret until the Church age when the Holy Spirit began to make it known to us. This study brings to the fore this mystery and reveals to us God's intention. May our hearts be enlightened as we study together.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Discuss God's eternal purpose from the following Scriptures: Gen. 1:26-30; Ps. 8:1-9; Isa. 61:9; Zech. 3:1-8; Matt. 16:18,19; Rom. 16:19,20; Eph. 1:7-14; 2:19-22; 3:4-13; 5:25-27,32.
2. From the under listed Scriptures, discuss how God's eternal purpose is fulfilled in us: Gen. 3:14, 15; Lk. 1:73-79; Jn. 3:16; Rom. 8:28-34; Gal. 3:13, 14; 4:4-7; Eph. 3:4-6; Heb. 4:14-16.

CONCLUSION

It is God's purpose to display through us His manifold wisdom to all created beings. Let us therefore shun timidity and all unrighteousness, and make ourselves worthy vessels in His hands to enable Him to achieve His eternal purpose.

STUDY TWO:

KNOWING OUR INHERITANCE I: CHRIST OUR INHERITANCE

TEXTS: Gal. 4:3-7; Eph. 1:3-23.

MEMORY VERSE:

The Lord is the portion of mine inheritance and of my cup: thou maintainest my lot. Ps. 16:5

INTRODUCTION

An heir is entitled to an inheritance. When a man gets born again, he becomes God's heir. Christ is the only begotten son and the sole heir of the Father. However, in His death and resurrection, He made us one with Himself (His body), hence we inherited all that He has in God. The privileges of this great inheritance is the focus of this study.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What do you understand by “Christ our inheritance”?
2. Discuss some of the privileges of having Jesus Christ as our inheritance. 1 Cor. 1:30; 2 Cor. 5:17-21; Gal. 4:3-7; Col. 1:12-22; 3:1-4; Heb. 1:1-4; 1 Pet. 1:3-5.
3. What are some of the ways of accessing our inheritance in Christ? Acts 20:32; Gal. 3:13,14; Eph. 1:3-23; Heb. 6:12.

CONCLUSION

As God's heir, a believer is entitled to all the fullness of God in Christ Jesus. May we access all that God has for us in Christ Jesus.

STUDY THREE:

KNOWING OUR INHERITANCE II: THE HEATHEN

TEXTS: Ps. 2:1-12; 110:1-7; Rev. 2:26, 27.

MEMORY VERSE:

Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession. Ps. 2:8

INTRODUCTION

The heathen are a people who do not acknowledge the sovereignty of Jesus Christ the Son of God. God's word is clear that the Church is His holy nation and peculiar people, chosen to show forth His praise. Any group of people outside the Church are heathens. The mandate of the Church is to establish the sovereignty of Christ over all nations of the earth. This is the focus of this study.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Discuss some principles of possessing the nations from the following Scriptures: Gen. 22:16-18; Ps. 2:7,8; 110:2,3; Isa. 54:1-3; 60:1-3,11; Rev. 2:26,27.
2. What are some challenges to inheriting the nations, and how do we overcome them?

CONCLUSION

When the Church arises and shines, kings and kingdoms shall bow before her. The dominion over the nations is given to the Church that the kingdoms of this world shall become the Kingdom of our God and of His Christ. Let us therefore arise with all boldness and possess the Kingdom.

STUDY FOUR

CONDITIONS FOR ENTERING OUR INHERITANCE I: FAITH AND OBEDIENCE

TEXTS: Gen. 12:1-9; 22:1-18, Heb. 11:1-16.

MEMORY VERSE:

*If ye be willing and obedient,
ye shall eat the good of the land. Isa. 1:19*

INTRODUCTION

Faith is the ability to believe and keep believing that God will do whatever He has promised to do, irrespective of the prevailing circumstance; while obedience is the willingness to actively respond and keep responding in line with the way God is leading. God has made every necessary provision for our inheritance. We need to constantly respond to His guidance by trusting in His leadership and being obedient. Sometimes, such leading may contradict human reasoning or popular opinion. May the Lord help us to be willing and obedient so that we can eat the fruit of the land.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Discuss the place of faith and obedience in entering into our inheritance.
Gen. 7:1-10,23; 12:1-9; 22:1-18; 2 Kgs. 4:1-7; Dan. 3:15-30; Heb.11:1-16.
2. How have faith and obedience helped you in realising God's promises?

CONCLUSION

Walking with the Lord in faith and obedience will ensure our entry into our inheritance in Christ Jesus. May the Lord help us to be willing and obedient.

STUDY FIVE:

**CONDITIONS FOR ENTERING INTO OUR INHERITANCE II:
COURAGE AND PERSISTENCE**

TEXTS: Josh. 1:6-18; 1 Sam. 17:1-11; Lk. 18:1-8.

MEMORY VERSE:

Be strong and of a good courage: for unto this people shalt thou divide for an inheritance the land, which I swear unto their fathers to give them. Josh. 1:6

INTRODUCTION

Courage is the driving force to do something difficult, knowing it is the right thing to do, while persistence is the act of continuing in a course of action in spite of the difficulty or opposition. Courage and persistence are essential to entering into our inheritance. This is the focus of this study.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Discuss courage and persistence with respect to entering into our inheritance.
Gen. 26:15-24; 32:24-30; Josh. 1:6-18; 1 Sam. 17:1-11, 45-53; 1 Kgs. 18:41-46; Lk. 11:5-13; 18:1-8.
2. Share practical examples of courage and persistence in your walk with God.

CONCLUSION

Courage and persistence in the face of challenges are imperatives in entering into our inheritance. May we be courageous and persistent in our walk with God. Amen.

STUDY SIX:

CONDITIONS FOR ENTERING INTO OUR INHERITANCE III: MATURITY

TEXTS: Gal. 4: 1-5; Heb. 5:12-6:3.

MEMORY VERSE:

Now I say, that the heir, as long as he is a child, differeth nothing from a servant, though he be lord of all. Gal. 4:1

INTRODUCTION

Maturity is a term used to describe someone who is no longer a novice, but one who has gained mastery of an act. Spiritual maturity is the process of becoming more like Jesus Christ. For a child of God to enter into his inheritance, he must come of age and be able to distinguish between right and wrong so as not to toy with the inheritance.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Discuss the place of maturity in entering into our inheritance.
Judg. 8:18-21; 1 Cor. 13:11; Gal. 4:1-5; Eph. 4:13-15;
Heb. 5:12-6:3.
2. How can we attain spiritual maturity? Ezra 7:10;
Prov. 4:23; Lk. 10:27; Rom. 12:1, 2; Heb. 6:1-3; 1Pet. 2:1-3.

CONCLUSION

Maturity is an essential ingredient for a child of God to enter into his inheritance, without it he would perpetually live a sub-standard life.

STUDY SEVEN:

CONDITIONS FOR ENTERING INTO OUR INHERITANCE IV: ASKING

TEXTS: Matt. 7:7-11; Lk. 15:11-32.

MEMORY VERSE:

Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full. Jn. 16:24

INTRODUCTION

Asking is the act or process of petitioning, or making a request. As co-heirs with Christ, God has lavishly made provisions available for our enjoyment and He expects that we ask Him for them. In this study, we shall consider the place of asking in relation to entering into our inheritance.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Discuss why it is necessary for believers to ask. Gen. 18:22-33; 1 Kgs. 3:5-14; Ps. 2:8; Matt.7:7-11; Lk.15:11-32, 23:39-43; Jn.14:13,14; 16:22-27.
2. Discuss some examples of men who asked and received their inheritance. Gen.18:22-33; Num. 27:1-11; Josh.15:13-19; Lk. 15:11-32; 23:39-43.

CONCLUSION

God's grace affords men the opportunity to share in His inheritance. When we refuse to access the right He offers us, our blessings remain untapped, but when we ask, we receive unprecedented attention and enjoy immeasurable fulfilment. May we not be weary in asking.

STUDY EIGHT

CHALLENGES TO ENTERING INTO OUR INHERITANCE I: FEAR

TEXTS: Num. 13:25-33; 14:19-28.

MEMORY VERSES:

And the Philistine said, I defy the armies of Israel this day; give me a man, that we may fight together. When Saul and all Israel heard those words of the Philistine, they were dismayed, and greatly afraid. 1 Sam. 17:10,11

INTRODUCTION

Fear is a strong, unpleasant emotion caused by actual or perceived danger or threat. God desires His children to enter into their inheritance and this holds true for every generation. However, there are several hurdles to be crossed; one of which is fear. It demobilises Christians of the requisite momentum for advancing into and possessing their inheritance.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Discuss fear as a challenge to entering into our inheritance. Exo. 4:10-16; 14:9-12; Num. 13:25-33; 14:19-28; 1Sam. 13:6-14; 17:3-11; Mk. 4:36-40; Matt. 14:25-30.
2. How can we overcome fear from the following Scriptures? Exo.14:15, 16; Josh. 1:7,8; 1Sam. 17:32-37; Mk. 11:22-24; Rom. 10:17.

CONCLUSION

This study has revealed to us that fear is a major challenge to accessing our inheritance. Some of our fathers, who were overcome by it, lost out of God's purpose for their lives. However, some that entered into theirs left for us timely recipes for overcoming life's difficulties. May we receive God's help to enter into ours.

STUDY NINE:

CHALLENGES TO ENTERING INTO OUR INHERITANCE III: UNBELIEF

TEXTS: Num. 13:25-33; Heb. 4:1-6.

MEMORY VERSE:

Seeing therefore it remaineth that some must enter therein, and they to whom it was first preached entered not in because of unbelief. Heb.4: 6

INTRODUCTION

Unbelief is the refusal to agree, accept and walk in accordance with the word of God. Several examples abound in Scriptures of people that could not enter into their inheritance because of unbelief. This study focuses on unbelief as a challenge to entering into our inheritance.

DISCUSSION QUESTION

Discuss how unbelief can prevent us from entering into our inheritance. Num. 13: 25-33; 14:1-12; 2 Kgs. 7:1-17; Mat. 13:53-58; Jn. 3:14-19; Rom. 10:1-4; Heb. 4:1-6.

CONCLUSION

The promises that God has made in His word have eluded many Christians because of unbelief. May God help us to believe His words, so we can enter into our inheritance.

STUDY TEN:

CHALLENGES TO ENTERING INTO OUR INHERITANCE IV: LAZINESS AND COMPLACENCY

TEXTS: Prov. 6:6-11; Rev. 3:14-22.

MEMORY VERSE:

Slothfulness casteth into a deep sleep; and an idle soul shall suffer hunger. Prov. 19:15

INTRODUCTION

Laziness is the deliberate refusal to engage in ventures to improve oneself; while complacency is being satisfied with one's position, even when there are rooms for improvement. God hates it when Christians are lazy and complacent. In this study, we shall be considering these attitudes as challenges to entering into our inheritance and how to overcome them.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Discuss laziness and complacency as challenges to entering into our inheritance. Gen. 19:12-21; 1Sam. 2:30; 3:11-13; Prov. 6:6-11; 20:4; 21:25, 26; Matt. 25:1-28.
2. How can we overcome these attitudes? Prov. 12:11, 24, 27; 14:23; Eccl. 3:1; 9:10; Rom. 12:11; Rev. 3:14-22.

CONCLUSION

If we must enter into our inheritance, we must be ready to cast off laziness and complacency. The grace of God is available for us to do this.

STUDY ELEVEN:

CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENTERING INTO OUR INHERITANCE.

TEXTS: Gen. 3:7-19; Heb. 12:16,17.

MEMORY VERSE:

For ye know how that afterward, when he would have inherited the blessing, he was rejected: for he found no place of repentance, though he sought it carefully with tears.

Heb. 12:17

INTRODUCTION

God's plan for us is to enter our inheritance, maintain it and live the abundant life. However, since the fall of man, there have been struggles of entering and maintaining the God-given inheritance. There are dire consequences if we do not enter and keep the inheritance given to us. In this study, we shall examine some of these consequences.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Discuss the consequences of not entering into our inheritance. Gen. 3:7-19; Judg. 2:10-23; 1 Sam. 2:30; Matt. 25:29,30; Rom. 8:19-21; 1 Cor. 10:1-12; Heb. 12:16,17; Rev. 21:8.
2. What are other consequences of not entering into our inheritance?

CONCLUSION

The consequences of not entering into our inheritance may transcend generations. Let us therefore arise and take hold of our inheritance.



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2ND QUARTER

SUB-THEME:

A GLORIOUS CHURCH

EPHESIANS 5:27



STUDY ONE:

WHAT THE CHURCH IS

TEXTS: 1 Cor. 12:12-31; Eph. 1:22, 23.

MEMORY VERSE:

And He is the head of the body, the Church: who is the Beginning, the Firstborn from the dead; that in all things He might have the preeminence. Col. 1:18

INTRODUCTION

The word “Church” is from the Greek term “ekklesia”, meaning “an assembly” or “called out ones”. The Church of Jesus Christ is a body of believers who have been called out from the world by God to live as His people under His authority as Lord and Savior. Furthermore, the Church as an assembly of believers meets physically for worship, fellowship, teaching, prayers and encouragement of one another in faith with the help and leadership of the Holy Spirit.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Discuss what the Church is from the following Bible references: Matt. 18:20; 1Cor. 12:12-31; Eph. 1:22, 23; Phil. 1:27; 4:3-6; Col. 1:18; 1Tim 3:15.
2. Discuss the purpose of the Church from these Scriptures: Matt. 18:15-20; 28:18-20; Acts 2:40-47; 6:4; 1 Cor. 6:1-7; 12:26-28; Eph. 4:2-7, 11-14; 1 Tim 3:15; 2 Tim 4:2.

CONCLUSION

The Church is not just a place, a building or a denomination but an assembly of believers. May the Lord continue to expand our scope of understanding this truth in Jesus' name.

STUDY TWO:

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE GLORIOUS CHURCH I: THE WORD OF GOD

TEXTS: 1 Thess. 1:5-8; 2 Tim. 3:14-17.

MEMORY VERSES:

*That He might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, that He might present it to Himself a glorious Church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish. **Eph. 5:26, 27***

INTRODUCTION

The word “glorious” is exhibiting attributes, qualities of beauty or splendor. A glorious Church is that healthy, radiant and splendid assembly of people redeemed by the blood of Christ from sin, the world and Satan. God purposed that these people will be unblemished, unwrinkled and unspotted. To achieve this, the Church must be devoted to learning, practicing and teaching the word of God. The word of God is characteristic of the glorious Church the word of God is the focus of this study.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Discuss the centrality of the word of God as a characteristic of a glorious Church. Matt. 7:24-25; Jn. 15:3; 17:17; Acts 4:15-20; 6:3-7; 13:47-49; 20:32; Rom. 1:16; Eph. 5:25, 27; 1Thess. 1:5-8; 2 Tim.2:14; 3:14-17, 4:2; Tit. 1:9; Jas. 1:18-25.
2. In what ways can the word of God be handled that would inhibit the expression of this glory? Mk. 7:13; 1 Thess. 2:3-6; 2 Tim. 2:16-18;3:5-8; Tit. 1:10-13; Heb. 4:2; Jas. 1:23, 24.

CONCLUSION

The glorious Church is one that is devoted and fully yielded to God's word. This allows the word of God to cleanse and present her unblemished to Jesus. Let us therefore handle the word correctly that we might experience the fullness of His glory.

STUDY THREE:

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE GLORIOUS CHURCH II: CONSECRATION AND LOVE.

TEXTS: 2 Cor. 5:14-17; 2 Tim. 2:15-26.

MEMORY VERSE:

By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another. Jn. 13:35

INTRODUCTION

One of the characteristics of the glorious Church is love borne out of consecration for her Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. This was evident in the life of the early Church and must continue to be a visible feature of the Church today.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Discuss consecration as a characteristic of the glorious Church from the following Scriptures: Jn. 17:15-22; Acts 6:4; 13:1-3; 24:16; Rom. 12:1, 2; 1 Cor. 6:9-20; 2 Cor. 6:14-18; Eph. 1:3-6; 2 Tim. 2:19-22.
2. Discuss love as a characteristic of the glorious Church. Jn. 13:34, 35; Acts 2:41-47; 2 Cor. 5:14-16; 1 Jn. 3:14-18; 4:16-21.

CONCLUSION

This study has revealed to us consecration and love as features of a glorious Church. God desires the Church to be committed to coveting these virtues so that men will see her glory in an ever increasing measure.

STUDY FOUR:

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE GLORIOUS CHURCH III: FAITH AND PRAYER

TEXTS: Acts 12:1-12; Col. 1:3, 4.

MEMORY VERSE:

But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him. Heb. 11:6

INTRODUCTION

Faith and Prayer are life lines of the glorious Church. These two work in tandem. It is not possible to truly pray without having faith, or to have faith without praying effectively. In summary, a faithless and prayer-less Church is a dead Church. In this study we will consider these two attributes.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Discuss faith and prayer as attributes of the glorious Church. 2 Chron. 7:14; Ezra. 8:21-23; Acts 2:42,43;12:1-12; 13:1-3; Col. 1:3,4; Heb. 11:6; 1Jn 5:14,15.
2. What are the consequences of lack of faith and prayers in the Church? Heb. 4:1-3; Jas. 1:6-8.

CONCLUSION

Faith and prayer, among other characteristics, form the bedrock on which the glorious Church operates. May we practise these vital aspects of Christian living in our daily walk with God.

STUDY FIVE:

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE GLORIOUS CHURCH IV: ONE BODY, MANY MEMBERS

TEXT: 1 Cor. 12: 1-31.

MEMORY VERSE:

For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ. 1 Cor. 12: 12

INTRODUCTION

The Church of Christ today has divided herself not only around loyalty to certain leaders, but also around ethical behaviours, social status, spiritual giftedness, ethnicity, denominations and race. Paul metaphorically uses the human body with many members (organs) to teach us that everyone, regardless of specific gifts, race, social status, creed or allegiance is indispensable of the other. This study aims at exposing us to this truth. Let us pray for insight as we study.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Discuss the significance of the phrase “one body, many members” from these Scriptures:
Jn. 10: 16. Rom. 3: 29,30; 12: 4,5; 1 Cor. 10: 16,17; 12: 1-31; 13: 1-13; 14: 26-33; Eph. 4: 3-16.
2. Discuss practical ways we can enhance unity in the body of Christ.

CONCLUSION

The unity of the Church is as real as that found in the human body. May the Lord help us to operate in this understanding, guided by His love in Jesus' name, Amen.

STUDY SIX

HAVING THE MIND OF CHRIST

TEXTS: Phil. 2:1-11; 1 Cor. 2:6-16.

MEMORY VERSE:

For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ. 1 Cor. 2:16

INTRODUCTION

Having the mind of Christ is to think and act like the Lord Jesus Christ. In the beginning, God created man in His image and after His likeness, but this was distorted when sin entered into the world. However, God sent His Son Jesus Christ to pay the ultimate price for the restoration of man. When any man accepts the finished work of Christ on Calvary, the mind of Christ is given to him by the Holy Spirit to help him think and behave like Christ. In this study, we will explore what it means to have the mind of Christ.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What does it mean to have the mind of Christ?
Gen. 1:26-28; 5:22-24; Num. 14:6-9, 24; Mk. 10:35-45;
Jn. 2:12-17; 6:63; 13:13-17; Rom. 12:1,2; 15:1-6; 1 Cor. 2:6-16; Eph. 4:20-32; Phil. 2:1-11; 1 Pet. 4:1-6.
2. What are the challenges to living out the mind of Christ today?
Rom. 1:28; 1 Cor. 3:1-3; 2 Cor. 10:3-5. Phil. 3:18, 19;
2 Tim. 1:7, 8; 3:1-9.

CONCLUSION

Having the mind of Christ ought to be the goal of every Christian. Let us therefore strive to think and act like Him as we live our lives daily.

STUDY SEVEN:

LIVING ABOVE THE FLESH

TEXTS: Rom 6: 1-19; 8: 1-14.

MEMORY VERSE:

This I say then, walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. Gal 5: 16

INTRODUCTION

In the context of the Scriptures, the flesh refers to the totality of the behavioural manifestation of the natural man, including his thoughts, motives, ambitions, creative abilities and service to God. Since the fall of man in the Garden of Eden, it became impossible for the natural man or the flesh to please God. So God sent His Son Jesus to redeem us. As new creatures, we are expected to keep learning this new way of life daily by taking instructions and guidance from the Spirit of God. This is the only way to live above the flesh.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Discuss some of the manifestations of the flesh:
Gen. 3: 9-13; 4: 3-9; 13: 5- 11; 25: 27-34; 37: 28-33;
Exo. 14:10-12; 1Sam. 15: 17-21; 18: 6-11; Matt. 18: 23-30;
19: 16-22; Acts 6:1; Gal. 5: 19-21.
2. Discuss how we can live above the flesh:
Lk. 9:23; Jn. 3:3; Rom 6:1-19; 8: 1-14; 12:1,2; Gal. 2:20;
5:16; Phil. 2:12-14; Col 3:1-17.

CONCLUSION

Victory over the flesh is by faith based on our knowledge of what Christ accomplished on the cross. This knowledge comes by revelation as we follow Him daily. May the Lord help us to discover this truth continually. Amen.

STUDY EIGHT:

OVERCOMING DIVISION IN THE BODY

TEXTS: Gen. 13: 1-13; 1Cor.1:9-17; 12: 12-27.

MEMORY VERSE:

... So that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other.

1 Cor.12: 25 (NIV)

INTRODUCTION

Division is the action of separating into parts or factions due to disagreement between two persons or groups. This typically produces tension and hostility, which leads to disunity, disaffection, dissection, isolation and lots more. These negative traits weaken the body, our relationship with God and with one another. Several things cause division in the body of Christ which bring pollution and even severing of relationships and fellowship. In the light of these, we must make conscious and deliberate efforts to see that we live a life devoid of offence, making peace with one another and overcoming division as much as it lies in us. This study focuses on overcoming division in the body of Christ.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Discuss the causes of division in the body: Gen. 4: 3-12; 13: 1-7; 37:1-5; Acts 6:1; 1 Cor.1:9-17; 3: 1-11; 12: 12 - 27; Jas. 3:2-6;4:1, 2.
2. How can we overcome division in the body? Gen. 13:8-12; Jn.13:34,35; Acts 6:2-7; 2 Cor. 7:1-3; Gal. 5: 16; Eph. 4:1-3; 5:21; Phil. 2:1-5, 14; Col. 3:5-17; 4:6; 1 Thess. 5:14, 15.

CONCLUSION

God's desire is that His children be one. Let us therefore shun division and embrace all the virtues that can enhance our relationship with one another.

STUDY NINE:

FUNCTIONING EFFECTIVELY IN A LOCAL CHURCH:

TEXTS: 1 Cor.12:12-31; Eph. 4:11-16.

MEMORY VERSE:

As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

1 Pet.4:10.

INTRODUCTION

A local Church is an assembly of believers in a locality or community. This is God's design for the equipping of the saints and propagation of the gospel. There are different ways in which a Christian could function effectively in the local Church. Hence the need to study the necessity and ways a Christian can function effectively in his local Church.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Discuss why it is necessary to function effectively in a local Church:
Prov. 27:17; Matt.28:18-20; Acts. 2:42-45; 1 Cor. 12:14-27; 2 Cor. 8:1-7; Eph. 4:11-16; 1 Tim. 3:15; 2 Tim. 2:14,15; Heb.10:23-25.
2. In what ways can we function effectively in a local Church? Matt.18:15-20; Rom.12:6-8; 1 Cor. 12:7-12, 28-31, 16:1, 2; 2 Cor.9:6-8; 1 Tim.3:1; Heb.13:17, 18; Jas. 1:27; 5:13-16.

CONCLUSION

For the local Church, to fulfil her mission, every one of us must be involved and function effectively.

STUDY TEN:

FELLOWSHIP AS A VITAL INGREDIENT IN THE GLORIOUS CHURCH

TEXTS: Acts 2:41-47; Rom. 12:9-21.

MEMORY VERSE:

And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers. Acts 2:42.

INTRODUCTION

Fellowship, translated from the Greek word, “koinonia”, means to “hold something in common.” It denotes an interdependent relationship which borders on unity. Biblical fellowship is a relationship of inner unity with Christ, which expresses itself in outer co-participation among believers. In this study, we shall look at fellowship and its place in the glorious Church.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Discuss fellowship as a vital ingredient of the glorious Church. Matt. 18:19, 20; Jn. 13:35; Acts 2:41-47; Rom. 12:9-21; 1 Cor. 1:10-13; 12:1-26; 1 Jn. 4:19-21.
2. Discuss how fellowship can be enhanced in our Church communities. Matt. 26:26-30; Mk. 9:50; Jn. 13:14; 15:9-13; 1 Cor. 1:10; 14:26; Eph. 4:1-6, 32; 5:21; Col. 3:9-17; 4:6; 1 Thess. 5:11; Heb. 10:24, 25; 1 Pet. 4:9, 10; 5:5, 6.

CONCLUSION

Fellowship is an important part of our faith. Coming together to support one another is an experience that allows us to learn, gain strength, and show the world exactly what the glorious Church is.

STUDY ELEVEN: REFLECTING GOD'S IMAGE

TEXTS: Gen.1:26-28; 2 Cor. 3:16-18; 1 Pet. 1:14-16.

MEMORY VERSE:

*So all of us who have had that veil removed can see and reflect the glory of the Lord. And the Lord who is the Spirit- makes us more and more like Him as we are changed into His glorious image. **2 Cor. 3:18 (NLT).***

INTRODUCTION

An image is a picture or representation of a real object. The original purpose of God right from creation was to have mankind reflect His image. As believers, God wants us to show the world His nature by the way we live. This is the focus of the study.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Discuss how believers are to reflect God's image: Gen.1:26-28; Isa.11:1-5; Matt. 5:16; Lk.6:27-36; Acts 3:1-12; 6:1-7; 7:57-60; 2 Cor.3:16-18; 1 Pet.1:14-16; 2:21-23.
2. What are some of the hindrances to reflecting God's image? Isa. 59:1-4; 1 Cor. 10:1-11; 2 Cor. 3:13-15.

CONCLUSION

Jesus is the express image of God the Father. He demonstrated how to reflect God's image during His earthly ministry and left us an example. May we be willing to follow in His steps.

STUDY TWELVE:

LIVING IN READINESS FOR HIS COMING

TEXT: Matt. 25: 1- 30

MEMORY VERSE:

*Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the son of man cometh. **Matt 24:44.***

INTRODUCTION

The believer has been admonished, warned and cautioned in the word of God to conduct himself worthy of the faith. This is not only for him to minister in the world in which he lives, but also that he is prepared to meet his Lord. This is the focus of this study.

DISCUSSION QUESTION

Discuss what living in readiness for His coming entails from these Scriptures: Matt. 24: 42-47; 25: 1-30; Jn. 9: 4; 1 Cor. 6: 1-10, 14-16; 1 Thess. 4: 1-12; 5:1-23; Heb. 4:11; 10: 22-25; 2 Pet. 3: 10-18.

CONCLUSION

Today's study has enlightened us on what living in readiness for His coming entails. Watch, therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming.



OMNIPOTENT GOD

Revelation 19:6

3RD QUARTER

SUB-THEME:

**...AS FOR ME AND
MY HOUSE...**

JOSHUA 24:15C



STUDY ONE:
THE CHURCH AS A FAMILY
TEXTS: Matt 12:46-50; Eph 3:14, 15; Heb 2:10-15

MEMORY VERSE:

*For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother. **Matt 12:50.***

INTRODUCTION

Jesus did not do away with the physical family, but He redefined it in the light of God's eternal purpose. The physical one is meant to portray the spiritual one. However, He places the spiritual family far above the physical. The Church is God's family and He expects all His children to so relate.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Discuss the Church as a family: Matt. 12:46-50; Lk. 2:41-50; Acts 2:41-47; Eph. 3:14, 15; 4:1-6; Heb. 2:10-15; 1 Jn. 4:19-21.
2. What are some hindrances to the Church walking as a family and how do we overcome them? Matt. 10:33-39; Mk. 7:5-13; Acts 6:1-4; 1 Cor. 1:10-15; 14:26; Jas. 2:1-9.

CONCLUSION

God places priority on the Church as a family. As members of this family, we should endeavour to be fully integrated.

STUDY TWO:

UNIQUENESS OF THE CHRISTIAN FAMILY

TEXT: Gen. 2:18-25; Exo. 20:12; Acts 18:24-28.

MEMORY VERSE:

And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD. Josh. 24:15.

INTRODUCTION

The Christian family is one that walks in line with biblical principles. The uniqueness of this family is that each member understands and fulfils God-given roles, exercises authority, lives an exemplary life and shines in the midst of the challenges of life. The primary requirement of this family is having a true relationship with Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Discuss what makes the Christian family unique:
Gen. 2:18-25; 35:1-7; 50:17-21; Exo. 20:12; Num. 27:1-8;
Deut. 11:18-21; Judg. 13:1-13; Acts 18:24-28; Eph. 6:1-9.
2. Discuss other ways the Christian family is unique.

CONCLUSION

The uniqueness of the Christian family is that it is centred on its relationship with Jesus Christ. Let us endeavour to live out this understanding.

STUDY THREE:

GOD'S PRESENCE IN OUR HOMES

TEXTS: 2 Sam. 6:11, 12; Ps. 128:1-6; 133:1-3.

MEMORY VERSE:

And the ark of the LORD continued in the house of Obed-edom the Gittite three months: and the LORD blessed Obed-edom, and all his household. 2 Sam. 6:11.

INTRODUCTION

The presence of God in a home guarantees righteousness, peace and joy. Where these exist, there will be unity and the free flow of God's blessings. A family that lacks God's presence will lack the pleasures and joy that His presence carries. Such homes are prone to setbacks such as unfruitfulness, sicknesses, disunity and lack of joy. May our hearts be open as we study.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Discuss the necessity for the presence of God in our homes: Gen. 35:1-5; 2 Sam. 6:11, 12; Ps. 16:8-11, 91:1-16; 128:1-6; 133:1-3; Jn. 15:4-8.
2. Discuss how God's presence may be cultivated in our homes: Gen. 18:17-19; Deut. 6:6-9; 30:19, 20; Ps. 15:1-5; 51:17; 133:1-6; Matt. 18:21, 22; Jn. 14:23; Acts 2:46, 47; Jas. 4:7, 8.

CONCLUSION

The presence of God is vital to the overall growth, development and enjoyment of the Christian home. May we cultivate His presence in our homes that we may partake of His fullness.

STUDY FOUR:

MY HOUSE: A TRAINING GROUND

TEXTS: Gen. 14: 14-16; Deut. 6:4-9; 2 Tim. 3:14-17.

MEMORY VERSE:

And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. Deut. 6:6,7.

INTRODUCTION

God expects that every home should be a platform for training. Training is teaching, or developing oneself or others, in any skill/or knowledge that relates to specific useful competencies. For a believer to be equipped for effectiveness in God's hand in all aspects of life and service, he must be properly trained. This study focuses on the Christian home as a platform for training. May God grant us fresh insight as we study.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Discuss the Christian home as a training ground from the following Scriptures: Gen. 14:14-16; 18:3-8, 17-19; Deut. 6:4-9; 1 Chron. 25:1-3; Est. 2:7-11; Ps. 78:2-7; Prov. 22:6; Jer. 35:4-10; 2 Tim. 3:14-17.
2. What are some of the consequences of a Christian home not being an effective training ground? 1 Sam. 2:12-17; 3:11-14; 4:10-22; 8:1-5; 1 Kgs. 1:5, 6; Ps. 78:8-12.

CONCLUSION

God strategically ordained the home to function as a training ground. When this platform is properly utilised, it brings great blessings to the Church and to the nation at large; otherwise, losses, grief, sorrow and death can be the resultant effects.

STUDY FIVE:

WE ARE FOR SIGNS AND WONDERS

TEXTS: Gen.18:17-19; Isa. 8:11-18; Mk. 16:17, 18.

MEMORY VERSE:

Behold, I and the children whom the Lord hath given me are for signs and for wonders in Israel from the LORD of hosts, which dwelleth in mount Zion. Isa. 8:18.

INTRODUCTION

Within the context of the family, God expects that parents and children are carried along. There is no restriction or discrimination based on age, sex or any other criterion in demonstrating His power and actualizing His purposes for our lives. This is the focus of this study.

DISCUSSION QUESTION

In the context of the Christian family, discuss the implications of “We are for signs and wonders” from these Scriptures: Gen.18:17-19; Exo.10:8, 9; Num. 25:10-13; Josh. 24:14-18; 1 Kgs. 2:1-4; Ps. 127:3-5; Isa. 8:11-18; Jer.1:4-10; Matt. 18:18-20; Mk.16:17, 18; Acts 21:8, 9.

CONCLUSION

God made a wholistic covenant with us, incorporating every member of the family. We should recognize this by encouraging everyone to showcase the power of God.

STUDY SIX:

EFFECTUAL PARENTING

TEXTS: Gen. 18:17-19; Deut. 6:4-9; Eph. 6:4.

MEMORY VERSE:

*Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it. **Prov. 22:6.***

INTRODUCTION

Effective parenting involves making inputs into the lives of our children and other dependants, with the intent of ultimately raising godly children. The Word of God gives a workable plan on effective parenting. May the Lord help us as we study to access this plan.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Discuss some principles of effectual parenting: Gen.18:17-19; 25:22, 23; Deut. 6:4-9; Judg 13:8-13; Prov. 4:1-5; 29:15; Eph. 6:4; 2 Tim. 3:14, 15; Tit. 2:1-10.
2. What are some consequences of ineffective parenting? Gen. 4:8; 1 Sam. 2:12-17; 3:11-14; 4:10-22; 8:1-5; 1 Kgs. 1:5, 6; Prov.17:2; 29:15.

CONCLUSION

Effectual parenting is a divine responsibility founded on a personal relationship with the Lord, and it involves prayer, training, love and discipline, among other things. May the Lord help us to implement all that we have studied.

STUDY SEVEN

STUDY SEVEN:

THE PRAYING FAMILY

TEXTS: Gen. 35:1-3; Matt. 18:19, 20.

MEMORY VERSE:

*Again I say unto you, that if two of you shall agree on earth as touching anything that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven. **Matt 18:19.***

INTRODUCTION

Prayer is one of the pillars of the Christian family. Prayer time is the time when the family comes together as a unit to commune with God. It redirects the focus from the individual members of the family and from the world to the Lord as the final authority in the family. This helps to nurture the family unit by providing an avenue to remove resentments, foster forgiveness, gratitude and unity; hence it is said “the family that prays together stays together”.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How can we raise a praying family?
Gen. 35:1-3; Deut. 6:4-7; Josh 24: 14, 15; Matt. 18:19, 20; Lk. 11:1-4; Acts 16:31; 1 Cor. 1:10.
2. What are the benefits of a praying family?
Deut. 4:6-8; Judg. 13:8-14; Ps. 91:1-16; 127:4, 5; 133:1-3; Matt. 18:19, 20; Phil 4:6, 7; Jas. 5:16.

CONCLUSION

As Christian families pray, God's kingdom is being established on the earth. Let us therefore arise together with our families and pray.

STUDY EIGHT:

CLOSING THE DOOR OF OUR HOMES AGAINST THE ENEMY.

TEXTS: Job 1:1-5; Eph. 6:1-18.

MEMORY VERSE:

*Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. **Eph 6:11.***

INTRODUCTION

The responsibility of closing the door of our homes against the enemy lies upon the shoulder of every member of the family. This is so because if the devil notices that the parents are always on their guard, he may attempt to come in through the children or other members. Hence the need for every member to be on their guard, so that the enemy will not have a hiding place in our homes.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Discuss some of the ways by which we can close the door of our homes against the enemy: Deut. 4:9; Job 1: 1-5; Prov. 23:13, 14; Matt. 18: 19; Rom. 12: 9-18; 2 Cor. 10:3-6, 12; Eph. 6:1-18; Col. 3:12-22.
2. Discuss some of the wiles of the enemy that we need to close the door of our homes against: Gen. 16:2; 1 Sam. 3:13; Matt. 12:25; Acts 5:1-3; 1 Cor. 3:3, 4; 15:33; Col. 3:8, 9; 2 Pet. 2:1.

CONCLUSION

The enemy is always on rampage, seeking for homes to devour. We can keep him away, if every member of the family takes up this responsibility. May the Lord help us to do so.

STUDY NINE:

EXPERIENCING ABUNDANCE IN THE FAMILY

TEXTS: Gen. 26: 2-14; Deut. 28: 1-13; Ps. 92: 12-15.

MEMORY VERSE:

And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.

Gen. 1:28.

INTRODUCTION

Abundance is a situation in which there is plentiful, over sufficient or more than enough supply of something. God wants our families to enjoy abundance in every area. Experiencing this abundance in the family is the focus of this study.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Discuss how we can experience abundance in the family: Gen. 1:28; 26:2-14; Josh. 1: 8; 24:15; 2 Kgs. 8:1-6; Job 1:1-3; Ps. 1:1-6; 92:12-15; Prov. 31:10-28; Matt. 13:18-24; Acts 21:8, 9; Heb. 13:4-6.
2. What are some challenges to enjoying abundance in the family and how can we overcome them? Gen. 26: 1-5; 2 Kgs. 4:1; Eccl. 3:1; 10:18; Isa. 59:1-3; Matt.13:18-23; Lk. 12:13-15, 22-28; Acts 5:1-4; 1 Tim. 5:8; 6:6-10; Heb. 12:15-17; 1 Pet. 3:1, 7.

CONCLUSION

The plan of God for every Christian family is to live in abundance and enjoy the family life. May we yield ourselves to God's word so that we can enjoy abundance in our families.

STUDY TEN:

GOOD NEIGHBOURLINESS

TEXTS: Rom. 13:8-10; Matt. 25:31-40; Lk. 10:25-37.

MEMORY VERSE:

Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law. Rom. 13:10.

INTRODUCTION

In life, we live and interact with other people. This sphere of interaction includes people we know and strangers. Regardless of our status in life, we are to look out for the needs of others, and be ready to offer help. This study focuses on good neighbourliness.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Discuss how to cultivate good neighbourliness: Lev. 19:18; Prov. 3:28, 29; 18:24; Matt. 5:14-16; Lk. 10:25-37; Rom. 13:8-10; Phil. 2:3, 4; Jas. 1:27; 1 Jn. 3:17, 18.
2. Discuss the importance of good neighbourliness: Prov. 19:17; 27:10; Matt. 5:14-16; 22:37-40; 25:31-40; Lk. 6:38; 14:12-14.

CONCLUSION

Good neighbourliness involves taking action. We must not only see the needs of others, we must also act on them.

STUDY ELEVEN:

THE WIDOWED AND ORPHANS

TEXTS: 2 Kgs. 4:1-7; Lk. 7: 11-17; 1 Tim. 5: 3-16.

MEMORY VERSE:

Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, to visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world. Jas. 1:27.

INTRODUCTION

When people in a family lose their loved ones such as a spouse, parents or relations, they experience the deep emotions of loneliness feeling broken, rejected and forsaken. In the Scriptures, our God who is a God of love, compassion and comfort shows special concern for those who are needy and hurting, especially the widowed and orphans. In this light, the Scriptures consistently remind us of our responsibility towards the widowed and orphans, and by implication all who are hurting. This study seeks to bring these realities to our awareness and that, even if this tragedy of bereavement occurs, God is in that tumult to breathe fresh meaning into our experience.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. The Lord recognizes the reality of death and the emotional trauma that accompanies it. Discuss Gen. 3: 17-19; Ps. 68: 5; 116:15; Eccl. 3:1-4; Isa. 54: 4, 5; 57:1,2; Jer. 49: 11; Heb. 9:27 and Rev. 14:13 in the given context.
2. What should be the responsibility of Christians to the widowed and orphans? Deut 14: 28, 29; 27: 19; Job 2:11; Isa. 1: 17; Lk. 7: 11-17; Jn. 11:19; Acts. 6: 1-7; 2 Cor. 1: 3, 4; 1 Tim. 5: 3-16; Jas. 1: 27.

CONCLUSION

God's comfort compensates for life's losses. May we as God's children minister to the needs of the widowed and orphans. Amen.

STUDY TWELVE:

LEAVING A LEGACY.

TEXTS: Jer. 35:1-10; Prov. 31:10-31.

MEMORY VERSE:

*A good man leaveth an inheritance to his children's children: and the wealth of the sinner is laid up for the just. **Prov. 13:22.***

INTRODUCTION

A legacy is something a person leaves behind, and for which he is remembered. Our lives are shaped by legacies set by men that once lived. Everyone leaves behind a legacy after they die. As Christians we are leaving legacies by the way we live, and to be emulated by those coming after us. Jesus left the greatest legacy in the history of mankind by laying down His life for us. Leaving a legacy is the focus of this study.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Discuss the legacies left by these Bible characters:
Gen. 3:6-19; 4:3-8; 5:22-24; 39:1-12; 1 Sam. 12:3-5;
Prov. 31:10-31; Jer. 35:1-10; Acts 18:24-28; 21:8, 9;
2 Tim. 1:2-5; 3:10-12; 1 Jn. 3:16.
2. What legacy are you leaving for the next generation?

CONCLUSION

The way we live our lives every day is building a legacy. Let us leave legacies that will point men to Christ.



OMNIPOTENT GOD

Revelation 19:6

4TH QUARTER

SUB-THEME:

THE GOOD

SHEPHERD

JOHN 10:11



STUDY ONE

STUDY ONE:

CHRIST THE GOOD SHEPHERD

TEXTS: Ps. 23:1-6; Jn. 10:11-16.

MEMORY VERSE:

I am the good Shepherd: the good Shepherd giveth his life for the sheep. Jn. 10:11.

INTRODUCTION

The Greek word “kalos” translated “good” describes that which is noble, wholesome, good and beautiful, in contrast to that which is wicked, mean, foul, and unlovely. It signifies not only that which is good inwardly, but also that which is attractive outwardly. In using the phrase, “the good Shepherd” therefore, Jesus is referring to His inherent goodness, righteousness, beauty and more. As the good Shepherd, He is the one who protects, guides and nurtures His flock.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Discuss some of the attributes of the good Shepherd from these Scriptures: Ps. 23:1-6; Isa. 40:11; 53:3-12; Jer. 23:4-6; Jn. 10:11-16.
2. What should be our attitude towards the good Shepherd? Ps. 23:4, 6; 27:8; Jn. 10:27;14:1.

CONCLUSION

It is a great privilege and honour to come under the fold of the good Shepherd. May we remain and enjoy the cover of the good Shepherd. Amen.

STUDY TWO:

ATTRIBUTES OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD I: FAITHFULNESS

TEXTS: Num. 23:19, 20; Deut. 7:7-12; Heb. 6:13-20.

MEMORY VERSE:

Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it.

1Thes. 5:24.

INTRODUCTION

Faithfulness is the quality of being faithful, loyal, constant, steadfast, resolute, and firm in adherence to whatever one owes allegiance. It is one of the characteristics of the good Shepherd. The faithfulness of the good Shepherd can therefore be summed up as His fidelity to His word and to us, His children.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Discuss the faithfulness of the good Shepherd:
Num. 23:19, 20; Deut. 7:7-12; Isa. 25:1; 1 Cor. 10:13;
2 Cor. 1:18-20; 1Thes; 5:24; 2 Thess. 3:3; 2 Tim. 2:13;
Heb. 6:13-20; 1Jn. 1:9.
2. What should be our response to the faithfulness of the good Shepherd?

CONCLUSION

“For this faithful God is our God forever and ever; He will be my guide even unto death”. May the Lord help us to stick with Him. Amen.

STUDY THREE:

ATTRIBUTES OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD II: COMPASSION

TEXTS: Ps. 23:1-6; Matt. 20:30-34; Mk. 8:1-8.

MEMORY VERSE:

*But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no Shepherd. **Matt. 9:36.***

INTRODUCTION

To be compassionate is to feel or show sympathy and concern for others. Jesus Christ, the good Shepherd, is compassionate and this is exemplified in several ways. As we study, may we be further enlightened to know and appreciate the compassion of our good Shepherd. Amen.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Discuss the compassion of Jesus the good Shepherd: Ps. 23:1-6; Isa. 40:11; Matt. 9:36; 11:28; 20:30-34; Mk. 8:1-8; Lk. 7:11-16; Jn. 6:37; 10:11,14-17; 1 Pet. 5:7; 1 Jn. 2:1,2.
2. Share practical experiences of the compassion of the good Shepherd.

CONCLUSION

Having studied the compassion of the good Shepherd, may the Lord help us to always remain within his fold so as to enjoy the fullness of his compassion. Amen.

STUDY FOUR:

ATTRIBUTES OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD III: HIS ROD AND STAFF

TEXTS: Ps. 23:1-6; Jn. 10:1-18.

MEMORY VERSE:

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. Ps. 23:4.

INTRODUCTION

The rod and staff of a shepherd are what he uses to protect, guide, lead, and get his flocks out of trouble or difficult situation. Likewise, Jesus who is our Shepherd, uses the rod and staff of His word to instruct, correct, direct, rebuke, comfort and teach us to follow the right path. This study focuses on the rod and staff of the good Shepherd.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Discuss how the good Shepherd uses His rod and staff from these Scriptures: Deut. 8:3,15, 16; 2 Sam 7:14, 15; 12:7-13; Ps. 23:1-4; 66:10-12; Matt. 16:22,23; Jn. 10:1-18; Act. 8: 26-29; Heb. 12:5-13.
2. Share from your experiences how the good Shepherd has used His rod and staff in your life.

CONCLUSION

Our experiences of the rod and staff of the good Shepherd are wholistic and for our benefit. May God give us the grace to learn and accept them.

STUDY FIVE:

MAXIMIZING GOD'S GUIDANCE

TEXTS: Ps. 32:8,9; Isa. 48:17-19; Rom. 8:12-16.

MEMORY VERSE:

I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye. Ps. 32:8.

INTRODUCTION

God has a plan for the lives of all His children. It is not His will that they should go the way of their own choice. He has promised to guide and lead them by the right way through all the uncertainties of life. Many children of God are ignorant of this divine resource; so they live at the mercy of human wisdom. As we study may God grant us understanding on how to maximize the unlimited resources of His guidance.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Analyse God's promise of guidance: Ps. 25:8-10; 32:8,9; Isa. 48:17-18; 50:4,5; 58:11; Jer. 29:11-13; Jn. 14:26; 16:13,14.
2. How can we maximize God's guidance? Ps. 32:8,9; Prov. 3:5,6; Jer. 33:2-3, Jn. 16:13; Act. 9:6; Rom. 8:12-16; 12:1-2; Jas. 1:5.
3. What are the hindrances to maximizing God's guidance?; Ps. 32:9; Gal. 4:1-3 Jas. 1:6-8; 4:3.

CONCLUSION

“It is God's glory to conceal things and the king's privilege to discover them”. May we earnestly seek to know and maximize God's guidance that we may live the life God designed for us.

STUDY SIX

STUDY SIX:

LEADERSHIP IN THE CHURCH

TEXTS: 2 Sam. 5:10-12; Mk. 10:42-45; 1 Tim 3:1-15.

MEMORY VERSE:

If anyone wants to provide leadership in the church, good!
1Tim 3:1 (Msg).

INTRODUCTION

God ordains leadership in the church for the purpose of serving His people and His Kingdom. To desire to provide leadership in the church is good. A leader requires both the integrity of his heart and the skillfulness of his hands, in addition to being called by God. This study focuses on leadership in the Church.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Discuss some leadership principles from the following Scriptures:
 Josh. 1:6-8; Ps. 78:70-72; 105:17-22; Isa. 40:11; Mk. 10:42-45; Gal. 1:10-12; Phil. 4:9; 1 Tim 3:1-15; Heb. 5:1-6.
2. Discuss some leadership pitfalls and how to overcome them:
 Neh. 13:26; Eze. 34:1-6; Mk 10:42-45; 1 Tim. 6:9-12; 2 Tim. 2:22-26; 1 Pet 5:1-4.

CONCLUSION

A leader in the church must learn self-control and depend on divine guidance. He is to please God, carry the followers along, and govern diligently as one accountable to God, not man.

STUDY SEVEN:

MARKET PLACE LEADERSHIP

TEXTS: Gen. 39: 1-6; Lk.5:1-10.

MEMORY VERSES:

*And so was also James, and John, the sons of Zebedee, which were partners with Simon. And Jesus said unto Simon, Fear not; from henceforth thou shalt catch men. **Lk. 5:10.***

INTRODUCTION

The market place refers to the platform where people operate, work, do business; or a community where one finds a living. Leadership, simply put, is influence. As believers in the market place, we have been given our professions, vocations and businesses as platforms to influence the world for Christ. This study focuses on market place leadership, how we can harness the opportunities therein, the challenges we may confront and how to overcome them.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Discuss how these characters displayed leadership in the market place, and what we can learn from them: Gen. 39: 1-6, 20-23; 41:25-45; Est. 4:13, 14; 7:3-6; Dan. 3: 8-18, 28-30; 6:3-5, 24-28; Jn.4: 4-19; Lk.5:1-10; 10:30-37; Acts 3:1-10.
2. Identify some challenges of market place leadership, and how they were overcome in the Scriptures in question 1.
3. How can we use our work place as a platform to advance the kingdom of God?

CONCLUSION

The market place is a ministry platform. We should therefore do everything to advance the kingdom of God wherever we find ourselves.

STUDY EIGHT:

THE HIRELING

TEXTS: Eze. 34:1-10; Jn.10:11-15.

MEMORY VERSE:

The hireling flees because he is a hireling and does not care about the sheep. Jn. 10:13 (NKJV).

INTRODUCTION

The hireling is someone who has little or no concern for the sheep or task he is hired for. His only interest is self-preservation and reward. The focus of this study is to expose who hirelings are, and to guard against them.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Discuss who a hireling is: Jer. 23:1, 2; Eze. 34:1-6; Matt. 23:1-16; Jn. 10:11-15; Col. 2:20-23; 1 Jn. 4:1-3; Jude 4,11-16.
2. How should we guard against hirelings in the Church? Tit. 1:10-13; 1 Tim. 6:3-5; 2 Tim. 4:1-5; 2 Thess. 3:14; 1Jn. 4:1-3; Jude 20,21.

CONCLUSION

There are many hirelings in the Church today. As Christians we must watch-out for them and handle them as prescribed in the Bible.

STUDY NINE:

REWARD FOR GOOD LEADERSHIP

TEXTS: Ps.126:5,6; 1Tim.5:17-18; Heb.6:10-15; Rev.22:12-14.

MEMORY VERSE:

For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have showed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister. Heb. 6:10.

INTRODUCTION

God rewards everyone that serves him accordingly. Therefore, let no one think that he serves God for nothing. The reward for leadership is spiritual, physical and material. This is the focus of this study.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Discuss the rewards for leadership from these Scriptures. Ps.126:5,6; Phil. 2:5-11; 1 Tim. 5:17,18; 2 Tim. 4:7,8; Heb.6:10-15, Rev.22:12-14.
2. What can make us lose our reward as leaders? Gen. 49:3,4; Num. 20: 7-12; Deut. 4:21; 1 Sam. 15:5-14; Matt.5:12; Acts 1:16-18; Gal.5:12-16; 6:9,10; Phil.2:12-16, 2Tim.2:15; 4:8; Heb. 12:15-17; 2 Jn. 8,9.

CONCLUSION

God does not owe anyone. He rewards every work we do as leaders in His vineyard. May we consistently depend on Him so that we may not to be found wanting.

STUDY TEN:

FOLLOWERSHIP

TEXTS: 2 Kgs. 2:1-15; Jn. 15:1-15; Acts 2:38-44.

MEMORY VERSE:

Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ.

1Cor.11:1.

INTRODUCTION

Followership means adherence to a leader, to faithfully support or follow a cause or belief. As Christians, we are expected to follow after Jesus. This study focuses on our responsibilities as followers of Christ.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What does followership entail? Exo.17:8-13, Ruth 1:16-18; 2 Kgs. 2:1-15; Lk. 5:27,28; 9:23-26; Jn. 15:1-15; Acts 2:38-44; 1 Cor.4:2, 3, 14-17; Phil. 2:12-15; 1 Tim.2:1-4; Heb. 13:17.
2. Discuss your impression of followership in the Church today, and how it can be improved upon.

CONCLUSION

As followers, we have the responsibility of giving our best to the Lord and the church leadership. We can do this through our commitment, prayers, obedience and sacrifices. May the Lord help us to be good followers in Jesus' name.

