



THE CHAPEL OF FAITH, UNIJOS

Holding Forth the Word of Life



BIBLE STUDY OUTLINES:

THE OVERCOMING LIFE

I JOHN 5:4

HOLDING FORTH THE WORD OF LIFE



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BIBLE STUDIES OUTLINES

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The overcoming life - 1 John 5:4

The Chapel of Faith
University of Jos,
P.O. BOX 10337, JOS.
0803 586 0482, 08033851526
E-mail : info@chapeloffaithunijos.org
Visit us @ www.chapeloffaithunijos.org

Designed and printed by impressive prints
E-mail: austine4christ72@yahoo.com
+2347037224745



FOREWORD

How very deeply grateful we are to You O Lord, for Your immense grace and mercy to us ward. Lord, true to Your Word, You have looked upon us and have been merciful unto us as Thou usest to do unto those who love Your name. (Psalm 119:132).

It is the breaking of a new year, the long awaited year 2020 is here and it has pleased the Lord to grant a clear course for our feet as we study together this year.

This we will do from the broad overarching theme for the year, and which is also the sub-theme for the first quarter – the Overcoming Life (1 John 5:4). The sub-themes for the second, third and fourth quarters are: Discipleship (John 8:31), the Flourishing Family (Psalm 112:1-3; 144:12), and The Ancient Landmark (Proverbs 22: 28) respectively.

It is my earnest prayer that the Lord will breathe His Breath of life on us as we study, digging deep into the Word of life, and so tap into this Overcoming Life of Christ. Be blessed!

Chaplain



2020 THEME: THE OVERCOMING LIFE 1JOHN 5:4

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1 JOHN 5:4

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**STUDY 1****ASSURANCE OF SALVATION**

TEXTS: Jn. 1:12, 13; 1 Jn. 5:11-13.

**MEMORY VERSE**

The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God.

Rom 8:16. (NKJV)

INTRODUCTION

Assurance of salvation is the firm, full conviction and knowledge of being saved and the forgiveness of sin. The lack of this assurance robs many of the joy of salvation and the anchor it provides for the soul. Essentially, assurance is brought about by faith in the work of the Holy Spirit and the Word of God. This study focuses on the assurance of salvation.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Discuss how a Christian can be assured of his salvation in the light of these scriptures: Jn. 1:12, 13; 3:16-18; Rom. 5:1, 2; 8:16; Eph. 2:8, 9; Heb. 6:17, 18; 1 Jn. 3:19-21; 5:13.
2. Why is the assurance of salvation important to a believer?
Rom. 8:1-4; Eph. 4:14; Heb. 6:19; Jas. 1:6-8; 1 Jn. 1:1-4.

CONCLUSION

The assurance of salvation is based on the accomplished work of Christ on the cross. It is not found in our feelings, services or faithfulness, but in the clear witness of the Holy Spirit and the integrity of the Word of God. Let each heart be fully assured in order to enjoy the privileges of this great salvation.

STUDY 2**UNDERSTANDING THE OVERCOMING LIFE**

TEXTS: Num. 14:1-10, 22-24; 1 Jn. 5:1-10.

**MEMORY VERSE**

For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcome th the world, even our faith. 1 Jn. 5:4.

INTRODUCTION

The experience of being born again involves a translation from death to life. The Christian is a new creation because he has a life that is totally different from the life he had when he was a natural man. This new life is superior to the natural life. One of the major characteristics of this superior life which is supernatural, is that it is not subject to the control of the natural life. Unfortunately, many Christians do not understand the power of this new life. This study is meant to help the Christian understand the inherent power and victory in the new life.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Discuss from the following scriptures what the overcoming life entails: Gen. 1:27, 28; Lk. 1:68-75; Jn. 4:13, 14; 7:37, 38; Acts 1:8; Rom. 6:14; Gal. 5:22-24; Eph. 1:3-12; Phil. 4:10-13; Col. 2:6, 7; 1 Jn. 5:1-5.
2. How can a Christian experience the overcoming life? Isa. 55:1-3; Rom. 5:17; 8:1, 2; 12:1, 2; 2 Cor. 10:3-6; 12:9, 10; Gal. 2:20, 21; Phil. 2:12, 13; 1 Jn. 5:18-20.

CONCLUSION

The overcoming life is not what any man can achieve in his own strength. A Christian can live the overcoming life by knowing, continuously believing in, and appropriating the provisions of God.

STUDY 3**THE ATTRIBUTES OF AN OVERCOMER**

TEXTS: Num. 14:6-9, 24; 1 Jn. 5:1-5.

**MEMORY VERSE**

And Caleb stilled the people before Moses, and said, let us go up at once, and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it. Num. 13:30.

INTRODUCTION

An overcomer is someone who gains control over some challenges or difficulties. As Christians we have been endowed with attributes that can make us overcomers. In this study, we shall be examining some of these attributes.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Discuss some attributes of an overcomer from these scriptures: Num. 13:27-30; 14:6-9, 24; Rom. 4:17-22; 5:3-5; 8:31-39; 1 Cor. 9:24-27; Phil. 3:10-14; 4:10-13; Heb. 12:1, 2; 1 Pet. 2:19-23; 1 Jn. 5:1-5.
2. How can we develop these attributes? Rom. 4:17-22; 5:3-5; Phil. 2:12; Heb. 5:7-14; 2 Pet. 1:5-9.

CONCLUSION

The Christian race is fraught with a number of challenges and difficulties, as such we must endeavour to exercise the attributes that can help us to overcome.

STUDY 4**VICTORY THROUGH KNOWLEDGE**

TEXTS: Hos. 4: 1-6; Dan. 9:1-4; Matt. 4: 1-11.

MEMORY VERSE

According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue. 2 Pet. 1:3.

INTRODUCTION

Knowledge is the ability to comprehend, have insight into, or skills to solve complex matters. It is key to living a victorious life; hence if the believer must be victorious over life's challenges, he must have the knowledge of God and who he is in Christ. In this study, we shall be considering victory through knowledge.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How can we live victoriously through knowledge?
Josh. 1:8; 1 Chron. 12:32; Ps. 119:9-11; Dan. 9:1-4; Matt. 4: 1-11;
Jn. 8: 30-33; Rom. 12: 1, 2; 2 Tim. 2:15; 2 Pet. 1:3, 4.
2. Discuss how these characters attained victory through knowledge:
2 Chron. 1:9-15; 34:14-21; Dan. 9:1-4; Jn. 13:1- 4.

CONCLUSION

There is no gainsaying the fact that knowledge is vital to victory. May we seek to obtain knowledge so we can live victoriously.

STUDY 5**MAXIMIZING YOUR VICTORY**

TEXTS: 2 Chron. 26:1-15; Phil. 3:7-16.

MEMORY VERSE

Making the most of every opportunity because the days are evil. Eph. 5:16. (NIV)

INTRODUCTION

To maximize means to make the most of an opportunity offered by something or someone. God, through the death and resurrection of his son Jesus, has made believers to be victorious over the world, the devil and sin, and He expects them to maximize this victory in their daily walk with Him. However, several believers only settle at maintaining these victories without making the most of them in their spheres of influence. In this study, we shall be considering maximizing our victories as believers, and the consequences of not doing so.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What does maximizing your victory as a believer entail from the following scriptures? 1 Sam. 17:33-37; 2 Sam. 5:17-25;
2 Chron. 26:3-5; Matt. 25:14-23; Jn. 9:4,5; 2 Cor. 4:7-11; 10:12;
Eph. 5:15-17; Phil. 2:12, 13; 3:7-16; Heb.6:1-3.
2. Discuss the consequences of a believer not maximizing his victory from the following scriptures: 1 Sam. 15:18-29;
2 Sam. 11:1-5; 2 Chron. 26:16-21; 2 Kgs. 13:14-19;
Matt. 25:24-30; Lk. 12:16-21.

CONCLUSION

God ordained that as believers, His purpose will be accomplished through us. This can only be done as we take advantage of every opportunity that comes our way and ensure that we are not easily satiated with our successes. May our hearts be enlarged to pursue God's

STUDY 6**SUSTAINING YOUR VICTORY**

TEXTS: Exo. 17:8-13; Matt. 14: 22-32; Rom. 8: 1-17.

**MEMORY VERSE**

Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage. Gal. 5:1.

INTRODUCTION

Victory in Christ is received and sustained by faith in the finished work of Christ. Therefore, it is the responsibility of every Christian to continuously live by reliance on this provision in order to conform to sustaining the victory. Anything short of this makes the believer lose his victory and leads to daily struggles in the attempt to restore his victory.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How can a Christian sustain his victory from the following scriptures? Josh. 1:8; Prov. 24:16; Matt. 11: 28-30; Jn. 15:4-10; Rom. 8:5-9, 13-17; 12:1, 2; Phil. 4:8,9; 2 Tim. 2:15,16; Heb. 12:1-6; Jas. 1:19-25.
2. Discuss some reasons why some Christians fail to sustain their victory in Christ: 1 Kgs. 20:39, 40; Hos. 4:6; Matt. 9:16, 17; 17:14-20; Rom. 8:6-8; Gal 3:1-5; Eph. 4:14.

CONCLUSION

Christ paid the price for every believer's victory. However, to sustain it, we need to abide in Him and live by the Spirit

STUDY 7**THE BELIEVER'S AUTHORITY**

TEXTS: Gen. 1:26-30; Eph. 1:3-23.

**MEMORY VERSE**

*Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you.
Lk. 10:19. (NKJV)*

INTRODUCTION

Every believer has been given the authority in Christ Jesus to live the overcoming life. However, for a believer to fully assert his authority, he must understand what it entails and how to put it into use. This study focuses on the believer's authority.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Discuss the believer's authority in Christ from the following scriptures: Gen. 1:26-30; Matt. 28:18-20; Lk. 10:19; Eph. 1:17-23; 6:13-18; Col. 2:15; Jas. 4:7; 1 Jn.4:4; 5:4, 5.
2. How can a believer maximise his authority in Christ Jesus? Josh.1:6-8; Mk.1:27; 3:14, 15;11:23; 2 Cor. 10:3-6; 2 Tim. 2:15; 1 Pet. 5:8, 9.

CONCLUSION

A believer must be bold and courageous in order to exert his authority on earth. May we, as believers, and the Church maximise the authority we have been given on earth in Christ Jesus.

STUDY 8**HINDRANCES TO LIVING THE OVERCOMING LIFE**

TEXTS: Deut. 20:1-4; Prov. 1:29-33; 1 Jn. 2:15-17.

**MEMORY VERSE**

*So then they that are in the flesh
cannot please God. Rom 8:8.*

INTRODUCTION

God expects us to live an overcoming life. However, there are several hindrances to living this life that manifest in various ways. It is critical that a believer should beware of these hindrances. This study focuses on some of these obstacles.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Discuss some hindrances to living the overcoming life:
1 Sam. 13:5-13; 2 Kgs. 5:20-25; Prov. 1:29-33; Isa. 59:1-8;
Hos. 4:6; Matt. 13:19-22; 25:24-28; Jas. 1:5-8; 1 Jn. 2:15-17.
2. How can the believer overcome these hindrances?
Mk. 11:22-25; Jn. 16:33; 1 Cor. 15:56-58, Col. 3:12-17;
2 Tim. 1:7, 8, 13, 14; 2:3-5; 12-16, 21-25.

CONCLUSION

Hindrances to living the overcoming life are inevitable. However, God is faithful who has made provision for our victory. May we be willing to avail ourselves of these provisions in Jesus' name. Amen.

STUDY 9**BENEFITS OF LIVING THE OVERCOMING LIFE**

TEXTS: Gen. 26:1-5, 12-14; Matt. 25:14-29; Rom. 8:9-17.

**MEMORY VERSE**

*He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and
I will be his God, and he shall be my son.
Rev. 21:7.*

INTRODUCTION

Living the overcoming life may appear challenging to the Christian. However, there are numerous benefits for being an overcomer, both in this life and in the world to come. This study focuses on some of these benefits.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Discuss some of the benefits of living the overcoming life from the scriptures below: Gen. 14:22-15:1; 26:1-5, 12-14;
Deut. 7:12-15; Ps. 1:1-3; 16:8-11; Matt. 25:14-29; Jn. 1:11, 12;
8:30-32; Rom. 8:9-17; Phil. 4:4-7; Rev. 21:1-7.
2. Share some practical experiences on the benefits of living the overcoming life.

CONCLUSION

The benefits of living the overcoming life could manifest themselves in several ways which may include promises, interventions and achievements. May God help us to enjoy these benefits.

STUDY 10**EXAMPLES OF MEN WHO LIVED THE OVERCOMING LIFE**

TEXT: Heb. 11:32-40.

MEMORY VERSES

I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.
2 Tim. 4:7, 8.

INTRODUCTION

In the last two studies, we saw the hindrances and benefits of living the overcoming life. In this study, we shall be looking at examples of men who lived the overcoming life.

DISCUSSION QUESTION

What can we learn from the characters in the following scriptures who lived the overcoming life?

Gen. 4:3, 4; 5:21-24; 6:5-9; 39:7-12; Est. 4:1-16;

Dan. 1:8-21; 3:13-26; Acts 6:8-15; 7:54-60; 2 Cor. 11:21-33;

Heb. 11:32-40.

CONCLUSION

An overcomer is not only one who resists the temptation to renounce his faith in the face of persecution; but he is also one who, through honest and continuous introspection, is aware of his own spiritual condition and is diligent in putting sinful attitudes and behaviours out of his life. Where do you stand?

STUDY 11**MORE THAN CONQUERORS**

TEXTS: Rom. 8:26-39; Col. 2:9-15.

MEMORY VERSE

Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.
Rom 8:37.

INTRODUCTION

To be more than a conqueror is to gain surpassing victory. A Christian is more than a conqueror when the Lord fights for him, when he is able not only to master his foes but also himself. He can take a firm stand for the truth and against the advancing enemies of the truth. It means that we face the trials of life with the certainty that we are not alone but have Jesus Christ who conquered and gave us victory. This study will enable us to understand the reality of being more than conquerors.

DISCUSSION QUESTION

What does it mean to be more than conquerors, and how do we live in the reality of it? Josh. 6:20,21; 1 Sam. 17:45-50;

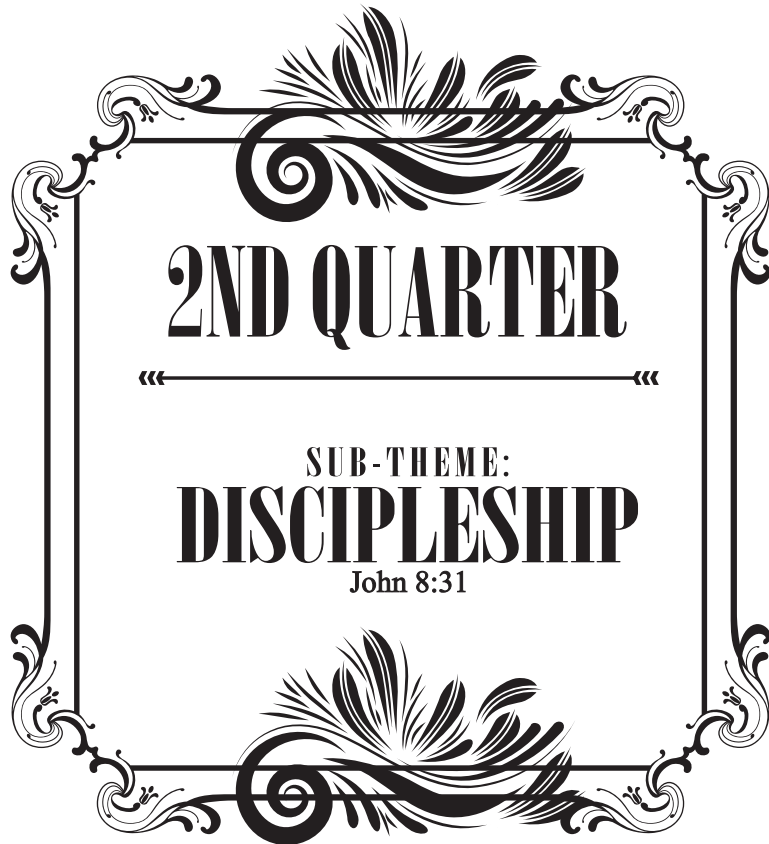
2 Chron. 14:10-13; Jer. 1:17-19; Lk. 10:19, 20; Jn. 10:27-29;

16:33; Rom. 8:1-4, 26-39; 2 Cor. 2:14; 10:3-6; Col. 2:9-15;

Heb. 13:5,6; 1 Jn. 4:4; 5:4, 5(AMP); Rev. 3:5,21; 12:10, 11.

CONCLUSION

Jesus has made us more than conquerors. Let us live in this reality no matter the circumstances.



STUDY 1

WHAT DISCIPLESHP ENTAILS

TEXTS: 1 Kgs. 19: 19-21; Jn. 8: 30-32.

MEMORY VERSES

*Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.
Matt. 11: 28,29.*

INTRODUCTION

Discipleship is God's process of making men. It entails a systematic, step by step teaching, learning and the influencing experiences of a disciple to the Lord Jesus Christ for him to become like the master. In this study, we shall focus on what discipleship entails in order for us to learn, give ourselves to it and conform to the image of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. May we be enlightened and challenged as we study.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What qualifies a person to be a disciple?
Eze. 36:26,27; Matt. 6: 21-24; Jn. 1: 12, 13; 3: 1-7; 8:30-32.
2. What does discipleship entail from the following Bible passages?
1 Kgs. 19:19-21; Matt. 4:19; 11: 28-30; Mk. 3:14; Jn. 6:68, 69; 8: 30-32; 15:7-10; Acts 18:24-28; Rom. 8: 29; 1 Cor. 2:12-14; Gal. 4:1, 2; 2 Tim. 2:1-3; Heb. 12:6-11; 1 Pet. 2:21.

CONCLUSION

Discipleship entails being born again and learning to be like the Lord Jesus Christ. This we do by learning of the Lord and through more mature brothers and sisters in the Lord. May we yield ourselves to it and effectively become all that God wants us to be.

STUDY 2**THE NEED FOR DISCIPLESHIP**

TEXTS: 1 Kgs. 19:19-21; 2 Kgs. 2:1-14; Matt. 4:18-22.

**MEMORY VERSE**

Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. Matt. 11:29.

INTRODUCTION

God's purpose for every Christian is to become like His son Jesus. For this to be accomplished, God ordained that every believer should voluntarily and deliberately enroll in discipleship. It is through this process that he can attain to the fullness of the stature of Christ in every aspect of life and ministry. Understanding the need for discipleship is vital for any believer to access the transformation it brings. May we be helped as we study.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Discuss from these Scriptures the need for discipleship:
1 Kgs. 19:19-21; 2 Kgs. 2:1-14; Matt. 4:18-22; 11:28-30;
Mk. 3:13-15; Lk. 6:39, 40; 14:25-33; Acts 18:24-28;
Rom. 8:28-30; Gal. 4:1, 2; Eph. 4:13-17; 2 Tim. 2:1, 2;
Heb. 12:5-11.
2. What are the consequences of lack of discipleship?
1 Kgs. 1:5, 6; 2:13-25; Ps. 78:8-11; Hos. 7:8-12; Heb. 12:8, 9.

CONCLUSION

Discipleship is the surest means of attaining to the fullness of the stature of Christ. It affords the disciple innumerable benefits. May we be willing to submit ourselves to discipleship so that our walk with the Lord might be meaningful.

STUDY 3**PRINCIPLES OF DISCIPLESHIP**

TEXTS: 1 Kgs. 19:19-21; 2 Kgs. 2:1-14; Lk. 14:25-33.

**MEMORY VERSE**

Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. Matt. 16:24.

INTRODUCTION

Pinciples of discipleship are fundamental guidelines of training believers to be like Jesus. It is expected that the disciple understands these principles to be effective in his discipleship relationship. This study focuses on some of the principles of discipleship.

DISCUSSION QUESTION

Discuss some principles of discipleship from the following scriptures:
1 Kgs. 19:19-21; 2 Kgs. 2:1-14; Matt. 9:16, 17; 16:24-27;
Mk. 3:13-15; Lk. 14:25-33; Jn. 15:4-8; Acts. 2:42-47; 14:19-28;
1 Thess. 2:1-9; 2 Tim. 2:1-5; Heb. 13:17.

CONCLUSION

From the study, some principles of discipleship include: self-denial, a sense of purpose, obedience, persistence, discipline, and so on. May we give ourselves to deploying these principles for effective discipleship.

STUDY 4**THE PRIORITIES OF A DISCIPLE OF CHRIST**

TEXTS: Lk.10:38-42; 18:26-30.

**MEMORY VERSE**

But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her. Lk. 10:42.

INTRODUCTION

Priority is referred to as a matter of greatest importance. For a disciple to follow Christ correctly, he must set his priorities right. Setting our priorities right as disciples is cardinal to achieving God's purpose for discipleship. This study focuses on the priorities of a disciple of Christ.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Discuss some of the priorities of a disciple of Christ from the following scriptures:

2 Kgs. 2:1-14; Ezra 7:10; Matt. 10:37-39; Lk. 10:38-42; 18:26-30; Acts 21:10-14; 1 Cor. 9:24-27; Phil. 3:7-14; 4:11,12.
2. What are the benefits of setting right priorities as a disciple of Christ Jesus? Matt. 7:24, 25; Lk. 10:42; 1 Cor. 9:25; 2 Pet. 1:8-11.

CONCLUSION

Setting our priorities right will guarantee that we can stand in adversity, being fruitful, earning our Master's approval and our progress will be evident to all. May the Lord help us.

STUDY 5**THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP**

TEXTS: 2 Kgs. 2:1-15; Matt. 16:24-26.

**MEMORY VERSE**

Then Jesus said unto his disciples, if any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. Matt. 16: 24.

INTRODUCTION

Cost is the price that is required to be paid or the sacrifice to make in order to gain something. In the context of discipleship, it refers to the conditions laid down by Jesus Christ which every Christian should submit to. May the Lord grant us understanding as we study.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Discuss the cost of discipleship from these scriptures:
Gen. 12:1-5; 2 Kgs. 2:1-15; Matt. 5:1, 2, 10-12; 16:24-26;
Mk. 8:33-35; Lk. 5:27, 28; 10:38-42; 14:26-33; Jn. 8:28-32.
2. Share some personal experiences on the cost of discipleship.

CONCLUSION

The cost of discipleship may appear high, but the gains are enormous. We are therefore encouraged to voluntarily and willingly pay the price and submit to discipleship.

STUDY 6**RESPONSIBILITIES IN DISCIPLESHIP**

TEXTS: Jn. 10:2-5, 11-15; 2 Tim. 2:1, 2; Tit. 2:1-8.

**MEMORY VERSE**

And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also. 2 Tim. 2:2.

INTRODUCTION

Discipleship is a two-way relationship between a disciple and a discipler. It therefore has roles and responsibilities that both parties must assume for effectiveness in the process. In this study, we shall focus on responsibilities in discipleship.

DISCUSSION QUESTION

From the following scriptures, discuss the responsibilities in discipleship: Prov. 1:8; Matt. 28:19,20; Jn. 10:2-5, 11-15; 13:3-15; 21:15, 16, 20-23; 1 Cor. 11:1; Gal. 4:19; 2 Tim. 2:1, 2; Tit. 2:1-8; Heb. 13:7, 17.

CONCLUSION

The responsibilities in discipleship include teaching, obedience, abiding in Christ, among others. May we be disciples indeed.

STUDY 7**CHRISTIAN DISCIPLINES**

TEXT: 1 Cor. 9:1-27.

**MEMORY VERSE**

But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway. 1 Cor. 9:27.

INTRODUCTION

The Christian lives in a world submerged in evil. Every day he is confronted with a system which seeks to bring him into its mould. As disciples of Christ, we undertake several practices that help us to keep in step with the Holy Spirit. This is the focus of this study.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Discuss some Christian disciplines from these scriptures: Josh. 1:8; Dan. 1:8; Ps. 63:1-8; Prov. 20:13; 22:29; Matt. 6:1-4, 16-18; Mk. 1:35; Rom. 12:1,2; 1 Cor. 9:16, 24-27; 2 Cor. 6:14-18.
2. What are some of the challenges to practising these disciplines?
1 Sam. 15:21-23; Prov. 6:9-11; 21:17; 25:28; 26:13-16; Matt. 26:41; 1 Tim. 6:6-10; Jas. 1:8; 1 Jn. 2:15, 16.

CONCLUSION

Christian disciplines are an important aspect of our walk with God. However, practising them can be challenging. May we continue to strive to practise them.

STUDY 8**CHALLENGES TO EFFECTIVE DISCIPLESHIP**

TEXTS: 2 Kgs. 2:1-10; 2 Tim. 4:10-16.

**MEMORY VERSE**

Many therefore of his disciples, when they had heard this, said, This is an hard saying; who can hear it? Jn. 6:60.

INTRODUCTION

Challenges could be regarded as inhibiting factors that make a cause or goal difficult to achieve. Such challenges are inherent in discipleship, and may emanate from the disciple, the discipler or the circumstances surrounding the process. This study considers some of the challenges to effective discipleship.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Discuss some challenges to effective discipleship from the following scriptures:
2 Kgs. 2:1-10; 5:20-27; Matt. 10:22-25; 16:24,25;
Mk. 14:32-38, 44, 66-68; Lk. 9:44-50; Jn. 6:59-71;
2 Tim. 4:10-16.
2. Share some contemporary challenges that affect discipleship.

CONCLUSION

There are many challenges to effective discipleship. However, we have been given the grace to overcome. May God help us.

STUDY 9**BENEFITS OF DISCIPLESHIP**

TEXT: Jn. 17:6-26.

**MEMORY VERSE**

And every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my name's sake, shall receive an hundredfold, and shall inherit everlasting life. Matt. 19:29.

INTRODUCTION

The significance of discipleship in our walk with the Lord is that both the discipler and the disciple stand to benefit from the relationship. We need reproof, instruction and encouragement from each other as we grow into the image of Christ. In this study, we shall focus on the benefits of discipleship.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Discuss some of the benefits of discipleship from these scriptures:
2 Kgs. 2:12-15; Matt. 11: 27-30; 12: 48-50; Mk. 4:11, 34; 10: 28-30; Lk. 6:40; Jn. 15:14-16; Acts 18:24-28.
2. What other benefits of discipleship can be derived from Jn. 17: 6-26?

CONCLUSION

Discipleship has enormous benefits, both for time and eternity. It helps us to be conformed to the image of Christ and positions us for unquantifiable blessings from the Lord.

STUDY 10**ROOTED AND GROUNDED IN CHRIST**

TEXTS: Ps. 1:1-6; Col. 2:4-8.

**MEMORY VERSES**

As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him: Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving. Col. 2:6, 7.

INTRODUCTION

A strong tree has a good root system that anchors it below the ground and enables it to absorb water and nutrients that are required for growth. Every believer is likened to a tree planted by God and is expected to be rooted and grounded in Christ so as to withstand the storms of life and bear fruits that will abide.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Discuss how a believer can be rooted and grounded in Christ:
Ps. 1:1, 2; Matt. 7:24, 25; 13:19-23; Jn. 15:4-7;
Eph. 3:14-19; 4:11-16; Col. 2:4-8; 2 Tim. 2:15; 2 Pet. 1:5-9.
2. What are some implications of being rooted and grounded in Christ?
Ps. 92:12-15; Matt. 7:24, 25; 13:23; Jn. 15:7, 8;
Eph. 3:16-19; 4:12-16.

CONCLUSION

When a believer is rooted and grounded in Christ, he becomes mature and stable in the faith. He is secure in the love of God, in order to be fruitful and enduring.

STUDY 11**FOLLOWING IN HIS STEPS**

TEXTS: Matt. 16:24, 25; Jn. 14:11-13; 1 Cor. 11:1, 2; 1 Pet. 2:21-23.

**MEMORY VERSE**

He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also to walk, even as he walked. 1 Jn. 2:6.

INTRODUCTION

When Jesus said to his disciples 'follow me', He did not mean only taking the physical footsteps; rather, he meant they should follow his lifestyle of discipleship and modelling of lives that can stand the test of time. This study focuses on what following in his steps entails.

DISCUSSION QUESTION

Discuss what it means to follow in his steps:
Matt. 10:24, 25; 16:24, 25; Mk. 1:34-39; 6:31, 32;
Jn. 4:6-42; 14:11-13; Acts 4:13; 8:29-35; 18:24-28; 20:18-21,
1 Cor. 11:1, 2; 2 Cor. 5:18-20; 1 Pet. 2:21-23.

CONCLUSION

Jesus has left us various examples about his character and essential principles of life worth practicing. Let us endeavour to follow in his steps.

STUDY 12**DISCIPLING NATIONS**

TEXTS: Ps. 82:1-8; Matt. 28:18-20.

MEMORY VERSE

And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, the kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever. Rev. 11:15.

INTRODUCTION

The great commission gives Christians the task of discipling the nations. This requires us not only to disciple individuals but also to influence cultures, systems and world views for the kingdom of God. It means that we are to take what we are learning from Christ, live it out, teach and establish it in the world around us, so that Christ can be the Lord of all. This is the focus of this study.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What does it mean to disciple nations from the following scriptures?
Gen. 1:26-28; 12:2, 3; Deut. 17:14-20; Ps. 82:1-8; Prov. 14:34; Isa. 12:4-6; 33:22; 61:1-4; Matt. 5:13-16; 6:10; 16:18, 19; 24:14; 28:18-20; Mk. 11:17; Acts. 15:14-17; 2 Cor. 5:18-20; Eph. 3:8-11; Rev. 11:15.
2. What are some of the consequences of not discipling the nations?

CONCLUSION

God's mandate for the Church is to disciple men and nations. May we live up to our responsibility in this respect.



STUDY 1

BEYOND CEREMONY

TEXTS: Eccl. 2:1-11; Matt. 25:1-13.

MEMORY VERSE

Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment? Matt. 6:25.

INTRODUCTION

The wedding ceremony for a Christian, is a celebration of two individuals making a commitment to be one with each other and the Lord. Unlike non-Christians, where the focus of the day is primarily on the bride or the groom, the focus should be on the Lord Jesus Christ, who predestined them to come together and demonstrate to the world the relationship He has with the Church. It is therefore expected that our approach to wedding celebration should reflect the couple's dedication to Christ and His mission for their marriage.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Discuss from the following scriptures what is implied by "Beyond Ceremony"?
Prov. 6:6-8; 21:20; 23:17-21; Eccl. 2:1-11; Matt. 6:25;
Lk. 8:14; 16:11; Jn. 6:22-27; Rom. 12:2; 13:11-14;
1 Cor. 4:2; 6:12; 10:31; 2 Cor. 10:12-14; Gal. 1:10; 5:13;
Eph. 5:15-18; Phil. 4:5; 2 Pet. 3:17.
2. Discuss some of the ways wedding and other ceremonies have been abused and what can be done about it.

CONCLUSION

God expects believers to look beyond the pomp and pageantry that the world places on celebrations in order to focus on honouring Christ. In this way the lordship of Christ is proclaimed over all of life.

STUDY 2

LEAVING AND CLEAVING

TEXTS: Gen. 2:18-25; Eph. 5:22-33.

MEMORY VERSE

Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh. Gen. 2:24.

INTRODUCTION

Leaving means separation from the dependence, comfort and security of one's parents or loved ones. This is necessary to develop a new and intimate relationship with one's spouse, which is of highest priority. However, "leaving" does not suggest severing ties with loved ones. "Cleaving" on the other hand, is bonding or joining to one's spouse in a marital relationship. God expects every partner in marriage to leave the familiar and predictable "terrain" of their loved ones and to cleave to their spouse and become one flesh. This is the focus of this study.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Discuss what "leaving and cleaving" entails from these scriptures:
Gen. 2:18-25; 24:50-67; Prov. 5:15-19; Eccl. 4:9-12;
Songs. 1:1-4; Amos 3:3; 1 Cor. 7: 2-5; Eph. 5:22-33.
2. Discuss some contemporary challenges to leaving and cleaving?

CONCLUSION

Leaving and cleaving is vital for a couple to become one flesh. There are several reasons why this is necessary; it fosters agreement, oneness, sexual purity and lots more. May we be willing to pay the price of leaving in order to cleave in our marriages.

STUDY 3**BUILDING A FLOURISHING FAMILY**

TEXTS: Gen. 1:26-31; Deut. 6:1-12; 1 Pet. 3:1-12.

MEMORY VERSE

For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the Lord, to do justice and judgment; that the Lord may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him. Gen. 18:19.

INTRODUCTION

Flourishing is to thrive, find fulfilment, accomplish meaningful and worthwhile task in whatever we do. God's purpose for every family is to flourish. A flourishing family is like a structure which needs a good and solid foundation to stand and thrive. It involves setting our priorities right and establishing our home on the platform of God's word.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How can we build a flourishing family from these scriptures? Gen. 1:26-31; 18:17-19; Deut. 6: 1-12; Prov. 3:5-8; 5:18; 14:1; 31:26-28; Matt. 18:19,20; Rom. 12:1, 2; 1 Cor. 7:3-5; 2 Cor. 10:12-14; Eph. 4:32; 5:22-33; Heb. 13:4-6; Jas. 5:9,16; 1 Pet. 3:1-12.
2. Discuss some contemporary misconceptions of a flourishing family.

CONCLUSION

Building a flourishing family, requires dependence on the Word of God, prayers and the Holy Spirit. May we avail ourselves of these

STUDY 4**HOW TO FLOURISH IN OUR HOMES**

TEXTS: Gen. 26:1-6, 12-32; Eph. 5:17-33.

MEMORY VERSES

Blessed is every one that feareth the Lord; that walketh in his ways. For thou shalt eat the labour of thine hands: happy shalt thou be, and it shall be well with thee. Ps. 128:1, 2.

INTRODUCTION

God's design for Christian homes is that they prosper and do good works even in the midst of challenges. It is the Christian's privilege to enjoy all that God has made available for him. This study seeks to examine some of these privileges and how we can enjoy them.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What does it entail to flourish in our homes? Gen. 1:28-30; Ps. 128:1-6; Isa. 53:10; Jer. 17:7, 8; Acts 18:24-28; 21:8, 9.
2. How can we flourish in our homes from these scriptures? Gen. 26:1-6, 12-32; Deut. 6:6-9; Ps. 128:1; 133:1-3; Eccl. 4:9-12; Jer. 29:4-7; Rom. 4:17-24; Eph. 5:17-33; 6:1-4; 1 Pet. 3:1-12.

CONCLUSION

God wants us to be fruitful, multiply, replenish, have dominion and subdue the earth. He has made ample provisions for us to accomplish these responsibilities. Let us therefore walk in accordance with His word in order to enjoy them.

STUDY 5**DISCIPLING YOUR HOME**

TEXTS: Ps. 78:1-7; 2 Tim 1:1-5.

MEMORY VERSE

For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the Lord, to do justice and judgement; that the Lord may bring upon Abraham that which he has spoken of him. Gen. 18:19.

INTRODUCTION

The home is the primary place of discipling members of the household. It offers the opportunity to learn from one another. Unfortunately, some have unconsciously exchanged the crucial role of discipling family members for some other businesses. Discipling our homes is the focus of this study.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Discuss what discipling your home entails:
Gen. 18:17-19; Exo. 18:14-24; Deut. 6:5-9; 1 Sam. 3:1-10;
Ps. 78:1-7; Prov. 22:6; Jer. 35:1-10; 2 Tim. 1:1-5; 3:14, 15.
2. Discuss some of the effects of not discipling our homes:
Gen. 27:41-46; 1 Sam. 2:12-17; 8:1-5; 1 Kgs. 1:5, 6.

CONCLUSION

Discipling our homes is a task that requires the full attention of all. May the Lord help us to be faithful in carrying out this responsibility.

STUDY 6**WINNING TOGETHER**

TEXTS: Gen. 18:1-10; Lk. 1:57-65.

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

Winning together means working together to achieve God's purposes for the family. It implies that there are no "his" or "hers", no partitioning or secrets, no "winner" or "loser" even in disagreements. This study focuses on winning together as a family.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What does it mean to win together as a family?
Gen. 14:14-16; 35:1-5; 18:1-10; Exo. 4:24-26; Deut. 6:1-9;
Judg. 13:1-11; Matt. 1: 18-25; Lk. 1:57-65; Acts 18:24-28;
1 Cor. 7:3-5.
2. What are some hindrances to winning together as a family?
Gen. 4:5-9; 25:27, 28; 37:4; Mal. 2:11-15.

CONCLUSION

When we stand as "buddies" as the soldiers say, in our families, watching each other's back in the light of the word of God, our families will be winning families. May God help us to win together.

STUDY 7**YOUR MARRIAGE AS A MINISTRY**

TEXTS: Gen. 1:27-28; Acts 18:24-28.

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

God's mandate to the first family was to be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth and subdue it. Marriage is ordained by God as a platform for the service of God and man. Adequate knowledge of this divine mandate will position our marriages to advance His purpose. This is the focus of this study.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Discuss marriage as a ministry from the following scriptures:
Gen. 1:27, 28; 6:18-22; Josh. 24:15; Judg. 13:1-8;
1 Sam. 1:19-28; 2 Kgs. 4:8-17; Hos. 1:1-5; Matt. 1:18-25;
Lk. 1:5-17; Acts 18:24-28; 21:8, 9; Rom. 16:3-5.
2. Discuss some benefits of couples serving God together.

CONCLUSION

Every Christian marriage has a unique responsibility in ministry. Couples who serve God together benefit from the fruit of a shared ministry. Let us serve the purpose of God in our

STUDY 8**PROSPERING IN ADVERSITY**

TEXTS: Gen. 7:1-15; Matt. 2:13-23.

MEMORY VERSE

In the day of prosperity be joyful, but in the day of adversity consider: God also hath set the one over against the other, to the end that man should find nothing after him. Eccl 7:14.

INTRODUCTION

Prosperity and adversity are two contrasting conditions that man faces in life, and which believers are not exempt from. Adversity denotes unfavourable conditions. It is natural for people who suffer adversity to respond negatively. However, when believers face such experiences, their disposition and attitude should be different, being aware that God is using them to build their faith and to work out better things for His glory. Therefore, Christian families are expected to flourish and prosper in the midst of adversity. This is the focus of this study.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What does 'prospering in adversity' mean?
2. Discuss how to prosper in adversity from these scriptures:
Gen. 7:1-15; 26:1-6, 12-32; 1 Kgs. 4:1-7; Job 1:13-22; 42:7-17;
Eccl. 7:14; Matt. 2:13-23.
3. What are God's expectations of Christian families in times of adversity?
2 Kgs. 4:17-23; Job 2:10; Rom. 8:28, 37-39; Phil. 4:4-7;
Col. 3:15; Heb. 13:5, 6; Jas. 5:13-16; 1 Pet. 5:6-11.

CONCLUSION

When adversity comes to us as a family, we should approach it with the right attitude and allow God to prosper us in it. There is no greater joy than to know that God is glorified even in our

STUDY 9**MAXIMIZING FAMILY OPPORTUNITIES**

TEXTS: 2 Kgs. 4:8-17; Acts 18:24-26.

MEMORY VERSE*Making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. Eph. 5:16. (NIV)***INTRODUCTION**

Opportunities are openings that present themselves to us to do something for ourselves or others. There are several opportunities that come our way as families to do things that bring glory to God. Sometimes we miss these opportunities. However, God wants us to be alert always in order to take advantage of these openings for the benefits of our families and others. This study examines some of these opportunities.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Discuss family opportunities in the light of the following scriptures: Gen. 18:1-10; Exo. 2:1-10; 2 Kgs. 4:8-17; Ruth 3:1-18; Est. 4:13-17; Matt. 1:18-25; 2:13-15; Jn. 12:1-8; Acts 10:24-33, 44-48; 18:24-26.
2. Discuss other family opportunities available to us.

CONCLUSION

There are many opportunities available for families to serve God. We need to be sensitive to discover and use them. May God help us maximise the opportunities that come our way as families.

STUDY 10**ENJOYING THE FAMILY LIFE**

TEXTS: Ps. 128:1-6; Eph. 6:1-9.

MEMORY VERSE*Live joyfully with the wife whom thou lovest all the days of the life of thy vanity, which he hath given thee under the sun, all the days of thy vanity: for that is thy portion in this life, and in thy labour which thou takest under the sun. Eccl. 9:9 .***INTRODUCTION**

Family relationships are very important and God's expectation is that we live to enjoy the family life. He has made abundant provisions for us to enjoy our families. This study focuses on some of those provisions.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What does it mean to enjoy family life?
2. How can Christians enjoy family life?
Josh. 24:15; Ps. 103: 17,18; 112:1-3; 128:1-6;
Prov. 1: 7-9;12:4; 15:20; 22:6; 29:17, 18; Eccl. 9:9, 10;
Acts 21: 8, 9; Gal. 6:2; Eph. 6:1-9; Phil. 2:4-8; Col. 3:12-21;
Jas. 5:16; 1 Pet. 4:8-10.

CONCLUSION

When family members fulfill their roles in harmony with the word of God, the results are satisfying and enjoyable. May the Lord help us to enjoy our families.

STUDY 11**HINDRANCES TO FLOURISHING IN THE FAMILY**

TEXTS: 1 Sam. 2:12-17; 22-34; Acts. 5:1-11.

**MEMORY VERSE**

*But his wife looked back from behind him,
and she became a pillar of salt.
Gen. 19:26.*

INTRODUCTION

God's expectation for every Christian home is to flourish. However, there are several hindrances to flourishing in the family. This study is meant to identify some of these hindrances and how we can overcome them.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Discuss some hindrances to flourishing in the family:
Gen. 19:23-38; 1 Sam. 2:12-17; 22-34; 1 Kgs. 1:5,6;
Lk. 15:11-32; Acts 5:1-11; Heb. 13:4, 5.
2. How can these hindrances be overcome?
Deut. 8:1, 2; Ps. 1:1-3; Prov. 23:13,14; 1 Tim.6:6-8;
1 Jn. 2:15-17.

CONCLUSION

Hindrances are capable of limiting God's plans for our families. Let us hold fast to God and depend solely on His grace as we deliberately do all that is required of us to overcome these hindrances.

STUDY 12**RECREATION**

TEXTS: Mk. 6:30-32; Eccl. 5:18-20.

**MEMORY VERSE**

*And he said unto them, Come ye yourselves apart into a desert place,
and rest a while: for there were many coming and going, and they
had no leisure so much as to eat. Mk. 6:31.*

INTRODUCTION

Recreation is a leisurely activity for relaxation, enjoyment, amusement and pleasure. It is essential for promoting good fellowship, refreshment and enrichment to the body. As a family, setting time aside from work for recreational activities is important.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Discuss recreation from the following scriptures:
Gen. 2:2, 3; Exo. 23:12; 26:8,9; Est. 9:18,19; 2 Sam. 6:14;
Ps. 23:1-3; 33:2,3; Eccl. 5:18-20; Zech. 8:4,5; Mk. 6:30-32;
Jn. 18:1, 2; Phil. 4:8, 9; 1 Tim. 4:8,13.
2. Discuss some other recreational activities a family can enjoy.

CONCLUSION

God expects families to engage in recreational activities because they do not only create opportunity for intimacy among family member, but help in reducing the pressure that daily living exact on us. Let us be deliberate in creating time for family recreation.

STUDY 1**THE UNCHANGING GOD**

TEXTS: Ps. 102:25-27; Heb. 13:8.

MEMORY VERSE

*For I am the Lord I change not, therefore ye
sons of Jacob are not consumed.
Mal. 3:6.*

4TH QUARTER

SUB-THEME:
THE ANCIENT LANDMARK

Proverbs 22:28

INTRODUCTION

God is immutable. He remains the same irrespective of times and seasons. In His unchanging nature, love and compassion, He chooses us to be his children so that we can manifest His glory on earth despite the changing times, situations and circumstances. This study focuses on the unchanging nature of God.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Discuss the unchanging God in a changing world:
Deut. 7:9; Ps. 89:14; 102:25-27; 119:89-91; Isa. 14:24;
Lam. 3:22, 23; Mal. 3:6; 2 Tim. 2:13; Heb. 6:13-18; 13:8;
Jas. 1:17; Rev. 1:8.
2. What should be our response to the unchanging nature of God?
Prov. 3:5-7; Jn. 8:32; 1 Cor. 16:13; Heb. 11:17-19; 13:5, 6.

CONCLUSION

We serve an unchanging God who loves us and wants us to enjoy fellowship with Him. May we remain steadfast and immovable in our walk with Him.

STUDY 2**THE ANCIENT LANDMARKS**

TEXTS: Deut. 19:14-20; Jude 3-11.

**MEMORY VERSE**

Remove not the ancient landmark, which thy fathers have set. Prov. 22:28.

INTRODUCTION

Landmarks are objects or features that are easily seen and recognized from a distance, especially ones that enable someone to establish their location. God has established some set of values that enable us to navigate through life in His will. God's landmarks, though set in ancient times, do not change irrespective of the generation.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Discuss some ancient landmarks from the following scriptures: Gen. 2:24; Exo. 20:3-17; Deut. 7:1-6; 19:14-20; Prov. 22:6, 17; Matt. 26:26-28; 28:19, 20; Lk. 2:22; Jn. 14:6; 1 Cor. 3:11; 7:2-5; 2 Cor. 6:14-16; 2 Tim. 3:16,17; Jude 3-11.
2. Discuss how to keep the ancient landmarks from the following scriptures: Dan. 3:16-18; 6:10; Lk. 4:16-21; Acts 1:1; 18:24-26; 1 Thess. 5:22; 1 Tim. 4:12-16; 2 Tim. 2:15; 1 Thess. 5:22; Jude 3-11.

CONCLUSION

The landmarks set by God are not grievous but are for our good. Let us endeavour to keep them.

STUDY 3**FAITH OF OUR FATHERS**

TEXT: Heb. 11:1-39.

**MEMORY VERSES**

Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. For by it the elders obtained a good report. Heb. 11:1, 2.

INTRODUCTION

The Bible has several examples of men who demonstrated faith in God. They trusted and obeyed Him, placing their lives and all in His hands. Learning from the fathers of faith is to inspire, equip, encourage and strengthen us in our daily walk with God. May we be refreshed as we study.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What can we learn from the fathers of faith from Hebrews 11?
2. Discuss some challenges to walking in the faith of our fathers.

CONCLUSION

The fathers of our faith have left us examples to follow. Let us endeavour to preserve the faith and hand it over to the next generation.

STUDY 4**DOCTRINES OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH**

TEXTS: Gen. 1:1; Acts 2:41-47.

MEMORY VERSE

“Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee”. 1 Tim. 4:16.

INTRODUCTION

Doctrines of the Christian Faith refer to a belief or a set of beliefs that is taught by the Church. Some of these doctrines such as the doctrine of the Trinity, the virgin birth of Jesus Christ, His Sonship, death, resurrection and His second coming are basic and fundamental to the Christian faith. There are many who profess Christianity but deny one or more of these core doctrines. This study focuses on the basic doctrines of the Christian faith.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What are some doctrines of the Christian faith from the following Scriptures? Gen. 1:1; Deut. 6:4,5; Rev. 7:9, 10; 20:11-15; 21:8; Matt. 1:18-23; 3:16, 17; 25:41,46; Jn. 1:1-3, 14; 14:6; Acts 1:8-11; Rom. 3:23; 5:12; 6:23; Gal. 4:4-7; Eph. 2:8,9; Phil. 2:5-8; 1 Thess. 4:15-18; 1 Tim. 2:5; 2 Tim. 3:16,17; Heb. 4:15; 9:27; 1 Pet 1:15, 16; 2:24;
2. Why are doctrines important to the Christian faith? Eph. 4:11-16; Col. 4:4-7; 1 Tim 4:1-7, 16; 2 Tim. 4:2-5; Tit. 1:9-11; Heb. 13:9; 2 Jn. 1:7-11.

CONCLUSION

We cannot overemphasize the importance of the doctrines of the Christian faith because they lead to right living. As Christians, we should know what we believe. The more we know the doctrines of the Christian faith, the more our faith grows and the better we can love and worship our God. We need to know the doctrines of the Christian faith in order to fight and be defended against false doctrines.

STUDY 5**THE LOCAL ASSEMBLY**

TEXT: Acts 2:41-47.

MEMORY VERSE

Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching. Heb. 10:25.

INTRODUCTION

The local assembly refers to the body of believers in a location who meet for the purpose of worship and admonition of one another in the Word of God. There are many local assemblies but one Church, the body of Christ. The local assembly may consist in some cases of the smallest plural number, “where two or three are gathered together in My Name”. In this study, we will look at the characteristics and the importance of the local assembly.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is the importance of the local assembly? Matt 18:15-20; Acts 13:1-4; Eph. 4:11-15; 1 Tim. 3:15; Jas. 5:14-16.
2. What are the characteristics of the Local Assembly? Acts 2:41-47; 4:31-35; 5:12-14, 42; 1 Tim. 4:13, 16; Heb. 10:22-25; Tit. 1:5-9; 1 Pet 5:1-5; 1 Jn. 1:1-3.

CONCLUSION

A local assembly should be characterized by regular meetings, teachings, fellowship, prayer and worship to enhance the growth and maturity of believers. It is therefore pertinent that we all belong to a local assembly that is committed to biblical doctrines.

STUDY 6**BUILDING ACCORDING TO PATTERN**

TEXTS: 1 Chron. 15:11-15; 2 Pet. 1:1-11.

MEMORY VERSE

Who serve unto the example and shadow of heavenly things, as Moses was admonished of God when he was about to make the tabernacle: for, See, saith he, that thou make all things according to the pattern shewed to thee in the mount. Heb. 8:5.

INTRODUCTION

A pattern is a blueprint that must be followed in order to create or build something. Building according to pattern is following the design that God has instituted for the Church. God has given the perfect pattern and we must build according to it. Building according to pattern is therefore the focus of this study.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How can we build according to pattern from the following Scriptures? 1 Chron. 15:11-15; 28:11-21; Matt. 18:15-20; Jn.13:3-17, 34,35; Acts 2:42; 4:11,12; 11:26; 1 Cor. 3:11-18; Eph. 4:11-13; 2 Tim. 3:16,17; 1 Pet. 2:21-23; 2 Pet. 1:1-11.
2. What are some of the consequences of not building according to pattern? Lev. 10:1, 2; 1 Chron.13:7-10; 2 Chron. 26:16-21; Matt. 7:21-27; Gal. 1:6-9; 6:7, 8; Rev. 22:18, 19.

CONCLUSION

God has a specified blueprint that He wants His Church to look like. Let us build according to the revealed plan in His Word.

STUDY 7**CONTEND FOR THE FAITH**

TEXTS. Ps. 78:1-8; Jude 3,4.

MEMORY VERSE

Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses. 1 Tim. 6:12.

INTRODUCTION

To contend for the faith is to engage in a war against the devil and the world system. This study aims to arm us with what it takes to fight the good fight and keep hope alive as we await the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Discuss how we can contend for the faith from the following Scriptures: Josh. 1:8; Ezra 7:10; Ps. 78:1-8; Jn. 8:32; 15:1-5; Acts 18:24-26; Eph. 6:10-18; Phil. 1:27-30; 1 Tim. 4:11-16; 2 Tim. 2:1-5, 15,16; Tit. 1:13,14; 2 Pet. 3:16-18; 1 Jn. 2:15-17; 2 Jn. 9-11; Jude 3,4.
2. Identify some contemporary challenges to contending for the faith and how they can be overcome.

CONCLUSION

There is no middle ground in the fight for our most Holy faith. We must contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to the saints. When we contend for the faith, victory is assured.

STUDY 8

GENERATIONAL GAPS IN THE CHURCH

TEXTS: Judg. 2:6-10; 2 Tim. 3:1-5.



MEMORY VERSE

And also all that generation were gathered unto their fathers: and there arose another generation after them, which knew not the Lord, nor yet the works which he had done for Israel. Judg. 2:10.

INTRODUCTION

A generational gap is a vacuum that exists between a preceding and succeeding generation. The succeeding generation does not continue with beliefs, values and practices that formed the pillars of faith of the previous generation. Today, many of such gaps exist in the church and have made it what it is. The devil is taking advantage of this loophole in an attempt to reduce the effectiveness of the church.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Discuss generational gaps from these scriptures: Judg. 2:6-10; 1 Kgs. 12:1-15; 2 Kgs. 22:8-20; 2 Chron. 15:1-8; Ezra 2:61-63; 3:10-13; Matt. 19:3-9.
2. Discuss some causes of generational gaps and how they can be bridged: Jer. 23:29-31; Eze. 22:22-31; Gal. 1:1-9; 3:1-4; 2 Tim. 2:2; 3:1-5; 4:3-5; 1 Jn. 2:15-17.

CONCLUSION

Generational gaps portend a threat to the consistent growth of the church. Let us be deliberate in our actions to bridge any such gap.

STUDY 9

CHALLENGES TO KEEPING THE ANCIENT LANDMARK

TEXTS: Deut. 8:6-17; Gal. 1:1-7.



MEMORY VERSE

And thou say in thine heart, My power and the might of mine hand hath gotten me this wealth. Deut. 8:17.

INTRODUCTION

In this quarter, we have been considering the various aspects of the ancient landmark. However, there are several challenges to keeping these landmarks as they were handed down to us. In this study we shall focus on some of these challenges and how to overcome them.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What are some challenges to keeping the ancient landmark from these scriptures? Deut. 8:6-17; Josh. 5:2-8; 1 Kgs. 12:1-15; Hos. 7:8, 9; Matt. 19:3-9; Mk. 7:6-9; 1 Cor. 15:33; Gal. 1:6-7; 1 Tim. 4:1-5; Jas. 1:22-25. 1 Jn. 2:15-17.
2. What are some contemporary challenges to keeping the ancient landmark and how can we overcome them?

CONCLUSION

There are challenges to keeping the ancient landmark, but Jesus has empowered us to overcome them. May we take advantage of the grace of God and walk in victory.

STUDY 10

RESTORING THE WASTE PLACES

TEXTS: Isa. 61:1-6; Lk. 15:11-24.



MEMORY VERSE

And they shall build the old wastes, they shall raise up the former desolations, and they shall repair the waste cities, the desolations of many generations. Isa. 61:4.

INTRODUCTION

To restore means to bring back or re-establish a previous right, practice or situation. The church in many ways has ceded ground to the enemy rather than fulfilling God's mandate in the world. However, all hope is not lost as Christ is restoring the waste places back to the Church. This is the focus of this study.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What does waste places mean to the Church?
2. How can the waste places be restored?
2 Chron. 7:14; Isa. 52:4-10; 58:8-12; 61:1-6; 62:1-7;
Hos. 6:1-3; Zech. 9:11-13; Mk. 11:24; Lk. 15:11-24;
Acts 3:19-21; Gal. 6:1, 2; Rev. 2:1-5; 3:1-3, 14-19.

CONCLUSION

Jesus continues to build His Church today and is restoring the waste places. Let us arise and co-labour with Him in this process.

