



THE CHAPEL OF FAITH
UNIVERSITY OF JOS
Holding Forth the Word of Life



**PRESENTING EVERY MAN
PERFECT IN CHRIST**

Colossians 1:28.

B I B L E S T U D Y O U T L I N E S



The Chapel of Faith, University of Jos

Holding Forth the Word of Life

Bible Study Outlines

Presenting Every
Man Perfect in **Christ**
Col. 1:28.

...presenting everyone perfect in Christ. Col. 1:28.



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Presenting Every Man Perfect in Christ. Col.1:28.

BIBLE STUDY OUTLINES

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The Chapel of Faith, University of Jos.

P O Box 10337, Jos.

E-mail: info@chapeloffaithunijos.org

Visit us @ www.chapeloffaithunijos.org

+234-803 586 0482, +234-803 385 1526

...presenting everyone perfect in Christ. Col. 1:28.



FOREWORD

What a wonderful and glorious privilege we have to see, step into the year 2024 and be counted amongst the living. God Almighty who has so graciously looked upon us with this much magnanimity and favour has also commanded that in all we do, that we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; so that we may present every man perfect in Christ.

Whatever we do this year and indeed always, we must bear in mind that God is interested in the souls of the people we come in contact with and as such we are required to impact them for eternity by ensuring that our lives and living prepare (equip) them to be more and more candidates meet for Christ and his Kingdom. In other words, we must live with purpose: Colossians 1:28 speaks of Christ's glorious presence in each of us and of our need to declare the truth in various ways to others with the ultimate goal of presenting every person perfect in Christ.

The word 'perfect' means, full-grown adults (1 Corinthians 2:6; 14:20; Ephesians 4:13; Phillipines 3:15). We are to ensure that people we meet or relate with develop or transition from immature persons to full-grown and mature in Christ. So that each one who is spiritually mature would live out his or her life in accordance to God's perfect will.

A lot of work or labour is required to help a person attain spiritual maturity or to bring people from spiritual infancy into spiritual adulthood. This is the arduous task the Lord has called us to do. May the Lord strengthen us to so do. The Good news is that the supernatural empowerment from on high, is available to everyone of us as we avail ourselves to the Lord for this command. We must note that there is reward for the labour as God is not only interested in our wining people to Christ but also in discipline them to maturity. God bless you.

Chaplain.



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FIRST QUARTER

SUB-THEME: Presenting Every Man Perfect in Christ. *Col. 1:28.*

1. Understanding Perfection in Christ
2. Strategies for Presenting Every Man Perfect
3. New Birth
4. The Importance of Spiritual Growth
5. Discipleship
6. Quest for Perfection
7. Spiritual Disciplines
8. Contending for the Faith
9. Hindrances to Presenting Every Man Perfect in Christ
10. Consequences of Not Presenting Every Man Perfect in Christ
11. Becoming like Jesus



...presenting everyone perfect in Christ. Col. 1:28.

**STUDY ONE****UNDERSTANDING PERFECTION IN CHRIST**

TEXTS: Gen. 1:26-28; Eph. 4:11-17.

MEMORY VERSE

*Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus.
Col. 1:28.*

INTRODUCTION

In the beginning, God created man perfect in His image. However, man lost this perfection in the Garden of Eden due to disobedience. God in his love for humanity, provided a way for the restoration of man through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Therefore, once a man accepts the gift of salvation by grace through faith in Jesus Christ, that sets him on the path to maturity. The new man in Christ has the divine ability to win ground unto perfection/maturity and grow others in Christ. Understanding our perfection in Christ is the focus of this study.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What do you understand by perfection in Christ from the following Scriptures?
Gen. 1:26-28; 17:1-7; Jn. 1:12-14; Rom. 6:1-13; 12:1, 2;
Gal. 5:13, 14, 24, 25; Eph. 4:11-17; Heb. 13:13-21. 1 Jn. 2:2-7.
2. Share your understanding of perfection in Christ.

CONCLUSION

Perfection in Christ should be seen as developing Christ-like character and conduct as we await the final glorification where the ultimate perfect appearance before the Father will take place.

**STUDY TWO****STRATEGIES FOR PRESENTING EVERY MAN PERFECT
IN CHRIST**

TEXTS: Gen. 14:14-16; Col. 1:21-29.

MEMORY VERSE

My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you, Gal. 4:19.

INTRODUCTION

The Church's mandate is to invite people into Christianity and ensure a progressive movement from a baby Christian to adulthood with evidence of maturity. This should not be assumed but deliberately and strategically pursued to ensure that every member of the body is growing and maturing unto the fullness of the stature of Christ. This study will examine some strategies we can use individually and corporately to present every man perfect in Christ.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Discuss some strategies to present every man perfect in Christ:
Gen. 14:14-16; Exo. 4:24-26; 18:14-24; 1 Sam. 3:1-9; 2 Sam. 12:1-9; 1 Cor. 9:19-23; 2 Cor. 4:1-5; Eph. 4:11-16; 1 Jn. 1:1-4.
2. What steps can we take to develop these strategies?
Gen. 41:25-37; Acts 6:1-7; 15:1-6; Gal. 1:6-10.

CONCLUSION

Presenting every man perfect in Christ must be a deliberate endeavour. This can be accomplished by having a vision, planning for it, and taking specific steps to fulfil the plans.

**STUDY THREE****THE NEW BIRTH**

TEXTS: Jn. 3:1-7; Acts 16:29-32.

MEMORY VERSES

Jesus answered, verily, verily, I say unto thee, except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again. Jn. 3:5-7.

INTRODUCTION

The new birth refers to a spiritual rebirth or a regeneration of the human spirit. It's the miraculous change from spiritual death to spiritual life. This change is entirely accomplished by the Holy Spirit. It is a definite spiritual experience where a person acknowledges, accepts, and receives the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ as payment for the redemption of his soul. This new birth comes with a lot of benefits to anyone who experiences it. May the Lord open our eyes to understand the new birth and its benefits.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Discuss the experience of the new birth from the following Scriptures: Jn. 1:12; 3:1-7; Acts 2:37-39; 13:38, 39; 16:29-32; Rom. 10:8-11; 2 Cor. 5:17; Eph. 2:8, 9.
2. What are some of the benefits of the new birth from the following Scriptures? Jn. 1:12; 3:5; 5:24; 10:10; Gal. 3:26-29; Col. 1:13, 14.

CONCLUSION

When we accept the payment for our sins made by Christ on the cross and receive him into our hearts, the Holy Spirit gives us a new birth. Without the new birth, no one will ever experience what is truly and freely available in the kingdom of God.

**STUDY FOUR****THE IMPORTANCE OF SPIRITUAL GROWTH**

TEXTS: Jer. 9:23, 24; Heb. 5:12-14.

MEMORY VERSE

But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil. Heb. 5:14.

INTRODUCTION

Spiritual growth is a process of progressive development in the faith. It encompasses the development and deepening of one's relationship with God, the understanding of spiritual principles, and the transformation of character and behaviour to align with the teachings of Jesus Christ. There are so many reasons why spiritual growth is significant. This is the focus of this study.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Discuss the different aspects of spiritual growth from the following Scriptures: Dan. 11:32; 1 Cor. 2:13, 14; Jas. 3:2; 2 Pet. 1:3-7; 3:18.
2. Discuss the importance of spiritual growth from the following Scriptures: Jer. 9:23, 24; Dan. 11:32; 1 Cor. 2:13-16; Eph. 4:11-15; Heb. 5:12-14; 6:1, 2; Jas. 3:2; 1 Pet. 2:1-5; 2 Pet. 1:5-11.

CONCLUSION

Spiritual growth is a lifelong journey that requires dedication, self-reflection, and intentional effort. It encompasses the development of faith, character, a deeper relationship with God, wisdom, and discernment among others. May we all grow to be like Jesus.

**STUDY FIVE****DISCIPLESHIP**

TEXTS: Deut. 6:5-9; Matt. 28:16-20.

MEMORY VERSES

Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen. Matt. 28:19, 20.

INTRODUCTION

Discipleship is a process of teaching, modelling, and guiding others to become like Christ. It is a relationship between a discipler (teacher) and a disciple (learner) which is a command from Jesus Christ to ensure the continuity of the Christian faith. Discipleship in a Christian's life should begin immediately after accepting Jesus Christ as his Lord and Saviour. Discipleship with the view to presenting every man perfect in Christ is the focus of this study.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Discuss what discipleship entails from the following Scriptures: Gen. 18:19; 1 Sam. 3:1-10; Matt. 28:16-20; Jn. 8:31, 32; 1 Cor. 11:1.
2. Discuss how to present every man perfect in Christ through discipleship from the following Scriptures: Deut. 6:5-9; Jn. 13:12-15; 34, 35; Acts 18:24-28; Col. 1:28, 29; 2 Tim. 2:1-7, 14-16.

CONCLUSION

Discipleship aims at presenting every man perfect in Christ is achievable if the disciple and the discipler have the desire to know more about Christ. It also requires humility, self-denial, and prioritizing Christ above all else. May God grant us the grace to abide in Christ in all circumstances as we model others for Christ.

**STUDY SIX****QUEST FOR PERFECTION**

TEXTS: Ps. 51:1-13; Phil. 3:2-14.

MEMORY VERSE

Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus. Phil. 3:12.

INTRODUCTION

Perfection means to be complete, whole, and fully developed, while quest is the act of seeking after anything in an attempt to find or obtain it. Hence the quest for perfection means pressing on to or striving for spiritual maturity. This is the focus of this study.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What does the quest for perfection entail from these Scriptures?
Ezra 7:10; Ps. 42:1, 2; 51:1-13; 63:1-8; Acts 17:10-12;
1 Cor. 9:24-27; Phil. 3:2-14.
2. What are some consequences of not striving for perfection?
Deut. 8:11-20; 2 Kgs. 13:14-19; Amos 6:1-7; 1 Cor. 10:12.

CONCLUSION

It is imperative for us as children of God to continue the quest for perfection till the end. Failure to do so comes with grave consequences. We are therefore encouraged not to give up in our spiritual pursuit.

**STUDY SEVEN****SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES**

TEXTS: Ps.1:1-3; 2 Pet. 1:5-8.

MEMORY VERSE

Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. 2 Tim. 2:15.

INTRODUCTION

God expects every believer to be strong, fruitful, and healthy. To achieve this, a believer must willingly subject himself to spiritual disciplines. Spiritual disciplines are practices that promote spiritual growth and build one's agility to be presented perfect in all ramifications of life. Just as the spiritual controls the physical, so also every spiritual discipline will have a direct impact on not only the spirit but the soul and the body. These disciplines enable us to yield ourselves to God so that He can transform us. However, for this to be effective, it must be made a habit. Spiritual disciplines as one of the pathways to presenting a man perfect in Christ is the focus of this study.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Discuss spiritual disciplines and their significance from the following Scriptures: Ps. 1:1-3; Isa. 58:6-11; Dan. 6:8-11; Phil. 4:8, 9; 2 Tim. 2:15; 2 Pet. 1:5-8.
2. Discuss some of the consequences of a lack of spiritual discipline.

CONCLUSION

Spiritual disciplines are imperative if a believer would grow healthy and fulfil God's purpose for his life. They entail regular study and meditation on God's word, prayer, and fasting among others. May we be willing to invest in spiritual disciplines.

**STUDY EIGHT****CONTENDING FOR THE FAITH**

TEXTS: Dan. 3:10-18; Jude 1:20-24.

MEMORY VERSE

Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints. Jude 3.

INTRODUCTION

Faith is a reference to the body of basic Christian doctrine and truth. It is this faith that was once and for all delivered to the saints and we are expected to live by it, extracting from it further implications and principles for Christian living it is not to be denied nor distorted. This basic doctrine is that for which we are earnestly to contend. False teachers have challenged the faith and affected the ethical and practical life of believers. This we must all stand against.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why Must We Contend for the Faith?
Acts 20:29, 30; 2 Cor. 11:1-4; Col. 2:4-10; 1 Tim. 1:18, 19;
1 Tim. 4:1-3; 2 Tim. 4:3, 4; 2 Pet. 2:1-3; 3:3, 4.
2. How Must We Contend for the Faith from the following
Scriptures: Deut. 4:9; Isa. 50:10; Dan. 3:16-18; 1 Cor. 15:1-4;
2 Tim. 2:15; 2 Pet. 1:5-11, Jude 1:20-24.

CONCLUSION

The doctrinal error must always be taken seriously and refuted in the Church. Christians are to contend firmly but in love. It must be proclaimed and defended. May God give us the grace to contend for the faith.

**STUDY NINE****HINDRANCES TO PRESENTING EVERY MAN PERFECT
IN CHRIST**

TEXTS: Gen. 16:1-5; Lk 8:11-15.

MEMORY VERSE

And that which fell among thorns are they, which, when they have heard, go forth, and are choked with cares and riches and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to perfection. Lk. 8:14.

INTRODUCTION

In our walk with God, the goal is to know Him more and to become more and more like Jesus. In previous studies, we examined some of the ways that this can be achieved. There are, however, many factors that can resist, obstruct, or delay a believer's spiritual growth and development. In this study, we shall look at some of these hindrances to presenting every man perfect in Christ.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Discuss some hindrances to presenting every man perfect in Christ from the following Scriptures: Gen. 16:1-5; 2 Chron. 26:16-19; Matt. 24:12; Lk. 8:11-15; 9:57-62; 10:38-42; Jn. 12:37-43; Acts 20:29-31; 1 Cor. 15:33; 1 Tim. 6:3-10; 2 Tim. 4:2-4, 10.
2. How can we overcome some of these hindrances?
Gen. 17:1, 2; 1 Cor. 9:24-27; Jas. 1:21-25; 1 Tim. 6:6-8;

CONCLUSION

Hindrances to presenting every man perfect in Christ include the cares and pleasures of this world, false teachers and prophets, evil communication, fear, unbelief, love for money, and the praise of men, among others. However, God has made provision for us to overcome.

**STUDY TEN****CONSEQUENCES OF NOT PRESENTING EVERY MAN PERFECT
IN CHRIST**

TEXTS: 1 Sam. 8:1-6; 1 Cor. 1:10-13.

MEMORY VERSE

*Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.
2 Tim. 3:7.*

INTRODUCTION

Consequences are unpleasant results or effects of actions or inactions. God's purpose for His children is for them to be holistic and complete in Him. However, some may not attain this due to some of the challenges highlighted in the previous study. There are consequences for not presenting every man perfect in Christ. This study reveals some of these consequences.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Discuss some of the consequences of not presenting every man perfect in Christ from the following Scriptures:
1 Sam. 2:22-34; 8:1-6; 2 Sam. 12:7-14; Ps. 78:8-12; Hos. 7:8-10;
Matt. 22:8-14; 1 Cor. 1:10-13; Rev. 3:14-19.
2. Discuss other consequences not mentioned in question 1.

CONCLUSION

From this study, we have seen that the consequences of not presenting every man perfect in Christ are grave. We must therefore arise and live up to our responsibilities. Let's all take our positions and do whatever God has instructed us to do in presenting every man perfect in Christ.

**STUDY ELEVEN****BECOMING LIKE JESUS**

TEXTS: Gen. 1:26-28; Eph. 4:11-16.

MEMORY VERSE

Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: Eph. 4:13.

INTRODUCTION

At creation, God made man in His image but there was a fall. However, God provided reconciliation through the death and resurrection of Jesus. Jesus, in His lifetime, showed the world how to live in fellowship with God and man. Becoming like Jesus is a principal and life-long process that every believer should earnestly pursue. It is the act of imitating Jesus in word, action, and disposition in daily living. This is the focus of this study.

DISCUSSION QUESTION

How can we become like Jesus from the following Scriptures?
Gen. 1:26-28; Isa. 11:1-5; Matt. 11:28-30; 14:14; Lk. 4:43, 44; 9:23; 22:39-46; Jn. 4:32-35; 13:12-15; 15:9-12; Rom. 15:1-3; 2 Cor. 3:18; Eph. 3:14-19; 4:11-16; Phil. 2:5-8; 1 Pet. 2:21-23.

CONCLUSION

Becoming like Jesus involves learning from Him and following in His footsteps. This will qualify us to reign with Him. May God grant us grace as we strive to achieve this goal.

SECOND QUARTER

SUB-THEME: Possess the Next Generation. *Ps. 78:4.*

1. Understanding the Next Generation
2. Understanding Generational Gaps
3. Perversions
4. Social Media
5. Battle for the Next Generation
6. Maintaining the Ancient Landmark
7. How to Share Your Faith as a Christian
8. Equipping the Next Generation
9. Leadership
10. Leaving a Legacy
11. Hindrances to Possessing the Next Generation
12. Consequences of Not Possessing the Next Generation





STUDY ONE

UNDERSTANDING THE NEXT GENERATION

TEXTS: Judg. 2:6-14; Ps. 78:1-8.

MEMORY VERSE

So the next generation might know them- even the children not yet born- and they in turn will teach their own children. Ps. 78:6. (NLT)

INTRODUCTION

A generation refers to all of the people born and living at about the same time. It is the average period generally considered to be about 20-30 years, during which children are born, grow up, become adults, and begin to have children. From categorization today, generations span 15 years with Generation Y (Millennials) born from 1980 to 1994; Generation Z from 1995 to 2009, and Generation Alpha from 2010 to 2024. The next generation could also be seen in the light of succession from one group of people to another. This may be in government, ministry, profession, and other walks of life. Understanding the next generation is the focus of this study.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why is it important to understand the next generation?
Deut. 4:9, 10; 11:19-21; Josh. 4:21-24; Judg. 2:6-14; Ps. 78:1-8;
Eph. 6:4.
2. Discuss the attributes and challenges of the next generation.

CONCLUSION

Understanding the next generation is essential to effectively teach and perpetuate kingdom values. The next generation is ICT-driven, fast-moving, and faced with several challenges. It is therefore incumbent on us to understand the next generation and walk /work with them to gain them for the Kingdom of God. This is because they are invaluable for the coming revival and continuity of God's work on earth.



STUDY TWO

UNDERSTANDING GENERATIONAL GAPS

TEXTS: Judg. 2:6-15; 2 Tim. 3:1-9.

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

Generational gaps refer to deviations from godly principles or core values that are central to the Christian faith from one generation to the other. Each generation may go through unique historical events and societal transformations that may shape their worldview and interactions. These gaps may be attributed to the influence of the social, cultural, and technological changes that occur over time. Generational gaps can manifest in various ways including worship styles, communication styles, work ethics, fashion, and political views, among others. This study seeks to understand generational gaps.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Discuss generational gaps from the following Scriptures: Josh. 5:2-7; Judg. 2:6-14; 1 Kgs. 12:1-15; 2 Kgs. 22:8-13; Ezra 2:61-63; 3:10-13.
2. Discuss how generational gaps manifest in our contemporary times.
3. Discuss some dangers of generational gaps from the following Scriptures: Josh. 5:4-9; Judg. 2:11-15; 1 Kgs. 12:16-21; Acts 18:24, 25; 19:1-5; 2 Tim. 3:1-9.

CONCLUSION

We have seen that generational gaps arise due to deviations from principles that are central to the Christian faith. However, we must be careful not to allow these to happen despite social-cultural, and technological changes that occur over time.

**STUDY THREE****PERVERSIONS**

TEXTS: Exo. 32:1-10; Rom. 1:18-32.

MEMORY VERSE

Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Rom. 1:21.

INTRODUCTION

Perversion refers to distortion or corruption of the original purpose. The fall of man introduced perversion to creation. Since then, the magnitude and dimensions of perversion have been on the increase and this is evident in every facet of life. To safeguard the next generation, we must address the perversions in our times. This is the focus of this study.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Discuss what perversion entails in the light of the following Scriptures: Gen. 19:1-8, 30-36; Exo. 32:1-10; Lev. 10:1-3; 18:5-23; 19:28; 1 Sam. 2:22-25; Mal. 2:7-17; Rom. 1:18-32; Tit. 1:10, 11.
2. What are other perversions being committed in our contemporary times?

CONCLUSION

Pervasive actions are manifested in distorted ways of worshipping God, incest, divorce, tattooing, and in our contemporary times, the LGBTQ world view. We must take a stand and preach against them.



STUDY FOUR

SOCIAL MEDIA

TEXTS: Eph. 5:3-17; 2 Tim. 2:20-26.

MEMORY VERSE

All things are lawful for me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but all things edify not. 1 Cor. 10:23.

INTRODUCTION

Social media is an Internet-based technology that facilitates the sharing of ideas, thoughts, and information through virtual networks and communities. From WhatsApp, Facebook, and Instagram to X platform (formerly Twitter) and YouTube, social media covers a broad universe of apps and platforms that allow users to share content, interact online, and build communities. Today, social media messaging apps and platforms are the most used sites capturing more than 4.7 billion users worldwide. People spend a lot of time on social media sending and receiving messages, watching, and posting video clips, etc. Things shared on social media can edify, confuse, or mislead people who use the platform. This study focuses on social media in our generation.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Discuss some benefits of social media.
2. What are the challenges in the use of social media?
3. Discuss the proper use of social media as Christians from the following Scriptures: Ps. 68:11; Matt. 5:27-30; 1 Cor. 10:23; 15:33, 34; 2 Cor. 8:21; Eph. 4:29, 30; 5:3-17; Phil. 2:3-5; 4:8; 2 Tim. 2:22-26; 1 Pet. 2:12. Jas. 1:19-21.

CONCLUSION

Social media exposes one to all kinds of things, both good and evil. We must use it to propagate the gospel and edify others. We must also be guided by the Holy Spirit to avoid falling prey to an unwholesome lifestyle.



STUDY FIVE

BATTLE FOR THE NEXT GENERATION

TEXTS: Ps. 78:1-8; 1 Cor. 9:19-23.

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

Every generation is characterised by some defining features such as fashion, lifestyle, and values among others. Each generation has a divine mandate in the scheme of God's purpose. Therefore, it is of great interest to God as well as the devil. This mandate is a subject of fierce and intense warfare. Winning this battle depends on a deliberate and concerted effort by this generation to pull the next generation to God's side. In this study, we shall be examining the battle for the next generation.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why is there a battle for the next generation from these Scriptures? Deut. 8:6-17; 30:15-19; Judg. 2:10-19; 1 Sam. 8:1-5; Ps. 11:3; 127: 4, 5; Eccl. 2:1-11; 3:1, 2; 12:1; 2 Tim. 4:3, 4.
2. How can we engage in the battle for the next generation effectively? Deut. 6:6-9; 1 Chron. 25:1-7; Ps. 78:1-8; Prov. 22:6; 1 Cor. 9:19-23; 2 Tim. 2:1-4; 4:2.

CONCLUSION

It is evident from this study that there is an immense battle for the next generation. For this battle to be won, investment in teaching, discipleship, training, and exemplary living among others must be undertaken by this generation. May we be conscientious in carrying out this task.

**STUDY SIX****MAINTAINING THE ANCIENT LANDMARK**

TEXTS: Jer. 6:16-19; Jn. 8:30-32.

MEMORY VERSE

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

INTRODUCTION

An ancient landmark is anything long-standing that marks the boundary of a physical space or transition from one period to another. In the Christian faith, the ancient landmark embodies the core values of our faith. These values must be transferred from one generation to another to perpetuate the Christian faith. Maintaining the ancient landmark is the focus of this study.

DISCUSSION QUESTION

Discuss what maintaining the ancient landmark entails from the following Scriptures:
Prov. 22:6, 28; Jer. 6:16-19; 35:1-14; Jn. 8:30-32; 1 Cor. 11:1, 2;
Gal. 1:6-8; 2 Tim. 2:19; 4:1-5; Heb. 12:1, 2; Jude 1:1-5.

CONCLUSION

Maintaining the ancient landmark is essential to possessing the next generation for Jesus. This is achievable through teaching, training, contending for the faith, and practising the truth.



STUDY SEVEN

HOW TO SHARE YOUR FAITH AS A CHRISTIAN

TEXT: Acts 8:25-37.

MEMORY VERSE

Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus. Acts 8:35.

INTRODUCTION

Sharing our faith involves explaining, teaching, and discussing with other people the need for and the process of coming to faith in Christ Jesus. It demands that we use our testimony, prayers, and the word of God. It is part of the Christian mandate to make disciples of all nations. This study will focus on how to share our faith with others.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Discuss some approaches to sharing our faith as Christians.
Matt. 9:35; Lk. 10:1-7; Jn. 4:7-30;
Acts 2:14-21; 8:25-37; 17:23-31; 26:4-29.
2. Discuss the content of the message when sharing your faith as a Christian. Jn. 1:12; 3:16; Acts 2:38; 4:12; 8:34-37; Rom. 3:23; 6:23; 10:9-11; 1 Cor. 15:3, 4; 2 Cor. 5:17.

CONCLUSION

Sharing our faith with others is urgent and demands continuous effort without giving up to fear or intimidation. It is not stereotyped but requires us to be creative without compromising the content of our message. Let us therefore arise to this task.



STUDY EIGHT

EQUIPPING THE NEXT GENERATION

TEXTS: Ps. 78:1-8; Matt. 28:18-20.

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

God's covenant, dealings, and promises to man are eternal, perpetuated by passing the baton from one generation to another. For a generation to receive, manage, and propagate the things of God, it must be equipped to navigate the trends, cultures, and challenges of the generation without compromising God's eternal agenda. The responsibility of equipping the next generation is particularly required of the preceding generation, who has dealt with its generation with the help of God while holding forth the mandate that was committed into their hands.

DISCUSSION QUESTION

Discuss equipping the next generation from the following Scriptures: Exo. 17:8-16; Num. 27:15-23; 1 Chron. 22:1-16; Ps. 78:1-8; Prov. 22:6; Matt. 28:18-20; Mk. 3:13-15; Jn. 13:12-17; 15:15, 16; 17:14-26; Gal. 4:19; 2 Tim. 2:2; 3:10-17; Heb. 12:3-11.

CONCLUSION

The next generation will be equipped to uphold the word of God if the preceding generation teaches, guides, prays, and stands with it through the challenges of its times.



STUDY NINE

LEADERSHIP

TEXTS: Ps. 78:70-72; Lk. 22:24-27.

MEMORY VERSE

But ye shall not be so: but he that is greatest among you, let him be as the younger; and he that is chief, as he that doth serve. Lk. 22:26.

INTRODUCTION

Leadership is the ability to influence and guide others. It is a concept rooted in the teachings of Jesus Christ and the principles found in the Bible. Our society is in dire need of good leadership including individuals, organisations, communities, and families. Many Christians today shy away from their responsibilities as leaders while many leaders are insensitive and self-seeking. The requirements for a God-honouring leadership involve leading others with a servant's heart; humility, and a commitment to moral and ethical values. This study explores some key principles of Christian leadership.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Discuss some key principles of leadership from the following Scriptures: Ps. 78:70-72; 105:17-22; Prov. 11:13, 14; Dan. 1:3-8, 18-21; Mk. 3:13-15; Lk. 22:24-27; Jn. 13:12-17; 1 Tim. 3:1-13; 1 Pet. 5:1-4.
2. Discuss how believers can support and encourage good leadership in society.

CONCLUSION

Christians are called to emulate the leadership style of Jesus, who exemplified qualities such as love, humility, compassion, selflessness, and a dedication to serving others. It requires a holistic approach that integrates faith, values, and practical leadership skills that create a positive and impactful influence on others.

**STUDY TEN****LEAVING A LEGACY**

TEXTS: Jer. 35:1-10; 2 Tim. 1:5.

MEMORY VERSE

When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also. 2 Tim. 1:5.

INTRODUCTION

A Legacy is something inherited from a predecessor; a heritage. It is also a way of doing things, a tradition or set of values passed down from one generation to another. As believers, the best legacy we can leave for the next generation is our faith in God. God desires that the faith we have in Him should be passed on in perpetuity. This study discusses leaving a godly legacy from one generation to the next.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Discuss the legacy from these Scriptures:
2 Kgs. 18:3-6; Jer. 35:1-10; Acts 21:8, 9; 2 Tim. 1:5; 3 Jn. 1:4.
2. How are legacies passed on?
Deut. 6:6-9; Ps. 78:1-7; Jer. 35:14; 2 Tim. 2:1, 2; 3:10-12.

CONCLUSION

We leave godly legacies by the way we live our lives, the relationship we have with God, and the deliberate steps we take to pass on to the next generation. May our legacy point men to God.



STUDY ELEVEN

HINDRANCES TO POSSESSING THE NEXT GENERATION

TEXTS: 1 Kgs. 12:1-14; Acts 20:28-30.

MEMORY VERSE

For I have told him that I will judge his house forever for the iniquity which he knoweth; because his sons made themselves vile, and he restrained them not. 1 Sam. 3:13.

INTRODUCTION

We have seen from previous studies how crucial it is for Christians to pass on the principles of godly living and values from one generation to another. This is key if we must possess the next generation. However, this does not come easy as several factors may hinder the effective transmission and uptake of these godly principles. In this study, we shall look at some of the hindrances to possessing the next generation.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Discuss some hindrances to possessing the next generation from the following Scriptures:
1 Sam. 2:27-30; 3:12, 13; 1 Kgs. 12:1-14; 14:25-28; 20:38-40;
2 Kgs. 20:14-19; Ezra 3:10-13.
2. How do we overcome these hindrances?
Deut. 6:6-9; Josh. 24:15; 1 Chron. 25:1-7; Ps. 78:1-8; Prov. 22:28;
Acts 20:28-30; 2 Thess. 3:6; 1 Tim. 4:14-16; 2 Tim. 2:2.

CONCLUSION

The hindrances to possessing the next generation include busyness, compromise, cares, and pleasures of this world, among others. We must be careful not to allow them to hinder us from possessing the next generation.



STUDY TWELVE

CONSEQUENCES OF NOT POSSESSING THE NEXT GENERATION

TEXT: Judg. 2:7-10.

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

Consequences are negative results or outcomes that emanate from one's actions or inactions. We have seen from previous studies that the responsibility of preparing the next generation for God lies with this present generation. He has also made adequate provision via his word for His people to succeed in possessing the next generation. However, when a generation fails to carry out this divine assignment, it creates a gap that comes with dire consequences. The consequences of not possessing the next generation are the focus of this study.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Discuss some consequences of not possessing the next generation from these Scriptures: Gen. 19:30-38; 27:41-46; Judg. 2:7-10; 1 Sam. 2:27-34; 8:1-5; Ezra 2:59-63; Ps. 78:9-11.
2. Discuss other consequences of not possessing the next generation.

CONCLUSION

The consequences of not possessing the next generation are grievous. Some of them include loss of the presence of God, loss of privileges, sinful habits, and death among others. May we be deliberate in possessing the next generation to avert these consequences.

THIRD QUARTER

SUB-THEME: The Whole Family. *Eph. 4:14-17.*

1. Understanding the Whole Family
2. Foundation for a Godly Home
3. God's Expectations for the Family
4. Characteristics of the Christian Home
5. Love in the Family
6. Godly Principles of Parenting
7. Discipline in the Family
8. Family and Missions
9. Rekindling the Faith of Our Fathers
10. Praying for the Whole Family
11. Building a Wholesome Family
12. Challenges to Building a Wholesome Family





STUDY ONE

UNDERSTANDING THE WHOLE FAMILY

TEXTS: 1 Chron. 25:1-8; Eph. 4:11-17.

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

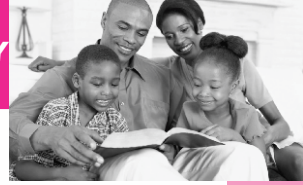
The family is a group of people united by the ties of marriage, blood, or adoption, constituting a single household. The family of God is a formation of people who are united by the shed blood of Jesus Christ. The family can be likened to the human body with different parts, yet working together in harmony. The whole family in this context is the entire household and the body of Christ. Understanding the whole family is the focus of this study.

DISCUSSION QUESTION

Discuss the whole family from these Scriptures:
Deut. 16:10, 11; 1 Chron. 25:1-8; Acts 21:7-9; 1 Cor. 12:12-30;
Gal. 3:26-29; Eph. 2:19-22; 4:11-17; 6:1-9.

CONCLUSION

We have seen that the whole family consists of different members with differing roles, gifts, and callings. Every member of the family is important in God's plan and agenda for this generation and the next as well. May we be deliberate in playing our roles.



STUDY TWO

FOUNDATION FOR A GODLY HOME

TEXTS: Gen. 2:18-25; Matt. 7:24-27.

MEMORY VERSE

Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: Matt. 7:24.

INTRODUCTION

The foundation for a godly home is of utmost importance just as a foundation is key in setting up any structure or building. To build a godly home, that home must be centred around God, His will, and His Word. This is necessary if that home would be a place of worship and service to God. As we study, may the Lord grant us understanding.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Discuss the foundation for a godly home in the light of the following Scriptures:
Gen. 2:18-25; Ps. 119:9, 11, 105; Prov. 11:14; Matt. 6:9, 10, 33; 7:24-27; Jn. 2:1, 2; Rom. 12:2; Eph. 5:21-33; Phil. 2:5-8; 1 Thess. 4:3, 4; Heb. 13:4.
2. Discuss some remedies for a faulty or destroyed foundation.
Ps. 34:4-8; 51:8-13; Prov. 11:14; Mal. 2:14-16; Jas. 5:16.

CONCLUSION

From this study, we understand that the foundation of a godly home must be God-centred. However, where there is a faulty or destroyed foundation, there is a remedy if we confess, repent, and obtain God's forgiveness.



STUDY THREE

GOD'S EXPECTATIONS FOR THE FAMILY

TEXTS: Gen. 1:27, 28; Eph. 5:21-33.

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

The family is central to God's purpose on earth because it is the bedrock of society. By God's design, the family is supposed to be a safe place where members can thrive. Unfortunately, the family structure and dynamics have deteriorated over time due to an increase in godlessness and negligence. However, God's expectation for the Christian family has not changed. In this study, we shall be looking at some of God's expectations for the Christian family.

DISCUSSION QUESTION

Discuss God's expectation for the family from these Scriptures: Gen. 1:27, 28; 2:21-25; 12:1-3; 13:1-11; 14:13-16; 18:1-8; 25:19-21; Deut. 6:5-9; Josh. 24:15; Job 1:1-5; Mal. 2:15; Acts 18:24-28; 1 Cor. 16:15-19; Eph. 5:21-33; 6:1-9; 2 Tim. 1:5, 6.

CONCLUSION

God's expectation for the family includes providing love, support, hospitality, defense, prayer, training, service, discipleship, and good counsel among others. We must be deliberate and available to achieve this.



STUDY FOUR

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE CHRISTIAN HOME

TEXTS: Gen.18:1-8; Heb. 13:1-5.

MEMORY VERSE

When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also. 2 Tim.1:5.

INTRODUCTION

The Christian home is driven by godly values. In the Christian home, members are expected to have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and seek to do His will. Several features distinguish a Christian home from others. These characteristics do not just enable the members to get along with one another but serve as strong witnesses for Christ in their locations and vocations. Characteristics of the Christian home is the focus of this study.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Discuss some characteristics of the Christian home from the following Scriptures:
Gen. 2:23-25; 14:13-16; 18:1-8; 25:21-24; Josh. 24:15; Judg. 13:2-19; Lk. 15:20-22; 1 Cor. 16:15-18; 2 Tim. 1:5; Heb. 13:1-5.
2. Discuss other characteristics of the Christian home.

CONCLUSION

The Christian home is characterised by sincerity, hospitality, forgiveness, obedience, and purity among others. May we be steadfast in demonstrating these godly characteristics.



STUDY FIVE

LOVE IN THE FAMILY

TEXTS: Gen. 2:23-25; 1 Cor. 13:4-8.

MEMORY VERSES

Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged. 1 Cor. 13:4, 5. (NLT)

INTRODUCTION

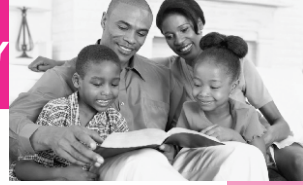
Love in the family refers to a feeling of deep affection. This exists between spouses and between parents and their children or wards and among siblings. In Greek, the different types of love include; storge which refers to an empathy bond, philia which is a friendship bond, “agape” which denotes unconditional love, and eros which connotes romantic love. In a Christian family, the four forms of love exist between husband and wife while the love between parents and their children or wards or among siblings is limited to the first three. Love in a Christian family is a function of a believer's love for God. This is the focus of this study.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Discuss what love in the family entails from the following Scriptures: Gen. 2:23-25; 26:8, 9; Job 1:1-5; Prov. 3:12; 5:15-20; Eccl. 4:9-12; 9:9; Lk. 15:12-24; 1 Cor. 13:4-8; Eph. 5:21-33.
2. Discuss the effects of lack of love in the family from the following Scriptures: Gen. 37:3, 4; Mk. 3:25; 1 Jn. 3:12.

CONCLUSION

Love in the family entails discipline, patience, kindness, selflessness, humility, openness, affection, forgiveness, and faithfulness among others. The absence of love in the family has grave consequences. May God help us to love as He wants us to in our families.



STUDY SIX

GODLY PRINCIPLES OF PARENTING

TEXTS: Deut. 6:1-8; Lk. 15:11-32.

MEMORY VERSE

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

INTRODUCTION

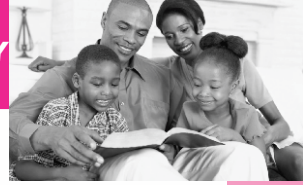
Godly principles are rules, beliefs, patterns, or standards designed by God to address human circumstances and needs, while parenting is the process of raising children and providing them with protection and care to ensure their healthy development into adulthood. Godly principles distinguish believers in their act of parenting. God has provided some models or blueprints to guide believers in the nurture and upbringing of their children. This study focuses on some of these principles.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Discuss godly principles of parenting from these Scriptures: Gen. 18:19; 35:1-5; Deut. 6:1-8; Judg. 13:12, 13; 1 Sam. 1:22-28; 2:18-20; 1 Chron. 25:1-7; Prov. 19:18; 22:6; 23:13, 14; 31:1-9; Lk. 15:11-32; Eph. 6:4; 2 Tim. 1:2-4.
2. What are the consequences of not applying godly principles in training our children?

CONCLUSION

Godly principles of parenting seen from this study include: commanding the children to fear the Lord, discipline, understanding how to order the child, being available, dedication, correction, love, and forgiveness among others. May God grant us the grace to parent our children according to His pattern.

**STUDY SEVEN****DISCIPLINE IN THE FAMILY**

TEXTS: Gen. 18:17-19; Heb. 12:5-11.

MEMORY VERSE

But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons. Heb. 12:8.

INTRODUCTION

Discipline is the practice of training people to obey rules or punishment to correct disobedience. Discipline in the family is necessary if we must have a balanced and peaceful society, possess the next generation, and preserve the legacy of the faith. Our focus in this study is on discipline in the family.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Discuss the necessity of discipline in the family from these Scriptures:
Gen. 18:19; Ps. 78:2-9; Prov. 3:12; 22:6; 23:13, 14; 29:17;
Gal. 4:1, 2; Heb. 12:8-11.
2. Discuss various forms of discipline that could be administered in the family from these Scriptures: Gen. 18:15-19; Ps. 78:1-8;
Prov. 13:24; 22:6, 15; Gal. 4:1, 2; Heb. 12:5-11.

CONCLUSION

Discipline in the family involves training, teaching, instructing, punishing, and correcting among others. This is necessary to keep the way of the Lord, to get rest for our souls, and ultimately to make heaven. May we administer discipline in line with the word of God.



STUDY EIGHT

FAMILY AND MISSIONS

TEXTS: Gen. 12:1-5; Acts 18:24-28.

MEMORY VERSE

And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother's son, and all their substance that they had gathered, and the souls that they had gotten in Haran; and they went forth to go into the land of Canaan, and into the land of Canaan they came. Gen. 12:5.

INTRODUCTION

God ordained the family unit as a platform for both divine and human service. In God's plan, Christian families are expected to serve as missionaries. Their mission begins with their households and expands to the extended family members, neighbours, and ultimately to the farthest corners of the world.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Discuss family and missions from the following Scriptures: Gen. 12:1-5; 14:14-17; Deut. 6:5-9; 2 Kgs. 4:8-13; 1 Chron. 25:1-7; Lk. 10:1-11; Acts 18:24-28; 1 Cor. 16:15-19; 2 Tim. 1:3-5.
2. Discuss in practical terms how you have been involved in missions as a family.

CONCLUSION

This study underscores the fact that engaging in missions as a family is not a matter of choice. It begins within the family unit, but its impact extends far beyond, reaching to the ends of the earth. It is crucial for every Christian family to grasp this mandate and actively pursue it.



STUDY NINE

REKINDLING THE FAITH OF OUR FATHERS

TEXTS: 1 Kgs. 18:18-39; Mal. 3:1-7.

MEMORY VERSE

And he shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver: and he shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver; that they may offer unto the LORD an offering in righteousness. Mal. 3:3.

INTRODUCTION

To rekindle is to re-awaken or revive something that seems to have died or diminished. Rekindling the faith of our fathers therefore refers to relighting the fire of the faith of our fathers. The fathers of faith demonstrated faith in God by trusting and obeying Him and placing their lives in His hands. As a result of this, they kept the fire burning and this was evident in the exploits they did for the kingdom. These exploits seem to have diminished significantly in the Church today and will therefore need to be rekindled. Rekindling the faith of our fathers is the focus of this study.

DISCUSSION QUESTION

Discuss how to rekindle the faith of our fathers from the following Scriptures:

Lev. 6:9-13; 1 Kgs. 18:18-39; Ps. 51:1-19; Isa. 6:1-8; Hos. 6:1-3; 10:12; Mal. 3:1-7; 1 Tim. 4:1-7; 2 Tim. 1:3-8; Heb. 10:24, 25; Jude 1:3-6; Rev. 3:1-6, 14-22.

CONCLUSION

Rekindling the faith of our fathers is urgent. As we do this, we will be inspired, equipped, and rejuvenated in our faith. This will help to renew our relationship with God and keep the fire of the faith burning unto the next generation.



STUDY TEN

PRAYING FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

TEXTS: Job 1:1-5; Eph. 1:15-20.

MEMORY VERSES

Wherefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus, and love unto all the saints, Cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers; Eph. 1:15, 16.

INTRODUCTION

Prayer is a core value in the life of a believer and a hallmark of a Christian family. It is said that the family that prays together, stays together. Prayer in a Christian family is therefore not just a discipline or a sign of devotion, but also a powerful way to fight for, defend, love, and care for the family. In this study, we shall look at why, what, and how we should pray for the family and what should be our disposition towards this.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Discuss what praying for the whole family entails from the following Scriptures:
Gen. 25:20-23; 28:1-4; 49:1, 2; Job 1:1-5; Esth. 4:16; Dan. 2:17-19; Lk. 18:1-8; Acts 12:5; Rom. 10:1-3; Gal. 4:19; Col. 1:9-12; Eph. 1:15-20; Jas. 5:13-16.
2. Share your practical experience of how you have been involved in praying for your family and the impact on you and the family.

CONCLUSION

Praying for the whole family is an issue that should be done in faith, fervency, and consistency. The heartfelt prayers of family members make a great difference. May we not neglect this powerful tool of impacting our families and making them perfect in Christ.



STUDY ELEVEN

BUILDING A WHOLESOME FAMILY

TEXTS: Deut. 6:4-9; Eph. 5:25-30.

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

A wholesome family is a family where godly values and morals are enshrined. Every family member participates in maintaining unity, nurturing one another, and serving as appropriate role models for the next generation. This is the kind of family that God expects the Church to multiply and fill the earth. This creates a wholesome Church and a healthy society in which the purpose of God on the earth might be fulfilled. This study focuses on building a wholesome family.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Discuss the attributes of a wholesome family.
Gen. 2:23-25; 18:17-19; Exo. 20:12; Ps. 128:1-6; 133:1-3;
Jn. 13:34, 35; Acts 10:2; 2 Thess. 3:10.
2. How do we build a wholesome family?
Gen. 18:19; Deut. 6:4-9; Eph. 5:25-30; Col. 3:12-21; Tit. 2:1-10;
Heb. 12:7-12; 1 Pet. 3:1-7.

CONCLUSION

Building a wholesome family requires commanding one another in the way of the Lord, having a unity of purpose, and loving and forgiving one another among others. May we be deliberate in building a wholesome family.



STUDY TWELVE

CHALLENGES TO BUILDING A WHOLESOME FAMILY

TEXTS: Gen. 37:1-5; 2 Tim. 3:1-7.

MEMORY VERSE

And Isaac loved Esau because he did eat of his venison: but Rebekah loved Jacob. Gen. 25:28.

INTRODUCTION

Challenges are a common occurrence in the family. However, it is expected that families manage these challenges well so that there will be love and care for one another. The essence of learning about the challenges from the Bible is to avoid repeating the same mistakes that others who have gone before us have made. This, if the family can do it, will foster peace, joy, and harmony within it. Challenges to building a wholesome family are the focus of this study.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Discuss some of the challenges of building a wholesome family from the following Scriptures: Gen. 4:1-8; 19:30-36; 25:25-28; 37:1-5; Ruth 1:1-5; 1 Sam. 8:1-5; 2 Sam. 13:1-15; 2 Kgs. 4:1, 2; Lk. 1:5-7; 12:13-15; 2 Tim. 3:1-7.
2. Discuss some practical ways to overcome the challenges of building a wholesome family.

CONCLUSION

When we are able to manage and overcome challenges, we build a healthy family life that is conducive to growth. The well-being of every member is taken into consideration and there will be peace and harmony.

FOURTH QUARTER

SUB-THEME: Gird Thyself and Serve Me. *Lk. 17:8.*

- 1 What Christian Service Entails
- 2 Preparations for Service
- 3 Requirements for Effective Service
- 4 A Life of Service
- 5 A Faithful Servant
- 6 Christian Service
- 7 Wrong Disposition to Christian Service
- 8 Humility and Pride
- 9 Pulpit Ministry
- 10 Empowered for Service



**STUDY ONE****WHAT CHRISTIAN SERVICE ENTAILS**

TEXTS: Isa. 42:1-4; 1 Pet. 4:9-11.

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

Christian service is the work performed by a believer. It is an act of worship to God that contributes to the welfare of others. It is a noble work that is rooted in the will of God. The Christian is expected to use his position or office, spiritual and natural endowment in this work. This study explores what Christian service entails.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Discuss what Christian service entails from the following Scriptures:
Ps. 78:72; Isa. 42:1-4; Matt. 25:34-40; Mk. 10:42-45; Lk. 1:74, 75; Rom. 12:4-9; Gal. 5:13, 14; Phil. 2:3, 4; 1 Pet. 4:9-11.
2. Discuss how a believer should engage in Christian service in a local community.

CONCLUSION

Christian service is grounded in love. Believers are gifted uniquely and these gifts are meant to be utilized in service to others, reflecting God's grace and love. When we serve others, especially the needy, it is a way of serving God.

**STUDY TWO****PREPARATIONS FOR SERVICE**

TEXTS: 1 Sam. 17:31-37; 2 Tim. 2:19-26.

MEMORY VERSE

If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work. 2 Tim. 2:21.

INTRODUCTION

Christians are called by God to a life of service, as Jesus exemplified through His lifestyle such as preaching the gospel, healing the sick, feeding the hungry, and so on. Like Joseph, Moses, David, and all those people that God used who went through a period of preparation before service, today, similarly, we must prepare ourselves in body, soul, and spirit to serve God acceptably in whatever capacity He has called us. This study focuses on preparations for service.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Discuss preparations for service from the following Scriptures:
1 Sam. 3:1-10; 17:31-37; 2 Kgs. 3:11; Ezra 7:10; Mk. 3:13-15;
Lk. 9:23-26; 16:10-13; Acts 1:4-8; Phil. 2:5-11; 2 Tim 2:19-26;
3:15-17; 1 Pet. 3:15.
2. In what other ways can we prepare for service?

CONCLUSION

Preparing for service necessitates a deep commitment to God, being intentional, willingness to be discipled, embracing humility and being empowered by the Holy Spirit among others. May we avail ourselves of the preparations necessary for effective service.

**STUDY THREE****REQUIREMENTS FOR EFFECTIVE SERVICE**

TEXTS: Phil. 2:1-9; 1 Pet. 4:8-11.

MEMORY VERSE

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. Rom. 12:1.

INTRODUCTION

Serving God is one of the Christian's highest privileges and purpose for living. However, there are certain requirements necessary for this service. The knowledge of these requirements will enable us to be effective and serve God acceptably. Requirements for effective service are the focus of this study.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Discuss some requirements for serving God effectively from these Scriptures:
Josh. 24:15; 1 Sam. 15:22; Lk. 9:62; Jn. 12:24-26; 15:1-8;
Acts 4:13; Rom. 1:16; 12:1-3; 1 Cor. 4:1, 2; 2 Cor. 4:1, 2;
Phil. 2:1-9; Col. 3:12-17; Heb. 12:1-3; 1 Pet. 4:8-11.
2. What are other requirements for effective service?

CONCLUSION

It is clear from this study that for our service to be effective and acceptable to the Lord, requirements such as compassion, humility, absolute loyalty to and abiding in Christ must be imbibed and exhibited.

**STUDY FOUR****A LIFE OF SERVICE**

TEXTS: Neh. 5:14-19; 2 Cor. 11:23-33.

MEMORY VERSES

and whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ. Col. 3:23, 24.

INTRODUCTION

A life of service is first and foremost, a life given to God and is then exemplified by one's good deeds in the family, Church, workplace, and society. It entails serving others. A life of service primarily seeks the Kingdom of God and his righteousness and is committed to being a blessing to others without necessarily expecting a reward in return.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Discuss a life of service from these Scriptures:
Neh. 5:14-19; Matt. 25:35-40; Mk. 10:42-45; Lk. 2:25-32, 36-38;
Jn. 13:3-15; Acts 9:36-43; Rom. 12:6-13; 2 Cor. 11:23-33;
Phil. 2:3-8; Col. 3:23, 24.
2. Discuss the benefits of a life of service.

CONCLUSION

A life of service is a sacrificial life and God expects us to live serving one another and others we come in contact with. Jesus himself exemplified this and has left us an example to follow. May the Lord help us to do so.



STUDY FIVE

FAITHFUL SERVANT

TEXTS: Gen. 22:1-12; Matt. 25:14-23.

MEMORY VERSE

His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord. Matt. 25:21.

INTRODUCTION

A Servant is one who serves or ministers to another, while faithful means loyalty in a service. A faithful servant, therefore, is a devoted and loyal individual who serves another with unwavering dedication and commitment. The person serves with the utmost integrity and loyalty, and performs duties with a sense of responsibility: it could be to God, in the workplace, at home, or any other setting. Through thick and thin, he stands steadfast, unwavering in dedication and devotion to the master in any given assignment. A faithful servant is the focus of this study.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Discuss faithful servant from these Scriptures:
Gen. 22:1-12; 39:8-10, 20-23; Num. 12:5-8; 14:1-10, 20-24;
Ruth 2:11, 12; Matt. 24:43-51; 25:14-23; Lk. 16:10; Rom. 12:11;
2 Cor. 11:23-33.
2. What are some contemporary challenges to being a faithful servant?

CONCLUSION

A faithful servant demonstrates loyalty, hard work, dedication, trustworthiness, honesty, commitment, and so on. We are encouraged to be faithful in serving the Lord and others.

**STUDY SIX****CHRISTIAN SERVICE**

TEXTS: Ps. 78:70-72; Matt. 20:25-28.

MEMORY VERSES

Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly, not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being and ensample to the flock. 1 Pet. 5:2, 3.

INTRODUCTION

Christian service is a service borne out of true love and commitment to God and the body of Christ. Nowadays, it is difficult to distinguish true Christian service in the Church, as the Church is filled with people whose services are for self-gain and promotion. However, the Bible is clear about service that is acceptable and those not acceptable to God. This study focuses on Christian service.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What do you understand by Christian service?
2. Discuss Christian service from the following Scriptures:
2 Kgs. 4:8-11; Ps. 78:70-72; Matt. 20:25-28; Jn. 13:1-15;
Acts 6:1-7; 9:36-43; Rom. 12: 1-8; 1 Cor. 16:15-18; Phil. 2:3-8;
1 Pet. 5:2, 3.

CONCLUSION

We can serve God by being hospitable, meeting the needs of others, and showing love. May we be available and willing to offer these services unto the Lord.

**STUDY SEVEN****WRONG DISPOSITION TO CHRISTIAN SERVICE**

TEXTS: Gen. 4:3-10; Acts 8:14-19.

MEMORY VERSE

Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. Phil. 2:3.

INTRODUCTION

Disposition refers to the mood or attitude of an individual or group. Dispositions can be characterised in several lights; including right, wrong, inviting or repulsive, and so on. Christian service, on the other hand, refers to the various ways and means that a Christian is to serve his Lord and Master Jesus Christ. Sometimes, the disposition of the Christian to such service may not be right. There are several ways a Christian can demonstrate the wrong disposition to service. This study highlights some of such dispositions.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Discuss some wrong dispositions to Christian service from the following Scriptures:
Gen. 4:3-10; 11:1-7; Judg. 16:20; 1 Sam. 13:7-14; Jn. 12:42, 43; Acts. 8:14-19; Rom. 10:1-3; Phil. 1:15,16.
2. What should be our disposition to Christian service?
Ps. 69:5-9; Lk. 1:38; 1 Cor. 3:5-9; 2 Cor. 12:14, 15; Phil. 1:20, 21; 2:3-8; 3:7-15.

CONCLUSION

A Christian's disposition to the service of the Lord tells a lot about his knowledge and understanding of the Lordship of Jesus Christ over his life. Every believer must endeavour to lay aside his personal ambitions and selfish desires to embrace the service the Lord has called him to, no matter the cost.

**STUDY EIGHT****TOPIC: HUMILITY AND PRIDE****TEXTS:** Isa. 14:10-17; Jn. 13:1-17.**MEMORY VERSE**

A man's pride shall bring him low: but honour shall uphold the humble in spirit. Prov. 29:23.

INTRODUCTION

Humility is the quality of having a modest or low view of one's importance. Pride on the other hand is the feeling that one is better or more important than other people. Pride promotes and enhances the self, projecting the individual over and above the focus of our call and service. Both dispositions can affect our service, commitment, and devotion to God. The call for service must be responded to in absolute humility. As we look at both concerning service unto God, may our hearts be illuminated.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Discuss humility in relation to Christian service from the following Scriptures:
2 Sam. 6:14-23; Ps. 51:17; Lk. 18: 10-14; Jn. 13:1-17; Gal. 6:1-3; Phil. 2:3-9; 3:4-8.
2. Discuss pride in relation to Christian service from the following Scriptures:
1 Sam. 15:30, 2 Chron. 26:15-20; Isa. 14:10-17; Dan. 4:30-37; Lk. 18:10-14.

CONCLUSION

Our service to the Lord is required in humility. Whatever we do in the projection of self will render our service unacceptable to God. May we devote ourselves to His service in humility.

**STUDY NINE****PULPIT MINISTRY**

TEXTS: Neh. 8:1-4; Matt. 5:1, 2.

MEMORY VERSE

Preach the word, be instant in season, out of season, reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long-suffering and doctrine. 2 Tim. 4:2.

INTRODUCTION

The pulpit is derived from the Latin word 'pulpitum' which means staging or platform for the purpose of conveying a message. The tradition that has developed over time where people build and furnish structures only emphasized staging to the neglect of platform. Pulpit ministry therefore is any platform of service, preaching, worship, teaching, and living the life that conforms with the word of God in every vocation and profession. It requires exercising God-given giftedness to draw men to Christ. It also entails exhortation in every aspect of life, equipping and producing biblically sound Christians to glorify God in life and living.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Discuss the pulpit ministry from the following Scriptures:
Neh. 8:1-6; Matt. 4:23; 5:1, 2; Lk. 5:1-11; Acts. 8:4-8, 26-38; 9:36-42; 2 Tim. 4:1-5.
2. Discuss the abuse of the pulpit ministry.

CONCLUSION

The pulpit ministry is not limited to a Church, but any platform that God has called us to serve: our home, vocation, business, or any other career. The gospel of the kingdom should be preached to reconcile men to God. Therefore, your platform is your pulpit to preach to the lost at every given opportunity. May the Lord help us to apply this understanding in Jesus' name.

**STUDY TEN****EMPOWERED FOR SERVICE**

TEXTS: Exo. 4:1-15; Lk. 4:14-21.

MEMORY VERSE

But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth. Acts 1:8.

INTRODUCTION

The various studies in this quarter have explored the different angles of Christian service, ranging from what it entails, its requirements, and preparations, to faithfulness in service, to mention but a few. In this last study, we conclude by examining the very essence of God's equipping of the saints. God has saved and empowered us to continue in the propagation of the gospel, righteousness, justice, equity, love, truth, and other virtues that He represents and loves. In this study, we shall focus on how we have been empowered and God's expectation of us in the light of such empowerment.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Discuss how believers are empowered for service from these Scriptures: Gen. 1:27, 28; Exo. 4:1-15; 7:1-6; 35:30-35; 2 Kgs. 2:1-14; Lk. 4:14-21; Jn. 1:12; Acts 1:8; 9:8-22; Eph. 4:7-13.
2. Discuss God's expectation of us in light of His empowerment for service. Matt. 4:23-25; 28:18-20; Acts 2:14-21; 10:38; Phil. 2:5-11; 1 Tim. 6:17-19; 2 Tim. 1:7-14.

CONCLUSION

God has empowered believers so that they can perpetuate the purpose of God on earth. Jesus went about doing good: healing the sick, feeding the hungry, preaching the good news to the poor, and building His Church. The same mandate has been bequeathed to us. May we be willing to serve the Lord with every power and grace He has bestowed.



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