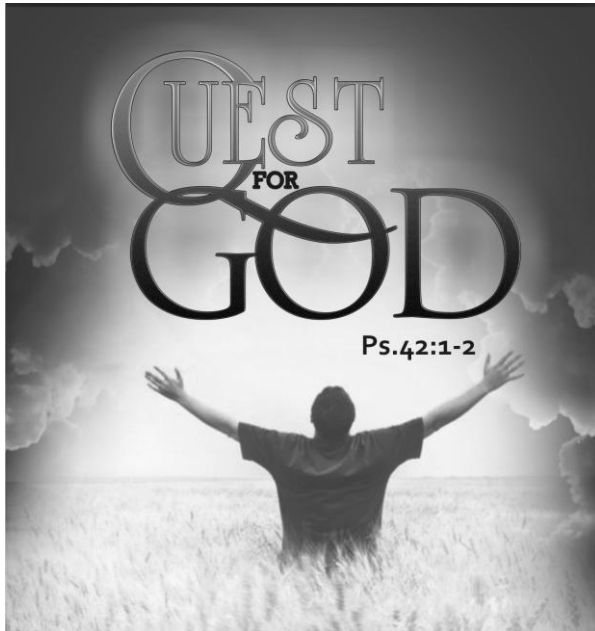


Bible Study Outlines



BIBLE STUDY OUTLINES

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Quest for God. Psalm 42:1-2

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Foreword

God graciously granted to us an understanding and insight into that which He would have us focus on this year-Quest for HIM! No man ever so earnestly long for, desire to be with God, enjoy His presence and gets satisfied with the Almighty who can ever be disappointed in life nor be easily wished away in his generation. This is because, the presence of God robs off on that man and his life counts for God.

As we press ahead in life this year, may we run into the warm embrace of the loving arms and presence of our Lord, Saviour, Big Brother and Friend-Jesus, the lover of our souls.

It is therefore no wonder the song writer accurately penned down that, "...Did ever saint find this Friend forsake him, or sinner find that He would not take him? No not one, no not one".

O what a Friend indeed we have in Jesus! May we, like the deer, pant and long for God as He is the reason we live and He is for sure, much more than life to us.

Be blessed as we study together in Jesus mighty name, Amen.

Chaplain

2017 THEME QUEST FOR GOD-PSALM 42:1-2

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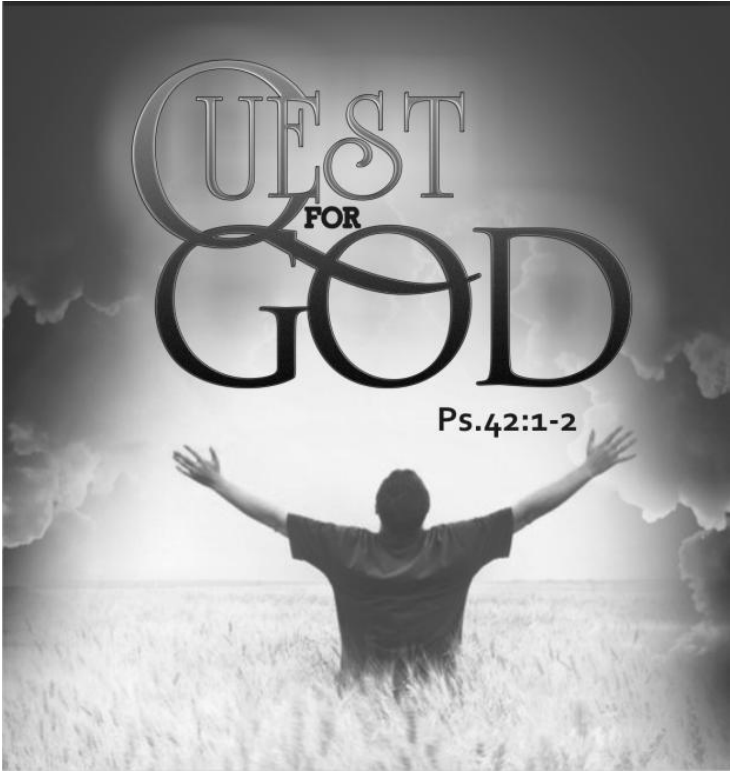
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QUEST
FOR
GOD
Ps.42:1-2

1ST QUARTER

SUB-THEME:
YE ARE MY FRIENDS
JOHN 15:15

STUDY ONE:

YE ARE MY FRIENDS

TEXTS: Gen. 18:16-33; Ex. 33:10; Jn. 15:13-15; Jas. 2:23

MEMORY VERSE: Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you. Jn. 15:15

INTRODUCTION

Friendship is a relationship that exists between two or more people. This is characterized by love, affection, trust, faithfulness, transparency, dependability and mutual respect. It has pleased the Lord to make us his friends. Hence to consolidate this friendship, we must walk intimately with him.

As we study, we shall be examining what true friendship entails.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Discuss freely, how you have related as a friend with someone
2. Discuss from the following scriptures what our friendship with God entails. Gen. 18:16-33; Ex. 33:11; Prov. 17:17; 18:24; 27:6, 9, 10, 17; Jn. 15:13-15; Jas. 2:23.

CONCLUSION

It is a privilege to be friends with the Lord. He chose to bring us into this relationship. Let us therefore avail ourselves of this privilege.

STUDY TWO:

GOD'S GRACE AND MERCY

TEXTS: Rom. 5:1-8, 21; Eph. 2: 1-9

MEMORY VERSES: But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved). Eph. 2:4, 5.

INTRODUCTION

The terms mercy and grace have similar meanings, but they are not the same. While mercy simply means, God not punishing us as our sins deserve, grace on the other hand is God blessing us despite the fact that we do not deserve it. That is why the Bible says "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" (Rom. 5:8).

This understanding helps us not only to always ascribe glory and praise to Him, but to serve him with joy and with a grateful heart.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Discuss God's grace and mercy from the following scriptures as the basis of our friendship with God. Jn. 1:16-18; Rom. 3:23, 24; 5: 1-10; 9: 16; 1 Cor. 15:10; Eph. 1:6; 2:4, 8; Tit. 3:5; Heb. 4:16; 1 Pet. 1:3.
2. What should our attitude be with regards to God's grace and mercy? 2 Cor. 6:1-10; 8:7-9; Gal. 2:21; Rom. 6:1,2.

CONCLUSION

Grace and mercy are gifts from God that should take us to our knees in worship and adoration. We can bring absolutely nothing to God except a humble and thankful heart. May God help us.

STUDY THREE:
DEVELOPING INTIMACY
WITH GOD

TEXTS: Ex. 33:7-19; Ps. 63:1-8; Phil. 3:7-15;
Heb. 4:14-16

MEMORY VERSE: As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, O God. Ps. 42:1 (NIV).

INTRODUCTION

Intimacy is an experience of really knowing and being known by another. God created man in His own image that He might have intimate relationship with him. He desires every redeemed child of His to develop intimacy with Him. However, it is not automatic; believers must be deliberate in cultivating it.

In this study, we shall be considering how to develop intimacy with God.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How can believers develop intimacy with God from the following scriptures? Job 23:12; Ps. 15:1-5; 27:4; 42:1, 2; 63:1-8; Dan. 6:10; Hab. 3:17-19; Jn. 5:30; 15:4-6; 2 Cor. 3:16-18; Phil. 3:7-15; Col. 3:1, 2; Heb. 1:9.
2. Discuss practical hindrance to developing intimacy with God.

CONCLUSION

In this study, we have seen practical things we can do to develop intimacy with God. May we be willing to invest our all in cultivating this intimacy with God.

STUDY FOUR:
**LISTENING AND RESPONDING
TO GOD**

TEXTS: Neh. 8:1-12; Acts 10:1-21

MEMORY VERSE: But those who look closely into the perfect law that sets people free, who keep on paying attention to it and do not simply listen and then forget it, but put it into practice, they will be blessed by God in what they do.

Jas. 1:25(GNB)

INTRODUCTION

Listening is to pay attention to or to take note of while responding is to say something in return or to take action. God is always speaking to His children and expects us to pay attention and responds appropriately. Any Christian who desires to enjoy fellowship with God must cultivate these attitudes. This is the focus of this study.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Discuss listening and responding to God from the scriptures below: Ex. 33:12-23; Neh. 8:1-12; 1 Sam. 23:1-5; 2 Sam. 12:1-14; Lk. 5:1-11; 10:38-42; Acts 10:1-21; 18:9-11.
2. From the following scriptures, what are the effects of listening and responding to God? Gen. 12:1-8; Deut. 28:1-13; 1 Chron. 14:8-17; Matt. 1:18-21, 24, 25; 2:12-15; Acts 10:23-33, 44-48.

CONCLUSION

Listening and responding to God appropriately give a believer confidence and authority to live a victorious life. May God help us to so do.

STUDY FIVE:
**SUSTAINING OUR FRIENDSHIP
WITH GOD**

TEXTS: Gen. 22:1-18; Ps. 15:1-5

MEMORY VERSE: Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you. Jn. 15:14

INTRODUCTION

To sustain is to maintain, nourish or keep in existence. As friends of God, there is a need for us to sustain this relationship, which requires deliberate and conscious effort.

In this study, we shall be considering ways that would help us sustain our friendship with God.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Discuss from these scriptures ways we can sustain our friendship with God. Ps. 15:1-5; 84:1-5; 92:1-2; 119:11; 122:1-2; Mk. 1:35; Jn. 5:30; 8:29-31; 10:27; 12:24-26; 15:14-16; Jas. 4:4, 7, 8.
2. In what other ways can we sustain our relationship with God?

CONCLUSION

There are better ways to sustain our friendship with God than obeying his word. Let us therefore endeavour to work towards sustaining our friendship with Him.

STUDY SIX:
IDENTIFYING WITH HIM

TEXTS: Jn. 18:15-27; Rom. 6:3-13

MEMORY VERSE: Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.
Mk. 8:38

INTRODUCTION

Identifying with someone is to understand and share someone else's feelings, to be involved or connected with the person, his opinions, ideas, philosophies, and stands in life. It also includes being closely related to him.

Therefore, identifying with Jesus entails having a close walking relationship with him which translates into having a consistent stance with him.

This study examines some of the ways that we can identify with God as we relate with Him as a friend. May God give us understanding as we study.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Discuss how we may identify with God from the following scriptures: Gen. 39:2-10; Dan. 3:14-25; 6:6-22; Jn. 13:34, 35; 15:4-14; Gal. 2:20; Rom. 1:14-16; 6:3-6; 12:1, 2; Phil. 3:7-11.
2. Discuss other ways that we can identify with Jesus.

CONCLUSION

Having studied and understood what it means and how to identify with God in our friendship with Him, let us appropriate grace for courage not to neglect this as we walk with Him.

STUDY SEVEN:
**SACRIFICE: A NECESSARY
INGREDIENT FOR FRIENDSHIP**

TEXTS: 1 Sam. 20:1-16; Phil. 2:3-8

MEMORY VERSE: Greater love hath no man than this, that
a man lay down his life for his friends. Jn. 15:13

INTRODUCTION

Sacrifice is to deny oneself or to give oneself for the service of others even to the point of death. It is essential to genuine friendship. Jesus demonstrated this by denying himself of heavenly glory by becoming man and even dying on the cross for our sake. In like manner, God expects us to sacrifice our time, pleasure, resources and so on to strengthen our friendship with Him.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. From the following scriptures, discuss sacrifice as an ingredient for friendship. Ruth 1:6-18; 1 Sam. 20:30-33; Jn. 15:13; Rom. 15:1-3; 1 Cor. 13:4-7; 2 Cor. 5:14; 12:15.
2. How can we cultivate the virtue of sacrifice in our friendships from the following scriptures? Rom. 12:10; Gal. 2:20, 21; 6:9; Phil. 2:3-8; 1 Jn. 4:7-12, 18.

CONCLUSION

The depth of any friendship is in the measure of sacrifice that goes into it. This study emphasised ways and manner of sacrificing in order to build and sustain our friendship with God and with each other.

STUDY EIGHT:
**WRONG CONCEPTS ABOUT OUR
FRIENDSHIP WITH GOD**

TEXTS: Gen. 19:13-20; Mal. 1:6-8; Lk. 15: 11-20;
Jn. 11:18-28, 32

MEMORY VERSE: You're cheating on God. If all you want is your own way, flirting with the world every chance you get, you end up enemies of God and his way. Jas. 4:4 (MSG)

INTRODUCTION

Familiarity, it is said, breeds contempt. Our relationship with God sometimes may snowball into our taking God for granted in a number of ways if we do not consciously and deliberately check ourselves. In our walk with him, we may find that we are beginning to regard his word, his presence, his fellowship and friendship as a right rather than regard them as a privilege.

In this study, we shall discuss the aforementioned subject matter, with a view to ensuring that we keep a proper relationship with God, and prevent it from nose-diving into taking him for granted.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. From the following scriptures, discuss some wrong concepts about our friendship with God. Gen. 19:13-20; Num. 22:12-22; 1 Sam. 15: 13-15; Mal. 1:6-8; Lk. 15:11-20; Jn. 11:18-28, 32; Jas. 4:4.
2. How do we guard against taking our friendship with God for granted? Deut. 32:15-20; 1 Sam. 15:17-19, 22,23; Prov. 3:5-8; 4:23-27; 23:1-4; Isa. 66:2; Matt. 16:21-23.

CONCLUSION

Having seen that we can take our friendship with God for granted in our day to day living, may we watch our steps as well as guard our hearts so as not to fall into the pitfalls the men we have studied fell into in their relationship with God.

STUDY NINE:
RESTORING FRIENDSHIP
WITH GOD

TEXTS: Gen. 33:1-15; Isa. 1:18-26; Rev. 2:1-5

MEMORY VERSE: Come now, let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool. Isa. 1:18

INTRODUCTION

Occasionally, friendship between two people gets sour. Similarly, our relationship with God, gets sour whenever we stray from him. When this happens, there is the need to take urgent and deliberate steps to address the issue(s) that caused the unhealthy situation. The longer it takes to address the issue(s), the more the relationship is threatened. If steps are not taken at all, the friendship may collapse. In this study, we shall be looking at restoring friendship with God.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Discuss some things that may make our friendship with God sour. Num. 11:1-6; 12:1-10; 25:1-3; 2 Sam. 11:5-17; Acts 5:1-9; Gal. 5:19-21; Heb. 4:1-7; 10:35-38.
2. Discuss from these scriptures how we can restore our friendship with God. Num. 25:6-11; 2 Sam. 12:1-13; Job 22:21-25(Msg); Isa. 1:18-20; 1 Jn. 1:9.

CONCLUSION

The Lord is willing to forgive us and continue with us as friends, irrespective of the things we have done. Let us not therefore delay to come to him and ask for forgiveness.

STUDY TEN:
**BENEFITS OF FRIENDSHIP
WITH GOD**

TEXTS: Gen. 18:16-21; Jn. 15:1-16

MEMORY VERSE: Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my father I have made known unto you. Jn. 15:15

INTRODUCTION

Just as every friendship has benefits, in the same way our friendship with God is not in vain. If we accept the hand of friendship he offers, we stand to gain a lot.

In this study, we shall be looking at some of the benefits of our friendship with God.

DISCUSSION QUESTION

1. Identify and discuss the benefits of friendship with God from the following scriptures: Gen. 18:17-19; 2 Kgs. 6:15-17; Ps. 1:1-3; 23:1-6; Isa. 26:3; Matt. 5:1-3; 1 Cor. 2:9-12; Jn. 15:13-16.
2. Share the benefits you have enjoyed in your friendship with God.

CONCLUSION

From this study, the benefits of our friendship with God are innumerable. May we avail ourselves of the opportunity of this friendship so as to continually enjoy the benefits thereof.

QUEST
FOR
GOD
Ps.42:1-2

2ND QUARTER

SUB-THEME:
**EQUIPPED UNTO GOOD
WORKS**

2 TIM. 3:17

STUDY ONE:
**GOOD WORKS AND WHAT
IT ENTAILS**

TEXTS: Matt. 5:16; Acts 9:36-39; Tit. 2:7-15

MEMORY VERSE: How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him. Acts 10:38

INTRODUCTION

Good works is any act of kindness, generosity, hospitality etc. to people we come across in life. It also involves reaching out to people through counseling, prayer, preaching and teaching the word of God. Every believer is expected to be a pattern of good works. This is the focus of this study.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What does good works entail from the following scriptures? Matt. 5:16; Mk. 14:3-6; Jn. 14:10; Acts 9:36-39; 1 Cor. 13:3; Phil. 2:13-16; 1 Tim. 2:8-10; 6:17-19; 2 Tim. 3:16, 17; Tit. 2:7-14; Heb. 10:24, 25.
2. What can we learn from the following examples of good works? 2 Kgs. 4:9-11; Jn. 4:7-24; Lk. 10:30-37; Phm. 9-19.

CONCLUSION

Good works enable others experience God's love through us. As our Lord Jesus was anointed and went about doing good, may we all abound in good works to the glory of God the father.

STUDY TWO:

CO-LABOURERS WITH GOD

TEXTS: Gen. 2:15; Jer. 51:20-23; 2 Cor. 6:1-10

MEMORY VERSE: For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building. 1 Cor. 3:9

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of God is that man would partner with Him in taking charge of His creation and enjoy intimacy with Him. For the believer, this is a privilege that the devil has continued to envy and fight. However, for God's kingdom and will to be established continually on earth, He needs our hands, feet, mouth and material possession for the accomplishment of his purpose: to deliver mankind from oppression and influence of the devil, stand in the gap, challenge wickedness, institute justice, preach the good news, and declare His sovereignty. In this study we shall focus on different dimensions of our partnership with God.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Discuss what co-labouring with God entails from the following scriptures: Gen. 18:17-32; Ex. 3:7-10; Num. 25:6-11; 1 Sam. 3:1-10; 17:44-51; Dan. 3:17-30; Matt. 3:1-6; 10:5-8; Acts 14:21-23; 16:6-10; Phil. 4:14-19; Col. 4:12.
2. What are some of the effects of not co-labouring with God? Isa. 3:1-5; 59:14-16; Eze. 22:29-31; 33:1-9; Rom. 10:14, 15.

CONCLUSION

It is clear from this study that God is represented and his interest executed on earth through His partnership with men. It is a great privilege to be used of God to accomplish His purposes. May we be faithful in co-labouring with God.

STUDY THREE:

EQUIPPED FOR GOOD WORKS

TEXTS: Acts 9:36-39; Eph. 2:1-10; 2 Tim. 3:14-17.

MEMORY VERSES: All scriptures is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

2 Tim. 3:16, 17.

INTRODUCTION

To equip (furnish) is to prepare with a skill or to supply with whatever is necessarily efficient for good works. The bible makes us to understand that as children of God, we have been equipped for good works. God therefore expects each of us to be engaged in good works.

In this study, we shall examine how God equips us, the goal or purpose of our equipment and some contrary motives for doing good works which we must avoid.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Discuss from, the following scriptures how God equips us for good works: Prov. 4:7; Mk. 3:14, 15; Acts 1:8; Eph. 2:1-10; 2 Cor. 9:10,11; 1 Tim. 6:17-19; 2 Tim. 3:14-17.
2. What should be our motive for doing good works? Matt. 5:16; Lk. 6:35; 2 Cor. 9:10-14; Tit. 3:8, 14; 1 Pet. 2:12.
3. Discuss some contrary motives for doing good works. Matt. 6:1; 2 Cor. 10:12; Gal. 5:26; Phil. 1:15.

CONCLUSION

As believers in Christ, we have been equipped for good works with the aim of bringing glory to God and not ourselves. May we therefore comply.

STUDY FOUR:

GOD'S COMPREHENSIVE EQUIPMENT I: DISCIPLESHIP

TEXTS: Ex. 18:7-27; Mk. 3:13-15; Acts 18:24-28

MEMORY VERSE: And he ordained twelve, that they should be with him, and that he might send them forth to preach.

Mk. 3:14

INTRODUCTION

To equip a person means to empower or furnish him to enable him perform a particular purpose. God has called every child of His to partner with Him in the work of His kingdom. However, no man in himself is sufficient for this onerous task, hence the need to be equipped by God. Discipleship is one of the ways God equips a man to fit into His divine purpose and work effectively for Him. Many believers are ineffective in life and ministry because of the lack of this equipment. This study focuses on discipleship as God's comprehensive equipment for life and ministry and how we can maximize it.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. From the following scriptures, discuss discipleship as God's comprehensive equipment for life and ministry. Ex. 18:7-27; Josh. 1:1-3; 2 Kgs. 2:7-15; Mk. 3:13-15; Lk. 11:1-4; Acts 4:13-20; 18:24-28; 2 Tim. 2:2; 3:14, 15.
2. From these scriptures, discuss how a believer can maximize the process of discipleship in his life: 2 Kgs. 2:7-15; Ps. 42:1, 2; Prov. 3:5-7; Lk. 10:1, 17; Jn. 6:65-69; 1 Cor. 11:1; 2 Cor. 10:12; Heb. 12:2, 3.

CONCLUSION

God does not expect us to fulfill his purpose with being adequately equipped. Let us maximize the discipleship opportunity that God brings our way.

STUDY FIVE:
**GOD'S COMPREHENSIVE
EQUIPMENT II:
THE WORD AND PRAYER**

TEXTS: Acts 4:23-33; Jn. 1:1-3, 14; 2 Tim. 3:14-17;
Jas. 1:21-25

MEMORY VERSES: All scriptures is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.
2 Tim. 3:16, 17.

INTRODUCTION

In the last study, discipleship was considered as one of the tools God uses to equip believers for good works. In like manner God uses His word and prayers to equip us for the fulfillment of His purposes.

This study focuses on the word of God and prayer as other comprehensive equipment of believers unto good works. As we study, may our hearts be enlightened.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Discuss God's word and prayer as some of His tools for furnishing believers for good works. Ps. 119:9, 11, 105; Jer. 20:9; Dan. 6:10, 11; Lk. 22:39-46; Jn. 6:63; 8:31, 32; Acts 4:24-26,31; 20:32; 2 Tim. 3:14-17; Heb. 4:12, 13; 1 Jn 1:1-3; Jude 20.
2. From these scriptures, how can we benefit maximally from God's word and prayer? Josh. 1:8; Job 23:12; Jer. 15:16; Lk. 18:1; Eph. 6:18; Jas. 1:5, 6, 21-25; 5:16-18; 1 Pet. 2:2.

CONCLUSION

This study underscores the significance of God's word and prayer in equipping believers unto good works. The word of God trains, encourages, rebukes, corrects and instructs believers for good works and effective, fervent prayer accomplishes much. May we submit our lives to be equipped by God's word and prayer.

STUDY SIX:
**EQUIPPING THROUGH
FELLOWSHIP**

TEXTS: Ps. 122:1; Acts 2:41-47; Heb. 10:23-25

MEMORY VERSE: That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ. 1 Jn. 1:3

INTRODUCTION

Fellowship means companionship or association of people having a common interest, goal or aim. As believers who share a common faith, God desires that we company with one another, receive the same spiritual nourishments and be united in our pursuit of His divine mandate. The fellowship we share is for the mutual benefit of every member, through it members are strengthened and empowered to manifest the true identity of Christ. In this study we shall consider how God equips His church through fellowship.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. From the following scriptures discuss equipping through fellowship: Neh. 8:1-6,9,10; Acts 2:1-8, 41-47; 4:23-33; 18:22-28; Heb. 10:23-25; Jas. 5:14-16; 1 Pet. 4:10-14; 1 Jn. 1:1-7.
2. Why is equipping through fellowship important in our Christian walk? (Share your own experience).

CONCLUSION

We have seen from this study that God teaches and builds His children through their association one with another. May we take advantage of the opportunity God grants us to be equipped through fellowship.

STUDY SEVEN:
ONE SPIRIT, DIFFERENT GIFTS

TEXTS: Rom. 12:1-8; 1 Cor. 12:4-14, 28

MEMORY VERSE: Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. Rom. 12:4

INTRODUCTION

The Christian calling is a call to service and to be able to do that effectively, God equips us with spiritual gifts. These gifts are given to us by His Spirit for the common good of His church. He therefore expects us to discover our individual gifts, appreciate each other's gifts and use our gifts in harmony with one another and not in strife and competition. This study focuses on the need to understand the importance of spiritual gifts in doing good works, the need to desire spiritual gifts and for those of us who have identified ours to fan them to flame.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What do you understand by "one Spirit, different gifts"?
2. Identify and discuss the various spiritual gifts listed in these scriptures: Rom. 12:6-8 (MSG); 1 Cor. 12:8-12, 28; Eph. 4:11-13
3. Discuss from these scriptures why we are to value and appreciate our gifts: Matt. 25:14-30; Rom. 12:1-6; 1 Cor. 12:4-7, 12-23; Eph. 4:8-13; 2 Tim. 1:6-9

CONCLUSION

Spiritual gifts are given to us for good works, each of us must therefore, prayerfully discover our gifts and put them to use for the profit of the Church. We must also value and appreciate our gifts.

STUDY EIGHT:

COMMITMENT TO WORK

TEXTS: Gen. 39:1-6; Matt. 25:14-30; Jn. 9:4;
Col. 3:22-25

MEMORY VERSE: Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest.
Eccl. 9:10

INTRODUCTION

Commitment is a deliberate, conscious, and personal decision to be diligent or to be involved in an obligation despite all odds. The lack of commitment has affected productivity in both the Church and the secular world. There is a need therefore for us to be devoted to any task or assignment given to us anywhere we find ourselves as children of God.

In this study, we shall look at what commitment to work entails.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What do you understand by commitment to work?
2. Discuss commitment to work from the following scriptures. Gen. 39:1-6; 1 Sam. 16:18-23; Eccl. 9:10; 11:1-6; Prov. 22:29; Matt. 24:45-51; 25:14-30; Jn. 9:4; 1 Cor. 2:10-23-15; Col. 3:22-25.
3. What are some consequences of lack of commitment to work? Prov. 6:4-11; Matt. 24:45-51.

CONCLUSION

We have seen from this study that, commitment is key to any meaningful achievement. Let us therefore diligently renew our commitment to our secular and spiritual work so as to honour our God. "And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men". Col. 3:23

STUDY NINE:

SUSTAINING THE GOOD WORKS

TEXTS: 2 Cor. 11:24-31; Eph. 6:6-8; Tit. 3:1-8, 14

MEMORY VERSE: This is a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, that they which believed in God might be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable unto men. Tit. 3:8

INTRODUCTION

God called and equipped us for good works. Unfortunately, sometimes we become weary or discouraged and quit or give up. God, however, expects us to sustain the good works despite the weariness or discouragements that we face from time to time.

In this study, we shall consider encouragements and admonitions for sustaining good works.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Discuss from the following scriptures, some encouragements and admonitions to sustaining good works? Eccl. 9:10; Matt. 16:27; Rom. 2:7; 1 Cor. 3:8; 2 Cor. 4:15-17; Gal. 6:9, 10; Eph. 6:6-8; Tit. 3:1-8, 14; Heb. 12:1-3; 1 Pet. 5:8-10(LB).
2. What are some challenges and discouragements to sustaining good works? Mk. 3:2; Acts 13:50; 2 Cor. 11:24-31; Gal. 6:9.

CONCLUSION

God expects us to sustain our good works despite the challenges or the discouragements that we may face. Let us therefore continue in doing good works and may his grace be sufficient unto us.

STUDY TEN:

CHALLENGES TO BEING EFFECTIVE IN OUR DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

TEXTS: Prov. 6:6-11; Matt. 6:25-34; 1 Cor. 4:10-13

MEMORY VERSES: How long wilt thou sleep, O sluggard?
When wilt thou arise out of thy sleep? Yet a little sleep, a
little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep: So shall
thy poverty come as one that travelleth, and thy want as an
armed man. Prov. 6: 9-11

INTRODUCTION

Challenges are factors that militate against carrying out our work or duties effectively. The world we live in is full of distractions ranging from personal, family, and others. This has limited us from given our best in doing our work. Despite these challenges, God expects us to be committed in our work.

In this study, we shall consider some challenges and how to remain focused on whatever we do.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. From the following scriptures, identify and discuss challenges that limit us from being effective in duties. Neh. 4:1, 7, 8; Hos. 4:6; Matt. 6:25-34; 2 Tim. 1:7; 1 Jn. 2:15-17 (LB).
2. What other challenges do we face in our work?
3. How can we overcome these challenges from the following scriptures? Neh. 4:9; 6:2-9; Jn. 16:33; Rom. 8:28; 1 Cor. 15:57, 58; 2 Cor. 1:8, 10; Eph. 6:16-18; Heb. 3:12-14; Jas. 5:7-9; 2 Pet. 3:17, 18; 1 Jn. 5:4, 5.

CONCLUSION

Challenges are bound to come our way as long as we discharge our duties and responsibilities. However, we must not allow these challenges to hinder us.

STUDY ELEVEN:
REWARDS FOR GOOD WORKS

TEXTS: Ex. 1:15-21; Num. 25:1-13; Matt. 25:14-30

MEMORY VERSE: Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Gal. 6:9 (NIV)

INTRODUCTION

A reward is something given in recognition of one's service, effort, or achievement. Every acceptable service unto God attracts reward. He is not ignorant of our good works; he rewards appropriately and duly in accordance with His will. In this study, we shall be looking at some rewards for good works.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What do you understand by good works?
2. Discuss rewards of good works from the following scriptures: Ex. 1:15-21; Num. 25:1-13; 2 Kgs. 4:8-17; Matt. 19:27-29; 25:14-30; Mk. 9:41; Acts 9:36-42; 1 Cor. 9:16-18; Heb. 6:10; 1 Pet. 5:2-4.

CONCLUSION

God saved us to do good works, which implies that doing good works for a believer is an obligation. God rewards believers who engage in good works. "Therefore, cast not away your confidence which has great reward, for you have need of patience that after you have done the will of God, you might obtain the promise"-Hebrews 10:35, 36.

STUDY TWELVE:
THE HARVEST IS RIPE

TEXTS: Matt. 28:19-20; Lk. 10:1, 2; 2 Tim. 4:1-5

MEMORY VERSE: Say not ye, There are yet four months,
and them cometh harvest? Behold, I say unto you, Lift up
your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to
harvest. Jn. 4:35

INTRODUCTION

Harvest is the gathering of ripe crops from the field in the same vein; souls of men are likened to crops that are ripe for harvest. The Lord Jesus has commissioned us to bring in the harvest. We should be aware of the urgency of this task and make every effort to labour in this harvest. May the Lord grant us understanding as we study.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. From the following scriptures discuss the urgency of the harvest: Eccl. 3:1; Matt. 9:37, 38; 28:19, 20; Lk. 10:1, 2; Jn. 4:35; Acts 8:25-27; 10:23, 24, 34-43; Rom. 10:13-15; Eph. 5:15-17; 2 Tim. 4:1-5.
2. In the light of the above what should be our response to this ripe harvest? Matt. 28:19, 20; Lk. 10:1, 2; Acts. 1:8; 10:23, 24, 34-43; 1 Cor. 9: 16-27.
3. Discuss the consequences of not gathering the harvest. Prov. 10:5; Rom. 10:13-15; 1 Cor. 9:16.

CONCLUSION

Having seen that the harvest indeed is ripe, we should respond to God's call as labourers and make every effort to work in this consciousness. May we find grace to respond appropriately.

QUEST
FOR
GOD
Ps.42:1-2

3RD QUARTER

SUB-THEME:
ENJOYING FAMILY LIFE

ECCL. 9:9

STUDY ONE:

GOD'S PURPOSE FOR MARRIAGE

TEXTS: Gen. 1:26-28; 2:21-25; Mal. 2:15; Matt. 19:4-6

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 ordained marriage and designed it to achieve his purpose. Therefore, understanding His purposes for marriage will help prepare God's people enjoy their family life and equip them to face challenges.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1 Discuss from the following scriptures God's purpose for marriage. Gen. 1:26-28; 2:18, 23-25; Eccl. 4:9-12; Mal. 2:15; Eph. 5:21-33
- 2 Discuss some of the challenges to fulfilling God's purpose for marriage and how to overcome them. Prov. 5:20; Matt. 19:4-9; Rom. 1:21,22,26,27; 1 Cor. 7:1-11; Eph. 6:11, 12

CONCLUSION

God's purpose for marriage includes: reflect God's image, mutually complement one another and multiply a godly heritage. When we commit ourselves to fulfilling these purposes, we enjoy our marriages. May our marriages fulfill God's design.

STUDY TWO:
CHOOSING A LIFE PARTNER

**TEXTS: Gen. 2:20-23; Prov. 3:5-7; 2 Cor. 6:14-16;
Phil. 4:6,7**

MEMORY VERSE: He who finds a wife finds what is good
and receives favor from the LORD. Prov. 18:22 (NIV)

INTRODUCTION

God delights in leading his children in the right path of life. As a believer builds his relationship with the Lord, he gets to know him better. God still instructs and guides to ensure that each believer makes the right choice in marriage.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Discuss some principles from the following scriptures in choosing a life partner. Gen. 2:20-23; Prov. 3:5-7; 15:22; Jn. 16:13; 2 Cor. 6:14-16; Phil. 4:6, 7; Jas. 1:5, 6
2. What other factors could be considered in the choice of a life partner?
3. Share briefly how you chose your partner.

CONCLUSION

A good relationship with Jesus is invaluable in making the right choice of a life partner, A life of trust, prayer, built on God's word and seeking godly counsel is sure to make it a lot easier.

STUDY THREE:
**UNITY OF PURPOSE IN
THE FAMILY**

TEXTS: Ex. 2:1-10; Judg. 13:1-13; Acts 18:24-26

MEMORY VERSE: Can two walk together, except they be agreed? Amos 3:3

INTRODUCTION

The family unit provides a divine platform of unity in achieving God's purposes. Examples abound in scripture of families that achieved the purpose of God in their life and ministry.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Discuss unity of purpose in the family. Ex. 2:1-10; 2 Kgs. 4:8-11; Judg. 13:1-13; Eccl 4:9-12; Isa. 8:18; Matt. 1:18-21; 2:13,14; Acts 18:24-26; Phil. 2:1- 5.
2. Discuss the things that militate against the unity of purpose in the family and how to overcome them.

CONCLUSION

Unity of purpose in the family enhances the fulfillment of God's purpose. May we make every effort to maintain the unity of purpose in our families.

STUDY FOUR:

ESTABLISHING FAMILY GOALS

TEXTS: Deut. 6:6-9; Josh. 24:15; Prov. 22:6; Jer. 35:1-14

MEMORY VERSE: But they said, we will drink no wine: for Jonadab the son of Rechab our father commanded us, saying, Ye shall drink no wine, neither ye, nor your sons forever.
Jer. 35:6

INTRODUCTION

A goal is a set target for which effort is made to achieve. God expects parents to set godly goals for their families. These goals could vary from family to family, but the overall purpose is to glorify the Lord. These goals may be short-term, long-term or perpetuated from one generation to another. This is the focus of this study.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Discuss various goals that could be established by a family?
2. What are the lessons from the following scriptures in setting family goals? Deut. 6:6-9; Josh. 24:15; 1 Sam. 1:21-28; Prov. 22:6; Jer. 35:1-14; Hab. 2:2,3; 2 Tim 1:5.
3. Discuss how family members can encourage each other in establishing family goals.

CONCLUSION

Family members have the responsibility of setting clear goals to achieve the purpose of God for their lives. May God help us to set and accomplish these goals in our families.

STUDY FIVE:
**THE PLACE OF THE FAMILY
ALTAR**

TEXTS: Deut. 11:18-21; Job 1:1-5; Ps. 78:3-8; 95:1-7

MEMORY VERSES: Therefore shall ye lay up these my words in your heart and in your soul, and bind them for a sign upon your hand, that they may be as frontlets between your eyes.

And ye shall teach them your children, speaking of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.

Deut. 11:18, 19

INTRODUCTION

Family altar is when members of a family come together to fellowship with God and with one another consistently. It is a period of prayer, worship, admonition and teaching of the word of God.

It is very necessary that every member of the family is committed in doing this. May God grant us understanding as we study.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Discuss what family altar entails from the following scriptures: Gen. 35:1-7; Deut. 4:9, 10; 11:18-21; Josh. 1:8; Job 1:1-5; Ps. 78:3-7; 95:1-7; 1 Tim. 2:1-4; 2 Tim. 3:15-17; Jas. 5:16.
2. Give practical suggestions that would enhance family devotion.

CONCLUSION

The place of the family altar cannot be overemphasized in the home. Hence, we must be deliberate, committed, prayerful and purposeful when we meet together in fellowship.

STUDY SIX:
ESTABLISHING FAMILY TIES

TEXTS: Gen. 50:15-21; Matt. 18:15-22; Rom. 12:10

MEMORY VERSE: Behold, how good and how pleasant it is
for brethren to dwell together in unity! Ps. 133:1

INTRODUCTION

Ties are connections people have with one another or a place. Establishing family ties therefore, is creating a long-lasting connection with family members.

Establishing family ties may be demanding, however, God has revealed to us in His word, the necessity and the ways of doing so. This is the focus of this study.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What are some necessary factors in establishing family ties from the following scriptures? Gen. 50:16, 17; 1 Sam. 12:23; Job 1:4, 5; Matt. 18:15-22; Rom. 12:10; Gal. 6:1, 2; Col. 3:13; Jas. 5:16; 1 Pet. 3:8-11.
2. Discuss some challenges to developing family ties and how to overcome them. Gen. 4:1-9; 25:28; Lk. 12:13; Jas. 3:14-18.

CONCLUSION

Establishing family ties is God's will. Let us therefore, ensure that our family ties are not broken. May His grace be sufficient unto us.

STUDY SEVEN:
VACATION AND RELAXATION IN
THE FAMILY

TEXTS: Gen. 2:2, 3; Mk. 6:30-32

MEMORY VERSE: Then, because so many people were coming and going that they did not even have a chance to eat, he said to them, "Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest". Mk 6:31(NIV)

INTRODUCTION

Vacation is a period of suspension of work and other activities usually for rest, recreation, or travel while relaxation is reduction in work or other activities in order to refresh and recuperate. The Bible speaks about rest, beginning with the creation week in Genesis 2:2, 3. God did the work of creation for six days; then He rested on the seventh day, not because He was tired but to set the standard for mankind to follow.

The focus of this study therefore is vacation and relaxation.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why is it necessary to relax or go on vacation? Gen. 2: 2, 3; Mk. 6:30-32; Jn. 18:1, 2.
2. What are the challenges to vacation and relaxation and how can we overcome them? Ex. 18:13-26; Matt. 6:24-34; Phil. 4: 6, 7; 1 Tim. 6:6-10; 1 Pet. 5:7.
3. What are some consequences of lack of vacation and relaxation?

CONCLUSION

Vacation and relaxation are essential for our wellbeing and optimal performance as humans. We should plan and trust that God will take care of things for us when we go on vacation or decide to relax after some hard work. We should be intentional and encourage ourselves to go on vacation/relax on a regular basis.

STUDY EIGHT:
**ENJOYING COMMUNICATION IN
THE FAMILY**

TEXTS: Prov. 18:1-13; 31:26-29; Jas. 3:2-12

MEMORY VERSE: Let no corrupt communication proceed
out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of
edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.
Eph. 4:29

INTRODUCTION

Communication is sending and receiving information between two or more people. The information conveyed can include facts, ideas, concepts, opinions, beliefs, attitudes, instructions and even emotions. They are also a huge reflection of what is in our heart. Words are very powerful, they can hurt, encourage, teach or tear down. It is nearly impossible to go through a day without communication in the family.

This study focuses on enjoying communication in the family.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. From the following scriptures, discuss how communication can be enjoyed in the family: Prov. 15:1-4; 16:21-24; 25:11; 31:26-29; Eph. 4:15; 6:4; Col. 3:9, 10; 4:6; 1 Thess. 5:16-18.
2. Discuss some hindrances to enjoying communication in the family and how to overcome them. Ps. 19:14; Prov. 4:23, 24; 12:18, 25; 15:4, 23, 28; 18:2, 13; Eph. 4:29; 5:4; 6:4; Col. 3:8, 9; Jas. 3:2-12.

CONCLUSION

Developing good communication skills is critical for a joyful and successful relationship within the family. May God help us enjoy communication in our families.

STUDY NINE:
**ENJOYING YOUR SPOUSE
AND CHILDREN**

TEXTS: Gen. 1:26-28; 2:18-25; Prov. 15:16-33

MEMORY VERSE: Thy wife shall be as a fruitful vine by the sides of thine house: thy children like olive plants round about thy table. Ps. 128:3

INTRODUCTION

The greatest source of human joy and pain is found in the drama of love and relationship, with marriage being the common playing field. The world is littered with victims of failed and dysfunctional marriages which tend to make people erroneously think marriage is a bad idea. However, more significantly, there are marriages where the couples epitomize love and enjoyment between themselves and their children, thus standing as a radiant, glowing testimony to God's goodness and glory, emphasizing that the marriage thought and brought about by Him from the beginning is a great idea. So, what is the secret behind spouses and children enjoying themselves in a family?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. From the foregoing references, discuss the secret behind spouses enjoying themselves and their children. Ps. 127:3-5; Prov. 1:7; 5:15-20; 15:16-33; 22:6; Songs 5:16; 6:8, 9; Jn. 15:12-15; 1 Cor. 7:3-5; 13:4-7; Eph. 5:21-23, 25, 31; 6:4; Phil. 2:1-4; 1 Tim. 5:8; 1 Pet. 3:7.
2. Discuss freely how adaptability, ability to work through problems and ability to give and accept love can enhance our enjoying our family relationship.

CONCLUSION

Our foundation in Christ coupled with the understanding of God's words and each other will lead to a blissful family, where spouses and children enjoy themselves.

STUDY TEN:
**ENJOYING YOUR PARENTS AND
GRANDCHILDREN**

TEXTS: Gen. 48:8-13; Eph. 6:1-4

MEMORY VERSE: Grandchildren are the growing glory of
the aged; Parents are the pride of their children.
Prov. 17:6 (NLT)

INTRODUCTION

As Christians, we can look into the bible for instructions on how to behave to our parents and what our grandchildren are to us. Following the instructions leads to maximisation of pleasure and enjoyment in our families. This is the focus of this study.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How does walking in the light of the scriptures below help us to enjoy our parents? Ex. 20:12; Prov. 17:6; 20:20; Eph. 6:1-4; 1 Tim. 5:1, 2; 1 Pet. 5:5, 6.
2. How can we take pleasure in our grandchildren? Gen. 31:28, 55 (NLT); Deut. 4:8, 9; Ps. 128:1-6; Prov. 13:22; 17:6; Isa. 59:21.

CONCLUSION

What a blessing to be a parent and or grandparent. Grandchildren are a crown of the aged. Be a great and loving role model to them, teaching them the word of God.

STUDY ELEVEN:
MANAGING MONEY IN
THE FAMILY

TEXT: Matt. 25:14-30

MEMORY VERSE: And unto one he gave five talents to another two and to another one: to every man according to his several ability and straightway took his journey. Matt. 25:15

INTRODUCTION

Managing money in the family involves identifying the needs and allocating the required funds. It requires proper planning and execution to prevent frivolous spending.

This will in turn help to achieve some level of stability and prevent financial crisis in the home. May the Lord help us as we study.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Discuss some ways money can be managed in the family: Prov. 31:13, 16,20, 24; Eccl. 11:1-6; Mal. 3:10, 11; Matt. 25:14-17, 27; 1 Tim. 6:6-8.
2. Discuss some unwholesome practices that must be avoided in managing money in the family: 2 Kg. 4:1; Lk. 12:15, 21; 15:12, 13; Jn. 6:11, 12; 12:6; 2 Cor. 10:12; 1 Tim. 6:9, 10.

CONCLUSION

God's desire for His children is to be prudent in spending money. May we be judicious managers of money in our family.

STUDY TWELVE:
**OBSTACLES TO ENJOYING
FAMILY LIFE**

TEXTS: Gen. 25:27-33; Gal. 5:19-26

MEMORY VERSE: If a family divides itself into groups which fight each other, that family will fall apart. Mk. 3:25 (GNB)

INTRODUCTION

An obstacle is anything that obstructs, interferes or hinders progress. In the Christian family, there could be obstacles to enjoying the family life. Several factors may account for these obstacles. God's plan however, for every family is to enjoy every aspect of family life. This study focuses on some of these obstacles and how to overcome them.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Discuss some obstacles to enjoying family life from the following scriptures: Gen. 25:27-33; 37:3-5; Judg. 14:1-3; 1 Sam. 3:12, 13; Eccl. 10:18; Isa. 59:1-3; Lk. 12:13-15, 22-28; Acts 5:1-10; Gal. 5:19-26; 1 Tim. 5:8; 1 Pet. 3:7.
2. What are other obstacles to enjoying family life in our contemporary times?
3. How can we overcome these obstacles? Prov. 3:5-7; Rom. 12:1, 2; 1 Cor. 10:12-13; Gal. 5:16; 1 Thess. 5:17; 2 Tim. 2:15-16; Tit. 2:1-13; Heb. 12:1, 2, 14-16; 13:4, 5.

CONCLUSION

Having studied some of the obstacles to enjoying family life, let us make every effort to do all things dutifully so that we can enjoy our family life adequately. May the Lord help us.

QUEST
FOR
GOD
Ps.42:1-2

4TH QUARTER

SUB-THEME:
TAKE HEED

1 TIM. 4:16

STUDY ONE:

UNDERSTANDING WHO YOU ARE

**TEXTS: Gen. 1:27; 2 Cor. 5:15-17; Eph. 2:4-10;
1 Pet. 2:9, 10**

MEMORY VERSE: Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. 2 Cor. 5:17

INTRODUCTION

Ignorance is said to be a disease while knowledge on the other hand is said to be power. The knowledge of God and understanding who we are in Christ set us free from bondage and prevent the devil from taking advantage of us. Understanding who you are in Christ therefore, is paramount to your enjoying the fullness of life Jesus offers.

As we study, may the Lord illuminate our minds to understand who we are in Christ.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. On what basis do people often take the bearing of who they are in life?
2. From the following scriptures, discuss who we are in Christ: Gen. 1:27; Rom. 8:1, 2; 1 Cor. 2:14-16; 2 Cor. 5:15-17; Gal. 2:20; Eph. 2:4-10; 1 Pet. 2:4, 5, 9, 10.

CONCLUSION

Understanding who we are in Christ opens a world of opportunities and untold blessings for us. May we truly walk in the understanding of who we are in Christ. Amen!

STUDY TWO:

DEVELOPING AND MAINTAINING A GOOD CHARACTER

TEXTS: Deut. 8:11-18; Gal. 5:22-26; 2 Pet. 1:5-9

MEMORY VERSES: More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us. Rom. 5:3-5 (ESV)

INTRODUCTION

A good character is the accumulation and expression of good qualities that makes a person stand out. We are not born into this world with fixed habits neither do we inherit a noble character. As children of God therefore, we have the privilege of choosing which way of life to follow and which habits to form.

This study is focused on some of the ways we can develop and maintain a good character, and why it is necessary to do so.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Discuss some of the ways of developing and maintaining a good character. Deut. 8:11-18; Prov. 28:6; Rom. 5:3-5; 1 Cor. 9:24-27; 15:33; Gal. 5:22-26; Phil. 4:8, 9; Col. 3:1-5, 12-17; 1 Tim. 6:6-12; 2 Tim. 3:16, 17; 2 Pet. 1:5-9.
2. Why is it necessary to develop and maintain a good character from the following scriptures? 1 Sam. 12:3-5; Dan. 6:1-5; Prov. 22:1; Matt. 5:16; Eph. 2:10; Heb. 12:7-11; 1 Pet. 5:5, 6.

CONCLUSION

Developing and maintaining a good character is necessary if we must glorify God, and make impact in our day to day living in our environment. May the Lord make us men and women of good character.

STUDY THREE:
PERSONAL DISCIPLINE

TEXTS: Gen. 39:1-9; Dan. 1:1-8; Phil. 3:1-15

MEMORY VERSE: He that hath no rule over his own spirit is like a city that is broken down, and without walls. Prov. 25:28

INTRODUCTION

Personal discipline which is also referred to as self-mastery is simply exercising power over self. It is a virtue that was exhibited by people who walked with God successfully, no wonder the bible says, "He that hath no rule over his own spirit is like a city that is broken down, and without wall" Prov. 25:28.

Each of us therefore must strive to develop this virtue, so that the flesh and its desires will not impede our walk with the Lord. This is the focus of this study.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Discuss from the following scriptures how the following characters demonstrated personal discipline? Gen. 39:1-9; 1 Sam. 12:1-4; Dan. 1:1-8; Phil. 3:1-15.
2. How can we develop personal discipline? Josh. 1:8; Matt. 16:24; Jn. 15:1-7; Rom. 8:13; 1 Cor. 9:2-27; Gal. 5:16; 2 Tim. 2:3-5; 1 Pet. 4:7, 8.

CONCLUSION

Personal discipline is important in our walk with God. Let us cultivate the habit of personal discipline in meditation, mortifying the deeds of the flesh and walking in the spirit. May the Lord help us to be doers and not forgetful hearers.

STUDY FOUR:

EXAMINE YOURSELF

TEXTS: Ps. 26:1, 2; 1 Cor. 11:28-32; 2 Cor. 13:5

MEMORY VERSE: Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?
2 Cor. 13:5

INTRODUCTION

To examine means to inspect carefully or critically, to check the health or condition of something or someone. It also connotes to interrogate.

To examine oneself therefore, demands frankness, honesty and sincerity with oneself. It requires that a Christian genuinely brings himself under the search light of the Holy Spirit to critically check how he is faring in a holistic manner. The aim is for him to make amends as the Lord, through the Holy Spirit, x-rays his thoughts, actions, inactions and his life to him.

As we study, may we be willing to learn and develop the attitude of regular examining ourselves in the light of his word, in Jesus name.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. From the following scriptures, discuss why one should examine oneself and of what importance is it? Chron. 25:1, 2; Prov. 28:13; Lk. 10:17-20; 1 Cor. 10:12; 11:28-32; 2 Cor. 13:5; 2 Tim. 3:16, 17.
2. What are the challenges to examining oneself? Gen. 3:9-13; 1 Sam. 15:10-15; Lk. 10:25-29; Jas. 5:16.
3. What is the place of God, the Word and the Holy Spirit in examining oneself? Ps. 26:1, 2; Jn. 15:4, 5; Rom. 8:26, 27; 2 Tim. 3:16, 17.

CONCLUSION

Seeing how crucial it is for us to examine ourselves, may we regularly keep short accounts of our daily living as we honestly and freely come before God.

STUDY FIVE:
LIVING CIRCUMSPECTLY

TEXTS: 1 Chron. 12:32; Matt. 25:1-13; Eph. 5: 1-20

MEMORY VERSES: See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise. Redeeming the time because the days are evil. Eph. 5:15, 16

INTRODUCTION

The believer lives in a world that is full of evil. Because of this, he is pressured on every side to think and act like the people of the world. However, he has been admonished by the word of God to be watchful, thoughtful and to cautiously conduct himself so as not to be ensnared by the devices of the devil. This study focuses on living circumspectly.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Discuss what it means to live circumspectly from the following scriptures: 1 Sam. 18:14-16; 1 Chron. 12:32; Prov. 22:29; 31:10-27; Eccl. 12:1-9; Matt. 25:1-13; Eph. 5:15-20.
2. What are the contemporary challenges to living circumspectly?

CONCLUSION

Making the best of every opportunity that comes our way to advance the Kingdom of God is a task that a believer should exploit with the whole of his heart. May God help us not to be fools, but wise.

STUDY SIX:
**SUSTAINING A GODLY
DISPOSITION IN A PERVERSE
ENVIRONMENT**

TEXTS: Gen. 39:1-23; 2 Pet. 1:1-11

MEMORY VERSE: But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank: therefore he requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself.

Dan. 1:8

INTRODUCTION

Sustaining a godly disposition is maintaining a righteous stand in a perverse environment. Today we live in a permissive society and are confronted by what people do or say in our places of assignments; what we see and watch on the television and the internet and so on. Strength of mind is needed by every Christian to stay alive spiritually in order to preserve his faith in this perverse generation.

The focus of this study therefore, is how a Christian can sustain a godly disposition in a perverse environment.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How did these men sustain godly disposition in the environment they found themselves? Gen. 39:1-23; Dan. 1:3-20; 3:14-23; 6:6-10; Acts 5:27-29; 20:17-24; Phil. 1:12-19;
2. How can we sustain a godly disposition in our perverse environment? Rom. 6:8-14; Col. 3:15-17; Phil. 2:12-16; 4:4-9; 1 Thess. 5:15-22; 2 Tim. 2:15, 16, 19; 2 Pet. 1:3-11.

CONCLUSION

There are many challenges to our faith resulting from the perverse environment that we live in. But if we make God the center and basis of our lives, we can sustain a godly disposition regardless of life's circumstances. May God grant us the enabling grace to stand in this perverse world.

STUDY SEVEN:
FAITHFUL TO THE END

TEXTS: Job 1:13-22; Acts 20:22-24; Rev. 2:8-10

MEMORY VERSE: Fear none of those things which thou shall suffer; behold the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days; be thou faithful unto death and I will give thee a crown of life. Rev. 2:10

INTRODUCTION

Faithful means to be loyal and steadfast in following. God's command to His children is to remain faithful to the end no matter what may come their way. The Bible gives us a complete description of the treatment we might expect to receive as Christians: sometimes good at other times bad. Yet, through it all we are encouraged to be faithful to the end. May the Lord help our hearts as we study together.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Discuss what it implies to be faithful to the end from these scriptures: Job 1:13-22; Dan. 3:13-18; 6:4-10; Acts 5:25-29, 40-42; 7:54-60; 20:22-24; 21:10-14; 2 Cor. 11:21-30; Heb. 11:24-27.
2. Discuss some benefits of being faithful to the end. Gen. 39:20-23; 41:41-44; Job 42:10-17; Dan. 3:28-30; Heb. 11:32-40; Rev. 2:8-10.

CONCLUSION

To be faithful to the end requires loyalty and steadfastness even in the face of danger and death. May we be found faithful to the end.

STUDY EIGHT:
BENEFITS OF TAKING HEED

TEXTS: Deut. 28:1-14; Mk. 13:3-11; 1 Cor. 3:10-15

MEMORY VERSE: Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall. 1 Cor. 10:12

INTRODUCTION

The expression "take heed" means to listen and pay close attention. The Lord calls our attention to what we do, hear or say using these words, because there are dire consequences if we don't while there are wonderful benefits if we do. This study focuses on the benefits of taking heed.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Discuss some of the benefits that may accrue to us if we take heed: Deut. 28:1-14; Jer. 7:22, 23; Matt. 7:24-27; Mk. 4:22-25; 13:3-11; Lk. 11:34-36; 1 Cor. 3:10-15; 1 Tim. 4:13-16.
2. Discuss from your experience some benefits of taking heed to God's instruction.

CONCLUSION

The benefits that accrue to us from taking heed include accomplishment of God's purpose for our lives and eternal blessedness. May we endeavour to take heed to ourselves.

STUDY NINE:
**CONSEQUENCES OF NOT
TAKING HEED**

TEXTS: 1 Sam. 15:18-29; 2 Sam. 12:7-15; Acts 5:1-10

MEMORY VERSE: He, that being often reprov'd hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy. Prov. 29:1

INTRODUCTION

God expects man to take heed, that is, to pay careful attention, to mind, to observe and to obey his word. Failure to do so attracts dire consequences.

In this study, we shall discuss some consequences of not taking heed.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. From the following scriptures, discuss some consequences of not taking heed: Gen. 3:15-19; 4:9-15; Judg. 16:4-21; 1 Sam. 4:11-22; 15:10, 11, 24-28; Dan. 4:28-33; Matt. 7:21-23; 25:24-30; Lk. 12:13-21; Acts 5:1-10; Phil. 3:17-19.
2. Discuss contemporary or personal experience of not taking heed.

CONCLUSION

This study has shown us some dire consequences of not taking heed. We should therefore strive to take heed unto God's instructions despite all odds. May God strengthen us to stand firm.

STUDY TEN:
WALKING IN THE LIGHT

TEXTS: Matt. 5:14-16; Jn. 1:1-5; Eph. 5:1-21

MEMORY VERSE: But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin. 1 Jn. 1:7

INTRODUCTION

Light illuminates, directs, enlivens and strengthens. Where there is light, there is visibility and productivity. The Bible describes both Jesus and His followers as the light of the world. Walking in the light therefore is synonymous with walking worthy of the Lord; maintaining the standard of conduct and commands that Jesus has given us in order to affect our world. This study focuses on the significance of walking in the light.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Discuss the significance of walking in the light from the following scriptures: Gen. 39:1-9; Num. 13:30; 14:6-9; Matt. 5:14-16; Lk. 10:25-37; Jn. 1:1-5; 8:12; 9:4, 5; Eph. 4:1-3; 5:1-21; 1Jn. 1:5-7; 2:8-11.
2. What are some of the hindrances to walking in the light in our contemporary times?

CONCLUSION

Walking in the light is a call unto obeying God and directing men to His kingdom. It attracts benefits now and in time to come. May we be bold to bear the light and to walk in it.

