

Curriculum Guide - Bible Study Options



Abraham (6 weeks)

While heralded as a patriarch of the faith, Abraham's journey was filled with the messiness of life. Family quarrels, deception and manipulation, infertility issues...the list goes on and on. Yet, he chose to trust in the promise that God had presented before him, regardless of how distant and impossible they seemed. And so Abraham is for us an example of faith, and a reminder of what it looks like to trust God with the most important things in our lives.

Galatians (6 weeks)

This study covers the book of Galatians, a letter written by Paul encouraging the Christians in Galatia to return to the freedom that is found in a right relationship with Jesus. He was calling them back to a life of grace, where they could choose to truly live out their faith through love. Over the next six weeks, you'll hopefully discover if your faith is firmly rooted and lived out in the right way.

James (5 weeks)

Sometimes it can be an exercise trying to apply the Bible to your daily life. James, on the other hand, makes it perfectly clear for his readers by discussing real-life applications of the Christian faith throughout his letter. In this study, you will discover the wisdom behind living out your faith in practical ways.

Jonah & Nahum (6 weeks)

The Book of Jonah follows the journey of a wayward prophet, who wants nothing to do with God's mercy for others; while the Book of Nahum focuses on a country that receives news of its coming destruction. But the central figure in both of these books is God and His qualities of justice and mercy towards the ancient country of Nineveh. This study will examine how God's characteristics of justice and mercy should impact our relationships with others.

Missions (6 weeks)

The first part of the Book of Acts records how God began to establish the Early Church in Jerusalem and the surrounding areas. The second half of the Book of Acts shows how the gospel then was launched out of Antioch to the ends of the known world, carried by missionaries, the chief of who was a man named Paul. This six-session study examines Paul's life, as he attempted to follow God and the mission that was set before him.

Ruth & Esther (6 weeks)

In two different times and in two distinct ways, God used two women to change the course of history. The stories of Ruth and Esther teach us much about what it means to make decisions during difficult times and how God is often working behind the scenes in our circumstances.

Small Group Sermon-Based Study Example (June 19 -25, 2005 - Father's Day)

Relate:

Which of the following was your favorite superhero when you were younger and why: Superman? Batman? Spider Man? Indiana Jones? James Bond? Zorro?

If you could have a superpower of one of these characters yourself, which one would you choose and why: The ability to fly? Super coolness under stress? The ability to see through things? Invulnerability? The ability to always appear at the moment you're needed?

Pursue: What does God expect of a man? 1 Peter 5:2-3; Titus 1:5-9; 1 Timothy 3:1-7

Leadership: Biblical leadership is compassionate, understanding, accountable, competent, authoritative, pioneering, and God-fearing. Being a leader does not mean making all the decisions. Nor does it refer to being the "boss" in marriage, the church, or society at large. Leadership implies taking initiative, accepting responsibility, and shouldering the weight of accountability before God.

If anyone had the right to dictate by virtue of His authority and power, it was Jesus Christ. But He came to earth and took on human flesh, patiently putting up with imperfect and stubborn people in order to provide exactly what we needed. He provided strong leadership, but His love for people permeated His leadership style. He never forced anyone to follow Him. Rather, He earned the respect and obedience of men and women. They willingly followed Him. That's the kind of leadership men need to provide today.

Servanthood: Servanthood means a willingness to lower oneself, to humbly serve another person, to put the best interests of someone else above your own enjoyment. Biblical servanthood is responsive, respectful, willing, loving, self-sacrificing, and submissive.

Doesn't the Bible say that wives are to be submissive to their husbands? Yes, it does (Eph. 5:22). But the verse immediately prior states that men and women are to submit to one another (v.21) and husbands are to love their wives "just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for it" (v.25).

To be willing to take the role of a servant requires deliberate acts of love. The kind of man worth following expresses the love described for us in 1 Corinthians 13. A man who expresses that kind of love will have no trouble finding a wife, family, or congregation willing to submit to his leadership. Such love requires that a man become vulnerable to being hurt and rejected, that he put aside his pride and humble himself for the good of others.

Are leadership and servanthood compatible? Christ is the perfect example of how leadership and servanthood can be combined. He had the power to force us to do what He wanted, but instead He put up with rejection, disobedience, and even crucifixion (Phil. 2:5-11). Jesus described the goal of His life this way: ". . . the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many" (Matt. 20:28).

How does servant leadership work out in different roles?

As a single man. The single man needs to show people of all ages and both sexes that he cares about others, not just himself. He must model a life that is worth following (1 Tim. 4:12-16). People should be attracted to him because of his character, stability, and desire to edify others.

As a husband. The husband is said to be the head of his wife as Christ is the head of the church (1 Cor. 11:3), and he is to love his wife as Christ loved the church (Eph. 5:25). A husband must visibly and verbally put love into action if he expects his wife to be willing to follow his lead.

As a father. The father is responsible for the training of his children (Deut 6:6-9; Eph. 6:4), he is to provide for their needs (1 Tim. 5:8), and he is to treat them in a way that does not exasperate them (Eph. 6:4; Col. 3:21).

As a church leader. Men in leadership in the church must lead the people under their care, much as a shepherd leads, feeds, protects, and nurtures a flock of sheep (1 Pet. 5:1-4).

As a member of society. The Old Testament character Daniel demonstrated a willingness to take a stand for the Lord. He did what was right, no matter what the personal risk (Dan. 1, 6). He made a difference because he courageously honored the Lord in a pagan world.

A godly man has a tremendous responsibility and great opportunities to set the pace, to be an example in his home, his church, his community, his world.

Minister:

- What kind of leader do you find easy to follow? Are you that kind of leader?
- How will a husband treat his wife if he wants to win her trust and devotion? (Be specific.)
- If you are a father, do your children see servant leadership in you? How can you show it to them?
- How can we pray for you to be all that God wants you to be?