

# Forty Days of Passion:

## *This Same Jesus*

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*Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into the sky?  
This, same Jesus, will come back in the same way  
you have seen Him go into heaven. Acts 1:11 (NIV)*

## *The Book of Acts*

### Acknowledgments

Thank you to all my friends and ministry partners both within and without the church who through their encouragement and example have helped bring to fruition this year's 40 Day experience

*This Same Jesus*

Special thanks to Ami Shelton for cover design & layout, to Debbie Cathey, Mel Richards, and Alice Arnold for proof reading, and to Roy Wilson for editing Bible input and Study Help work.

## Preface

You might be wondering, “Why forty days?” It rained forty days while Noah was in the ark. Moses was forty days upon the mountain. Joshua, Caleb, and the spies searched the land for forty days. And, of course, Jesus was both in the wilderness and walked in a resurrected body for forty days. These and other “forty-day” experiences were used of God to make history and mold lives. Also, this length of time can prove to work in the establishing of new patterns and habits of behavior.

If you have only one Bible verse memorized, it is very likely John 3:16. “*For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.*” The Apostle Paul prays that those in Ephesus might grasp how wide, long, deep, and high is God’s love for them in Christ Jesus (Ephesians 3:14-21). The great apostle goes on to state that it is the love of Christ that compels us (2 Corinthians 5:14). The churches of Ephesus, Sardis, and Laodicea all struggled with a lack of spiritual passion (Revelation 2, 3). I believe that if the heart is right, we can get most everything else right. Spiritual lethargy is a cause of so much sin and hurt. No matter whether we have “left our first love,” “have a reputation for being alive, but are dead,” or “are lukewarm,” it is sickening to God, and we are less than effective.

We call it renewal. It is the restoration of spiritual passion. The desire and goal is that over the next forty days God might forgive us, shine upon us, and restore our devotion, love, and passion for Him. May these be days of spiritual formation, preparation, and renewal.

If Jesus carries and the Lord grants you life, may the next forty days be *Forty Days of Passion*. “This Same Jesus” is a daily study of the Book of Acts.

Pray for eyes to see and ears to hear these teachings from these Scriptures. May the experience of these forty days deepen faith, increase love, and truly be forty days of passion.

Toby Snowden

## Introduction

“What do you want for Christmas?” Many ask this question at the holiday season each year. I am sure that you have been asked, “What do you want for your birthday?” “What do you want for supper?” This is a common question at our house. What do you want? The Apostle Paul answers this question in Philippians 3:10, 11, *“That I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.”* Hebrews 12:2, 3 states, *“Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne Of God. For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls.”* The goal of this study is to focus upon Christ and spiritual formation as recorded in the book of Acts. The schedule for this time of spiritual emphasis allows us to consider the entire book of Acts.

During these forty days you are being asked to faithfully complete all the daily studies and journaling. You will need to record your reflections, meditations, spiritual insights, journaling, written prayers and a spiritual concept, “Key Thought”, each day. Get a prayer partner and join a small group. Make prayer a priority. Give yourself to the reading, studying, meditating and memorizing of God’s Word. Be faithful in personal daily study, group life, and corporate worship. Commit to the concept of worshiping God daily. Ask God each day what adjustments He would have you make in your attitudes, actions, and feelings. Ask the question, “Dear Lord, what do you have in mind?” Those you need to forgive, forgive. If you have offended another, be reconciled. The “one thing you lack” or whatever is undone, complete it and make it right.

While seeking to accurately handle the Scriptures, the focus of this work is and remains devotional not scholarly. May it inspire, encourage and challenge you in spiritual formation and renewal.

These forty days ought to be an adventure in discovery and faith by the truth of His Word and by the power of the Holy Spirit.

## Getting Started

*Forty Days of Passion: This Same Jesus* is a program of study and reflection. However, it is more than a program; it is a process. Spiritual growth is a process. These forty days will require that you study and do more than study. It must be something that you desire and that you give yourself fully to as you ask God to change you for His glory, your good, and the good of others. This season is a time when we lay aside pride, hypocrisy, selfishness, personal interests, and ask God to work in us, to transform us that He might work through us for the sake of His Kingdom.

Make the study times a priority. Set a time and place when and where you can “get alone with God.” Commit to pray. As your church might embrace and promote prayer groups, celebration services, solemn assemblies, days of fasting, or small group meetings, commit to them. Be a part, a vital part. Be a leader. I am issuing a special challenge to men. Commit to be the spiritual leader in your home for these forty days. Do the studies individually and come together regularly to lead your family in reflection and prayer!

Make a commitment to listen to God (see Study Help One) and to make adjustments according to what He reveals to you. Each day, you are to journal your thoughts, reflections, commitments, biblical concepts, responses, and prayers. The journaling is not optional. Be careful regarding your commitments. It is better not to make a vow, than to make a vow and not fulfill it (Ecclesiastes 5:5).

*Forty Days of Passion: This Same Jesus* is designed to promote spiritual formation and renewal beginning seven weeks before Easter Resurrection Sunday. God does not change (Malachi 3:6). All of our worship is a focus upon and response to who God is and what God has done. Consider *Forty Days of Passion* as a way to worship God daily. The focus of this year’s *Forty Days of Passion: This Same Jesus* is a study of the Book of Acts. Allow the scripture and daily studies to inform the process of spiritual formation...*till Christ is formed in you. Galatians 4:19*

*Forty Days of Passion: This Same Jesus* is the twenty-fourth “forty-day” study that I have prepared for the purpose of spiritual formation and renewal. *Forty Days of Passion*, the original work, focused on selected Bible passages

and emphasized the basic spiritual disciplines. *Forty Days of Passion: The Son of Man* focused on the biblical passages where Jesus is referred to as the “Son of Man.” *Look and Live* concentrated upon Jesus in every book of the Old Testament. *Learn of Me* was on the parables of Jesus. *Grace and Truth* was a study of the life of Jesus as recorded in the Gospel according to John. *Teach us to Pray*, focused on prayer. *Your Kingdom Come* dealt with the teachings of the Kingdom of God. *You Will Receive Power*, was on the Holy Spirit. *Above All Else*, was about the heart, *Worship Him* on worship and *My Holy Mountain* on spiritual experiences on mountain tops in the Bible. *Hosanna* was on the last week of Jesus’ life and *Miraculous Signs* on the miracles of Jesus as recorded in the Gospels. *Red Letter Days* was on the words and sayings of Jesus the next year on *The Cross*. *Upon This Rock* and the sequel were about the Church. *That You May Know* focused on the Gospel according to Luke, next was *Christ and the Psalms*. Additional books were *At Once*, a study of the Gospel of Mark as well as *In Christ*. These and all the studies were built around biblical texts, spiritual disciplines, practical application, daily journaling, and focus on the life and ministry of Jesus Christ. These books relied heavily upon appendices referred to as *Study Helps*.

The *Forty Days* books and experiences are designed to be spiritual pilgrimages. Spiritual formation and renewal take place individually, as couples, in families, in groups, and in the church. Spiritual formation and renewal can best be moved along with personal accountability and significant levels of social support.

*Forty Days of Passion: This Same Jesus*: focuses on the Book of Acts. Allow the daily studies, written prayers, journaling, meditating along with the mutual sharing, be an enriching time of spiritual formation and renewal. The heart of what it means to be a disciple is to be a learner. The *Study Helps* in the back of the book should be read thoroughly before beginning. *Pray Hard, Work Hard, Trust God!*

*Forty Days of Passion: This Same Jesus*, is the twenty fourth in a series of forty-day studies. All the studies have focused on spiritual formation, preparation, and renewal. This forty-day pilgrimage is designed and prepared to accomplish three key purposes. The first is to inform and inspire the student regarding the significant role of spiritual formation. Second is to challenge the forty-day participant to discover and embrace certain spiritual concepts, transforming principles and to live more fully

under the influence of the Holy Spirit in light of God's Word. The third is to enrich the life and experience of the individual in the matter of spiritual formation, renewal, and preparation, especially in daily disciplines, group life, and the church.

Each week in corporate worship we join together and pray as a congregation the model or Lord's Prayer. I am always reflective and thoughtful about praying such concepts as God forgiving us as we forgive others, praying for daily bread, and especially about asking God that His kingdom come, and His will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Especially, that it might mean that God's will be accomplished through us.

We know that it is God's will that we be born of the Spirit, filled with the Spirit, and that we walk by the Spirit. We also know that we are to love God with all our hearts and our neighbors as ourselves. This can best happen as we open our lives to the truth of His Word, the Bible, and as we yield our lives to the influence of the Holy Spirit.

I will ask you in each daily study to think, reflect, and meditate in order to discover one key concept, one spiritual reality, the just one thing that I am calling "Key Thought." It is up to the 40 Days student, led by the Word of God and prompted by the Spirit of God, to identify the key lesson for the day. The lesson for the day is the one thing, above all others, upon which you need to reflect, meditate and apply. The "Key Thought" will be the last entry you make for the day after the memorization section, and before writing your prayer for the day. After you have decided upon your one main thought, "Key Thought" for the day check *Study Help Forty-Three Key Thought* just to see if what the Lord put on your heart is somewhat close to what God put on mine for that day.

Each day will begin with an assigned portion of Scripture to read. That is the place to begin. Read the assigned passage without interruption and without consulting any Bible study helps or notes.

I trust that God *will* speak to you through His Word, the Bible. Please take time now to read *Study Help One- Hearing from God-Hearing God*.

Please remember that the point of this forty-day emphasis is spiritual formation. The purpose is not that you merely gain biblical information

but that you experience adjustment, change, and spiritual transformation. Please take time now to read *Study Help Two, A Heart for God*. Reflect and pray about what it means for you personally and specifically to have a heart for God. Pick one trait to focus on and refer to this study help throughout the course of these forty days.

Two of the challenges of any forty-day study experience are the uses of time and dealing with distractions. While there is no such thing as “time management” there is such a thing as “self-management.” Each and all of us have 24 hours in the day, 168 hours in the week and 960 hours in these forty days. How will you use them? Please take time to read *Study Help Three-How to Prepare Your Heart for Revival*.

The study helps can go a long way in challenging us to make adjustments, changes, repentance, and experience transformation. Jesus’ words to the Rich Young Ruler were, “one thing you lack.” For you it might be just one thing, or it may be a number of things, that crowd out God, His Word, prayer, ministry, service, worship, people and other godly influences and callings in our lives.

As the purpose of *Forty Days of Passion: This Same Jesus* is spiritual formation, renewal, and preparation, consider this portion of the “Getting Started” as preparation for preparation. Take this opportunity to get serious, get excited, and to adjust your calendar and commitments, as you trust God for great things! Pray and ask God to reveal His biblical truth to you as you study, reflect, meditate, pray and implement.

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Read *Study Help Twenty-Three* on how to study the Bible. For each passage of Scripture, you will make observations (investigation) of the text and do the explanation phase by interpreting those observations by writing a brief paraphrase that puts the main idea in your own words. After Connection and Meditation, Implementation will be completed as you note specific actions you take or adjustments you make. As you journal, you will be asked to identify a “key” verse, phrase, words or word. All Scripture is inspired but at times there are those Scriptures or Scripture portions that really stand out. As the Lord might give you a “special verse” or “special phrase” you will note as you journal. Be sure to take time to meditate on what you have observed and write a prayer inspired by that day’s study. Allow this exercise to be an open and honest expression of your heart. Read Psalm 19:12-14. At the close of the daily study in the Memorization section, you will be asked to identify your Key Thought. This should be the main lesson or take away from the passage. You will close by writing a prayer inspired by the passage. Blessings and best wishes as you train for the purpose of godliness, 1 Timothy 4:7-8.

## Daily Assignments Explained

Take time to thoroughly read *Study Help Twenty-Three*, the *Seven-Fold Plan for Bible Study*. Much of the daily assignments depend upon your mastery of these principles of Bible study. Each day you will have a Scripture portion that is assigned. That portion is what you are supposed to focus upon. The daily studies are selected passages taken from the Book of Acts. Some principles are obvious and others you will have to “pull out.” Stay focused to look for the timeless truths. Let’s consider the component parts.

### Appreciation – “Love It” Psalm 119:159

Perspective is everything. It is imperative that one understands that the Holy Bible is the Word of God. See Isaiah 40:8 and 2 Timothy 3:16,17. As you begin the study each day ask God to speak to you from His Word, the Holy Bible. See Study Help One.

### Investigation – “See It!” Proverbs 24: 30-34

Note your observations below.

This is the discovery phase. Make as many observations of the passage as possible. You cannot learn what you do not observe. If you do not “see it” you cannot apply or pass it along. Two things will not change as you do these studies. The first is the fact that every verse or passage has a context. Do not hesitate to look ahead and behind the Scripture in question to gain additional information. Look for correlating passages to compare and contrast. See Connection-” Know It” in each daily study.

When you get started, I encourage you to do the investigation phase of the daily study and put the booklet aside for a while. Come back after that and make new observations. It is always amazing to see what you observe from the text by means of a second look.

Do not be reluctant to ask a question for which you do not know the answer or to note a word that is unfamiliar to you. Remember, this portion of the daily assignment is simply and purely investigation. You are to observe and study through close examination. Try to see as much, ask as much, and think as much as you can. Remember that this step is to be done with only your Bible and your booklet. In fact, I encourage you to

use a Bible without helps, notes, reference markers, and the like. The very real tendency is to “short cut” the process by looking to the helps and notes too soon. See and discover all you can. Ask God to show you His truths from His Word, the Bible. The challenge comes with the excitement of discovery, the discovery of God’s powerful truth as revealed in Scripture.

### Explanation– “Say It!” Nehemiah 8:8

Write the main idea in your own words.

To begin this phase answer as many questions, define as many words, and clarify as many relationships as you can on your own. Once you have exhausted your knowledge, then and only then, is it time to go to the helps. Have them on hand and get them ready. A good study Bible, Bible dictionary, English dictionary, Bible concordance, Bible commentaries, other Bible translations, internet sources, and Bible apps can all be useful.

Remember that the theme of this study is *This Same Jesus*. Try to look at everything through “spiritual” lenses. You will need to be open to the many references and practical spiritual lessons. Do not refrain from considering the mind, will, and emotions as you look for spiritual insights. Remember the challenge is to *think, act, and feel* in new ways. I am asking you to identify the main idea in the passage and to put it in your own words. It is at this point that you will begin to face a new but good challenge. To identify the main idea might be as much Spirit led as it is Bible fed. It is a real challenge to put the main idea in your own words. This is called a *paraphrase*. It has been said that it is only when you can put a passage in your own words that you truly understand what the passage means. If *investigation* is discovering what the passage says, then *explanation* is determining and stating what the passage means.

Your prayer/accountability partner and your home, small group, or class can be very helpful at this point. *As iron sharpens iron, so a man sharpens the countenance of his friend*, Proverbs 27:17, and so you need to hear the insights of others. Remember the two great challenges are determining the main idea and then putting it into your own words. If you can’t say it, do you really know it?

It can also be helpful to go back to the passage after having left it alone for a while. Also, it can be interesting to see how your thoughts on the

*explanation* of the passage may change the further you get into the study. Remember, “*Openness to challenge is opportunity to change.*” Always be open to new and additional ideas and to new and better ways of saying them. Remember that in the case of the paraphrase, “less is more.” The fewer words in a paraphrase, generally the better.

**Connection – “Know It!”** Note any other verses that complement what you studied today.

*The best commentary on the Bible is the Bible.* In this portion of the study write any verses the Lord brings to mind that relate to, complement, explain, comment upon, or harmonize with the passage of Scripture that you have studied today. Once you have done this you may use such helps as a center column reference or footnotes in your Bible but only do so after you have looked up and read the verses on your own.

Volumes are packed in the little five-word phrase “close your time in prayer.” Do not let this portion of the time be incidental or accidental. The prayer component should be strategic, intentional, and powerful. I encourage you to reference and read thoroughly *Study Helps Fourteen* through *Twenty-Two* concerning prayer.

*Now it came to pass, as He was praying in a certain place, when He ceased, that one of His disciples said to Him, “Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples.”*  
Luke 11:1

*Pray without ceasing.* 1 Thessalonians 5:17

*Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving.* Colossians 4:2  
*Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart.*  
Luke 18:1-8.

At the end of each study will be a “**Key Thought**” section to write the main idea or key spiritual insight for the day. This is the truth that you have learned that day about God, the things of God, and Jesus Christ, put in your own words.

***Be sure and check your concept with what I have written in study help forty-three “Key Thoughts.” May God richly bless you as you think, act, and feel in new ways as Christ is formed in you. Galatians 4:19***

**Meditation – “Ponder It”-** Upon reflection, journal your key verse, phrase, words, or word in the space below.

Psalm 1:2. God speaks through His Word, the Bible. As you do the daily studies you will discover that there will be certain verses, or thoughts

within a verse, that just seem to “jump out” at you. Don’t just look for the familiar but also consider the lesser-known portions as well. Some days it might be a verse, some days a phrase, and yet other days it will only be a word. In the realm of the profound often we find that less is more. Ask the Lord to guide you. The goal of this step is to ponder, reflect upon, and consider what God is saying to you.

Some days the “key” verse or thought will be obvious and irresistible. On other days you will need to look for it. Nevertheless, be sensitive to what the Holy Spirit will speak through the Bible. Please see Study Help Twenty-Five and Study Help Twenty-Six to learn more on meditation and memorization. By looking for a “key” verse or phrase you might better unlock the meaning of the passage and meditate upon it, see Joshua 1:8.

**Implementation – “Do It!”- Think, act, and feel in new ways. List any changes or adjustments that you need to make.**

*“But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.”* James 1:22  
The Nike Corporation has had a slogan for a long time that reminds us of the importance of action, “Just Do It!” The name of the company comes from the Greek word that means “victory.” In order to be victorious in life you must do what the Bible says.

In my office there is an art object that says, *“Change is good, you go first.”* It is very easy to point out the faults and flaws in others but to miss or be unwilling to deal with our own. James 1:25 states that whoever looks intently into the Bible and does and keeps on doing what it says will be truly blessed. In applying the Bible to our lives, we make personal, measurable, and specific changes. Another art object in my office states *“Motivated People Find a Way!”*

Notice, if you will, the three-fold challenge of **think, act, and feel in new ways**. The Bible says we are transformed by the renewing of our minds, Romans 12:2. We have just seen that it is when we act upon what the Bible says and keep on doing it that we are truly blessed. Notice, that feelings come last. Make every attempt to keep them there. Feelings change frequently so never allow yourself to be ruled by your feelings. Many people just want to feel better, not get better. The real goal is to get better and as a result you will feel better. Two popular Christian

psychologists remind us that real, lasting, and spiritual change requires grace, truth, and time.

Growth is a process and change comes by steps, “baby steps.” I encourage you to select no more than one item, step, change or application per day. If the study brings up more than one, pick one and start there. Spiritual formation comes when you are overwhelmed by your own personal need for change and transformation. It is here, in the implementation phase, that you deal with confession, repentance, godly sorrow, forgiveness, acceptance and other core issues of spiritual transformation and renewal. You may wish to incorporate *Study Help Twenty-Two - Praying the Virtues of Scripture*. Ask God to change you. Remember, the goal is to **think, act and feel in new ways**.

**Memorization “Recall It”- Commit to memory a key word, phrase, or verse.** Psalm 119:11 “A short pencil is better than a long memory.” Be sure and journal, make a note of what it is that you want to commit to memory. We tend to remember the things that are important to us. Write a prayer prompted by your meditation.

Journal your reflections and write a prayer prompted by today’s study. Journal your insights, reflections, impressions, or commitments, as you seek to think, act, and feel in new ways. Do not just read the words but study the Bible text for what is being communicated about Bible knowledge, practical Christian living, and spiritual insight.

Reference Acts 4:23-31 and see how Scripture, experience, passion, and desire impacted this prayer of the early church. Do not miss the fact that this is a written prayer. This discipline may be challenging at first, but I am hoping that this exercise will be enriching and empowering to you personally, to your prayer partners, your group, and to your church. The written prayers do not have to be long. Remember, it is better to have heart without words than words without heart. Be sure and use the Saturday reflection time to re-read your prayers for the week. Also, let your Bible intake and meditation upon it inform the prayers you write. Consider using some of the *Names of God, Study Help Five*, as you address the Lord in your written prayer.

## Pauline Chronology in Acts

<b>DATE (approximate)</b>	<b>EVENT</b>	<b>SCRIPTURES</b>	<b>Additional Information</b>
33-35	Death of Stephen and persecution of the Church	Acts 7:54-8:3	
33-36	Conversion & Call	Acts 9:1-19	Road to Damascus
33-36	Begins preaching at Damascus	Acts 9:20-22	
43-44	Ministry in Antioch	Acts 11:25-26	
47-48	First Missionary Journey	Acts 13:1-14:28	<i>Galatians</i>
49	Jerusalem Council	Acts 15:1-29 (Galatians 2:1-10)	
49-52	Second Missionary Journey	Acts 15:36-18:22	<i>1 &amp; 2 Thessalonians</i>
53-57	Third Missionary Journey	Acts 18:23-21:17	<i>Galatians, 1 &amp; 2 Corinthians, Romans</i>
57	Arrest in Jerusalem	Acts 21:26-23:22	Trial before Sanhedrin
57-59	Trials in Caesarea	Acts 23:23-26:32	Felix, Festus, Agrippa, appeals to Rome
59-60	Voyage to Rome	Acts 27:1-28:10	Shipwreck on Malta
60-62	First Roman Imprisonment (House Arrest)	Acts 28:11-31	<i>Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, Philemon</i>
63-66	Released		<i>1 Timothy &amp; Titus</i>
67-68	Second Roman Imprisonment & Death		<i>2 Timothy</i> Martyred- Nero

For additional biographical information, see the book of Galatians.

Paul's Letters in Italics

(Source: [www.blueletterbible.org](http://www.blueletterbible.org))

Day One-Sunday  
Forty-Two Days before Easter

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Before beginning Day One – please see  
Daily Assignments Explained on pages x-xiv.

Acts 1:1-26

Prepare Your Heart for Worship

Worship - “Live It!”

Read the assigned passage without stopping. Read the passage a second time and note your observations below.

Meditation- “Ponder It!”

Write the main idea in your own words and take time to reflect upon it.

Prayer - “Ask It!”

Write a prayer prompted by today’s scripture and reflection.

## Sunday Sermon Notes

### Key Thought

Journal your key verse, idea or thought in the space below.

Day Two-Monday  
Forty-One Days before Easter

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Acts 2:1-41

Appreciate God's Word by completing the study below.

First Things First-Ask God to speak to you.

Investigation ~ "See It!"

Note your observations below.

Explanation ~ "Say It!"

Write the main idea in your own words.

Connection ~ "Know It!"

Note any other verses that complement what you studied today.

### **Meditation - “Ponder It!”**

Journal your key word, phrase, or verse in the space below and reflect upon it.

### **Implementation - “Do It!”**

Think, act, and feel in new ways. List any changes or adjustments that you need to make. Ask the question, “Dear Lord, what do You have in mind?”

### **Memorization - “Recall It!” - Key Thought**

What “key thought” or spiritual insight did you learn today?  
Write a prayer prompted by today’s study.

Day Three-Tuesday  
Forty Days before Easter

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Acts 2:42-47

Appreciate God's Word by completing the study below.

First Things First-Ask God to speak to you.

Investigation ~ "See It!"

Note your observations below.

Explanation ~ "Say It!"

Write the main idea in your own words.

Connection ~ "Know It!"

Note any other verses that complement what you studied today.

### **Meditation - “Ponder It!”**

Journal your key word, phrase, or verse in the space below and reflect upon it.

### **Implementation - “Do It!”**

Think, act, and feel in new ways. List any changes or adjustments that you need to make. Ask the question, “Dear Lord, what do You have in mind?”

### **Memorization - “Recall It!” - Key Thought**

What “key thought” or spiritual insight did you learn today?  
Write a prayer prompted by today’s study.

Day Four- Wednesday  
Thirty-Nine Days before Easter

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Acts 3:1-26

Appreciate God's Word by completing the study below.

First Things First-Ask God to speak to you.

Investigation ~ "See It!"

Note your observations below.

Explanation ~ "Say It!"

Write the main idea in your own words.

Connection ~ "Know It!"

Note any other verses that complement what you studied today.

### **Meditation - “Ponder It!”**

Journal your key word, phrase, or verse in the space below and reflect upon it.

### **Implementation - “Do It!”**

Think, act, and feel in new ways. List any changes or adjustments that you need to make. Ask the question, “Dear Lord, what do You have in mind?”

### **Memorization - “Recall It!” - Key Thought**

What “key thought” or spiritual insight did you learn today?  
Write a prayer prompted by today’s study.

Day Five - Thursday  
Thirty-Eight Days before Easter

---

Acts 4:1-31

Appreciate God's Word by completing the study below.

First Things First-Ask God to speak to you.

Investigation - "See It!"

Note your observations below.

Explanation - "Say It!"

Write the main idea in your own words.

Connection - "Know It!"

Note any other verses that complement what you studied today.

### **Meditation - “Ponder It!”**

Journal your key word, phrase, or verse in the space below and reflect upon it.

### **Implementation - “Do It!”**

Think, act, and feel in new ways. List any changes or adjustments that you need to make. Ask the question, “Dear Lord, what do You have in mind?”

### **Memorization - “Recall It!” - Key Thought**

What “key thought” or spiritual insight did you learn today?  
Write a prayer prompted by today’s study.

Day Six-Friday  
Thirty-Seven Days before Easter

---

Acts 4:32-37

Appreciate God's Word by completing the study below.

First Things First-Ask God to speak to you.

Investigation ~ "See It!"

Note your observations below.

Explanation ~ "Say It!"

Write the main idea in your own words.

Connection ~ "Know It!"

Note any other verses that complement what you studied today.

### **Meditation - “Ponder It!”**

Journal your key word, phrase, or verse in the space below and reflect upon it.

### **Implementation - “Do It!”**

Think, act, and feel in new ways. List any changes or adjustments that you need to make. Ask the question, “Dear Lord, what do You have in mind?”

### **Memorization - “Recall It!” - Key Thought**

What “key thought” or spiritual insight did you learn today?  
Write a prayer prompted by today’s study.

Day Seven-Saturday  
Thirty-Six Days before Easter

---

Read Psalm 1:1-2

**Meditation - "Consider It!"**

Today, and every Saturday in this 40-day study you will be asked to reflect, consider, and meditate. Give special attention to Psalm 1:2. Spend time today reflecting on what you studied this week. Journal your key verse, phrase, or words, the subject of your meditation, in the space provided below.

## Memorization - "Know It!" - Key Thought

Commit to memory your key thought, key word, phrase, or verse and write a prayer prompted by today's reflection.

Day Eight-Sunday  
Thirty-Five Days before Easter

---

Acts 5:1-16  
Prepare Your Heart for Worship

**Worship - "Live It!"**

Read the assigned passage without stopping. Read the passage a second time and note your observations below.

**Meditation- "Ponder It!"**

Write the main idea in your own words and take time to reflect upon it.

**Prayer - "Ask It!"**

Write a prayer prompted by today's scripture and reflection.

## Sunday Sermon Notes

### Key Thought -

Journal your key verse, idea or thought in the space below.

Day Nine-Monday  
Thirty-Four Days before Easter

---

Acts 5:17-42

Appreciate God's Word by completing the study below.  
First Things First-Ask God to speak to you

Investigation ~ "See It!"

Note your observations below.

Explanation ~ "Say It!"

Write the main idea in your own words.

Connection ~ "Know It!"

Note any other verse that complements what you studied today.

### **Meditation - “Ponder It!”**

Journal your key word, phrase, or verse in the space below and reflect upon it.

### **Implementation - “Do It!”**

Think, act, and feel in new ways. List any changes or adjustments that you need to make. Ask the question, “Dear Lord, what do You have in mind?”

### **Memorization - “Recall It!” Key Thought**

What “key thought” or spiritual insight did you learn today?  
Write a prayer prompted by today’s study.

Day Ten- Tuesday  
Thirty-Three Days before Easter

---

Acts 6:1-7

Appreciate God's Word by completing the study below.

First Things First-Ask God to speak to you.

Investigation ~ "See It!"

Note your observations below.

Explanation ~ "Say It!"

Write the main idea in your own words.

Connection ~ "Know It!"

Note any other verses that complement what you studied today.

### **Meditation - “Ponder It!”**

Journal your key word, phrase, or verse in the space below and reflect upon it.

### **Implementation - “Do It!”**

Think, act, and feel in new ways. List any changes or adjustments that you need to make. Ask the question, “Dear Lord, what do You have in mind?”

### **Memorization - “Recall It!” Key Thought**

What “key thought” or spiritual insight did you learn today?  
Write a prayer prompted by today’s study.

Day Eleven-Wednesday  
Thirty-Two Days before Easter

---

Acts 6:8-7:53

Appreciate God's Word by completing the study below.

First Things First-Ask God to speak to you.

Investigation ~ "See It!"

Note your observations below.

Explanation ~ "Say It!"

Write the main idea in your own words.

Connection ~ "Know It!"

Note any other verses that complement what you studied today.

### **Meditation - “Ponder It!”**

Journal your key word, phrase, or verse in the space below and reflect upon it.

### **Implementation - “Do It!”**

Think, act, and feel in new ways. List any changes or adjustments that you need to make. Ask the question, “Dear Lord, what do You have in mind?”

### **Memorization - “Recall It!” Key Thought**

What “key thought” or spiritual insight did you learn today?  
Write a prayer prompted by today’s study.

Day Twelve-Thursday  
Thirty-One Days before Easter

---

Acts 7:54-8:3

Appreciate God's Word by completing the study below.

First Things First-Ask God to speak to you.

Investigation - "See It!"

Note your observations below.

Explanation - "Say It!"

Write the main idea in your own words.

Connection - "Know It!"

Note any other verses that complement what you studied today.

### **Meditation - “Ponder It!”**

Journal your key word, phrase, or verse in the space below and reflect upon it.

### **Implementation - “Do It!”**

Think, act, and feel in new ways. List any changes or adjustments that you need to make. Ask the question, “Dear Lord, what do You have in mind?”

### **Memorization - “Recall It!” Key Thought**

What “key thought” or spiritual insight did you learn today?  
Write a prayer prompted by today’s study.

Day Thirteen-Friday  
Thirty Days before Easter

---

Acts 8:4-40

Appreciate God's Word by completing the study below.

First Things First ~ Ask God to speak to you.

Investigation ~ "See It!"

Note your observations below.

Explanation ~ "Say It!"

Write the main idea in your own words.

Connection ~ "Know It!"

Note any other verses that complement what you studied today.

### **Meditation - “Ponder It!”**

Journal your key word, phrase, or verse in the space below and reflect upon it.

### **Implementation - “Do It!”**

Think, act, and feel in new ways. List any changes or adjustments that you need to make. Ask the question, “Dear Lord, what do You have in mind?”

### **Memorization - “Recall It!” Key Thought**

What “key thought” or spiritual insight did you learn today?  
Write a prayer prompted by today’s study.

Day Fourteen-Saturday  
Twenty-Nine Days before Easter

---

Read Hebrews 12:3

**Meditation “Consider It!”**

Consider Hebrews 12:3. Take some time and reflect on what you have studied this week. Try to focus on one concept. Journal your observations below. Write your key verse, key phrase, or key words in the space below.

## Memorization - "Know It!"

Commit to memory your key thought, key word, phrase, or verse and write a prayer prompted by today's reflection.

Day Fifteen-Sunday  
Twenty-Eight Days before Easter

---

Acts 9:1-43  
Prepare Your Heart for Worship

**Worship - "Live It!"**

Read the assigned passage without stopping. Read the passage a second time and note your observations below.

**Meditation- "Ponder It!"**

Write the main idea in your own words and take time to reflect upon it.

**Prayer - "Ask It!"**

Write a prayer prompted by today's scripture and reflection.

## Sunday Sermon Notes

### Key Thought -

Journal your key verse, idea or thought in the space below.

Day Sixteen-Monday  
Twenty-Seven Days before Easter

---

Acts 10:1-48

Appreciate God's Word by completing the study below.

First Things First-Ask God to speak to you.

Investigation - "See It!"

Note your observations below.

Explanation - "Say It!"

Write the main idea in your own words.

Connection - "Know It!"

Note any other verses that complement what you studied today.

### **Meditation - “Ponder It!”**

Journal your key word, phrase, or verse in the space below and reflect upon it.

### **Implementation - “Do It!”**

Think, act, and feel in new ways. List any changes or adjustments that you need to make. Ask the question, “Dear Lord, what do You have in mind?”

### **Memorization - “Recall It!” Key Thought**

What “key thought” or spiritual insight did you learn today?  
Write a prayer prompted by today’s study.

Day Seventeen-Tuesday  
Twenty-Six Days before Easter

---

Acts 11:1-30

Appreciate God's Word by completing the study below.

First Things First-Ask God to speak to you.

Investigation - "See It!"

Note your observations below.

Explanation - "Say It!"

Write the main idea in your own words.

Connection - "Know It!"

Note any other verses that complement what you studied today.

### **Meditation - “Ponder It!”**

Journal your key word, phrase, or verse in the space below and reflect upon it.

### **Implementation - “Do It!”**

Think, act, and feel in new ways. List any changes or adjustments that you need to make. Ask the question, “Dear Lord, what do You have in mind?”

### **Memorization - “Recall It!” Key Thought**

What “key thought” or spiritual insight did you learn today?  
Write a prayer prompted by today’s study.

Day Eighteen-Wednesday  
Twenty-Five Days before Easter

---

Acts 12:1-25

Appreciate God's Word by completing the study below.

First Things First-Ask God to speak to you.

Investigation - "See It!"

Note your observations below.

Explanation - "Say It!"

Write the main idea in your own words.

Connection - "Know It!"

Note any other verses that complement what you studied today.

### **Meditation - “Ponder It!”**

Journal your key word, phrase, or verse in the space below and reflect upon it.

### **Implementation - “Do It!”**

Think, act, and feel in new ways. List any changes or adjustments that you need to make. Ask the question, “Dear Lord, what do You have in mind?”

### **Memorization - “Recall It!” Key Thought**

What “key thought” or spiritual insight did you learn today?  
Write a prayer prompted by today’s study.

Day Nineteen-Thursday  
Twenty-Four Days before Easter

---

Acts 13:1-12

Appreciate God's Word by completing the study below.

First Things First-Ask God to speak to you.

Investigation - "See It!"

Note your observations below.

Explanation - "Say It!"

Write the main idea in your own words.

Connection - "Know It!"

Note any other verses that complement what you studied today.

### **Meditation - “Ponder It!”**

Journal your key word, phrase, or verse in the space below and reflect upon it.

### **Implementation - “Do It!”**

Think, act, and feel in new ways. List any changes or adjustments that you need to make. Ask the question, “Dear Lord, what do You have in mind?”

### **Memorization - “Recall It!” Key Thought**

What “key thought” or spiritual insight did you learn today?  
Write a prayer prompted by today’s study.

Day Twenty-Friday  
Twenty-Three Days before Easter

---

Acts 13:13-52

Appreciate God's Word by completing the study below.

First Things First-Ask God to speak to you

Investigation - "See It!"

Note your observations below.

Explanation - "Say It!"

Write the main idea in your own words.

Connection - "Know It!"

Note any other verses that complement what you studied today.

### **Meditation - “Ponder It!”**

Journal your key word, phrase, or verse in the space below and reflect upon it.

### **Implementation - “Do It!”**

Think, act, and feel in new ways. List any changes or adjustments that you need to make. Ask the question, “Dear Lord, what do You have in mind?”

### **Memorization - “Recall It!” Key Thought**

What “key thought” or spiritual insight did you learn today?  
Write a prayer prompted by today’s study.

Day Twenty-One-Saturday  
Twenty-Two Days before Easter

---

Read Psalm 8:3

**Meditation- “Consider It!”**

Today is a day to pause and reflect on what you have learned this week. What “concept” this week will you consider? Note Psalm 8:3. Journal your observations below. Write your key verse, key phrase, or key words in the space below.

## Memorization - "Know It!"

Commit to memory your key thought, key word, phrase, or verse and write a prayer prompted by today's reflection.

Day Twenty-Two - Sunday  
Twenty-One Days before Easter

---

Acts 14:1-28

Prepare your heart for worship.

**Worship - "Live It!"**

Read the assigned passage without stopping. Read the passage a second time and note your observations below.

**Meditation- "Ponder It!"**

Write the main idea in your own words and take time to reflect upon it.

**Prayer - "Ask It!"**

Write a prayer prompted by today's scripture and reflection.

## Sunday Sermon Notes

### Key Thought

Journal your key verse, idea or thought in the space below.

Day Twenty-Three-Monday  
Twenty Days before Easter

---

Acts 15:1-35

Appreciate God's Word by completing the study below.

First Things First-Ask God to speak to you

Investigation ~ "See It!"

Note your observations below.

Explanation ~ "Say It!"

Write the main idea in your own words.

Connection ~ "Know It!"

Note any other verses that complement what you studied today.

### **Meditation - “Ponder It!”**

Journal your key word, phrase, or verse in the space below and reflect upon it.

### **Implementation - “Do It!”**

Think, act, and feel in new ways. List any changes or adjustments that you need to make. Ask the question, “Dear Lord, what do You have in mind?”

### **Memorization - “Recall It!” Key Thought**

What “key thought” or spiritual insight did you learn today?  
Write a prayer prompted by today’s study.

Day Twenty-Four-Tuesday  
Nineteen Days before Easter

---

Acts 15:36-16:10

Appreciate God's Word by completing the study below.

First Things First ~ Ask God to speak to you.

Investigation ~ "See It!"

Note your observations below.

Explanation ~ "Say It!"

Write the main idea in your own words.

Connection ~ "Know It!"

Note any other verses that complement what you studied today.

### **Meditation - “Ponder It!”**

Journal your key word, phrase, or verse in the space below and reflect upon it.

### **Implementation - “Do It!”**

Think, act, and feel in new ways. List any changes or adjustments that you need to make. Ask the question, “Dear Lord, what do You have in mind?”

### **Memorization - “Recall It!” Key Thought**

What “key thought” or spiritual insight did you learn today?  
Write a prayer prompted by today’s study.

Day Twenty-Five - Wednesday  
Eighteen Days before Easter

---

Acts 16:11-40

Appreciate God's Word by completing the study below.

First Things First-Ask God to speak to you.

Investigation ~ "See It!"

Note your observations below.

Explanation ~ "Say It!"

Write the main idea in your own words.

Connection ~ "Know It!"

Note any other verses that complement what you studied today.

### **Meditation - “Ponder It!”**

Journal your key word, phrase, or verse in the space below and reflect upon it.

### **Implementation - “Do It!”**

Think, act, and feel in new ways. List any changes or adjustments that you need to make. Ask the question, “Dear Lord, what do You have in mind?”

### **Memorization - “Recall It!” Key Thought**

What “key thought” or spiritual insight did you learn today?  
Write a prayer prompted by today’s study.

Day Twenty-Six-Thursday  
Seventeen Days before Easter

---

Acts 17:1-34

Appreciate God's Word by completing the study below.

First Things First-Ask God to speak to you.

Investigation ~ "See It!"

Note your observations below.

Explanation ~ "Say It!"

Write the main idea in your own words.

Connection ~ "Know It!"

Note any other verses that complement what you studied today.

### **Meditation - “Ponder It!”**

Journal your key word, phrase, or verse in the space below and reflect upon it.

### **Implementation - “Do It!”**

Think, act, and feel in new ways. List any changes or adjustments that you need to make. Ask the question, “Dear Lord, what do You have in mind?”

### **Memorization - “Recall It!” Key Thought**

What “key thought” or spiritual insight did you learn today?  
Write a prayer prompted by today’s study.

Day Twenty-Seven-Friday  
Sixteen Days before Easter

---

Acts 18:1-28

Appreciate God's Word by completing the study below.

First Things First-Ask God to speak to you.

Investigation ~ "See It!"

Note your observations below.

Explanation ~ "Say It!"

Write the main idea in your own words.

Connection ~ "Know It!"

Note any other verses that complement what you studied today.

### **Meditation - “Ponder It!”**

Journal your key word, phrase, or verse in the space below and reflect upon it.

### **Implementation - “Do It!”**

Think, act, and feel in new ways. List any changes or adjustments that you need to make. Ask the question, “Dear Lord, what do You have in mind?”

### **Memorization - “Recall It!” Key Thought**

What “key thought” or spiritual insight did you learn today?  
Write a prayer prompted by today’s study.

Day Twenty-Eight-Saturday  
Fifteen Days before Easter

---

Read Philippians 4:8

**Meditation- "Ponder It!"**

Spend time reflecting upon Philippians 4:8. From what you have studied this week journal your key thought, phrase, or words in the space provided below. This is a time to ponder, reflect, consider and implement what you have learned.

## Memorization - "Know It!"

Commit to memory your key thought, key word, phrase, or verse and write a prayer prompted by today's reflection. Write a prayer prompted by your reflection.

Day Twenty-Nine-Sunday  
Fourteen Days before Easter

---

Acts 19:1-41

Prepare your heart for worship.

**Worship - "Live It!"**

Read the assigned passage without stopping. Read the passage a second time and note your observations below.

**Meditation- "Ponder It!"**

Write the main idea in your own words and take time to reflect upon it.

**Prayer - "Ask It!"**

Write a prayer prompted by today's scripture and reflection.

## Sunday Sermon Notes

### Key Thought -

Journal your key verse, idea or thought in the space below.

Day Thirty-Monday  
Thirteen Days before Easter

---

Acts 20:1-12

Appreciate God's Word by completing the study below.

First Things First-Ask God to speak to you.

Investigation - "See It!"

Note your observations below.

Explanation - "Say It!"

Write the main idea in your own words.

Connection - "Know It!"

Note any other verses that complement what you studied today.

### **Meditation - “Ponder It!”**

Journal your key word, phrase, or verse in the space below and reflect upon it.

### **Implementation - “Do It!”**

Think, act, and feel in new ways. List any changes or adjustments that you need to make. Ask the question, “Dear Lord, what do You have in mind?”

### **Memorization - “Recall It!” Key Thought**

What “key thought” or spiritual insight did you learn today?  
Write a prayer prompted by today’s study.

Day Thirty-One-Tuesday  
Twelve Days before Easter

---

Acts 20:13-38

Appreciate God's Word by completing the study below.

First Things First-Ask God to speak to you.

Investigation - "See It!"

Note your observations below.

Explanation - "Say It!"

Write the main idea in your own words.

Connection - "Know It!"

Note any other verses that complement what you studied today.

### **Meditation - “Ponder It!”**

Journal your key word, phrase, or verse in the space below and reflect upon it.

### **Implementation - “Do It!”**

Think, act, and feel in new ways. List any changes or adjustments that you need to make. Ask the question, “Dear Lord, what do You have in mind?”

### **Memorization - “Recall It!” Key Thought**

What “key thought” or spiritual insight did you learn today?  
Write a prayer prompted by today’s study.

Day Thirty-Two-Wednesday  
Eleven Days before Easter

---

Acts 21:1-36

Appreciate God's Word by completing the study below.

First Things First-Ask God to speak to you.

Investigation - "See It!"

Note your observations below.

Explanation - "Say It!"

Write the main idea in your own words.

Connection - "Know It!"

Note any other verses that complement what you studied today.

### **Meditation - “Ponder It!”**

Journal your key word, phrase, or verse in the space below and reflect upon it.

### **Implementation - “Do It!”**

Think, act, and feel in new ways. List any changes or adjustments that you need to make. Ask the question, “Dear Lord, what do You have in mind?”

### **Memorization - “Recall It!” Key Thought**

What “key thought” or spiritual insight did you learn today?  
Write a prayer prompted by today’s study.

Day Thirty-Three-Thursday  
Ten Days before Easter

---

Acts 21:37-22:29

Appreciate God's Word by completing the study below.

First Things First-Ask God to speak to you.

Investigation - "See It!"

Note your observations below.

Explanation - "Say It!"

Write the main idea in your own words.

Connection - "Know It!"

Note any other verses that complement what you studied today.

### **Meditation - “Ponder It!”**

Journal your key word, phrase, or verse in the space below and reflect upon it.

### **Implementation - “Do It!”**

Think, act, and feel in new ways. List any changes or adjustments that you need to make. Ask the question, “Dear Lord, what do You have in mind?”

### **Memorization - “Recall It!” Key Thought**

What “key thought” or spiritual insight did you learn today?  
Write a prayer prompted by today’s study.

Day Thirty-Four-Friday  
Nine Days before Easter

---

Acts 22:30-23:25

Appreciate God's Word by completing the study below.

First Things First-Ask God to speak to you.

**Investigation - "See It!"**

Note your observations below.

**Explanation - "Say It!"**

Write the main idea in your own words.

**Connection - "Know It!"**

Note any other verses that complement what you studied today.

### **Meditation - “Ponder It!”**

Journal your key word, phrase, or verse in the space below and reflect upon it.

### **Implementation - “Do It!”**

Think, act, and feel in new ways. List any changes or adjustments that you need to make. Ask the question, “Dear Lord, what do You have in mind?”

### **Memorization - “Recall It!” Key Thought**

What “key thought” or spiritual insight did you learn today?  
Write a prayer prompted by today’s study.

Day Thirty-Five-Saturday  
Eight Days before Easter

---

Read James 1:22

**Meditation “Consider It!”**

Spend some time thinking and reflecting upon what you have learned this week. See James 1:22. Meditation precedes implementation. Journal your key verse, phrase, or words, the subject of your meditation, in the space provided below.

## Memorization - "Know It!"

Commit to memory your key word, phrase, or verse and write a prayer prompted by today's reflection.

Day Thirty-Six-Palm Sunday  
Seven Days before Easter

---

Acts 23:26-24:27

Prepare your heart for worship.

**Worship - "Live It!"**

Read the assigned passage without stopping. Read the passage a second time and note your observations below.

**Meditation- "Ponder It!"**

Write the main idea in your own words and take time to reflect upon it.

**Prayer - "Ask It!"**

Write a prayer prompted by today's scripture and reflection.

## Sunday Sermon Notes

### Key Thought -

Journal your key verse, idea or thought in the space below.

Day Thirty-Seven-Monday  
Six Days before Easter

---

Acts 25:1-22

Appreciate God's Word by completing the study below.

First Things First-Ask God to speak to you.

Investigation - "See It!"

Note your observations below.

Explanation - "Say It!"

Write the main idea in your own words.

Connection - "Know It!"

Note any other verses that complement what you studied today.

### **Meditation - “Ponder It!”**

Journal your key word, phrase, or verse in the space below and reflect upon it.

### **Implementation - “Do It!”**

Think, act, and feel in new ways. List any changes or adjustments that you need to make. Ask the question, “Dear Lord, what do You have in mind?”

### **Memorization - “Recall It!” Key Thought**

What “key thought” or spiritual insight did you learn today?  
Write a prayer prompted by today’s study.

Day Thirty-Eight-Tuesday  
Five Days before Easter

---

Acts 25:23-26:32

Appreciate God's Word by completing the study below.

First Things First-Ask God to speak to you.

Investigation - "See It!"

Note your observations below.

Explanation - "Say It!"

Write the main idea in your own words.

Connection - "Know It!"

Note any other verses that complement what you studied today.

### **Meditation - “Ponder It!”**

Journal your key word, phrase, or verse in the space below and reflect upon it.

### **Implementation - “Do It!”**

Think, act, and feel in new ways. List any changes or adjustments that you need to make. Ask the question, “Dear Lord, what do You have in mind?”

### **Memorization - “Recall It!” Key Thought**

What “key thought” or spiritual insight did you learn today?  
Write a prayer prompted by today’s study.

Day Thirty-Nine-Wednesday  
Four Days before Easter

---

Acts 27:1-44

Appreciate God's Word by completing the study below.  
First Things First-Ask God to speak to you.

Investigation - "See It!"

Note your observations below.

Explanation - "Say It!"

Write the main idea in your own words.

Connection - "Know It!"

Note any other verses that complement what you studied today.  
Colossians 4:3; 1 Thessalonians 5:25; Ephesians 6:18-20.

### **Meditation - “Ponder It!”**

Journal your key word, phrase, or verse in the space below and reflect upon it.

### **Implementation - “Do It!”**

Think, act, and feel in new ways. List any changes or adjustments that you need to make. Ask the question, “Dear Lord, what do You have in mind?”

### **Memorization - “Recall It!” Key Thought**

What “key thought” or spiritual insight did you learn today?  
Write a prayer prompted by today’s study.

Day Forty-Thursday  
Three Days before Easter  
Maundy Thursday

---

Acts 28:1-31

Appreciate God's Word by completing the study below.  
First Things First-Ask God to speak to you.

Investigation "See It!"

Record your observations below.

Explanation - "Say It!"

Write the main idea in your own words.

Meditation - "Ponder It!"

Upon reflection note your key verse, key phrase, or key words in the space below.

### **Meditation - “Ponder It!”**

Journal your key word, phrase, or verse in the space below and reflect upon it.

### **Implementation - “Do It!”**

Think, act, and feel in new ways. List any changes or adjustments that you need to make. Ask the question, “Dear Lord, what do You have in mind?”

### **Memorization - “Recall It!” Key Thought**

What “key thought” or spiritual insight did you learn today?  
Write a prayer prompted by today’s study.

## Reflect, Journal and Prepare

### Good Friday

Trials and Mt. Calvary- Matthew 27:1-66; Mark 15:1-47;  
Luke 23:26-56.

Notice the miracle on the night of Jesus' betrayal, Luke 22:51.

<sup>3</sup> For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls. Hebrews 12:3

Meditate "consider" what you learned about as recorded in the Gospel according to Mark.

### Holy Saturday

Reflect today on Jesus' finished work on the Cross.

"Meditate on these things" 1 Timothy 4:15a; Joshua 1:8.

Remember the Sign of Jonah? Matthew 12:39, 40. Read Isaiah 53.

Easter Resurrection Sunday Hebrews 4:14; 13:8; Matthew 28, Mark 16, Luke 24, John 20-21

Prepare your heart to worship. Bring a guest and celebrate the most wonderful reality and miracle of eternity.

He is Risen! He is Risen, Indeed!

Because He is Risen, we shall rise!

1 Corinthians 15:1-58 & 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Sermon Notes: Mark 16:1-20

# Study Help One

## Hearing from God – Hearing God (2021)

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### ***God has spoken through...***

1. Direct Revelation
2. Dreams
3. Written Words
4. Prophets - People
5. Circumstances
6. Angels
7. Jesus Christ
8. The Holy Spirit
9. Visions
10. Creation
11. Still Small Voice

### ***God speaks today primarily through...***

1. His Word (2 Timothy 3:16)
2. His Holy Spirit (John 14:26; 1 Corinthians 2:10-16)
3. Other believers in Christ (John 1:40-42)
4. Circumstances (Acts 9:11-19)

*Remember to always test everything you think you hear God saying against the Bible!  
God will not speak against the Bible!*

### ***Hearing from God through His Word-The Bible***

1. Pray-Ask boldly for God to speak through His Word
2. Listen-God may bring a particular passage to mind
3. Read-Begin to read particular passages or a book
4. Persist-God will eventually speak to you- wait on the Lord
5. Continue-Read the Word daily and let God speak
6. Compare-Correlate other passages on the subject
7. Meditate- Reflect on God's Word – *Study Help 24*
8. Memorize-Hide God's Word in your heart-*Study Help 25*
9. Journal-A short pencil is better than a long memory
10. Pray Scripture-Pray Bible words, principles, and prayers

*Note: Seek godly counsel on how to apply what you hear!*

Taken from *Listening to God*, Charles Stanley (Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1996) and from Keith Thompson.

## Study Help Two A Heart for God

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Exodus 25:2	A Willing Heart
Deuteronomy 6:5	All your Heart
Joshua 24:23	Incline your Heart
1 Samuel 12:20	A Servant's Heart
1 Samuel 13:14	A Man after God's own Heart
1 Samuel 16:7	God Looks on the Heart
1 Kings 3:12	A Wise and Understanding Heart
1 Kings 14:8	A Following Heart
1 Kings 15:14	A Perfect Heart
2 Kings 22:19	A Tender Heart
1 Chronicles 22:19	A Seeking Heart
2 Chronicles 19:3	A Prepared Heart
2 Chronicles 29:34	An Upright Heart
Nehemiah 2:12	"Holy Heart-Burn"
Job 23:16	A Soft, Faint Heart
Psalms 9:1	A Whole Heart
Psalms 24:4	A Pure Heart
Psalms 34:18	A Broken Heart

Study Help Two continued  
A Heart for God

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Psalm 57:7	A Steadfast Heart
Psalm 62:8	Pour out Your Heart
Psalm 119:80	A Blameless Heart
Psalm 139:23	Search my Heart
Proverbs 4:23	Guard your Heart
Proverbs 17:22	A Merry Heart
Proverbs 23:7	As you Think in your Heart, you Are
Isaiah 30:29	A Glad Heart
Isaiah 57:15	A Humble & Contrite Heart
Matthew 6:21	Where your Treasure is, there will Your Heart be Also
Matthew 11:29	A Meek and Lowly Heart
Matthew 12:34	Out of The Heart the Mouth Speaks
Luke 2:19	A Reflective Heart
Luke 24:32	A Hot, Passionate Heart
Acts 16:14	An Open Heart
2 Corinthians 9:7	A Purposeful Heart
Colossians 3:1,2	A Set Heart

## Study Help Three

### How to Prepare Your Heart for Revival

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1. Get thoroughly dissatisfied with yourself.
  2. Set your face like a flint toward sweeping transformation of your life.
  3. Put yourself in the way of blessing.
  4. Do a thorough job of repenting.
  5. Make restitution wherever possible.
  6. Bring your life into accord with the Sermon on the Mount and such other New Testament Scriptures as are designed to instruct us in the way of righteousness.
  7. Be serious-minded.
  8. Deliberately narrow your interests.
  9. Begin to witness.
  10. Have faith in God.
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Taken from *Heart Cry for Revival*,  
*Stephen Olford, Zondervan, 1969.*  
Stephen Olford quoting A. W. Tozer.

## Study Help Four

### The Seven Realities of Experiencing God

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#### **Reality No. 1:**

God is always at work around you.

#### **Reality No. 2:**

God pursues a continuing love relationship with you that is real and personal.

#### **Reality No. 3:**

God invites you to become involved with Him in His work.

#### **Reality No. 4:**

God speaks by the Holy Spirit through the Bible, prayer, circumstances, and the church to reveal Himself, His purposes, and His ways.

#### **Reality No. 5:**

God's invitation for you to work with Him always leads you to a crisis of belief that requires faith and action.

#### **Reality No. 6:**

You must make major adjustments in your life to join God in what He is doing.

#### **Reality No. 7:**

You come to know God by experience as you obey Him, and He accomplishes His work through you.

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Taken from, *Experiencing God: Knowing and Doing the Will of God*, Henry Blackaby, LifeWay, 1991.

## Study Help Five

### The Names of God

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<b>Elohim</b>	<i>Powerful God</i>	Genesis 1:1
<b>Adonai</b>	<i>Lord</i>	Genesis 15:2
<b>El Elyon</b>	<i>God Most High</i>	Genesis 14:19
<b>El Shaddai</b>	<i>Almighty God</i>	Genesis 17:1
<b>Yahweh/Jehovah</b>	<i>LORD</i>	Genesis 2:4
<b>Jehovah Jireh</b>	<i>The LORD Provides</i>	Genesis 22:14
<b>Jehovah Rophe</b>	<i>The LORD Heals</i>	Exodus 15:26
<b>Jehovah Nissi</b>	<i>The LORD Is My Banner</i>	Exodus 17:15
<b>Jehovah Mekadesh</b>	<i>The LORD Who Sanctifies</i>	Leviticus 20:8
<b>Jehovah Shalom</b>	<i>The LORD Is Peace</i>	Judges 6:24
<b>Jehovah Tsidkenu</b>	<i>The LORD Is Our Righteousness</i>	Jeremiah 23:6
<b>Jehovah Rohi</b>	<i>The LORD Is My Shepherd</i>	Psalms 23:1
<b>Jehovah Shammah</b>	<i>The LORD Is There</i>	Ezekiel 48:35

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Taken from *The Names of God* by Kenneth S. Hemphill, Broadman & Holman Publishers, 2001.

## Study Help Six

### Jesus and the Sabbath

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Matthew 12:1	Disciples Picked Grain on the Sabbath
Matthew 12:7	“I Desire Mercy, not Sacrifice.”
Matthew 12:8	Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath
Matthew 12:12	Lawful to do Good on the Sabbath
Mark 1:21	Jesus went to the Synagogue
Mark 2:27	The Sabbath was made for Man, not Man for the Sabbath
Luke 4:31	On the Sabbath he Taught the People
Luke 13:10-13	Jesus Healed on the Sabbath
John 5:16-18	God is Always at Work
John 7:21-24	Jesus did Miracles on the Sabbath, “Stop judging by mere appearances, make a right judgment.”

Study Help Seven  
The Christ of the Psalms

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<b>PSALM</b>	<b>PORTRAYAL</b>	<b>FULFILLED</b>
2:7	The Son of God	Matthew 3:17
8:2	Praised by children	Matthew 21:15, 16
8:6	Ruler of all	Hebrews 2:8
16:10	Rises from death	Matthew 28:7
22:1	Forsaken by God	Matthew 27:46
22:7, 8	Derided by enemies	Luke 23:35
22:16	Hands and feet pierced	John 20:27
22:18	Lots cast for clothes	Matthew 27:35, 36
34:20	Bones unbroken	John 19:32, 33, 36
35:11	Accused by false witnesses	Mark 14:57
35:19	Hated without cause	John 15:25
40:7, 8	Delights in God's will	Hebrews 10:7
41:9	Betrayed by a friend	Luke 22:47
45:6	The eternal King	Hebrews 1:8
68:18	Ascends to heaven	Acts 1:9-11
69:9	Zealous for God's house	John 2:17
69:21	Given vinegar with gall	Matthew 27:34
109:4	Prays for enemies	Luke 23:34
109:8	His betrayer replaced	Acts 1:20
110:1	Rules over His enemies	Matthew 22:44
110:4	A priest forever	Hebrews 5:6
118:22	Chief cornerstone	Matthew 21:42
118:26	Comes in name of the Lord	Matthew 21:9

Taken from *The Believer's Study Bible*, Thomas Nelson  
Publishers, Nashville TN, 1991, The Christ of the Psalms, pg. 731.

Study Help Eight  
The Passion of Christ in the Psalms

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- Psalm 2:2** “The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers gather together against the Lord and against his Anointed One.”
- Psalm 16:10** “because you will not abandon me to the grave, nor will you let your Holy One see decay.”
- Psalm 22:1** “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”
- Psalm 22:7** “All who see me mock me; they hurl insults, shaking their heads.”
- Psalm 22:16** “...they have pierced my hands and my feet.”
- Psalm 22:18** “They divide my garments among them and cast lots for my clothing.”
- Psalm 34:20** “he protects all his bones, not one of them will be broken.”
- Psalm 41:9** “Even my close friend, whom I trusted, he who shared my bread, has lifted up his heel against me.”
- Psalm 49:15** “But God will redeem my life from the grave.”
- Psalm 68:18** “When you ascended on high...”
- Psalm 69:21** “They put gall in my food and gave me vinegar for my thirst.”

## Study Help Nine

### The Trials of Jesus Christ

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Matthew 26:36-56                      Jesus prays and is arrested in Gethsemane

John 18:12-14, 19-23                      Jesus taken to Annas

John 18:24                      Jesus taken to Caiaphas the high priest

Matthew 26:57-67                      Jesus before the high priest, teachers of the  
Mark 14:53-65                      law, elders, and the whole Sanhedrin  
Luke 22:66-71

Luke 23:1-7                      Jesus before Pilate

Luke 23:6-12                      Jesus before Herod

Matthew 27:11-26                      Jesus before Pilate, Jesus condemned and  
Mark 15:1-15                      Barabbas released  
Luke 23:13-25

## Study Help Ten

### The Stations of the Cross

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<b>Station One</b>	Jesus is Condemned to Die
<b>Station Two</b>	Jesus Carries His Cross
<b>Station Three</b>	Jesus Falls the First Time
<b>Station Four</b>	Jesus Meets His Mother
<b>Station Five</b>	Simon Helps Jesus Carry His Cross
<b>Station Six</b>	Veronica Wipes Jesus' Face
<b>Station Seven</b>	Jesus Falls the Second Time
<b>Station Eight</b>	Jesus Meets the Women of Jerusalem
<b>Station Nine</b>	Jesus Falls the Third Time
<b>Station Ten</b>	Jesus is Stripped
<b>Station Eleven</b>	Jesus is Nailed to the Cross
<b>Station Twelve</b>	Jesus Dies on the Cross
<b>Station Thirteen</b>	Jesus is Taken Down From the Cross
<b>Station Fourteen</b>	Jesus is Laid in the Tomb

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Taken from Creighton University Web site  
<http://www.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/stations.html>.

Study Help Eleven  
The Last Words of Christ from the Cross

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Matthew 27:46      “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”  
Mark 15:34

Luke 23:34      “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.”

Luke 23:43      “I tell you the truth, today you will be with Me in Paradise.”

John 19:26, 27    “Dear woman, here is your son,” and to the Disciple, “Here is your mother.”

John 19:28      “I am thirsty.”

Luke 23:46      “Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.”

John 19:30      “It is finished.”

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***Remember the last words that were spoken by  
Jesus Christ before He ascended into heaven.***

Matthew 28:18-20      “Go and make disciples of all nations.”

Acts 1:8      But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses...”

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***Remember that Jesus is still speaking today.***

Hebrews 7:25      “He always lives to intercede...”

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## Study Help Twelve

### Events of Holy Week

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Day	Event	Biblical Reference
Sunday	The triumphal entry into Jerusalem	Mark 11:1-11
Monday	Cleanses the temple in Jerusalem	Mark 11:15-19
Tuesday	The Sanhedrin challenges Jesus' authority	Luke 20:1-8
	Jesus foretells of the destruction of Jerusalem and His return	Matthew 24:25
	Mary anoints Jesus at Bethany	John 12:2-8
	Judas bargains with the Jewish rulers to betray Jesus	Luke 22:3-6
Thursday	Jesus eats the Passover meal with His disciples and institutes the Memorial Supper	John 13:1-30 Mark 14:22-26
	Prays in Gethsemane for His disciples	John 17
Friday	His betrayal and arrest in the Garden of Gethsemane	Mark 14:43-50
	Jesus questioned by Annas, the former high priest	John 18:12-24
	Condemned by Caiaphas and the Sanhedrin	Mark 14:53-65

Friday continued...	Peter denies Jesus three times	John 18:15-27
	Jesus is formally condemned by the Sanhedrin	Luke 22:66-71
	Judas commits suicide	Matthew 27:3-10
	The trial of Jesus before Pilate	Luke 23:1-5
	Jesus' appearance before Herod Antipas	Luke 23:6-12
	Formally sentenced to death by Pilate	Luke 23:13-25
	Jesus is mocked and crucified between two thieves	Mark 15:16-27
	The veil of the temple is torn as Jesus dies	Matthew 27:51-56
	His burial in the tomb of Joseph of Arimathea	John 19:31-42
Sunday	Jesus is raised from the dead	Luke 24:1-9

Taken from *The Believer's Study Bible*, Thomas Nelson Publishers, Nashville TN, 1991, Events of the Holy Week, pg. 1483.

## Study Help Thirteen

### References to Christ's Return in Philippians

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The Book of Philippians is known as the book of “joy.” There are almost as many references to Christ’s return and last things as there are to joy. Do not allow the promise and prayer, “Maranatha, even so come quickly Lord Jesus,” to be absent or overlooked in your life or experience.

<b>Philippians 1:6</b>	“the day of Christ Jesus”
<b>Philippians 1:10</b>	“the day of Christ”
<b>Philippians 1:23</b>	“depart and be with Christ”
<b>Philippians 2:10,11</b>	“every knee should bow . . .and every tongue confess
<b>Philippians 2:16</b>	“on the day of Christ”
<b>Philippians 3:10,11</b>	“power of his resurrection. . .attain to the resurrection from the dead”
<b>Philippians 3:14</b>	“God has called me heavenward in Jesus Christ”
<b>Philippians 3:20,21</b>	“our citizenship is in heaven. . .we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ. . .will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body”
<b>Philippians 4:5</b>	“the Lord is near”
<b>Philippians 4:19</b>	“his glorious riches in Christ Jesus”

## Study Help Fourteen

### T.A.C.O.S. – Prayer Acrostic

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From the days of my youth, I remember various acrostics that were used to assist people in prayer. The acrostic provides an approach to praying that can enhance and deepen your prayers. Also, remember that variety is helpful. Do not get into the rut of “vain repetitions.”

#### **T**hanks**giving**

“Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”

*1 Thessalonians 5:18*

#### **A**doration

“Let everything that has breath praise the Lord. Praise the Lord.”

*Psalms 150:6*

“Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen”

*1 Timothy 1:17*

#### **C**onfession

“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.”

*1 John 1:9*

#### **O**thers

“...pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.”

*James 5:16*

#### **S**elf

“Save me, O God, by your name; vindicate me by your might. Hear my prayer, O God; listen to the words of my mouth.”

*Psalms 54:1,2*

## Study Help Fifteen

### Selected Scriptures on Prayer

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“At that time men began to call on the name of the Lord.”

*Genesis 4:26b*

“As for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the Lord by failing to pray for you.” *1 Samuel 12:23a*

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.” *Philippians 4:6, 7*

“I urge then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone.” *1 Timothy 2:1*

“And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.” *Ephesians 6:18*

“Pray continually.” *1 Thessalonians 5:17*

“You do not have because you do not ask God. When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.” *James 4:2b, 3*

“The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.”

*James 5:16b*

The prayer of Jabez	<i>1 Chronicles 4:10</i>
A prayer of Solomon	<i>2 Chronicles 6:14-42</i>
A prayer of Nehemiah	<i>Nehemiah 1:4-11</i>
Prayers of Jesus	<i>Matthew 6:9-15; 26:36-46; John 17</i>
A prayer of the early church	<i>Acts 4:24-31</i>

*Paul's prayer for the:*

Ephesians *Ephesians 3:14-21*

The prayer of Epaphras *Colossians 4:12*

Study Help Sixteen  
Pray Hard - Prayer in Colossians

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Always Pray	Colossians 1:3, 4, 12
Give Thanks	Colossians 1: 3, 12, 24; 2:7; 3:15-17; 4:2
Pray Virtues of Scripture	Colossians 1:5, 9-11; 3:12-16
Don't Stop Praying	Colossians 1:9
The Prayer of Faith	Colossians 1:9-11
Prayer as Declaration & Praise	Colossians 1:12-21
Pray Scripture	Colossians 1:12-21
Pray Your Purpose	Colossians 1: 28, 29
Agonize/Yearn in Prayer	Colossians 1:29; 4:12, 13
How to Pray	Colossians 3:16
Singing as Prayer	Colossians 3:15-17
Pray from Your Heart	Colossians 3:16, 22
Be Serious/Devoted to Prayer	Colossians 4:2
Pray in the "Plural"	Colossians 4:3
Pray to be A Bold Witness	Colossians 4:2-6
Pray Hard-Wrestle in Prayer	Colossians 4:12, 13
Request Prayer	Colossians 4:3, 18
Pray a Blessing	Colossians 4:18

Study Help Seventeen  
Praying for Missionaries – Acts 13, 14

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1. Hear and heed the call of the Lord. *Acts 13:2*
2. Appointment, sending and support. *Acts 13:3*
3. Effective work, perseverance and strength. *Acts 13:2; 14:26*
4. The Holy Spirit's leadership. *Acts 13:4*
5. Safe travel and other travel related issues. *Acts 13:4*
6. Building the missionary team. *Acts 13:5*
7. Understand and work well with authority. *Acts 13:3, 5*
8. Courage to face opposition. *Acts 13:6-12*
9. The impressive work of God through missionaries. *Acts 13:12*
10. Souls would be saved. *Acts 13:12*
11. Acculturation, adapting, flexibility and effectiveness.  
*Acts 13:13-15*
12. Bible-based ministry. *Acts 13:16-41*
13. The Gospel (Good News of Jesus Christ) would go forth.  
*Acts 13: 31, 32, 38, 39*
14. Responsive people. *Acts 13:42-46*
15. Boldness. *Acts 13:46; 14:3*
16. Withstand persecutions. *Acts 13:50, 51; 14:19, 20, 22*
17. Meet the needs of people. *Acts 14:8-10*
18. Humility and give God the glory. *Acts 13:48; Acts 14:11-18*
19. Make disciples. *Acts 14:21*
20. Plant and strengthen churches. *Acts 14:21-23*
21. Train and appoint indigenous leadership. *Acts 14:23*
22. Prayer, fasting and spiritual disciplines. *Acts 14:23*
23. Continue in God's grace and be blessed. *Acts 14:26*
24. Accomplish goals and complete tasks. *Acts 14:26*
25. Celebrate the victories. *Acts 14:26*
26. Keep up communication. *Acts 14:27*
27. Long term commitments. *Acts 14:28*
28. Be filled with joy and the Holy Spirit. *Acts 13:52*
29. To make the most of every opportunity. *Acts 13:15*
30. To be culturally relevant. *Acts 13:26*

## Study Help Eighteen

### Daily Prayer Principles

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1. Learn the names of God and use them in prayer!
2. Remember who you are and to whom you are speaking!
3. Bless God and others through prayer!
4. As you pray tell God how great He is!
5. Ask God for spiritual growth for yourself and others!
6. Ask God for wisdom for yourself and others!
7. Ask God to hear your prayer and to forgive your sins!
8. Ask God to turn your heart in full commitment to Him!
9. Where are your tears? Ask God for a tender heart!
10. Be a grateful saint! Give thanks to God!
11. Ask God to make you a willing, cheerful and generous giver!
12. Pray for spiritual power and His glory in your church!
13. Admit your sin and pray for moral purity!
14. Ask God to break your heart over the things that break His!
15. God keeps His covenants and so should you!
16. Repent and do the things you did at first! Revelation 2:5
17. Establish set times to pray and pray spontaneously!
18. Pray in the plural! Use we, us, our and ours!
19. Pray the virtues of Scripture!
20. Pray for revival!

Study Help Eighteen continued...  
Daily Prayer Principles

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21. Memorize and pray Scripture!
22. Be honest with God and agree with Scripture!
23. God hears, sees, knows and rewards! Pray like it!
24. Make more spiritual than material requests!
25. Fast and pray!
26. Pray and live to please God!
27. Pray like Jesus!
28. Make prayer a priority! First things first!
29. Pray for great boldness to speak God's Word!
30. Be persistent in prayer! Pray without ceasing!
31. Watch and pray! Be vigilant! Pray for one hour!
32. In humility seek God and adjust your life to Him!
33. Pray aggressively! Pray for Kingdom growth!
34. Engage in spiritual warfare! Pray for victory!
35. Ask God for pure motives!
36. Say and pray, "Lord willing," "Your will be done!"
37. Pray believing! Ask God for great things!
38. Agonize in prayer!
39. First things first! Pray first, fervently and frequently!
40. Maranatha! Come Lord Jesus! Pray for Christ's return!

## Study Help Nineteen

### Praying for Those Who Need Christ

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1. **Pray** in agreement with God's will.  
*2 Peter 3:9; 1 Timothy 2:4*
2. **Pray** for the Gospel message to be heard.  
*Romans 10:17*
3. **Pray** for the "spiritual blinders" to be lifted.  
*2 Corinthians 4:4*
4. **Pray** for strongholds to be broken.  
*2 Corinthians 10:4,5*
5. **Pray** for the convicting work of the Holy Spirit.  
*John 16:8-11*
6. **Pray** for God to draw the unbelieving to Jesus.  
*John 6:44*
7. **Pray** for repentance and faith.  
*Mark 1:15*
8. **Pray** for receptiveness to the Gospel.  
*Matthew 13:23*
9. **Pray** for your witness.  
*Acts 4:29; 1 Peter 2:12; 1 Peter 3:15*
10. **Pray** for the church, evangelism, church planting and missionary enterprises.  
*Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:8*

## Study Help Twenty

### How to Pray for Revival

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“When I shut up the heavens so that there is not rain, or command locusts to devour the land or send a plague among my people, if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.” 2 Chronicles 7:13, 14

#### **The Posture of Prayer**

#### **Humility**

*If my people will humble themselves*

“For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.” Luke 14:11

#### **The Petition of Prayer**

#### **Ask God for Revival**

*And pray*

“Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.

Epaphras, who is one of you and a servant of Christ Jesus, sends greetings. He is always wrestling in prayer for you, that you may stand firm in all the will of God, mature and fully assured.” Colossians 4:2, 12

#### **The Pursuit of Prayer**

#### **God Alone**

*And seek My face*

“Such is the generation of those who seek him, who seek your face, O God of Jacob.” Psalm 24:6

#### **The Pivoting of Prayer**

#### **Repentance**

*And turn from their wicked ways*

“He who conceals his sin does not prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy.” Proverbs 28:13

“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.” 1 John 1:9

From *How to Pray for Revival*, Toby Snowden, sermon archives,  
[www.highpointe.org](http://www.highpointe.org).

## Study Help Twenty-One

### Fasting and Praying - Isaiah 58

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**Disciple's Fast** - "To loose the bonds of wickedness." *Isaiah 58:6*

Purpose-Freeing others and us from addictions to sin.

Key Verse - *Matthew 17:21*

**Ezra Fast** - "To undo the heavy burdens." *Isaiah 58:6*

Purpose-To solve problems and overcome barriers.

Key Verse: *Ezra 8:23*

**Samuel Fast** - "To let the oppressed go free" *Isaiah 58:6*

Purpose-For revival and soul winning. Key Verse - *1 Samuel 7:6*

**Elijah Fast** - "To break every yoke." *Isaiah 58:6*

Purpose-To conquer mental and emotional problems.

Key Verses - *1 Kings 19:4,8*

**Widow's Fast** - "To share our bread with the hungry" *Isaiah 58:7*

Purpose-To meet humanitarian needs of others.

Key Verse - *1 Kings 17:16*

**Saint Paul Fast** - "Light to break forth like the morning" *Isaiah 58:8*

Purpose-Bringing insight and clarity for crucial decisions.

Key Verse - *Acts 9:9*

**Daniel Fast** - "Thine health shall spring forth" *Isaiah 58:8*

Purpose-For a healthier life or healing.

Key Verse - *Daniel 1:8*

**John the Baptist Fast** - "Your righteousness shall go before you." *Isaiah 58:8*

*Isaiah 58:8*

Purpose-To enhance testimony and influence.

Key Verse - *Luke 1:15*

**Esther Fast** - "the glory of the Lord will protect us." *Isaiah 58:8*

Purpose-Challenge, victory, and breakthrough.

Key Verses - *Esther 4:16; 5:2*

Taken from *Fasting for Spiritual Breakthrough: A Guide to Nine Biblical Fasts*, Elmer L. Towns, Regal Books, 1996, pp.20-23.

## Study Help Twenty-Two

### Praying the Virtues of Scripture

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There are numerous examples in the Bible where God's people prayed Scripture back to God, i.e. *Acts 4:25, 26*. I recommend that you begin to pray the virtues of the Bible into your life and into the lives of others. By doing so it is tantamount to asking God to make you more like Jesus. Familiarize yourself with the Scriptures below and begin to pray them into your life and the life of others.

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Matthew 5:3-12	The Beatitudes
Acts 6:3-5	Full of Faith, Holy Spirit and Wisdom
1 Corinthians 13:4-8	The Love Chapter, Love's Virtues
Romans 5:3-5	Suffering, Perseverance, Character and Hope
Ephesians 4:32	Kind, Compassionate and Forgiving
Colossians 1:9-11	Wisdom, Courage and Perseverance
James 3:17, 18	Heavenly Wisdom
1 Timothy 6:11	"The Man of God"
2 Peter 1:5-9	Prayer for Effectiveness

---

You can pray *2 Peter 1:5-9* like this. "Lord, please give me increase and growth in faith, goodness, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, brotherly kindness and love. Lord, in so doing please keep me from being unfruitful and unproductive in my life in Jesus Christ. Amen.

Pray these virtues into your life and the lives of others.

## Study Help Twenty-Three

### Seven-Fold Plan for Bible Study

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1. **Appreciation** - Grasp the nature, quality and significance.

*Love It* - Have a deep love and respect for the Word of God.  
Psalm 119:159... I love your precepts...

2. **Investigation** - Observe, cross-examine, and inquire.

*See It* - The ability to notice all key factors in a Bible text.  
Proverbs 24:30-34...I learned a lesson from what I saw.

3. **Explanation** - Tell the meaning, understand & make plain.

*Say it* - Paraphrase-put the meaning in your own words.  
Nehemiah 8:8...make clear and give the meaning.

4. **Connection** - To show a relationship.

*Know It* - Locate others references that correlate to the text.  
*The best commentary on the Bible is the Bible!*

5. **Meditation** - To contemplate, reflect upon, and consider.

*Ponder It* - Think deeply and consider seriously God's Word.  
Psalm 1:2...delight in and meditate upon God's Word.

6. **Implementation** - Put to use for some practical purpose.

*Do It* - Specific, simple, singular, measurable, helpful response.  
James 1:22...don't just listen, do what it says.

7. **Memorization** - To bring to mind what has been learned.

*Recall It* - Spend time committing God's Word to mind & heart.  
Psalm 119:11...I have hidden your word in my heart.

Study Help Twenty-Four  
 “In Him” Scriptural References

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<b>Verse Reference</b>	<b>Phrase</b>	<b>Context</b>
Romans 4:24	Believe in Him	4:16-24
Romans 10:14	Believe in Him	10:14-18
Romans 15:12	In Him we have Hope	15:7-13
2 Corinthians 1:19,20	In Him “Yes & Amen”	1:15-22
2 Corinthians 5:21	Righteousness of God	5:17-21
2 Corinthians 13:4	Power of God	13:1-4
Ephesians 1:4-13	Chosen, Redeemed, Predestined	1:1-14
Ephesians 3:12	Boldness, Access, Confidence	3:8-13
Philippians 1:29	Believe & Suffer	1:27-30
Philippians 3:9	Righteousness from God	3:7-11
Colossians 1:17,19	All Things Consist	1:9-20
Colossians 2:6-11	Walk, Established Consist Fullness of God	2:6-15
2 Thessalonians 1:12	Jesus Christ Glorified in You	1:11, 12

## Study Help Twenty-Five

### Biblical Meditation

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*But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and in His law he meditates day and night.*  
*Psalm 1:2. See Joshua 1:8.*

The word here for meditate is *hagah*, to murmur or ponder.

*Meditate on these things; give yourselves entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all. 1 Timothy 4:15 NKJV*

The word meditate is *meletao*, take care of, revolve in the mind.

Biblical meditation is a spiritual pursuit and discipline for spiritual growth, formation and transformation. It is *not* some kind of mystical, empty headed, palms up, New Age endeavor. It is pondering, reflecting and seriously considering the things of God in order that you may better implement and adjust to God, God's Will and God's Word.

Meditate on:

1. God-*"Consider Him,"* Hebrews 12:3
2. Scripture-*"in His law he meditates day and night."* Psalm 1:2
3. Creation-*"when I consider your heavens."* Psalm 8:3
4. Bible Directives-this is meditating on the things the Scripture tells us to. *"look at the birds, the lilies"* Matthew 6:26, 28
5. Virtues-*"whatever is true, noble, right, pure, lovely, admirable, excellent, praiseworthy, think about such things."*  
Philippians 4:8
6. Events & Experiences-*"men of Issachar, who understood the times and knew what Israel should do."* 1 Chronicles 12:32
7. Implementation-*"Do not merely listen to the Word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says."* James 1:22

Study Help Twenty-Six  
Hiding God's Word in Your Heart  
Memorization

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The disciples asked Jesus, “Lord increase our faith,” and without faith it is impossible to please God. The resources of faith are the Word of God (the Bible), prayer, and service. The practice of the disciplines of the Christian life can be linked to and flow from these three powerful resources. One of the areas of discipline is that of Scripture memory. To grow and increase as a committed follower of Jesus Christ you must hide God’s Word in your heart.

1. Consider Jesus. Read *Matthew 4:1-11*. Jesus practiced Scripture memory.
2. “I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you” (*Psalms 119:11*).
3. Make a commitment. Determine to make Scripture memory a part of your life.
4. Have a system. You may use cards, a notebook, a computer, or whatever system works for you. Your system should provide a functional plan.
5. Start simply. Start with single verses. Move from that point to multiple verses and passages of Scripture. “All Scripture is profitable,” but begin with that “special” verse that you have always wanted to put to memory. Advance from that point.
6. Give time to your verse every day for six days, several times a day. Review the verse one day a week for six weeks. Then review the verse every six weeks. Review the old as you add the new.
7. Hide God’s Word in your heart, not just in your head. Ponder and apply what you memorize.

Study Help Twenty-Seven  
Seven Realities of the Churches of the Revelation

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<b>Ephesus</b>	Revelation 2:1-7	The Loveless Church
<b>Smyrna</b>	Revelation 2:8-11	The Living Church
<b>Pergamum</b>	Revelation 2:12-17	The Lawless Church
<b>Thyatira</b>	Revelation 2:18-29	The Licentious Church
<b>Sardis</b>	Revelation 3:1-6	The Lifeless Church
<b>Philadelphia</b>	Revelation 3:7-13	The Loved Church
<b>Laodicea</b>	Revelation 3:14-22	The Lukewarm Church

---

1. Christ knows the truth about and speaks the truth to His churches and the message is still, “The Word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ.”
2. The vast majority of churches are in need of spiritual remedy and all are in need of spiritual vitality.
3. Repentance is still the spiritual remedy.
4. Persecution works to purify the churches.
5. Churches can be deceived concerning their true spiritual condition (Revelation 3:17).
6. Christ rebukes and chastens those He loves (Revelation 3:19).
7. All true believers overcome and possess precious promises and await glorious rewards (1 John 2:12-14; Revelation 12:11).

## Study Help Twenty-Eight

### Areas of Submission in the New Testament

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The word *submit* in the New Testament is the Greek word *hupotasso*. The prefix *hupo* means under, and the word *tasso* means to arrange. Submission in the New Testament means to arrange in an orderly fashion under the authority of another.

Another word used in this context means to hear under and is often translated to obey.

To be a committed follower of Jesus Christ you must submit to His Lordship. Also, you must submit to all areas that the New Testament instructs. Note well the eight areas of submission in the New Testament.

1. Submit to God  
James 4:7; Hebrews 12:9
2. Submit to Government  
Romans 13:5; 1 Peter 2:13
3. Wives to their own husbands  
Ephesians 5:22, 24; Colossians 3:18
4. Children to their parents  
Ephesians 6:1; Colossians 3:20
5. Employees to employers  
Ephesians 6:5; Colossians 3:22; 1 Peter 2:18  
(Slaves to masters)
6. Mutual submission within the Church  
Ephesians 5:21; 1 Corinthians 16:16
7. Submit to spiritual leaders  
Hebrews 13:7, 17, 24
8. Younger to the older  
1 Peter 5:5

Study Help Twenty-Nine  
Faith is Believing (John 3:16)

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2 Chronicles 20:20	Believe God and his prophets
Mark 1:15	Repent and believe the gospel
Mark 5:36	Don't be afraid, just believe
Mark 9:24	I believe, help me overcome my unbelief
Luke 8:12	Believe and be saved
Luke 24:25	How foolish you are and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken
John 1:12	To those who believed on his name he gave the right to become the children of God
Acts 16:31	Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved-you and your household
Hebrews 11:6	Without faith it is impossible to please God! You must believe that God exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him
1 John 5:13	I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life!

Study Help Thirty  
“One Another’s” of the New Testament

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In the “One Another” statements of the New Testament are found a beautiful description of how we are to treat our brothers and sisters in Christ.

<b>LOVE</b>	John 13:34
<b>BE DEVOTED</b>	Romans 12:10
<b>HONOR</b>	Romans 12:10
<b>LIVE IN HARMONY</b>	Romans 12:16
<b>STOP JUDGING</b>	Romans 14:13
<b>ACCEPT</b>	Romans 15:7
<b>INSTRUCT</b>	Romans 15:14
<b>GREET</b>	Romans 16:16
<b>AGREE WITH</b>	1 Corinthians 1:10
<b>SERVE</b>	Galatians 5:13
<b>BEAR BURDENS</b>	Galatians 6:2
<b>BEAR WITH</b>	Ephesians 4:2
<b>FORGIVE</b>	Ephesians 4:32
<b>BE KIND &amp; TENDER</b>	Ephesians 4:32
<b>SPEAK IN SONG</b>	Ephesians 5:19
<b>SUBMIT</b>	Ephesians 5:21
<b>TEACH &amp; ADMONISH</b>	Colossians 3:16
<b>ENCOURAGE</b>	1 Thessalonians 5:11
<b>SPUR ON</b>	Hebrews 10:24
<b>DO NOT SLANDER</b>	James 4:11
<b>PRAY FOR</b>	James 5:16
<b>OFFER HOSPITALITY</b>	1 Peter 4:9
<b>DO NOT GRUMBLE</b>	1 Peter 4:9
<b>BE HUMBLE</b>	1 Peter 5:5
<b>FELLOWSHIP WITH</b>	John 1:7

Commit Ephesians 4:32 to memory. Think of specific people and measurable ways whereby you can apply this verse of Scripture.

## Study Help Thirty-One

### Leaven in the New Testament

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Many times, in the Scriptures leaven is used to represent sin. When the children of Israel are instructed regarding the institution of the Passover they are told to remove the leaven from their houses.

*There are five distinct references to leaven as sin in the New Testament.*

#### **1. THE LEAVEN OF THE PHARISEES - *Hypocrisy***

“Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees which is hypocrisy.” *Luke 12:1 - NKJ*

#### **2. THE LEAVEN OF THE SADDUCEES - *Rationalism***

“Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees.” *Matthew 16:11 - NKJ*

The Sadducees did not believe in the resurrection.  
*Matthew 22:23.*

#### **3. THE LEAVEN OF HEROD - *Pride***

“Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and the leaven of Herod.”  
*Mark 8:15 - NKJ*

Herod was more concerned with looking good than doing what was right. *Matthew 14:1-12.*

#### **4. THE LEAVEN OF THE CORINTHIANS - *Immorality***

“Purge out the old leaven.”  
*1 Corinthians 5:7*  
*1 Corinthians 5:1-8*

#### **5. THE LEAVEN OF THE GALATIANS - *Legalism***

“A little leaven leavens the whole lump.”  
*Galatians 5:9 - NKJ*  
*Galatians 5:1-15*

Study Help Thirty-Two  
The “I Am” Statements of Jesus  
In the Gospel According to John

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I am He	John 4:26 (Messiah Claim)
I am the Bread of Life	John 6:35, 41, 48, & 51
I am the Light of the World	John 8:12; 9:5
Before Abraham was, I am	John 8:58
I am the Door/Gate for the Sheep	John 10:7, 9
I am the Good Shepherd	John 10:11, 14
I am the Resurrection and the Life	John 11:25
I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life	John 14:6
I am the True Vine	John 15:1, 5

Study Help Thirty-Three  
The “I Am” Statements of Jesus  
In the Book of the Revelation

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I am the Alpha and Omega The Beginning and the End The First and the Last	Revelation 1:8, 17; 2:8; 21:6; 22:13
I am the Almighty	Revelation 1:8
I am the Lord Who Is, Who Was, And Who Is to Come; He Who Lives, Was Dead, and Behold I am Alive Evermore	Revelation 1:8, 18
I am He Who Searches the Hearts and Minds	Revelation 2:23
I am the Root and Offspring of David	Revelation 22:16
I am the Bright and Morning Star	Revelation 22:16
I am Coming Quickly/Soon	Revelation 3:11; 22: 7, 12, 20

Study Help Thirty-Four  
Five Keys to Kingdom Work

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1. **Win the Lost** –

*He that wins souls is wise.* Proverbs 11:30

It has been called every Christians job. It is the work of evangelism. We are to fish for people, Mark 1:17

2. **Make Disciples** –

The Great Commission commands us to make disciples of all peoples. Committed Followers!

Matthew 28:19-20

3. **Train Leaders** –

The job of the leader is to train leaders.

We must train leaders for Kingdom work.

Ephesians 4:11,12; 2 Timothy 2:22; 1 Timothy 4:7,8

4. **Plant Churches** –

(See the church planting ministry of Paul- Acts 13-21).

New churches grow faster and baptize more people than established churches. New builds momentum.

5. **Send Missionaries** –

It is the job of the church to send missionaries to needy areas to carry on all these keys of ministry. John 20:21; Acts 13:1-3; Romans 10:15

## Study Help Thirty-Five

### Directions for Singing by John Wesley

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Learn these tunes before you learn any others, afterwards learn as many as you please.

Sing them exactly as they are printed here, without altering or mending them at all; and if you have learned to sing them otherwise, unlearn it as soon as you can.

Sing all. See that you join with the congregation as frequently as you can. Let not a slight degree of weakness or weariness hinder you. If it is a cross to you, take it up, and you will find it to be a blessing.

Sing lustily and with good courage. Beware of singing as if you were half dead or half asleep; but lift up your voice with strength. Be no more ashamed of its being heard, than when you sung the songs of Satan.

Sing modestly. Do not bawl, so as to be heard above or distinct from the rest of the congregation, that you may not destroy the harmony; but strive to unite your voices together, so as to make one clear melodious sound

Sing in time. Whatever time is sung be sure to keep with it. Do not run before nor stay behind it; but attend close to the leading voices and move therewith as exactly as you can; and take care not to sing too slow. This drawling way naturally steals on all who are lazy; and it is high time to drive it out from us and sing all our tunes just as we did at first.

Above all sing spiritually. Have an eye to God in every word you sing. Aim at pleasing Him more than yourself, or any other creature. In order to do this, attend strictly to the sense of what you sing, and see that your heart is not carried away with the sound, but offered to God continually; so, shall your singing be such as the Lord will approve here, and reward you when He cometh in the clouds of heaven. John Wesley's *Select Hymns* 1761

Study Help Thirty-Six  
The Elements of Influence

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## The Elements of Influence

**I** Me, Myself & I Who are you? Who is the authentic you?  
"I AM" Jesus said." Mark 14:62  
"I am crucified with Christ." Galatians 2:20

**N** Network - Expand, strengthen and utilize your network.  
"I was cupbearer for the King." Nehemiah 1:11

**F** Friend - Be a friend of God and others  
"Abraham... was called the friend of God." James 2:23  
"A man who has friends must himself be friendly, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother." Proverbs 18:24

**L** Learn - Learn "from" and learn "of" others.  
Be an attentive, active, empathetic observer and listener.  
"Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls." Matthew 11:29

**U** Under - Willing, glad, appropriate submission.  
"Lead, follow or get out of the way."  
"I too am a man under authority." Matthew 8:9

**E** Encourage - Bless and bolster others.  
Encourage...to put courage in.  
"Let us encourage one another." Hebrews 10:24,25

**N** New - Be open, flexible and willing to change.  
"Always make new mistakes" Esther Dyson  
"Anyone in Christ is a new creation." 2 Corinthians 5:17

**C** Consider others and cooperate -  
Curious, interested, concerned.  
"Consider others better than yourselves." Philippians 2:3

**E** Energy - Have the strength and vitality for the task.  
"He has given us a spirit of power." 2 Timothy 1:7

Concepts, not content, inspired by Becoming a Person of Influence, John C. Maxwell & Jim Dornan, Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1997

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## Study Help Thirty-Seven

### How to be Born Again

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“I tell you the truth no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again...you must be born again.” John 3:3, 7

How do you accept God’s gift of eternal life? You must:

1. **Believe** - You must believe that Jesus died for you and is alive today. You must also believe that Jesus is the only way for you to get to heaven.

The Bible says, “Yet to all who received him (Jesus), to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God” (John 1:12).

2. **Repent** - Understand that you sin (disobey God) and you must turn from your sin. To repent, tell God you have sinned, ask Him to forgive you and to help you obey and please Him. The Bible says, “Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out” (Acts 3:19).
3. **Receive** - You must invite Jesus to come into your life to be your Lord and Savior. By inviting Him, you are promising to obey Him in all areas of your life.

You can accept God’s gift by praying a single prayer. When you do this, God forgives and removes the sin that has separated you from Him. Then Jesus comes to live in you as Savior and Lord. You become a part of God’s family.

The Bible says, “***Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved***” (Romans 10:13).

Taken from *God’s Special Plan for Children*, North American Mission Board, 4200 North Point Pkwy., Alpharetta, GA 30022, Pages 16, 18.

## Study Help Thirty-Eight

### A Process of Spiritual Growth

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Read *John 15:1-17* to discover growth as abiding and bearing fruit

Much of Paul's letters to Timothy, 1 & 2 Timothy, are given to the sharing of spiritual principles that would help Timothy to grow and mature so that he could be a dynamic Christian leader. Below are listed a few of those principles. Learn and apply these principles and engage in this process of growth.

#### **PRAYER** - *1Timothy 2:1, 2.*

The "first of all" step in spiritual growth is prayer and praying. Be given to prayer and pray without ceasing.

#### **SERVICE & GOOD DEEDS** – *1 Timothy 2:10.*

The Bible tells us to abound in good deeds, we are ordained unto good works and that people will glorify God because of our good deeds.

#### **THE BIBLE** – *1Timothy 4:5-7.*

We should be mighty in the Word of God through reading, knowledge, memorization, meditation, study, and the spoken word.

#### **THE COMPANY YOU KEEP** – *1Timothy 6:5.*

If you want to grow spiritually spend time with the spiritually mature. Bad company corrupts good character. 1 Corinthians 15:33.

#### **PURSUE A VIRTUOUS LIFE** – *1Timothy 6:11.*

Pursue righteousness and a godly life. Ask God to change your life and to make you more like Jesus. Say no to the bad and yes to the good.

Andy Stanley describes spiritual formation with five components.

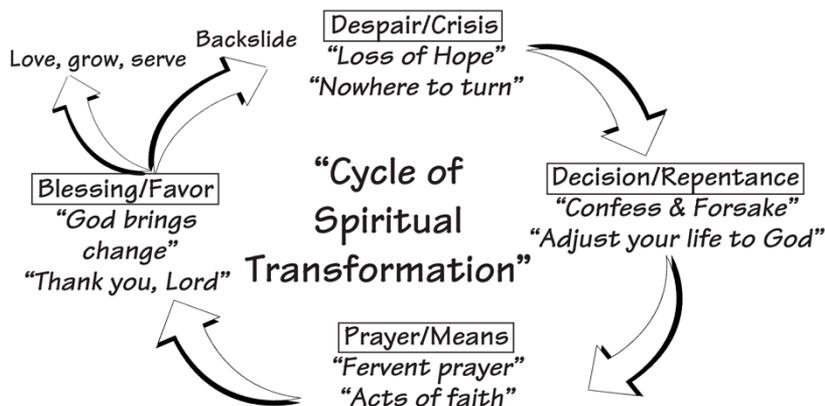
1. Practical Teaching
2. Private Disciplines
3. Personal Ministry
4. Providential Relationships
5. Pivotal Circumstances

*Deep & Wide*, Zondervan, 2012, pg. 144.

# Study Help Thirty-Nine

## Cycles of Spiritual Transformation & Decline

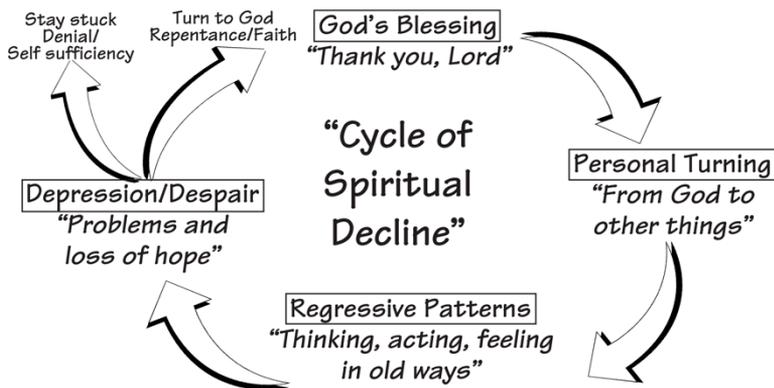
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Study Help Forty  
The “Be” Attitudes of the Parables

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THE PARABLE	THE REFERENCE	THE “BE” ATTITUDE
Hidden Lamp	Matthew 5:14-16 Mark 4:21-22 Luke 8:16-17	Be the Light
Wise Builder	Matthew 7:24-27 Luke 6:47-49	Be Wise
New Patch	Matthew 9:16 Mark 2:21 Luke 5:33	Be Flexible
New Wine	Matthew 9:17 Mark 2:22 Luke 5:37-38	Be Fresh
The Sower	Matthew 13:1-23 Mark 4:2-20 Luke 8:4-15	Be Industrious
Weeds/Tares	Matthew 13:24-30	Be Alert
Mustard Seed	Matthew 13:31-32 Mark 4:30-32 Luke 13:18-19	Be Growing
Leaven	Matthew 13:33 Luke 13:20-21	Be Influential
Hidden Treasure	Matthew 13:44	Be Seeking
Great Pearl	Matthew 13:45, 46	Be Looking

The Net	Matthew 13:47-50	Be Informed
Lost Sheep	Matthew 18:12-14 Luke 15:1-7	Be Concerned
Wicked Servant	Matthew 18:21-35	Be Forgiving
The Vineyard Workers	Matthew 20:1-16	Be Content
Two Sons	Matthew 21:28-32	Be Obedient
The Tenants	Matthew 21:33-45 Mark 12:1-12 Luke 20:9-19	Be Accepting
Wedding Feast	Matthew 22:1-14	Be Saved
Fig & All Trees	Matthew 24:32-44 Mark 13:28-32 Luke 21:29-33	Be Aware
Wise Manager	Matthew 24:45-51 Luke 12:42-48	Be Prudent
Ten Virgins	Matthew 25:1-13	Be Ready
The Talents	Matthew 25:14-30	Be Faithful
Growing Seed	Mark 4:26-29	Be Trusting
Absentee Owner	Mark 13:32-37	Be Watchful
The Debtors	Luke 7:40-43	Be Grateful
Good Samaritan	Luke 10:25-37	Be Merciful
Friend in Need	Luke 11:5-13	Be Bold
Rich Fool	Luke 12:16-21	Be Godly

Watchful Servants	Luke 12:35-40	Be Prepared
Fruitless Tree	Luke 13:6-9	Be Fruitful
Place of Honor	Luke 14:7-11	Be Humble
Great Banquet	Luke 14:15-24	Be Respectful
Cost of Discipleship	Luke 14:25-35	Be Committed
Lost Coin	Luke 15:8-10	Be Joyous
Lost Son	Luke 15:11-32	Be Forgiving
Shrewd Manager	Luke 16:1-15	Be Savvy
Rich Man & Lazarus	Luke 16:19-31	Be Evangelistic
Unworthy Servants	Luke 17:7-10	Be Dutiful
Persistent Widow	Luke 18:1-8	Be Persistent
Pharisee & Sinner	Luke 18: 9-14	Be Remorseful
The Minas	Luke 19:11-27	Be Diligent

Study Help Forty-One  
The Miracles of Jesus

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<b>THE MIRACLE</b>	<b>THE REFERENCE</b>
Man with Leprosy	Matthew 8:2-4 Mark 1:40-44 Luke 5:12-14
Centurion's Servant	Matthew 8:5-13 Luke 7:1-10
Peter's Mother-In-Law	Matthew 8:14-15 Mark 1:29-31 Luke 4:38-39
Heals Many	Matthew 8:16-17 Mark 1:32-34 Luke 4:40-41
Storm in Galilee	Matthew 8:23-27 Mark 4:35-41 Luke 8:11-25
Gadarene Demonic (Legion)	Matthew 8:28-34 Mark 5:1-20 Luke 8:26-39
Paralytic (Palsy)	Matthew 9:1-8 Mark 2:3-12 Luke 5:17-26
Jairus's Daughter	Matthew 9:18-26 Mark 5:21-43 Luke 8:40-56
Issue of Blood	Matthew 9:20-22 Mark 5:24-34 Luke 8:42-48
Blind Healed	Matthew 9:27-31
Deaf Healed	Matthew 9:32-34

Withered Hand in Synagogue on Sabbath	Matthew 12:9-14 Mark 3:1-6 Luke 6:6-11
Blind (Mute)	Matthew 12:22-23 Luke 11:14-16
Feeding the 5,000	Matthew 14:13-21 Mark 6:30-44 Luke 9:10-17 John 6:1-15
Walks on Water	Matthew 14:22-36 Mark 6:45-52 John 6:16-24
Touches Cloak Receives Healing	Matthew 14:34-36 Mark 6:53-56
Daughter of Canaanite Woman	Matthew 15:21-28 Mark 7:24-30
Many Healed	Matthew 15:29-31
Feeding of the 4,000	Matthew 15:29-39 Mark 8:1-10
Boy with Demon	Matthew 17:14-23 Mark 9:14-29
Temple Tax Fish	Matthew 17:24-27
Two Blind Men (Bartimaeus)	Matthew 20:29-34 Mark 10:46-52 Luke 18:35-43
Fig Tree Withers	Matthew 21:18-22 Mark 11:20-25
Demon Possessed in Synagogue	Mark 1:21-28 Luke 4:31-37
Deaf Mute	Mark 7:31-37
Blind Man Bethsaida	Mark 8:22-26

Walks Through Crowd	Luke 4:28-30
First Miraculous Catch	Luke 5:1-11
Son of Widow of Nain	Luke 7:11-17
Cripple Woman on Sabbath	Luke 13:10-17
Dropsy on Sabbath	Luke 14:1-6
The Ten Lepers	Luke 17:11-19
Malchus' Ear	Luke 22:49-51

Miraculous Signs in the Book of John	
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Water to Wine	John 2:1-11
Official's Son	John 4:43-54
Bethesda Pool	John 5:1-15
Feed of the 5,000	John 6:1-15
Walks on Water	John 6:16-24
Man Born Blind	John 9:1-11
Lazarus	John 11:1-57
Second Miraculous Catch	John 21:1-14

## Study Help Forty-Two Holy Spirit Power Points

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1. God has spoken
2. Spiritual power produces real love and biblical community.
3. There is power in prayer.
4. God blesses those who meditate on His word--the Bible.
5. Spiritual power reveals itself in changed lives.
6. Being born again is a spiritual birth.
7. We are baptized by the Holy Spirit into the body of Christ.
8. Having believed, you are sealed with the Holy Spirit.
9. Spiritual anointing is God's seal of ownership.
10. We know we live in Christ by the indwelling Holy Spirit.
11. We receive the Holy Spirit through faith in Jesus Christ.
12. Spiritual power requires a spiritual birth.
13. We are commanded to be filled with the Holy Spirit.
14. The power that raised Jesus from the dead is at work in us.
15. Truly spiritual people keep in step with the Holy Spirit.
16. Do not make the Holy Spirit sad by what you say or do.
17. Do not lose your spiritual passion-do not quench the Spirit.
18. Fully yield your life to the influence of the Holy Spirit.
19. Spiritual power grows with Spirit fullness & control.
20. By grace we are saved and gifted.

Study Help Forty – Two continued...  
Holy Spirit Power Points

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21. Spiritual gifts are to build up the body of Christ--the church.
22. Spiritually gifted leaders train God's people for service.
23. Spiritual gifts & gifted people are always for God's glory.
24. Members of the body must always stay connected to Christ.
25. Spiritual people use their gifts in service to Christ & church.
26. Spiritual power is expressed through spiritual gifts.
27. Spiritual people possess and manifest the fruit of the Spirit.
28. Spiritual living is virtuous living.
29. The Holy Spirit provides heavenly wisdom and graces.
30. All that matters is faith that works itself out through love.
31. Kingdom living is gracious, virtuous, fruitful living.
32. Spiritual power is seen in patience and perseverance.
33. Spiritual power produces spiritual fruit.
34. Spiritual people fulfill the law of Christ.
35. Being full of faith and wisdom displays spiritual power.
36. Being open to challenge is an opportunity to change.
37. The greatest among us is servant of all.
38. Jesus suffered, died and rose that we might be saved.
39. The power that raised Jesus from the dead is at work in us.
40. Spiritual power results in spiritual transformation.

## Study Help Forty-Three

### Key Thought- Spiritual Insights

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1. Acts 1:1-26 This Same Jesus
2. Acts 2:1-41 Pentecostal Power
3. Acts 2:42-47 Doing Life Together
4. Acts 3:1-26 Wonder And Amazement
5. Acts 4:1-31 By What Power ?
6. Acts 4:32-37 Enter His Rest
7. Psalm 1:1-2 Delight in His Word
8. Acts 5:1-16 Great Fear
9. Acts 5:17-42 We Must Obey God
10. Acts 6:1-7 Prayer And The Word of God
11. Acts 6:8-7:53 Full of Grace and Power
12. Acts 7:54-8:3 The Son of Man Standing
13. Acts 8:4-40 Great Joy in that City
14. Hebrews 12:3 Consider Him
15. Acts 9:1-43 Who Are You Lord ?
16. Acts 10:1-48 Prayers Heard Gifts Remembered
17. Acts 11:1-30 Full of the Holy Spirit and Faith
18. Acts 12:1-25 Continued Increased & Spread
19. Acts 13:1-12 The Holy Spirit Said
20. Acts 13:13-52 Forgiveness of Sins is Proclaimed
21. Psalm 8:3 When I Consider
22. Acts 14:1-28 God Opened the Door
23. Acts 15:1-35 The Whole Church Decided
24. Acts 15:36-16:10 We Got Ready At Once
25. Acts 16:11-40 Praying And Singing Hymns
26. Acts 17:1-34 The Marketplace Day by Day

Study Help Forty-Three continued  
Key Thought – Spiritual Insights

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27. Acts 18:1-28 | Will Go To The Gentiles
28. Philippians 4:8 Think On These Things
29. Acts 19:1-41 The Name Of The Lord Was Held In Honor
30. Acts 20:1-12 Encouragement And Comfort
31. Acts 20:13-38 Tears And Hard Work
32. Acts 21:1-36 Urged By The Spirit
33. Acts 21:37-22:29 Paul Gave His Defense
34. Acts 22:30-23:25 470 Soldiers
35. James 1:22 Doers Of The Word
36. Acts 23:26-24:27 Follower Of The Way
37. Acts 25:1-22 | Appeal To Caesar
38. Acts 25:23-26:32 Do You Believe ?
39. Acts 27:1-44 All Will Be Spared
40. Acts 28:1-31 Explain Declare Convince Preach Teach
41. This Same Jesus
42. Christ Died for Our Sins
43. Reflection – Jesus' Death, Burial And Resurrection
44. Easter Resurrection Sunday  
He is Risen, He is Risen Indeed!  
Maranatha! Even So Come Quickly Lord Jesus!

## Study Help Forty-Four

### Where to go from here?

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“So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.”

Colossians 2:6, 7

Hopefully, during these forty days you have been challenged and stimulated spiritually. What you have put into practice during these days continue and build upon. May the Lord do a powerful work in you that He might do a powerful work through you.

1. Continue in daily study, journaling, and disciplines.
2. Witness for Jesus Christ (Acts 1:8; 4:29).
3. Submit to God fully, gladly, and obediently.
4. Seek to be reconciled in all broken relationships.
5. Fan into flame your gift and fulfill your ministry (2 Timothy 1:6; Colossians 3:17).
6. Be a prayer-warrior, wrestle in prayer (Colossians 4:12).
7. Walk in accountability and fellowship in the local church. Walk in a healthy balance of grace and truth (John 1:17).
8. Ask God to increase your faith (Luke 17:5).
9. Be a faithful and fruitful steward. Don't just spend. Invest in Kingdom work (Matthew 25:23; Colossians 1:10).
10. Matthew 22:36-40! Matthew 28:18-20!  
Love God, Love People, Make Disciples.

*What is the love of Christ compelling you to do?*

**See “Resources for Reference” on page 149.**

Study Help Forty-Five  
Evaluating Your Spiritual Health

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1. Do You Thirst for God?
2. Are You Governed Increasingly by God's Word?
3. Are You More Loving?
4. Are You More Sensitive to God's Presence?
5. Do You Have a Growing Concern for the Spiritual and Temporal Needs of Others?
6. Do You Delight in the Bride of Jesus Christ?
7. Are the Spiritual Disciplines Increasingly Important to You?
8. Do You Still Grieve over Sin?
9. Are You a Quicker Forgiver?
10. Do You Yearn for Heaven and to be with Jesus?

Taken from *Ten Questions to Diagnose Your Spiritual Health*  
Donald S. Whitney, NavPress, Colorado Springs, CO 2001.

## *Digging Deeper - Session One*

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Day One

**Acts 1:1-26**

### **Ice Breaker Activity: *First Things First – Open With Prayer***

In this passage of Scripture we are told that there was an occasion when Jesus was eating with His disciples. One source states that in the ancient middle-east well-to-do Romans might eat four meals a day while most Jews would eat two. Share with the group which is your favorite meal of the day and why.

In Acts 1:1 Dr. Luke refers to his former book, see Luke 1:1-4. Read aloud Luke 24:36-53. Discuss how this passage makes a good background text for the study of the Book of Acts.

Luke stresses the importance of the heart and mind, see Luke 24:31, 32, 38, 45. Share in your group the importance of both the heart and mind in being a Jesus follower.

Acts 1:3 references a 40 Day experience of Jesus. Read individually about His first recorded 40 Day experience, Matthew 4:1-11. Share your observations with the group.

Read aloud Acts 1:6-8. Talk about what the disciples wanted to know and how it is that Jesus answered them. Be sure and note the promise of Acts 1:8.

Read aloud Acts 1:9-11. As a key thought and spiritual insight - share within your group your main takeaway from Acts 1:1-26. Note that Acts 1:26 is the last recorded instance where casting lots was used to discern God's will.

## *Digging Deeper - Session Two*

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Day Eight

**Acts 5:1-16**

### **Ice Breaker Activity: *First Things First – Open With Prayer***

1 Corinthians 16:14 states, “Do everything in love”. Share how and why love is an excellent motivator and a few practical ways that love can be given and received.

This Digging Deeper lesson depends heavily on Step Four of the Seven Fold Bible Study Plan – *Connection*. Context is very important in Bible study and we should always remember that *the best commentary on the Bible is the Bible*. The background for today’s lesson relies heavily on the understanding of life in the early church. Read individually and silently Acts 2:42-47. Next have the passage read aloud. See how many observations the group can discover regarding life in the early church.

Taking a similar approach to Acts 4:32-37. Again, see how many observations you can discover about life in the early church. Also, note who is mentioned in Acts 4:36-37 and what is said of him.

Read aloud the account of Ananias and Sapphira as recorded in Acts 5:1-11. Discuss possible motivations for their actions and the results that followed.

Divide into two groups and have one groups take 2 Corinthians 8 and the other 2 Corinthians 9. Read individually and silently. Report what can be learned about attitudes in giving and living from these chapters.

Want a “great” church? Read aloud Acts 4:33,34; & Acts 5:5,11. Look for the words great or much. What was great or much in the early church?

Key Thought-Spiritual Insight – Share with the group your main takeaway from this passage and close your time in prayer

**Ice Breaker Activity: *First Things First – Open With Prayer***

I have many fond memories of childhood and adolescent years. Share with the group a favorite memory while growing up and what made it special.

Acts 9:1-31 recounts the conversion and call to ministry of Saul of Tarsus whom we will refer to as Paul. Take this story in the sections provided below and draw from them spiritual insights and applications for us today.

Read aloud Acts 9:1-9. Share your observations and what can be learned from this passage. (Don't miss Paul's response in verse five).

Read aloud Acts 9:10-19. Share your observations and what can be learned from this passage. (Is it interesting that God's call on his life is revealed to someone before Paul, see verses 15,16)?

Read aloud Acts 9:20-31 and what can be learned from this passage. (See verse 20 for what Paul did immediately and verse 27 to see who advocated for Paul in Jerusalem).

This passage of Scripture stresses the importance of both a real conversion or salvation experience and the significance and personal nature of God's call upon our lives (every day of this 40 Day experience the question is asked "Dear Lord, what do you have in mind?") Discuss the reality and importance of both conversion and call. Also, share how helpful it can be to have an advocate when we face adversity.

**Key Thought-Spiritual Insight –** Share with the group your main takeaway from this passage and close your time in prayer.

**Ice Breaker Activity: *First Things First - Open With Prayer***

I have a friend that says “It’s never too far to drive for good BBQ!” Share with the group a kind of food or a particular restaurant that you don’t mind driving some distance to enjoy.

Read aloud the account recorded in Acts 11:19-26 to see how Barnabas and then Paul wound up in Antioch. Discuss the difference between being sent and being found. Might we need to work on being more open to both? Also please notice and discuss what they did while there.

Read aloud Acts 13:1-3. Share what spiritual dynamics can be learned from this passage. As an example these could be things such as spiritual leadership, worship, fasting, prayer, sensitivity to the Holy Spirit, etc.

Divide into two groups. One group take Acts 14:1-7 and the other Acts 14:8-20. Have each group explain what can be learned about facing adversity and continuing the work of the Kingdom. Persistence and perseverance are marvelous Christian virtues.

Read aloud Acts 14:21-28. Discover and discuss some of the dynamics of Christian service that can be learned. Also, note how they returned and reported all that God had done to their sending church in Antioch.

**Key Thought-Spiritual Insight** – Share with the group your main takeaway from this passage and close your time in prayer.

## *Digging Deeper - Session Five*

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Day Twenty-Nine

**Acts 19:1-41**

### **Ice Breaker Activity: *First Things First – Open With Prayer***

Share with the group a favorite destination that you have visited and would like to visit again as well as one you have yet to visit but would like to and why.

Read aloud Acts 15:36-41. Paul and Barnabas had such a sharp disagreement that they parted company but the work went on. Any lessons to be learned here?

Read aloud Acts 16:22-31. Be sure and note the activity of Paul and Silas in verse 25. Also see the request of the Philippian jailer and the response in verses 30, 31. Has or should the question or the message change?

Regarding the work in Thessalonica read aloud Acts 17:2-4. Read Acts 17:6 from the King James translation. What lessons might be learned regarding our work currently from these verses.

Read about Priscilla, Aquila and Apollos in Acts 18:23-28. Note carefully verse 24. What might you like said of you and your walk with the Lord. Read aloud verse 26 from several translations. Seek to paraphrase “teach the way of God more perfectly.” How might we do a better job here?

Read aloud Acts 19:8-10 and Acts 19:17-20. Discuss both flexibility and life change as seen in these verses. Consider adding these to your prayer list.

Key Thought-Spiritual Insight – Share with the group your main takeaway from this passage and close your time in prayer.

## *Digging Deeper - Session Six*

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Day Thirty-Six – Palm Sunday

**Acts 24:1-27**

### **Ice Breaker Activity: *First Things First – Open With Prayer***

It is your birthday. Happy Birthday! Tell the group what kind of cake you select when asked what kind you want or is it some other dessert item. Also feel free to share any memories that might go along.

Today is Palm Sunday. The beginning of what is known as Holy Week. The Triumphal Entry of Jesus into Jerusalem is recorded in Matthew 21:1-11; Mark 11:1-11; Luke 19:29-38; John 12:12-15. These passages are for personal study on your own during this Holy Week.

The Apostle Paul is facing several trials. Acts 23-before the Sanhedrin; Acts 24-before Felix (see why Paul was kept in prison Acts 24:26, 27); Acts 25-before Festus; and Acts 26-before Agrippa.

Paul gets converted and receives his ministry call in Acts 9 and recounts that experience in Acts 22 and Acts 26. Using the paradigm below learn how Paul shared his testimony and how it might assist you in yours.

Acts 26:1-11 Life before Christ

Acts 26:12-14 Awareness of God at work

Acts 26:15-18 His conversion experience

Acts 26:19-23 The difference Jesus has made

Acts 26:24-31 A personal invitation for others to accept Jesus

Key Thought-Spiritual Insight – Share with the groups your main takeaway from this passage and close your time in prayer.

*Digging Deeper – Session Seven*

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Day Forty-Three

Easter Resurrection Sunday

*He is Risen! He is Risen Indeed!*

Luke 24 & Acts 1

**Ice Breaker Activity: *First Things First – Open With Prayer***

I have very fond memories of Easter Sunday Dinner. What a special time of gladness, warm fellowship, meaningful blessing and delicious food. Share with the group some “Easter Memories” that warm your heart. Be sure and share some of the traditions and food items that helped make it special.

Have individuals/small groups take an assigned passage below and through these Scripture portions tell the story of Easter Resurrection.

Matthew 28:1-10; Mark 16:1-8; Luke 24:1-12; John 20:1-18  
The Resurrection-

Luke 24:13-35 – The Emmaus Road-

John 21:15-25 – The Reinstatement of Peter

Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15; Luke 24:46-47; John 20:21 –  
Commissioning Statements of Jesus

Christ Is Risen – He Is Risen Indeed!

# 40 Days of Passion Schedule 2026

Day #	Day	Date			Comments
<b>Day 1</b>	Sunday	February	22	2026	<b>Week 1</b>
Day 2	Monday	February	23	2026	
Day 3	Tuesday	February	24	2026	
Day 4	Wednesday	February	25	2026	
Day 5	Thursday	February	26	2026	
Day 6	Friday	February	27	2026	
Day 7	Saturday	February	28	2026	
<b>Day 8</b>	Sunday	March	1	2026	<b>Week 2</b>
Day 9	Monday	March	2	2026	
Day 10	Tuesday	March	3	2026	
Day 11	Wednesday	March	4	2026	
Day 12	Thursday	March	5	2026	
Day 13	Friday	March	6	2026	
Day 14	Saturday	March	7	2026	
<b>Day 15</b>	Sunday	March	8	2026	<b>Week 3</b>
Day 16	Monday	March	9	2026	
Day 17	Tuesday	March	10	2026	
Day 18	Wednesday	March	11	2026	
Day 19	Thursday	March	12	2026	
Day 20	Friday	March	13	2026	
Day 21	Saturday	March	14	2026	
<b>Day 22</b>	Sunday	March	15	2026	<b>Week 4</b>
Day 23	Monday	March	16	2026	
Day 24	Tuesday	March	17	2026	
Day 25	Wednesday	March	18	2026	
Day 26	Thursday	March	19	2026	
Day 27	Friday	March	20	2026	
Day 28	Saturday	March	21	2026	
<b>Day 29</b>	Sunday	March	22	2026	<b>Week 5</b>
Day 30	Monday	March	23	2026	
Day 31	Tuesday	March	24	2026	
Day 32	Wednesday	March	25	2026	
Day 33	Thursday	March	26	2026	
Day 34	Friday	March	27	2026	
Day 35	Saturday	March	28	2026	
<b>Day 36</b>	Sunday	March	29	2026	<b>Week 6</b>
Day 37	Monday	March	30	2026	
Day 38	Tuesday	March	31	2026	
Day 39	Wednesday	April	1	2026	<b>Seder</b>
<b>Day 40</b>	Thursday	April	2	2026	
	Friday	April	3	2026	<b>Good Friday</b>
	Saturday	April	4	2026	<b>Holy Saturday</b>
	Sunday	April	5	2026	<b>Easter Resurrection Sunday</b>

## Resources for Reference:

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Notes: