

FOLLOW-UP STUDY #1

HIRED HAND OR HEROIC SHEPHERD?

This study is for you the discipler, to help you see the responsibility placed upon you by God for raising awesome disciples in the faith. Your hearts should be challenged and your schedules be changed to meet the needs of the sheep. Share this study with the new disciples so they can help you be successful in discipling them.

John 10:11-18

Are you the hired hand or the heroic shepherd in caring for your sheep?

Hired Hand characteristics:

- Baptism is the end of the work
- Baptism is a goal reached, not a person to be loved and cared for
- More interested in what a baptism means to them than for the sheep
- Runs away from the troubles in the sheep's life and leaves them for others
- Falsely hopes the Sunday sermons will be enough to strengthen them
- Sees the work of daily discipling as a burden and inconvenience
- Disciples because he is told to, not because he wants to
- Puts his own life ahead of the life of the sheep

Heroic Shepherd characteristics:

- Life is laid down for his sheep, never a scheduling issue
- Wants the sheep to know the Father not just how to be saved
- Has personal initiative in discipling
- Gets emotionally close to his sheep, not just a spiritual business appointment
- Sheep hear his voice frequently, training, guiding & helping them
- Helps young sheep build relationships with the rest of the flock
- Disciples because of personal vision and godly conviction

Ezekiel 34:1-16

Who are you in this for anyway?

Zechariah 11:4-11

shepherding turned ugly

Jeremiah 23:1-8

God watches & weighs our shepherding

Acts 20:17-37

the heart of a great shepherd

1 Peter 5:1-11

The rewards for a great shepherd

Assignment: Set up a consistent time to get together with the disciple God has put in your life to shepherd. Then for the first meeting get to know each other in the deepest level (ex. family history, past hurts, future goals from this relationship)

FOLLOW UP STUDY #2 STICKS AND STONES

Pray and follow-up on last weeks assignment.

Too often we address the issue of persecution as a reactionary manner. Persecution against the disciples and the church is inevitable. By studying the Bible and preparing young disciples about persecution, they will be better equipped for spiritual success.

John 15:18-21 / Thessalonians 3:4 / 2 Timothy 3:12

- Persecution is predicted and to be expected
- Persecution is a validating mark of God's presence; however, all that are persecuted are not always of God.

How do you see persecution come into your life?

Mark 3:20-22 / 2 Timothy 3:14-17

Sources of Persecution:

- Family & close friend
- Religious people & other churches
- Fallen away Christians

Note: Persecution often takes the form of nice sounding but false claims and accusations from sincere and genuine people. This makes us give these claims more validity than they are entitled. Despite the emotional pull we must stick to the scriptures above the sincerity of people.

Reasons for Persecution:

- Competitive jealousy-from churches or individuals not growing
- Religious pride- hardened toward truly seeing the scriptures
- Misinformation- rumors run wild from unknowing sources
- Disciples mistake- genuinely, in pride or insensitivity they happen
- Purification of the church- God uses it to drive out the false disciples

Response to persecution:

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| • Matthew 5:10-12 | Consider yourself blessed and rejoice |
| • Romans 12:14-19 | Don't retaliate or return an insult, but a blessing |
| • Matthew 5:43-48 | Pray for those who persecute you |
| • 1 Peter 4:12-19 | Focus on Jesus and your heavenly rewards |

Assignment: Read Nehemiah 1-6. Record the number of times Nehemiah was opposed for what he was doing for God.

FOLLOW UP STUDY #3

WHAT IS THIS CHURCH ANYWAY?

Pray & follow up with Nehemiah reading

It is important to help any young disciple gain understanding about the history of our church, who plays important roles within it, and to share with them the direction the church is heading. This helps the church become more personal to them and equips them to share more effectively about the church they are a part of.

Ephesians 2:19-22

- Every disciple is called to obey the scriptures and to 100% commitment
- Doctrine is found in the Bible and nowhere else

How are your relationships developing in the body?

Matthew 28:16-20

- Plan: start a church in every country with city of 100,000 by the year 2000
- Every disciple is involved in making disciples

Who are you helping to become a Christian?

Ephesians 4:11-16

- Different roles: many in the church and different people fulfill them
- One purpose: the church is to grow and build itself up in love

Galatians 2:10

- Explain our work with the poor through HOPE Worldwide
- Describe projects abroad as well as locally

Assignment: Read Acts 2:42-47 and reflect on the 1st century church and how they lived. Decide and come up with a plan on how you can be more devoted like the 1st century Christians.

FOLLOW UP STUDY #4 START SPREADING THE NEWS

Pray/ follow up on the set plan on how you can be more devoted to the body.

People often say that their relationship with God is personal. This is true, but God's influence upon your life should also become very public. How many Sunday Services have passed without you bringing a visitor with you? Get in the fight! God and the kingdom need your faith, your spirit, and your life in order to make a worldwide impact.

Matthew 28:16-20

- Disciples are made-one cannot be born a disciple
- All disciples are responsible for making disciples

John 1:35-50

- Jesus was personally involved in making disciples
- In finding Jesus, people's response is to find others and tell them too!

Philemon 6

- Sharing your faith is essential to growing in your knowledge of Christ
- Goal: bring a visitor to every Sunday Service

Acts 4:1-20

- Great example of disciples standing up for their beliefs
- Must obey God rather than men

Acts 8:26-39

- Personal evangelism seen at its best
- Remember the Holy Spirit guides us in winning souls
- Knowing the Scriptures will strengthen your evangelistic outreach

2 Timothy 4:1-5

- Preach the Word when you are ready and when you are not
- If disciples don't win people to the truth, others will win them to lies and myths.

Assignment: Go out and share your faith together for one hour. Write down a list of 20 people you know that you could invite to church.

FOLLOW UP STUDY #5 PURITY SUPREME

Pray and follow up on friends that you invited to church.

One of the greatest struggles for a new disciple is gaining conviction to remain pure in heart and action as the world bombards them with sexual temptation, lust and worldliness. The Bible speaks straightforwardly about his issue and provides great direction to handle this reality. This lesson will help many to make decisions for righteousness in times of great sexual temptation.

Psalm 119:9 “How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to your word.”

God is not oblivious to the greatest temptation of mankind. He does not leave us questioning how to handle it but gives us a simple but successful answer.

Proverbs 5:1-23 One Night of Pleasure, One thousand Nights of Pain

The Bible strikes fear in our hearts in addressing sexual sin so we can put it in the proper perspective. All sin begins in the heart and we must develop God’s heart in regard to impurity of all kinds. Identify all the consequences foretold for adultery and immorality in this chapter.

Proverbs 6:20-35 Warning Lights and Winning Over Adultery

Proverbs 7:1-27 An Ounce of Prevention is Worth a Pound of Cure

How to avoid sexual sin:

Daily relationship with God in prayer and Bible Study

Seek out advice in regards on how to handle possible tempting situations

Confess temptations and sin to others. You won’t get in trouble!

Avoid getting idle. An idle mind is a drifting mind.

Avoid temptation. Turn and go the other way

Think beyond the moment. Hormones are not the Holy Spirit!

Guard your heart. The battle is won or lost first internally

Consider the cost. You just read all about them.

Proverbs 31:10-31 A Beautiful Wife, a Beautiful life

Ephesians 5:25-29 A Bible Husband or a Bad Husband? You decide

Assignment: Explain Christian dating thoroughly and set them up on an awesome, spiritual and exciting date with a strong sister or brother in Christ.

FOLLOW UP STUDY #7 PRAYER OF A RIGHTEOUS MAN

Pray/ follow up on last weeks challenge on reading Genesis 3

God speaks to us through the Bible and we speak back through prayer. Through this mutual communication a relationship is formed. We can get God to move on our behalf through prayer. However, prayer is the most neglected spiritual exercise. Seemingly there is time for everything but prayer. Learn to pray. It makes all the difference.

Mark 9:14-29

- Our initial response is to try to change things by our human effort
- Some things can only be changed through prayer.

Matthew 26:36-46

- Prayer should involve your emotions and feelings
- We submit our wills by way of prayer
- Praying once may not be enough

Psalms 100

- Learn to give God “thanks”, not just request for our needs
- Sing with God and to God

Philippians 4:4-7

- Prayer brings the peace of God to your heart and mind

Luke 18:1-14

- Be persistent
- Be humble and honest about your sin

Deuteronomy 4:7

- God draws near when we pray to him

Acts 4:23-31

- Prayer empowers every aspect of your Christian walk
- Miracles happen when people pray

Assignment: Next discipleship time have a time of prayer for 30-60 minutes.

FOLLOW UP STUDY #8 CONFESSION OF SIN

Bitterness is the #1 reason why people fall away from God and his church. All sins lead to bitterness. God's plan to keep us bitter-free is confession. It isn't always easy but confession is always essential to being pure-hearted and guilt free.

Proverbs 28:13-14

- Concealing sin stifles prosperity; confession brings mercy
- God should be a disciple's motivation for confession
- A lack of confession will harden a person's heart

James 5:16

- Confess sins to another person (spirituality strong/capable of helping)
- Confession is for healing not forgiveness

1 John 1:5-10

- Confession is essential to walking in the light
- Purification from guilt, shame, insecurity is conditional upon confession

Luke 17:9-14

- Compare the heart conditions of the Pharisee and tax collector
- Confession of sin in prayer is humbling yet strengthening

Psalms 32:1-7/Psalm 38

- Hiding sin will bring emotional torment and physical pain

Psalms 51

- Being humble about your sin draws you nearer to God
- Lying about your sin distances you from God and people

Note: Dealing with sin does not have to be a negative experience, but rather a time of refreshment. Get the right attitude about it.

Assignment: Get into a Bible study with a non-Christian. Lead it yourself or take notes for your discipler as he/she leads the study.

FOLLOW-UP STUDY # 9 THE REST OF REPENTANCE

Pray

Baptism gets you going on the road of salvation but repentance keeps you on the road of salvation. The scriptures teach men fall when they have stopped repenting of sin in their life. These scriptures help us to turn away from sin and toward God daily to stay spiritually strong.

Luke 13:3-5

- Repentance is not optional, but an expectation of Jesus
- Without repentance all aspects of a man's life begin to perish

2 Peter 3:8-9/Romans 2:4

- God is patient but not without a designated time for action

Mark 9:43-47

- Repentance must be radical
- Repentance is a lifestyle, not a one-time occurrence

2 Corinthians 7:8-11

- Worldly sorrow: self-pity, "woe is me", victim mind-set, blame shifting
- Godly sorrow: repents quickly – the result is joy and deep conviction

Acts 20:17-21/Acts 26:20

- Repentance does not bring salvation but is a condition for salvation
- Repentance jump starts people's faith
- Repentance is not a feeling but proven deeds obvious to others

Isaiah 30:15/ Acts 3:19

- Repentance brings rest and refreshment

Assignment: Discuss personal life issue where you recognize repentance needs to occur. Example: marriage, finances, weight, evangelism, QTs etc...

FOLLOW UP STUDY #10 DISCIPLESHIP AND FRIENDSHIP

The most basic study on discipleship must include a study of the friendship between Elijah and Elisha. These few scriptures leave a lasting impression of true biblical discipleship. Discipleship is God's plan for the world to be evangelized in our day.

Background: Elijah had just undertaken a great battle and won, but soon was confronted with a threat to his life from Jezebel. Not only did he run in fear, but lost hope and was very discouraged. God knew he needed both a friend and a disciple.

1 King 19:19-21 Elisha's Call to Discipleship

- v.19 Elisha is called (throwing of cloak) from plowing fields to sowing the word of God, from plowman to prophet
- v.20 Elisha initially responds with hesitation and conditions
- v.20 Elijah disciple Elisha on his selfish response- -learn to accept input from others
- v.21 Elisha catches on a burns his bridges to the past (i.e. old friends, old ways, old sources of security)
- v.21 Elisha takes the nature of a servant-the quickest route to maturity

2 Kings 3:11 Elisha's Reputation

- v.11 Elisha is remembered simply for pouring water for Elijah-humility

2 Kings 2:1-15

- v.1-8 Elisha repeats 3x to Elijah, "I will not leave you"
- v.1-8 Of Elijah coming to departure, Elisha Speaks 3x, "Do not speak of it"-both speaks of great heart and emotional bond
- v.9 Elisha asks for "double portion of spirit"- imitation and self denial
- v.12 Elisha cries, "My father, my father"- not a business deal/rather a family deal
- v.13-15 Elisha fulfills his call to be a prophet- he parts the water as Elijah did

Discipleship is the transfer of heart of one man into another, not externals.

Assignment: Make it your goal to imitate the Godly qualities in your discipler as well as other great examples in the kingdom.