



Bible Study Series within the Small Group for the Third Quarter (July–September 2025)



Bible Study Series for Spiritual Growth – 13 Weeks.

Personal Ministry, Sabbath School and Evangelism Department

STUDY #1. JESUS ASCENDS INTO HEAVEN

STUDY THEME: THE SECOND COMING

READ ACTS 1:1-14

1. After the crucifixion of Jesus, the disciples were scared and confused. Shortly afterwards Jesus is resurrected and spends time with the disciples over a period of 40 days. Then Jesus is 'taken' from them again only this time not in death but He is taken up to heaven (**v.9**). If you were a disciple of Christ, how would you feel at this time?
2. As they returned to spend time together in prayer – what things would they recall (**v.3-5,7-8**) that Jesus had told them?
3. Even after Jesus' resurrection, the disciples were confused about what the role of the Messiah was to be. (Read **v.6**.) In hindsight, how can we have an advantage over the disciples in terms of knowledge regarding the Messiah?
4. Can we be misled in terms of Jesus' 2nd coming? How did Jesus warn the disciples in terms of deceptions regarding His return? Read **Matthew 24:5, 11, 23-27**
5. What comfort were the disciples given after Jesus' ascension? See **v.9-11**. How will Jesus come back the second time according to the two angels in **v.11**?
6. What needs to be fulfilled before Jesus' return to this earth? Read **Matthew 24:14, Acts 1:8, Matthew 28:19-20**.
7. What do you look forward to the most about Jesus return?
8. As individuals, what is the single most important thing we can do before Jesus comes back? Read **Matthew 24:44**. How can we be ready? Are you ready? Would you like to be ready?

Some extra scripture for consideration:

There are numerous passages in the Scriptures regarding the 2nd coming of Jesus.

Matthew 24:27 – As lightning – visible from east to west

1 Thessalonians 4:16 – A loud event – Jesus descends with a shout!

1 Thessalonians 4:17 – The saved will be 'caught up' to meet the Lord in the air

Revelation 1:7 – Every eye shall see Him

Titus 2:13 – It is the ‘blessed hope’ that the disciples all looked forward to

STUDY #2. A TWELFTH APOSTLE IS CHOSEN

STUDY THEME: Confidence in being led by God in truth

READ ACTS 1:14-26

1. A key part of life in the early church included continued prayer and unity. In **v.14** we see that *“These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication.”* Prayer was critical in the group moving forward with the continued guidance of the Lord, especially as they had to make some critical decisions. How much time do you spend in prayer when making a big decision? Is prayer one of the first things that comes to your mind when making big decisions? Why or why not?
2. How are you affected when you face a big decision or problem in your life and you come together to pray with fellow believers? Do you think that group prayer is important? After praying in a group, do you feel encouraged to move forward in faith?
3. In **v.16** Peter mentions to the group that prophecy has been fulfilled regarding the falling away of Judas, referring to **Psalm 41:9**. What other specific passages give us confidence that the Bible has been inspired by the Holy Spirit as we apply it to the situation with Judas and Christ’s betrayal? Read **Zechariah 11:12-13** and compare with **Matthew 26:14-15; 27:3-8**.
4. The disciples could have felt bitterness regarding the betrayal of Judas, one of the twelve, but we don’t find this in Peter’s speech. Rather, we find that it gives them confidence in the Word of God as they see prophecy being fulfilled. Have you ever been let down or betrayed by someone close to you? How has it affected you? Has it led you to seek counsel from God and to move on with a forgiving spirit?
5. We see among all the disciples a oneness and unity. They recognise they have a mission to fulfil. They also recognise that just as Israel had 12 tribes so it is important to also have 12 disciples (as Jesus had) that knew the Lord and witnessed the events of his life, death and resurrection. After prayer, two men are ‘shortlisted’ and then lots are cast and Matthias is chosen as the 12th apostle. Notice that there is a process here and they are all involved. Why is it important not to have just one individual (no matter how pious, religious, or important as they may be) making key decisions that affect the rest of the body or church?
6. Both Jesus (**Matt 7:15-16**) and later the apostle Paul (**Acts 20:28-30**) warned of wolves coming in to destroy the flock (or church). A falling away from truth is predicted in various places in the New Testament. God has always had a remnant people that He is leading throughout history. How can you be confident today that you are being led by God’s Spirit? Read **Revelation 12:17; 14:12**, regarding God’s end-time Remnant church that is faithful before Jesus’ second coming.

Some extra scripture for consideration:

Passages predicting a falling away of the true church:

2 Thessalonians 2:1-4 – Before Jesus’ return a falling away occurs in the church**Revelation 2-3** – describe a falling away of the church, God’s counsel and also a reformation time**Revelation 6:1-7** – describe a progressive falling away of the church over time

Revelation 18:1-4 – A worldwide message for God’s people to come out of confusion in religion and worship God in truth before Jesus comes back. It is a continuation of the message of ***Rev 14:6-12***

STUDY #3. COMING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT AT PENTECOST

STUDY THEME: GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

READ ACTS 2:1-21

1. What had Jesus promised to send? Holy Spirit (Read John 14,16, Acts 1:4-5,8)
2. What happened in heaven that the HS was poured out upon the believers at Pentecost? The inauguration of Jesus in heaven. (Psalm 24, Right hand of the Father, inauguration)
3. Why did the HS give them ability to speak in other languages? Read v.5-8 (Communicate the gospel message to all gathered)
4. What was the purpose of the message? Read v.21 (Salvation)

Ephesians 4:7-16

Acts 6:1-7

1 Peter 4:10-11

STUDY #4. HEALING OF A LAME MAN

STUDY THEME: FAITH

READ ACTS 3:1-26

Hebrews 11:1,6. How does this definition of faith challenge or deepen your understanding of trusting God, especially when you cannot see the outcome?

Romans 4:5. According to this verse, what two essential beliefs must a person have to truly please God?

Roman 10:17. What does this verse imply about the role of Scripture in developing a strong and living faith?

1 Corinthians 13:2. What does this verse teach us about the relationship between faith and earning righteousness?

Ephesians 2:8; 4:5. What does this verse teach about the source of salvation, and how should this affect our attitude toward our own efforts?

1 Timothy 4:7. What does it mean to “exercise yourself toward godliness,” and how can you practice that in your daily life?

1 Timothy 6:12. What might “fighting the good fight of faith” look like in your personal spiritual journey?

STUDY #5. PETER & JOHN ARRESTED

STUDY THEME: WITNESSING IN ADVERSITY

READ ACTS 4:1-31

1. What upset the religious leaders and how did they respond?
2. How do you feel when you are criticised about your faith?
3. From where or from whom do you have the most challenges regarding your beliefs?
4. What is Peter forcing the leaders to do in his response to their question in v7? (Read v.10-12)
5. In what ways does the church confront the world today?
6. How do we fail to confront the world with what we believe to be true?
7. Why was it so difficult for the religious leaders to bring the activity of the church to a halt?
8. How does adversity aid in the spreading of the gospel?
9. What would you be willing to risk for the sake of the gospel?

Some extra scripture for consideration:

Matthew 24:14 "...a witness to all nations, and then the end will come."

Matthew 28:19-20 The Great Commission from Jesus

Hebrews 12:1-2 "Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses..."

STUDY #6. ONENESS OF HEART

STUDY THEME: Our need of each other in spiritual warfare

READ ACTS 4:32-5:16

1. How do I testify to the resurrection of Jesus Christ today? (v.33)
2. What did Ananias & Sapphira do that is not consistent with a Christian community?
3. How do you imagine the church was affected by this event?
4. How much do we need each other in the church?
5. When have you felt the power of the Holy Spirit in your life as a result of 'oneness' in the church?
6. Has God provided someone in your life to meet specific needs that you have?
7. How does this story demonstrate the importance that God puts on truth and unity?
8. In what ways can we, by not telling the truth, bring about death in a spiritual & emotional sense in our church today?
9. What difference would it make to our witness if people held us in high regard today? How can we be a part of changing that perception for the better?

Some extra scripture for consideration:

Ephesians 4:13 "...till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God..."

Ephesians 5:25 "...just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her."

Exodus 20:16 "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour."

STUDY #7. PERSECUTION AND GROWTH

STUDY THEME: God's Providence & Sovereignty amid a Great Controversy between Good and Evil

READ ACTS 5:17-6:7

1. To what degree can man prevent the work of God?
2. What experience would it take for you to be 'unstoppable' in your witness for the Lord?
3. In what ways have you encountered threats and opposition for proclaiming the message of Jesus?
4. Who is essentially behind all attempts to stop the spreading of the gospel? (*1 Peter 5:7-9*)
5. In v.29 Peter & the apostles answer, "*We ought to obey God rather than men.*" How do we determine when it is right to obey man and when it is right to obey God (*See Matthew 22:21, Mark 12:29-31, Exodus 20:1-17*)
6. Whom does the Holy Spirit empower for the work of witness? Why? (5:32)
7. Have you ever found yourself to be "working against God?" How? (5:39)
8. How do you think the growth of the early church was impacted by the experience & testimony of Peter & the apostles that were imprisoned & beaten?
9. What practical & organisational needs arise from church growth? (6:1-7)

Some extra scripture for consideration:

1 Corinthians 4:9 "...for we have been made a spectacle to the world, both to angels and to men."

Revelation 12:7-11 "...war broke out in heaven... and they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb..."

Jeremiah 29:11 "For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope."

STUDY #8. STEPHEN'S DEFENCE OF GOD THE SON

STUDY THEME: God's calling and leading in our lives

READ ACTS 6:8-7:60

1. What was Abraham called to do... and how can we be prepared for a similar call? (7:3)
2. Do you recognise God's leading in your life when looking back over the past...? Have you ever considered some of the 'milestones' in your life and thanked God for these significant events that have led you to where you are today?
3. Who is the "Angel of the Lord"? (7:30) [Also refer to Ex 24:9-12 and Note #1]
4. Why did Israel end up having to wander an additional 40 years in the wilderness? (7:38-41) What would be a modern-day equivalent of 'the wilderness' in our lives?
5. What was the purpose of Stephen recounting the history of Israel before the people and the council? (7:51,54)
6. Why could the religious leaders not stand up to Stephen and his speech (sermon)? (6:8,10; 7:55)
7. What does the written or inspired spoken word of God do to us? [Hebrews 4:12]
8. How can we be prevented from falling into the same traps as the Jews of old? [Hebrews 3:7-9; Revelation 3:20]

Some extra scripture for consideration:

Notes:**1. Who led Israel out of Egypt?**

READ: Exodus 3:1-6,13-14; John 8:58; Acts 7:30; Nehemiah 9; 1 Corinthians 10:1-4 The pre-incarnate Jesus is LORD (Jehovah) of the Old Testament who led Israel out of Egypt. He is also referred to as the "Angel of the LORD" and also as "mighty God" in the Old Testament.

STUDY #9. WITNESSING AND CHURCH GROWTH IN SAMARIA

STUDY THEME: Removing the bindings of sin

READ ACTS 8:1-25

1. After the death of Stephen it seems that the Christians became even more zealous and effective in their witness of Christ. How am I and/or my church fulfilling the command of Christ (Matthew 28:19-20) to be witnesses to others and unto the ends of the earth?
2. We meet two zealous men in Acts 8, Saul (v.3-4) and Phillip (v5-8). How can we tell which spirit is guiding these men?
3. After Phillip's preaching and witness in Samaria, Simon the sorcerer is also baptised. What would you say is his weakness? (v.10, 19, 23)
4. What are some modern equivalents of 'sorcery' or sins that bind people which seem to be acceptable to many Christians?
5. When we consider our weaknesses, how can we go about receiving spiritual power and blessings from God today? (compare v.18-19 with v.20-23)
6. What can we learn from Peter's counsel (in regards to nurturing young believers) and Simon's response (v.24) to his stern rebuke?
7. Can you think of things you have wrestled with since your baptism? (See 2 Corinthians 3:16-18) How have you been able to overcome these things?
8. Are there still things that the Holy Spirit is prompting us to change or let go in our lives – in order to release us from the bindings of Satan?
9. Can God deliver us from the things that bind us? (Read: Romans 6:1-6; See also Note #1)
10. Should we be focussing on miracles, signs & wonders or a true heart change? (Read Lk 10:17-20)

Some extra scripture for consideration:

Notes:1. ***Deliverance******READ: Colossians 1:13; 2:6-7, 13-15; Galatians 5:22-25; Ephesians 6:12-18; 2 Peter 3:17-18; 1 John 4:4***

Jesus can deliver us from the things than bind us because He has victory over Satan

STUDY #10. CHRIST IS PREACHED BY PHILIP THE EVANGELIST AND AN ETHIOPIAN**STUDY THEME: Evangelism, Conversion & Baptism****READ ACTS 8:26-40**

1. What are two ways that God communicates with Philip the evangelist? (v.26, 29)
2. How does God communicate to the Ethiopian eunuch?
3. Philip was directed by God to someone who was searching for truth in the Scriptures. Have you ever had a 'divine appointment' with someone who was searching for truth?
4. How does the Bible refer to those who communicate the good news to others? (Read Romans 10:15) How does that make you feel about responding to God's call of sharing your faith with others? What about if you add to it Isaiah 55:11?
5. What opportunities to you have for taking the gospel to others? What tips can we get from this example with Philip & the Ethiopian about evangelism?
6. What is the passage talking about that the Ethiopian does not comprehend? (v.32-35) Refer also not Note #1.
7. What happens to a person when they are under conviction of the Holy Spirit when they understand and accept Biblical truth? (v.36)
8. How was the Ethiopian baptised? (v.38-39)
9. How was Jesus baptised? (See John 3:23)
10. What does Biblical baptism represent? (Read Romans 6:3-8)
11. What sort of things typically keep us from being baptised? Is baptism important? (See Mk 16:16)

Some extra scripture for consideration:

Notes:**1. Isaiah prophesying about Jesus****READ: Isaiah 52:13-53:12**

Jesus is described by Isaiah as the 'Sin-Bearing Servant' who carried our iniquities

STUDY #12. SAUL IS CONVERTED ON THE ROAD TO DAMASCUS

STUDY THEME: Religious Liberty, Conversion, Dependence on God

READ ACTS 9:1-31

1. Saul was most probably persecuting the Christian church for quite some time. How do you think the Lord would have appealed to his conscience before the Damascus Road experience?
2. Looking back at your life, can you recall experiences where God was calling you to change but you resisted? Did God need to give you a big 'wake-up' call? Is God calling you to change today?
3. Prior to Saul's conversion, was he genuine in his actions against the Christian church?
4. What happens when people try to enforce a 'state' religion?
5. Who's conversion has been the most amazing to you? What is the reaction of the believers and the unbelievers towards Saul's conversion? (See v.21-29)
6. As human beings, do we naturally tend toward good or evil? (Read: Psalms 51:5, Proverbs 14:12)
7. Thinking back on what you were like before you met Jesus. You will recall: 1) a 'rebirth' experience; and also, 2) a gradual growth in character thereafter. Can you share about either of those experiences?
8. What does Saul's conversion teach us about those in our lives whom we suppose are the most *unlikely* to believe and follow Christ?
9. Every conversion is a miracle. How might God use you in bringing your friends & relatives to Christ? (Read: John 17:20; Philipians 1:3-6)

Some extra scripture for consideration:

Notes:**1. New Creations when Reconciled to God**READ: 2 Corinthians 5:17-21

Upon conversion the Bible calls us 'new creations'. God is always calling and reconciling us to Himself. Once converted, the Lord calls us to be ambassadors or representatives for Him.

2 Repentance and ChangeREAD: Psalms 51:10-13

After falling into sin, King David recognises that only God can change His heart to once. He longs to once again be at peace with God and rightly represent Him.

STUDY #12. PETER AND THE UNCLEAN FOOD

STUDY THEME: The Gospel is to reach all people in all areas of the world

READ ACTS 9:32-10:33

1. Why do you think Peter was doing such amazing miracles in the name of the Jesus (Aeneas & Tabitha), and yet today we don't commonly see such things happening? (Consider Mt 12:38-39; Jn 4:48; 1Cor 1:22)
2. How is this experience helpful for Peter – considering the events that come up in chapter 10?
3. What causes God to send Peter to see Cornelius? (see 10:2-4)
4. What additional experience does God give Peter to prepare him for reaching non-Jewish people?
5. Many Christians believe that because of the Peter's vision, God is now saying, "It is now ok to eat that which was previously declared as unclean." Is that what this passage is really about? What do the unclean here represent? (See v.28)
6. Is how we look after our body (what we eat/drink) important to God? (See 1 Cor 6:19; 10:31)
7. What types of creatures / food has God labelled as unclean for food? (See Deut 14:3-21)
8. Can saying a blessing over the food on our table make clean that which God has determined as unclean? Why do you think certain animals are 'clean' and others are 'unclean' for food?
9. Peter clearly grows in his understanding of the Great Commission of taking the gospel to the world (Matt 28:19-20). How do you see Jesus' prophecy of Acts 1:8 being fulfilled in this reading?
10. In what ways might we all need to grow in relating to and reaching other people for Christ?
11. What still needs to happen before Jesus comes back? (Read Matt 24:14)

Some extra scripture for consideration:

1. Clean and Unclean Foods in the Bible

READ: Leviticus 3:17; 11:1-47; Deuteronomy 14:3-21

God – who is the Creator of all things, knows what is best for our body to stay in good health. Today, science is still catching up to the Bible in terms of what is good and what is not good for our body.

STUDY #13. SALVATION FOR THE NATIONS

STUDY THEME: Judgment of God's people

READ ACTS 10:34-11:18

1. What truth did Peter understand when he said in 10:34 "God shows no partiality"? (v.34-35)
2. Who are the people in Peter's audience?
3. In your observation, what are three key messages that Peter presents in his message in Acts 10:34-43?
4. What do you think was the precursor for The Holy Spirit to fall on the hearers? (10:44-46)
5. Two of the key items in Peter's speech are: Forgiveness (10:43) and Judgment (10:42).
6. Do you think believers have anything to fear of the Judgment? Why?
7. In the First Epistle of Peter, the apostle also speaks of Judgment. Read 1 Peter 4:17. Who is the Bible referring to when it says that "Judgment begins with the house of God"
8. One of the end-time messages that God has for the world before the 2nd coming of Jesus is about Judgment. Read Revelation 14:6-7. Name two elements of this world-wide message that is important to God at a time of judgment.
9. Considering that there is no escaping the judgment (2 Cor 5:10 says 'all must appear before the judgment seat of Christ), how can we be right with God at judgment time? Read Romans 8:1; Hebrews 7:25; and 1 John 2:1-5
10. It was important for Peter to speak to the household of Cornelius in order that they might be saved (11:14). Why is it important for us to understand this today?

Some extra scripture for consideration:

1. Judgment as seen by King David in the Old Testament*READ: Psalms 26:1; 35:24; 43:1; 54:1*

In various Psalms, David uses the phrase, "Judge me" (KJV) when speaking to God. He does this because he has full confidence in the LORD to save him... declaring him righteous at the judgment. For King David, Judgment is *Good News!* God wants it to be the same way for you and me too!

2. God considers our circumstances*READ: Psalms 87:6*