



THE CHURCH OF PENTECOST

**BIBLE STUDY & HOME CELL
OUTLINE FOR 2015**

*Compiled by
National Cell & Bible Study Committee*

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FOREWORD- 2015 BIBLE STUDY & HOME CELL OUTLINE

The broad theme for 2013-2018 is **“Impacting Generations”**. As hinted last year, the theme is to ensure that, in five years, leaders who may lead the Church at all levels will have been impacted enough to run with the “Pentecostal” baton. It was this burden that made us consider “Fanning the Pentecostal Fire to impact Generations” in 2014 to ensure all the gifts and practices bequeathed to our Church by God and our founding fathers will be identified and stirred up. Having fanned the fire, the fire must be kept ablaze for generations to come through faithful stewardship. It is in this light that in 2015 we are considering the theme **“Being a Good Steward of God in my Generation” (Matt. 25: 21)**.

Our theme is drawn from the parable of the talents as told by Jesus in Matthew 25:14-29. The parable emphasizes that the role of a steward is that of a slave who manages his owner’s resources for his master’s benefit, not for his own benefit. For the steward, it is not just enough to return to the master everything he entrusted to them. The owner expects his stewards to multiply these resources. Those who are entrusted with resources are accountable to the master (God) who rewards faithfulness and disciplines those who are

unfaithful in applying His resources. We must do no less in our management of the resources that God has entrusted into our care as a Church. This includes all of creation, as well as our time, talents (both natural and spiritual), our bodies and treasures.

Indeed as a Church, the Lord has blessed us tremendously at all levels with both physical and spiritual resources. Our role as stewards of God's resources is to be faithful and responsible in handling our Master's resources knowing that we shall give an account to Him when He returns. Thus, this year we shall be committed to understanding the stewardship concept, the resources given us, and how we are expected to manage these, and account for our stewardship.

As always, the Bible Study and Home Cell system, which is the discipleship structure of our Church will be used to enhance the study. At both the Bible Study and Cell levels, the theme is systematically developed into study outlines from scripts of the Chairman's Keynote Address for the November Heads' Meeting. Other topics relevant to our discipleship have also been developed and added to the manual. At both study levels, you will have opportunity to thoroughly study and discuss the lessons, ask questions and even share your thoughts concerning

the topics. Indeed the systematic study of the Word of God will nourish your soul, equip and challenge you to live for and serve the Lord as a good steward.

The National Bible Study and Cell Committee is appreciated for the diligence attached to the preparation of these outlines and leading the Discipleship Agenda of our Church.

I therefore recommend these lessons to you and request that you make a diligent commitment to study them and also apply them to every aspect of your life. God bless you.

Opoku Onyinah (Apostle Dr.)
Chairman, The Church of Pentecost

INTRODUCTION AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The theme for 2015 given to us by the Lord through the Chairman and the Executive Council is *“Being a Good Steward of God in my Generation”* (Matt. 25:21). The theme, which is a direct follow up to last year’s theme *‘Fanning the Pentecostal Fire to Impact Generations’*, will provide direction for us and engage our attention and study. Indeed, after the fire has been set ablaze, it must be kept burning through responsible stewardship. This is to ensure that the blessings the Lord has given to us as a Church will be judiciously used and multiplied for generations to also use.

The Bible Study and Home Cell ministry, the Church’s structure for discipleship and spiritual growth, will once again serve as a means of fulfilling the purpose of the theme. The Bible Study outlines were prepared mainly from the Chairman’s Keynote Address presented at the 2014 November Heads’ Meeting. The Home Cell manual, however, deals with practical issues that pertain to our daily lives as disciples of Jesus Christ. The study outlines are meant to enhance the systematic study of the Word in small relational groups.

This year, the Bible Study and Home Cell outlines have been put together in one manual to make it easier for handling and use. There is no study outline provided for the **Lord’s Supper Day** for both Home Cell and Bible Study. Concerning Bible Study, the Lord’s Supper

day could be free or the District/Local could introduce any study that is relevant and peculiar to them.

With regards to **Home Cell**, the Lord's Supper day has been designated **Family Day**. On this day, families (husband, wife, children and dependents) are expected to meet in their various homes to discuss issues pertaining to their family life and growth and also pray together. There are no study outlines and so the head of the family will provide direction for the day. Where a young person is not staying with parents, they can possibly join another family for the family day, as a way of being nurtured in a family set up.

Again, the District/Local/Cell have opportunity to make an input once a month with regards to study or activity at the Cell level. That day could be used for outreach, prayer, visitation or any activity that is relevant and peculiar to the District/Local/Cell.

It is expected that the District Minister (District Bible Study & Cell Coordinator) will meet with the Bible Study/Cell Leaders and study the material with them. This will enable him to untie hard knots, and empower them to go and teach effectively in the Bible Study and Cell meetings. He is also to help the Bible Study/Cell Leaders to use the format of the Cell Meetings to make the meetings more relaxed and refreshing. The focus of the study should be applying the text to daily life. The Bible Study/Cell Leader thus have a responsibility ahead of the Class to study to impact the class during the studies.

As a Committee we are grateful to God and acknowledge the exemplary and visionary leadership of the Chairman, Apostle Dr. Opoku Onyinah, and his team of Executive Council members. We appreciate the great support and encouragement we continually receive from the General Secretary, Apostle Alexander Nana Yaw Kumi-Larbi and the International Missions Director, Aps. Emmanuel Gyesi-Addo.

We are very grateful to God for the lives of the script writers who painstakingly prepared the study outlines for the use of the Church. They are Pastors Franklin Hushie, Henry Ako-Nai, Christian Tsekpoe, Emmanuel Agyei Kwafu and Samuel Gakpetor; Mrs. Mabel Darko, Mrs. Sylvia Acquah-Sampson and Elder Barnabas Asare.

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The members of the National Bible Study & Cell Committee, who provided direction for the Discipleship

Agenda and edited the scripts deserve commendation. They are;

Aps. John Appiah Aidoo	Deputy Coordinator
Ps. Franklin Agbovi Hushie	Secretary
Aps. Matthew Larbi-Wetty	Member
Ps. Ben Ali	Member
Ps. Henry Ako-Nai	Member
Ps. Samuel Gakpetor	Member

As we study these scripts, may the Lord help us to become responsible stewards and faithful disciples of our Lord and Master, Jesus Christ. God bless.

Aps. Dr. Stephen Kofi Baidoo
National Coordinator, National Bible Study & Cell
Committee

BIBLE STUDY

2015 BIBLE STUDY WEEK BY WEEK GUIDE

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WEEK 2

GIVE THANKS

Main Text: *Psalm 103:1-5*

Memory Verse: *1 Thessalonians 5: 18 "Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus"*

Introduction

Thanksgiving refers to an expression of gratitude to another person for something done. Sometimes, certain things become normal such that we take them for granted—Sleeping and waking up, breathing, walking, urinating, eating, drinking, good health, family relations, friends, traveling mercies, the gift of life, provisions of life, job opportunity etc. We thank our friends for giving us birthday presents, and showing love, care and concern. On Mothers' and Fathers' Days, children thank their parents for the benefits of good parenting. Certainly, what God has done for us surpasses all that these relations do for us. Recounting and appreciating what God has done for the Christian help us to thank Him better.

Study Questions

1. What does the Psalmist mean by the statement "*my soul, do not forget his benefits*" Psalm 103:2
2. Why do we sometimes forget the benefits of the Lord? Psalm 103:2

3. What are the benefits we receive from the Lord?
Verse 3-5
4. In what forms and ways do the benefits of God come to us?
5. Identify other blessings you can be grateful to God for.

Conclusion

The Psalmist was calling on his soul to acknowledge the blessings of God and not to forget them. We have also received great benefits from the Lord, which should cause us to burst out in thanksgiving, praise and worship. We should be thankful for the material blessings that God bestows on us. These, however, should not be put ahead of the God who bestowed those blessings on us. The material blessing should also not be the only reason why we should thank God. Every day of your life, pause to give thanks, let it be an attitude and make it a practice in your home.

WEEK 3

INTERCEDING THROUGH YOUR QUIET TIME

Main Text: Genesis 18:20-33

Memory Verse: Ezekiel 22:30. I looked for a man among them who would build up the wall and stand before me in the gap on behalf of the land so that I would not have to destroy it, but I found none.

Introduction

Quiet time affords believers the opportunity to encounter God every day. This meeting provides a good atmosphere for intercession in all kinds or forms. It is important to note that special intercessory prayer meetings are not the only channels to intercede for others. Intercession is to come between two parties and resolve a dispute by pleading for the one at fault. In today's study, we will look at God's desire for an intercessor and how we can use our quiet time to pray on behalf of our friends, colleagues, family, church and even nation.

Discussion Questions

1. What did the LORD say to Abraham? Gen. 18:20-21
2. What was Abraham's response to the message? Gen. 18:22-23

3. From verse 24-26, how did Abraham intercede for the salvation of the people of Sodom and Gomorrah?
4. What was Abraham's response to God's answer?
Gen 18:27
5. How persistent was Abraham in his intercession?
Gen 18:30-32
6. Why did Abraham intercede for the people of Sodom and Gomorrah?
7. What have you learnt from the story so far?

Conclusion

Abraham encountered God alone and pleaded to God for others and not himself. This study teaches us to intercede and plead for others when we encounter God through our quiet time. Abraham's passion and persistence in prayer was to free some people in Sodom and Gomorrah. As we engage God in our quiet time, it is important we passionately pray for our family members, colleagues, and the nation among others. For God is always attentive to the prayers of His saints.

WEEK 4

IMPORTANCE OF BIBLE STUDY

Main Text: Acts 17:10-11

Memory Verse: Acts 17:11 "Now the Bereans were of more noble character than the Thessalonians, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true"

Introduction

Food nourishes the body and helps it grow. The food for the soul is the word of God. It is therefore important for the soul to be nourished with the word of God. Many Christians find time for any other thing apart from studying the word of God. It is sad to see many Christians take notes on Sunday sermons and never read through the notes till the next Sunday.

In our reading today, we encounter the Berean church. They dedicated themselves to the study of the word, even after Paul had preached. A Christian who starves himself of the word of God is susceptible to all forms of winds, such as wrong doctrine, false teachings, and temptations from the devil.

Today's study looks at the importance of Bible study.

Discussions Questions

1. Where did Paul and Silas go? Acts 17:10

2. Why were the Bereans of a more noble character?
Acts 17:11
3. Why were the Bereans preferred ahead of the Thessalonians? Acts 20:11
4. How often did the Bereans study the scriptures?
Acts 20:11
5. How often do you study the scriptures?
6. Why do you think bible study is important?

Conclusion

Many Christians are tossed about by all forms of doctrine because they are malnourished in the word of God. Having enough time to feed and digest the word of God provide a very strong foundation for every Christian. A menu of difficult topics, principles of God and deeper insight into the word of God is served at Bible study meetings.

Bible studies also provides members (participants) with a good platform to know one another and build fellowship in the church. It is therefore dangerous for Christians to deliberately avoid Bible studies since it can be detrimental to the development of the church.

WEEK 6

STEWARDSHIP, WHAT IS IT?

Main text: Genesis 24:1-9

Memory Verse: Psalm 24:1 "The earth is the LORD's and everything in it, the world and all who live in it".

Introduction

Stewardship is the responsible overseeing and protection of something considered worth caring for and preserving. Stewards are persons who take care of another person's property. They have the full confidence of their masters. All stewards are servants. They serve the purpose of some people. However, good stewards are more than servants. They are no longer slaves but trusted officials of a leader, who manage the household or property of the leader. Many stewards remain servants. Good stewards, however, end up not just serving but leading others even as servants. In the main text, we identify Eliezer, a trusted steward of Abraham. Eliezer was given the responsibility of choosing a wife for Isaac. For Abraham to entrust this task into the hands of Eliezer meant that if Eliezer failed, then Isaac's marriage would also fail.

Discussion questions

1. How is Eliezer described? Vrs 2
2. What makes Eliezer an extra ordinary servant?

3. How did Eliezer demonstrate his loyalty towards Abraham? Vrs 3
4. How did Eliezer ensure that he does what pleases his master? Vrs 5
5. Why was Eliezer chosen ahead of other servants?
6. How committed was Eliezer to his master?
7. How committed are you to your leaders/employers?

Conclusion

Many Christians are comfortable with being servants. As established above, good stewards do not remain servants. However, they become trusted officials of a leader and may manage the household and property of the leader. As we have learnt today, there were many servants (stewards) in the house of Abraham. Eliezer, however, rose to become a good steward who could be entrusted with a very sensitive issue like the marriage of Isaac. With great commitment and loyalty, he discharged his duties perfectly as his master expected. This is the mark of a good steward.

WEEK 7

WHO IS A STEWARD?

Main text: Luke 19:11-27

Memory Verse: Luke 19:13 "So he called ten of his servants and gave them ten minas, put this money to work, he said until I come back"

Introduction

We established in our previous study that, a good steward is more than just a servant. It is also important to note that every servant is a steward. We can deduce from the parable read that every human being is still a steward of God. In the reading, we realize that all the servants put the amounts given them to good use and were rewarded differently.

The Christian is therefore a steward of God. First, the Christian is a servant of Christ and then the steward of God. For every Christian is entrusted with the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. The greatest responsibility of the steward is to be faithful to his master.

As stewards of God's resources, we should devote ourselves to studying God's word, living it and teaching it for the growth of the church.

Discussion questions

1. How many servants did the noble man call?
Luke 19:13
2. How many servants received money? Luke 19:13

3. What form of accountability did the master request for? Luke 19:15
4. Are you a steward of God? Explain
5. How will you account for the gospel which has been entrusted to you?
6. What happens to inefficient stewards? Luke 19:22-24
7. What sort of steward are you?

Conclusion

The parable clearly shows that, the Christian is a steward of God. He must know that he is owned by God. He is a manager, to whom God has entrusted a portion of his riches. The Christian has the privilege and responsibility of taking care of God's property and using them in ways that please God.

Our study today clearly shows that, every Christian is a steward of God. Stewardship is not in titles or positions; but in the servanthood. Acknowledging that you are a servant/steward of God's property will change the way you act in many ways. You are not an ordinary person.

WEEK 8

STRENGTHEN THE FELLOWSHIP IN THE CHURCH

Main text: Hebrews 10:23-25

Memory verse: Acts 2:42 "They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and prayer".

Introduction

With the advent of various technologies that make it possible for people to listen to preachers through various media, some people neglect the physical meeting of believers. As the memory verse shows, fellowship is present when believers gather. A strong Christian fellowship brings about revival of members, supply of member's needs, spiritual fruitfulness and church growth. Today's study looks at the importance of fellowship to the development of the church.

Discussion questions

1. What must Christians hold on to? Heb. 10:23
2. What should we spur one another on to? Heb. 10:24
3. Why should Christians not forsake the gathering of the saints? Heb.10:25
4. How can Christians strengthen fellowship? Acts 2:42
5. Why do some Christians avoid fellowship?

6. What happens to a church without meaningful fellowship?

Conclusion

There can be no fellowship if members are not available. Members must therefore be regular and punctual at church meetings. It is not enough to be together, we must also be united in soul, spirit and goal. Humility is the key here. The Bible tells us to esteem others above ourselves.

Strong fellowship involves giving, sharing and caring among members. Sin destroys fellowship (1 John 5:8). When members of a fellowship are selfish, malicious, embittered or feel inferior to others, the survival of fellowship is threatened. "Are you a pillar or a caterpillar in the fellowship"?

WEEK 10

WHAT ARE THE TALENTS?

Main text: *Matt. 25:14-27*

Memory Verse: *Matt. 25:14 "Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his property to them"*

Introduction

Every individual is born with an innate ability to perform certain specific actions and duties. When an individual is born again, there is a regeneration of his/her spirit which becomes reconnected to the Spirit of God. For Christians, a talent is more than money or any other special ability.

Formal education equips us with additional abilities to work more efficiently. As Christians, God has given us special insights into the nature and purpose of his Kingdom. We need therefore to use these insights to glorify Him as we draw on the various talents he has given us freely.

Discussion questions

1. What was entrusted to the servants? *Matt. 25:14*
2. Why was each servant given a different talent?
Matt. 25:15
3. How were the talents put to use by the servants?
Matt. 25:16-18

4. Why did the master settle accounts with the servants?
5. What are some of the talents God gives to His church?
6. How are you using the talents God has given you for the benefit of the church?

Conclusion

It is easy to conclude from the parable that Jesus was just talking about money. However, this is not true. Jesus used money to draw the attention of his listeners to the need to make profit even with their talents.

Christians like the servants of the man in the parable, are endowed with numerous talents some of which we take for granted. Some of the talents are:

- a. The knowledge of God (2 Tim. 3:15)
- b. The spiritual gifts and all the graces in the Holy Spirit (Rom. 6:23; 1Cor. 12:8-11)
- c. The knowledge of God's kingdom

God has entrusted his salvation, spiritual gifts, ministerial gifts, grace gifts among others unto us. We have the mandate therefore as Christians to put these talents to good use.

THE TYPES OF TALENTS

Main text: Eph 4:4-13

Memory Verse: Eph. 4:7 "But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it"

Introduction

A previous study reveals a staggering condemnation of a man by his master because he failed to use his talent. Our churches are, however, filled with many Christians who are not aware of the talents God has given them and how they can maximize the benefits of such talents. Our study today seeks to bring to the fore some of the talents God has put under our control and how we can make good use of these talents. God has a special interest in the development of His church. It is in the light of this that various types of talents are given to His servants to fulfill such a vision.

Discussion questions

1. What does God give to all of His children? Eph. 4:7
2. What are some of the gifts that Jesus gave?
Eph. 4:11
3. What is the purpose of these gifts? Eph. 4:12
4. What would happen to a church without any of the gifts?

5. Can Christians mature without the gifts of God?
Eph 4:13
6. How can Christians receive such gifts? 2 Tim 1:6
7. How do you avail yourself to be impacted by the gifts?

Conclusion

Our memory verse makes an emphatic statement “but to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it”. The implication is that, once you are born again and baptized in the Holy Spirit, he imparts a gift (talent) to you. Some talents (gifts) that God has given to all Christians are:

- a. The knowledge of God which comes by studying His word (Psalm 119:15, 1 Tim 4:13)
- b. The gifts of the Holy Spirit and all the graces in the Holy Spirit. (1 Cor 12:8-12, 1 Cor 30-31)

There are various talents that Jesus has bestowed on his Church. As Christians, we have a responsibility to identify the talent we have been given and how best we can use them to the best of our abilities.

HOW DOES GOD GIVE OUT TALENTS?

Main text: Numbers 11:24-27

Memory Verse: Rom 12:6 “We have different gifts according to the grace given. If a man’s gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith”.

Introduction

Several verses in the Bible make it clear that God has given us gifts. These are so clear that we are not led to think that the gifts will now be given. A person receives gifts from God when he is regenerated by the Holy Spirit. Other gifts are also given when he is baptized in the Holy Spirit, which enables him to perform special tasks in the church and for the Kingdom of God in general.

Furthermore, Some gifts can be given to a person during the time of the person’s call into a special service or ministry. What needs to be understood is that the master has bestowed a talent to you. In our main text today, we see how God takes the prophetic spirit on Moses and puts it on seventy elders who then prophesied immediately to enable them share the tasks assigned to Moses.

Discussion questions

1. How many elders were summoned by Moses?
Num. 11:24

2. What did the LORD do to the seventy elders?
Num. 11:25
3. What happened to the elders after they received the Spirit of God?
4. Where were Eldad and Medad? Num. 11:26
5. How else does God impart gifts? 2Tim. 1:6
6. Do you have a gift? How did you receive it?
7. How do you use your gift(s)?

Conclusion

The act of calling, which sets people apart for a special duty, favour or benefit and which also confers special abilities on a person and makes him qualify for ministry is the gift of God.

The gift of God may not necessarily refer to some outward manifestation or special influence that comes upon someone. In our study today, we encounter God who imparts gifts to elders of Israel to support Moses in leading the people. As we learnt from the introduction, every Christian has a gift (talent) given either by God himself or through the laying on of hands by elders.

WEEK 13

GOD EXPECTS FRUITFULNESS

Main Text: Gen. 9:1-7

Memory verse: Gen. 9:7 “As for you, be fruitful and increase in number; multiply on the earth and increase upon it”

Introduction

When God entrusts us with resources, he expects us to use them profitably. It is out of our fruitfulness that we add to the resources and therefore record growth and thereby glorify Him. God expectation of increase is expressed in His command to Adam and Eve to be fruitful and multiply. It is very important for Christians to know that the talents God gives us are for productive use and His glory. When we apply the talents as expected of us, we minister to people to the extent that some lives are transformed to the glory of God.

Discussion questions

1. How did God bless Noah? Vrs 1
2. What form of accounting did God demand from man? Vrs 5-6
3. What charge did God give to Noah? Vrs 7
4. How can you increase the talents God has given you?

5. What happens to Christians who fail to develop their talents?
6. How do you use your God-given talents?

Conclusion

Once the Lord gives a talent, he expects that the recipient will increase the talent through personal development. It has been the principle of God that, when he gives us something, it must increase within us. The Lord graciously led Noah and his family out of the ark and mandated them to multiply the life they had received.

Jesus in John 14:12 says that those who believe in him will do greater works. All these show that God expects increase in our talents and we may face condemnation if we fail to increase.

**QUALITIES OF A STEWARD –
Trustworthiness**

Main text: Genesis 41:41-49

Memory verse: 1 Cor 4:2 “Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful”.

Introduction

Stewardship is based on a high level of trust. Since the steward is given the freedom to do what he thinks is the master’s will, he/she needs certain qualities to be a good steward. In our study on stewardship, we saw that the man with one talent failed to use his talent even though he called his lord “master”. Many Christians today are afraid of helping their fellow saints because some of these needy saints are not trustworthy. They pretend to be faithful when the master is present but do their own things when the master is absent. Our study today looks at an important quality of a good steward, trustworthiness.

Discussion questions

1. What was Joseph made a steward of? Gen. 41:41
2. How was Joseph honoured? Gen. 41:43-45
3. How did Joseph discharge his duties?
Gen. 41:47-48

4. Was Joseph trustworthy in his dealings? Gen. 41:49
5. How did Pharaoh's presence or absence influence Joseph's work rate?
6. Was Joseph a faithful steward? Explain.

Conclusion

Trustworthiness is a quality every steward needs. Pharaoh put Joseph, a young man of 30 years, (Gen. 41:46) in charge of the whole of Egypt because he trusted Joseph. The absence of Pharaoh did not affect the output of Joseph. Even in abundant harvest, Joseph did not store up any of the harvest for himself. As stewards of God, it is required of us to be trustworthy and faithful.

In this postmodern world, many people think once they are not caught in an act, it is normal and okay. Some even go to the extent of denying things they know very well they have done. Our Lord is not interested in such stewards. Rather, he delights in those who will be faithful even in the little things given them.

QUALITIES OF A STEWARD – Diligence

Main text: 26:17-24

Memory Verse: 2 Thess 3:11-12 *“We hear that some of you are idle. They are not busy, they are busybodies. Such people we command and urge in the Lord Jesus Christ to settle down and earn the bread they eat”.*

Introduction

A good steward is diligent or hardworking. The Bible instructs everyone to work hard and feed himself. In fact, Adam was asked to till the garden, or be a gardener (Gen. 2:15). Hard work is needed at every level of life.

God requires everybody to work very hard in catering for the resources he has entrusted into our hands. Good stewards are not shrewd, they apply themselves to hardwork in readiness of the coming of their master.

In our main text, we encounter Isaac and his servants who had to dig three different wells to be sustained. A good steward works hard, hence is always ready to meet his/her master, who in the case of Christians is our Lord Jesus Christ.

Discussion questions

1. Where did Isaac move to? Gen 26:17
2. What did Isaac do to his father’s wells? Gen 26:4

3. How were the stewards of Isaac opposed? Gen 26:19-20
4. How many times did the servants of Isaac dig the wells? Gen 26:22
5. How ready was Isaac to meet the LORD? Gen 26:24

Conclusion

Lazy Christians are poor stewards. The wise man, Solomon says in Proverbs 18:9 that “A lazy person is as bad as someone who destroys things” (NLT). We learn from our study how the stewards of Isaac diligently dug three different wells due to opposition. They could have stopped after the first of the second but due to hardwork and diligence, they dug a third one which was undisputed.

Whether you are working for the government, somebody or yourself, you must see yourself as the steward of God. Endeavor to do better, by taking advantage of available training opportunities. We all need to be hardworking stewards for our Lord.

QUALITIES OF A STEWARD - TEAM PLAYER

Main Text: 1 Corinthians 12:12 -27

Memory Verse: "Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it" (1 Corinthians 12:27 NIV).

Introduction

Another quality of a good steward is that of being a team player. Throughout the ministry of Christ He demonstrated the significance of working in teams. He was one with the Father, and for three years, he ministered with twelve disciples. In some cases he moved with Peter, James and John. And occasionally he sent out the disciples in twos for specific assignments. Working together as the team increases productivity. We need to work together like the human body which has different parts but functions as one unit. Every part of the body is important and depends on other parts for the whole body to function well. We are surrounded by people whether at work, in the Church or in the community. It is therefore essential to be good team players for us to achieve positive results.

Discussion Questions:

1. a. Mention three parts of the body and how they help the body function as one unit.
b. As part of the body of Christ in which way can you contribute to the growth of the Church.

2. What is the importance of being a team player in the:
 - a. Work place?
 - b. Community?
3. What are the factors that destroy teams? Verses 15, 26
4. How can we maintain our Christian faith as members of teams that are outside the Church circle?

Conclusion

If you are a professional try to be active in your professional association or be a member of your career association. Being a member of a secular association does not mean you have to involve yourself in ungodly activities. Be motivated to take leadership position in secular associations so that you can influence others in the right direction. Like the five wise virgins, be in the right team and do not compromise your faith. Be a good steward of any position that is entrusted to you. Through that you may win souls for the Lord. Avoid back-biting, laziness and gossips which are attitudes that destroy good team spirit.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF STEWARDS

Main text: Matt 25:1-13

Memory verse: Acts 9:5-6 "Who are you Lord? Saul asked. "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting," he replied. Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do".

Introduction

When a steward is given a responsibility, he/she is expected to perform certain duties or assignments. Our memory verse today exposes Saul's request for direction from the Lord whom he encountered. He first of all asked of who the Lord is and was later directed as to what to do next. Many stewards are unaware of their responsibilities. They do as they please. Some stewards do not study the times hence become inefficient.

Today's study looks at some lessons that can be gleaned from the parable of the 10 virgins for stewards.

Discussion questions

1. What was the difference between the wise and foolish virgins? Matt 25:2-3
2. Why did the virgins sleep? Matt 25:5
3. At what time did the bridegroom appear? Matt 25:6
4. Why did the foolish virgins request for oil? Gen 25:8
5. When did the groom arrive? Gen 25:10

6. What happened to the foolish virgins? Matt 25:11-13

Conclusion

The foolish virgins were denied access to the wedding. We must know that they were also virgins, who took their lamps. However, they forgot to take oil for the journey. This shows a weakness that many stewards have. They may have the talent, be given the opportunity to use such talents but, lack the steam to be efficient. Below are few responsibilities of a good steward.

- a. He must know his master (John 14:23-24)
- b. He must be a leader
- c. He must know the times (Luke 12:54-56)
- d. He must know the generation and culture
(The men of Issachar)

It is required of stewards to be more responsible towards their calling. It will be disastrous to be a steward and miss the mark. Stewards must therefore be responsible for whatever has been entrusted to them.

STEWARDS OF TIME

Main text: Rom 13:11-14

*Memory verse: "The night is nearly over, the day is almost here, so let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armour of light"
Rom. 13:12*

Introduction

In the passage, Paul admonishes that, time is not on our side, the coming of the Lord is near and we ought to use our time wisely in doing the things that are of eternal value. As good stewards of time, we should not spend long periods in idleness, and needless arguments. The important issues that should occupy our attention and time are our God-given work and church activities, quality time for spouses and children. We need to have time for rest and recreation. When we properly allot time for these activities, we will be good stewards of time.

1. Why is Paul asking the believers to wake up from their slumber? Vrs 11
2. What does the period of slumber represent in the context?
3. In what practical ways do we waste time in our daily lives?
4. What are the deeds of the time? Vrs 13

5. How should we conduct ourselves in the day time?
Vrs 14

Conclusion

Each one of us has a 24 – hour day to use as we see fit. But we should realize that, “time” is a commodity over which we are stewards. What things do we invest into this time? For some it is sexual immorality, using drugs, robberies and parties. Believers are admonished to invest into their time by living decently to please the Lord.

WEEK 21

UNDERSTANDING WEALTH CREATION

Main text: 1 Kings 10:14-24

Memory verse: Haggai 2:8 The silver is mine, and the gold is mine declares the LORD Almighty

Introduction

Money is not the root of all evil; but the love of money is. It is becoming increasingly clear that, the church needs people to support various spiritual, physical and social activities with money. The mandate of the church is to win souls and prepare them for Heaven. However, people must live and work for some time before God calls them to glory. Money is therefore essential in the purchase of food, schooling, and dealing with health issues, providing for others and also supporting the church. Today's study seeks to expose the fact that making money legally is praiseworthy. God blesses people to accomplish specific tasks at every moment in time. In our memory verse, we encounter God as the owner of the gold and silver which symbolize the riches of the earth. If He is our God, then we, His children have every right to be blessed financially.

Discussion Questions

1. How does the reading describe the utensils in the Palace? 1 Kings 10:21

2. What in Solomon's life makes us believe that God is not against the creation of wealth?
3. What did God bless King Solomon with? 1 Kings 10:23
4. How was God acknowledged through the riches of King Solomon? 1 Kings 10:24
5. Is it sinful for Christians to be blessed financially? Explain
6. How can one gain wealth legally?

Conclusion

Our study today clearly demonstrates that many nations were attracted to the kingdom of Israel because of the wisdom and riches of Solomon. For the church to support the teeming numbers who need some financial assistance, a good financial standing cannot be left out. The youth especially are to note that there is no shortcut to financial breakthrough, but rather hard work and the blessings of God. The Bible says in Proverbs 10:22 *that the blessing of the LORD brings wealth, and he adds no trouble to it.* In our study, it was clear that King Solomon had more than enough because God blessed his efforts.

WEEK 22

STEWARDS OF YOUR MONEY

Main text: Matt 6:19-22

Memory Verse: Matt 25:14 “To one he gave five talents of money, to another two talents, and to another one talent, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey”

Introduction

Money and the things it can buy can easily become a source of temptation for many. We try to get as much of it as we can through fair or foul means. In today’s reading, the Lord teaches the right attitude to money. We are supposed to work hard to earn money to sustain ourselves. However, any income we make belongs primarily to God and must be handled as such. Money is not intended to be hoarded and expended to meet selfish desires.

Discussion questions

1. What is money?
2. Where did Jesus admonish us to keep our treasured money. Why vrs 20
3. How do we store up earthly money/treasure in Heaven
4. Why is it not wise to store up your treasure on earth?
Vrs 19

5. What kinds of activities do people spend money on? In your opinion which ones are wasteful, which ones are godly?

Conclusion

The way a person uses his/her money is an indication of their godliness or spirituality. When Jesus teaches his disciples to store up treasure in Heaven, it means we should use our monies to do things that please God. These include; taking care of His church, caring for the poor, investing in charitable deeds among others. These good deeds translate in treasure stored in Heaven.

STEWARDS OF GOD'S FLOCK (I)

Main text: 1 Peter 5:1-4

Memory Verse: *Keep watch over yourselves, and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God which he bought with his own blood. Acts 20:28-30*

Introduction

Christian leadership is another important aspect of stewardship. In the main text, the Apostle Peter charges leaders to watch over the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made them stewards. Paul repeats the same charge to the Ephesian elders in his departure address. Acts 20:28. Leadership in the church at whatever level should be seen as a very important task of stewardship over God's flock. The Christian leader is expected to tend the flock by guiding, feeding and protecting them, under the guidance of the Chief shepherd, the Lord Jesus himself.

Discussion questions

1. Christian leadership is a form of stewardship. Discuss
2. In Acts 20:28, what did Paul ask the leaders to do?
3. What does tending the flock involve?
4. What is the reward of Good Christian leadership?
1 Peter 5:4

5. In what practical way can you be a good Christian leader?

Conclusion

Our lesson today focuses on the Christian leader as a steward, an overseer over God's flock. This function involves feeding the flock through God's word, loving them, leading them by word and deed and protecting them through prayer and intercession. The church as God's household needs good stewards to take care of God's people.

STEWARDS OF GOD'S FLOCK (II)

Main text: Ezekiel 34:1-16

Memory verse: Ezekiel 34:3 *"You eat the curds, clothe yourselves with wool and slaughter the choice animals, but you do not take care of the flock".*

Introduction

The Lord Jesus expects His stewards to take proper care of those in His household. Church leaders are stewards of God's flock. They will account for the flock God has put under their care. In today's reading, we encounter stewards who take delight in caring for themselves other than the flock of God.

Stewards are expected to take good care of resources their masters place in their care. Accordingly, stewards should be gentle in handling God's flock and ensure that they do not drive the sheep away. Rather they should lead and guide the sheep. Our study today looks at some irresponsible behavior of some stewards and what God expects from stewards of His flock

Discussion questions

1. Who should shepherds take care of? Eze. 34:2
2. What are some responsibilities of shepherds?
Eze 34:4

3. What happens when stewards neglect their responsibilities? Eze. 34:5-8
4. How does the Lord discipline irresponsible stewards of His flock? Eze. 34:10
5. What does the LORD expect from stewards of His flock? Eze. 34:11-14
6. How do you assess yourself as a steward of God's flock?

Conclusion

The growth of The Church of Pentecost has largely been attributed to the presence, availability and hardwork of committed lay leaders. Today, many people in the church find themselves in some leadership office like; elder, deacon, deaconess, cell and Bible study leaders as well as committee and ministry leaders. All of these people have been mandated to take care of God's flock like God would; rescue them, provide pasture for them (feed them with the word of God), bind their wounds and guide them with love. God will remove irresponsible stewards and shepherd His own flock Himself.

THE MINISTRY OF VISITATION

Main text : Acts 9:10-18

Memory verse : Acts 15:36 "Sometime later Paul said to Barnabas, let us go back and visit the brothers in all the towns where we preached the word of the Lord and see how they are doing"

Introduction

Paul the Apostle in our memory verse and text is a good example to follow. He was committed to the act of visitation because he himself benefited immensely from the visit of Ananias whose prayer restored his sight.

Visitation is crucial for the development of the church. Some people leave the church; others become cold and nominal Christians because nobody visits them in their time of affliction or pain. This study seeks to encourage members to visit one another and to promote fellowship in the church.

Discussion questions

1. In which city was Ananias? Acts 9:10
2. Where did the Lord command Ananias to go? Acts 9:11
3. Why was Ananias reluctant to visit Saul? Acts 9:13
4. What are some of the things that prevent people from visiting one another?

5. What happened to Saul after Ananias' visit?
Acts 9:17-18
6. Two people should share their personal experience on how they have been blessed through the visit of someone.

Conclusion

Ananias' visit to Saul did not only bring restoration of physical sight to Saul but also enriched his spiritual experience. Saul was blind and confused; the visit by Ananias gave him hope that he could not buy with money. Many people in our church are suffering from all kinds of "blindness and confusion". Paul in his ministry visited as many of his converts as he could as demonstrated by our memory verse. Pro. 11:25 says, "he who waters shall himself be watered". Let us therefore follow Paul as he says "let us go again and visit our brethren.....and see how they do".

CAUSES OF NON PERFORMANCE

Main text: *Matthew 25:24-25*

Memory Verse: *1 Cor 15:58 "Therefore my dear Brothers stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labour in the Lord is not vain".*

Introduction

In the reading, one servant was negligent and lazy. He refused to use his talents. The talents represent the totality of God's investment in us, by way of gifts, abilities and responsibilities. God intends for his servants to use these endowments to work for His kingdom. His purpose for His servants is that they apply themselves and their talents to harvest souls for the kingdom. The Lord said "the fields are white but the workers are few".

The unfaithful servant cited some reasons why he was unfaithful. He stated that the Master was too harsh and demanding, that he was unfair and inconsiderate. His twisted assessment of his master caused him to apply his energies wrongly, burying his talent. He also cited fear as a reason for his non-performance. Either this servant was not well acquainted with his master or he was being deliberately malicious.

Discussion questions

1. What do the talents represent?

2. Why does the master give us talents?
3. What was the bad servant's assessment of the master?
4. Was the assessment by the servant of the master true? Vrs 21, 23
5. Why was the bad servant fearful?
6. How do you use your God-given talents?

Conclusion

Many people give excuses for their non-performance. Just like the unfruitful servant in the reading, excuses do not solve problems. God gives talents so we can work with them to transform lives. When a Christian under performs in the use of his or her talents, lives that need to be transformed stay unchanged.

**UNDERSTANDING PRE-MARITAL
RELATIONSHIP (Courtship)**

MainText: Genesis 29:15-21

MemoryVerse: So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God (1 Cor. 10:31).

Introduction

The word 'courtship' is generally defined as the period during which a prospective couple develop a romantic relationship before getting married. Though the concept of courtship is in the Bible, it does not carry the same understanding as it is today. The concept as it is in the Bible refers to the period between a proposal made to marry each other and the time of engagement (traditional marriage) or marriage (by ordinance or law) devoid of any sexual relationship. Thus, in order to avoid the confusion of the term, we will prefer to use **Pre-marital Relationship** in the following studies. Other relationships between opposite sexes without a marital proposal could be designated **Friendship**. In today's passage, we will learn about the pre-marital relationship between Jacob and Rachel.

Discussion Questions

1. Why did Jacob choose to marry Rachel? verse 17-18
2. For how long did their pre-marital relationship last? verse 20

3. Why did their pre-marital relationship last that long? Verse 15, 20.
4. From the passage, who were aware of their pre-marital relationship?
5. According to verse 21, was there any sexual relationship between them?
6. What lessons do you learn from the above passage about pre-marital relationship?

Conclusion

In the text above Jacob met Rachel and desired to marry her. He even informed Laban, the father of Rachel of his intention to marry his daughter Rachel, but did not have her as a wife immediately, though they all lived in the same vicinity. That period between his “proposal” to marry Rachel up to the seven years period when he took her as a wife is what is called pre-marital relationship. The Bible endorses any decent relationship between prospective couples and affirms any relationship prior to marriage that gives due reverence God, especially one that has the consent of the concerned families and the church and would be free from sex.

IS PRE-MARITAL RELATIONSHIP AFRICAN?

Main Text: Matthew 1:18 - 24

Memory Verse: So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God 1 Cor. 10:31

Introduction

Pre-marital relationship as explained in the previous lesson could be found in almost all cultures and is not peculiar to Jews, Africans or Europeans. In some cases in Africa and other cultures, there is the opportunity for some form of interactions and planning between the prospective couple before they are customarily or legally married. However, not all the African systems of pre-marital relationship would meet the biblical standard. In some tribes, the proposed couple could establish sexual ties with each other before coming together as husband and wife which may not offend families who may even give their support to the act. In such situations the standard of the Bible which approves of sex only in marriage must be followed. When culture contradicts the standard of the Word of God, God's word must be upheld. In today's passage, we see Joseph and Mary in a kind of pre-marital relationship.

Discussion Questions

1. Is courtship allowed or practiced in your tribe?

2. How is it practiced in your tribe/culture?
3. How does it agree or disagree with the biblical model?
4. Which aspects of courtship in your tribe contradict the Word of God, and should be discarded?
5. What lessons do you learn from today's passage?
6. What are the "dos" and "don'ts" in courtship?

Conclusion

God is the architect of cultures and he deals with us through and within our cultures. He uses our cultures including our understanding of the universe and humans to communicate to us. Nevertheless, because of the fall of man, certain aspects of our culture may not meet God's standard and these must be modified to suit God's standard. Pre-marital relationship as defined in the previous study is not wrong. With the exception of pre-arranged marriages (e.g. Genesis 24: 61-67), it is unlikely to marry someone without knowing the person. Again, pre-marital relationship in whatever culture or dispensation must honour God, devoid of sexual relationship and be guided by the intention of marriage within the shortest possible time.

MEDIA PRE-MARITAL RELATIONSHIP

MainText: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20

Memory Verse: *There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end, it leads to death Prov. 14: 12*

Introduction

The media is defining a new form and understanding of pre-marital relationship for this present generation. This media model comes with a moral code that is not only alien and unacceptable to the Bible but also to the cherished indigenous cultures of the world. In most Western movies, Mexican Soap Operas / Telenovela's and in recent time African movies, sex has been popularized and almost all characters that depict pre-marital relationship are not without sexual connotations. Therefore, pre-marital relationship has been portrayed as a period of sexual exploration and exploitation, instead of a period of prayer and planning. Christians should not be guided by what the media present but by what the Bible says as expressed in the previous lessons.

Discussion Questions

1. What does Paul tell us about the purpose of our bodies? Verse 13b
2. What do you learn about from verses 15 and 19?

3. According to verse 16 what happens when someone engages in sexual act?
4. From verses 18 and 20b, what commandments are given to Christians?
5. Why do you think that it is not advisable to learn from the “sex-driven” movies?
6. Can you share any example of sexually-driven pre-marital relationship and the consequences?
7. Why must we stay out of sex during pre-marital relationship?

Conclusion

What we watch in movies and on other media platforms especially about sex in pre-marital relationship is neither biblical nor culturally acceptable in most of the world’s indigenous societies. Movie makers and stars are in for money and would do anything that will attract the attention of the youth. Though movies may portray successful marriages that have grown out of sex-driven courtship, the stories are never real but fictitious. Sex during courtship destroys trust for each other and increases the tendency for couples to be suspicious of one another. It again, takes away the presence and blessings of God.

DANGERS OF PREMARITAL SEX

MainText: 2 Samuel 13:1-15

Memory verse: *Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a man commits are outside his body, but he who sins sexually sins against his own body* 1 Corinthians 6:18

Introduction

Sex is a great gift from God to mankind. It is a gift that brings psychological, social, emotional, spiritual and health satisfaction when it is between the right people. However, sex could be devastating, bringing conflicts ruining families when it takes place outside marriage. Sex has been abused in all places for many generations now. Any sex between people who are not married either by the consent of the two or even the families is premarital sex and is against the ideals of God as spelt out in Scripture. It is wrong for a man and a woman to engage in sex when they have not been bonded in a marriage that is culturally acceptable in the light of scripture. In today's passage, we will learn about the dangers of pre-marital sex.

Discussion Questions

1. Why did Amnon pretend he was sick? Verse 2, 5
2. Who encouraged Amnon to do what he did? Verse 3-5.

3. According to Tamar what will be the consequence of Amnon's action? Verse 11-13
4. Could Amnon have had Tamar for a wife if he had controlled himself? Verse 13
5. What was the outcome of Amnon's illicit sex with his half-sister? Verse 14-15
6. What lessons can you learn from the passage?

Conclusion

Amnon claimed he was in love with his half-sister and pretended he was sick just to lure her into sex even against her wish. Amnon could have exercised self-control and married Tamar before sleeping with her. His rush to have sex with her made him hate and despise her. When people claim they are in love and want sex before marriage, they may end up losing respect and trust for each other and a lot of such relationships do not last. When we claim we are in love, then like Jacob, we must have the patience to wait no matter how long it takes.

**THE RIGHT WAY OF PRE-MARITAL
RELATIONSHIP**

Main Text: Genesis 24

Memory verse: Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path. Psalm 119:105

Introduction

Today's passage describes how Eliezer, the servant of Abraham got a wife for Isaac, Abraham's son. Though the context is not very common today, the principles are good for our study.

The intention of God for creating Adam and Eve was for them to keep the earth and be a companion for each other. They were also to give birth so there would always be people on earth. Again, they were to instruct their children about the will of God and remind them of God's instruction. Relationships that are intended to lead to marriage must have this focus and prospective couples must strive towards this. The time for pre-marital relationship is not therefore for sexual exploitation but for prayer and planning. This is to ensure that the couple can fulfill the primary will of God in future generations.

Discussion Questions

1. As a Christian how do you understand verses 3-4 concerning who to marry?
2. What lessons do you learn from Eliezer? Verse 12-14, 26-27
3. What qualities did Rebecca portray in the passage? verse 15-20,
4. How does the family of Rebecca get involved in the pre-marital arrangements?
5. How does Isaac become an example to young people today? Verse 62.
6. What dangers must be avoided during pre-marital relationship?
7. From the discussions, what have you learnt about the right way of pre-marital relationship?

Conclusion

Pre-marital relationship is a period of praying, planning and preparing actively to enter into marriage. In the passage above, we see the role of Abraham ensuring that his son did marry from his own relatives because the Canaanites were idol worshippers. In our case as Christians, it's not about tribe but Faith. Is the person a Christian? We see good virtues from Rebecca like diligence, respect and chastity among others. We also learn that Isaac was meditating in prayer while a wife was being sought for him. Today, depending on the culture, one's level of maturity, financial ability and legal

issues, the age to enter into pre-marital relationship may vary from place to place. People may enter into pre-marital relationship when they are mature to marry and the relationship must be within an appreciable time – not too short and not too long. Some of the dangers associated with prolonged pre-marital relationship are: pre-marital sex that leads to unwanted pregnancies, change of minds, broken hearts, among others. Avoid being alone in dark places, kissing, and anything that has the potential of leading you into sexual sin. Commit yourself to prayer and make pleasing God a priority not neglecting proper planning for the future.

STEWARDS OF OUR BODIES (I)

Main text: Romans 1:18-27

Memory Verse: Romans 12:1 *“Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God- this is your spiritual act of worship” (NIV)*

Introduction

Our bodies belong to the Lord, thus we are to take care of our bodies for the Lord. The Christian therefore needs to give himself to the Lord before giving all other things such as talents, gifts, money and home. Since the body is God’s, we are entreated to present it to God as a living sacrifice as stated in our memory verse.

In a postmodern world, even truth has become relative. People use their bodies for all kinds of vices. In our study today, we will look at how we can be good stewards of our bodies and not exchange it for evil desires.

Discussion questions

1. How is the truth of God suppressed? Rom 1:18
2. How can people who know God have their hearts darkened? Rom 1:21
3. What happens to those who exchange the glory of God for images? Rom 1:24
4. How do people abuse their bodies? Rom 1:26-27

5. In which ways do people abuse their bodies?
6. What should people do to become good stewards of their bodies?

Conclusion

One of the greatest hindrances to God's work is the failure of Christians to avail themselves as ready vessels. Some do not take good care of their bodies and therefore are not healthy while others suffer from physical weakness. For this reason, they do not fit into tasks that call for healthy workers. Other things like personal hygiene, what and how we eat show how we serve as good stewards of our bodies.

As good stewards of our bodies, we should refrain from back-biting, slander, cursing and raining insults on people especially our children. The same goes with what we look at, and what we do with our bodies. Job said in Job 31:1: "I made a covenant with my eyes not to look lustfully at a girl" (NIV). We must make a covenant with our bodies not to abuse them through sexual immorality, gluttony and stress.

STEWARDS OF OUR BODIES (II)

Main text: 1 Cor 6:19-20

Memory verse: “Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, but rather offer them to God” Romans 6:13

Introduction

A steward has been described as an official who controls the affairs of a household-supervising and directing the staff, and regulating the expenditure of the household. However, the Bible indicates that, we as Christians have been made stewards of much more than just households. God has made us stewards and caretakers of our bodies. Today’s text teaches that our physical bodies belong to God, and He expects us to take good care of them.

Discussion questions

1. According to the text, what is the purpose of the body? 1 Cor 6:20
2. Who do our bodies belong to? 1 Cor 6:19
3. Why should we honour God with our bodies? 1 Cor 6:20
4. In what ways can you take care of your body?
5. “Do not offer your bodies as instruments of wickedness” Rom 6:13. Explain

Conclusion

Our physical bodies are God's gift to us to be the dwelling place of His Spirit. Our responsibility is to take good care of the body through exercise, good eating habits and clean sexual behavior.

Any activity that leaves our bodies less physically fit, less mentally alert and less morally sensitive cannot be good for us.

HEALTHY LIVING (I)

Main Text: 1 Samuel 4:12-18

Memory Verse: 1 Corinthians 6:19 “Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own”

Introduction

Healthy living is making a conscious effort to ensure that, one’s body remains strong and vigorous enough for all the days God has given him or her. Fitness, well-being, strength and vigour are other words, for health. To be healthy means to be physically fit, well, strong, vigorous and hale and hearty. Man is a tripartite being. He has a soul, spirit and body. Many people including Christians tend to focus more on the development of the soul and the spirit to the detriment of the body. We must not take care of one and neglect the other. Our memory verse says; our body is the temple of the Holy Ghost. Paul prayed for not only our spirit and soul but also our bodies to be sanctified. It is pertinent that we cultivate the habit of healthy living.

Discussion Questions

1. Why should we take care of our body?
1Corinthians 6:19
2. What was Eli doing when the Benjamite arrived?
1Samuel 4:13

3. Is physical exercise important for the Christian? Explain your answer.
4. What happened to Eli when he heard about the ark of God? 1 Samuel 4:18
5. Why did he go through that experience? 1 Samuel 4:18
6. Can poor health affect a Christian's life?

Conclusion

Eli, though was an aged man (98 years) could have lived longer if he had lived a healthy life. We learn from the study that he was old and heavy. This presupposes that he was a man of very little physical activity. Smokers are liable to die young so avoid smoking like you would avoid a plague. Overeating will result to overweight which may in turn lead to early death; beware! Indiscriminate use of drugs will damage your system and could end your life abruptly. Premarital intimacy between boys and girls is dangerous and deadly; it wrecks spiritually and may earn one with the deadly HIV. Avoid eating junk food and any food short of balanced diet. Remember your spirit and soul live in your body, so take good care of your body.

HEALTHY LIVING (II)

Main Text: Acts 27:33-38

Memory Verse: 1 Timothy 4:8 *“For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come”.*

Introduction

For many Christians, practising a healthy lifestyle seems more difficult than doing ‘spiritual things’. Many Christians do not spend enough time to check on their health. For some circumstances such as jobs, frequent travels among others force them to eat and even sleep on the go. As much as the soul and the spirit prosper, the body must also prosper. The body prospers when we take good care of it and make sure it gets the best of fresh air, quality food and potable water.

Discussion Questions

1. For how many days did the sailors go without food and why? Acts 27:33
2. Why did Paul urge the sailor’s to eat? Acts 27:34
3. What do you make of the statement “eat to live don’t live to eat”?
4. What bad health practices should be avoided?
5. What healthy practices should be encouraged?

6. What practical healthy living practices /lessons have you learnt?

Conclusion

Your body is the container of your spirit and soul when it is affected, the spirit will also be affected. As much as possible try to eat organic foods, avoid refined foods and be moderate on fatty foods. Avoid environments that are devoid of fresh air. Stuffy rooms are not good for your health. Moderate bodily exercise is profitable. It helps to keep you physically fit. It could be in the form of walking, jumping, jogging, or other less rigorous exercises. It is recommended that you allow an interval of about three hours between your supper and the time you go to bed. It is recommended that you go to bed between 9 and 10pm. It is said that every hour of sleep gained before midnight is worth two hours of sleep after midnight. Sunlight is good for your body. It could reduce the risk of breast cancer and decrease blood pressure. It is recommended that you take between 7 and 8 glasses of water daily. Grievances, bitterness, anger and malice are not good for your health. Remember that you have direct control of almost every aspect of your body, so make sure it does not suffer from neglect.

WEEK 41

SLANDER

Main Text: 2 Sam 16: 1-6, 19: 24 – 30

Memory Verse: Leviticus 19:16 – *Do not go about spreading slander among your people*

Introduction

The word “Slander” is mentioned more than forty (40) times in the Bible. Slander means to say something false and malicious about somebody with the intention to damage his reputation. In Matt. 15:19, it is listed among the vices that proceed from a man’s heart and makes him unclean. The slanderous word may be true of the person like a past sin or weakness in his life, but it is still slander because the intention is to deliberately harm the person and damage his reputation.

In today’s reading, Ziba, a crooked character slanders his master Mephibosheth because he wanted to have favour with David. He lied and presented his master in very bad light. Slander is an especially ugly sin because the victim is usually not there to defend himself or herself. When we slander people, we seek to make others hate, isolate, or punish them as people unfit for respect or recognition. In Chapter 19, David returned to Jerusalem and found out the truth about Ziba’s wicked schemes. Let’s study together

Discussion Questions

1. What is slander?
2. Who was Mephibosheth? Who was Ziba?
2 Sam 9: 1-6
3. What did Ziba tell David about Mephibosheth?
2 Sam 16:1-3.
4. What did Ziba get from his lies? 2 Sam 16:4
5. What was the proof of Mephibosheth's loyalty to David? 2 Sam 19:24
6. Have you ever been slandered by, or slander somebody before? What happened?
7. How can we free ourselves from the spirit of slander?
Ex. 23: 1-3, Prov. 6: 1

Conclusion

The scripture has much to say about slander. In the Psalms, David is distressed by those who slander him, (Ps. 31:13, 38:20, 41:6, 54:5). Slander does to the spirit what a murderer's sword does to the body. The slanderer can concoct any story and spread it without the victim being aware. When we are tempted to malign somebody, we should remember the Lord's Golden rule, "Do unto others as you want them do to you". Slander is akin to false accusations and Satan is the accuser of the brethren. Let us not join him.

THE QUALITIES OF A STEWARD – Having An Abiding Faith

Main Text: 2 Peter 1:1-11

Memory Verse: “*But you, dear friends, build yourselves up in your most holy faith and pray in the Holy Spirit.*” Jude 20 (NIV)

Introduction

As stewards of the Lord we need to have an abiding and deep faith in the teachings and practices of the Master. Then we would be able to follow him steadfastly and not be tossed by any kind of doctrine. Gifts can be transferred but as stewards, it is our responsibility to develop strong faith in the Lord. No one can transfer that to us. There is the need to develop our individual spiritual life. A good steward must be rooted in the faith. Having an abiding and strong faith makes us productive.

Discussion Questions

1. What do you understand by having an abiding and strong faith?
2. Why should a good steward have an abiding and strong faith? Verse 10
3. How does a good steward develop deep faith?
4. What is the benefit of having an abiding and strong faith? Verse 11.

5. Are there circumstances in life that makes believers not to have strong faith?

Conclusion

The Bible warns us that in the last days there will be scoffers, deceivers and false prophets and above all the love of many disciples shall wax cold. It is therefore imperative that we have an abiding and strong faith to overcome temptations. To have an abiding and strong faith means know Christ through consistent personal, Bible study, reading of and meditation on the word of God and Prayer life. It is through these activities that we can also develop our faith in the Lord.

QUALITIES OF A STEWARD - Preparedness

Main Text: Matthew 25:1-13

Memory Verse: *“Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour. Matthew 25:13” (NIV)*

Introduction

The parable of the ten virgins indicates that all the ten virgins were aware of the coming of the bridegroom, all did not know the specific time and all were waiting patiently for the coming of the bridegroom. The major difference is that five were waiting in readiness and made preparation in case the bridegroom delayed. While the other five were not adequately prepared for any delay. Many Christians can be caught up in this scenario. You may be involved in doing things for the Church, but how ready you are is more important. Readiness means staying in Christ, living a daily righteous life. Paul encourages us to work out our salvation with fear and trembling. Salvation should not be taken for granted. Living in readiness is demonstrating through your life that Christ will come in a twinkling of the eye for those who truly abide in him.

Discussion Questions

1. What is your understanding of living in readiness?
2. Why were the five foolish virgins shut outside?
Verses: 7-10

3. What happens to people who are not ready for the coming of the bride? Verses: 11-12, 30
4. What shows that the five wise virgins were ready and how can we apply that to our lives? Verses: 7-10
5. How can we keep watch for the coming of our Lord for His saints?

Conclusion

We don't have the power to postpone the coming of our Lord for His saints; neither do we have the technology to determine his specific date of coming. One thing we have the means to do, is to keep watch, avoid living a double life and be always ready for His coming.

QUALITIES OF A STEWARD – Faithfulness

Main Text: Matthew 24:3-14, 36-50

Memory Verse: “Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful”. 1 Corinthians 4:2 (NIV).

Introduction

There are good stewards and there are also bad stewards. To be a good steward is a requirement for every Christian. What distinguish them are the qualities that they demonstrate. One of the qualities of a good steward is faithfulness. God has entrusted us with life, positions, children, opportunities, time, business, health and spiritual gifts. This list could go on and on. God expects us to be good care-takers of all the resources he has given. One ingredient we need to handle these resources is faithfulness.

To be faithful means being loyal and holding on to the teaching and practices of the master no matter the circumstances. The love of money, the desire of material possession and lust are deeds of unfaithfulness.

Discussion Questions

1. What is faithfulness? Verse 13
2. How would you know that one is faithful?
3. What are the deeds of unfaithfulness? Verse 10

4. What are the current threats to our faithfulness?
Verses: 4-7, 9.
5. What is the ultimate reward of being faithful? Verse: 13.
6. How can you remain faithful?

Conclusion

God desires that we remain faithful stewards unto the end. The Bible clearly indicates that in the last days many believers will turn away from the faith. It means that, some stewards would be found wanting on the Day of Judgment. Our faithfulness must impart others in our community, the assembly where we worship and at our place of work. When we are faithful we do not only please our Lord but even the people around us as well. Being faithful does not mean one does not sin. Rather as faithful stewards, we accept your sin, confess it and repent. A faithful steward is faithful in all he/she does; faithful in tithing, in giving, in paying debt, in handling money and in relationship.

STEWARDS OF THE GOSPEL – Why Should We Evangelize?

Main Text: Matt 28:18-20

Memory Verse: 1 Cor. 4:1 “This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God”

Introduction

From today’s reading, it is obvious that the Lord Jesus deliberately committed the preaching of the gospel and the discipling of nations to his followers. Therefore every believer by the nature of his calling is a steward of the gospel. Every other Christian activity should be driven by this duty to reach every person with the gospel of Jesus. Being a steward of the gospel denotes, experiencing the new birth for oneself, living the Christ like life, understanding the message of Jesus Christ and seeking at every opportunity to spread that message.

Discussion questions

1. What is the gospel?
2. From today’s text, what did the Lord charge his disciples to do? Matt 28:19
3. Who are stewards of the mysteries of God?
1 Cor 4:1 Discuss
4. What does it mean to walk worthy of the gospel?
Eph. 4:25-32

5. How many souls have you won for Christ this year?

Conclusion

Being a steward of the Gospel means that God has made us an exhibition of what the Gospel can do in transforming lives. As a result, we should live the gospel in our homes, workplaces, in our marriages and everywhere we go. The fragrance of the gospel should be felt around us to draw souls into the Kingdom.

WHAT IS THE MESSAGE OF THE GOSPEL?

Main Text: 1 Corinthians 15:1-4

Memory Verse: John 14:6 “Jesus answered, I am the way and the truth and the life. No-one comes to the Father except through me”

Introduction

One of the excuses believers give for not sharing the gospel is “I don’t know what to say”. The word “gospel” means good news, and it is best defined as the message of forgiveness of sin through the atoning work of Jesus Christ. It is essentially God’s rescue plan of redemption for those who will trust in His divine Son in order to be reconciled to a just and holy God. The essential content of this saving message is clearly laid out for us in the Bible. Essentially, the Gospel message is made up of Man’s sinfulness, God’s redemption through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, the free invitation to all who believe and the promise of eternal life (John 3:16).

Discussion Questions

1. What is the condition of all people? Rom. 3:23
2. What is the punishment for our sins? Rom. 6:23
3. What motivated Jesus’ coming to earth? John 3:16
4. What did Jesus do for us with respect to our sins?
Verse 3

5. What qualified Jesus to die for us? 1 Peter 2:21-24
6. What happened to Jesus after three days? Verse 4
7. What must ALL do to be saved? John 1:12; 3:16
Acts 16:31

Conclusion

To be saved, one must **Admit** that he is a sinner, **Believe** that Jesus died on the Cross and **Confess** Jesus as Lord and Savior by inviting Jesus into the heart. This is the message we are to send to the world and to all people. It is not a complex message but a simple one. Jesus has promised to be with you in the presentation of this Gospel. You are not alone.

WHY ARE WE NOT PREACHING THE GOSPEL?

Main Text: Jonah 1:1-3; 4:1-3

Memory Verse: 2 Peter 3:9 “The Lord is not slow in keeping His promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance”.

Introduction

Though we know many reasons why we should share the gospel, unfortunately, however, many people do not share the Gospel. We give many excuses for not witnessing about Jesus. Jonah is an example of a man who was given the Gospel but refused to share it. When he repented, God spared his life so he could go and witness. May his life challenge us to rise from our “slumber” and go out to share the good news of Jesus Christ. You can pause and ask yourself, “when was the when was the last time I shared Christ with somebody”? What excuses are you giving?

Discussion Questions

1. Who was Jonah and what was the message he was given?
2. How is the wickedness of Nineveh similar to our world? Verse 2
3. Why did Jonah decide not to go to Nineveh? 4: 2-3

4. What excuses do we give for not responding to God's call to witness?
5. What are the consequences of refusing to share the gospel? Ez. 3:17-21; Mark 8:38; Daniel 12:3.
6. How is the kingdom of God affected by your refusal to share the Gospel?

Conclusion

Jonah's decision to flee instead of sharing the gospel affected so many people. The implication of neglecting to evangelize includes; the loss and waste of ripened harvest, requirement of sinners' blood from negligent soul winners, loss of soul winners' reward, spiritual decline and stunted growth of the local churches, and delay in answer to prayer. Every believer must therefore wake up to this great responsibility of sharing the Gospel. NO EXCUSES.

THE REWARD OF WITNESSING

Main Text: 2 Timothy 4:7-8

Memory Verse: Psalm 126:6 "He who goes out weeping, carrying seed to sow, will return with songs of joy, carrying sheaves with him"

Introduction

Do you know of any street, building, or airport that has been named to honor a person? These people many times have done something to help the people or the community. If humans know how to reward their fellows for good deeds, how much more will our good God not honor and reward those who obey him especially in discipling others into the kingdom. Just the thought that Christ will honor us before His Father should keep us faithful. What are the rewards that we will receive from the Father?

Discussion Questions

1. Are there rewards in this present world for those who obey the command to "Go"? Mention them. Matthew 28:20; 19: 29, Luke 10:17, Proverbs 11:30
2. What is the condition for the promise in Matthew 28:20 to be fulfilled?
3. What are the eternal rewards for witnessing about Christ according to the following verses;

a. Daniel 12:3

b.1 Corinthians 9:25

c.2 Timothy 4:8

d.1 Peter 5:4

e. James 1:12

4. How are you motivated by these rewards to make disciples for Christ?

Conclusion

There will be the Crown of life, Crown of righteousness, Crown of rejoicing, Crown of glory among others that the Lord will give to soul winners. Also, the Lord God is waiting to give you the “well done, good and faithful servant” handshake. Rise up and start obeying the command to GO. Awesome rewards await you.

YEAR 2016

WEEK 2

STEWARDS OF GOD'S CREATION (I)

Main Text: Gen 1:20-28

Memory verse: “God blessed them and said to them: Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth”. Gen 1:28

Introduction

In creation, God lovingly placed the responsibility of stewardship over all creation on man (ie the human race). Some have understood having “dominion” to mean exploitation and degradation of the earth and its resources. The irresponsible and reckless use of natural resources has resulted in the depletion of forests, extinction of valuable plant and animal species, pollution of air and water bodies. Our seas and rivers are overfished using destructive methods. Trees are felled with careless abandon, disrupting the natural cycles that sustain the earth.

Discussion questions

1. How did God intend for us to use the earth's resources? Vrs 26
2. What are some of the wrong uses of natural resources?

3. How can you as an individual help to stop some wrong environmental practices in your community?
4. Is it good for Christians to engage in illegal mining? Why?

Conclusion

It is true that a large percentage of the population of some African countries like Ghana lives in poverty, and need some kind of sustenance, but practices like illegal mining destroy the water bodies which people drink from. Fishing with nets with small mesh, using poisons like DDT in fishing and practicing light fishing all destroy the fish as well as the water bodies in which these activities are carried out. Felling trees rampantly causes deforestation. This in turn, may lead to climate change. It is the duty of Christians to take care of the earth because it belongs to our Father.

WEEK 3

STEWARDS OF GOD'S CREATION (II)

MainText: Genesis 2:1-17; Psalm 8

MemoryVerse: The earth is the LORD's and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it. Psalm 24:1

Introduction

Man was created and placed in a beautiful garden to keep it. After the fall, man still has that responsibility to care for the earth and all its natural resources, water, plants, animals, rocks, and all the other things we could think of. Though God gave all plants to man for food and later animals for consumption he expects that we do not destroy the vegetation, hunt animals indiscriminately or put excessive pressure on the environment. The earth is the Lord's and everything in it belongs to him, we are only caretakers.

Discussion Questions

1. How do you understand verse 5?
2. God placed man in the Garden to work it and take care of it (verse15). Discuss.
3. What human activities are destroying the beautiful world created by God?
4. What role should a Christian play in keeping the environment clean and healthy?

5. Discuss some practical ways in which we can care for our environments.

Conclusion

Man was placed in the Garden to take care of it. God created plants and animals for our use but he expects us to use them sustainably that these animals do not go into extinction. We must not hunt animals that are breastfeeding or very young; we should not cut down trees indiscriminately and we must keep our environment very clean. Dirty environments can cause cholera which can kill; destruction of trees can affect rainfall patterns and warm the earth more than it's supposed to be, while illegal mining can also destroy our water bodies. Burning of some fossil fuel produces harmful gases which are harmful to the climate and our health. We are stewards of God's creation and we shall give account of how we use and manage his earth.

WEEK 4

DAY OF ACCOUNTABILITY (I)

Main text: Matt 25:14-30

Memory verse: Rom 14:12 "So then, each of us will give an account of himself to God".

Introduction

Every steward should know that, the day of accountability will come. We read from the main text that, each of the stewards was given a talent according to their abilities. We cannot all have the same levels of abilities, skills and anointing.

The lord judges us according to how faithful we are in our work. He does not judge us according to names, positions and titles. But rather how faithful we are in the assignment that has been entrusted to our care. All those who serve the master faithfully will enter in to his joy.

God did not give you that talent for nothing, there is an assignment that only you can fulfill.

Discussion questions

1. How many talents did each servant receive?
Matt 25:14-15
2. Why did some servants receive more than others?
Matt 25:15

3. When did the master return to his servants?
Matt 25:19
4. How did the servants render accounts?
Matt 25:20-25
5. What made the man with one talent bury his talent?
6. What was the reaction of the master to the accounts rendered by the man with one talent?
7. What happens to people who under-use or misuse their talents?
8. How do you use your God-given talents?

Conclusion

The two stewards who put their talents to work brought their reports. For the one who was entrusted with five, he had worked to gain five in addition. Similarly, the one who was given two had worked to gain two in addition. They both received the same commendation.

The master gave the talents to each of them according to their ability. God gives gifts according to his sovereignty. Possibly he knows that if five talents are given to a person with minimal ability, he will not be able to use them. Rather he may be confused and fall into the devil's trap.

Jesus, like the master, will surely come one day no matter how long it takes. Will you be like the two servants who doubled their talents or the one who buried his talent?

WEEK 5

DAY OF ACCOUNTABILITY (II)

Main text: Matthew 25:14-30

Memory Verse: After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. Matt. 25:19

Introduction

In every commercial or business venture, there is an important exercise carried out periodically. It is called “stock taking or auditing of books”. The goal of this exercise is to ascertain the amount of goods traded in by the business and how much money was made. It may also investigate how much money was made available to an organization and how the monies were spent.

Today’s parable indicates that the Master entrusted some of his property to his servants and travelled to a far country. Eventually, the man came back to take stock or audit the books. The Bible teaches clearly our Lord and Master Jesus Christ will come again, and we will give account of our deeds.

Discussion questions

1. What did the Master do before he travelled? Vrs 14
2. What do the talents represent?
3. In your own words, how would you explain the phrase “settled accounts”

4. What did the Master do when he returned? Vrs 19
5. How faithfully do you use God's resources?

Conclusion

In stock-taking, managers are made to account for the goods placed under their care. It is in this exercise that the faithfulness or otherwise of a worker is determined. That day of reckoning will come by all means, and employees who have been fraudulent, negligent or irresponsible will be shamed and punished, while the diligent and wise workers will be rewarded.

WEEK 7

STUDY THE WORD

Main Text: *Nehemiah 8:7-8; Acts 17:11*

Memory Verse: *“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.” (2 Tim. 2:15) KJV*

Introduction

The word of God, as contained in the Bible, is the source from which true believers derive their strength. It commends itself by providing direction, hope, peace, and understanding to all who are spiritually enlightened and apply its message to their lives. Studying the Bible gives us the opportunity to know God and His character. God is a personal God who wants to reveal himself to Christians. He does this mainly through His Word. Studying thus enables the Believer to know Him more and more.

Study Questions

1. What did the Levites do beyond reading the word to make the people understand? Neh. 8:8
2. What does it mean to make the Scriptures clear and give it meaning? Neh. 8:8
3. Why did the Bible describe the church in Berea as having a “more noble character than those in Thessalonica” Acts 17:11 NIV

4. What is the difference between reading the word and studying it?
5. What lessons can we learn from both the Levites and the Bereans?
6. How would these lessons benefit you as a disciple of Christ?

Conclusion

Studying the Word helps you to understand the Bible better and retain twice as you will retain in reading. It is said that if you hear the word, you can retain 10% of it, if you read, you retain 25% but if you study you will be able to retain as much as 50%. This makes studying very important if greater percentage of the word is to be retained. Studying also helps the believer to know the truth and remain faithful in the truth that concerns our salvation.

WEEK 8

MEDITATE UPON THE WORD

Main Text: Psalm 1:1-6

Memory Verse: *“This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success” (Joshua 1:8)*
NKJV

Introduction

As stated in the previous lesson, studying the Word of God helps us to retain 50% of it. It is important, however, to note that memorizing and meditating upon the Word helps the Christian to retain 100% of it. Meditation helps you to draw and drink deep from God’s Word for nourishment, good health, and steady growth. From our study today, it will be noted that meditation upon God’s Word leads to great blessing.

Study Questions

1. Identify the three things you should avoid if you want to be blessed. Psalm 1:1
2. When are we supposed to meditate on the words of the Lord? Psalm 1:2 Why?
3. What are the benefits of meditating upon the word of God? Psalm 1:3

4. What does the statement "... whatever they do prospers" mean? Psalm 1:3
5. How does the word of God differentiate the righteous from the wicked? Psalm 119:130
6. What role does meditation on God's word play in your life?
7. How would you treat meditation upon God's word in your Bible study life?

Conclusion

It has been noted that quite a number of Christians read and study the Word of God but it is only one percent who meditate on it. Selwyn Hughes wrote that we will never really get the best out of the Word of God until we know how to meditate on it. It can only be easy for you to meditate upon the Word of God day and night if you delight in it.

LIVE BY THE WORD

Main Text: James 1:19-25

Memory Verse: "Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says" (James 1:22) NIV

Introduction

Beyond meditation is the ability and the discipline to obey the word. Listening to the word, reading it, studying it and meditating upon it are all useless if whatever we have learnt has not been put into use or practiced. It is in vain to hold a flash light in the dark if you don't intend using it. The essence of the Word lies in how we can apply it to our daily lives.

Study Questions

1. What are the two main hindrances to the reception of the word, as hinted in James 1:21?
2. How should we receive the word? James 1:21
3. What role does the word play in our salvation? James 1:21
4. How does the Bible describe the person who hears the word but does not live by it? James 1:22-24
5. What will happen if one is able to continue in the word of God? James 1:25

6. Why do Christians find it difficult to live by the word of God if it contains so much blessing?
7. What will be your attitude towards God's word from now?

Conclusion

Some of us, especially leaders in the church and Bible studies leaders are eager to study the word to go and teach others. It is good but the most important thing is for you to apply it to your life first before teaching others (Read Ezra 7:10). Ezra prepared his heart to; (1) seek the law of the Lord, (2) do what is written in the law and (3) teach Israel to follow his example. All Christians are expected to be examples to the world.

HOME CELL

2015 HOME CELL WEEK BY WEEK STUDY GUIDE

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WEEK 4

LIVING YOUR QUIET TIME

Smile Awhile: (focus on fellowship – 10 mins) – Lead members to mention their favourite fruits

Into His Presence: (focus on worship – 10 mins) – Lead the cell members in a time of adoration to God as led by the Holy Spirit.

Digging Deeper: (focus on the word – 40 mins)

Topic: LIVING YOUR QUIET TIME

Memory Verse: *James 1:22 Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.*

Main Text: *Genesis 17:1, 21-27*

Introduction

In our previous (last year) studies on quiet time, we looked at how to establish and maintain an effective quiet time. This study hopes to build on our quiet time journey. Even though starting and maintaining an effective quiet time is essential, obeying and living out what God tells us in these encounters is extremely important. Today's study looks at the swiftness with which Abraham obeyed the direction of God after the Lord appeared to him and how that act of obedience transformed his life. Let us learn from Abraham.

Discussion Questions

1. What makes Abraham's encounter with the Lord a quiet time moment?
2. With whom did God establish His covenant?
Gen. 17:21
3. What did Abraham do to all males in his household?
Gen. 17:23
4. How old was Abraham when he was circumcised?
Gen 17:24
5. Why did Abraham obey God's word when it looked obviously difficult to do so?
6. What have you learnt from the example of Abraham?

Conclusion

As we encounter God in our quiet times, He gives us many commands and directions. It is not enough to establish and maintain an effective quiet time, the commands and directions God gives through the quiet time should become part of our lives. It is not for nothing that God commanded Abraham to circumcise every male in his household. For many of us, we could have given God an excuse, but we learn that Abraham immediately proceeded to obey God right after that solitary encounter with Him. Make it a deliberate effort to live your quiet time to experience the fulfillment of His promises to you.

Stand with Me (*focus on praying for members' needs – 10 mins*). Lead members to pray for grace to obey and live the word of God.

Making Jesus Known (*focus on evangelism – 10 mins*)
Lead members to pray for the community that the word of God would impact lives.

WEEK 5

FAMILY DAY

Handwriting practice lines consisting of 20 horizontal dashed lines.

WEEK 6

IMPORTANCE OF HOME CELL MEETINGS

Smile Awhile: *(focus on fellowship-10mins)*

Please lead Cell members to share some benefits of attending home cell meetings/the joy (or otherwise) they have in their profession/occupation.

Into His Presence: *(focus on worship-10mins)*

The Cell Leader/Cell member leads the Cell in a time of adoration to God as led by the Holy Spirit.

Digging Deeper: *(focus on the Word-40mins)*

Topic: IMPORTANCE OF HOME CELL MEETINGS

Main Text: *Exodus 18:13-27*

Memory Verse: *Moses' father-in-law said to him, "What you are doing is not good. You and the people with you will certainly wear yourselves out, for the thing is too heavy for you. You are not able to do it alone. Exodus 18: 17-18*

Introduction

Moses was a great leader of the congregation of Israel. From the main text, he will sit alone from morning till evening everyday listening to the people's complaints and disputes. His father-in-law, Jethro, observed the ministry of Moses and said "*what you are doing is not good. You and these people who come to you will only wear yourself out*" *Exodus 18:17-18.*

Jethro went ahead to counsel Moses to divide the congregation into smaller groups of 1000s, 100s, 50s and 10s. The leaders at the various levels were to shepherd the people under them and provide them with counselling and support in difficult situations. In this way, Moses will have rest and the people will go home satisfied.

In the Church of Pentecost, Pastors and Presiding Elders will face the challenge of Moses if they have to listen to every dispute and at the same time shepherd the flock. The Home Cell system follows the counsel of Jethro, with Cell Leaders at various levels providing the shepherding and discipleship needs of all members. In this way, members' needs could be addressed easily and quickly. This is why EVERY member is expected and encouraged to be a member of a Cell for growth and accountability.

Discussion Questions

1. What was Moses doing that was not right? Why was it not right? Verse 13, 17-18
2. How do Pastors and Presiding Elders/Officers in the Church of Pentecost act like Moses?
3. What are the benefits of breaking the congregation into smaller (Cell) groups? Verse 23
4. What are to be the qualifications of the Cell Leaders? Verse 21
5. What are to be the responsibilities of the Cell Leaders? Verse 22

6. How is the Pastor/Presiding Elder to function in the Church according to Jethro's Model? Verse 19-20
7. How can I ensure that the Cell system put in place will be effective to achieve its purpose?

Conclusion

Following Jethro's advice, Moses chose capable men to be in charge of the groups. This arrangement relieved Moses to play his priestly role of standing before the Lord for the people. He also became committed to teaching and nurturing the leaders on how to live their lives (character) and what work they must do (skill). Thus, Moses ministered to the small group leaders while the small group leaders ministered to the congregation. Certainly, there may be times when Moses ministered to the congregation directly.

This is the structure of the Cell system in the Church of Pentecost. Pastors and Presiding Elders are expected to teach and nurture the Cell Leaders in character and skill while the Cell Leaders impart the members at the Cell level. When the structure is effective in any Local/District, the leaders will be less stressed and the members will be satisfied.

Stand with Me (*focus on praying for members' needs-10mins*)-members should pray for the District Pastors, Presiding Elders, Presbyters & Cell Leaders to be committed to the Cell Ministry. Any other prayer needs could be raised.

WEEK 7

FELLOWSHIP IN THE HOME CELL

Making Jesus Known: (*focus on evangelism-10mins*)- Cell Leader/member leads the Cell to pray for unbelievers within our families, asking the Lord to save them from the power of sin and Satan.

Smile Awhile: (*focus on fellowship- 10 minutes*) Lead cell to share the most interesting moments of the week

Into His Presence: (*focus on worship- 10 minutes*)

A member of the group should lead the cell in a time of adoration as directed by the Holy Spirit.

Digging Deeper: (*focus on the Word- 40 minutes*)

Topic: FELLOWSHIP IN THE HOME CELL

Main Tex: *Acts 2:42-47*

Memory verse: *Matthew 18:20 "For where two or three are gathered in my name there am I in the midst of them"*

Introduction

In a cell, members who live in the same community and share common goals, often come together to set goals and plan on how to achieve such goals. There is always the opportunity for fellowship at home, in the church and at school. Home cells provide the best platform for Christian fellowship. This is because members of the cell can easily identify the home of one

another, visit, pray for and encourage one another. It must however be noted that true Christian fellowship is grounded in the testimony of the word of God.

Discussion Questions

1. What did the disciples devote themselves to?
Acts 2:42
2. How was the power of God demonstrated among the believers? Acts 2:43
3. How did the disciples live? Acts 2:44
4. How selfless were the disciples? Acts 2:45
5. In which ways did the selflessness of the disciples affect their fellowship?
6. Why is fellowship in cells important?
7. What was the result of the fellowship of the disciples? Acts 2:47

Conclusion

God promises to be with His people whenever they assemble together in His name (Matt. 18:20). When true believers gather together in His name, He is not only there; He commands regular, consistent and everlasting blessings upon them. True fellowship meets the needs of needy members. Cell leaders and officers also provide counselling, guidance and protection which go a long way to help members out of challenging times.

This is an exclusive privilege for those who are members of the home cell.

Stand with Me (*focus on praying for members' needs-10mins*)-members should pray for District Pastors, Presiding Elders, Presbyters & Cell Leaders to be committed to the Cell Ministry. Any other prayer needs could be raised.

Making Jesus Known (*focus on evangelism-10mins*)-Cell Leader/member leads the Cell to pray for unbelievers within our families, asking the Lord to save them from the power of sin and Satan.

WEEK 9

FAMILY DAY

A series of horizontal dashed lines for writing.

WEEK 10

DILIGENCE

Smile Awhile: (focus on fellowship). 10 mins – Lead cell members to mention two tenets of the church

Lead cell members to discuss the need for hard work at our work places.

Into His Presence: (focus on worship – 10 mins) – Lead the cell members in a time of adoration to God as led by the Holy Spirit.

Lead members to worship and to praise God for the gift of work.

Digging Deeper: (Focus on Word – 40 mins).

Topic: DILIGENCE WHAT IS IT?

Memory Verse: Proverbs 22:29 *Seest thou a man diligent in his business? He shall stand before kings; He shall not stand before mean men.*

Main Text: Genesis 39:1-6

Introduction

Today's study focuses on an important virtue—diligence. Diligence involves much more than just hard work. Prov. 22: 29 says that the diligent man would stand before kings. He pays careful attention to all he does; he strives to excel, to apply skill to all his endeavors.

Diligence also connotes honesty, accountability and faithfulness. Potiphar left the management of his estate to Joseph who was a diligent young man. Ladies prefer a certain seamstress to make their clothes, homeowners prefer a certain artisan to work on their property; even churches prefer a certain pastor, all because those preferred apply diligence in their work. The demand for due diligence in our everyday life has become increasingly important. It only means applying oneself and investigating an issue meticulously before plunging into it.

Discussion Questions

1. What is diligence?
2. Who was Potiphar? Gen.39:1
3. Why did Joseph find favor with his master? Gen39:4
4. 'With Joseph in charge he did not concern himself with anything 'Gen 39: 6 Discuss.
5. What was the result of Joseph's diligence?
6. Can you share any practical example of the result of diligence?

Conclusion

In most countries today, people want to do the least possible work for highest possible pay. Work has become a burden rather than a joy. Buildings collapse while still under construction; new roads develop pot-holes in no time. Even church buildings contracted to church members are not done well. However, people who apply

due diligence to their work take pride in the work they do. Joseph was a diligent young man. He was meticulous, giving careful attention to his work in Potiphar's house, no wonder he stood before kings.

Stand with Me (*focus on praying for members' needs – 10 mins*). Members to pray for one another in turns for specific needs. Also members should pray for the nation Ghana, for the leaders to be diligent.

Making Jesus Known (*focus on evangelism – 10 mins*)
Lead members to pray for the community, nation and also all mission fields that the glory of God would be seen. Also pray against spirits that distort the gospel to be put to shame.

GOD PROSPERS DILIGENT WORK

Smile Awhile: *(focus on fellowship-10mins)*

Please lead Cell members to share some benefits of attending home cell meetings/the joy (or otherwise) they have in their profession/occupation.

Into His Presence: *(focus on worship-10mins)*

The Cell Leader/Cell member leads the Cell in a time of adoration to God as led by the Holy Spirit.

Digging Deeper: *(focus on the Word-40mins)*

Topic: GOD PROSPERS DILIGENT WORK

Main Text: *Genesis 26:12-22*

Memory Verse: *Genesis 26:22*

Introduction

When we are diligent with our work, God will bless and prosper us. Work is a form of worship we render to God because He gives us our skill– (Ex. 36:1), gives us our work – (Gen. 2:15), promotes us and blesses our work (Ps. 75:6-7) and gives us our success e.g. Joseph – (Gen. 39:2-3). God expects us to be diligent in the execution of work no matter how small it is. However, God will expect us to be involved in honest work. The focus of this study is on what we can call honest work for which we should devote our time and energy.

Discussion Questions

1. What work did Isaac do according to verse 12?
2. How did God bless the work of Isaac according to verse 12?
3. What other work did Isaac do according to verse 14?
4. What other work did Isaac do according to verse 18?
5. What did Abimelech say in verse 16 to testify that God had blessed Isaac?
6. What lessons can we learn from the attitude of Isaac to work?
7. How can we know the difference between **acceptable work** and **unacceptable work**?

Conclusion

From the discussion so far, we have recognized that God is the source and promoter of work. Therefore, we should please God at our work places so that we can get a very good reward. Whatever level of work we find ourselves in, we must be encouraged to keep upgrading ourselves to higher levels for our current level is not God's ultimate for us.

Stand with me (*focus on praying for members' needs-10mins*)-members should pray for the work of one another and the growth of the Church.

Making Jesus Known (*focus on evangelism-10mins*)-
Cell Leader/member leads the Cell to pray for unbelievers within our families, asking the Lord to save them from the power of sin and Satan.

WEEK 12

GENEROSITY

Smile awhile: (focus on fellowships - 10 mins.): Ask cell members to recount some acts of generosity they have done and the circumstances that led to those acts.

Into His presence: focus on worship -10 mins. Guide the members into worship, dwelling on God's goodness, his generosity and providence.

Digging deeper: focus on the word- 40 mins.

Topic: GENEROSITY

Memory verse: Prov. 11:25 – *A generous man will prosper; he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed.*

Main text: Acts 9:36- 42.

Introduction

Simply put, generosity is the strong desire to give. The generous person finds great joy and satisfaction in giving his money, goods and even his time to meet the needs of others. The God of the Bible is revealed as a generous being. In creation, God's generosity is revealed in the beauty and the abundance of the things he has made for our use and comfort. In redemption, God's loving and generous heart is revealed in the giving of His only son. The Bible speaks against showing generosity for vain glory. Virtues like godliness,

kindness, goodness, fellow feeling and mercy all find expression in the generous person. In our text for today, we read about Dorcas, a woman who was admired for her generosity. Because of her kind heartedness, her beneficiaries pleaded for her to be brought back to life when she died.

Discussions Questions

1. What is generosity?
2. What was the outstanding character trait of Dorcas? Acts 9:36
3. Why did the disciples send for Peter? Acts 9:37
4. How did the widows mourn Dorcas? Acts 9:39
5. What did Peter do when he came to Joppa? Acts 9:40-41
6. In what ways can we cultivate the virtue of giving?
7. Can you give any personal or other examples of generosity? What were the blessings?

Conclusion

Generosity is a commendable virtue worthy of emulation by every Christian. God's generosity to us is demonstrated in many ways on a daily basis, the gift of life and health. Food, shelter, and clothing are all gifts from God. God expects us to emulate him in the way He gives generously to all who are in need. Generosity is not an emotional feeling. Being generous is an act of the will, so as you walk through the day, you look for

avenues where you can be of help to others. Dorcas is mentioned in scripture because of her generosity. She gave her time and resources to serve the poor, and she was rewarded by a second chance at life.

Stand with Me (*focus on praying for members' needs – 10 mins*). Members pray for one another in turns for specific needs. Also members should pray grace to live a generous lifestyle.

Making Jesus Known (*focus on evangelism – 10 mins*)
Lead members to pray for the community, nation and also all mission fields that the glory of God would be seen. Also pray for street children, prostitutes, and drug addicts.

LAZINESS, WHAT IS IT?

Smile Awhile: (focus on fellowship) – 10 mins. – Lead cell members to share the longest hours of sleep they have had.

Into His Presence: (focus on worship – 10 mins) – Lead the cell members in a time of adoration to God as led by the Holy Spirit.

Digging Deeper: (Focus on Word – 40 mins)

Topic: LAZINESS I

Memory Verse: Prov. 10:4 – *Lazy hands make a man poor, but diligent hands bring wealth.*

Main Text: 2 Thess 3:6-15

Introduction

The Bible has much to say about the vice of laziness. The word that is used many times in the Bible to depict the lazy person is “sluggard” and it means one who is habitually slow, lazy, or idle. The sluggard does not like to work, does not like to exert himself in any strenuous activity. The book of Proverbs describes the sluggard with many unsavory statements. Laziness is a vice in any society because it breeds poverty and disease. It breeds envy and conflict. In the parable of the talents, the Lord describes the servant who refused to use his

talents as lazy and wicked, Matt. 25: 26. When God placed man in the Garden of Eden, even in that paradise, God charged the man to “work it and take care of it, Gen: 2:15.

Discussion Questions

1. What is laziness?
2. Which group of people were the brethren charged to avoid? 2Thess.3:6
3. What personal example did Paul ask the church to follow? 2Thess. 3:7,8.
4. What rule did Paul give the Thessalonian church? 2Thess 3:10.
5. What was Paul’s instruction to the idle in the church? 2Thess 3:12.
6. Is it good to keep giving to the lazy? Explain
7. How do we deal with laziness in our church and society?

Conclusion

2 Thess 3:6-15 warns strongly against laziness and idleness in the church. Paul sets himself as an example. While he taught and preached in the churches, he also worked to earn his keep. There were some people in the church who were just loafing and unwilling to work. Paul set down a rule in the Thessalonian church: If a man will not work, he shall not eat” (vrs 10); he charges the members not to associate with the sluggard in the church. These members because of idleness, go from

house to house to gossip and slander, complain about the uncharitable nature of the church; they ask for gifts and sometimes even con people for money. Paul admonishes the church to warn such people and not to associate with them.

Stand with Me (*focus on praying for members' needs – 10 mins*). Members to pray for one another in turns for specific needs and for members who are unemployed.

Making Jesus Known (*focus on evangelism – 10 mins*)
Lead members to pray for the community, nation and also all mission fields that the glory of God would be seen. Also pray against spirits that distort the gospel to be put to shame.

WEEK 16

DEALING WITH LAZINESS

Smile Awhile: (focus on fellowship – 10 mins) – Lead members to share their favourite scripture.

Into His Presence: (focus on worship – 10 mins) – Lead the cell members in a time of adoration to God as led by the Holy Spirit.

Digging Deeper: (focus on the word – 40 mins)

Topic: LAZINESS II- Dealing with laziness

Memory verse: Proverbs 6:10-11 *A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hand and poverty will come on you like a bandit and scarcity like an armed man*

Main Text: Proverbs 6:6-11

Introduction

Laziness has become a canker in our dispensation. People go to work late, read and discuss newspapers at working times, discuss political and sporting issues, and then go home. In our memory verse, we learnt that, if a man does not work hard, poverty would attack him like an armed robber. Laziness leads to poverty. Poverty is not merely the lack of money; rather it is the unavailability of required resources to accomplish a mission. Sub-Saharan Africa is generally considered the poorest region in the world. This study seeks to make

us understand one of the major results of laziness, poverty, and how to deal it.

Discussion Questions

1. Who is to go to the ant? Prov. 6:6
2. What can a person learn from the ant? Prov. 6:6
3. What are some of the attributes of the ant that make it wise? Prov. 6:7-8
4. What does the sluggard enjoy doing? Prov. 6:9
5. What is the end result of laziness? Prov. 6: 10-11
6. Can you share any practical example of how laziness could lead to poverty?

Conclusion

It is clear from our study that, effective and efficient work promotes healthy financial gains. Laziness on the other hand results in poverty. Poverty will surely be the lot of those who fold their arms when they could have worked to earn a living. The ant in our discussion today shows us that, hard work certainly results in great gains. It is important for Christians to devote themselves to hard work and eschew any element of laziness. In many African communities, people resort to moving from one prayer center to another rather than working hard to earn a living. Remember our Lord Jesus is passionate about our wellbeing-2 Pet.1: 3. We are therefore bound to succeed if we commit ourselves to hard work.

Stand with Me (*focus on praying for members' needs – 10 mins*). Members to pray for grace to be zealous and hardworking, not giving room for any form of laziness. Also pray for members who are unemployed.

Making Jesus Known (*focus on evangelism – 10 mins*)
Lead members to pray for unbelievers within the community, asking the Lord to save them from the power of sin and Satan. Pray also for people in the community who are unemployed.

WEEK 17

DEALING WITH DEBTS

Smile Awhile: (focus on fellowship – 10 mins) – Lead members to mention the name of their favourite teacher.

Into His Presence: (focus on worship – 10 mins) – Lead the cell members in a time of adoration to God as led by the Holy Spirit.

Digging Deeper (focus on the word – 40 mins).

Topic: DEALING WITH DEBTS

Memory verse: Romans 13:8 *Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for he who loves his fellow-man has fulfilled the law*

Main text: 2Kings 4:1-7

Introduction

One of the critical results of laziness is debt. However, indebtedness can happen to anyone. To be in debt is an unpleasant situation in any condition. It brings about tension, stress and sometimes confusion. It may also be the cause of divorce, lack of sleep and even poor performance at work and school. People go into debts for various reasons. Though some reasons like securing funds for investment, schooling or purchasing a house may be necessary in some situations, this study seeks

to look at how debts can be paid and how to overcome the many financial crises that arise out of debts.

It is important to note that debts, no matter how they are incurred are not to remain outstanding. A conscious effort to pay back debts is important to living a stress-free life.

Discussion Questions

1. How did Elisha react to the woman's plea? 2Kings 4:2
2. What did Elisha command the woman to do? 2 Kings 4:3-4
3. How did the woman's obedience relieve her of her debts?
4. What work did the woman and her sons do to pay back their debts?
5. How do people incur debts in our society today?
6. What have you learnt from the story with regards to paying your debts?

Conclusion

It is obvious from the study today that even a prophet is subject to debts. It is important to know that debts if not settled are transferable to younger generations usually with higher interests. Just as the woman and her sons had to work extremely hard by going to as many houses as they could to get bottles, hard work and prudent financial management is the key to getting out of debts. If there is a chronic debt situation, here are a few guidelines to follow: make a financial plan

and avoid impulse buying, live within your means and don't compare yourself with others; pray and seek professional advice.

Stand with Me (*focus on praying for members' needs – 10 mins*). Lead members to pray for grace to be zealous and hard working. Members in debt should also be prayed for.

Making Jesus Known (*focus on evangelism – 10 mins*)
Lead members to share the lesson with others as a form of evangelism.

WEEK 19

CONTENTMENT (I)

Smile awhile: (focus on fellowship – 10 mins.): Lead cell members to share their favourite telecommunication network.

Into His Presence: (focus on worship – 10 mins) – Lead the cell members in a time of adoration to God as led by the Holy Spirit.

Digging deeper: (focus on the Word- 40mins):

Topic: CONTENTMENT I

Memory Verse: 1 Timothy 6:6 – *But godliness with contentment is great gain*

Main Text: Philippians 4:11-12

Introduction

Contentment is a state of feeling of calm satisfaction. One who is content is quietly satisfied and happy with the way things are. He is not unduly worried and anxious about his state of affairs. Contentment in the Christian sense is not merely wishful thinking and hiding our heads in the sand like the proverbial ostrich. Rather, it is grounded in our faith and hope in the Lord Jesus Christ. This makes us secure for now and the future. In commending the generosity of the Philippian church in today's reading, Paul says he had learnt a secret which every believer must learn and that is to be

satisfied in whatever situation we find ourselves. Contentment removes anxiety, complaints, and envy, and engenders good health, happiness and fulfillment.

Discussion Questions

1. What is contentment?
2. Paul had learnt a secret, what was it? Verse 12
3. From 1Tim 6:6, what can you learn about contentment?
4. Why is godliness with contentment great gain?
5. How can we cultivate an attitude of contentment?

Conclusion

Many Christians are not satisfied with their jobs, their salaries, their spouses, their churches, their pastors and they criticize and find fault with all around them. Today, we want to learn Paul's secret for handling the various situations of life. Paul says that in lack and in plenty, he had learnt to be satisfied and calm. As we mature as Christians and as we realize what God through our Lord Jesus has done in us and for us, our lives are filled with a calmness that is brought by the indwelling Holy Spirit. Living in satisfaction in a troubled world is great gain. Let us learn to be content with the security that God's presence provides.

Stand with me (*focus on praying for members' needs – 10 mins*). Members to pray for one another in turns for specific needs. Also members should pray against greed.

Making Jesus Known (*focus on evangelism – 10 mins*)

Lead members to pray for the community, nation and also all mission fields that the glory of God would be seen. Also pray against spirits that distort the gospel to be put to shame.

WEEK 20

CONTENTMENT (II)

Smile Awhile: (focus on fellowship – 10 mins) – Lead members to mention two black stars players

Into His Presence: (focus on worship – 10 mins) – Lead the cell members in a time of adoration to God as led by the Holy Spirit.

Digging Deeper: (focus on the word – 40 mins)

Topic: CONTENTMENT II

Memory Verse: 1Tim. 6:6 *But godliness with contentment is great gain*

Main Text: 1Tim.6:6-9

Introduction

Paul charged Timothy to pursue godliness with contentment which is of great gain. Being content is also accepting the sovereignty of God in your life and abiding in Him with a grateful heart. Paul draws our attention in his admonition to the fact that, we brought nothing into this world and the certainty of us carrying nothing out of it (1Tim.6:7). We should therefore let it be enough for us as Christians, if we have food to eat and clothes to wear (vrs-8) so we can focus our energy and time on seeking the kingdom and righteousness of God our maker. Let us study the scriptures together.

Discussion Questions

1. Why are some people not content?
2. What does Paul charge Timothy to pursue?
1Tim.6:11
3. How do you understand verse 8 of the above passage?
4. What does it mean to accept the sovereignty of God?
5. Give some practical ways of showing and living contently.

Conclusion

We profess to be godly, yet we complain and murmur when our darkness appears and our night seems to draw near. Like the wife of Job, we either give or receive advice to curse God and die when we find ourselves in unfavorable conditions. We get swayed by unhealthy competitions by blindly doing things others are doing, forgetting that all the fingers are not equal. Those who know the potency of their God, always stay calm in the mist of trials and sing a joyful song with king David that “ye though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil”. It takes the spiritually mature to be content in life. Habakkuk 3:17-18.

Stand with me (*focus on praying for members' needs – 10 mins*). Members to pray for infilling of the Holy Spirit. Pray that God will raise godly leaders in the nation and church.

Making Jesus known (*focus on evangelism – 10 mins*)

Lead members to pray for people who are greedy and not content. Pray also for missions work and missionaries.

WEEK 21

DEALING WITH GREED (Avarice)

Smile Awhile: (focus on fellowship) – Lead cell members to share their favourite mineral (drink)

Into His Presence: (focus on worship – 10 mins) – Lead the cell members in a time of adoration to God as led by the Holy Spirit.

Digging Deeper: (focus on the Word) – 40mins.

Topic: GREED (Avarice)

Memory Verse: Ecclesiastes 5:10 – *Whoever loves money, never has money enough; whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with his income. This too is meaningless.*

Main Text; Jeremiah 17: 11

Introduction

Greed or Avarice has been described as the inordinate desire to acquire and hoard wealth. It is the intense and unbridled passion for getting more and more of money and other possessions. Avarice can plague all kinds of people, but it is especially ugly among acclaimed “men of God”, who use scripture to exploit unsuspecting church members. In today’s reading, the prophet states that acquiring wealth unjustly only

results in real poverty and foolishness. Let's study together.

Discussion Questions

1. What is greed?
2. What happens to the man who gets riches by unjust means? Jer.17: 11
3. Why will the greedy man prove to be a fool in the end? Jer.17:11
4. What does the Lord say about greed? Luke 12:15.
5. Can you share any testimony (about yourself or another) about being greedy?
6. How can we free ourselves from the spirit of greed? (1 Tim 6:6, 10)

Conclusion

We have seen that the intense love of money and the things money can buy is not of God. 'The love of money is the root of all evil" (1Tim 6:10). It is not wrong to work hard to earn good money as much as you can. The Bible encourages hard work to gain wealth as God blesses the work of our hands. The Christian acquires wealth not to hoard or show off but to assist the poor and help to push the kingdom business forward. We can free ourselves from avarice by deliberately deciding to give responsibly to aid those in need, charities, the work of God and to all kind of noble causes.

Stand with me (*focus on praying for members' needs – 10 mins*). Members to pray for one another in turns for specific needs. Also members should pray against greed.

Making Jesus Known (*focus on evangelism – 10 mins*). Lead members to pray for the community, nation and also all mission fields that the glory of God would be seen.

WEEK 24

DEALING WITH COVETOUSNESS

Smile Awhile: (focus on fellowship – 10 mins) – Lead members to discuss their favourite television station.

Into His Presence: (focus on worship – 10 mins) – Lead the cell members in a time of adoration to God as led by the Holy Spirit.

Digging Deeper: (focus on the word – 40 mins)

Topic: DEALING WITH COVETOUSNESS

Memory Verse: 1Tim. 6:10. *For the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil; some people eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.*

Main Text: 2 Kings 5:19-27

Introduction

Covetousness can be defined as one's excessive desire for the possession of something, especially for wealth. The crave for money and other material things has caused many to indulge in all forms of ungodliness and evil. The desire for material things in this generation is beyond imagination. The Bible has many examples of people who coveted various things and how they ended up. Examples are Ananias and Sapphira, and Gehazi. This study looks at how a potentially great for

prophet lost his position because of covetousness. His example should teach us lessons for life.

Discussion Questions

1. Why did Gehazi go after Naaman? 2 Kings 5:20
2. What was Naaman's response to Gehazi's plea? 2 Kings 5:23
3. How did Gehazi show his greed? 2 Kings 5:24
4. What made Gehazi hide the things from his master?
5. What were the consequences of Gehazi's actions? 2 Kings 5:27
6. What have you learnt from the study?

Conclusion

Gehazi could have succeeded Elisha as prophet but his greed turned him into a leper (2 Kings 5:27). Judas could have become a worldwide evangelist but for covetousness he committed suicide (John 12:6; Acts 1: 15-20). When we covet things, it actually blinds us from counting our blessings and showing gratitude to our gracious Father for bringing us to where we are. As a songwriter said, 'whatever our lot, let us learn to say, "It is well.'

Stand with me (*focus on praying for members' needs – 10 mins*). Members to pray for infilling of the Holy Spirit. Pray that members will bear the fruit of the Spirit.

Making Jesus Known (*focus on evangelism – 10 mins*).
Lead members to pray for unbelievers within the community, asking the Lord to save them from the power of sin and Satan. Pray also for missions work and missionaries.

THE DANGERS OF COVETOUSNESS

Smile Awhile: (focus on fellowship – 10 mins) – Lead members to briefly discuss two humble people they know in the Bible.

Into His Presence: (focus on worship – 10 mins) – Lead the cell members in a time of adoration to God as led by the Holy Spirit.

Digging Deeper: (focus on the word – 40 mins)

Topic: COVETOUSNESS II (Dangers of Covetousness)

Memory Verse: Exodus 20:17. *You shall not covet your neighbor's house. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey or anything that belongs to your neighbor.*

Main Text: 2 Chronicles 22:10-12; 23:11-13

Introduction

Our memory verse today enjoins us to stay clear of the house, wife, servants, ox or donkey or anything that belongs to our neighbours. When an individual takes special interest in the property of others and makes every effort to obtain such a property by any means, that individual is covetous. The Bible describes covetousness as a form of idolatry. This study exposes some dangers of covetousness and shows ways to avoid being covetous. Covetousness destroys friends, families

and even the nation as a whole. It produces an insatiable desire for the possessions of others and must be checked.

Discussion Questions

1. What did Athaliah do to her own royal family?
2 Chron. 22;10
2. Why did Athaliah murder her own grandchildren?
2 Chron. 22:11
3. How will you describe the activities and behaviour of Athaliah?
4. What was Athaliah's reaction to the enthroning of Joash? 2 Chron. 23:13
5. Do you know anyone who have been covetous? What happened?
6. In which way can covetousness destroy the church and nation?

Conclusion

To covet what belongs to others surely leads to ruin. Athaliah killed her own grandchildren so that she could become the queen of Judah. Though she has been the only woman to have ruled Judah, her method of getting the throne was not right hence she was dethroned by a six (6) year old boy, and died shamefully. As Christians, it is important that any element of covetousness in our lives is dealt with to keep ourselves from God's anger and disgrace.

Stand with me (*focus on praying for members' needs – 10 mins*). Members to pray for one another in turns for specific needs.

Making Jesus Known (*focus on evangelism – 10 mins*). Lead members to pray for the community, nation and also all mission fields that the glory of God would be seen.

WEEK 28

WEEK-ADULTERY (A Sin of Covetousness)

Smile Awhile: (focus on fellowship – 10 mins) – Lead members to briefly discuss two humble people they know in the Bible.

Into His Presence: (focus on worship – 10 mins) – Lead the cell members in a time of adoration to God as led by the Holy Spirit.

Digging Deeper: (focus on the word – 40 mins)

Topic: ADULTERY (A Sin of Covetousness)

Memory Verse: Exodus 20:17 *You shall not covet your neighbor's house. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey or anything that belongs to your neighbor.*

Main text: 2 Samuel 11: 1-11

Introduction

Adultery is sexual intercourse between a married man and someone other than his wife or between a married woman and someone other than her husband. Adultery has become common in this day and age in which men and women alike take delight in the spouses of others. Adultery is not only a sin against one's spouse but an attack on the sanctity of marriage. Another form of adultery is when Christians love the world. Adultery

is a form of covetousness because it is the end result of excessive desire for another person's spouse.

Christians are admonished from the reading today to desist from taking delight in the wives and husbands of others. In our study today, we learn of David who takes the wife of another man. This is recorded in the Bible to make us aware that God frowns upon adultery which is a sin of covetousness.

Discussion Questions

1. From the passage, who was Bathsheba and David?
Verse 2-3
2. What do you think made David commit adultery?
3. Do you think Bathsheba could have prevented it?
Explain your answer.
4. Why did David call for Uriah? Verse 6-8
5. Instead of killing Uriah, what could David have done to avoid the wrath of God?
6. What are some practices or acts by men or women that seduce others into adultery?

Today's study shows us the covetous nature of David and how he got the wife of his own soldier pregnant. Some women unlike Bathsheba, are unable to inform their partners in adultery of the ungodly fruits of their sinful act. This has led to some men fathering children who are never theirs. When such truths come out later, it becomes a recipe for disaster, disgrace and possible divorce. We are therefore being admonished to do away

with adultery which is a form of covetousness and live by the word of God. For, indeed, godliness with contentment is great gain.

Stand with me (*focus on praying for members' needs – 10 mins*). Members to pray for one another in turns for specific needs.

Making Jesus Known (*focus on evangelism – 10 mins*)
Lead members to pray for the community, nation and also all mission fields that the glory of God would be seen.

DEALING WITH ENVY

Smile awhile: (focus on fellowship – 10 mins) Lead cell members to mention their favourite food

Into His Presence: (focus on worship – 10 mins) – Lead the cell members in a time of adoration to God as led by the Holy Spirit.

Digging deeper: (focus on the Word- 40 mins.)

Topic: DEALING WITH ENVY

Memory Verse: *Galatians 5:26 – Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other.*

Main Text: 1 Kings 21:1-7

Introduction

Envoy has been described as the resentful or unhappy feeling of wanting somebody else's success, good fortune or possessions. Simply put, it is wanting what someone else has. Envy is a destructive feeling. It takes our eyes off the many blessings God has bestowed on us and focuses our attention on other peoples' talents and possessions. Envy can plague the best of men, and it can be directed against a man's wealth, good looks, athletic prowess, spouse, children or skills. In today's reading, the rich and prosperous King Ahab envied the vineyard of Naboth and wanted it for himself. Finally, he got Naboth killed and took the vineyard for himself.

God's judgment on the matter was serious on Ahab and his family. Let's study together.

Discussion Questions

1. Why did Ahab demand Naboth's vineyard? verse 2
2. What makes Ahab's request look envious? verse 4,16.
3. From the passage, why did Naboth refuse to give out his vineyard? verse 3
4. What happened to Ahab when Naboth refused to give him the vineyard? verse 4
5. What did Jezebel say when she heard about Naboth's refusal? 1Kings 21: 7
6. How did the Lord react to the acts of Ahab and Jezebel? verse 17-19, 23
7. How can you free yourself from the spirit of envy?

Conclusion

We all at one time or the other have been angered at someone else's good fortune. When you are tempted to envy others, try to focus on the good things about yourself and the things you excel in and thank God for them. Strive to excel in your strengths. As a Christian, when you think others envy you, don't flaunt your strengths and abilities before them. Instead, use your talents to help others. Make an effort to help and encourage those you think could envy you. Envy is rottenness to the bone; it can make you sick and lead to disastrous results as in the case of Ahab and Naboth.

Stand with me (*focus on praying for members' needs – 10 mins*). Members to pray for one another in turns for specific needs. Also pray for members not to be envious.

Making Jesus Known (*focus on evangelism – 10 mins*)
Lead members to pray for the community, nation and also all mission fields that the glory of God would be seen.

WEEK 32

DEALING WITH ANGER

Smile Awhile: (focus on fellowship -10mins) – Lead cell members to mention one book in the Bible

Into His Presence: (focus on worship – 10 mins) – Lead the cell members in a time of adoration to God as led by the Holy Spirit.

Digging Deeper: (focus on the WORD - 40mins)

Topic: DEALING WITH ANGER

Memory Verse: Proverbs 27:4 *Anger is cruel and fury is overwhelming, but who can stand before jealousy?*

Man Text: Mark 6:17-28

Introduction

Anger has been described as a strong emotional feeling caused by displeasure at somebody or something. When anger is intense, it turns into rage or fury and in this state one loses control and becomes violent and destructive. It sometimes causes people to behave as if they were mad. In today's reading, John the Baptist had rebuked King Herod for taking his brother's wife Herodias. Herodias was furious because John had dared to question their incestuous marriage. So she plotted and waited for an opportune time to express her displeasure. When anger is nursed as in the case of Herodias, it results in bitterness which influences

a person's motives and intentions. In the following weeks, we will study how to handle it.

Discussion Questions

1. What is anger?
2. Why was Herodias angry with John? Mark 6:18-19.
3. '*So Herodias nursed a grudge against John*' ...Mark 6:19. What does this statement mean?
4. What did her anger cause her to do? Mark 6:24-25
5. Can you share a testimony of how anger caused you or another to do wrong?
6. According to Eph. 4:26 and James 1:19 how should you handle anger?

Conclusion

The Bible recognizes that sometimes we may get angry, but it teaches us how to handle anger so that we may not harm ourselves and others. When anger is expressed violently, it may hurt other people, including loved ones. When bottled up in the heart it causes bitterness which can also result in disastrous consequences. The Bible instructs that *"be angry but do not sin"* and *"let not the sun go down on your anger"* and again *"be slow to anger"*. An important way to overcome anger is to speak gently to those who hurt us (Pro.15:1). Forgive and pray for those who deliberately hurt you.

Stand with me (focus on praying for members' needs – 10 mins). Members to pray for one another in turns for

specific needs. Also members should pray against unholy anger.

Making Jesus Known (*focus on evangelism – 10 mins.*)

Lead members to pray for the community, nation and also all mission fields that the glory of God would be seen. Also pray against spirits that distort the gospel to be put to shame.

INDIGNATION (Righteous Anger)

Smile Awhile: (focus on fellowship: 10 mins) – lead cell members to indicate their favourite colour.

Lead cell members to discuss situations in which they have been angry at some wrong doing.

Into His Presence: (focus on Worship) Sing and worship the Lord for his Goodness- 10 mins.

Digging Deeper: (focus on the WORD) 40 mins

Topic: INDIGNATION (Righteous Anger)

Memory Verse: John 2:15 – *So he made a whip out of cords, and drove all from the temple area, both sheep and cattle; he scattered the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables.*

Main Text: 1 Samuel 11:1-9

Introdcution

Indignation or righteous anger is anger at what is wrongful or unworthy. It is wrath caused by observed wrongdoing, injustice, wickedness or misconduct. It is our sense of right conduct, fellow-feeling and compassion that causes indignation at certain types of behavior. As Christians, we ought to demonstrate displeasure at injustice and evil wherever these occur. In today's reading, we see how Saul is indignant at the demand of Nahash the Ammonite to gorge out the right

eyes of all the men of Jabesh Gilead before he signs a peace accord with them. The Lord Jesus threw out the traders in the temple because, what they were doing in God's house of prayer was bad.

Discussion Questions

1. What is Indignation?
2. What demand did Nahash make from the people of Jabesh Gilead? 1Sam 11:2
3. Why was Saul so angry? 1Sam 11:4
4. What did Saul do as a result of his indignation? 1Sam 11: 6-9.
5. What did Jesus do to correct the misconduct of the traders in the temple? John 2:15.
6. How can one express indignation at some societal wrongs? Any personal examples?

Conclusion

It has been said that, "you can't change what you tolerate". Our country today is filled with all manner of evil which is destroying us and our environment. Evil thrives because God's people are apathetic and unconcerned. Issues like domestic violence, child trafficking, sexual abuse, homosexuality, bribery & corruption, throwing waste everywhere, illegal mining (galamsay), and pollution are tearing the society apart. The Church of Pentecost is considered as the largest Pentecostal Church in Ghana. With our numerical

strength, our collective indignation at societal wrongs can help to minimize these evils in our land.

Stand with me (*focus on praying for members' needs – 10 mins*). Members should pray for one another in turns for specific needs. Also members should pray that what breaks the heart of God will break their heart as well.

Making Jesus Known (*focus on evangelism – 10 mins*)
Lead members to pray for the community, nation and also all mission fields that the glory of God would be seen.

DEVELOPING PATIENCE

Smile Awhile: (focus on fellowship-10mins.) Lead cell members to mention their favourite character in the Bible.

Into His Presence: (focus on worship – 10 mins) – Lead the cell members in a time of adoration to God as led by the Holy Spirit. Let the cell members mention one reason each for praising and collectively worshipping God.

Digging Deeper: (focus on the WORD) – 40 mins.

Topic: PATIENCE

Memory Verse: Proverbs 14:29 *A patient man has great understanding, but a quick-tempered man displays folly.*

Main Text: Job 1:13-20

Introduction

Patience or longsuffering is a virtue that is part of the fruit that the Spirit manifests in the believer. The believer has a responsibility to bear this virtue. Patience is defined as the capacity to endure or suffer pain, trouble or adversity with calmness and composure. It also connotes bearing with others their faults and limitations.

Patience as taught in scripture is not the apathetic state of being, that accepts all evil in a depressed and passive

way. Rather it is a product of our faith in God. Bible-kind of Patience is a product of our faith in God. It is grounded in a conviction of the goodness of God and His ability to deliver us from adversity. Patience keeps us trusting and smiling even in difficult times. In our main text, we read about Job, who for no fault of his was tested to the limit of human endurance, yet kept his faith in God. In the face of loss, mockery and scorn from family and friends, Job could say “I know my redeemer liveth” (Job 19:25). In the final analysis Job’s patience was vindicated.

Discussion Questions

1. What is Patience?
2. Who caused Job’s calamities? Job 1:12
3. Name some of Job’s adversities. Job 1:13-20.
4. What was Job’s response in the face of his troubles? Job 1:21
5. How do you react when you fall into some adversity (sickness, unemployment, bereavement)?
6. How can we cultivate the virtue of Patience?

Conclusion

The Bible teaches us to cultivate the virtue of Patience. A patient man has great understanding (Prov. 14:29), ... a patient man calms a quarrel, Prov. 15:18. Better a patient man than a warrior... Prov. 16:32. As a character trait, this virtue has to be deliberately grown and nurtured in cooperation with the indwelling Holy Spirit.

In our fast-paced world, people tend to be rash and reckless in taking decisions and we want quick-fix solutions to our problems and troubles. The patient man is able to wait on God in confident understanding that God is able and willing to intervene in our situation in his own time.

Stand with Me (*focus on praying for members' needs – 10 mins*). Members to pray for one another in turn for specific needs, especially those who have lost their relatives.

Making Jesus Known (*focus on evangelism – 10 mins*). Lead members to pray for the community, nation and also all mission fields that the glory of God would be seen. Also pray that the patience of God would reach all the unreached nations in the world.

PARENTAL CARE

Smile Awhile: (focus on fellowship – 10 mins) – Lead members to mention two countries in Africa

Into His Presence: (focus on worship – 10 mins) – Lead the cell members in a time of adoration to God as led by the Holy Spirit.

Digging Deeper: (focus on the word – 40 mins)

Topic: PARENTAL CARE

Main Text: 1Sam. 1:24-28, 2:18-20.

Memory Verse: Prov. 22:6 *Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it.*

Introduction

Parental care is the intentional attention parents give to their children to achieve an intended result. Right attitude towards children is essential for good parenting. Equally one has to know his or her responsibilities in order to discharge them effectively. But none of these is adequate if our goals in parenting are wrong. The big question is what do we aim at in bringing up our children as parents? It is therefore important for every Christian parent to seek the knowledge needed to bring up their children in the fear and instructions of the Lord.

Discussion Questions

1. As Christians what should be our goal in parenting?
Col.1:28
2. From the passage, how did Hannah raise her child?
3. What are some of the right attitudes we can show towards our children?
4. Why do you think Eli blessed Elkanah? 1Sam.:2:20
5. To what extent can we attribute Samuel's call as a prophet to his mother's good parental care?
6. Personally what have you learnt from the lesson?

Conclusion

In our main text, we learn about how Hannah decided to dedicate her son Samuel to the service of God. Though her son had to leave home at a very tender age, (1Sam.1:24) Hannah gave Samuel all the necessary training and guidance needed for Samuel to become a responsible adult. (1Sam.2:18). It can be assumed from the scripture that Hannah advised Samuel to be of good behavior whenever she made her annual trip to the temple to sacrifice (1Sam.2:19). This made Samuel outstanding among the sons of Eli. Hannah's good parental care to Samuel caused Eli the priest to praise and bless her. One of our major goals as Christian parents is to bring our children up as mature Christian men and women who may be Medical doctors, Engineers, Pastors, Farmers or some other useful professionals. Bringing up mature adults balanced in every sphere of their lives should be our aim. (Col. 1: 28).

Stand with Me (*focus on praying for members' needs – 10 mins*). Lead members to pray for parents to be godly and for children to be obedient.

Making Jesus Known (*focus on evangelism – 10 mins*)
Lead members to pray for wayward children and children who are being trafficked.

PARENTAL CARE (Leading The Family To God).

Smile Awhile: (focus on fellowship – 10 mins) – Lead members to share their favourite food.

Into His Presence: (focus on worship – 10 mins) – Lead the cell members in a time of adoration to God as led by the Holy Spirit.

Digging Deeper: (focus on the word – 40 mins)

Topic: PARENTAL CARE (Leading The Family To God.)

Memory Verse: Prov. 22:6 *Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it.*

Main Text: 2 Timothy 1:1-7

Introduction

The future of the nation, families and even the church lies in how the young ones are brought up by godly parents. When parents provide sound biblical training in homes, there is a brighter future ahead. Parents must therefore be burdened to lead their children to God through sound Bible based parental care. In today's study, we will take a critical look at how Timothy, a young man, was carefully trained by his mother (Eunice) who had also been trained by her mother (Lois) in the LORD.

Discussion Questions

1. What kind of faith was in Timothy? Verse 5
2. How did Timothy receive such a faith? Verse 5
3. How did Eunice and Lois influence Timothy's life?
4. How does good parental care affect the upbringing of children?
5. Discuss what our responsibilities are as parents in training our children.
 - a. What character in Timothy drew Paul to him?
 - b. How can we impact those characters to our children?

Conclusion

If parents shirk their parental responsibilities, they turn out children and people who become either a nuisance or liability to the church, nation or even family. As we have learnt today, Eunice, the mother of Timothy ensured that she entrusted the sincere faith she received from her mother (Lois) to her son. For our children to be responsible adults we must make deliberate effort to bring them up in the fear of the LORD and in wisdom.

Stand with Me (*focus on praying for members' needs – 10 mins*). Lead members to pray for one another in turns for specific needs, especially their children.

Making Jesus Known (*focus on evangelism – 10 mins*)

Lead members to pray for the community, nation and also all mission fields that the glory of God would be seen, and that wayward children will receive a touch from God.

WEEK 41

SPENDING QUALITY TIME WITH CHILDREN

Smile Awhile: (focus on fellowship- 10 minutes)

Lead children in the cell to share the most interesting moments of the week

Into His Presence:(focus on worship- 10 minutes)A member of the group should lead the cell in a time of adoration as directed by the Holy Spirit.

Digging Deeper: (focus on the Word- 40 minutes)

Topic: SPENDING QUALITY TIME WITH CHILDREN

Main Text: Deuteronomy 11: 18- 21

Memory Verse - *“Sons are a heritage from the LORD, children a reward from Him”* Psalms 127:3 (NIV)

Introduction

It is said that Children learn by observation and imitation and this is very true in many respects. Most children, if not all, are imitators who believe what they see and would repeat or imitate. There are several media competing with parents over the mind and lifestyle of our children and some of these media are very powerful and influential. These media would use approaches and strategies that are deliberately designed to impart certain values which are contrary to Christian ethics and

standards, into our children. Today, the media, be it electronic or print is influencing our children- or having quality time with them, but in the negative sense. Teachers have become role models and their values whether negative or positive, have effects on our kids. Friends who come from various homes and backgrounds are affecting our children. We can only win over these competitors when we deliberately and consistently spend quality time with our children. Time with them is time to transmit values and virtues.

Discussion Questions

1. How can Christian Values be transferred to or impressed on Children?
2. How can we influence our Children more than the media does?
3. In the thinking of children, how could parents make their time with them enjoyable?
4. What activities prevent parents from having quality time with their children?
5. How could parents make time for their kids in the midst of their heavy schedules?

Conclusion

The only way by which children could be truly and properly impacted is to spend consistent quality time with them living out what is preached and opening up for them to ask questions. We must spend time to sit with them for a chat, take a walk with them along the

road and even lie down with them telling them Bible stories before they sleep. Again, we need to give them the opportunity to be around us when we are engaging in chores that are not hazardous to them. Allow them to suggest and recommend the best ways they expect parents and guardians to share time with them.

Stand with Me (*focus on praying for members' needs-10mins*)-members should pray for the District and local Assemblies that God would give them an encounter.

Making Jesus Known (*focus on evangelism-10mins*)-Cell Leader/member leads the Cell to pray for unbelievers within our families, asking the Lord to save them from the power of sin and Satan.

BAD PARENTAL CARE

Smile Awhile: (focus on fellowship – 10 mins) – Lead members to mention two bad parents in the Bible.

Into His Presence: (focus on worship – 10 mins) – Lead the cell members in a time of adoration to God as led by the Holy Spirit.

Digging Deeper: (focus on the word – 40 mins)

Topic: BAD PARENTAL CARE

Main Text: 1Sam. 2:12, 17, 22-24, 27-30.

Memory Verse: Prov. 13:24 *He who spares the rod hates his son, but he who loves him is careful to discipline him.*

Introduction

In the previous weeks, we studied about parental care and saw how Hannah devoted her resources to see Samuel grow up to become a responsible adult and a renowned prophet. We shall continue today by looking at bad parental care. The sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas were, as stated in the Bible, wicked men who had no regard for the Lord. They treated the Lord's offering with contempt and slept with the women who served in the temple. The big question here is, where was their father Eli the priest? It is likely he was so much into duties that he neglected the training of his children. According to 1 Samuel 2:19, Eli honored his children

more than God. The result was very devastating. Parents should be intentional in training their children in the fear of the Lord as the Bible enjoins us.

Discussions Questions

1. From the main passage, how were the sons of Eli described?
2. Why did the sons of Eli have no regard for the Lord? 1Sam.2:29
3. What were the consequences of Eli's neglect of giving his children parental care?
4. Why do you think God did not spare the household of Eli for the sake of his service to him?
5. To what extent can we say Eli did not practice what he preached?
6. Personally, what have you learnt from the story?

Conclusion

The result of Eli's negligence of his parental role was very drastic. He was supposed to train his sons in the fear of God so they could grow up and mature to take the priesthood mantle after him just as his father did. His failure to do this made God break the promise He had with his household.

Like Eli we become so occupied with our profession that it becomes difficult for us to inculcate into our children the right training. Let's not forget that children are gifts from God and if we really value the *Giver*, we

would also appreciate our responsibilities that go with the *gifts* as well.

Stand with Me (*focus on praying for members' needs – 10 mins*). Lead members to pray for parents to be godly and for children to be obedient. Also pray for street children and orphans.

Making Jesus Known (*focus on evangelism – 10 mins*)
Lead members to pray for wayward children and children who are being trafficked.

WEEK 45

HUMILITY, WHAT IS IT?

Smile Awhile: (focus on fellowship – 10 mins) – Lead members to mention two people they consider humble in the Bible.

Into His Presence: (focus on worship – 10 mins) – Lead the cell members in a time of adoration to God as led by the Holy Spirit.

Digging Deeper: (focus on the word – 40 mins).

Topic: HUMILITY, WHAT IS IT?

Memory Verse: 1Peter:5:6 *Humble yourself therefore under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time*

Main Text: Luke: 18:9-14

Introduction

Humility is an inner attitude of a correct assessment of who one is. Scripture makes it clear that God gives grace to the humble. In other words He opens doors for the humble to succeed where others are struggling. Humility stems from understanding who God is and who we are. You know that in your flesh you are inadequate, yet you also know who you are in Christ. Jesus' humility is described in Philippians 2:6-11 and Christians are encouraged to imitate this form of humility. This humility made him take a place of a

servant even though he was God; though He was resolute and tough and knew what to do at any time.

Discussions Questions

1. In your own words, define humility.
2. What was wrong with the prayers of the Pharisee?
Verse 11
3. How did the tax collector exhibit humility?
Verse 13
4. What was the result of the humble attitude of the tax collector? Verse 14.
5. What lessons have you learned from the passage?
6. How can one attain humility?

Conclusion

While God opposes the proud, he gives grace to the humble. As we live according to the word, we imitate Christ's steps and attain His humble nature. Jesus' humility earned Him a name that is above every other name. There is always an elevation after humility.

Stand with Me (*focus on praying for members' needs – 10 mins*). Members to pray for grace to remain humble no matter the elevation that comes their way.

Making Jesus Known (*focus on evangelism – 10 mins*)
Lead members to pray for people who are filled with anger and rebellion in the church.

HUMILITY EXALTS

Smile Awhile: (focus on fellowship – 10 mins) – Lead members to briefly discuss two humble people they know in the Bible.

Into His Presence: (focus on worship – 10 mins) – Lead the cell members in a time of adoration to God as led by the Holy Spirit.

Digging Deeper: (focus on the word – 40 mins)

Topic: HUMILITY EXALTS

Memory Verse: *James 4:10 Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.*

Main Text: Matthew 18:1-6

Introduction

The postmodern generation has a big issue with humility. To some people, humility means weakness, to others, it is a sign of insecurity and even to others a demonstration of failure. Humility is not just saying “please” before every sentence; rather, it is an inner submissiveness to authority and leadership as well as obedience to decrees, laws and policies. Many people pretend to be humble when their leaders or supervisors are present. This hypocritical act is not what we will be studying today. In this study, we will be looking at how

Christ Jesus relates humility to greatness in the Kingdom of God.

Discussion Questions

1. What question did the disciples ask Jesus? Matt. 18:1
2. How did Jesus answer the disciples? Matt. 18:3
3. Who is the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven?
Matt 18:4
4. What makes a little child humble?
5. How can an adult become as humble as a child?
6. How will the humility of adults be seen?

Conclusion

A story is told of a man of another faith who was invited to a meeting of Christian business men. When he got to the meeting grounds and saw how people who were higher than him in business, were sweeping, dusting, cleaning and arranging chairs, he instantaneously denounced his faith and accepted Christ. Our study today has made us understand that, no matter our economic, social, academic and religious status, we must be as humble as a little child before God. We are to obey and believe God absolutely just as a little child believes and obeys his or her parents. Our humility towards God and others will certainly bring us increase.

Stand with Me (*focus on praying for members' needs – 10 mins*). Members to pray for one another in turns for specific needs.

Making Jesus Known (*focus on evangelism – 10 mins*)

Lead members to pray for the community, nation and also all mission fields that the glory of God would be seen.

WEEK 47

PRIDE, WHAT IS IT?

Smile Awhile: (focus on fellowship – 10 mins) – Lead members to mention a name they like in the Bible

Into His Presence: (focus on worship – 10 mins) – Lead the cell members in a time of adoration to God as led by the Holy Spirit.

Digging Deeper: (focus on the word – 40 mins)

Topic: PRIDE, WHAT IS IT?

Memory Verse: Prov.11:2 *When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom*

Main Text: Esther: 1:10-18

Introduction

Pride is a destroyer of colourful destinies. God hates proud people. He resists or opposes them (1Pet:5:5). If God upon whom we depend becomes your opponent, then you are in real trouble. From our main text, we learn about the story of a queen who was dethroned because of pride. Xerxes, the king of Susa commanded the eunuchs who served him to bring before him queen Vashti wearing her royal gown in order to display her beauty to the people and nobles but Vashti did not honour the King's call. Vashti's pride could have been a result of her beauty because according to the story, she

was beautiful to look at. (Esther: 1:10-12). Indeed, pride is one of the greatest destructive attitudes.

Discussion Questions

1. In your own words, what is pride?
2. What were the consequences of queen Vashti's pride? Esther:2:4
3. What does God do to proud people? 1Pet.5:5b
4. Personally, what have you learnt?
5. What practical steps can we take in order to refrain from being proud?
6. Have you ever been attempted to be proud? What happened?

Conclusion

If you were Vashti could you have borne the shame, pain and the gossips as a result of demotion? The easiest way to lose the grace of God is to become proud. The easiest way to destroy your relationships, position, ministry and marriage is to harbor pride. Satan fell from Heaven as a result of pride, he wanted to be like God and he lost his place. Likewise many relationships have been ruined as a result of the pride of the wife or the husband. If you harbor pride, prayerfully deal with it before you tell God to elevate you.

Stand with Me (*focus on praying for members' needs – 10 mins*). Members to pray for infilling of the Holy Spirit. Pray for members to be humble and not proud or rebellious.

Making Jesus Known (*focus on evangelism – 10 mins*)

Lead members to pray for people who are filled with pride and rebellion. Pray also for missions work and missionaries.

DANGERS OF PRIDE

Smile Awhile: (focus on fellowship – 10 mins) – Lead members to briefly discuss any experience they have had with a proud person.

Into His Presence: (focus on worship – 10 mins) – Lead the cell members in a time of adoration to God as led by the Holy Spirit.

Digging Deeper: (focus on the word – 40 mins)

Topic: THE DANGERS OF PRIDE

Memory Verse: Proverbs 11:2 *“When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom”.*

Main Text: 2 Chronicles 26:16-21

Introduction

Pride is one instrument the devil uses to displace the children of God from the glory of God. Many people even in the church exhibit all kinds of pride. Leaders, members, singers, instrumentalists among others tend to become proud when some form of elevation comes their way. In today’s discussion, we will take a closer look at the dangerous effects of pride and how we can overcome it. For if pride is not checked it surely leads to a fall as our memory verse says.

Discussion Questions

1. What made King Uzziah proud? 2 Chron. 26:16
2. What did his pride lead him to? 2 Chron. 26:16
3. What was the response of the high priest to the action of King Uzziah? 2 Chron. 26:18
4. What was King Uzziah's reaction to the high priest's correction? 2 Chron. 26:19
5. How did the LORD deal with the pride of King Uzziah? 2 Chron. 26:19
6. How could King Uzziah have avoided God's punishment?
7. What have you learnt from the story?

Conclusion

Many great leaders and potentially great ones have been brought to ruins because they allowed pride into their lives. As Christians, we must always realize that wherever God takes us (no matter the height) is by grace and not by works. King Uzziah, after becoming powerful and rich became proud instead of humble. The end result was clear. He suffered from a shameful disease and also lost his throne. In many cases, God through priests (pastors) and leaders caution us to do away with pride. For those who fail to heed such corrections, the end result is unbearable shame and destruction, just like King Uzziah.

Stand with Me (*focus on praying for members' needs – 10 mins*). Members to pray for one another in turns for specific needs.

Making Jesus Known (*focus on evangelism – 10 mins*)
Lead members to pray for the community, nation and also all mission fields that the glory of God would be seen.

JANUARY 2016

**ANY QUESTIONS, SUGGESTIONS &
ANY OTHER INFORMATION?**

ALL GENERAL questions, suggestions or
information to be forwarded

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