

Family Bible Studies March 2020

Bible study can be difficult. Where do I start? How long should I go? Where is a good place to stop? All these questions, and many more, can make Bible study difficult, especially in a non-congregational environment. With that in mind, we thought publishing a few lessons that embrace a home environment would be appropriate, considering the medical community is encouraging us to stay in our homes.

These studies are designed to engage all age groups in a home, children to grandparents. If you attend Judson Road, we will plan on discussing some of these items when we are able to return to our normal Bible class schedule.

Bold questions are questions focusing on newer or younger Bible students.

Red questions are questions designed for a more experienced Bible student.

Feel free to answer all the questions, though!

If you have any questions about the material, or if you would like to engage in a deeper study, you're welcome to contact me at info@judsonroad.church. Also, feel free to contact me at that same email address if you would like an answer key.

Tyler Sams

Family Bible Study #1 — Beginnings

The story of the Bible begins at an appropriate place — the first book in our Bibles.

In this study, we're going to talk about the first book of the Bible and the significance that book has to our lives today. If you haven't done so already, why not gather your family or friends around a table? Let's take out our Bibles (physical copies, if you have them) and begin!

1) What is the name of the first book of the Bible?

2) What is the meaning of that name?

3) What are some beginnings we see in the first three chapters of that book?

4) What day of creation would you like to have seen personally? Why?

5) Who are the first people that God created?

6) Have someone set a timer for 1 minute. Have another person with pen and paper ready. Choose one person at the table to name as many people as they can who appear in the first book of the Bible. If you want to challenge someone else, have someone wear earphones or walk out of the room while the first person is having their turn. (Have some fun with this — video it and we'll try to share some of the videos)

7) Work together as a group and put those names in chronological order.

8) Find two places where the first book of the Bible referenced in the New Testament?

9) What does Romans 15.4 teach us about the importance of the Old Testament in our lives today?

Let's close with a prayer. In our prayer, let's thank God for some of the things He has created that we enjoy. Everybody contribute at least one thought and then let's pray together.

Family Bible Study #2 — A Special People

The story of the Bible transitions to focus primarily on one group of people — the Jews. For a number of different reasons, the Jews occupy a significant place through the end of the Old Testament. In this lesson, we'll learn a little about the Jews and why they are significant to the story of the Bible. Is everyone around the table with a Bible? Great! — let's begin:

- 1) **What is the second book of the Bible?**
- 2) Why does the second book of the Bible have that name?
- 3) *By what other names are the Jews known in Scripture?*
- 4) Who from the book of Genesis is considered to be the ancestor of all the Jews?
- 5) God gave a law to the Jews — where and to whom did He give it?
- 6) **The same man who led the Jews around the walls of Jericho also led the Jews into Canaan, the Promised Land — who was he?**
- 7) *What 15 people delivered and ruled over the Jews in the period before the kings? How many of these people can you name?*
- 8) Who were the first three kings of the Jews?
- 9) The second king of the Jews wrote many of the Psalms and his son, the third king of the Jews, wrote much of the book of Proverbs:
 - A. What is your favorite psalm or proverb?
- 10) The Jews eventually went into captivity — why? (look at 2 Kings 24.3)
- 11) Ultimately, in whom would the Jews find hope? (Isaiah 61.1-2; Luke 4.17ff)

Let's again finish our study with a prayer. Psalms and Proverbs contain so much practical wisdom — let's thank God for His wisdom and ask Him to help us become wiser through studying His Word.

Family Bible Study #3 — Jesus Arrives

The central figure of all the Bible is Jesus. His arrival, prophesied about in the Old Testament, finally happens at the beginning of the New Testament. In this study we will look at the life of Jesus and why He should hold a special place in our lives.

Take a moment to get around the table with your Bible, and let's begin:

- 1) **What are the first four books of the New Testament?**
- 2) These books are often called "Gospels" or "The Gospel Accounts" — the word Gospel means "good news". What good news is contained in these books?
- 3) **What were the names of Jesus' parents?**
- 4) Jesus performed several miracles throughout His life — go around the table for two minutes and list all the miracles Jesus performed that you can remember.
- 5) Go around the table and answer these two questions: Which of Jesus' miracles do you find most interesting? and why?
- 6) Jesus taught in parables — short stories in familiar language that had a singular point. Choose one of the following parables, read it together, and discuss it: The Sower (Matthew 13.3-9,18-23); The Good Samaritan (Luke 10.29-37); The Rich Fool (Luke 12.16-23); The Lost Coin (Luke 15.2-3,8-10)
- 7) Peter writes that Jesus "committed no sin" (1 Peter 2.22) — why is it important that Jesus live a life without sin?
- 8) **Peter was part of a group of twelve men who followed Jesus — what were these men called? Can you name the rest of the twelve? (Bonus points if you can you sing the song! And more bonus points if you record a video!)**
- 9) All four gospel accounts contain the story of Jesus' death and resurrection:
 - A. Why were these two events important?

Through Jesus, we have been blessed — in our prayer tonight, let's thank God for the blessings that come into our lives through Jesus' life, death, and resurrection.

Family Bible Study #4 — The Gospel and the Church

After Jesus ascended into Heaven, there was more work to do. Through the Holy Spirit, apostles, prophets, and other godly people, the Gospel was shared (and continues to be shared) throughout the world. In this study we'll see how God's plan unfolded through the apostles, the church, and the Gospel.

Do you have your Bible? Are you at the table? Let's get started:

- 1) **Acts 1 records the story of Jesus' ascension — what does it mean that Jesus "ascended"? And where did He ascend?**
- 2) Acts 2 contains the story of the beginning of the church. Look at the following passages and notice some similarities with Acts 2:
 - 1) Isaiah 2.1-4; Joel 2.28-32
- 3) In Acts 2.47, "the Lord was adding to the church daily those who were being saved." What were people commanded to do in order to be saved in Acts 2?
 - 1) What does it mean to repent? **What does baptism look like?**
- 4) How does God call us to himself? (2 Thessalonians 2.14)
- 5) Part of God's plan for the church involves men who lead the local church — what does God call these men who lead the local church?
 - 1) **We have 5 elders at Judson Road — can you name them?**
 - 2) Elders are often called shepherds — what do these terms teach us about the role of elders/shepherds/pastors?
- 6) Read the following passages together and notice Jesus' relationship with the church — Ephesians 5.22-27; Colossians 1.13-18
 - 1) Who is the head of the church? How is the church described?

The Gospel is so important to our relationship with God — in our prayer tonight, let's thank God for the Gospel and ask for His help to draw closer to Him.

Family Bible Study #5 — Personal Favorites

Even though we're family members, each of us has our own personality and our own set of experiences. These differences can make us feel a stronger connection with different characters and stories in the Bible. So, in this study, we're going to talk about the Bible characters and stories we find most interesting and most relatable. But, as we begin, let's all sit around a table and pull out our Bibles (physical Bibles, if you have them). Ready? Let's get started:

- 1) Who is your favorite Bible character?
- 2) Why is that person your favorite Bible character?
- 3) What is your favorite Bible story?
- 4) Why is that your favorite Bible story?
- 5) What is one story in the Bible that is confusing to you?
- 6) What Bible character do you wish you knew more about?
- 7) If you could have witnessed any event in Bible history, what event would you have watched? Why?

Think about the favorite Bible characters that were discussed tonight. Pick one attribute from those characters and let's pray to God that He would help us develop that quality in our lives.