

**CHURCH OF NIGERIA
(ANGLICAN COMMUNION)
PROVINCE OF NIGER DELTA
DIOCESE OF EVO**

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL MANUAL FOR 2012

THEME: THE CALL, THE WALK AND THE FIGHT

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in any retrieval system or transmitted in any form or in any means either by electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise without prior written permission of the publisher except for criticism, research purpose or private study.

ISBN:

Printed and published by:

DIOCESE OF EVO PRINTING PRESS

A SUBSIDIARY OF DIOCESE OF EVO INVESTMENT LTD

ACMGS, Elemenwon, Port Harcourt.

© January 2012

FOREWORD

We thank the Lord for this third edition of the Adult Sunday school Manual. It has been our desire to equip our people with meaningful and sufficient tools for effective discipleship which is a prerequisite for serious Kingdom business. And that is why, since our creation in and subsequent inauguration in July 2009, we have wasted no time in producing well thought out and balanced Bible Study document for use in all our churches with the debut edition in 2010, *Abounding in the work of Lord; and a follow up edition in 2011, Following in the steps of Jesus Christ*, based on the Diocesan Discipleship Conference theme of 2010. This year, the theme is *The Call, the Walk and the Fight*, and it is based on the 2011 Diocesan Discipleship Conference theme.

It is always our aim to improve on whatever we are doing with every passing year. So, this edition is in keeping with this ideal. A lot of editorial work has gone into this work, including those that bother on theological and grammatical soundness. We have also made effort to accommodate as much as possible, different shades of opinions arising from critique of previous editions with the overall goal of improving the quality of the final work. What you are holding in your hand is therefore the outcome of all the efforts.

Meanwhile, we have directed the SSDM to distribute the Manual to all our Churches according to their strengths so that all our members will have ready access to it for maximum effect.

It is hoped that with the effort we are making, all stake holders in the Church, including both the clergy and Lay leadership will demonstrate maximum cooperation in ensuring that what we have is adequately and judiciously utilized for the benefit of all. It is not expected at this stage of our development that any Church will still be creating loop holes in our discipleship efforts by deliberately *dumping* these precious documents in preference for any other, whose quality control cannot be guaranteed. *We hope such is not happening!*

While we appreciate and commend the efforts of all who made this edition possible, we commend the Manual for use by all individuals, groups, and Churches in our Diocese and beyond.

Every blessing,

+ Innocent, Evo

EDITORIAL

Welcome to the 2012 edition of the Adult Sunday School Manual. It was tedious, tasking, and testing. We labored on even when it seemed the time was slipping away from us as we gathered all the study materials from our team of committed writers. But the collation process was another thing altogether. It was strenuous, stressful and sapping. However, we thank the Lord for giving the grace, strength and wisdom to not only start, but to finish what we started. And what you are holding in your hand is the product of all the sleepless nights and serious but pleasant labour. Our encouragement as we labored was the desired outcome of discipleship of God's people, in keeping with the vision of our Leader, Father, and servant of the Lord, our Bishop, the Rt. Rev. Innocent Ordu who was very patient with us while the effort lasted.

This year, we focused on the theme of the 2011 Discipleship Conference, *The Call, the Walk and the Fight*. The reason is to sufficiently drive home what we have begun to learn at that great conference at St. Andrews, Rumuobiokani. It is made up of a total of thirty-two studies, broken down into five different study parts to facilitate learning. Part one (A) focuses on *The Call*; Part one (B) deals with *Examples of God's call*; Part two (A) has to do with *The Walk*; while Part two (B) dwelt on *Examples of men and women who walked with God*. The last part dealt with *The Fight*.

As you go through these studies, one unique thing you will see is a clear instruction as to how many times some particular studies should be taken with clear demarcation into *parts one, two, three or four* as the case may be. The reason is that even though we do not want the studies to be unnecessarily too long, yet, we did not also want studies that are not comprehensive enough, more so as a good number of these outlines are character studies. A study like the one on *Joseph as an example of men who walked with God (study 17)* is structured into four study sessions. It is for this reason that we have reduced the number of studies to just thirty-two. Another unique introduction is a session on *Soul Searching* which replaced the more common memory verses to more appropriately aid application and prayer.

We are glad to proudly and prayerfully serve you this rich menu that will not only serve the purpose of study in the Sunday School, but as a useful resource and reference material for all who desire a return to true discipleship and purposeful and meaningful heavenly race in our time. May God bless all who sincerely love and serve our Lord Jesus Christ. May God bless the Diocese of Evo. Amen!

Rev. Cephas Okarefe

Editor, SSDM

Cell phone: 08062802590; Email: ssdmevo@gmail.com

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

First and foremost, we thank the Lord Almighty for the grace and wisdom to come up with this manual.

We wish to thank all who contributed in one way or the other to the successful completion of this edition of the Adult Sunday school Manual. We thank all our team of writers drawn from both the clergy and laity from within and outside the Diocese. We also thank our team of editors who worked so hard to beat set target. We equally thank our team of SSDM ExCo that proof read the final manuscript.

Finally, we thank our Lord Bishop, Rt. Rev. Innocent U. Ordu who has always been there to encourage us. His dogged commitment to discipleship is the driving force behind everything that we have been able to do.

May God bless the Diocese of Evo.

Rev. Cephas Okarefe

For SSDM, Diocese of Evo

TABLE OF CONTENT

PART ONE (A): THE CALL

Study 1 – The Call of God

Study 2 – Qualifications for God’s Call

Study 3 – The Universal call of all Believers

Study 4 – Benefits of God’s Call

Study 5 – Challenges of God’s Call

PART ONE (B) – EXAMPLES OF GOD’S CALL

Study 6 – Abraham

Study 7 – Moses

Study 8 – Aaron

Study 9 – Gideon

Study 10 – David

Study 11 – Isaiah

Study 12 – Paul

PART TWO (A) – THE WALK

Study 13 – The Christian Walk

Study 14 – Resources for the Christian Walk

PART TWO (B)

Study 15 - Enoch

Study 16 – Noah

Study 17 – Joseph

Study 18 – Deborah

Study 19 – Samuel

Study 20 – Solomon

Study 21 – Elijah

Study 22 – The Widow of Zerapath

Study 23 – Daniel

Study 24 – Simeon

Study 25 – Anna

Study 26 – Peter

Study 27 – John the Apostle

Study 28 – Mary the Mother of Jesus

Study 29 – The *Mite* Widow

Study 30 – The Marys and Salome

PART C – THE FIGHT

Study 31 – The Fight of Faith

Study 32 – The object of the Christian Fight: The Flesh

Study 33 – The object of the Christian Fight: The World

Study 34 – The object of the Christian Fight: The Devil and Demons

Study 35 – The Amour for the Christian's Fight

PART ONE: THE CALL

STUDY 1: THE CALL OF GOD

TEXT: 1 COR. 12: 27-30

OBJECTIVE: *To identify, explain and discuss the call of God in its various forms with a view to bring out the meaning, mode, and peculiarity for specific response of faith and obedience.*

INTRODUCTION

This topic will be looked at from two different perspectives; first, as an invitation given to men by God to accept salvation in His kingdom through Jesus Christ. This invitation is given through the preaching of the gospel and by the work of the Holy Spirit. Our salvation is a calling from the Lord (Eph. 4:1; 1 Thess.5:24; 2 Thess.1:11). In this salvation, we are generally called to grow into Him, walk like Him, serve Him and be with Him when we die (Discipleship, Service and Glory). We are therefore admonished to “be eager to make (our) calling and election sure”. (2 Pet.1:10).

Secondly, we shall look at it as an appointment or invitation of God to a definite service. When a child of God receives a specific assignment or work from the Lord, it is said of him that God has called him to that service. It does not mean that he is now exempted from the general calling into which every child of God is called, rather, God expects him to narrow down on that specific area of service and fulfill it. Paul’s way of putting it was, “...let him wait” (Rom.12:7ff) For this God equips him with spiritual gifts and grace so he could function effectively.

The purpose of this study is to expose these callings of God to us and equally stir us up to service.

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. What is the general call of God to all? (Matt.11:28; 2 Tim.1:9); and how can one respond to Him? (Acts 17: 30-31)
2. What type of call do we see in the following passages? Mk.3:14-15; 1 Cor.12:28; 7:15b
3. Identify the different ways one may receive or identify his call from these passages: Exo.3:1-4; Acts 13:1-3; 1 Tim.4:14.
4. What does God expect of those He has called? John15:16; 1 Cor.4:2; Eph.4:1; Col.4:17.

Conclusion: It is very important to respond to God’s call. When we do not respond, we will be living in disobedience in spite of all our religious activities. For those who are already in areas where God has called them, we are enjoined to be faithful. It is possible to be called by God, but in the course of time lose God’s anointing and grace because of sin and pride. We must

remain in intimate relationship with Him and continually ensure we are where God's can reach us and bless us.

FOR SOUL SEARCH: Am I walking worthy of my calling? (Eph.4:1)

STUDY 2: THE QUALIFICATIONS FOR GOD'S CALL

TEXT: 2 Tim. 2: 19-21

OBJECTIVE: *To investigate with a view to discovering some of the 'things' that qualifies a man He calls; the primary responsibility He expects from those He calls; the primary tool He equips those He call with, and some of the things that can disqualify one who is already called.*

INTRODUCTION: In one sense, the call of God is according to His sovereign counsel with no input from the one who is called. He chooses whosoever He wishes and assigns him where wants him. A man like Apostle Paul did not do anything to earn God's choice. And "Jesus said to them, "My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I, too, am working." John 5:17-18 NIV. For any man to join in this work certain 'things' He wants to see, which quite often may not be visible to human beings.

This study is an attempt to discover some of these "things".

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. What are some of the qualities God look for in the vessel He has chosen for His work? Lk.16:10-12; 19:17; 2 Tim 2:20-21; 1 Cor.4:2; 2 Cor. 2:16
2. Identify the primary responsibility (other than service for Him) that God expects from those He calls from Mk.3:14; Eph.6:24
3. What primary tool does God give to equip a man for His service? 2 Cor.6:1; 12:9; 2Cor.3:5-6
4. Identify and discuss some of the things that can disqualify a man from being part of what He is doing from these texts?
 - a. Josh. 7:1, 10-12; Jn.12:4-6
 - b. 1Kgs.13:1-2,6-7,15-22; 1 Samuel 15:22-23
 - c. 2 Kgs.5:21-27
 - d. Judg.16:1-21
 - e. 2 Tim 4:10.

CONCLUSIONS: God can call anybody He likes. But whoever He chooses to call, He has expectations. There is an intimate relationship to maintain with Him; preparations and purging to undertake to rid oneself of all that offends in this holy relationship; and there is a constant vigilance to maintain to avoid being disqualified. All who hopes to be to be vessels in God's hands need to ponder these as revealed in this study.

FOR SOUL SEARCHING: *Can I say I am an honourable vessel in the Hand of the LORD?*

STUDY 3: THE UNIVERSAL CALL OF ALL BELIEVERS

TEXTS: Matt 28: 19-20

OBJECTIVE: *To explain the call of God to all believers.*

INTRODUCTION: There is a call of God on all believers. In other words, every believer is called by God to function generally and specifically in the Church. There is the general call to all believers; and there is the specific call of God to a believer. No matter what it is, it is a call to serve. The life of a believer is a life of service from the beginning unto eternity. The understanding of this fact, and our willingness/availability to serve will transform our spiritual lives, and make us relevant in the agenda of God. The purpose of this study therefore, is to bring us to this understanding, and then help us become active servants of God.

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. In your own words, what do you understand by “Universal” Call?
2. From the key text and the following explain the universal call: Matt. 11:28-30; 1 Cor. 1: 9; 1; 1 Peter 2: 9-10.
3. From our key text, what special task awaits all who have received the universal call? See also 2 Cor. 5: 18-20.

CONCLUSION: All believers in Christ Jesus are called to His fellowship, holiness, praise, eternal glory and to be His witnesses. We all must wake up to this general call of God.

FOR SOUL SEARCHING: *How committed am I to the universal call?*

STUDY 4: BENEFITS OF GOD'S CALL

TEXT: Mark 10: 29-30.

OBJECTIVE: *To identify the benefits in responding positively to God's call so as to stir us up to active and faithful service*

INTRODUCTION: A song writer says, "When we walk with the Lord in the light of His word, what a glory He sheds on our way!" God has not called us to serve Him in vain. The Bible is filled with benefits we have when we respond to God's call. Though God's riches and provisions are inexhaustible; it's only available to those who respond positively to His call. In this study, we will look at some of the benefits we have for responding to God's call.

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. From our text, are there benefits in responding to God's call? See also 1 Corinth 15: 58, Heb.6:10
2. What gives us confidence concerning the promises in question one above? Num 23: 19; 1 Thess 5: 24.
3. What qualifies us for divine benefits in God's call? Exo 23: 25; Isa 1: 19
4. From our key text what rewards await us when we respond positively to God's call? Exo 23: 25-26; Isa 1: 19; Matt.25:21; 2 Tim.4:7-8; 1 Pet.5:4.

CONCLUSION: No single lesson will ever exhaust the length and width, height and depth of God's blessings that are attached to His call on all believers. This study only attempts to stir up our mind to the fact that responding to God's call produces a win-win relationship. No one ever loses walking with Jesus.

FOR SOUL SEARCHING: *Are you harbouring any doubt in your mind concerning what you stand to gain in serving the LORD faithfully?*

STUDY 5: CHALLENGES OF GOD'S CALL

TEXT: 1 Kings 19:1-5; Luke 9: 57-62

OBJECTIVE: *To expose us to some real challenges that there are to the divine call with a view to strengthening our resolve to stay on course, the challenges notwithstanding*

INTRODUCTION: We noted from previous that there is the universal call of God to all believers with its attendant benefits. In this study we shall be looking at the challenges we face in responding to God's call. Challenges here may mean the things that either hinder us from responding to God's call, or those things that make it difficult for us when we respond positively. Challenges may also be seen as the cost of God's call- the things we have to forgo or sacrifice in order to either respond to or stay in God's call. We shall therefore be looking at these challenges from the perspective of why we never respond to God's call and the perspective of what we would face as when we respond positively to God's call.

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. Do you think there are challenges to God's call?
2. Identify some of the challenges to responding positively to God's call: Mk.10: 17-22; Luke 9:57-62 ; Matt 13: 20-22; 1 John 2: 15-17
3. From the key text for this study, and the following, identify and explain some of the challenges that can threaten focus on God's call: Luke 9: 23-24; 2 Corinth 4: 8-12; 2 Tim. 4:10; Ps.55:12-14.
4. What are some of the things can we do to overcome these challenges and remain faithful to God's call? Rom. 15:4; Phil 3: 12-14; 2Thes.1:4; 1 Tim 6: 11-12

CONCLUSION: No doubt, we face great challenges as we respond to God's call. It is never new. Our forefathers in the faith faced similar challenges. Therefore, we must study the Scriptures, learn vital lessons from their lives and ministries in order to overcome whatever challenges we may face. With God, all things are possible. But we must never forget the vital place of patience in tribulation. The road to heaven has never been understood to be smooth, but rough and narrow.

FOR SOUL SEARCHING: *What challenges have threatened your focus on your call lately? Are there any?*

PART ONE (B) – EXAMPLES OF GOD'S CALL

STUDY 6 – ABRAHAM (To be taken in two study sessions)

TEXT: Gen.12:1-4; Isaiah 51:1-2

OBJECTIVE: *Examine the character and life of Abraham as it concerns his call by God so as to extract vital lessons for us in our day.*

INRODUCTION: God Called Abraham and made Him into a great nation. He became the Father of faith and “the rock” from which we were “cut” (Isaiah 51:1-2). How he was called, the circumstances that surrounded that call, the challenges that he had and the vital lessons we need to learn from his life are the focus of this study.

STUDY QUESTIONS

PART ONE

1. Who was Abraham before his call? Gen.11:23-33
2. How many were they in his family from where he got his call? (Gen.11:26) Any lesson from this?
3. Explain his call by the LORD from these texts (Gen. 12:1-4)
4. Isaiah calls on all who hope for deliverance, and who seeks the LORD to “**consider** (or **look**) **to the rock (Abraham and Sarah)**” Explain why you think he chose Abraham as a reference point (Isaiah 51:1-2). Consider these scriptures: Gen.18:17-19; Heb.11:8-17(NLT); Heb. 7:1-9; Ja.2:21-24; 1 Pe:3:6

PART TWO

5. Who did the scriptures identify as the true sons and daughters of Abraham? John 8: 39-42; Gal.3:7; John 8:31-32
6. Responding to the religious leaders of His day that they were Abraham’s children, Our LORD Jesus said “...Abraham did not do this” (John 8:39-40). Discuss some of the things we do today that seem to fault our claim to true answer to God’s call?
7. Our text suggests that God raised Abraham from **nothing** and made him into a great nation. What does this teach us about God and **US** who chose to respond to God’s call today as Abraham did?

CONCLUSION: As human beings, there is the ever present tendency to forget where we are coming from (the ‘rock’), and that, quite naturally accounts for why we often misbehave. Isaiah challenges us to look or consider **where we are coming from** (that is, our spiritual background), and never to forget it. For the children of Israel, that **root** was Abraham, a man who had uncommon revelation about God, symbolically worshiped God in Melchizedec, and looked for a

heavenly city (beyond Canaan) while he dwelt in tents. He was a symbol of **faith** (in God), **obedience** (to His word) and **friendship** (with the divine). So great was he that if you looked for **a confidant** (of the most High God) he was one! For us today, Christ, the living word of God is that rock we must never forget, who has given to us the sure WORD, the word that has been transmitted to us down the ages through the apostles, the founding fathers of the Faith of the Church, the faith many fought and died for. And truly, obedience to God's WORD is our major claim to being offshoots of Abraham, and even Disciples of Christ Jesus which we claim. We need to re-examine our overall claim as Christians today from our attitude toward the call of God.

FOR SOUL SEARCHING: *Why would the wife of the man in whom God had special interest be barren at all as we have in Gen.11:30?*

STUDY 7: MOSES

TEXT: Exodus 2:1-14; 3:1-10

OBJECTIVE: *To examine the life of Moses to see how God calls his people, and how to respond to His call.*

INTRODUCTION: Moses whose name means 'drew out of Water' or 'lifted out of Water' was a son to Jochebed and Amram both from the tribe of Levi. The bible records him to be a stammerer. He was sensitive to the call of God, and through him we will learn why God calls, how to recognize God's call, respond to that call, and get such call authenticated by other people.

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. Identity from these passages, when and how God called Moses. Exo.2:2, Exodus 3:1-6. Compare Jeremiah 1:5
2. Why did God call Moses? Exodus3:7-10
3. "O my Lord, I am not eloquent,... I am slow of speech and slow of tongue."(NKJV). See also Jeremiah 1:6-10. Why do you think God would call to His service such people with speech difficulties and a feeling of inadequacy? Consider 1 Corinthians 1:26-29; 1 Sam.16:6-7.
4. Read Exo.4:13-17 and point out why God insisted on making Moses the leader instead of Aaron his much older brother with better speech quality?

CONCLUSION: The call of Moses by God shows us that God's call is always for a purpose and it does not depend on how good we are by human standards; rather on God's sovereign choice which may be based on traits that the person called possesses, but which are hidden from human eyes. No human inadequacies are strong enough to stop God's call. Meanwhile, when it comes to God's call, chronological age plays little or no role. Otherwise, Aaron should have been the one to *take this staff (of authority) in his hand.*

FOR SOUL SEARCHING: *Do I look down on people who are in positions of God's call because I feel I am better than or senior to them?*

STUDY 8: AARON

TEXT: EXODUS 4:10-16, 27-31

OBJECTIVE: To identify the areas of his calling; learn from his example of humility in service, and examine his pit falls so we can avoid them.

INTRODUCTION: Aaron whose name means “bright” was an elder brother of Moses. He served as his voice because of Moses’s inability to speak. He was also the first High Priest of Israel under the Mosaic Law. He helped Moses in keeping law and order in the wilderness. His call was twofold – first, as an assistant to Moses, and secondly as a Priest. We can learn much from him in respect to his humility and obedience.

STUDY QUESTIONS:

1. Aaron was called to be a voice to Moses (Ex. 4:15-16). Identify the character of Aaron indicated here, and what the passage tells us about the call of God.
2. God called Aaron to be a Priest (Exodus 28:1). What do you think qualified him for this office and what specific duties were assigned to him (1 Peter 5:5-6; Exo. 30:7-10; Eph.1:11).
3. Identify from these passages, some negative issues in his life and calling? (Ex. 32:1-4, 21-25; Num 12:1-2; Nu.20:9-13, 23-26). What can we learn from these?

CONCLUSION: Aaron was a very humble man. He obeyed the call of God to be a voice to his younger brother, who had a short coming in his speech. His obedience and humility in service brought promotion to him as the first High Priest of Israel under the Mosaic Law. God, will always reward quick response to His call and humility in service. But, we must avoid his pit falls, especially the one that led to the pre-mature ending of his calling.

FOR SOUL SEARCHING: *Are there areas in my life and calling where I am presently disobeying God?*

STUDY 9: GIDEON (To be taken in two study sessions)

TEXT: Judges 6:1-24

OBJECTIVE: *To critically examine for our understanding God's call as an answer to His people's need, and discuss certain hindrances to God's call as well as pit falls we must guide against.*

INTRODUCTION: God's call has been an age-long experience. The method of calling varies with individuals but the primary purpose has always been to respond to the cries of His people especially when they go through unhealthy experiences in the hands of enemies. The character under examination in this study, Gideon got his call in this kind of circumstance.

STUDY QUESTIONS

PART ONE

1. From the background information given in the text, especially from verses 11-24,
 - a. Who was Gideon?
 - b. How would you describe his relationship with the Lord before his call to save Israel from the hands of the Midianites?
 - c. From his initial response to the call, it would appear as if Gideon after all was not the best instrument for the specific assignment of delivering Israel. What could be the reason he was chosen ahead of others for the task? 1 Cor.1:26-31
2. Explain from the background information in our key text the political and economic condition in Israel at the time of his call.
3. Gideon's response in Judges 6:13 seem to be that of doubt about God's ability to save and deliver. John the Baptist also had similar doubts about our Lord (Matt.11:1-6). Discuss some practical issues of life in our day that could make one to have similar doubts.

PART TWO

4. Read Judges 6:36-40. Was Gideon demonstrating a lack of faith here?

5. At what point can “proof for God’s will give way to faith when dealing with God’s calling?
6. Read Judges 8:22-27 and identify the mistake of Gideon, how we make similar mistakes today, and how we may avoid it

CONCLUSION: God’s call may be independent of any existing human weakness we seem to have. It does look like He does not chose people because they are good, but because they are willing to allow Him work in their lives to suit what He want them to do for Him. There certainly can be no room for any boasting if anyone has the privilege of being called to serve Him in any capacity.

FOR SOUL SEARCHING: *Am I like Gideon seeing myself as being too weak to be of any use to God?*

STUDY 10: DAVID (To be taken in three study sessions)

TEXT: 1 Sam 13; 13-14, 16:1-16.

OBJECTIVE: *To examine the role of Holy Spirit in our calling by God and the indispensable place of patience in the process.*

INTRODUCTION: Saul's choice as the King by God was in order to establish a lasting dynasty in Israel. His carelessness, foolishness and selfishness could not allow him to be used for this purpose; hence God rejected and prematurely terminated his call. It was within this context that God sought and raised David as a replacement for him (16:1), paving the way for his very strategic call with a very big mandate to fulfill.

Going by human calculation and wisdom, nobody, including Prophet Samuel would have looked the way of David. Starting from the time of his secret anointing by Prophet Samuel to his establishment (crowning as King), he lived as a wanderer in caves and bush with such kingly anointing. Almost all the test that Saul failed was repeated on him. His patience and diligence later resulted to his public anointing as the King of Judah by his own tribe (II Sam. 2:4) and the entire Israel (II Sam. 5:3). This marked the beginning of the prophetic fulfillment of Judah being the ancestor of the coming Messiah who was to be the eternal king of Judah and all mankind (Gen. 49:10; 2Chron 5:2). It is only proper that we consider such a man, his life, calling, mistakes and the vital lessons for us today

STUDY QUESTIONS

PART ONE

1. Read I Sam 16:5; 11. Why was David exempted from this sacrifice even when he was one of Jesse's sons?
2. "...and the spirit of the Lord came upon David from that day forward" (1 Sam 16:13). See also Acts 9:17; Luke 3:21-22; Eph. 1:17-19. Why is it necessary for anyone who is called to first be filled with the Holy Spirit?

3. David first outing after his anointing was victory over Goliath. This sent him into self exile in the bush instead of ascending straight to the throne. 1 Sam. 17:48-50; 19:1-2; 23:15-18. What can we learn from this?

PART TWO

4. Read 1 Sam 24:2-9, 26:7-11, 18-20; 2 Sam. 11:1-5; 1 Chro.21:1-8. From the life of David:
 - a. Discuss some of the perils and dangers that the anointed of the Lord who is sincere face in life and service and how we can overcome them
 - b. What are the spiritual qualities in the life of David which made him to spare Saul twice delaying his time of ascension to the throne?
5. "...and David inquired of the Lord" 1 Sam 23:2-4; 9-10. What is the relevance of this to one fulfilling his call?

PART THREE

6. God's 'seeking' gave rise to David being 'chosen' 1 Sam 13:13-14; 16:12-13, while David's 'patience and diligence' established the kingdom (II Sam 5:10-12). Discuss?
7. "God raised up for them David as king, to whom also He gave testimony and said, 'I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after My own heart, who will do all My will'" (Acts 13:22). Reading about David from 2 Sam.11:1-27, why would God still describe him as He did? Would you say David still qualifies for that kind of description? Cf.2 Sam.12:13; 1 Sam.23:2-4, 9-10; 1 Chro.21:24

CONCLUSION: Saul's failure gave rise to the divine search for David. He was first of all chosen by God (1 Sam 13:14), anointed by Samuel (16:13), accepted and publicly anointed by his own tribe (11 Sam 2:4), and the entire Israel (II Sam 5:3); and his Kingdom was then established and exalted by God (II Sam 5:10-12).

FOR SOUL SEARCHING: *Could there be secret sins of immorality, blood guiltiness and or pride in my life?*

STUDY 11: ISAIAH *(To be taken in two study sessions)*

TEXT: Isaiah 1:1-20, 6:1-9

OBJECTIVE: *To help us see the need for Purity in God's Call, how seriously urgent it can be, lead us to better explain the fact that in ministry, there is progression in revelation about God; and to help us better assess success in ministry.*

INTRODUCTION:

Isaiah was an evangelical prophet of God at Jerusalem (southern kingdom) when the northern kingdom had gone to exile in Babylon. His ministry spanned throughout the reign of four Judah Kings – Uzziah, Jothan, Ahaz and Hezekiah.

Before the biblical record of his call in Isa. 6:8, God had shown him several vision and signs of great danger awaiting His people as a result of their persistent wickedness (1:13-20, 3:15-24, 5:20-23). But it was the vision of God and the six Seraphim that brought more meaning about his calling and the Caller. (Actually, the reference of the vision to the death of King Uzziah is more of a historic dating than as an obstacle to his ministry). This vision raised three crucial issues about his call: (i) the purity of the call (6:1) (ii) the urgency of the call (6:2) (iii) the humble heartedness of the call (6:2). God wanted Isaiah to pay attention to these issues raised as he proceeds on this call; for which he responded, 'Here am I, send me'.

This proper understanding of the call positioned him as God's agent to:

- Make God's stand on sin and judgment for persisting in sin known to the entire Judah.
- Announce hope of restoration to a whole future generation of Jewish exile from captivity.
- Announce God's plan of complete restoration through Davidic Messiah to all the nations of the earth.

All these made the messianic prophecies of his book the fullest and clearest declaration of the gospel of Jesus Christ as compared to other books of the Old Testament. And this study is to enable us take a closer look at this great Messianic prophet in the OT.

STUDY QUESTIONS:

PART ONE

1. Who was Isaiah? 2 Chro.32:20, 32; 1:1; 2:1
2. Read Isa. 1:1-2, 20, 2:1, 2 Peter 1:20-21 and identify the source of these visions of Isaiah.
3. Read Isa. 6:1-9, Eph 1:17.
 - a. Isa. 6:1-9. Why would Isaiah describe himself as a “man of unclean lips” despite lots of vision/messages God has brought forth through him? Cf. also Lk. 5:6-11
 - b. What do you think is now happening to Isaiah when compared to question two above?

PART TWO

4. Discuss the danger of doing God’s work in sin and ignorance as some do today from these texts Isa. 6:5-7; Zech 3:1-5; John 12:3-7; 2 Cor. 13:5
5. From the following passages discuss how different people responded to God’s call and how we ought to respond. Isa. 6:8; 1 Kings 19:19-21; Lk. 9:57-62, Matt. 4:18-22
6. Read Isa. 5:1-7, 20-25, 1:17-20; 2 Kings 25:21. Would you say Isaiah’s ministry was successful, despite the fact that Judah going into exile in Babylon could not be averted?

CONCLUSION: Our call of God is a holy calling and should be responded to as such. The daily revelation of God Himself to us in the course of the ministry draws us closer to him, makes us to know Him better, and positions us for better fulfillment of the call. And we need to also note that even God is more interested in His *servant’s life* than what the *servant’s service* for Him; just as *holiness of life* is more important than *holiness teaching*). Isaiah’s call, ministry and life should serve as eye opener to us all.

FOR SOUL SEARCHING: *Do I take what I do for God more seriously than I do holiness of life?*

PART TWO (A) – THE WALK

STUDY 12: THE CHRISTIAN WALK

TEXT: Eph 4: 1-32

OBJECTIVE: *By the end of this study the participant should be able to explain what the term 'Christian walk' means and distinguish it from that before he became a Christian; Identify hindrances to the Christian walk and be apply lessons from the journey of the Israelites from Egypt to the Promised land, to our Christian walk.*

INTRODUCTION: In Acts 11: 26, the disciples were first called Christians because of their manner and way of life which was quite different from the way other men in the world lived. And a common saying today is, "Walk your talk" which in essence is saying let your actions match what you profess. There is no place that this admonition is needed more today as in the church, where we have all our streets dotted with churches and millions professing to be bible believing Christians, but still our country is counted as one of the most corrupt nations in the world. A former president of India had this to say about Christians "We Hindus see you Christians as ordinary men who make such extraordinary claims", in other words we make very extraordinary claims about what our God can do and has done in our lives, but live very ordinary lives.

The focus of this study is to remind us of our calling as Christians and encourage us to walk worthy of that calling.

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. What do you understand by the term Christian walk? Distinguish it from our walk before we became Christians. Rom. 8:4, 5; Eph2: 1-3; 4: 1-3, 17 -24.
2. Identify from the following passages hindrances to the Christian walk. Mat 13:22; Lk. 21: 34; Heb 3: 18, 19; 1 Jn. 2: 16.
3. What lessons can we apply to our Christian walk from the journey of the Israelites to the Promised Land? 1 Cor.10:1-13

CONCLUSION: It is by our walk that men can identify us as Christians because we walk as Christ walked.

FOR SOUL SEARCH: *Can men look at you and confess that surely you are a disciple of Christ?*

STUDY 13: RESOURCES FOR THE CHRISTIAN WALK

TEXT: Mat 5: 17 – 48; Eph 4: 13-17

OBJECTIVES: *By the end of this study the participant should be able to identify the resources that have been made available to us for the Christian walk; explain why these resources are necessary and why we cannot do without them and explain how we can receive these resources, and identify how we can apply some these resources in our daily lives.*

INTRODUCTION: Webster dictionary defines resources “as a source of supply or support, something to which one has recourse to in difficulty”. It originates from the French word ‘ressource’ meaning relief.

The Christian walk as we have seen from our previous study involves various challenges which if we were left on our own to face them as we see fit, no one will be able to live as a Christian. Looking at the Sermon on the Mount and the demands that Jesus made on us His disciples, it is quite clear that what is expected of us is far more than the Law (Ten Commandments) required. It would almost require super-human efforts for any man to live as listed in those verses. See Mat 5:17-48.

Aware of this, our Lord and King, has put an unlimited array of resources at our disposal which every believer will do well to study, know and make use of in his daily life. These resources are there to enable us live the life he has called us to live. The focus of this our study is to wet our appetite to study and find out more about these resources, so that we will not be robbed of our inheritance by the enemy.

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. Identify and discuss the following resources for the Christian walk:
 - a. 2 Tim 3: 16-17; Ps 119: 105
 - b. Mk.9:28-29; Eph 6:18
 - c. 1Jn 1:17; Rev.12:11
 - d. Acts 2: 41-42; Heb. 10:25
 - e. Gal 2:20
2. Explain why these resources in question two above are very essential for the Christian walk. Mat 5: 20; Jn. 15: 5,16
3. Discuss some of the ways we can receive these resources from these texts: John 15:4; Heb.11:6; 1 Pet. 2: 2

CONCLUSION: How would you respond if news came to you out of the blues that someone you do not know had left you an estate running into billions in his will?

Would you in disbelief turn away from the news bearer and not bother to enquire more about this news, but go on with your own business in which you struggle to survive. Or will you be satisfied with whatever half baked information you are given by meddlers who present themselves to you as intermediaries and allow you only a pittance from your inheritance. Or would you gather all the funds you can get from the inheritance and squander it on whatever catches your fancy and never bother to know more about who left the money and how he would have wanted you to spend it. Or would you spend time to understand the full extent of the wealth left to you, and learn more about the man who left these for you, what manner of man he was and how he would want you to spend the riches?

FOR SOUL SEARCHING: Which of points in the conclusion describe how you have used/misused the resources that our Lord Jesus Christ has left for you in His will.

STUDY 14: MARY THE MOTHER OF JESUS

TEXTS; Luke 1:26-38

OBJECTIVE: *To examine the life and call of Mary as example of an ordinary woman who yielded herself to the Lord for His unique use, the challenges notwithstanding*

INTRODUCTION: There is a call of God on all believers. The Scriptures declare that we are God's vessels to accomplish a divine mandate on earth. Hence, without God we cannot, but without us, God will not accomplish His purpose for man. Way back in the old testament, God had declared His purpose that a Saviour was to be born into the world (Isa. 9: 6-7), and through a virgin (Isa. 7:14; Matt. 1:23). The big question had been, when, how, and who would be that chosen vessel? And several years after, the Lord found Mary, who was then betrothed to Joseph. Therefore, in this study, we shall be looking at vital lessons to learn from the life of this Mary and her call to a most unique service.

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. From your own understanding:
 - a. Who was Mary- an ordinary person or a super-human?(Acts1:14)
 - b. Discuss if she was different from any other young virgin of her time in Israel.
2. Among every other virgin in Israel, Mary was called by God:
 - a. What was the specific call of God on Mary? Isa. 7: 14; Luke 1: 31
 - b. How did Mary feel when she was called? Luke 1: 34
 - c. What was her response to God in the end? Luke 1: 38
3. From the following scriptures, what vital lessons can we learn from the call of Mary?
 - a. God's purpose must stand- Isa. 46: 10
 - b. We can be His chosen vessel if we meet the requirement- 2 Tim 2: 20-21
 - c. It's not by physical ability or stand- 1 Corinth 1: 26-31
 - d. Nothing is impossible with God (Luke 1: 37), provided we yield to Him (Luke 1: 38)
4. Apart from the above, do you have other vital lessons to learn from Mary? Consider Jn.19:25-27; Acts 1:14.

CONCLUSION: Every purpose of God for man must come to pass. May we learn to yield to the Lord and be faithful disciples today as Mary did in her time even when she was the vessel through whom the God Man was born into this world in His incarnation.

FOR SOUL SEARCHING: *Are you yielded to the Lord?*

PART TWO (B) – MEN AND WOMEN WHO WALKED WITH GOD

STUDY 15: Enoch

Text: Gen. 5:18-32

OBJECTIVE: *To lead us to discover the life of a man who did not live like others and hence did not die like others. This is to motivate us to live as he did so as to be where he is for God took him to a better place.*

INTRODUCTION: Biographies help us to discover the pitfalls of men and to avoid them, study their strengths, the secret of their success and emulate them, see how we can apply it to our lives to become great like them or surpass them. Enoch was one character that had the briefest description, shortest life span in his time yet one of the brightest stars of the patriarchal age.

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. What was common among the characters mentioned in Gen. 5:18-23; 25-28, 31? Can you see a common life cycle?
2. Contrast your answer to question 1 above to Enoch in verses 21-23?
3. What do you understand by “walked with God?” v.22 & 24 see also Gen.6:9; Malachi 2:4-6; Heb. 11:5
4. Read Jude 14-15 and explain Enoch’s message to his generation.
5. What is the end of those who walk with (conduct their lives in a manner that pleases) God? Gen. 5:24; John 14:2-5; 2Cor. 5:1-2.

CONCLUSION: Enoch was a man who walked with (pleased) God, witnessed for God and hence was taken away to be with God eternally. If we live a life of constant communion with God, if we make God’s word our rule and His glory our sole end in all pursuits and conduct, Enoch end will be ours indeed.

FOR SOUL SEARCHING: *The way you are presently living your life and conducting your life affairs, do seriously think you end where Enoch ended?*

STUDY 16: Noah *(To be taken in two study sessions)*

TEXT: Gen: 5:20-6:22

OBJECTIVE: *To examine the life of Noah the Ark builder so as to learn from his strength and weaknesses*

INTRODUCTION: Noah's great grandfather, Enoch was a man of great piety who never saw death, his grandfather, Methuselah was the longest lived man and his father Lamech was apparently as religious and as reflected in the name he gave his son Noah – meaning “rest” (Gen. 5:29). As we look at the life of the Ark builder and the depraved society he lived in, we know that we too can make a difference in our time.

STUDY QUESTIONS

PART ONE

1. What was the environment of Noah's faith? Gen. 6:1-7, 11-12
2. Why was Noah exempted (Gen.6:8, 18) from the destruction that befell his generation? Gen. 6:8-9; 7:1
3. What was Noah commissioned to do and how does it relate to us today? Gen. 6:13-17, Matt 28:19-20, 1Tim. 4:16.

PART TWO

4. How would you describe Noah's relationship with God? Gen 6:22; 8:1, 20-21; 9:1; Eze.14:14,20
5. “The problem is not the environment but us”. Discuss this with reference to Noah's righteous life in a most unfavourable environment.
6. Read Gen.9:21-24 discuss the low point in Noah's life and how this should be a warning to us.

CONCLUSION: considering the enormity of the task Noah was called to perform and the harsh depraved society he operated, he stands out unequalled in persistent faith and commitment in the face of daunting challenge. However, great as he was, the low point of drunkenness in his life was most unfortunate, and it teaches us to be watchful, perhaps, when the victory is sweetest!

FOR SOUL SEARCHING: *Are you one of those using the depraved state of society today as excuse for unrighteousness?*

STUDY 17: JOSEPH (*To be taken in Four study sessions*)

TEXT: Gen. 37:12-28; 39:1-23; 47:1-27

OBJECTIVE: *To explain from the life experiences of Joseph how to walk with God and count on His goodness even in the midst of the worst of circumstances.*

INTRODUCTION: Joseph (meaning 'Increase') was an example of a patriarch who walked with God. He was the favorite of his father Jacob having been born to him in his old age (Gen37:3) by his beloved wife Rachael (Gen 30:23). He was faced with so many adversaries in life especially while growing up. Such include the gang-up by his own brothers (Gen 37:19) that led to a plot to kill him. He was later dumped in a dry well, but later sold to Ishmaelite traders who later sold him to Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh in Egypt (Gen37:23-28).

Joseph was later to become a slave in Potiphar's house where his faith and integrity was put to test by the amorous wife of his master leading to his unjust imprisonment (Gen39:11-20).

In this study, we shall be focusing on Joseph's life challenges and his attitude towards them, the unseen hand that worked behind the scene called divine providence, and what we can learn for our lives and walk with God.

STUDY QUESTIONS:

PART ONE

1. Who was Joseph? (Gen.30:22-24; 37:2-3;41:12-16)
2. Identify and explain different persons or group of persons, who were and unjust to him in life from the following passages (Gen.37:11; 19-27; 39:11-20; 40:12-15, 20-23).
3. If you were in Joseph's position how you would react:
 - a. If you were to be hated and treated unjustly by those who should actually defend you?
 - b. Were your own brothers to sell you out as was done to Joseph by his own brothers?
 - c. When faced with becoming like a commodity that is been passed from hand to hand?
 - d. When faced with false accusation with no opportunity for fair hearing?

PART TWO

4. What attitude did Joseph exhibit in all the challenges he faced. (Gen39:8-12, 42:21-26; 43:16 45:3-9; 46:31-34, 47: 11-12); James1:2-4; 1Cor 10:13.
5. What was the secret of the worthy example Joseph put up in the face of the difficult challenges he had to grapple with? Gen.39:8-10; 42:18
6. Why was Joseph able he able to excel *wherever* he was? (Gen 39:2-3, 21; Gen 42:18

PART THREE

7. How was Joseph rewarded in his walk with God? (Gen39:5, 22; 41:14, 41-43, 57; 48:5, 15-22).

8. What was the administrative, management and *family* secret behind Joseph's great success as we have in Gen.41:48-49 as Prime Minister in Egypt, (note: not the spiritual secret already learnt from previous questions)? Gen.41:39-45, 53-55; 42:6; 47:15
9. Discuss why Pharaoh, as part of his empowerment, change the name of Joseph and give him a woman as wife as we have in Ge.41:44-45?

PART FOUR

10. Explain the ***real hand*** that was behind all that happened to Joseph (divine providence) from his experience (Gen.45:3-8; 50:18-20)
11. "It is true that there are some bad things that happen to us in this life, no matter how good we may be, that are actually meant to serve God's beautiful divine purpose" (Rom.8:28). Discuss
12. Explain why Joseph was able to forgive his bothers from all we have learnt in this study

CONCLUSION: Life no doubt is full of adversaries capable enough to prevent one from actualizing the original plans and purpose of God for his/her lives but for a 'walk with God'. Jesus Christ was faced with worse challenges. What would have become of us today if he succumbed to the temptations from Satan, false accusations from His own people, denial by his own disciple, etc. A walk with God makes a way of escape in any trying & tempting situations (1Cor 10:13). Joseph never allowed the adversaries in his life to weighed him down rather he was resolute in remaining Godly. Who do you walk with? (with your fathers or with God).

Meanwhile, We indeed cannot know our real character until we see how we respond to adverse situations, but when your heart is right, your attitude and actions will be right. In the midst of the worst of circumstances, we can count on God's goodness.

FOR SOUL SEARCHING: *Where you to be Potiphar, would you have given Joseph a fair hearing when he was accused of attempted rape?*

STUDY 18: DEBORAH

TEXT: JUDGES. 4: 1 – 24

OBJECTIVES: *This study is to examine the life of the Prophetess Deborah and her daring leadership qualities as example for us and others*

INTRODUCTION

There are women God used to bring nations from darkness into the light in the fulfillment of His plans by virtue of their roles in national revival. Deborah is one such woman. She was raised by God at a time of special need when “village life ceased” in Israel (Judges 5:7). She gained the ear of many and was appointed a judge over the people. She prayed and Israel turned from being defensive to becoming offensive leading them to a glorious victory in the process. Her story, amongst other things, helps us to overcome negative fears.

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. Who was Deborah? Judges 4:4-5
2. What was the prevailing situation when Deborah leading Israel, and for how many years? Judges 4:1-4; 5:7.
3. How was it that after twenty whole years of Deborah, a prophetess, leading the people, they were still wickedly oppressed by the enemy, until they cried to the LORD? Judges 4:1-3
4. “And Barak said to her, “If you will go with me, then I will go; but if you will not go with me, I will not go!” (Judges 4:8). Explain why a man, Barak, an army commander, would make such a demand of *a woman*, even when he had been commanded by God to *go*?
5. Explain from these scriptures some of the leadership and spiritual qualities in Deborah that endeared her to the people and which we can all learn from today: Judges 4:8-9; 5:7, 9

CONCLUSION: Deborah took a decision and acted on it. She was a woman that was bold for God, even when there was much fear around at the time. She was sure of when God has spoken, making it clear to us how really close she walked with God. Little wonder then she had great influence amongst her people, even though she was a woman. Don’t count women out!!

FOR SOUL SEARCHING: *Do not dodge when others dare for God?*

STUDY 19: SAMUEL (To be taken in three study sessions)

Text: 1 Samuel 1:9-20

OBJECTIVE: *To examine the life and times of Samuel, the Seer with a view to gleaning some useful lessons for our lives as Christians*

INTRODUCTION: Samuel was the first child of a Godly mother, named Hannah, who had been barren because ‘the LORD shut up her womb’ (1 Sam. 1:5b; 2:21). His father was Elkanah. The life of Samuel presents such a challenge to every Christian that no amount of time spent in studying it can ever be considered a waste. Amongst other things, Samuel was:

1. Born in answer to the prayers of a godly mother (1 Sam. 1:10-11, 20).
2. Dedicated to the Lord before his birth.
3. The last of the judges of Israel, and maintained a life of uprightness during his time (1 Sam. 12:3).
4. Privileged to have been used by God to anoint the first two kings of Israel (Saul and David), and to that extent a king maker (1 Sam. 10:1; 16:13).

Many more revelations follow from the discussion sessions of this study, so, let’s get started.

STUDY QUESTIONS

PART ONE

1. Read 1Sam. 1:5-7 and explain what we can learn as Christians from the experience of Hannah?
2. Read 1Sam. 1:9-11, 15:
 - a. What changed Hannah’s situation?
 - b. Are there situations that *vow* can move the hand of God to act on our behalf as we see Hannah did here?
3. What can we learn from the birth of Samuel and his wholesome dedication to the Lord? 1Sam. 1:11, 26-28.

PART TWO

4. How old was Samuel when he began to hear God’s voice? 1Sam. 2:18; 3:1,8b. What can we learn from this?

5. To what can we trace the successes of Samuel and how does this challenge us as Christians? 1Sam.2:18, 21; 3:19; 8:6; 15:11.
6. How can we describe the person of Samuel? 1Sam. 3:19-21; 7:15-17;12:1-5; 19:20

PART THREE

7. In his old age, Samuel appointed his sons judges over Israel. What was responsible for the agitations of the people of Israel for a king, and what precautions or pitfalls are there for all of us as Christian fathers to avoid? 1Sam. 8:1-5.
8. Who anointed the first two kings of Israel? 1Sam. 10:1; 16:1, 10-13.
9. Read 1Sam. 28:7-16:
 - a. Was it really Samuel that was brought up by the witch of Endor? Discuss
 - b. Reading through the above passage, how many times was the term, 'familiar spirit' mentioned?
10. "Judging from the kind of household setting of Eli's sons that were described as wicked with some terrible practices (1 Sam.2:12-17) Samuel grew up under a very corrupt and rotten setting, yet he was such an accomplished Prophet of the Lord. This is proof that the greatest of godly men are not necessarily raised in a monastic setting". Discuss

CONCLUSION: The birth, growth and end of Samuel the Upright Judge of Israel presents a very big challenge to us as Christians in these modern times. He did not deviate from the vow that the mother made to God on his behalf; his ears were 'tuned' up to hear vividly from God right from his early years; he became the priest in Shiloh after the death of Eli the priest; he was a priest, prophet, judge and king-maker. He established what is thought to be the first school of the prophets (1Sam. 19:20); and maintained his integrity as a circuit judge until death.

Perhaps, this study will hardly be complete without mention being made of one of God's messages to Eli through Samuel. It says, "... Be it far from me; for them that honor me I will honor, and they that despise me shall be lightly esteemed" (2: 30b).

FOR SOUL SEARCHING: *Do you honor God in your everyday living?*

STUDY 20: SOLOMON *(To be taken in two study sessions)*

TEXT: 1Chron. 22: 5-10

OBJECTIVE: *To examine the life and times of Solomon, his favour and fall out with God with a view to picking up vital lessons for our walk with God*

INTRODUCTION: There are too many things about God that we do not, and cannot understand either in this life or even in eternity. Bathsheba was remarried to David the king after the death of her first husband, Uriah (2 Sam. 11: 26-27). Because of the unacceptable way the marriage was contracted, God was displeased with David and struck the first child Bathsheba had for him, and it died. Yet, God later promised David that Solomon who was born to him of Bathsheba (1Chron. 22: 9; 28:6) would be the one to succeed him as the next king of Israel.

Solomon as a character presents very important and interesting challenges for every Christian. As we will observe in the process of this study, the challenges may be so much that it may be difficult to finish in one study. Solomon was known to be the wisest king that ever lived; one of the kings of Israel that did not fight a single battle during his reign; the only one king that built the first celebrated temple in Jerusalem; a preacher and a teacher, but also on the other side, the only king that was known to have married 700 wives and at the same time maintained 300 concubines. It will be a privilege to be part of this study from the beginning to the end. So, book your seat during the study.

STUDY QUESTIONS

PART ONE

1. Who was Solomon the king of Israel? 2Sam. 12:24.
2. What were the circumstances that trailed his ascendancy to the throne? 1Kings 1:11-13.
3. Discuss what we can learn from those circumstances. 1Kings 1:28-30, 38-40.
4. How can we describe Solomon's walk with God from 1Kings 3:1-5; 1 Kings 11:1-10?
5. What condition(s) did God attach to His blessings when He appeared to Solomon? 1Kings 3:14; 6:11-13; 9: 1-9.

PART TWO

6. What were the proofs of God's answers to Solomon's requests? 1Kings 4:29-34; 9:26; 10:21-23;
7. When and how did King Solomon begin to fall out of favour with God? 1Kings 11:1-4, 6-7, 9.
8. In our walk with God, what can we learn from Solomon, and how can we avoid his mistakes?

9. What were the consequences of Solomon's failure to keep to God's conditions for blessings earlier given to him? 1Kings 11:11-13, 26, 30-32.
10. As parents or parents to be, what can we learn from 1Kings 11:12-13?

CONCLUSION: The kingship of Israel after David was ordained by God for Solomon, but the devil, through his half-brother, Adonijah, fought against it. It took the foresight, counsel and intervention of Nathan the prophet to realize God's purpose for Solomon as a person, and Israel as a nation. We have also found that, for as long as we are prepared to walk with and obey God, he is ready to maintain His own part of whatever promises or covenants He has entered into with us. God is no respecter of persons.

As parents, we need to prepare the future of our children by walking with God just as David did.

As fathers, we have the obligations of counseling our children aright. May God help us not to fail in this matter!

FOR SOUL SEARCHING: *Solomon's major weakness was women; which is yours? Find out and fix it!*

STUDY 21: ELIJAH

TEXT: 1 Kings 18:30-40; 17:10-24.

OBJECTIVE: *To examine the life and prophetic ministry of Elijah, his strong character and spiritual quality, his unique walk with God and his unique translation into heaven.*

INTRODUCTION: Elijah still remains one of the greatest prophets that ever lived. He defended the worship of God over that of the more popular Baal introduced by Jezebel in his days (1 Kings 18:30-40). He raised the dead in his encounter with the widow of Zarephath (1 Kings 17:10-24) and brought fire down from heaven in the contest with the prophets of Baal.

He was one prophet who stood up for God against the evil rule of King Ahab. He refused to dine with the King, he rather chose to do God's will and live in the desert and caves than bid the wishes of the King and live in the palace. He worked so closely with God and was one of those that never tasted death but ascended (or *raptured*) to Heaven by a whirlwind.

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. Who was Elijah? 1 Kings 17:1, 18; 2Kings 1:6-8
2. Describe his spiritual character and quality from these scriptures: 1 Kings 18:15,17-18, 36-40; 21:17-23; 2 Kings 1:9-15,17; James 5:17
3. The climax of Elijah's walk with God was his unique *rapture* into heaven like Enoch (2 Kings 2:1, 11). Compare this with Gen.5:24.
4. All who walk with God now will also be *raptured* as Elijah was. Discuss. (cf.1Cor.15:50-52 ;1 Thes. 4:15-17)
5. Can we as Christians and leaders in the Church today follow the example of Elijah, especially in our dealing with human enemies? Luke 9:51-56

CONCLUSION: A walk with God is not easy but His grace is sufficient. God never promised a walk without challenges

FOR SOUL SEARCHING: *How are you walking with God in your daily life?*

STUDY 22: DANIEL

TEXT: DANIEL 1: 1-9

OBJECTIVE: To examine from the life of Daniel the cost of walking with the Lord and the blessing that follows those who willingness pays the price.

INTRODUCTION:

There are two major factors characterized the men and women of old who walked with God: decision and determination.

Daniel was one of such men. We may not easily understand what a great price of faith he had to pay until we consider the setting or the environment where he chose to stand out. In our text, Daniel along with his companions were offered the best kind of food (the same that the king ate) but because he wanted to walk with God, he chose not do what others were doing. This study opens our eyes to the fact that those who want to walk with God must be willing to pay the price.

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. Who was Daniel? Dan.1:3-6a (cf.2 Ki.20:17-18)
2. What kind of food and drink were apportioned for Daniel and his companions? Dan. 1: 5a
3. From Dan.1:3-5, would it not be an offence for Daniel not to eat that food?
4. How did Daniel view eating the king's rich food? 1:8
5. What happens to those who take great decision for the Lord? Dan. 1:9, 15-21
6. Read Ezek. 14:12-14. Who were the three men mentioned here and what was God saying about them?
7. "Those who want to affect their generation must be determined to go extra miles with the Lord". Discuss this from Daniel's example (Dan.1:8, 11, 16, 18a (cross check this with 1:5 for how long Daniel was on this special diet)

CONCLUSION: To walk with God, one must be determined like Daniel. It is also interesting to know that Daniel initiated the decision but the other three Hebrews (Shedrach, Meshach and Abednego) joined suit. When people see signs of seriousness in us, they would be willing to follow us.

FOR SOUL SEARCHING: *"But Daniel resolved that he would not defile himself..." (Dan. 1:8a).
What about you?*

STUDY 23: SIMEON

TEXT: Lk.2:25-35

OBJECTIVE: *To examine the life and times of the little known faith man so as to learn from him.*

INTRODUCTION: There are some people in the Bible that are not very popular. But by their deeds as recorded in the scriptures, they are mighty people. Simeon is one of such. As we met to consider content of this current manual in the Sunday School Board, we were unanimous in opinion that he should be considered as one of the examples of men who walked with God. And truly, it is amazing some great things said about him in just the few verses in the Gospel of Luke, the only scripture where he came up for mentioning. Unfortunately, information about him is scanty. But the connection with the incarnate Christ cannot be ignored.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Who was Simeon? Lk.2:25
2. List and discuss the *faith* information given about him from verses Lk.2: 25b-26
3. With inference from verses Lk.2:26-27, 29-30 explain how this man walked with God.
4. From the context, Simeon appears to be an ordinary man with no recognized title whatsoever. Yet he had the privilege of blessing the unique family and with such unusual spiritual insight in verse 34-35. What can we learn from this as Clergymen and lay people today?

CONCLUSION: Simeon was a man of spiritual depth and quality. His walk with is reflected in how easily he keyed into the divine plan of salvation for mankind by his simple faith in what God revealed to him that he will see Christ before he die. And he did through sheer faith, patience and deep longing! To walk with God, we must be men of faith who take God by His word and wait patiently for His promise without wavering.

MEMORY VERSE: "And behold, there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon , and this man was just and devout, waiting for the Consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him" (Luke 2:25) NKJV

STUDY 24: ANNA

TEXT: LUKE. 2: 36 – 40

OBJECTIVE:

INTRODUCTION:

To walk with God means having personal relationship with God. He sheds His glory on us as we walk in His ways. To walk with God causes a revelation of one's ministry. This walk is for those who have answered the 'Call' In this context, to walk is a commission to exhibit integrity, holiness, faith etc. Amazing, prophetess Anna, a very old woman serves as a model for us. Our walk with God needs purging our attitudes. One of the SSDM focus is to produce a people physically and spiritually prepared (Luke 1:17) who will go out there to prepare others to know and to walk with our God.

STUDY QUESTIONS.

1. Who was Anna? Luke2:36-37
2. How old was she at the time the child, Jesus was brought to the Temple? Luke 2:37
3. Read Luke 2:36-37, 38.
 - a. What major challenge did she have as a woman?
 - b. She seemed like a woman that was lonely, but who refused to be *lonely*. How did she overcome the challenge of loneliness?
 - c. She saw the Lord in the Temple at her old age by her perseverance in God's presence. What do we learn from this?
4. Discuss what we can learn from the life of this woman who "*never left the Temple but worshipped night and day, fasting and praying*", especially with regard to coping in times of adversity?

COLLUSION: Anna was a woman of God's presence, even in adversity. At her very old age, she was still regularly worshiping in the Temple, "day and night". Of course, she had the privilege of seeing the redemption of Israel. Similarly, if we persevere in God's presence we shall see our ultimate redemption.

FOR SOUL SEARCHING: *What do you normally use as excuse to evade the presence of God?*

STUDY 25: PETER *(To be taken in two study sessions)*

TEXT: Jn.1: 35-42

OBJECTIVE: *To take a closer look at the person and ministry of Peter the Apostle, his ups and downs, his impulsive nature, and his steady transformation and rise into a spiritual giant, with a fulfilling end. This is with a view to learning from his example.*

INTRODUCTION: Peter was one of the foundation Apostles. John revealed in his Gospel that he was called Simon (which means *to hearken*), but at his call, Christ named him Peter or Cephas (which means *rock*). His story tells us clearly how greatly Jesus Christ transforms lives that are yielded to Him.

STUDY QUESTIONS

PART ONE

1. Who was Peter? Matt.4:18; Mk.5:37, 9:2;
2. How did he come to know the Lord? Jn.35-42; Lk.5:4-10
3. What Trade was he engaged in before he began to follow the Lord? Mk.1:16
4. How would you describe the man from these scriptures? Matt.14:27-28; 15:15-20; 16:16; 17:4; 19:27; 26:33-35; Jn.13:9; 18:10

PART TWO

5. Read Mark 8:31-33; and compare with 1 Peter 4:11, and explain why a Christian should obey the injunction of James 1:19.
6. Read about Peter from Matt. 26:40, 69-75, Jn.21: 1-3; and compare with the Peter in Acts 1:15-17; 2:14-16; 4:13; 10:9-16; Gal.1:18; 2 Pe.1:1
 - a. How would you describe the progress of his walk with the Lord?
 - b. What do learn from this about the transforming power of Jesus?
 - c. What else can we learn from this as Christians?
7. Read 2 Pe.1:12-15:
 - a. Did Peter end his walk with the Lord well?

- b. What do you think was responsible for his beautiful ending (Consider 2 Pe.1: 16-21)

CONCLUSION: Peter was a brother of Andrew; a Fisherman turned an apostle of the Lord Jesus Christ. He was very impulsive and outspoken man who will speak his mind no matter how stupid. But at the same time, he was also quick to repent once he knew what is right. As someone who once was unfortunately used as Satan's mouth piece, he knew the importance of speaking as God's oracle, and so could admonish us today. We saw a man who, although was quite raw in his ways, was gradually and steadily transformed into a spiritual Colossus. We also learnt how fulfilling his end was. Certainly, we can trust the Lord to transform those who are adjudged to be beyond transformation.

FOR SOUL SEARCHING: *Have you been transformed by Christ?*

STUDY 26: PAUL

TEXT: GAL. 2: 20

OBJECTIVE: *To explain to that only a man who is dead to self can walk with God and that those who are still active in the flesh cannot please God.*

INTRODUCTION: Throughout his epistles, Paul expressed himself as a “dead man” and emphasized that it is the only way to be alive in Christ. From the time of his conversion in Acts 9, not only his heart was converted but his entire body as well as his energy. From that moment, his walk with God began. He counted his life as nothing and was willing even to die for the sake of his faith. Paul is a perfect example of those who walked with God and for us today, if we must gain approval as having walked with God, we must possess Paul’s attributes.

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. Describe the man, Paul from Acts 22:1-5
2. Identify two major things that happened to Paul’s “Self” in Gal. 2:20?
3. Generally speaking, what happens when one has given his /her life to Christ from what Paul taught in Rom. 6:6? Is it true of us in the church most times?
4. Read Phil. 3:4-6; Cor. 11:21-23:
 - a. What was Paul’s position in the world before he began his walk with the Lord?
 - b. What was his conclusion about these things when he began his walk with the Lord? Phil. 3: 7-8
 - c. Why did he do so? Phil. 3:9-11
 - d. What is the lesson for you as you walk with the Lord? Read Matthew 10:3a
5. What was Paul’s secret and goal in life? Phil. 4:11-12; 2 Tim. 4:6-8

CONCLUSION: Paul was determined and sold out for the kingdom’s sake. Those who are still active in self life cannot serve God acceptably.

FOR SOUL SEARCHING: *Paul was crucified with Christ. Are you?*

STUDY 27: JOHN THE APOSTLE.

TEXT: Matt. 4:18-22

INTRODUCTION:

There were three prominent characters in the New Testament who bore the name John. The first was John the Baptist who was the fore-runner of Jesus Christ. He also baptized Jesus Christ in the Sea of Jordan (Matt. 3:13-15). The second was John the Apostle, one of the twelve disciples of Jesus Christ, the brother of James and son of Zebedee the fisherman (Matt. 4:21). The third was John, surnamed Mark, who was one of Paul's companions during his first missionary journey (Acts 15:36-38). This study focuses on the second John who was also called, 'The beloved'. History has it that he was the only disciple that died a natural death among the twelve after all attempts to have him killed failed. It is traditionally believed that he authored the Gospel of John; the three epistles of John and the book of Revelation.

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. Who was John, and what was his occupation before he was called by Jesus Christ? Matt. 4:21.
2. John and James his brother were surnamed, Boanerges by Jesus Christ. Why do you think He did that? Mark 3:17; 9:38; Luke 9:54.
3. John was said to be one of the "inner three" among the disciples of Jesus Christ (cf. Matt. 17:1-2; Mark 5:35-37). Explain the impact this must have made on his walk with the Lord. Consider 1 John 1:1-3
4. John was also called, 'the one who Jesus loved' (20:2; 21:7, 20-22). What must have earned him this name? Consider John 13:21-25; 19:25-27.
5. Read Mark 10:35-37:
 - a. What was the request of John and his brother James?
 - b. Was their request granted? Mk.10:39-40
 - c. What do we learn from this?

CONCLUSION: John was an intimate disciple of our Lord. So strong was the intimacy that he appeared to be the closest to Jesus among the disciples. The result was the *trade mark*

revelation he had about LOVE which we see in all his writings. His story teaches us that it pays to endear oneself to the Lord Jesus Christ and to become more intimate with Him!

FOR SOUL SEARCHING: *How intimate are with the LORD Jesus Christ?*

STUDY 28: THE MITE WIDOW

TEXTS: MARK 12: 41-43

OBJECTIVE: *To explain from the example of the poor widow who gave all she had to live on as offering at the Temple Treasury that the quality of our offerings to God lies in the condition of our heart and its selfless nature, and not necessarily in the size.*

INTRODUCTION: The Bible narrated a story of a widow, whose name was not mentioned, who was not a known figure in the Synagogue, nor had she a special call from God; but who, out of love to God and a normal religious practice of giving, received such a great commendation from the Lord. Observing the donations made by the people, Jesus highlighted how this poor widow donated only two *mites*, the least valuable coins available at the time (worth about six minutes of an average daily wage), and how her donation was more than what the rich men gave. In this study, therefore, we shall be drawing lessons from the giving of this widow, and learn how we can make our giving or worship to God more acceptable.

STUDY QUESTIONS:

1. Why was the widow's donation preferred? Mark 12: 43-44
2. From the following Scriptures, explain what the Lord is concerned with when we give to Him:
 - d. Psalm 51: 17; 2 Corinth 8: 5
 - e. Malachi 1: 7-8
 - f. 2 Corinth 8: 2-3, 7; 9: 6-7
 - g. 2 Sam.24:24
3. Does the widow's mite lesson teach that the Lord is not concerned with the size of our gifts? Explain (cf. Luke 6: 38b)
4. How can we compare or contrast the mite widow's giving from the following:
 - a. The Zarephath woman in 1 Kings 17: 8-16
 - b. The offering of the Lord of Himself in John 3:16
 - c. The offerings of Cain and Abel in Gen. 4: 3-5

d. The offering of Ananias and his wife in Acts 5: 1-4

5. Discuss areas we “keep back part of the money for ourselves” as Ananias and Sapphira did (as against the practice of the *mite* widow). (Consider tithing, free will offerings; unredeemed pledges, programme proceeds, etc.

CONCLUSION: What and how we give show how much we love or worship God. We can give God our best and our last like the widow in this study. We can also give God, not out of abundance, but out of deep poverty. Part of what this study teaches is that we all have something to give, and God expects us to worship Him with our substances no matter how small. It is not about the size of the gift but about our heart when we give. But we nnot forget the lesson of not “keeping back”.

FOR SOUL SEARCHING: *What have you been keeping back from the Lord?*

PART C – THE FIGHT *(To be taken in two study sessions)*

STUDY 29: THE FIGHT OF FAITH

TEXTS: 1 Tim. 6:12, 2 Tim. 2: 3-4

OBJECTIVE: *To help us identify, explain and discuss the existence of the fight of faith to which all Christians must be committed; and to discover how this fight can be won without yielding ground.*

INTRODUCTION: “There’s a fight to be fought, and a race to be run, there are dangers to meet by the way, but the LORD is my light and the LORD is my life and the LORD is my strength and stay; on His WORD I depend, He’s my Saviour and strength, and He tells me to trust and obey; but the LORD is my light and the LORD is my life and the LORD is my strength and stay”. This quote is a popular SU song. Its meaning is clear and leaves the Christian without any doubt about the nature of the call to faith in our LORD Jesus Christ. We must fight to stand the chance of survival for eternal life in the kingdom of God. How we can successfully wage this war without falling by the way side and thus become a subject of ridicule for hell is the focus of this study.

STUDY QUESTIONS

PART ONE

1. What specific command is the Christian given in 1 Tim.6:12; and what does it mean (1Cor.15:32a; 2 Cor.10:3; Eph.6:12)?
2. Explain what it is that makes the fight **good** as stated in 1 Tim.6:12 (cf.Ja.4:1-3)
3. List some of the objects of the Christian’s fight of faith from these texts: 2 Cor. 10:4-6; Mk.7:21-23; Rom.12:20; 1 John 2:16; Ja.4:7(also 1 Pe.5:8-9); 1 Cor. 15:26; 2 Cor. 16: 9; Eph.6:12?
4. How can the Christian effectively take on this fight without yielding or giving in? Prov.20:18; Jos.1:8; LK.10:19; Rom.12:20; 1 Cor.15:25a,34; 2 Cor.10:3-4,6; Eph.6:10, 13; Ja.4:7; 2 Tim.2:3-6?

PART TWO

5. Identify and discuss one by one the Christian armour for victory in the fight of faith as stated in Eph.6: 13-18?
6. “*And why do we stand in jeopardy every hour? I affirm, by the boasting in you which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die daily*” (1 Cor. 15:30-31). In the light of this constant **hourly** and **daily** fight challenge that faces us as Christians, how should we order our lives?Matt.26:41a; Phil.3:3b-4a; 4:6; 1 Thes.5:17; 1Tim.6:10-11; Ja.4:7a;1 Peter 5:8

7. Ultimately, who is the one that delivers? Prov.21:31; Rom.9:16; Phil.2:26-27; 2 Tim.3:10-11; 4:17-18

CONCLUSION: Perhaps, the Christian life may have been easier and better without any fight at all, once one has given his/her life to Christ. But sadly, this is not so. It pleased God that it should be this way. He chose to enlist all His children into His heavenly army as soldiers, soldiers who must fight every hour and every day until the last breath in this earthly tent. And that is what we are by the grace of God. We have to fight the good fight (so called because there are other fights, dirty ones that add no value to one's spiritual life); and it is good we get prepared so that we are not caught unawares by the enemy. Good enough, the good LORD has ensured we have all the armour of equipment we need for effective fight. This calls for soberness, vigilance and constant prayers. However, it should be noted that ultimately, it is God alone who delivers and shows mercy, the reason we cannot afford to put any confidence in the flesh.

FOR SOUL SEARCHING: *Are you fighting the good or bad fight?*

STUDY 30: THE ARMOUR FOR THE CHRISTIAN'S FIGHT

TEXTS: Eph.6:10-20, 24

OBJECTIVE: *To identify, explain and discuss the whole armour of God as commanded, why we should put them on, and how, so that as Christians we can effectively do the battles of the Christian faith without yielding any ground.*

INTRODUCTION: We have already established from the previous bible study that every Christian has been enlisted into the army of the LORD where the good fight of faith is inevitable. But it is true that no soldier rushes into the battle without being effectively equipped with the weapons or armor for a successful warfare. In this study therefore, we shall pay detailed attention to the whole armor that we as Christians must put before we can confidently and effectively engage in the inevitable warfare.

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. What is *armour*? (Read Eph.6:11a from modern English translations for insight into the various renditions of the word *armour*).
2. How did the bible describe the kind of armour Christians should put on? Eph.6:11a
3. Why must we put on the whole (complete) armour? Eph.6:11b, 12, 13 (there are two reasons in this particular verse 13).
4. Identify and explain the armour as listed below:
 - a. Read: Eph.6:14 (two are listed here). Attempt an explanation why truth and righteousness may have been listed first (cf. John14:6, 8:32; 1 Cor.1:30; 1 Tim.3:15)
 - b. Eph.6: 15 (read this from the NLT for clearer understanding)
 - c. Eph.6:16 (note the reference to the fiery – blazing, flaming, hot darts – arrows- of the wicked here)
 - d. Eph.6:17 (two are listed here). And please attempt an explanation for the connection of helmet to salvation.
 - e. Eph.6:18-20
5. Would you say any of the above listed armour is less important than the other? If not, what is the possible implication not having any of them?

CONCLUSION: Armour speaks of a *protective covering, shell, shield, bulletproof vest or breastplate*. In this study, we have identified eight different but equally important armour which every Christian is commanded to put on (without leaving anyone out) in order to be able to *stand firm against the dangerous strategies and tricks of the devil*, and so that in the time of evil we will be able to do battle, and afterward we will still be standing firm. This calls for soberness and serious mindedness. There appears to be no room for non-committal and

indolent or slothful Christian behavior here. We need to call on the LORD for His grace as we cannot afford to be indifferent. After all, the signs are all over the place that we must fight, and even if you won't, you cannot escape being fought against, and we need the complete armour to stand any stand any chance of survival. What is your decision?

FOR SOUL SEARCH: *Are you putting on the whole armour of God?*

STUDY 31: THE OBJECT OF THE CHRISTIAN'S FIGHT: THE FLESH

TEXT: Gal.5:16-26

OBJECTIVE: *To examine the flesh as one of the three great enemies that the Christian must fight against and conquer to stand any chance of being a partaker of the Kingdom of God.*

INTRODUCTION: The Christian faith can be said to have three major enemies to contend with. These are "the flesh, the world and the devil". We shall carefully study these enemies of our faith and also seek to understand God's provision for our victory and victorious living.

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. What is the flesh from the following scriptures? Gen. 6: 3; Rom 7: 18; Gal 5: 19 (read different versions). What are the other names of the flesh?
2. What is the origin of the flesh? Gen 2:15 – 17; 3:1 – 11.
3. What is God's verdict on the flesh? Gen 6:5 – 7; Eph 4:22; Gal 5:19 – 21; Ezek 36:25 – 27.
4. What is God's provision for our victory over the flesh?
 - a. Col 1:14; 1Jn 1:7
 - b. Rom 6:6; Gal.2:20
5. How can we employ God's provision for our personal victory? Luke 9:23 – 24; Jn. 3:3, 5; 12:24 – 26.
6. What did Jesus say will happen to those who do not get victory over the flesh? Luke 9:24; 14:34, 35; Matt. 7:21 – 23; Rev 21:7, 8; 22:11 – 15.
7. What will be the reward of the over comer? Rev.2:7b, 11b,17, 26-28; 3: 5, 12, 21.

CONCLUSION: The flesh can be seen from the above to be an entity that is inherent in every man born of Adam. It is the will of God that every one of us should live in victory over it; seeing He has provided adequately for our victory and also promised in Rom. 6:14 that sin shall not have dominion over us. Therefore let us seek to live every day of our lives in victory over sin (flesh).

FOR SOUL SEARCHING: *Are you living in victory over the flesh or it is gaining victory over you?*

STUDY 32: THE OBJECT OF THE CHRISTIAN'S FIGHT: THE WORLD

TEXT: 1Jn 2:15 – 17; James 4:4;

OBJECTIVE: *To draw attention to the serious nature of the fight against the world system so as not to be caught by it in our pursuit of eternal life*

INTRODUCTION: The world is a system of evaluating and appreciating things on earth. This system is directly under the control of the prince of this world – the devil. The world system is not in a particular thing like dress or car, but in the heart of the person that has it, because it has to do with the way he evaluates and appreciates the thing and how it affects his view of himself. For example, a person may buy a car because he will be accepted in certain quarters or to show that he has arrived and another person may buy the same car just because he needs mobility and that's the car he likes. The world system also refers to the issues of comparison that talks about superiority or inferiority whereby someone may feel good when he thinks or feels superior to another and shameful or sad when he thinks or feels he is inferior to another.

So the bible says in 1Jn 2:16 "For all that *is* in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world".

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. What is the meaning of 'the lust of the flesh'? It is the craving or unbridled desire for food, sex and pleasure. Discuss (with practical application)
2. What is the meaning of 'the lust of the eyes'? It is the craving or unbridled desire to want to have all that the eyes see, particularly when you do not necessarily need it. Discuss (with practical application)
3. What does 'the pride of life' mean? It is the acclaim that comes from the world because of certain achievements that makes one think he is superior to another. It can also make someone feel inferior when he meets another that he thinks has better achievements than his. All the issues of competition and comparison fall under this heading. Discuss (with practical application)
4. Do you really believe what God says in James 4:4? How does this affect your relationship with the world?
5. How can we have victory over the world? Ps.119:7-11; Gal 6:14; Rom 12:2; 2Cor. 10:12 (KJV, GNB or any simpler version preferably).

CONCLUSION: We all have been trained and influenced by the world from birth to when we came to Jesus Christ. We are thereafter commanded not to conform to the standards of this

world, but rather to be transformed by the renewing of our mind set. This requires our continually submitting totally to God and trusting Him to work out His good pleasure in us.

STUDY 33: THE OBJECT OF THE CHRISTIAN'S FIGHT: THE DEVIL AND DEMONS

TEXT: Ephesians 6: 10 – 19

OBJECTIVE: *To examine the reality of the devil and demons as formidable opposition to our quest for eternal life*

INTRODUCTION: The devil is the real and great enemy of the believer; however, at the cross of Jesus Christ he was defeated. So the believer need not fear the devil anymore. Nevertheless, the believer must take heed of the wiles of the devil and put on the whole armor of God.

Some of the wiles of the devil are false gospel, wrong emphasis and focus for life, distractions by persecutions and afflictions etc. These are serious issues.

1. Who is the devil and who are demons? Isa. 14: 12 – 15; Ezek. 28: 13 – 16; Rev 12:9; Matt 13:39; 18:34
2. Discuss the following scriptures that confirm our victory over the devil. Col 1:12 – 13; 2:13 – 15; 1Jn 3:8; Heb 2:14 – 15.
3. What are some wiles of the devil that you know or have experienced? Discuss?
4. How can we stand against these wiles? Discuss?
5. What do you understand by the whole armor of God and how can you put it on daily? Eph 6:14 – 18? Refer to study 30 of this manual please.

CONCLUSION: Though the devil and demons are our great enemies, yet we need not fear them because Jesus conquered them at the cross and gave us victory. However, we must always watch and pray to stand against his many wiles and not fall into temptation. We must always remember that whenever the devil roars like a lion, all we need to do is declare to him in faith what JESUS has done for us and he must flee from us. Note that the believers of old as seen in the Bible did not fear the devil or demons but cast them out in the name of Jesus whenever and wherever they met such.