

A People of the Book
A Topical Study

A Study of

Making Godly
Choices in an un-
Godly World

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Making Godly Choices in An Un-Godly World

Lesson 1 – Adam & Eve – When God is not respected

- We all make choices in life
- One choice the biggest one of all is to choose to serve God –**Joshua 24:14-15**
- God wants us to know we are on the right track and he will always give you feedback when we obey Him - **John 7:17, Romans 12:1-2**

Four Truths About Making Choices or Decisions

- 1. They are important**
- 2. They determine our character**
- 3. They have consequences**
- 4. You need God's help in making them regardless of who you are, what you do, or how old you are**

- **Proverbs 3:5-6** is the foundation text for this study. What does it mean?
- **Proverbs 15:33** tells us where wisdom or the ability to make good choices comes from

THE FIRST PRINCIPLE OF MAKING GODLY CHOICES IS TO RESPECT GOD & LISTEN TO HIM-[PROVERBS 1:7] when this principle is violated we can do great harm to ourselves & those closest to us.

Adam & Eve : Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-23

- What were some of the choices Eve could have made?
- Why did she choose as she did?
- What were the consequences?
- What can we learn by Eve's choice that will help us?

**ALWAYS SEEK
GOD'S HELP
IN YOUR DECISION-MAKING
James 1:5**

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Lesson 2 – Daniel 1:1-21 (*Not compromising your relationship with God*)

- We cannot let our current situation in life determine our outlook on life
- We cannot let the actions of others determine our outlook on life
- It is always between you and God, it is never between you and them

5 Truths in the Life of Daniel	
1. God is always in Control	Isaiah 41:1-13
2. A Christian life is a Life of Purpose	Jeremiah 29:11, Psalms 138:8
3. Perseverance is important in everything we do	James 1:2-12
4. God is faithful and rewards our faithfulness	Daniel 3:7-30, Daniel 6:10-25
5. Our relationship with God impacts others lives	Daniel 6:26-28

The second principle of making Godly choices is to never compromise your relationship with God. – 1st Peter 4:12 – In the end our relationship with God is the most important one in our lives. We can lose every material thing we have and still have more than anyone can possibly imagine – Hope of Eternal Life with our Savior

- Not compromising your relationship with God will lead to rewards on earth and in heaven: (Hebrews 11:1-23)
 - Daniel
 - Noah
 - Abraham
 - Joseph

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Lesson 3 – David & Goliath – Involving God in our choices

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➤ **Proverbs 3:5-6** is the foundation text for this study. What does it mean?

➤ **Jeremiah 29:11** God has a plan for our lives...do not accept 2nd best

Always remember that God is in control Gen 18:14/Mark 10:27/Isaiah 41:10-13

THE THIRD PRINCIPLE OF MAKING GODLY CHOICES IS TO KNOW GOD WELL ENOUGH TO HAVE CONFIDENCE IN HIM TO HELP US [THE BATTLE IS THE LORD'S...I Samuel 17:47]

David: I Samuel 17

- What were some of the choices David could have made?
- Why did he choose as she did?
- What were the consequences?
- What can we learn by David's choice that will help us?

**With God's help you can do great things-you don't have to settle for 2nd best
Philippians 4:13**

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Lesson 4 – *Judges 11:1-11, 29-39 (Always think about the consequences of decisions you make)*

- Regardless of where we come from, or what we have done in the past we can be successful
- Always keep your heart open to opportunity
- God will use people and situations that you don't expect to fulfill his purpose

Examination of Jephthah's decision

1) Why did he make this decision?

--Not consistent with God's word (Leviticus 1:1-6)

--Sin causes Sin (Genesis 4:1-10)

2) Why would he think God would not make him fulfill his vow? (Deuteronomy 23: 21-23)

--Do not promise God what you are not willing to commit to him. He gave us his son for remission of our sins and expects nothing less than our ALL.

<u>Questions we must ask ourselves before making a decision</u>	
1. How does it affect my relationship with God?	Genesis 28: 10-22
2. How does it affect my relationship with family and friends?	Deuteronomy 24:16
3. How does it affect my future?	1 Peter 1:3-9
4. How does it affect me now?	1 Corinthians 10: 13

Decision Tree Exercise

The fourth principle of making Godly choices is always think about the consequences of your decisions before making them. – Ecclesiastes 5: 1-7 – Be deliberate in your thinking, go to God in prayer and LISTEN! The times we get into trouble are because we act without going to God first.

Making Godly Choices in An Un-Godly World

Lesson 5 – Ruth & Naomi– The Importance of Godly Friends in Making Choices

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**1 Cor 15:33
Proverbs 13:20**



- **Proverbs 3:5-6** If you stay close to God He will guide you
- **Jeremiah 29:11** God has a plan for our lives...do not accept 2nd best

Always remember we will be influenced by who we spend time with

Psalms 53:1-2-Characteristics of a Godly Friend (must answer yes to all 4 Questions)

- ***Is God important in their lives?***
- ***Are they unselfish and good to others? Classmates, parents, teachers***
- ***Are they seeking God in their lives when they make choices?***
- ***Do they want the very best for you by always pointing you to God’s plan?***

THE FIFTH PRINCIPLE OF MAKING GODLY CHOICES IS TO SURROUND YOURSELVES WITH GODLY FRIENDS.....The Book of Ruth

Ruth & Naomi-Ruth chapters 1-4

- What were some of the choices Ruth could have made?
- Why did she choose as she did?
- What were the consequences?
- What can we learn by Ruth’s choices that will help us?

**When you honor God then God will honor you
Matthew 1:5**

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Lesson 6 – *Genesis 25:19-34, Genesis 27:1-40 (Making important decisions based on the pressure of a fleeting moment)*

Questions:

Why would Esau give up his birthright for a bowl of soup?

Why would Jacob make that offer to Esau?

Key points from the lives of Esau and Jacob

- God will always find a way for his Will to be accomplished
 - God promised a nation would come from the lineage of Abraham
- Life is not fair (God promises eternal life if you follow him; not earthly treasures)
 - Esau was the first born and by birth had the right to be the head of the family and receive Isaac's blessing
 - Jacob should have been punished for his deception
- Anger only hurts you and makes you miss out on important relationships and experiences
 - Anger makes us miss out on opportunities
 - Anger immobilizes us by focusing on that and nothing else
 - Anger neutralizes are effectiveness for God
 - Anger leads to other sins (Esau wanted to kill his brother, poor marriage choices) (Genesis 27:41, Genesis 28:6-9)
- Friends and family may not always give you good advice. Do the right thing anyway.
 - Jacob's mother persuaded him to deceive his father/her husband
 - Jacob's mother showed favoritism
- It is never too late to forgive
 - Esau forgave Jacob and welcomed him home (Genesis 33:1-11)
- Love your brother and/or sister unconditionally (1 Corinthians 13:4-7)

The sixth principle of making Godly choices is never make important decisions based on the pressure of a fleeting moment. (e.g. when you are hungry, tired, angry, etc.)

James 1:19-25

As time passes, situations and you're emotions will change, however, you WILL have to live with the consequences of the decisions you make today tomorrow!

Making Godly Choices in An Un-Godly World

- **Proverbs 3:5-6** If you stay close to God He will guide you
- **Jeremiah 29:11** God has a plan for our lives...do not accept 2nd best

Let us review the first five principles

Four Truths About Making Choices

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1. You must respect God and listen to Him –Adam & Eve, Genesis 3

Someone says something bad about you to a friend.... what do you do? Romans 12:17

2. You must never compromise your relationship w/God –Daniel. Daniel 1, 3, 6

Your friends ask you to meet them on Sunday AM and then go to a restaurant to eat & talk
What do you do? Matthew 6:31-33, Hebrews 10:24-25

3. You must know God well enough to have confidence in Him to help you-David & Goliath- 1 Samuel 17

You are offered a job that would be exciting & challenging but you are afraid that
You will fail at this opportunity. What do you do? Joshua 1:6-9

4. You must always think about the consequences of your decisions before making them
Jephthah Judges 11

You have friends who are real dare devils that like to shoplift. You know that they never get caught. They ask you to come and watch them do it and tell you just watch don't shop lift yourself. They tell you they won't hang around you if you don't. What do you do?

Proverbs 13:16, Proverbs 14:8. Proverbs 14:5

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5. You must surround yourselves with Godly friends –Ruth, Book of Ruth

One night you sit at home and think about all your friends. The friends you spend all your time with do not go to any church. You also notice that God doesn't play any role in their choices. What do you do? James 4:4, 1 Samuel 23:15-18, Matthew 18:6

The biggest choice of all is to choose Jesus Christ. If you have not chosen Christ then you need to make that choice NOW!

What do I need to know and believe?

1. ***Jesus Christ is the Son of the Living God***
2. ***Jesus Christ died for your sins***
3. ***You want to put Jesus Christ first in making decisions and not second anymore.***
4. ***You are willing to confess Him before men as the Son of God.***
5. ***You are willing to submit to baptism because you know that God will cleanse you of every sin and you will come out of the water as a new Christian.***

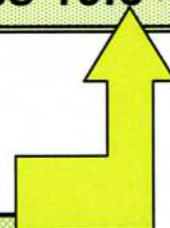
Making Godly Choices in An Un-Godly World

Lesson 8 – Joseph (Jesus earthly father)- The Importance of Obeying God

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**Proverbs 14:12
Proverbs 16:3**



➤ **Proverbs 3:5-6** If you stay close to God He will guide you

➤ **Jeremiah 29:11** God has a plan for our lives...do not accept 2nd best

Always remember that you will listen to someone...who will you listen to??

THE 7th PRINCIPLE OF MAKING GODLY CHOICES IS TO OBEY GOD EVEN WHEN YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND EVERYTHING [Matthew 1-2, Luke 2]

Joseph- Matthew 1-2, Luke 2

- What were some of the choices Joseph could have made?
- Why did he choose as she did?
- What were the consequences?
- What can we learn by Joseph's choices that will help us?

When you honor God then God will honor you Matthew 1:16

Red Flags when facing a decision or choice

- ✓ Inconsistent w/Word of God
- ✓ Presence of fear
- ✓ Absence of peace of mind
- ✓ Lack of joy
- ✓ Not of love

Steps to take when you see the red flag

1. Turn to God in prayer
2. Read His Word consistently
3. Stay close to His Church
4. Seek to make a difference for Christ and not just focus on self

Making Godly Choices in An Un-Godly World

Lesson 9 – Solomon - The Importance of Seeking Wisdom as a Priority

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**Proverbs 1:7
Proverbs 2:6
Proverbs 15:33**

- **Proverbs 3:5-6** If you stay close to God He will guide you
- **Jeremiah 29:11** God has a plan for our lives...do not accept 2nd best

Remember that if you do not actively seek wisdom in your life you will not find it

THE 8th PRINCIPLE OF MAKING GODLY CHOICES IS TO CHOOSE TO SEEK GOD'S WISDOM AS A PRIORITY FOR LIFE'S CHOICES [James 1:5]

Solomon- 1 Chronicles 28:5-7,11-12,20; 1 Kings 3:5-15, 16-28

- What were some of the choices Solomon could have made?
- Why did he choose as he did?
- What were the consequences?
- What can we learn by Solomon's choice that will help us?

When you honor God then God will honor you 1 Kings 3:28

David's Advice to Solomon

- ✓ **Be strong & courageous**
- ✓ **Do the work (Ecclesiastes 6:4)**
- ✓ **Do not be afraid or discouraged**
- ✓ **Be confident in God's presence**

How to We Seek Wisdom?

- 1. Turn to God in prayer & ask for wisdom
- 2. Listen to God & learn—Proverbs 10:8, 12:15, 18:15
- 3. Apply what God teaches you-Proverbs 13:20,14:15, 16:23, Ecclesiastes 8:5-6
- 4. Examine yourself on what kind of person are you-Proverbs 16:27,19:11, 29:11, 26:12



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Lesson 10–David-The Importance of Admitting Mistakes & Asking God for Help Immediately

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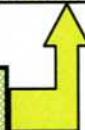
James 1:13-15

1. Tempted
2. Enticed
3. Desire is fed
4. sin

➤ **Proverbs 3:5-6** If you stay close to God He will guide you

➤ **Jeremiah 29:11** God has a plan for our lives...do not accept 2nd best

Remember that you do not have to yield to temptation but God provides a way out so you can stand up under it....not escape it but stand up through it 1 Cor 10:13



THE 9th PRINCIPLE OF MAKING GODLY CHOICES IS TO TURN TO GOD IMMEDIATELY & SEEK HIS HELP WHEN YOU HAVE RECOGNIZED THAT YOU HAVE MADE A MISTAKE OR SINNED

David- 2 Samuel 11-12 [if this can happen to David it can happen to you Acts 13:22]

- What were some of the choices David could have made?
- Why did he choose as he did? **David fed his desires [Romans 13:14 says don't do it!]**
- What were the consequences? **Lost others respect, lost his family, lost his boys**
- What can we learn by David's choices that will help us? **We reap what we sow Galatians 6:7**

What sin does to us

- ✓Changes who we are
- ✓Desensitizes us to relationships
- ✓Makes our thinking fuzzy

What must you do when you make a mistake?

1. Admit your mistake or sin to God
2. Ask God for forgiveness
3. Request God to guide & direct you
4. Ask God's help to strengthen you through the tough times

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Lesson 11–Achan-The Importance of Putting God Before Things or Personal Pleasure

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1 John 2:15-17

- Cravings-Esau
 - Lust of the eyes-Lot
 - Boasting/pride-Eve
- Proverbs 14:12/1 Samuel 16:7 and Isaiah 55:8-9

- **Proverbs 3:5-6** If you stay close to God He will guide you
- **Jeremiah 29:11** God has a plan for our lives...do not accept 2nd best

Remember when you make decisions simply based on what appeals to your physical desires or pleasures you are walking into HARM'S WAY!!

THE 10th PRINCIPLE OF MAKING GODLY CHOICES IS TO NEVER MAKE CHOICES THAT PUT THINGS OR PERSONAL PLEASURE AHEAD OF GOD BECAUSE WHEN YOU DO THERE ARE DEVESTATING CONSEQUENCES

Man does not think like God thinks

Achan- Joshua 7 – Can we hide anything from God?????

- What were some of the choices Achan could have made?
- Why did he choose as he did? **Achan was greedy**
- What were the consequences? **His death & his family's death-selfish to disobey God**
- What can we learn by Achan's choices that will help us? **God is not mocked Galatians 6:7**

What sin does to us

- ✓ Changes who we are
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- ✓ Makes our thinking fuzzy

He is no fool who gives up what He can't keep to gain what he can't lose

The truth about God versus things

1. You must choose between them Matt 6:19-24
2. Don't put your self worth into things-Luke 12:15
3. Contentment comes from God not \$\$\$\$-1 Tim 6:5-10
4. Money w/God is a blessing but money without God is a curse Luke 16:1-15
5. Seek God first & you'll get his best-Matt 6:33, Proverb 30:7/9

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Let us review principles six to ten

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6. Never make a decision when you are hungry, angry, lonely or tired –**ESAU** Genesis 27

You are upset w/your parents & someone invites you to be @ a place w/people that you know will not help your walk w/God....what do you do? Hebrews 12:16-17

7. Obey God even if you don't understand everything–**Joseph** Matt 1-2, Luke 2

You are in college enjoying your independence on Sunday AM & decide to catch up on your sleep.....what is the danger here if you decide not to go to church? Heb 10:24-25

Red Flags when facing a decision or choice

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- ✓ Absence of peace of mind
- ✓ Lack of joy
- ✓ Not of love

Steps to take when you see the red flag

1. Turn to God in prayer
2. Read His Word consistently
3. Stay close to His Church
4. Seek to make a difference for Christ and not just focus on self

8. Seek God's wisdom as a priority for life's choices-**Solomon** 1 Chronicles 28, 1 Kings 3

A friend tells you it is silly to make choices based on what the Bible says since it is an old book And not suited for today's world....what do you say?

How to We Seek Wisdom?

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2. Listen to God & learn–Proverbs 10:8, 12:15, 18:15

3. Apply what God teaches you-Proverbs 13:20,14:15, 16:23, Ecclesiastes 8:5-6
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9. When you sin or make a mistake turn to God immediately & seek His help – **DAVID**
2 Samuel 11-12, Psalms 51

We are confronted by a person we have been gossiping about to a close friend...we feel embarrassed...what would you do?

What sin does to us

- ✓ Changes who we are
- ✓ Desensitizes us to relationships
- ✓ Makes our thinking fuzzy

What must you do when you make a mistake?

1. Admit your mistake or sin to God
2. Ask God for forgiveness
3. Request God to guide & direct you
4. Ask God's help to strengthen you through the tough times

10. Never make choices that put things or personal pleasure ahead of God – **ACHAN**
Joshua 7

We have an opportunity to work at a liquor store and it pays good money....what would you do?

**He is no fool who gives up what
He can't keep to gain what he
can't lose**

The truth about God versus things

1. You must choose between them Matt 6:19-24
2. Don't put your self worth into things-Luke 12:15
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JESUS CHOSE YOU & ME

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1. Jesus chose us when he chose to leave heaven: Phil 2:5-8, John 1:1-3, 14, Genesis 1 (how was the universe created?), Col 1:15-17, Hebrews 1:3

2. Jesus chose us when he went into the desert to be tempted by Satan- Matt 4:1-11

3. Jesus chose us in the garden of Gethsemane Luke 22:39-36

- What did Jesus pray for?
- Why did he pray for that?
- What choice did he make?
- Did he have to make it? Matt 26:53-52
- What happen when he made it? Mark 14:50

Christ chose us....why did he do it?

- John 3:16 - God loved the world
- Luke 19:10 Jesus came to seek & save the lost
- Matt 9:12-13 Jesus came to call sinners to repentance

Did Jesus chose us willingly?

- Matt 16:21-Jesus knew he was going to the cross
- Acts 2:22-24 – It was God's plan
- 1 Peter 2:21-24 – he did it for us even when it hurt!

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JESUS CHOSE YOU & ME

➤ Why do we need Jesus?
 ❖ Romans 3:22-25 – all of us have sinned
 ❖ Col 1:19-23 – reconciled to Christ by his blood shed on the cross

The biggest choice of all is to choose Jesus Christ. If you have not chosen Christ then you need to make that choice NOW!

What do I need to know and believe?

1. ***Jesus Christ is the Son of the Living God Acts 16:25-34***
2. ***Jesus Christ died for your sins***
3. ***You want to put Jesus Christ first in making decisions and not second anymore Acts 2:38***
4. ***You are willing to confess Him before men as the Son of God. Acts 8:37***
5. ***You are willing to submit to baptism because you know that God will cleanse you of every sin and you will come out of the water as a new Christian. Romans 6:3-7, 1 Peter 3:21, Gal 3:26-28, Col 3:12-13***

What is at stake for you?

- Eternal life
- Relationship w/Christ to help us through our life
- Freedom from a life of sin and its inevitable detours, potholes, & painful consequences

Are you ready to say yes?
If not now, when?

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A Study of Trusting God – Hebrews 11 the Faith Chapter of the Bible

Hebrews 11:1-3, 6

➤ Faith=trust=confidence...who do you have faith in?

- Ourselves
- Friends
- Parents
- Teachers
- Police
- Members of the Church

You will listen to voices so
The issue is whose voice will
You listen to? 1 Samuel 3:9

How do we listen to God today?
Heb 4:12...the word of God - Bible

➤ When you are sure of hoping for something or certain something will happen...how do you feel?

- Will we wait for it?
- Will we get discouraged and give up?
- Will we look forward to receiving it?
- Will we continue to be loyal to the person who promised it to us?

Why is that?

➤ The ancients were commended or honored for their faith by God.....why?: Romans 4:17-25

Abraham's life did three things well:

- He stayed focused on God
- He stayed close to God
- He depended upon God

o Was Abraham's life easy? Where did he get his strength?
Phil 4:13
Can we help one another get strength from the Lord?
1 Samuel 23:15-17

➤ Why is the creation story so important to faith in God? Romans 1:20

➤ Look @ Hebrews 11:6...what are some of the rewards or promises that God makes to us? Proverbs 3:5-6, Jeremiah 29:11, Nahum 1:7

He is always there Heb 13:5

A Study of Trusting God – Hebrews 11 the Faith Chapter of the Bible

Hebrews 11:4-6, Genesis 4:1-16

➤ Abel Faith=trust=confidence...who do you have faith in?

- ❖ Who was Abel ?
- ❖ Why did God commend Abel?
- ❖ Why did Abel give his best to God?
- ❖ What happen to Abel?

You will listen to voices so
The issue is whose voice will
You listen to? 1 Samuel 3:9

1. Abel gave his best to God....a person of faith gives their best to God

➤ Cain

- ❖ Why did Cain murder Abel? James 3:13-17
- ❖ Where was Cain's focus? A dead give away
- ❖ Does God play favorites? Romans 2:11
- ❖ Does God have intimates? John 14:21
- ❖ What is our responsibility? John 21:20-22

When bad things happen James 3:13-17

1. Give up & blame others
2. Throw a pity party & blame others
3. Get bitter & get mean & blame others
4. Respond righteously and depend on God

➤ What was Cain's big problem ? Sin....now who was behind that ? 1 Peter 5:8 Satan

- ✓ Changes who we are
- ✓ Desensitizes us to relationships
- ✓ Makes our thinking fuzzy

Are you your brother's keeper?

The mouse & the mouse trap story

Why was Abel commended for his faithfulness? He gave his best to God.... Heb 11:6

Why was Cain not commended? He tried to cheat God 1:12-14Malachi

• Hope is not wishing but it is a hope based upon confidence in God's promises which is faith

Enoch did three things wellHebrews 11:5

- We stayed focused on God
- He stayed close to God
- He depended upon God

2. Enoch walked w/God....a person of faith walks with God

Abraham (his call): A Study of Trusting God – Hebrews 11 the Bible’s Faith Chapter

Hebrews 11:8-10, Genesis 11:31-12:8

Abraham Faith=obedience...who do you have faith in?

- ❖ Why did Abraham go to a place he had never heard about?
- ❖ What did Abraham have to know to make that decision?
 - ❖ Circumstances he would encounter on the way?
 - ❖ How to do it?
 - ❖ Why to do it?
 - ❖ HE HAD TO KNOW GOD...DID HE TRUST GOD???

Abraham has a relationship with God.

What are characteristics of a deep & meaningful relationship?

1. Time
2. Communication
3. Commitment
4. Interdependence
5. Love & obedience

- ❖ What does it take to trust God ?
- ❖ Interest in who God is & how He works
- ❖ Seeking Him
- ❖ Knowing God

Hebrews 11:6

God will not call unprepared hearts

Remember God is on the lookout for those who want to serve Him...Psalms 53:2, 2Chron 16:9

How did Abraham walk by faith & not by sight? 2Cor 5:7

1. He saw the world as temporary
2. He was spiritually minded-he was a God seeker
3. He listen to God
4. He immediately did what God said
5. He put his focus on the eternal

The 2nd principle
Of faith is to recognize the
Presence of God in our life & to
practice it.

You cannot hit what you do not aim at. The most important determining factor in life success is to choose what your big goal will be. BE A MAN OR WOMAN OF GOD.

1. Knowing your purpose
2. Reaching your full potential
3. Planting seeds by helping others

4. Abraham had a relationship with God. A person of faith has a relationship with God

Abraham (his choice w/Lot): A Study of Trusting God – Hebrews 11 the Bible's Faith Chapter

Hebrews 11:8-10, Genesis 13

1

Abraham *Faith=obedience...who do you have faith in?*

- Who was Lot? Gen 12:5
- Was Lot supposed to be w/Abraham? Gen12:1
- What happens when we don't do what God says?
- What was the problem that caused this choice?

Abraham has a relationship with God.
 What are characteristics of a deep & meaningful relationship?

1. Time
2. Communication
3. Commitment
4. Interdependence
5. Love & obedience

- ❖ What did Abraham do when he got back to Canaan from Egypt?
 - ✓ Went back to his alter-presence of God
 - ✓ Called on the name of the Lord-dependence upon God
 - ✓ Refocused his mind on God-how do we do that today?
 - ✓ Got his priorities right-how do we do this today?
 Hebrews 4:12

- So when the choice had to be made to separate...what did Abraham do? He let Lot make the choice
- What did that show about Abraham? He learned the first principle of **LOVE-IT IS NOT ABOUT YOU...IT IS ABOUT THE LORD WORKING THROUGH YOU. I Cor 13:5**
- if you are living by faith you will always walk in love

How did Lot make his choice? Gen 13:10-11
 What were his two big mistakes?
 ➤ What looked good
 ➤ Emphasized self
 Deceived-looks good but it's not! Rev 20:10, Gen 3:13

What were the consequences of this choice?
 ✓ Live near Sodom & Gomorrah ICor 15:33/2Cor 6:14
 ✓ Live in Sodom –Gen 14:12
 ✓ Leader of Sodom Gen 19:1
 ✓ Lost his home & possessions
 ✓ Lost his wife Gen 19:26
 ✓ Ruined his daughters...he lost it all but his life

Abraham built
 An alter to the Lord
 At Mamre
 God or the World?
 James 4:5

Decisions have consequences!!!

Hebrews 11:17-19, Genesis 22Abraham *Faith=obedience-who do you have faith in?* **Genesis 18:9-15**

- ✓ Is there anything too hard for God?
- ✓ Ephesians 3:20, Philippians 4:13
- ✓ Whose power? Whose strength do we use?
- ✓ **WHATEVER GOD CALLS US TO DO..... HE WILL ENABLE US TO DO IT!**

❖ **Genesis 21:1-13**

- ✓ Who was Isaac?
- ✓ How would you feel to wait all those years for a child and finally have a baby?
- ✓ Would you expect God to sacrifice him as a burnt offering
- ✓ Is that a practice God sanctions? NO
- ✓ So why did God do this?

 So what is the test that God gives?

- ✓ Examines Abraham's heart
- ✓ Does He know Abraham's heart? Yes
- ✓ Why then does He test Abraham?
- ✓ For Abraham to know about who God is
- ✓ Us to...Mount Moriah 2 Chronicles 3:1

Third Principle of Faith is that we must obey God and leave the consequences to Him

Abraham was tested by God to see if he believed God Hebrews 11:6 is a key verse here. What does it say about what faith means?

1. Belief in God as being real
2. Confidence that God will do what he says He will do
3. Trust to follow God
4. Willingness to seek him...takes priority
5. Dependence upon God for His help

God gives Abraham four tests...same four tests God gives each of us

1. *First test: Are you listening to God? Gen 22:1*
2. *Second test: When God tells you to do something do you do it immediately? Gen 22:3*
3. *Third test: Will you quit on God? Gen 22:4 What was Abraham thinking about? Heb 11:19, Romans 4:19-25*
4. *Fourth test: Will you obey God no matter what? Gen 22:10*

John 3:16

Hebrews 11:23-29, Exodus 1-4

Moses – Developing the man of faith

☐ Exodus 1:8-22, Acts 4:18-20

☐ Who was Pharaoh?

☐ What was his attitude toward the Israelites?

☐ What did he tell the midwives to do?

☐ What did the midwives do and why?

☐ SHIPHRAH & PUAH FEARED GOD AND OBEYED HIM

✓ Risk their lives because they respected God & obeyed him

❖ Exodus 2: 1-10, Hebrews 11:23

❖ What did Moses parents do?

❖ Why did they do it?

❖ Did his mother know the outcome when they put the baby Moses in the basket?

❖ Why was she not afraid? Did she risk her life?

❖ How did God respond?

❖ Was this an accident? Jer 29:11

Hebrews 11:6 teaches us about what God expects of a person of faith

1. Belief in God as being real
2. Confidence that God will do what he says He will do
3. Trust to follow God
4. Willingness to seek him...takes priority
5. Dependence upon God for His help

1. A PRINCIPLE OF FAITH – YOU HONOR GOD AND GOD WILL HONOR YOU

Exodus 1:20-21

2. A PRINCIPLE OF FAITH – Obey God and leave the consequences of your obedience to Him

Fear of man and Faith in God can't co-exist-why?

•Psalms 56:3-4

•1 John 4:18

•Matthew 10:26-31

•Romans 8:35-39

Key is to focus on God & not your circumstances

3. Principle of Faith- Timing is very very important to God and we must learn to wait on God or we will mess it up
Psalms 40:1-3

Exodus 2:11-15, 23-24; Exodus 3:1-4, Hebrews 11:24-26

- Why did Moses think about his people when he was in Pharaoh's household?
- What do you think he was thinking when he saw the Egyptian beating the Israelite?
- What did Moses do?
- Did God have a purpose for Moses ? But it was not that way at that time
- Was Moses ready for leadership?
- Why wasn't he? Psalms 27:14
- What did God have to teach Moses?

EASY

Hebrews 11:23-29, Exodus 1-14
Moses – Developing the man of faith

Exodus 2:11-3:10, Acts 7:20-36

- How old was Moses when he killed the Egyptian?
- What was his motivation in killing the Egyptian?
- Did this work for him? Will it work for us?
- What then happen to Moses? Why was this so hard on Moses?
- What did Moses think about in the desert?
- What was happening to Moses in the desert for those 40 years?

✓ 2 Cor. 3:16-18

- ❖ Exodus 3:11-4:30
- ❖ Did Moses want to go back to Pharaoh?
- ❖ What did God finally do?
- ❖ What lessons can we learn from this to apply to me?

Principle: when you do it by yourself you will fall short

Principle: we must understand that we are just passing through

Transformed means being changed by God to let him work through us: There are 3 things that must be at work in our life:

1. Must be near to God
2. Must seek God
3. Must be intimate/yielding to God to reflect Him

Principle: God will enable us to do whatever God calls us to do

Principle: It is not about you rather it is about God working through you

Exodus 11-12, Hebrews 11:27-28

- *Moses went through tough times...he had to navigate through a land mine field*
- *Life has many land mines and you need GPS in your car...what is GPS?*
✓ GPS=God Positioning System
- *Exodus 12:28they listen to God's speaking through Moses*
✓ Always point people to God

Moses was a leader - he had values

- Loyalty
- Duty
- Reverence
- Selfless Service
- Honor
- Integrity
- Personal courage

Principle: if you follow God others will follow you. How??

1. Sincere faith in God=confidence=dependence ...look @ Exodus 12:35-36 and compare to Genesis 15:13-16
2. Example of consistent obedience
3. Do not be afraid to own Christ = talk about what Christ has done for you

Exodus 14:10-14...we must stand firm in our faith or we will not stand at all

1. James 1:2-8...seek wisdom in prayer
2. Wait on God for his strength

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Key is to focus on God & not your circumstances

~~EASY~~

Hebrews 11:30-31, Joshua 2
Rahab – God's female example of faith

Joshua 2, James 2:25

- Who was Rahab?
- Why did God chose her and not someone better?
- What does this tell us about what God is looking for?
✓ 2 Chronicles 16:9
- Why would the two spies go to Rahab's house?
- Where was Rahab's house in the City of Jericho?
- What would happen to Rahab if the King caught her lie?

- ❖ Why did Rahab do this?
 - ✓ She had faith in God
 - ✓ She didn't want her or her family to die
 - ✓ She liked strangers and didn't want to see them hurt

Hebrews 11:1 – Definition of Faith
Faith is being sure of what we hope for
And certain of what we do not see

Give some examples in Rehab's story of faith

- Why did she have faith?
- Had she seen the Red Sea parting?
- She saw the fearful response of the town
Did she have certainty the town would fall?
- Then why did she take those risks?

Rahab believed God
Hebrews 11:6 is a key verse here. What does it say about what faith means?

1. Belief in God as being real
2. Confidence that God will do what he says He will do
3. Trust to follow God
4. Willingness to seek him...takes priority
5. Dependence upon God for His help

★ A principle of faith: You must obey God and leave the consequences of your obedience to Him

What was the sign for Rehab to do to spare her house and all those in it?
Was she obedient?
Faith is more than just saying you believe- it is acting upon your trust in God
Did God forget Rahab?
✓ Joshua 6:17, 22-25
✓ Matthew 1:5

★ A principle of faith:
You honor God &
God will honor you

★ A principle of faith: God will never leave us or forsake us
✓ Hebrews 13:5...what does this teach us?

★ Key is to focus on God & not your circumstances



Hebrews 11:32-40**Examples of what faith did in the lives of men & women**

What causes men & women to persevere through this adversity? FAITH Hebrews 11:1

IF YOU HAVE FAITH IN GOD YOU WILL BE CONFIDENT IN GOOD TIMES AND IN TROUBLED TIMES THAT:

1. GOD IS IN CONTROL
2. GOD IS PRESENT WITH YOU
3. GOD CARES ABOUT YOU
4. GOD WILL HELP YOU
5. GOD'S HELP IS ALWAYS SUFFICIENT

"Women received back their dead raised to life again"

- The widow of Zarephath is our example 1 Kings 17:7ff
- How did the woman show her faith?
- What did Elijah do when the widow's son died?
- Did the Lord hear Elijah?
- Will the Lord hear us? 1John 5:14
- What was the widow's reaction?
- How does this help show she was a person of faith?
- What does this tell us about both Elijah and the widow's faith?

Four things you should do every day to build your faith

1. Always start your day with a prayer Psalms 5:3
 - Thanksgiving
 - Ask for help Psalms 34
2. Use your meals to practice the awareness of God
3. Read 1 Chapter of the Psalms a day and meditate on it
4. Pray at the end of the day and reflect on how God has helped you Psalms 92:2

Hebrews 11:1 – Definition of Faith

Faith is being sure of what we hope for
And certain of what we do not see

"WHOSE WEAKNESS WAS TURN TO STRENGTH"

- Gideon is our example Judges 6-7
- Faith understands that it is not about me its about God working through me
- How did the Angel address Gideon?6:11-12
- What did Gideon say?6:13-33
- Did Gideon want more proof?6:34-40
- Why did God say Gideon had too many men? 7:1-12
- Did God help Gideon see he was on his side? 7:13-15
- What was the outcome? 7:16-35
- How was Gideon's weakness turned to strength? Does he do the same for us? Phil 4:13

If you honor God then God will honor you and if you despise God He will reject you –

1 Samuel 2:30

EASY

Hebrews 12:1-3

Steps to continue to grow our faith....2 Cor. 10:13

Romans 12:3 – we must have relationship with God

- Time
- Communication
- Commitment

Apply God's principles

So how do we grow faith?

1. We can feed faith or we can starve it – Heb 11:1
 - Recognize we are not alone
 - We must deal with our sin problem
 - Recognize faith is work...no easy button
 - Know the course---must KNOW the word of God

2. Focus on Jesus as your example – Heb 11:2

- Joy set before him
- Endured the cross
- Don't take your eye off him or you will get lost along the way

3. Never, ever, never give up – finish strong – Hebrews 11:3
- Why do we give up on God?

What causes men & women to persevere through this adversity?

FAITH Hebrews 11:1

IF YOU HAVE FAITH IN GOD YOU WILL BE CONFIDENT IN GOOD TIMES AND IN TROUBLED TIMES THAT:

1. GOD IS IN CONTROL
2. GOD IS PRESENT WITH YOU
3. GOD CARES ABOUT YOU
4. GOD WILL HELP YOU
5. GOD'S HELP IS ALWAYS SUFFICIENT

If we do not stand firm in our faith...we will not stand at all

- Isaiah 7:1-9
- Who was Ahaz?
- What kings were against him?
- What did God tell Ahaz through Isaiah?

1. Be careful
2. Keep calm
3. Don't be afraid
4. Do not lose heart
5. If you don't stand firm in your faith you will not stand at all....Isaiah 7:9

Eph 6:16 –shield of faith

1 Cor 16:13 – be strong

2 Cor 1:24 – how we stand firm

We must be able to THINK in tough circumstances...
To do that you must lean on the Lord ...Psalms 46

Mature vs. immature

1. Long term vs. Short term
2. Important vs. not important
3. Valuable vs. little value
4. Hard work vs. lazy

SEEK YE FIRST JAR – Matthew 6:33

Hebrews 11:1 – Definition of Faith

Faith is being sure of what we hope for
And certain of what we do not see

Hebrews 11:6: and without faith it is impossible to please God,
because anyone who comes to Him must believe
that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him.

IF YOU WILL GO TO GOD FIRST BEFORE MAKING LIFE'S CHOICES YOU WILL BE BLESSED & YOUR FAITH WILL GROW

Integrity, humility, service

A People of the Book

Where Truth and Love Abound



Our Service Schedule

Sunday:	10:00 a.m.	Bible Study (classes for all ages)
	11:00 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.	Worship
Wednesday:	7:00 p.m.	Bible Study (classes for all ages)

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