

November 22, 2020.
Christ Chapel Of Bandera
Sunday Morning Adult Bible Study

Not needed to follow this writing/lesson is a referenced Study Guide. An attempt has been made where anybody with a Bible will find easy reading.

Sunday, November 22, 2020. The Gospel Project; Adult Daily Discipleship Guide ESV; Volume 9, Number 1; Fall 2020; Jesus Prepares His Disciples.

Opening Joke:

Why are cigarettes sold at gas stations where smoking is prohibited?

Opening Prayer:

In class: Ask an attendee to open with a word of prayer.

On WEB site: Lord, Father Almighty, Your created humbly comes before You to thank You for the sacrifice of Your Son on our behalf. We are mindful of our sins and take joy that You, the One and Only Living God, would consider sinners at all. We are hopeful with the resurrection of Jesus Christ, for through His death and resurrection is our only chance to be heir with him; to be called Your sons and daughters. Your sinful creation prays through Jesus Christ and looks forward to being in your presence forever. Amen

Disclaimer:

I am not seminary trained. Other than being a Christian, I do not claim any special relationship with God. Therefore, feel free to disagree with anything and everything I write/say.

Definitions:

Manifest – Merriam Webster Dictionary –

1. Readily perceived by the senses and especially by the sense of sight.
2. Easily understood or recognized by the mind: obvious.

The Lesson:

Questions for thought:

When an athletic team is gathering, stretching, warming up, going over plans, and the coach walks in, what happens? (All eyes go to the coach)

When an army is gathering, preparing for the day and a superior officer arrives, what happens? (All attention is given to the superior officer)

When these things happen, a coach or officer arrives, does the attitude of the other people change?

Why?

The first time the disciples saw, and recognized, Jesus after the resurrection did the attitude of the disciples change?

Why?

Continued questions for thought:

Today, in any gathering of any people talking about God, do people's attitude change at the mention of Jesus?

Why?

Today, should Christians change their attitude at the mention of the name of Jesus?

Why?

Using the Bible translation of your choice read John 20:19-20.

In the New American Standard Bible, John 16:20 says:

Truly, truly I say to you, that you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice, you will grieve, but your grief will be turned in to joy.

Questions for thought:

Did God keep His promises of John 16:20?

When did the disciple's grief turn to joy?

When people first realize they are a sinner, separated from God, do they grieve?

When does a sinner's grief turn into joy?

Even during times of trouble, do Christians today have a reason to rejoice?

On page 113 in *Voices from the Church*, the Study Guide says:

But here we see the peace of God is not the absence of negative thoughts, it is the presence of God himself... it is a sense that no matter what happens, everything will ultimately be all right, even though it may not be all right at the moment. – Timothy Keller

On page 117, the last sentence of the third paragraph, the Study Guide says:

Death loses its sting and frustrations lose their pain in light of what He has promised for those who love Him [God].

Referencing Is 64:4 and 65:17 in the New International Version of the Bible, 1 Cor 2:9 reads:

For as it is written, No eye has seen, No ear has heard, No mind has conceived, What God has prepared for those that love Him.

Do you love God?

Using the Bible translation of your choice, read John 20:21-23.

The Study Guide on page 114, the first sentence of the first paragraph says:

We serve a sending God who sent His Son so that we might be reconciled to Him.

The Study Guide continues on page 114, the last paragraph, the last sentence says:

Through the work of Christ and the Holy Spirit, we are called to Jesus in repentance and faith, and through the same work of God, we are sent that we may call others to Jesus as well.

On page 118, the Study Guide says in the second paragraph:

We are sent as lights into a dark world to announce God's plan of reconciliation, the good news of Jesus! This doesn't mean that every person should prepare for international missions as soon as they become a Christian, but it does mean that every Christian is called to be a missionary in the context of their daily lives. Thankfully, this isn't a calling we complete on our own. It is through the Holy Spirit's power that we may offer the good news of salvation through Jesus. Every believer is to live a "sent" life, proclaiming Jesus as Savior and forgiveness of sin offered through Him.

However, and please note, in trying to point out that spreading the gospel is not just the work of pastors and missionaries, the Study Guide says something I issue caution about. On page 114 in the middle of the last paragraph, says:

The church and its members have received from Jesus, the head of the church, the authority to proclaim the forgiveness of sin.

If the Study Guide is trying to indicate that church members can proclaim the forgiveness is available through Jesus Christ and Jesus Christ only, then there is no problem. However, a problem does exist if the Study Guide is trying to indicate that "the church and its members" have the power to actually forgive sin.

1 Cor 2:15-16, in the New American Standard Bible says:

But he who is spiritual appraises all things; yet he himself is appraised by no one. For who has known the mind of the Lord, that he will instruct Him? But we have the mind of Christ.

To me 1 Cor 2:15-16 indicates that a Christian is allowed to make judgments for personal spiritual survival on earth, but only Jesus/God has the right to forgive sin and, therefore, decide who is saved and who is not saved.

Using the Bible translation of your choice, read John 20:24-29.

Questions for thought:

At the actual time of the resurrection of Jesus, did some of the people who heard about it have doubts?

Do some people who hear about the saving grace of Jesus Christ today have doubts?

Do Christians today sometimes have doubts?

The Study Guide on page 115, the last two sentences of the first paragraph following the Bible quote says:

Questioning is not an assault on the truth, which can stand its ground. Instead, it may be a helpful exercise that results in deep faith, just as it did for Thomas, by God's grace.

Continuing on page 118, the third paragraph, the Study Guide says:

Jesus didn't shun Thomas for his unbelief. Instead, He invited him to touch the wounds in His hands and side as proof of His resurrection. Thomas saw and had faith. Although we don't get to see and touch the wounds of Jesus as a testimony to His resurrection, we don't trust blindly. Our faith is seeing faith through the eyes of those who saw the risen Savior, like Thomas. He proclaimed the truth of the gospel message in his response, "My Lord and my God!"

Using the Bible translation of your choice, read John 20:30-31.

On page 119 in part of the last sentence of the second paragraph and the entire third paragraph, the Study Guide says:

John revealed why he chose to include what he did in his Gospel: So people would believe the good news brings life in Jesus' name!

This was John's goal in writing and also should be our goal in living. May every moment of our lives point others to the One who can save and redeem.

Using the Bible translation of your choice, read John chapter 21.

Questions for thought:

On the fishing boat, who was the first to declare the man on the shore was Jesus? (John, John 21:7)

Verse 9 says, "and fish placed on it [the fire], therefore, why in verse 10 did Jesus request some of the fish "which you have now caught?"

In verse 11, what is the importance of "the net was not torn?"

Continued questions for thought:

What is the difference between the terms “tend” and “shepherd”?

What is the difference between the terms “lamb” and “sheep”?

Therefore, in the New American Standard Bible is there any significance in the changing of Jesus’ command from: “Tend my lambs”; to “Shepherd by sheep”; then to “Tend my sheep”?

If newborn and young lambs are tended and full-grown sheep are shepherded, is there any significance in the final command to “Tend my sheep”?

Upon hearing what kind of death was in store for him, did Peter deny the Lord this time?

Had Peter matured in faith?

As Christians today, does our faith sometimes waiver?

Today, if our faith waivers as Christians, what are we to do to correct the situation?

In verse 22, is there any significance in Jesus saying, “What is that to you? You follow me!”

Today, do things that don’t really matter sometimes distract Christians?

In speaking of eternity, who is it important to follow?

We now have an opportunity to go next door and give Jesus/God the worship He so richly deserves. Let us do so with hearts of gladness.

Thank you for allowing me to worship the Lord with you today.

Joe Huth