

Worksheets

Women of Courage

God did some serious business with these women.

Book 5 – Personal Study Guide

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Jael

a peg in the head

Discussion Questions

A1. What do we learn about the Kenites in Judges 1:16?

Judges 1:16 *And the descendants of the Kenite, Moses' father-in-law, went up with the people of Judah from the city of palms into the wilderness of Judah, which lies in the Negeb near Arad, and they went and settled with the people. ESV*

A2. Jabin was the Canaanite king. What was the source of his power?

Judges 4:1-3 *And the people of Israel again did what was evil in the sight of the Lord after Ehud died. 2 And the Lord sold them into the hand of Jabin king of Canaan, who reigned in Hazor. The commander of his army was Sisera, who lived in Harosheth-hagoyim. 3 Then the people of Israel cried out to the Lord for help, for he had 900 chariots of iron and he oppressed the people of Israel cruelly for twenty years. ESV*

A3. Why did God allow the Canaanites to treat the Israelites "harshly" for 20 years? (see 4:1)

BARAK

A4. Why do you think Deborah went with Barak, rather than insisting he follow God's instructions?

Judges 4:8 *Barak said to her, "If you will go with me, I will go, but if you will not go with me, I will not go." ESV*

A5. Deborah said that a woman would win the battle.

Judges 4:9 *And she said, "I will surely go with you. Nevertheless, the road on which you are going will not lead to your glory, for the Lord will sell Sisera into the hand of a woman." Then Deborah arose and went with Barak to Kedesh.*

Q. What would have been your reaction to this if you were Barak?

A6. Why do you think Deborah told Barak a woman would win the day?

HEBER

A7. What was Heber's relationship to the Kenites?

Judges 4:11 *Now Heber the Kenite had separated from the Kenites, the descendants of Hobab the father-in-law of Moses, and had pitched his tent as far away as the oak in Zaananim, which is near Kedesh. ESV*

A8. In other translations and commentaries it appears that Heber told Sisera about Barak's battle plans and where he was taking his troops. Why would Heber do this?

B. JAEL

B1. Reread 4:18-21. How would you explain the actions of Jael?

B2. Jael would not have had time to think up a plan in advance because she did not know Sisera was coming. Why do you think Jael invited Sisera into her tent?

B3. Once Sisera was in the tent Jael probably had some time to think about the consequences of her invitation. If Jael wanted to protect her future, what options did she really have after Sisera was in the tent?

B4. Do you think Jael's killing of Sisera is a choice she made to correct the mistake of allowing him in her tent, or do you think Jael's loyalties were not with the Canaanites?

B5. Reread 4:15-16. What did Barak and his army do in the battle?

B6. What did Sisera, the Canaanite commander, do in the battle?

B7. Why do you think Sisera went to Jael's tent?

B8. What cultural norm would make Jael's tent an attractive hiding place for Sisera?

B9. What was Jael's attitude and demeanor when Sisera arrived?

B10. Sisera asked for a drink of water. What did Jael give him and why?

B11. Why do you suppose Jael chose this method of killing Sisera? Would there have been easier methods?

B12. This incident violated several cultural norms. Where else in Scripture does God elevate women to a role that generally conflicted with the existing culture? Some possibilities might include: Miriam (Ex 15 and Nu 12), Anna (Lk 2:36), and Esther. Can you identify any others?

C. SONG OF DEBORAH

C1. How would you describe or characterize Judges Chapter 5?

C2. How does 5:8 explain 5:6-7?

Judges 5:6-8 *In the days of Shamgar, son of Anath, in the days of Jael, the highways were abandoned, and travelers kept to the byways. 7 The villagers ceased in Israel; they ceased to be until I arose; I, Deborah, arose as a mother in Israel. 8 When new gods were chosen, then war was in the gates. Was shield or spear to be seen among forty thousand in Israel?* ESV

C3. What does it mean in 5:8 that there were no shields or spears in Israel?

D. APPLICATION

D1. Do you have divided loyalties?

D2. Who or what are you really loyal to?

D3. Do you need the courage of Jael for some situation or conflict in your life? Why?

D4. We see in this story that a number of cultural norms were violated. Are you caught on the web of cultural norms and feel that you must break away from those norms? How could your true friends or your small group assist you?

Gomer

Hosea's promiscuous wife

Discussion Questions:

A1. Pick one word or phrase as the most important concept in 1:2-9. What would you choose and why?

A2. 2 Kings 17:7-18 tells us why God sent the Northern Kingdom into captivity. What is the reason given in 17:7?

2 Kings 17:7 *And this occurred because the people of Israel had sinned against the Lord their God, who had brought them up out of the land of Egypt from under the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt, and had feared other gods.* ESV

A3. In 1:2 we are told why Hosea is given these strange instructions. What is the reason? What does it mean?

Q. What does this mean about the people?

A4. How would you have reacted if God had given you a similar command (to marry a harlot)?

A5. How do you think Hosea was able to deal with the situation?

A6. If this had been you and you were told to love a promiscuous spouse, how would you have dealt with it? How would you have acted?

A7. What can you find out about the city of "Jezreel?" Why does this city and area fit into this story? [2 Kings 9 and 10]

A8. The second child was named *No Compassion*. How does this name fit with the story?

A9. The third child is named *Not My People*. Why did God use this name?

A10. How would you explain 2:5b: "*I will go after my lovers, the men who give me my food and water, my wool and flax, my oil and drink.*"

Q. How does this relate to God's message?

A11. How does this story compare or contrast to our culture today?

A12. Why didn't God just give up on Israel? What should that say to us?

A13. Why would God restore this adulterous people?

Q. If there is no faithful remnant, what are God's options?

A14. What major truths might you suggest this book reveals?

B. DIVORCE

B1. If *Not My People*, is an accurate description, which of the following terms would best and accurately describe the situation?

Divorce? Abandonment? Separation?

B2. Hosea 3:5 indicates that the "divorce" is temporary. How would you interpret 3:4-5?

Hosea 3:4-5 *For the children of Israel shall dwell many days without king or prince, without sacrifice or pillar, without ephod or household gods. 5 Afterward the children of Israel shall return and seek the Lord their God, and David their king, and they shall come in fear to the Lord and to his goodness in the latter days.* ESV

Q. What "days" or "age" is being described in 3:4?

Q. Given that King David reigned around 1000 BC and Hosea is prophesied in the 700s BC, who is the author referring to when he says "David their king"?

Q. Verse 3:5 says "Afterward." After what? When will they come in fear?

B3. In what way could the word "divorce" be an accurate representation of the situation?

C. APPLICATION

C1. Could anyone charge you with being spiritually promiscuous in any way?

C2. Have you ever had to rely on God's compassion? Have you ever been concerned that your behavior eliminated you from experiencing God's compassion?

C3. Are you missing God's warnings? Are you listening but not hearing? Are there prophets today speaking for God and are you (we) ignoring their warnings? Are we dismissing them as misguided eccentrics?

C4. Have you ever abandoned something or someone and then wanted to return or reconcile? Is there someone in your life with whom reconciliation is needed? How hard would it be? Ask a friend to help.

Rizpah

King Saul's concubine

Discussion Questions

A1. What are the facts and circumstances of Rizpah's life as reported in 2 Samuel 3:1-16?

- a) Rizpah was a _____ from Saul's harem.
- b) Saul was dead and his son Ish-bosheth was now the head or leader of the house of _____.
- c) Ish-bosheth accused Abner of sleeping with _____.
- d) Abner was furious and claimed he did not sleep with _____.

A2. Abner's position and strength had been growing in the house of Saul. Then Saul's son who headed up a local government, accused Abner of sleeping with the concubine Rizpah. Why would Abner have been questioned about his reason for sleeping with one of Saul's concubines (3:7)?

A3. Do we know whether Abner actually slept with Rizpah?

A4. How did this accusation against Abner and Rizpah impact Abner's relationship with Ish-bosheth?

A5. Why do you think the story about Rizpah and Abner is included in the Bible? What does it allow us to learn? (review 3:1-16)

DAVID/SAUL

ISRAEL

SIX SONSMICHAL

A6. What were the circumstances surrounding Rizpah's life as reported in 2 Samuel 21:1-14?

- a) During this time there was a famine in the land for _____ successive years.
- b) The Lord told David that the famine was the result of the bloodshed Saul instigated against the _____, breaking an _____ of peace.
- c) David asked the Gibeonites how the situation could be resolved and they required that they be given seven of _____ male descendants to execute in Gibeah.
- d) David agreed and two of the people executed were sons of _____.
- e) _____ began a round-the-clock vigil to protect the bodies from birds and animals.
- f) Ultimately David retrieved the bones of Saul, Jonathan, and the seven executed at Gibeah and buried them in the tomb of _____ (Saul's father).
- g) After that the Lord answered prayer for the _____.

A7. How do we know for sure that the Rizpah in chapter 21 was the concubine identified in 2 Samuel 3?

A8. Read carefully 2 Sam 21:7-8. Are there one or two people named Mephibosheth? Was Mephibosheth (Rizpah's son) killed or not?

B. BACKGROUND

B1. No one collected bodies from the fields of war. Corpses simply decomposed there or were carried away by animals. Why would Rizpah have been unwilling to allow this to happen?

B2. Rizpah's act was certainly a heartfelt response to a terrible situation. How might you argue that:

(a) It was not necessary or worth it.

(b) It was worth it.

C. RIZPAH

C1. Why do you think Rizpah did this?

C2. Rizpah was a former concubine of King Saul. Given this fact, what would she have been like? What sort of life would she have led (excluding her sexual responsibilities)?

Q. How do you harmonize Rizpah's probable nature and physical attributes with her ability to undertake this ritual for her sons?

C3. What protection did Rizpah have from the elements?

Q. Geographically, where were these bodies on display?

C4. Why would Rizpah choose a rock on which to watch and sleep?

C5. Why wouldn't she have removed the bodies to a safe place of burial?

C6. Why wouldn't she have gotten help to watch and protect?

C7. If you were Rizpah during this time of guarding the bodies, what would you have been thinking?

C8. What ended the drama of protecting the bodies (see 2 Sam 21:13-14)?

C9. Based on 2 Sam 21:13, was Rizpah's ordeal in vain?

C10. Rizpah's act obviously prompted David to honor the remains of Saul and Jonathan. What impact would the drama have had on people in the area who observed the scene?

C11. After it was all over, how might Rizpah have been impacted by the ordeal?

D. APPLICATION

D1. Do you have a family member who has been overlooked and should be honored in some way?

D2. Do you need to go to a family member and correct some kind of disrespect that they are shouldering?

D3. How would you compare your love for your family to that exhibited by Rizpah?

D4. Is there anything in your life today that requires you setting aside all other responsibilities and giving it your full attention?

D5. This is a dramatic story about a mother's love. What other emotion or feeling would you think might compare with a mother's love? Have you ever experienced anything similar to what we see in Rizpah's life?

Woman of Tekoa

who pretended to mourn

Discussion Questions

A1. How do you think that Joab observed or discerned that David's mind was on Absalom?

A2. Why do you think that Joab sent for a woman from Tekoa? There were certainly clever women in Jerusalem.

A3. The text says that Joab sought a wise or clever woman. What other characteristics might have been of equal importance?

A4. Do you imagine it was easy finding a woman who fit the requirements and was willing?

Q. Why would someone accept the assignment?

A5. If you were the woman and had been approached under these circumstances, would you have accepted the assignment? Why? Why not?

A6. Why did the king order protection for the woman's living son?

A7. How would you explain that David made little attempt to understand all the issues?

A8. The king gave the woman what she asked for. Why did she continue to press the matter? (14:9-11)

A9. On what basis would the woman say: *"On me be the guilt, my lord the king, and on my father's house; let the king and his throne be guiltless."* (2 Samuel 14:9) Is this not a significant risk for a woman who is only an actor in a scheme?

Q. Do you think this was part of the original instruction from Joab, or did she say it in the excitement of the moment?

A10. If you had been the king, what would have been your immediate reaction to this story?

A11. What clever thing did the woman say in the first sentence of 14:13 that might have appealed to David?

A12. What did the woman do in 14:15-16 and why?

A13. Who was 14:17 aimed at?

2 Samuel 14:17 *And your servant thought, 'The word of my lord the king will set me at rest,' for my lord the king is like the angel of God to discern good and evil. The Lord your God be with you!"* ESV

Q. How does it describe the king?

A14. What did the king do as a result of the woman's role-playing and why?

B. JOAB

B1. What do we know about Joab?

B2. What did the woman do or say in 14:19-20 after David asked if Joab had instigated this scheme?

Acknowledged David as _____, whom no one can disobey.

Readily admitted that _____ was the mastermind of the scheme.

Blamed _____ for everything she had said.

Declared the king to be wise and discerning like the angel of God, knowing _____ on earth.

B3. At the king's request Joab brought Absalom to Jerusalem. But there was a catch! What was it?

B4. Why do you suppose David did this? What was he thinking?

C. DISCERNMENT

C1. Following are examples of discernment and lack of discernment in this story. Some may simply be decisions, but for this purpose let's consider them all discernment. Identify which discernments were accurate and which were inaccurate.

14:1 _____ Joab discerned that king's mind was on Absalom.

14:8 _____ David agreed to issue a command on her behalf (confirmed again in 14:11). He failed to discern that this was a fabricated story.

14:19 _____ He sensed Joab's hand in the situation.

14:21 _____ He ordered Absalom's return.

14:24 _____ He allowed Absalom to return to the city but not to David's presence.

14:29 _____ Absalom sent for Joab, but Joab refused to come.

14:31 _____ Joab asked Absalom why his servants set fire to Joab's field.

14:33 _____ David summoned Absalom, who came and bowed down with his face to the ground before the king. Then the king kissed Absalom.

C2. What did the king gain by his decision to allow Absalom to return to his house, but not see him?

C3. What do we learn about discernment from this story?

Q. What does this tell you about the skill of discernment?

C4. What actions would likely improve one's ability to accurately discern and understand challenging situations?

a) Take _____ to think. Do not rush to conclusions.

b) Think about the cause and effect. What consequences will my _____ create or cause?

c) Ask questions to obtain information and _____.

d) Confirm _____ and _____.

e) Ask for advice and opinions from trusted _____.

D. APPLICATION

D1. Do you need to improve your discernment? Why?

D2. In what part of your life is discernment needed?

D3. Is there anything in your life that you need to perceive clearly? Is there something you are refusing to see?

D4. Do you know you need to reconcile or forgive somebody but you are just letting it slide?

Tabitha (Dorcas)

Peter raised her from the dead

Discussion Questions

A1. What is a miracle? How would you define a miracle?

A2. What other Biblical words are used to describe supernatural events other than "miracle?"

A3. Who or what do you think of when you hear about a miracle?

A4. Are you suspicious of reported "miracles"? Why? Why not? Should you be?

A5. In general, why did Jesus perform miracles? Why did He give power to the Apostles to do miracles? What do you think are the purposes of miracles?

A6. Given there are true, valid and even obvious miracles today, why do you think some people:
1) refuse to believe the miracle, or
2) want complete, full, and technical explanation of what happened?

A7. Have you ever experienced a healing miracle or significant transformation in your life or in the life of someone you know?

HEALING: _____

TRANSFORMATION: _____

A8. Do you think miracles like Tabitha happen in the same way today? Explain.

A9. Why do you think both Jesus (raising Jairus daughter – Mk 5:22) and Peter sent people out of the room before their miracle?

B. TABITHA

B1. Why do you think Tabitha was raised and brought back to life, but Stephen (Acts 8:54-60) was killed and not raised? Stephen seems more important to the cause of Christ than Tabitha! Why Tabitha and not Stephen?

B2. What do you imagine or think Tabitha was doing when the text says she was "doing works and acts of charity"?

B3. What do you see as the most important fact, concept, or occurrence in this story? Why?

B4. Why "come at once" or "don't delay in coming"?

B5. Why do you suppose they put Tabitha in an upstairs room and did not bury her?

B6. How do you think the men who went to Lydda to get Peter convinced him to come to Joppa immediately?

B7. The Bible does not report Peter raising anyone from the dead prior to this time. What do you imagine Peter was thinking or doing while he was walking to Joppa (12 miles)?

B8. What are the possibilities if Peter prayed publically to raise Tabitha from the dead and it did not happen?

B9. How would you have reacted to this event if you had been in the house when Peter brought Tabitha downstairs alive?

C. RAISED FROM DEAD

C1. Was Tabitha "resurrected" or raised from the dead? What is the difference?

C2. The Old Testament reports three people were raised from the dead. Who were they?

C3. The New Testament gives reports of five people being raised from the dead. Who were they?

D. APPLICATION

D1. Do you need a miracle in your life? Have you seriously asked for it?

D2. Do you know someone else who needs a miracle?

D3. Who are you praying for that needs a miracle?

D4. What are the things that get in your way of responding to the needs of others?

D5. Does your life and ministry point people to Jesus or to self?

The Other Mary

mother of James

Discussion Questions

A1. What was the Sabbath?

SUGGESTION: Answer this before answering any of the following questions. After you have completed all the discussion questions, come back and see if you want to change your answer here.

A2. What was the purpose of the Sabbath? From study notes or a commentary see if you can locate a good succinct description for the purpose of the Sabbath.

A3. What is the basic difference between the Old Testament Sabbath and the New Testament Sunday Worship service?

A4. Based on Ex 31:13-16 God takes the Sabbath seriously:

Say to the Israelites, You must observe my Sabbaths. This will be a sign between me and you for the generations to come, so you may know that I am the LORD, who makes you holy. 14 Observe the Sabbath, because it is holy to you. Anyone who desecrates it must be put to death; whoever does any work on that day must be cut off from his people . . . celebrating it for the generations to come as a lasting covenant. NIV

Q. What is meant or implied when God says to observe, My Sabbaths?

Q. Who or what is God making holy?

Q. Who is to make the Sabbath holy?

Q. What exactly does this say is the purpose of the Sabbath?

A5. What does it mean in Ex 31:13 that this day is described as a "sign"?

A6. What do you think it means that the Sabbath was to be kept holy?

A7. What is the significance or what does it mean that the Sabbath was "to the Lord" (Ex 20:10)?

Exodus 20:10 *but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God. You shall not do any work . . .* ESV

A8. What did it mean that the Sabbath was to be a "day of sacred assembly"?

Leviticus 23:3 *For six days work may be done, but on the seventh day there must be a Sabbath of complete rest, a sacred assembly. You are not to do any work; it is a Sabbath to the Lord wherever you live.*

B. SUNDAY WORSHIP

B1. The Bible says in Ex 31:16-17 that Israel was a covenant people. They were chosen, called, and made holy (separated from the world). The Sabbath was a sign of this relationship. Do you think of yourself in similar terms? Today, is Sunday a very special day for you or is it more like all the other days of the week? Why? Why not?

B2. The Jewish Sabbath was instituted by God for the Jewish people. Who and what do you think Sunday is for today?

WHO: _____

WHAT: _____

B3. Do you think or treat Sunday as "holy" today? Why? Why not?

Q. Assuming it should be kept holy, what type of activities should we do (or not do) to make Sunday holy?

DO: _____

NOT DO: _____

Q. What do we actually do on Sunday?

B4. In what ways do you think God is being dishonored today on Sunday?

B5. It is quite obvious that our attitudes about Sunday as a nation, city, and family have changed over the past 50-75 years. How serious is this issue in our faith walk? Why? What action, if any, do you think we should take as committed Christians?

B6. If we were Israel and considered "God's chosen people," violation of the Sabbath would be a serious violation of trust. But the USA is not a nation like Israel. We may have been founded on Christian principles but we are a nation of diverse religions, not wholly a Christian nation founded by and dedicated to God or Christ in the same way or nature as Israel. Therefore, how do we approach questions like "keeping the Sabbath holy" in light of the diverse culture that exists today?

Q. Do you think Sunday blue laws are appropriate? Why? Why not?

Q. Do you think the US culture or society should be "inconvenienced" in any way by Christian practices?

Q. What do you do if your employer requires you to work on Sunday?

B7. If you believe that the Sabbath rules apply to Sunday today, what would the following mean for you?

Isaiah 58:13-14 *"If you keep from desecrating the Sabbath, from doing whatever you want on My holy day; if you call the Sabbath a delight, and the holy day of the Lord honorable; if you honor it, not going your own ways, seeking your own pleasure, or talking too much; 14 then you will delight yourself in the Lord, and I will make you ride over the heights of the land, and let you enjoy the heritage of your father Jacob." For the mouth of the Lord has spoken.*

C. SABBATH RULES: "Are Christians to keep the Jewish Sabbath?"

C1. Do you agree with the above argument? Why? Why not?

C2. If you agree with the above then how do you harmonize what Jesus says in Matthew 12:8, "*For the Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath.*" What do you think this means for us today?

C3. One thing is very clear, the Sabbath Day today is not part of the Law and it does not carry the necessity of absolute obedience in order to be "right with God." Therefore, we can agree that observing or not observing the Sabbath does not impact salvation. But keeping the Sabbath as a command of God to be "right with Him" is not the only reason or purpose of the "Sabbath." What are the other purposes of the Sabbath and what standing do they have today?

C4. Let's ignore all the obedience issues and special rules that tied Jewish believers to observing the Sabbath Law which produced a salvation situation for them – being right with God. What was the intent or spirit of what God wanted the Sabbath to do and be for His people and did that intent change with the advent of Jesus?

Intent: _____

Did it change: _____

D. APPLICATION

D1. What impact could God have on your life if you truly made the Sabbath holy (totally dedicated to Him)?

D2. Are you doing anything regularly or periodically on Sundays that dishonor or displease God?

D3. Go back to question (A1) and review your answer. How would you change that answer now?

D4. Is God pleased with how you observe Sunday? What do you do that would please God? What changes should you make?

Shiphrah & Puah

midwives

Discussion Questions

A1. Why do you think the new king "did not know about Joseph"? Do you think ignorance about history is a problem today?

A2. Why would the king think that the Jews would join the enemies of Egypt?

A3. Can you think of a similar occurrence in the history of the USA in the first half of the 20th century?

A4. What phrase is significant at the end of verse 1:10?

A5. Why do you think the king and other leaders thought oppression of this many people was a good idea? Why wouldn't love, patience, integration, openness, valuing, and rewarding etc. been a much better strategy?

A6. The names of Shiphrah and Puah are Semitic rather than Egyptian and 1:15 implies the midwives were Jewish. Why would the king think he could force these midwives to kill the babies of their own people?

A7. What do you think was the king's ultimate goal? Did he want to eradicate the Jews?

A8. The text only mentions two midwives. Do you think there were others?

A9. Why would the king put the responsibility of his plan in the hands of the Jewish midwives rather than take some direct action himself?

A10. Why did the midwives disobey the king?

A11. Do you think the king really believed the midwives' lie? Why?

Yes:

No:

A12. Why didn't the king try to determine the truth of the midwives claims? It would not have been that hard to determine if the story was true or false.

A13. Why didn't the king immediately go about trying to kill baby boys in some other manner?

A14. Do you think it would have been difficult to hide information about births from the Pharaoh?

A15. What do you think were the Pharaoh's objectives?

A16. What was different about the new order to throw the boy babies into the Nile?

A17. Exodus 1:10 says the king wanted to deal shrewdly with the Israelites. What does *shrewdly* mean in this context?

A18. Do you think the king acted shrewdly?

Q. What would a shrewd king have done?

Q. What are possible shrewd alternatives?

A19. If the king wanted to control growth of the Israelite community and make them more subservient, was he successful?

B. APPLICATION

B1. As a female mid-wife (or male doctor) what would have been your response to the king, if it had been you: a) today, and
b) when you were age 20-25.

Q. Would you have lied to the king or been a "Daniel"?

B2. Have you ever secretly or shrewdly tried to avoid or reject God's laws? What happened? What did you learn?

B3. Other than "obeying God over man," what other life lessons do you see in this story?

B4. Have you ever worked for an employer who treated you ruthlessly or made your life bitter? What did you do about it? What should you have done about it? Why?

Lydia

dealer in purple cloth

Discussion Questions

A1. Historically what was Paul's standard practice when he arrived at any new city?

A2. Paul could have easily determined that there was no synagogue in the city. Why would he go outside the city gate looking for the local Jewish community?

A3. Why would Paul wait until the Sabbath to go looking for the local Jewish community?

A4. Who did Paul find at the place of prayer, and what is the significance?

A5. Why do you suppose there were no men at the place of prayer?

- A6. How would you evaluate the spiritual condition of the small existing Jewish community in Philippi?
- A7. Why do you suppose the author indicates that Lydia is a dealer in purple cloth?
- A8. Acts 16:14 says that Lydia was a "worshipper of God." What does that mean or imply?
- A9. Acts 16:14 also says that the Lord "opened her heart." What does that mean?
- A10. Other than opening Lydia's heart to the Gospel, what else occurred because of what the Lord had done?
- A11. What is the evidence of Lydia's conversion?
- A12. Is there anything significant about the fact that the "household" was also baptized? What might this mean or imply?

A13. Do you think the "household" really had saving faith?

A14. What are the arguments for them having saving faith?

A15. What role does baptism play in these events?

ACTS 16:16-39

A16. Why would Paul and Silas go to Lydia's house upon their release?

A17. Who might have been the "brothers" at Lydia's house (16:40)?

A18. One might suspect that after their release, Silas and Paul would want to relax and recover. But what happened?

B. APPLICATION

B1. SPIRITUAL RESPONSIBILITY: In Western society men have often abdicated their responsibility as the spiritual heads of their families:

B1a. Men: Have you neglected, in any way, your responsibility as the spiritual head of your family?

B1b. Women: Have you allowed the spiritual failure of a husband or father to impact you?

B2. Do you know anyone who has been baptized but shows no sign of having saving faith?

B3. Do you know anyone who should participate in believer's baptism? What could you do to help?


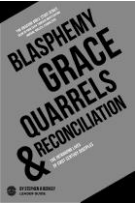

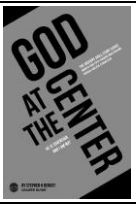



B4. Lydia was listening and paying attention. How about you? Is the Lord speaking to you? How do you know? Are you listening? Are you paying attention?

B5. Do you know anyone as dedicated to their Christian mission as Paul and Silas were?

a. What drives or motivates them?

b. Is their dedication contagious?

Coming in 2020

	<p style="text-align: center;">Meet Shamgar, Jethro, Manoah & Hathach</p> <p style="text-align: center;">This book of four lessons is provided at a reduced cost so that students and leaders can get a first-hand experience and introduction to The <i>OBSCURE</i> Bible Study Series.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">Blasphemy, Grace, Quarrels & Reconciliation</p> <p style="text-align: center;">This book presents Joseph of Arimathea, Joanna, Ananias, Hymenaeus, and Cornelius (one of the centurions). It illustrates the nature and challenges of life as a first-century disciple. Life has real challenges, but they can be overcome.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">The Beginning and the End</p> <p style="text-align: center;">This book has four lessons from Genesis and four from the book of Revelation. It covers such topics as creation, rebellion, grace, worship, and eternity. It illustrates how God is leading us to worship in the Throne Room. This book will be a great introduction to "The Story of the Bible" (28 lessons) to be published in 2021.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">God at the Center</p> <p style="text-align: center;">This book touches on the virgin birth, worship, the sovereignty of God, prayer, compromise, and trust. In all these stories and events we find God. He is there in the shadows or openly orchestrating our lives. Regardless of the situation He is at the center of our lives – a sovereign almighty God.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">Women of Courage</p> <p style="text-align: center;">This book examines the lives of Jael, Rizpah, the woman of Tekoa, Tabitha, Shiphrah, and Lydia. We see these women exhibiting great courage and faithfulness. God used them in amazing ways and we can use their example for encouragement and spiritual leadership.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">The Beginning of Wisdom</p> <p style="text-align: center;">In this book we find courage, loyalty, thankfulness, love, forgiveness, and humility. It is clear that personal character counts. It is critical to make good decisions because they have consequences. Building our lives on wisdom will help us stand firm in our faith. We don't want to follow the example of Demas who deserted Paul for the values of the world.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">Miracles and Rebellion</p> <p style="text-align: center;">This book contrasts the stories of biblical characters who rebelled against God and those who trusted and believed. God hates sin and loves to heal the faithful. The rebellion of Korah, Haman, and Alexander are included to compare with the healing stories of Aeneas, a slave girl, and the crippled man at Lystra.</p>

End