

THE CHARACTER OF
MINISTRY

A Bible Study

שָׁרֵשׁ

deep roots

BIBLE STUDIES

Copyright © 2016 by Deep Roots Bible Studies

All rights reserved. This book or any portion thereof may not be reproduced or used in any manner whatsoever without the express written permission of the publisher except for the use of brief quotations in a book review.

All verses are taken from the New American Standard Bible®, Copyright © 1995 by The Lockman Foundation. Used by permission.

DeepRootStudy.com

TABLE OF CONTENTS



INSTRUCTIONS
PG 3



WEEK 1
PG 6



WEEK 2
PG 20



WEEK 3
PG 32



WEEK 4
PG 50



WEEK 5
PG 70



WEEK 6
PG 85

INTRODUCTION

You are about to begin a study that will revolutionize how you see ministry. Over the next six weeks, you will be learning more about what it was like for God's chosen to minister to His people. It wasn't always easy! Yet, whom the Lord calls, He qualifies. This means that if the Lord has called you into service (which He has!), then He will provide the necessary skills and willpower required for ministry.

Ironically enough, at the time I was writing this study, I was dealing with frustration and disillusionment over serving and working in ministry. I got to the point that I was looking for a way out. It is amusing that as I wrote pages about faithfulness, serving others, and remaining steadfast to God's calling for you, I was struggling to do the very same thing. Perhaps you are feeling the same way I did about ministry. I hope you will gain the same motivation that I needed from the word of God.

You will also find in these pages hidden tidbits of information on ministry. Whether you serve in a ministry at your church, at a parachurch organization, or just see your life as a ministry, this study is here to equip and encourage you in your calling.

May the Lord bless you,

Felicity Lorenz

Deep Roots Owner

INSTRUCTIONS

USEFUL TOOLS

- Study Bible (Suggested: NASB Study Bible by Precept Ministries)
- Hebrew/Greek to English Bible Dictionaries (Suggested: Complete Word Study by AMG Publishers; some online websites have Hebrew and Greek Lexicons, like BibleHub.com)

STUDY TIPS

- Whenever a day's study asks for you to research a word in its original Hebrew or Greek, pull out your Hebrew or Greek to English Bible Dictionary.
- When a question asks you to 'record what you learn', either paraphrase it to the main idea, or write out the entire verse.
- Check out Appendix A in the back of your booklet for memory verse ideas. As you go through each week, make it a habit to memorize these verses at the same time.



A photograph of a large crowd of people, likely in a church, with their hands raised in the air. The scene is dimly lit, with a strong blue light source from the left, creating a dramatic and spiritual atmosphere. The people are mostly seen from the back or side, with their arms extended upwards. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

FAITHFULNESS

“But as for you, brethren,
do not grow weary of doing good.”

2 THESSALONIANS 3:13

WEEK ONE

FAITHFULNESS

“So often we think, I never get called to sing or to teach Bible studies. So why should I fast or pray? And because we feel we're not important or useful, we give up. But once a year, once every five years, once in a lifetime an opportunity comes our way that is essential, important – an opportunity to move in the miraculous, to see salvation. Something exceedingly important could take place, but we're impotent and powerless because we haven't been praying, fasting, reading the Word, or seeking the Lord. “But I've never been used,” you say. Ah, but you might have the greatest opportunity for earth-shaking, life-changing ministry in the next moment or the next day. Therefore be ready.”

– Jon Courson, Pastor of Applegate Christian Fellowship

DAY ONE: THE FAITHFULNESS OF GOD

In Hebrew, faithfulness is *emun* (ay-moon'). Look up in a Hebrew to English Bible Dictionary what the full meaning of *emun* is. You can also do this on a website like Biblehub.com. Then, write its other meanings and uses below:

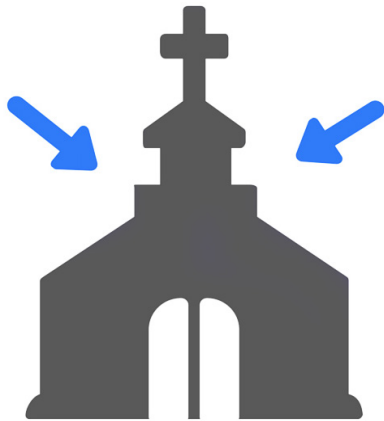
Before we can understand why it's important to be faithful in ministry, we need to understand how the Lord is faithful to us. Read and record the following Scriptures.

- Psalm 89:8
- Psalm 100:5
- Lamentations 3:20-26
- Hosea 2:19-21

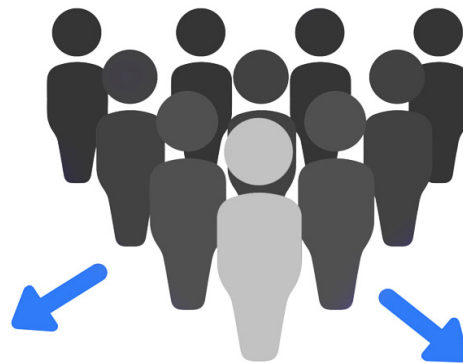
INWARD VS. OUTWARD

There are two main categories of churches. Inward-focused churches emphasize individual counseling, biblical training, and church programs. On the other hand, outward-focused churches concentrate mainly on evangelism, community outreach, and missions. The healthiest kind of church is a balance of the two.

INWARD-FOCUSED



OUTWARD-FOCUSED



What inward-focused ministries are at your church?

What outward-focused ministries are at your church?

DAY TWO: WHY GOD IS FAITHFUL

Why is it important for God to be faithful? Read the following Scriptures, and record what you learn,

- Joshua 21:45
- Psalm 42:5
- 1 Corinthians 10:13
- 2 Peter 3:9

Summarize below what you have learned about God's faithfulness:

When has God been faithful to you personally? What did He do? What was the outcome? What was your response?

DAY THREE: GOD SHOWS HIS FAITHFULNESS

Read Genesis 17. List what God promises to Abraham. How does Abraham respond?

Now read Genesis 21:1-8. Write down the key parts of what happens here.

Let's do a little math...

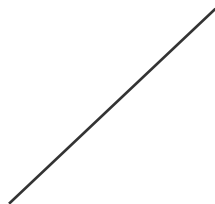
How old was Abraham when God first promised him a son? (Genesis 12:4)	
... the fourth time God promised him a son? (Genesis 17:1)	
... when Isaac was born? (Genesis 21:5)	
So...how many years did Abraham wait for the promise to be fulfilled?	



ROSE OF SHARON
PRAYER CHAPEL

Read Psalm 37:1-11. What do you learn about God's timing, and what our response should be?

Has God ever promised you something that you had to wait a long time for? Are you currently in a waiting season - and if so, what thing from the Lord are waiting for?



“I was so sick and tired of church programs, I was so sick and tired of pushing people, and I was so sick and tired of artificial life-support systems for practically everything in the church. ...I thought, 'If it does not and cannot function on its own, let it die. I am tired of trying to keep these programs alive in the church. I am tired of trying to build the church.' And in looking at it I realize that the basic mistake that I had been making for so many years was that, number one: ...I was seeking to build the church of Jesus Christ. ... So the words of Jesus are true when He said, 'My yoke is easy and My burden is light' (Matthew 11:30).”

– Chuck Smith, Founder of Calvary Chapels



SUMMERSIDE
BAPTIST CHURCH

**COME INSIDE AND
EMBRACE THE
WARMTH OF GOD'S
LOVE**

Regular Services
9:30am & 11:00am

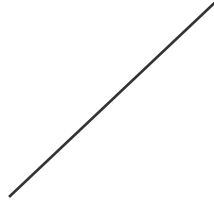
Summer Hours
10:00am

DAY FIVE: FAITHFUL ALWAYS

What about those days you “don’t feel like” going to church, or serving in ministry?
How can you rely upon God to help you be faithful?

Think About It: How can you show faithfulness to the ministry you are in? Write down some ideas.

Take some time today to pray through this. Ask the Lord to reveal things in your heart that show a lack of faithfulness. Sit and talk to God about it; listen to His voice.



“Discerning God’s calling is more a relationship than a route, more journey than destination. It’s about who you are becoming more than where you are going. Perhaps it’s less about *what* you do and more about *how well* you do whatever you do.”

- Levi Lusko, Pastor of Fresh Life Church

FAITHFULNESS

CHALLENGES

Here are some ideas of how you can start practicing faithfulness in your ministry:

- Be the first person to arrive, and be the last person to leave.
- Offer to help set up, whether it be chairs, tables, paperwork, etc. Also offer to tear down those things later.
- If you are not able to make it a certain day, be diligent on telling your supervisor ahead of time (like a week in advance).
- Ask your supervisor how you might help the ministry in more ways than you are doing already. (If your schedule does not allow extra commitment on a regular basis, ask how you might help at an event that is coming up in the ministry.)
- Regularly ask other volunteers and your supervisor how you might help them, so that they can complete their tasks more efficiently and quickly.



APPENDIX A: MEMORY VERSE IDEAS

FAITHFULNESS:

- Proverbs 3:3-4 “Let love and faithfulness never leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart. Then you will win favor and a good name in the sight of God and man.”
- Galatians 5:22-23 “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control; against such things there is no law.”
- Matthew 11:28-29 “Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.”
- 2 Thessalonians 3:13 “But as for you, brethren, do not grow weary of doing good.”
- Colossians 4:17 “Take heed to the ministry which you have received in the Lord, that you may fulfill it.”

SERVING:

- Philippians 2:3-4 “Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.”
- John 12:26 “If anyone serves Me, he must follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also; if anyone serves Me, the Father will honor him.”
- Romans 12:9-13 “Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor; not lagging behind in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulation, devoted to prayer, contributing to the needs of the saints, practicing hospitality.”

DISCIPLESHIP:

- Hebrews 3:13 “But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is still called ‘Today,’ so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.”
- 1 Timothy 4:12 “Let no one look down on your youthfulness, but rather in speech, conduct, love, faith and purity, show yourself an example of those who believe.”

- 1 Peter 5:2-4 "...shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to the will of God; and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness; nor yet as lording it over those allotted to your charge, but proving to be examples to the flock. And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory."

EVANGELISM:

- 2 Timothy 4:2 "...preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction."
- Matthew 28:19-20 "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."
- Acts 20:24 "However, I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the good news of God's grace."
- Romans 1:16 "For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile."

CONTACT

GET IN TOUCH VIA SOCIAL MEDIA

OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT



DEEPROOTSTUDY.COM

WEBSITE



@DRSTUDIES

INSTAGRAM



@DEEPROOTSTUDIES

FACEBOOK



@DEEPROOTSTUDY

TWITTER



@DEEPROOTSTUDIES

PINTEREST



DEEP ROOTS

BLOGLOVIN

DON'T FORGET:
WE LOVE REVIEWS!

NOTES

NOTES

REFERENCES

1. Adams, J. E. (1981). *Ready to Restore: The Layman's Guide to Christian Counseling*. Phillipsburg: Presbyterian and Reformed Publishing.
2. Adams, J. E. (1986). *How to Help People Change*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan.
3. Baker, W., & Carpenter, E. (2003). *The Complete Word Study Dictionary: Old Testament*. Chattanooga: AMG Publishers.
4. Courson, J. (2003). *Application Commentary: New Testament*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson.
5. Earley, D., & Gutierrez, B. (2010). *Ministry Is . . . : How to Serve Jesus with Passion and Confidence*. Nashville: B&H Publishing Group.
6. Flynn, L. B. (1994). *19 Gifts of the Spirit*. Colorado Springs: Chariot Victor Publishing.
7. Laurie, G. (2004). *Every Day with Jesus: First Steps for New Believers*. Wheaton: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc.
8. Lusko, L. (2015). *Through the Eyes of a Lion: Facing Impossible Pain, Finding Incredible Power*. Nashville: W Publishing Group.
9. Marshall, C., & Payne, T. (2013). *The Trellis and the Vine: The Ministry Mind-Shift That Changes Everything*. Kingsford: Matthias Media.
10. Smith, C. (n.d.). Lesson 2: Requirements of Ministry. In C. C. Fellowship, *Servant Leadership*. Costa Mesa: The Blue Letter Bible Institute.
11. Stanley, C. (2008). *Handbook for Christian Living*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson.
12. SWAT Ministries. (2007). *G3 Tactical Guide*. Riverside: Harvest Ministries.
13. Zodhiates, S. (1992). *The Complete Word Study Dictionary: New Testament*. Chattanooga: AMG Publishers.