



*On
Mission*

Youth Bible Studies

Credits:

Compiled by Shelley Smith and Alan Huesing

Edited by Shelley Smith

Cover designed by David Oglesby

Contents designed by Natalie Kelly

© 2000, North American Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, Alpharetta, Georgia

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced in any form without the prior written permission of the publisher. All inquiries should be addressed to: Editorial and Design Manager, North American Mission Board, SBC; 4200 North Point Pkwy.; Alpharetta, GA 30022-4176; or call (770) 410-6292; or fax, (770) 410-6006; or e-mail permissions@namb.net.

Scripture quotations marked NIV are taken from the Holy Bible, New International Version. Copyright 1973, 1978, 1984 by International Bible Society. Used by permission.

Contents

Meet the Authors!	4	37: Mother Mary	78
Introduction	5	38: Joseph: The Stepfather	80
1: From the Beginning	6	39: Jesus' Mission	82
2: Noah: Obedient Builder	8	40: Jesus: Gone Fishing	84
3: Abraham: A Man Committed to the Plan	10	41: Come and See	86
4: Abraham: The Intercessor	12	42: Matthew's Party	88
5: Abraham's Sacrifice	14	43: A Lean, Mean Missionary Machine!	90
6: Joseph: Preserver of Life	16	44: Little Man, Big Heart	92
7: Joseph Forgives	18	45: Water for the World	94
8: The Law in Moses' Hands	20	46: God Loves Freaky People, Too	96
9: Moses: Recalled to Duty	22	47: Love Forgives, Forgiveness Loves	98
10: Moses: Israel's Intercessory Lawyer	24	48: Share the Truth—No Matter What	100
11: Joshua: Captain in Training	26	49: The Other Brother	102
12: Caleb: Faithful Spy	28	50: Sowing Seeds	104
13: Captain Joshua	30	51: More Food!	106
14: Operation Rahab	32	52: <i>On Mission</i> Friends	108
15: Gideon's Army	34	53: Condemned No More	110
16: Samson's Weakness	36	54: From Darkness to Light	112
17: Redeeming Ruth	38	55: Rolling Stones	114
18: Samuel's Sons: Unworthy to Lead	40	56: Peter's Denial	116
19: Saul: First King	42	57: Pilate: Facing the Truth	118
20: Samuel: Israel's Mentor	44	58: The Focus to Finish	120
21: The Cliffs of Courage	46	59: God's Challenge	122
22: No Substitute for Obedience	48	60: The Power Plan	124
23: David: Defender of the Faith	50	61: Strength to Stand	126
24: David: King Without a Throne	52	62: Obedience Is the Key	128
25: Nathan's Special Delivery	54	63: Hearing God	130
26: Elijah's Showdown	56	64: Ananias: His Brother's Keeper	132
27: Elijah and Mission Fatigue	58	65: Barnabas: Son of Encouragement	134
28: An <i>On Mission</i> Maiden	60	66: A Quantum Leap	136
29: The Leper's Secret	62	67: Dynamic Duo	138
30: Queen Esther's Time	64	68: <i>On Mission</i> in Philippi	140
31: Daniel's Accountability Group	66	69: Mentored for the Mission	142
32: Daniel's Boss	68	70: Religion Can Be a Bad Thing!	144
33: Daniel: Fervent Pray-er	70	71: Prison: The Plan of God	146
34: Hosea: The Husband	72	72: The Theme of the Bible	148
35: Jonah: Unmotivated Missionary	74		
36: John the Baptist: Preparing the Way	76	Epilogue	150

Meet the Authors!

Leola Floren is a professional writer and newspaper columnist with wide experience in writing youth ministry aids, articles and curricula. She is a contributing editor of *With: The Magazine for Radical Christian Youth*. Leola currently resides in Farmington Hills, Mich.

Tierce Green has been a national conference speaker for youth and adults since 1980. He is also a singer, songwriter and worship leader. Fresh Bread Music, the publishing division of his ministry, has produced two top 10 youth musical dramas along with other collections of his music. He and his wife, Dana, live in Fort Worth, Texas.

Alan Huesing is Youth Mission Education strategist and national Challengers director at the North American Mission Board, SBC. He served for several years in the Philippines, Taiwan and China, as well as on staff as director of the International Education staff at East Texas Baptist University in Marshall, Texas. He and his wife, Sheryl, have three children, Andrew, Jenna and Kyle.

Allen James has served in youth ministry for nine years. He, his wife, Nova, and their daughter, Abbie, currently live in Bradenton, Fla., where Allen serves as an associate pastor at the West Bradenton Baptist Church.

Steven James is a nationally known youth speaker and award-winning writer. He has written for dozens of youth magazines and publications, including *Guideposts 4 Teens*, *Breakaway*, *Living With Teenagers* and *Challengers Resources*. He also teaches junior and senior high courses in logic and Bible at a local Christian academy.

Gary B. Jennings is the manager of Collegiate Evangelism for the North American Mission Board in Alpharetta, Ga. He has a passion for writing and sharing stories on how students can experience the mission activity of God. Gary, his wife, Jean, and their four children currently reside in Cumming, Ga.

Karen E. Jones has been involved in “youth ministry” for the last 22 years, combining her years as a public middle school teacher and local church youth minister. Karen now serves as an assistant professor of Educational Ministries and associate director of the Link Institute for Faithful and Effective Youth Ministry at Huntington College, Huntington, Ind. She is a long-time writer for LifeWay’s youth discipleship materials, a regular contributor to *Challengers Resources*, serves as a writer and member of the advisory board for *Youthworker Journal*, and has just completed co-authoring her first book, reporting on a research study of Protestant Youth Ministers in America.

Walter H. Norvell is dean of the Weekend College at Dallas Baptist University, in Dallas, Texas. He has more than 20 years’ experience

in youth ministry, is a seasoned youth curriculum writer, and currently works as a Challengers leader at Wedgwood Baptist Church. He and his wife, Mary, have two sons, Jonathan and David.

Brad Price is art director of Price Graphic Design, a firm that produces promotional materials for local churches, Christian institutions and conventions. He is an instructor at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and produces “YouthArt,” a national art service for youth ministers. Brad has also served as a youth minister, church planter and missionary. He and his wife, Suzie, have two sons, Matthew and Nathan.

Rich Ratts is senior pastor of Gorham Baptist Church in Jackson, Mich. He served as a full-time youth minister for 12 years and as a project coordinator for World Changers (hands-on mission projects for youth) for five years. In addition to being a regular columnist for the Jackson Citizen Patriot newspaper, Rich has also written for *Challengers Resources*, *Living With Teenagers* and *Youthworker Journal*. Rich, his wife, Nancy, and their two children, Nathaniel and Joshua, currently reside in Napoleon, Mich.

Van Sanders served as a church planting missionary for 12 years in the United States and Kenya prior to his appointment to the North American Mission Board in 2000. He and his wife, Beth, have three children: Anna, 16; Philip, 13; and David, 10. Van currently works in the Church Planting Group of NAMB and focuses on enlisting churches and church planters to start churches in North America.

Allan Thompson is in his 12th year as the Baptist Student Ministry director at East Texas Baptist University. For more than 26 years he has worked with youth and students around the world, including six years’ missionary service in Germany for the International Mission Board. His wife, Jana, teaches English as a Second Language to elementary students. They have two sons, Joel and Ryan.

Bob Utley is a world-renowned evangelist and Bible professor, currently on faculty at East Texas Baptist University in Marshall, Texas. He is the founder and president of Bible Lessons International, a ministry that sends evangelistic materials and Bible study resources to most countries in the world. Bob has written for *Challengers Resources* and *On Mission Youth Strategies*. He is currently writing a series of commentaries on the entire Bible. Bob and his wife, Peggy, live on Caddo Lake in Uncertain, Texas. They have three grown children: Michelle, Jason and Jeremy.

Introduction

How do you view the Bible? As a medicine chest to go to when you are spiritually sick? As a refrigerator to go to when you are spiritually hungry? Perhaps you use the Bible like a crystal ball to help you understand the future. All of these are good at times, but the Bible reveals that God's purpose is to form a people for Himself from all of the approximately 13,000 people groups of the world.

This series of 72 studies presents the Bible from the perspective of the *on mission* activity of God and His people. It's the account of how God is accomplishing His Mission—even today. Ever since man fell from fellowship with Him, God has been at work reconciling the world to Himself. And He has given to us, His people, the ministry and message of reconciliation (*2 Corinthians 5:18-20*). These studies will lead you to see God *on mission* throughout biblical history as well as in our world and through our lives today. By examining well-known Bible stories and major Bible characters, you will learn principles of how God works in and through His people (and others) to accomplish His mission. Questions in the study workbook will guide you to see your families, schools, churches and neighborhoods as mission fields. They will teach you how to go about being an effective tool that God can use to bring others to faith and relationship in Him. The Bible becomes, among other things, a guide to the *on mission* Christian.

How Do I Use This Book?

These Bible studies are written for Christian teenagers—like you—and can be used in individual or group study. They are valuable biblical resources for

families, accountability cell groups, mission organizations and general church youth groups. But the observations written in this book are not the material to be studied. Their purpose is *to guide you to read and think carefully about the text in the Bible*. Reading someone's comments about God's Word is of little value compared to reading what He actually said.

So, get your Bible, a pencil and maybe a highlighter, and get set to dig deep into the meat and message God has for you today. You will need to set aside between 45 minutes to an hour for each study. The best way to approach the studies is first to pray and ask God to speak to you and teach you things from His Word that you've never seen before. Then open your Bible and read the text and *think* about it. Highlight or underline verses that speak clearly to you. Circle words with special meaning. Then complete the questions in the workbook.

Questions followed by a line blank can be answered in a few words or a short sentence. Questions followed by a blank space will require a longer sentence or short paragraph. As you answer the questions and read the writer's comments, you may need to take time to reread the Bible passages that relate to the particular study. Write your own comments and questions in the margins of your Bible and the pages of your workbook.

Our prayer is that these studies will lead you again and again into God's Word and into His presence because He will speak to you there. And from there He will send you out into *your* mission field to live out and share His mission and message.

Epilogue

In these studies you have examined the lives of 50 specific men and women of God (including the Son of God) whose stories are scattered throughout 26 books of the Old and New Testaments. You have read eyewitness accounts of how God allowed and enabled them to be His partners in His mission to bring new life and reconciliation to countless people throughout the ancient world. And these are only a fraction of the stories of *on mission* people in the Bible.

Although the stories of the Bible are complete, the mission of God continues. He still works through people like you and me as we follow Him day by day. Our challenge is to allow Him to write the current and future chapters of His story as He continues to use people like us in His mission to seek and to save the lost.