

Bible Study, Your Congregation For God, Series 2, Week 3

Day: 1 Praise God

Read Psalm 103

1. Which of the characteristics of God in this psalm speaks to you the most and why?
2. Which praise in this Psalm is in your heart as well?
3. What is there in the year that has just past that you can thank God for?
 - In your personal life
 - In your care group
 - In your congregation
4. What do you think is the most important thing for your congregation to concentrate on in the coming year?
5. What are your specific goals for the future?
6. How are you going to reach these goals?
7. Further Reading:
 - Luke 19: 37-40. The stones will shout it out
 - Isaiah 25: 9-10. See what God has done
 - Isaiah 43: 18-19. I'm going to do a new thing
 - Mica 4: 1-2. Let us go to the mountain and hear God's will
 - Haggai 2: 4-9. Take heart and start the work

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Day: 2 Caring In The Church

Read John 13: 31-35

1. What does the Bible teach us about loving relationships in the church?
 - John 13: 34-35
 - Acts 2: 44-47
2. Read Romans 12: 9-19
 - Which quality of love is required in the church? (Verse 9-10)
 - How does this love appear in real life? (Verse 13-18)
 - Why do some people experience very little love in the church?

- What is the secret to being a more loving member of your church?
- In what way can care groups bring more love in the congregation?
- How can you as a care group get more people to become members of care groups?
- How can outreaches and services as well as meetings and more be used to build a culture of caring in a congregation?

3. Further Reading:

- Mark 16: 14-20. Our duty towards growth in the church
- 1 Jon 4: 20-21. Who loves God must also love his brother
- Colossians 3: 12-15. That which bounds us to a perfect unity
- Philippians 1: 9-11. Let your love increase love and understanding
- 1 Peter 4: 7-10. Serve each other

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Day: 3 Caring In The Home

Read: 1 Peter 3: 8-12

1. Give a definition of the following:

- A healthy relationship between husband and wife forming the basis for all the relationships in the home
- An absent parent
- A Rebellious child

2. Why are some parents absent in their children's lives?

3. Why are some children rebellious?

4. What are the house rules we find in:

- Romans 13: 8-10
- 1 Corinthians 13: 4-7
- Romans 13: 12-14

5. Read 1 Samuel 2: 22-26 and 29-30

- Why did God's wrath and punishment come down on this family?
- What are the shortcomings in your family that God is showing you through this study?
- Think about it and pray about it
- Name practical methods a family can use to ensure that there is more love in the home?

6. Further Reading:

- Colossians 3: 18-21. Children be obedient, fathers do not criticize all the time
- Galatians 6: 1-4. Parents and children
- Romans 12: 9-10. The love should be sincere
- Joshua 24: 14-28. God must be the center of the family
- Luke 17: 1-4. Forgive each other

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Day: 4 Unconditional Acceptance In The Marriage

Read Genesis 3

1. What does Genesis 3: 1-10 teach us about rejection?
2. Why do people fear rejection?
3. Why do people try and protect themselves against rejection in the marriage? Be specific.
4. What does the Bible Teach us about God's unconditional love in Ephesians 2: 4-7?
5. Read Genesis 2: 21-24:
 - Which elements of acceptance do we find here?
 - How do these verses demonstrate the importance of acceptance?
6. Read Corinthians 13:
 - How does the love illustrated here differ from the love portrayed on the TV, movies and more?
 - How does it influence our way of thinking as far as what real love is?

7. Further Reading:

- 1 John 4: 7-18. The effects of love
- Romans 15: 7-13. Accept each other
- Galatians 5: 19-21. Live through the Spirit
- Colossians 3: 18-25. Relationships
- Romans 12: 9-21. Forgive each other

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Day: 5 The Spiritual Battle

Read 2 Timothy 2: 1-13

1. What do you think is the spiritual battle?
2. Share this with a care group
3. Why does the Bible call the Christians "soldiers" 2 Timothy 2: 4?
4. Read Ephesians 6: 10-13:
 - What is happening in the spiritual world regarding Christians?
 - What is happening in the world that we can see regarding Christians?
5. How did the enemy attack the first Christians?
 - 1 Peter 5: 8-9
 - James 4: 4-8
6. How does the enemy attack us today?
 - You
 - Your congregations
 - Your care group
 - Your family
7. Further Reading:
 - 1 Kings 20: 13-22. Be prepared
 - Proverbs 3: 5-9. Place your complete trust in God
 - Revelations 12: 7-13. War in heaven
 - 1 John 2: 15-17. The world is full of sin
 - 1 Peter 5: 8-11. Satan attacks

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Day: 6 Victory Over The Enemy

Read Ephesians 6: 10-20

1. Why do Christians get scared of the spiritual enemy and battle?
2. Why must we not get afraid?
 - Joshua 5: 13-15
 - Psalm 24: 8
3. What is the secret to victory over the spiritual enemy?

- 2 Corinthians 10: 3-5
- Ephesians 6: 17

4. What is the role of the following in victory?

- Praise 2 Chronicles 20: 21-22
- Faith Hebrews 11: 11-12
- The forgiving of sins 2 Chronicles 7: 13-14

5. What is the role of prayer and intercession in this?

6. Further Reading:

- Joshua 6: 1-6. Every home has to do its part
- Joel 2: 7-8. Stay focused
- Ezekiel 4: 1-6. Intersession is important for victory
- 2 Kings 3: 16-18. God will provide, nothing is impossible for Him
- Colossians 1: 9-14. Victory over temptation

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Day: 7 Unity Amongst Christians

Read 1 Corinthians 1: 10-17

1. What is unity amongst Christians?

2. Why is unity so important?

- Psalm 133: 1-3
- John 17: 21-23

3. Why is dissension such a good weapon in the hand of the enemy?

4. What is the cause of dissention?

5. What is the real reason for dissention? 1 Corinthians 3: 1-8

6. How can it be turned around and turned into unity? 1 Corinthians 1: 10-12

7. What can be done to restore unity?

8. Further Reading:

- Colossians 2: 2-4. Preserve unity
- Philippians 2: 1-4. Be unanimous
- Colossians 3: 12-14. Love each other.

- Romans 12: 16-21. How should a Christian live?
- 2 Corinthians 13: 11-12. Live the word

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