BUILD VI Great Passages of the Bible

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BIBLICAL UNDERSTANDING INTERCESSORY PRAYER LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

"So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness." Colossians 2:6-7

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NTRODUCTION

Perhaps the first question that came to your mind when you saw this study title was, "Aren't all passages of the Bible great?" Of course, they are. Since our church wholeheartedly believes that "All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching ..." (2 Timothy 3:16), we believe that every passage from Genesis 1:1 to Revelation 22:21 is of extraordinary value.

But we also understand that not all verses or passages give equal amounts of insight into God's nature, humanity's sin, or God's plan of redemption through Jesus Christ. Certain passages yield especially large amounts of insight into key biblical themes. Some of these passages will be our focus in this BUILD study. *Great Passages of the Bible* just seemed to sound better than *Texts that Yield Particular Insight into Key Biblical Themes*!

The passages in this study will give us a broad overview of God's great works. Each unit will include a key verse or verses for you to memorize that week. Please, please do the memory work and review it in your BUILD group meetings! Your BUILD experience will be much richer if you do this.

In addition to regular prayer with and for your BUILD team members, please recruit one person outside of BUILD to pray regularly for your spiritual growth during this study. I recommend that person be your spouse if she is a Christian.

As you study and pray together and memorize God's Word, may the Holy Spirit help you have "strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God" (Ephesians 3:18-19).

In Christ,

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David Beaty Pastor, River Oaks Community Church

MY COMMITMENT AS A PARTICIPANT IN THE BUILD MINISTRY

With God's help, I commit to:

- Meet weekly with my BUILD team.
- Read the Bible for a minimum of 10 minutes each day during BUILD. I will memorize the assigned verses and review them during the semester.
- Spend a minimum of 5 minutes each day in prayer during the BUILD semester. I agree to pray daily for the spiritual development of the other members of my BUILD team.
- Seek to live in such a way as to honor Jesus Christ and represent Him well before others.

Signature _____

Date _____

UNIT 1

THE CALL OF ABRAM GENESIS CHAPTER 12

Read Genesis chapter 12 three times during the week prior to your BUILD meeting.

1. In verses 1-3, what promises did God make to Abram? (God would later change his name to Abraham.)

2. Read the genealogy of Jesus Christ in Matthew 1:1-17. What part of God's promises to Abram find fulfillment in these verses?

3. Read Galatians 3:7-9. Explain how God "preached the gospel beforehand to Abram" in Genesis 12:1-3.

4. How does Abram express his faith and worship to God in this chapter?

- 5. How do you see Abram's humanity and lack of faith in this chapter?
- 6. Memorize Genesis 12:3c:

"...and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

THE GOLDEN CALF EXODUS CHAPTER 32

Read Exodus chapter 32 three times during the week prior to your BUILD meeting.

1. Review Exodus 20:1-17. Which of the Ten Commandments did the Israelites break in the account recorded in chapter 32?

2. Why were God's people so prone to idolatry?

3. See verses 11-14 of chapter 32. How does Moses appeal to God in his prayer for the Israelites?

4. How could Moses be so incensed against the people (verses 15-20), and yet pray for them as he did in verses 31-35?

5. Read Psalm 106:19-23. How can you follow Moses' example as an intercessor—one who stands before God on behalf of others who may be far from God?

6. Memorize Psalm 106:19.

UNIT 3

GOD'S COMMANDS DEUTERONOMY CHAPTER 6

Read Deuteronomy chapter 6 three times during the week prior to your BUILD meeting.

1. What is the importance of knowing and obeying God's commands?

2. Verse 4 is sometimes called "the Shema," from the Hebrew word for "hear." Read Matthew 22:34-40. What significance does Jesus attach to this command?

Why does Jesus say that this command, and the "second," are so important?

3. How does Deuteronomy chapter 6 call us to pass along God's truth to the next generation?

4. What warnings does this chapter give to God's people?

5. Memorize Deuteronomy 6:5.

The Faith of Rahab Joshua Chapter 2

Read Joshua chapter 2 three times during the week prior to your BUILD meeting.

1. Rahab was a Gentile (a non-Jew), and moreover, was a prostitute, in Jericho. Why did she believe in the God of Israel?

2. How was Rahab's faith in God expressed?

3. Read James 2:24-25, where the example of Rahab is used. Why does James use her as an example of genuine faith?

Was Rahab "justified" by faith, works, or both?

Compare James 2:24-25 to Ephesians 2:8-9. How can you reconcile these two passages?

4. Read Matthew 1:1-6. Why do you think God chose to include Rahab in the genealogy of Jesus Christ?

5. Memorize Joshua 2:11c:

"...for the Lord your God, he is God in the heavens above and on the earth beneath."

The Disobedience of the Israelites Judges Chapter 2

Read Judges chapter 2 three times during the week prior to your BUILD meeting.

1. Read verses 1-5 of chapter 2. What sin led to God's judgment upon the Israelites?

2. How could it be that the generation following the time of Joshua did not know about the Lord?

3. Why were the Israelites drawn after "other gods"? (verses 11-15)

4. Why did God raise up judges for the Israelites?

5. Why did the victory gained by the judges not endure?

- 6. What can parents learn about teaching their children from Judges chapter 2?
- 7. Memorize Judges 2:10.

The Sermon on the Mount Matthew Chapter 7

Read Matthew chapter 7 three times during the week prior to your BUILD meeting.

1. Using your own words, try to summarize in one sentence the teaching of Matthew 7:1-5.

2. Note verse 12. Jesus seems to be saying that the Old Testament law and the teaching of the Old Testament prophets points us to the "golden rule." Do you think that is true?

Why or why not?

3. See verses 15-20. Have you ever seen or heard someone whom you thought was a counterfeit, or false, prophet?

What caused you to suspect that?

4. While verses 15-20 warn about the false prophets, verses 21-23 warn about false conversion experiences. What is the warning of these verses, and how can we be sure our own salvation is genuine?

5. Verses 24-27 provide an important key to the question above. What is it, and how does it point to the relationship between faith and works?

6. For extra credit, can you explain verse 6 of this chapter?

7. Memorize Matthew 7:1.

The Parables of the Lost Sheep, the Lost Coin, and the Prodigal Son Luke Chapter 15

Read Luke chapter 15 three times during the week prior to your BUILD meeting.

1. Given the context of verses 1 and 2, why did Jesus tell the parables of this chapter?

2. In the parable of the lost coin, Jesus contrasts the "sinner who repents" with the "righteous persons who need no repentance." If all people are sinners in need of repentance, what did Jesus mean by this?

3. In verse 7, Jesus talks about "joy in heaven," and in verse 10, he mentions "joy before the angels of God." What is his point?

4. What part of the parable of the prodigal son might have been most convicting to the self-righteous Pharisees and scribes?

5. How can the three parables of this chapter shape our concern for sharing the gospel with others?

6. Memorize Luke 15:10.

The Gospel of God Romans Chapter 1

Read Romans chapter 1 three times during the week prior to your BUILD meeting.

- 1. In light of verses 1-6, what are some important truths concerning "the gospel of God."
- 2. What truths concerning the gospel do you see in verses 16-17?

How is God's righteousness revealed in the gospel?

3. What witness for God's existence is available to all people everywhere?

4. How do people worship and serve the creative rather than the Creator?

- 5. How is God's wrath expressed toward those who disregard Him as Creator?
- 6. Memorize Romans 1:16.

The Supremacy of Jesus, the Son of God Hebrews Chapter 1

Read Hebrews chapter 1 three times during the week prior to your BUILD meeting.

1. To those who consider Jesus to have been merely an exalted angel or other created being, the writer of Hebrews is emphatic about the deity of Christ. What truths in verses 2-4 point to the deity of Jesus Christ?

2. Hebrews chapter 1 is remarkable in its use of quotations from the Book of Psalms. Locate and list three verses from the Psalms that are used in this chapter.

3. How would you use this chapter to share your faith with someone who said, "Jesus was a good prophet and teacher, but only one among other good prophets and teachers"?

4. What does this chapter teach us about the role of God's angels in the world?

5. Memorize Hebrews 1:3.

Real Faith Shows James Chapter 2

Read James chapter 2 three times during the week prior to your BUILD meeting.

1. Why is it a sin to show partiality to wealthy people over poor people in the church?

How can we be sure we don't commit that sin?

2. Why are all people accountable for breaking God's law?

3. What does James (who was the half-brother of Jesus) mean when he writes, "Mercy triumphs over judgment"?

4. What is James' warning to the person who claims to be a Christian, yet shows no evidence of being a follower of Jesus?

- 5. How would you reconcile James' teaching in 2:14-26 with the apostle Paul's words in Ephesians 2:8-9?
- 6. Memorize James 2:26.

During your final BUILD group meeting, review all memory work for the study.