

Ministry of West End Church of Christ

The Quarantine Bible Study Part 2



9 Daily Bible Studies

Thoughts on the Coronavirus

In just a few short weeks, classification of the coronavirus (COVID-19) escalated from outbreak, to epidemic, to global pandemic; and President Trump declared an official state of emergency for the United States and its citizens. And as anyone reading this knows, the impact of this kind of global crisis extends far beyond the sickness itself.

There is not a person on this earth who hasn't been impacted by the coronavirus, in one way or another, and right now, many people are anxious, on edge, and afraid. Some have even gone to the extreme; bunkering down and "panic purchasing" toilet paper, respiratory masks, and bottled water in preparation for the "end of the world."

Everyone will react to crisis and fear in different ways, but in trying and uncertain times like these, how should Christians respond? When the rest of the world is afraid and loses hope, how can Christians still bring the life and love of Jesus Christ to a sick and dying world? How can Christians still be cautious of this serious disease, while not neglecting their responsibility to the Father?

I'm glad you asked...

First, as Christ-followers, we need to remember that our God is a "refuge and strength, a very present help in time of trouble" (Psalm 46:1). God has not given us a spirit of fear. We should not panic. Our Heavenly Father is still the all-knowing, ever-present, omnipotent God.

Second, we need to pray for all those who have been infected, those who will be, and for their families. We need to pray for God to deliver the world from this menace to human health and well-being. We need to pray for wisdom, guidance, and protection for our national, state and local leaders as they seek to fulfill their oaths of office in protecting the citizenry.

Third, we need to take necessary precautions. Listen to the medical experts. Be informed, sensitive, and wise in the way we approach this pandemic.

Fourth, don't do anything knowingly that would put anyone else at risk. Seek to help those who need help coping with the aftermath of having the virus or having been exposed to it. And during this whole process, as Christ-followers, we must always remember and have in our consciousness the Lord Jesus' command to "love your neighbor as yourself" (Mark 12:31) and "to do unto others as you would have them do unto you" (Luke 6:31). Let's all pray that when we look back on this crisis, our fellow Americans will see this episode of our history as one that reflects credit to the Lord we serve as they see His work in us as we serve them.

Spiritual Side of This Pandemic

Out of the abundance of caution and the threat of this virus spreading, our church family at West End is dealing with something we have never dealt with before. Our elders have decided that for the time being, we will be limiting our exposure at the building by offering Sunday and Wednesday services and Bible study online. In addition to that, we wanted to try and take advantage of the time that many families will have together and offer a hands on Bible study for you to take part in each night.

Each of the lessons provided can be done in a short amount of time or as long as you would like. We would also like to encourage you to share your thoughts from your time together on our private West End Facebook page, where we will have several videos posted each week that correspond to these studies.

By doing this, we are hoping to maintain our fellowship as a congregation and our devotion to God's Word, while still not being able to meet as a body in person. Lets not forget however, that although we can not be present physically in the building, the Lord's church is still meeting and doing great things!

I hope this Bible study will be a benefit to you and your family!

-Billy Bearden

Quarantine Study 1

Genesis Chapter 1

The book of Genesis was written to record God's creation of the world and to demonstrate His love for all that He created. Genesis is the first book of the Law and also the first book of the entire Bible. The name Genesis literally means, "In the Beginning". It explains the actual events of one of the most debated subjects of our current day...the origin of life. According to science, humans are the product of random chance, but for Christians, the Bible presents the truth of our origins. Genesis chapter 1 describes the Lord God, who is infinite and all-powerful, creating everything that exists, by the power of His spoken Word, out of nothing. He essentially creates material matter out of nonmaterial nothing.

Reflection/Discussion Questions

1. What were the first things in creation that God said were good? (vs 4-5)
2. According to Chapter 1, on which day of creation did God create mankind? (vs 27-31)
3. How does the belief that the Lord God literally created everything as described in Genesis impact your view of science?

Related Scripture

Genesis 2:1-3

Matthew 19:3-6

Romans 1:24-25

Ephesians 3:8-10

Hebrews 3:4

Action Step

As Christians we must be able to say with confidence that our creation is not an accident. We believe that the Bible is the inspired Word of God and therefore must be true. It is mind blowing to try and grasp just how powerful God is, that He was able to speak the world into existence. Our God is alive and we as Christians must share that message!

My/Our action steps for today will be...

Quarantine Study 2

Joshua Chapter 24

Toward the end of Joshua's life, he calls together all the tribes of Israel and recounts the stories found in the books of Genesis and Exodus, including the conquest of Canaan. In this chapter, Joshua is trying to get the Israelites to understand the greatness they have been a part of all thanks to the favor of God, as he strongly urges the people not to serve other gods. The people listen to Joshua and promise that they will not serve other gods as they recount the things that God has done for them. This chapter is one of the central theological claims of the book of Joshua, indicating that the Lord is God and is the only one worthy of worship. The Lord demands complete covenant loyalty from Israel and will bless such loyalty with divine favor.

Reflection/Discussion Questions

1. Why did Joshua assemble all of the tribes of Israel at Shechem? (vs 1-2)
2. What does it mean to fear the Lord? How can believers have a fear of the Lord and still draw near to Him in worship?
3. Joshua set up a stone to remind the people of their commitment. In what ways is it good practice to have a reminder established for a commitment you made?

Related Scripture

Psalm 19:9

Deuteronomy 10:12

1 Samuel 10:19

Acts 10:33

Action Step

Life is full of choices. From the moment we wake up in the morning we start making choices about our day. Most of the decisions we make are not life altering, but the choice Joshua is putting before the people is indeed. “But as for me and my house”, indicates that Joshua was determined on this course no matter what anyone else thought. His relationship with God was not based on any man, but on the LORD alone, and he would serve God no matter what anyone else did. Have you made that same choice as Joshua?

My/Our action steps for today will be...

Quarantine Study 3

1 Samuel Chapter 17

We read throughout this account of the fear the Israelite soldiers had of their enemies. They would be described as discouraged and afraid; feeling like there was no hope. Even King Saul, who was supposed to be their fearless leader, did not know what to do. Everything in the lives of God's people was out of control; they were ruled by fear. That is when we see David come along in chapter 17, who is described as childlike, but trusting and ruled by God not by fear. David could have listened to the words of doom, the taunts and the laughs and Goliath might have won, but he didn't. David's unwillingness to be controlled by emotions, outside forces or the approval of others allowed God to work through the future king.

Reflection/Discussion Questions

1. As an Israelite, what would you have thought when little David came and said that he was going to take on this mighty giant?
2. What do you think gave David such courage to fight this giant?
3. What is significant about David refusing to wear Saul's armor?

Related Scripture

2 Timothy 4:17-18

Psalm 138:7-8

1 Chronicles 22:11

2 Corinthians 1:9-10

Action Step

The purpose of this chapter is to show God as greater than the giants in our lives. All too often we find ourselves overwhelmed, afraid, and unsure because of life's circumstances. This action by David demonstrates God can be greater than the issues we face every day. God is greater than any giant in our life! What are the giants in your life that cause you to be afraid? What armor are you putting on, or what sword are you carrying to protect yourself from these giants? What would make you want to be like David? When we put our trust in God, He overcomes our hardships. When we are in a relationship with Him, the giants of our lives shrink and cease to have control over us.

My/Our action steps for today will be...

Quarantine Study 4

Psalms Chapter 23

Psalm 23 is a testimony of David. Every verse in this chapter testifies to a truth about God and the relationship David had developed with Him. In Psalm 23, David painted a picture of God as the Great Shepherd of his life. Shepherds, like David, oftentimes were alone out in the countryside and with no one to talk to, the shepherd had time to think about many things. He could just allow his mind to wander aimlessly from thought to thought or he could utilize the time to draw near to God. The shepherd life gave great opportunity for a person to use the time to become a man of great devotion and prayer, and David obviously spent his time doing just that.

Reflection/Discussion Questions

1. In what ways does a "shepherd" provide a good picture of the Lord?
2. What is it about "sheep" that makes them a good picture of human beings?
3. What two things does the shepherd make sure his sheep have plenty of (vs. 2)

Related Scripture

2 Timothy 4:17-18

Isaiah 53:6

John 10:1, 12-13

Acts 20:28-29

Action Step

Do not lose focus on what this chapter is saying to us. David is emphasizing that THE Lord is our shepherd. Just as Jesus is THE way THE Truth and THE Life, we must always keep Him in the forefront of our thoughts and actions and then we will truly find peace and develop the lifestyle Christ desires.

My/Our action steps for today will be...

Quarantine Study 5

Proverbs Chapter 31

The wisdom that was passed down in Proverbs 31 is the picture of a woman who has tasted of God's grace and longs to share it with others. She has been cleansed from her sins and teaches others what a life that fears the Lord looks like. When many read this proverb, they often feel that they will never measure up to this woman, appearing far above any kind of obtainable reality. It is at this point that we need to remember that the focus of this text is the character of the woman and not the deeds of the woman. Proverbs 31 tells us that "charm is deceptive, and beauty, if fleeting; but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised." From this we learn that there is an inner beauty, an authentic beauty that will never fade away.

Reflection/Discussion Questions

1. Why do you think character is more important than the deeds of this woman?
2. Describe loyalty. What does it look like to you? Why is it an important quality in a person?
3. What mundane task do you struggle with the most? How can you embrace joy in that area as you serve the Lord?

Related Scripture

2 Timothy 1:5

Proverbs 6:20

2 Timothy 3:15

Romans 3:24

Action Step

Think about the front covers of magazines and newspapers that you see at the checkout stand at the grocery store. What kind of beauty is displayed there? Do you know people who reflect this beauty? How did they get this way? Focus on the beauty that God wants and think about how you can better develop it. Always remember that the world says chase “perfect”, but the Bible says Jesus is perfect, so chase Jesus.

My/Our action steps for today will be...

Quarantine Study 6

Ecclesiastes Chapter 12

Solomon says in Ecclesiastes that “There is nothing new under the sun” This book is full of wise teachings and many sayings for us to know, but when you get down to it, the only thing we need to know is: fear God and keep His commandments. Ecclesiastes 12 encourages us to remember our Creator. All the focus has been turned to the Creator God and our obedience to Him.

Reflection/Discussion Questions

1. What does it mean to “Remember Your Creator?” How does this affect our attitudes and actions? Why is it important for us to do this while we are young?
2. What are goads? Why are the words of wise men compared to goads? Who is the ultimate source of all wisdom?
3. Do we sometimes forgo the “small stuff”, worrying about how to accomplish “big things” in Christ? What does that, in reality, do to us?

Related Scripture

Luke 18:16

Psalm 90:10

2 Timothy 3:15

Ephesians 6:4

Ecclesiastes 11:8

Psalm 100:3

Matthew 22:34-40

Action Step

Use this life to love your neighbor at every opportunity. By doing so you are not only participating in His kingdom's work, but establishing yourself in God's eyes both in this life and the one to come. Is your service to others "conditional", limited only to those you know such as family or friends? In what ways do you provide relief without even the hope of seeing something in return? Do you realize that if you have been "pre-qualifying" candidates for your support that you might not be trusting God for the results? Remember your Creator and what He has done for you!

My/Our action steps for today will be...

Quarantine Study 7

Isaiah Chapter 53

This chapter is describing what we know as the "suffering servant." Isaiah 53 shows the unity of the Bible, which was written over a period of 1500 years by over 40 authors, with the same theme from beginning to end. This chapter contains a beautiful summary of the most peculiar and distinguishing doctrines of Christianity. Isaiah 53 focuses on the Messiah and how He grows up in front of God like a plant. People ignore Him because He doesn't look particularly majestic. They all reject Him and despise Him, and He spends His whole life suffering. However, in spite of all that, He pays off everyone's sins with horrible suffering. God organized all of this to pay off the people's transgressions.

Reflection/Discussion Questions

1. In verse 2, what does a little shoot look like compared to a majestic tree? Why might Jesus be described as a little plant in a dry ground? What incidents in Jesus' life foster this description?
2. Who despised Jesus during His birth and ministry?
3. List the verbs in 53:4-6 which describe His suffering.

Related Scripture

Romans 5:12-21

Matthew 26:57-68

Mark 14:53-65

John 18:19-24

1 Peter 2:21-25

Action Step

Isaiah 53 is one of those profound passages in the Bible which speaks clearly to our need for God's grace and His plan of salvation through Jesus Christ. It paints a picture of Jesus Christ, the person, and reminds us that before His exaltation, He suffered, bringing into clarity the intensity of His sufferings. Christ suffered for OUR transgressions, he was crushed for OUR iniquities. It calls attention to the reality and depths of my sin, because an innocent man suffered for it. Chapter 53 reminds us of God's great love for us. Let this chapter encourage you to know better and understand the Lord's plan for our salvation and how that plan was executed.

My/Our action steps for today will be...

Quarantine Study 8

Matthew Chapter 5

Chapter 5 is one of the more popular chapters in scripture and one of the better-known parts of Jesus ministry called the “Sermon on the Mount”, containing what we call, “The Beatitudes”, along with several other teaching that are about being honest and sincere. These “attitudes” change our character and guide us in getting along with others. Beatitudes are the stepping stones to better thinking, better behaving, better healing, and better relationships. They are focused positively on what we should be like, rather than on what we should not do. They do not merely keep us from evil, but lead us to truth.

Reflection/Discussion Questions

1. What does it mean to be poor in spirit?
2. Which one of the beatitudes stands out to you? Why?
3. “You are the light of the world.” To whom is Jesus speaking? (vs 14)

Related Scripture

Psalm 1:1-6

Luke 6:20-23

Philippians 2:12-18

Luke 12:57-59

Leviticus 18:1-30

Deuteronomy 24:1-5

Luke 16:18-18

Action Step

Christians are to be different from the world. God's highest goal is not your physical comfort but your spiritual comfort. Christians will be persecuted if they are fully committed to the gospel and obeying the will of God. Ask yourself; if the government brought Christians into court and put them on trial for the crime of being authentic Christians, would there be enough (or any) evidence of your Christianity to convict you of being a true Christian? Or would you escape conviction because there was not enough (or not any) evidence for the world to declare that you are a Christian?

My/Our action steps for today will be...

Quarantine Study 9

Matthew Chapter 6

In chapter 6, Jesus continued the Sermon on the Mount, illustrating righteous living with the examples of; giving to the needy, faithful prayer and the practice of fasting in the Christian's life. He taught His disciples to place the love of God over the cares of the world that we so often get distracted with. Jesus uncovers wrong attitudes toward life and reveals the emptiness of spiritual disciplines and scriptural admonition when one's heart is not right. Chapter 6 emphasizes that wrong attitudes always happen when our hearts are not submissive to God.

Reflection/Discussion Questions

1. What does Jesus say about those who seek to be rewarded by men?
2. What is fasting? What is the place of fasting in the life of a Christian?
3. In verse 26, why is it that we are more valuable?

Related Scripture

Luke 11:1-4

Matthew 13:44-46

Luke 12:22-34

Deuteronomy 15:7-11

Acts 12:1-25

2 Corinthians 8-9

Action Step

It's easy to let pride enter into our lives, without even meaning for it to. If we are being honest, we all want to be recognized and appreciated by people. We sometimes may even find ourselves wanting to impress people with our gifts and devotion. Yet, the Bible is clear that we must seek to impress God and only God alone. Yes, our actions should be influencing those around us and encouraging our fellow brothers and sisters, but we must never let our pride get in the way of doing that. This requires a motives check-up.

After all, motives matter when it comes to being approved and rewarded by God. This means you must do the right thing in the right way for the right reason.

My/Our action steps for today will be...