



40

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NEW TESTAMENT

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HOW TO USE THIS BOOK

IT'S AN AGE OF ENDLESS INFORMATION, AND STUDENTS ARE OVERWHELMED. FURTHERMORE, THEY HAVE A HARD TIME UNDERSTANDING HOW—AND EVEN *IF*—ALL THAT THEY KNOW FITS TOGETHER. THEY ARE DROWNING IN THE FLOOD OF DATA THAT POURS FORTH FROM THEIR MEDIA-RICH YET WISDOM-POOR WORLD.

Help them make a significant connection between the Bible and culture with **40 Instant Studies: New Testament**. Each two-page study is easy to prepare, yet rich with true-to-life relevance and biblical depth.

This book is designed as a resource for those in student ministry. In this volume you will find 40 easy-to-prepare lessons that can be used in a pinch or as a part of a larger strategy you have in mind. Each lesson contains:

A REAL STORY

Each lesson is contained on the front and back sides of a single sheet. Remove a lesson by tearing on the handy perforations and head to the copy machine. Make a copy of the introductory story and discussion questions for each student. Start your lesson with high student interest and involvement.

AN EASY-TO-FOLLOW LESSON PLAN

Keep the back page of the lesson to help you guide your group through a Bible study that addresses the questions raised by the introductory article. At your fingertips you have probing discussion questions and clear Scripture commentary.

A CLOSING CHALLENGE

A good Bible study should inspire one to action. At the end of each lesson is a simple activity designed to give your students something concrete to do as a result of the study. These challenges use a variety of teaching methods, but are always focused and memorable.

In addition, find a quick summary of each lesson in the table of contents. Search the Scripture index for specific Bible references used, the story index for the topics covered in the introductory activity, or the topic index to find how specific scriptural themes are handled. You will find a wealth of teaching resources at your fingertips.

In an age of information glut, you need a way to grab the attention of your students and help them apply God's Word to the world around them. Do exactly that with **40 Instant Studies: New Testament**.



CONFIDENTIAL SOURCE:
MATTHEW 10:5-10

JESUS CALLS US TO BE HIS
PARTNERS IN MINISTRY.

Jesus Sends Out the Twelve

A Plea from the President

In order to accomplish the great task of leading a country, those in charge must talk to one another and to the citizens of that nation. Each year the president discharges that duty by making a State of the Union Address.

The State of the Union Address is an annual event in which the president of the United States reports on the status of the country, normally to a joint session of the U.S. Congress (the House of Representatives and the Senate). The address is also used to outline the president's proposals for the upcoming year.

The United States Constitution (Article II, Section 3) requires that the president make such an address:

"[The President] shall from time to time give to Congress information of the State of the Union and recommend to their Consideration such measures as he shall judge necessary and expedient." Although the Constitution does not specify details, the speech is usually given in January of each year.

For example, in January of 2007 the war in Iraq was a major issue. About two days before his State of the Union Address, President Bush announced that he would send 21,500 more U.S. troops to Iraq. Immediately most Democrats and some Republicans opposed that troop surge and built support for a nonbinding resolution opposing it. Furthermore, an opinion poll taken at that time showed that 65 percent of Americans opposed the president's handling of the war.

But in the State of the Union Address, President Bush asked Congress and the American people to give his plan a chance to work. His plea was heard. By the time the next State of the Union Address was given, the president was able to tell about the success of his once-unpopular decision.

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER:

- Do you usually watch the State of the Union Address each year? If not, why don't you? If so, why do you think it is important to do so? Do you think it is a good idea to require the president to make such a speech every year? Defend your answer.
- Communication and cooperation are necessary to perform a task as great as leading a country. What do you think would happen if a leader did not communicate or if people did not cooperate with him? What other actions, attitudes, or resources are necessary to accomplish a great task? Think about the biggest job you have ever taken on. How were you prepared for it? What did you need to accomplish it?
- Leading a country is a great task. That is why the president of the United States is required to enlist the help of fellow leaders and citizens each year with a formal speech. When Jesus called his disciples to the great task of serving him, he enlisted their help with some specific promises. Let's discover what he said.

BIBLE TRUTHS

BIBLE TRUTH 1

Jesus called disciples to serve him in particular places. MATTHEW 10:5, 6

■ **What fears do you have about becoming a missionary?**

INSIDE STORY: This is the first time Jesus sent out his twelve disciples to preach and teach. He directed the disciples to the nation of Israel (v. 6). Gentiles and Samaritans (a mixed race of Jews and Gentiles) were excluded at this time (v. 5). This mission to Israel was only a first step in taking the message of the gospel to all people.

Jesus' church is described as one body with specialized parts, not a lot of bodies each trying to save the world on their own (Ephesians 4:11-13). Believers have differing missions that complement the missions of others. Paul was proud that God set him apart to "preach him among the Gentiles" (Galatians 1:15, 16). Yet Paul also recognized that God called Peter "as an apostle to the Jews." (2:8). Jesus' apostles were given specific tasks and led to particular places. The same is true of disciples today. God sends willing missionaries in which he places interest and abilities suitable for the task to which he calls them.

BIBLE TRUTH 2

Jesus gave his disciples needed, life-giving truth to share. MATTHEW 10:7, 8

■ **If someone were to ask you to summarize your faith in three sentences, how would you do it?**

INSIDE STORY: Note that when Jesus sent out the twelve, he did not say: "Just tell people your general impressions about me." The message to be preached was very specific: "The kingdom of heaven is near" (v. 7). Therefore anyone doing wrong should repent (Mark 6:12) because the promised Messiah of Israel had come to earth. Leaders had arisen before and claimed to be the Messiah (Acts 5:36, 37). To show that Jesus was the true Christ, the apostles

would freely share the power of the Messiah with others by performing what were unquestionably miracles from God (Matthew 10:8). Later, the Great Commission (which is still ours today) would include Christian baptism and obedience to "everything I have commanded you" (Matthew 28:20). The early church was "one in heart and mind" because of the clear and unified message of the apostles that was confirmed by the work of the Spirit (Acts 4:32).

BIBLE TRUTH 3

Jesus provided for the needs of his disciples as they served him. MATTHEW 10:9, 10

■ **Why is it wrong to expect something for nothing? If you get something "free," who might be paying for it?**

INSIDE STORY: Imagine that you have been hired to fry burgers at a local fast food establishment. You would expect your employer to provide you with a uniform, a nifty paper hat, the grill and grilling utensils you need, and so forth. Similarly, Jesus provided for those apostles who worked for him. They were told not to bring extra clothing or money for room and board. Those to whom they ministered by Christ's power would provide those things (vv. 9, 10). In Corinth Paul argued that he did not require the Corinthians to supply his needs, but that was his choice. Not only had other apostle used that right, but Paul also saw this as a principle of Jewish law (1 Corinthians 9:1-12). Later Paul would argue that administering elders in churches should be paid for the same reason (1 Timothy 5:17, 18). To this day, Christian missionaries travel around the world to preach the gospel and are supported by other believers. God provides for those whom he calls.

CHALLENGE

Present your students with upcoming mission opportunities available. Pray, asking God to direct your students into the paths of service he has selected especially for each of them.

“WHY DO I NEED TO KNOW THIS STUFF?”

IT'S AN AGE OF ENDLESS INFORMATION, AND STUDENTS WONDER HOW MUCH MORE THEY CAN CRAM INTO THEIR HEADS . . . AND WHY THEY SHOULD EVEN BOTHER TRYING.

Help them make a significant connection between the Bible and culture with **40 Instant Studies: New Testament**.

REAL STORIES

Copy the first page of each study so every student can read about and offer an opinion on a recent event. All 40 real stories cover topics like:

- media
- sports
- odd news
- technology
- world events

DEEP DISCUSSION

Use the Scripture commentary and discussion questions on the second page to lead a Bible study that addresses the topic raised in the story. Studies from the New Testament include:

- Feeding the 5,000
- From Salvation to Glorification
- Am I a Slave or a Son?
- Fight Favoritism

CLOSING CHALLENGE

Inspire your students to action at the end of each study.

So . . . why do your students need to know this stuff? Because this isn't just information. It's wisdom for handling the struggles and absurdities of everyday life.

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