

# 40

## INSTANT STUDIES

TRUE TO LIFE  
STORIES THAT  
CHALLENGE  
TEENS TO ENGAGE  
CULTURE

OLD TESTAMENT



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### OLD TESTAMENT

**Standard**<sup>®</sup>  
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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: Old 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: Old Testament**.



# Adam and Eve— Problems in the Beginning

SEEMINGLY SMALL SINS CAN  
HAVE HUGE CONSEQUENCES!

## The Cost of “Free” Music

**Andrew Johnson was looking forward to having the summer off after he completed his freshman year in college. But he found himself having to work three summer jobs because of an unexpected debt. He had to pay the recording industry \$3,000 to avoid being sued for music piracy.**

Johnson had used his university's network to download one hundred songs with a program called *LimeWire*. During the second semester of his freshman year, the eighteen-year-old was one of more than 400 college students to receive a pre-litigation letter from the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA). The RIAA represents the major recording companies. The letters informed Johnson and the others who received them that they could settle out of court for \$3,000 each or the cases would go to trial. Were the college students to lose in court, they could be liable for damages of \$750 per song that they had downloaded.

A recent survey by *Student Monitor* found that more than half of college students download music and movies illegally. College students alone are responsible for more than 1.3 billion illegal music downloads a year. College students surveyed admitted that more than two-thirds of all their music was acquired illegally.

Sophomore Sarah Barg also settled with the RIAA. She had downloaded 381 songs with the university computers and another file sharing program called *Ares*. “Obviously I knew it [downloading music] was illegal, but no one got in trouble for it,” Barg said. Andrew Johnson had a similar complaint when he was caught. “It’s not like I downloaded millions of songs and sold them to people,” Johnson said.

Barg was angry about having to borrow money from her parents to pay for the settlement. “Without their help, I don’t know what I would have done. I’m only twenty years old,” she said. Barg agrees that sharing music is common and that other students don’t understand the consequences. She believes the university should warn students that the recording industry will not look the other way when someone is caught.

RIAA spokesperson Jenni Engebretsen agreed. “Any student on any campus in the country who is illegally downloading music may receive one of these letters in the coming months, [and] . . . just one song can bring a lawsuit.”

### QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER:

- How common is illegal downloading of music among your friends? Why do you think music piracy is so common? What should be done about it, in your opinion?
- What lines from this article indicate that these students did not imagine the consequences of their actions when downloading music illegally? Have you ever made a single bad decision that led to a flood of negative consequences? Tell about that time.
- The students mentioned in this article learned the hard way that illegal actions have consequences. Some people in the Bible seriously underestimated the consequences of disobeying a command of God. Let’s learn about one of those incidents.



## BIBLE TRUTH 1

**The sin of Adam and Eve separated human beings from God.** GENESIS 3:8-10, 21-24

■ **What was Adam and Eve's first reaction after sinning? Why do you think that was?**

**INSIDE STORY:** Before they sinned, the first couple communed with God "in the cool of the day" (Genesis 3:8). They stood before him unashamed, being totally open and honest with their creator.

After they sinned, however, Adam and Eve lost that intimacy and transparency. Their first reaction was to cover themselves and hide from God's sight.

Note that God replaced the fig leaf garments the couple fashioned for themselves with garments of animal skins (v. 21). Some speculate that God demonstrated the need for a blood sacrifice at this time. Animals were killed and blood was spilled in order to form a covering for sinful humankind (Hebrews 9:22).

## BIBLE TRUTH 2

**The sin of Adam and Eve separated human beings from each other.** GENESIS 3:7, 12, 16

■ **When Adam and Eve rebelled against God, they had become partners in crime. Give evidence that their joint lawbreaking created separation, not togetherness.**

**INSIDE STORY:** After the fall, that unity was replaced by one of the greatest relational flaws of all time—"blame-storming." They became adversaries rather than partners. Adam quickly blamed his God-created partner for his problems (Genesis 3:12).

Note that even their pure and holy sexual relationship was corrupted. Sexual desire would remain, but it would result in painful childbirth and an inequity between husband and wife that was not present before (v. 16).

## BIBLE TRUTH 3

**The sin of Adam and Eve separated them from the rest of the natural world.** GENESIS 3:17-19

■ **Compare the world before sin (Genesis 2:8-16) with the world after sin (Genesis 3:17-19).**

**INSIDE STORY:** Adam and those of us who follow would have to fight a fertility-impaired earth just to survive, deal with thorny weeds, sweat to earn a living, wrestle the elements of nature and many sorrows of life, and eventually face the failing of our bodies and death. Our conflict with the natural world is obvious to this day. Our attempts to overcome the infertility of the earth with fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides have caused us to create cancer-causing agents and pollution that shorten the lives we were trying to sustain. The waste created by us may even alter the environment, contributing to floods and disruption of weather patterns. New diseases and epidemics replace ones we believe modern medicines have been able to eradicate.

**CHALLENGE**  
Ask your students:  
"What 'weeds' has sin caused in your life? How can you go about pulling those weeds, reversing the consequences of your own sin?"

# “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.

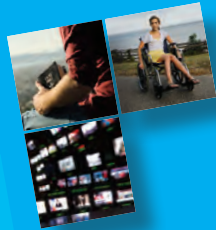
Help them make a significant connection between the Bible and culture with **40 Instant Studies: Old Testament**.



## 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 Old Testament include:

- **Moses**—Discontent in the Desert
- **Rahab**—A Life Changed
- **Solomon**—Wisdom From Above
- **Elijah**—Overcoming Loneliness



## 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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