

52 Bible Studies

Diocese of Kajo-Keji

Episcopal Church of South Sudan & Sudan



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Title: **52 Bible studies**

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Publisher: Episcopal Church of South Sudan & Sudan (ECSS&S),
Diocese of Kajo-Keji, South Sudan, 2015.

First edition. 200 copies printed with funding from GZB, The Netherlands.

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Why is Bible study important?

1. To learn more about God (Exodus 20:1-2).
2. To find eternal life (John 17:3).
3. To know more about God's plan for your life (Psalm 25:12).
4. To become wise (Psalm 119:99).
5. To learn how to live with other people (Matthew 7:12).
6. To keep the devil away (Ephesians 6:11,17).
7. To grow in faith (Psalm 19:12).
8. To be sure that God loves you (John 3:16).
9. To persevere in faith (1 Timothy 6:12).
10. To show that you love God (John 14:23).

How to do a Bible study in a group?

1. Appoint a leader.
2. Pray.
3. Read the Bible passage and the introduction.
4. Go through the questions.
5. Go back to the Bible passage to find the answers.
6. Make sure that everybody is involved.
7. Pray at the end of the meeting.
8. Keep time.

A. God wants to save the world (6)

1. God made everything

Read: Genesis 1:1-2:4

Introduction: God created this world and everything in it. God was very happy with his work. He made men in his image. We need to care for God's creation. In everything we do, we can honour our Creator.

- Questions:** 1. What did God use to make this world (1:3)?
2. In what way do we look like God (1:27)?
3. How can we look after God's creation (1:28)?
4. Sunday is our day of rest and worship. Why is this day special (2:3)?

2. Men rebelled against God

Read: Genesis 3:1-20

Introduction: God's creation was good. But then Adam and Eve rebelled against God. They disobeyed. God punishes them: they have to leave the Garden of Eden. But God still loves his creation. He wants to make things right again.

- Questions:** 1. How does the serpent (Satan) deceive Eve (verse 1)? Also see 2:16-17.
2. What is the result of the sin of Adam and Eve (verses 7-13)?
3. Verse 15 is difficult to understand but God promises a new future. Who will crush the head of the serpent (Satan)?
4. How are we influenced by the sin of Adam and Eve? See also 1 Corinthians 15:22.

3. God chooses Israel

Read: Genesis 12:1-7 and 18:17-19

Introduction: God makes a new start with Abraham. God promises Abraham many children (a people), a land (Canaan)

and a special relationship (a covenant). God chose Israel for a purpose. They must show the nations that the God of Israel is the only true God.

- Questions:** 1. Why did Abraham listen to the call of God (12:1)?
2. How are all the nations blessed through Abraham (18:18)? See also Galatians 3:14.
3. Why did Abraham build an altar when he arrived in Canaan (12:7)?
4. Why are we chosen as Christians? To do what? See 1 Peter 2:9.

4. God sends his Son

Read: Luke 2:1-11, 27-32

Introduction: Israel failed their mission. They were *not* a light to the world. Now God sends his Son to our world. He will die for us. He takes our punishment for sin upon himself. Jesus is the light of the world. He came to save us.

- Questions:** 1. Why was Jesus not born as a king in a palace (verse 7)?
2. Why is Jesus called the Saviour (verse 11)?
3. What is the promise of God that Simeon talks about (verse 28-29)? See also Genesis 12:3.
4. How can we receive this salvation (verse 30)?

5. The Church has a mission

Read: Acts 1:1-9

Introduction: Jesus told us that the Kingdom of God is among us. If we believe in Jesus, we are part of that Kingdom. When Jesus went to his Father, he told his disciples to spread the Good News of the Kingdom. We need to do the same. The Church needs to go out and tell others about Jesus.

- Questions:** 1. What did Jesus do after his resurrection (verse 3)?
2. What will the Holy Spirit do for the disciples (verses 4-5 and

8)?

3. How can we be a witness of Jesus (verse 8)?

4. 'Jerusalem' is our own town, 'Judea and Samaria' is our region and 'the ends of the earth' is the rest of the world. Which areas are we reaching with the Gospel? How can we reach out further?

6. Jesus will return

Read: Revelation 21:1-4 and 22:12-14

Introduction: The Kingdom of God is not complete yet. We live in a broken world. There is sin, suffering and death. We pray: Let your Kingdom come! When Jesus returns, he will make everything right. The world will be perfect again. We are waiting for that day.

Questions: 1. Revelation 21:3 says that God will live together with men. Heaven and earth are one. How will that be (verse 4)?

2. Revelation 22:12 says that Jesus will come back *soon*. But we are waiting already 2000 years. Why does it say 'soon'? Are you ready for his return?

3. Who is able to enter the Kingdom (22:14)?

4. What is our task until Jesus returns? See also Matthew 24:42-44.

B. Who is God? (5)

1. He is the Creator

Read: Isaiah 40:18-31

Introduction: Our God made everything. The world, the animals and men. He is special. Not like other gods. God loves his creation. We praise and worship our Maker.

- Questions:** 1. What do we learn about idols in verses 19-20?
2. Why is it not possible to compare God to anybody or anything (verses 18 and 25)?
3. What do we learn about God, our Creator, in verses 26, 28-29?
4. What does it say in verses 30-31? When have you experienced this?

2. He knows us

Read: Psalm 139:1-16

Introduction: God is eternal. He knows everything. He knows the past, the present and the future. He knows us and loves us. We live for him.

- Questions:** 1. Why does God know all these things about us (verses 1-4)?
2. Why is it not possible to flee from God (verses 7-10)?
3. We are special to God. He knew us before we were born (verses 13-14). What does that mean to you?
4. The days of our life are written in God's book (verse 16). How can we live for his glory?

3. He can do anything

Read: Luke 1:26-38

Introduction: We serve an almighty God. We are weak but he is strong. God can do anything. He can help us. But he gives us freedom to make our own choices.

- Questions:** 1. Why was it impossible for Mary to become pregnant (verse 34)?
2. Mary is obedient to God's word (verse 38). Can God work in our lives if we are not willing to listen to him? Why?
3. Some things God cannot do. What are those? Read 2 Timothy 2:13, Titus 1:2 and James 1:13.
4. What is our response when God does *not* change our situation? See also 2 Corinthians 12:7-9.

4. He cares for us

Read: 1 Peter 5:7-11

Introduction: Our God is not far. He loves us. He knows us. He cares for us. He protects us. He is there when we need him.

- Questions:** 1. Why can we go to God with our fears (verse 7)?
2. What do we need to do (verses 8-9)?
3. What will God give us (verse 10)?
4. How do we make our needs clear to God?

5. One God, three persons

Read: John 14:8-17

Introduction: We believe in one God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. They are not three, but one. This is difficult to understand. It leads us to worship. He is greater than we can think! The Father created and loves us, the Son saves us and the Holy Spirit helps us to look more like Jesus.

- Questions:** 1. How can we know God the Father (verse 10)?
2. What does the Son, Jesus, do (verse 13)?
3. How can we know the Holy Spirit (verses 16-17)?
4. The Holy Spirit is not a force or power but a person. How do we know that the Spirit is a person? See Romans 8:26.
5. Say the grace together (2 Corinthians 13:13) and worship the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

C. Who is Jesus? (6)

1. His birth

Read: Matthew 1:18-25

Introduction: Jesus is not like us. His mother Mary was a virgin. She was with child through the Holy Spirit. Jesus is human *and* he is God. He is Immanuel: God with us.

- Questions:** 1. What does the name Jesus mean (verse 21)?
2. How can Jesus bring God close to us (verse 23)?
3. One of the forefathers of Jesus was king David (1:1). But one of his grandmothers was Rahab. She was not a Jew and a prostitute before (Joshua 2:1). Why was Jesus not born in a perfect family?
4. Why do many people like to celebrate Christmas?

2. His ministry

Read: Mark 1:14-15, 21-28

Introduction: Jesus tells us about the Kingdom of God. He teaches and he heals people. Some people like his ministry. Others do not understand him. Some of the leaders hate Jesus.

- Questions:** 1. How must we respond to the Good News (verse 15)?
2. The synagogue is a house of prayer for the Jews. Why were people surprised about Jesus (verses 22 and 27)?
3. Does the evil spirit speak the truth about Jesus (verse 24)?
4. How can we listen to Jesus? How can we receive healing?

3. His death

Read: 1 Peter 2:21-25

Introduction: The death of Jesus on the cross gave us life. How can that be? We must die because of our sin. Jesus took that punishment upon himself. He died for us. If we believe in him, we have eternal life.

- Questions:** 1. Why was Jesus without sin (verse 22)?

2. Why did Jesus keep quiet when he was treated badly before his death on the cross (verse 23)?
3. What must be our response to the death of Jesus (verse 24)?
4. How is the suffering of Jesus an example to us (verse 21)?

4. His resurrection: He is alive!

Read: 1 Corinthians 15:12-23

Introduction: Jesus rose from the dead. He is alive. This gives us hope. If we believe in Jesus, we receive a new life now and eternal life in the world to come. Why is this teaching so important?

- Questions:**
1. Why is our faith useless if Jesus did not raise from the dead (verses 17-19)?
 2. Christ is the first fruit. When we see the first ripe mango's on a tree, we know that more will follow. That means: we will also get a new body (verse 20-23). Why is this a message of hope?
 3. What does verse 22 mean?
 4. Why do Christians sometimes read 1 Corinthians 15 at a funeral?

5. Where is Jesus now?

Read: Colossians 3:1-4,16-17

Introduction: After Jesus finished his time on earth, he went to his Father. Jesus is in heaven with his Father. He rules his Kingdom and prays for us.

- Questions:**
1. Why is Christ at the right hand of his Father (verse 1)?
 2. To set our minds on things above is: to do the will of God (verse 2). How can we do that?
 3. What must we do to honour our King Jesus (verses 16-17)?
 4. It is wonderful that Jesus prays for us. See Romans 8:34. When do we need that most?

6. Jesus will come again

Read: Matthew 24:42-44

Introduction: We are waiting for Jesus to return to this world. He will come to judge and make everything new. We will live in his Kingdom. We don't know when Jesus comes back.

- Questions:** 1. When will Jesus return (verse 42)?
2. What do we need to do (verse 43-44)?
3. How do we prepare ourselves for the return of Jesus?
4. Do you look forward to that day? Why or why not?

D. What does the Holy Spirit do? (6)

1. The Spirit in the Old Testament

Read: Numbers 11:16-17,24-30

Introduction: In the Old Testament the Holy Spirit gives people power for a certain task. He is only given to certain people and for a certain time. The prophet Joel says that in the last days God will give his Spirit to everybody. That happened with Pentecost.

- Questions:** 1. Why did God put the Spirit on the seventy elders (verse 17)?
2. What was the sign that the Spirit was on them (verses 25-26)?
3. When was verse 29 fulfilled?
4. What is the difference in the work of the Holy Spirit in the OT and the NT?

2. Pentecost: The Spirit came down

Read: Acts 2:1-12

Introduction: After Jesus went to heaven, the disciples waited for the power of the Holy Spirit. He came at Pentecost, the harvest feast. The disciples become apostles: they go out to share the Good News of Jesus.

- Questions:** 1. Why were the disciples together in one place (verse 1)? See also Acts 1:14.
2. What were the signs of the coming of the Holy Spirit (verses 2-4)?
3. Why did people hear the Gospel in their own language (verses 7-8)?
4. The result of the coming of the Spirit is that many people became Christians that day (2:41). How can the Holy Spirit help us in our mission?

3. The Spirit shows us the truth

Read: John 16:12-15

Introduction: The Holy Spirit convicts the world of sin. He guides the believers to the truth. The Spirit points to Jesus. And Jesus tells us who the Father is.

- Questions:** 1. Why do we need the Spirit of truth (verse 12)?
2. Why does the Spirit only point to Jesus (verse 14)?
3. How does the Spirit make the truth known to us (verse 14)?
4. How can we know the Spirit of truth? See John 14:16-17.

4. The Spirit renews our lives

Read: 2 Corinthians 5:1-5

Introduction: The Holy Spirit can change us. He renews our lives. In this world things are not perfect yet. But when Jesus returns, everything will be good again. Like it was in the beginning. The Holy Spirit helps us to prepare for that future.

- Questions:** 1. Paul says: we live in a tent now. In the future we will have an eternal house. What does he mean (verse 1)?
2. Why is our life now not always easy (verse 4)?
3. Paul says: the Holy Spirit is a guarantee for us, to show that God can be trusted. We will receive a new body, just like Jesus did. How do we know that God's promises are true (verse 5)?

4. How is the Holy Spirit changing you?

5. The Spirit makes us one

Read: Ephesians 4:1-6

Introduction: The Holy Spirit unites us as Christians. The Church must be one. We cannot accept divisions in the Church. We need to be humble and patient with each other.

- Questions:** 1. How can we keep unity among each other (verses 2-3)?
2. Why should we be united (verses 4-5)?
 3. Why is there sometimes no unity in the Church?
 4. How does the Spirit help us to be one?

6. The Spirit gives spiritual gifts

Read: 1 Corinthians 12:4-12

Introduction: The Holy Spirit gives spiritual gifts. He does not give everybody the same. We are different and we have different gifts. Together we are one body, the Church. The gifts help us to be one and to praise God as one body.

- Questions:** 1. What is the purpose of spiritual gifts (verse 7)?
2. What kind of gifts are there (verses 8-10)?
 3. Why can we not be jealous of the gift of someone else (verse 11)?
 4. Why is it good that we all have different gifts (verses 4-6,12)?

E. How can we follow Jesus? (4)

1. We listen to him

Read: Mark 4:9-12

Introduction: A Christian listens to Jesus. We read the Word of God. The words of Jesus guide us and comfort us. Sometimes Jesus also warns us. We need to hear him speak to us.

- Questions:** 1. Everybody has ears. What does verse 9 mean?
2. Why did Jesus share the secret of the Kingdom with his disciples (verse 11)?
3. To understand a parable you must listen well and make an effort. Why is that (verses 11-12)?
4. How can we listen to Jesus in our time?

2. We obey his word

Read: John 14:21-24

Introduction: It is not enough to just listen to Jesus. We must also do what he says. A Christian prays, reads the Bible and serves those in need. These things belong together.

- Questions:** 1. When we love Jesus, it shows in two things. What are these two things (verse 21)?
2. Why doesn't the world understand fully who Jesus is (verses 22 and 24)?
3. What are the commandments that Jesus talks about? See John 13:34-35.
4. Why is it sometimes difficult to obey God's word?

3. We do as Jesus did

Read: John 13:1-17

Introduction: Jesus came to this world as a Servant. We as his disciples need to be servants too. We often want to be important. But Jesus gives us an example. We need to do as he did.

- Questions:** 1. Why is Peter surprised that Jesus wants to wash

his feet (verse 6)?

2. What does it mean "to wash one another's feet" (verse 14)?
3. Why must we follow the example of Jesus (16-17)?
4. How can we do as Jesus did? Give examples.

4. We take up our cross

Read: Luke 9:22-25

Introduction: Jesus died for us on the cross. He gave us eternal life. To follow Jesus is not easy. Sometimes people hate you. Sometimes people treat you badly. A disciple of Jesus sometimes must suffer like his Lord.

- Questions:**
1. Why did Jesus die a terrible death (verse 22)?
 2. What does it mean 'to deny yourself' (verse 23)?
 3. How is our cross different from the cross that Jesus had to carry (verse 23)?
 4. How can we lose our life for Jesus (verse 24)?

F. What is the Kingdom of God? (3)

1. The Kingdom does not come all at once

Reading: Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

Introduction: Jesus told people about the Kingdom of God. In Him the Kingdom came near. But we still see sin and death in our world. We are waiting for God's Kingdom to come in fullness.

Jesus often spoke in parables about the Kingdom.

Questions: 1. Explain the parable in your own words.

2. What is the enemy, the devil, doing to destroy God's Kingdom in our time?

3. Why are we not surprised that the Church is not perfect (verse 30)?

4. What is our task as a church before the End of the Age will come? Read also 2 Peter 3:17-18.

2. You can resist to be part of the Kingdom

Reading: Matthew 13:3-9, 18-23

Introduction: We are not forced to be part of God's Kingdom. There are no soldiers to take you. We have a choice. Jesus did not use power but only teaching to make people enter the Kingdom.

Questions: 1. Why does not all the seed produce plants (verses 4-7)?

2. There are people that do not accept the Gospel. Why is that (verses 19-22)?

3. In what kind of situations are we sharing the Gospel?

4. Why should we not force people to accept the Christian faith?

3. God wants to save many people

Reading: Luke 14:15-24

Introduction: Why does it take so long for Jesus to return? Why does God not complete his work? Because God wants many people to be part of his Kingdom.

Questions: 1. What do you think of the excuses that the invited guests make (verses 18-20)?

2. Why is the host angry (verse 21)?

3. Why is the host inviting the poor and the lame (verse 23)?

4. How can we invite people to be part of God's Kingdom?

G. The 10 commandments (11)

1. You are free!

Reading: Exodus 20:1-2

Introduction: God wants us to be free. He delivered his people Israel from Egypt. He sets us free from sin through Jesus. Only if we have boundaries, we can be truly free. The Ten Commandments give us these boundaries. We follow these rules as part of our worship to God.

Questions: 1. Why did God give the law to his people Israel? See also Exodus 19:5-6.

2. Why do you want to keep the Ten Commandments?

3. Christians don't need to follow all the laws of Moses. Why not? How did Jesus summarize the law (Matthew 22:35-39)?

4. How can we keep to God's rules for our lives?

2. No other gods

Reading: Exodus 20:3

Introduction: There is only one true and living God. Our ancestors knew about God but he revealed himself most clearly in his Son, Jesus Christ. We must worship this God, and only him.

Questions: 1. How has God revealed himself to us? See also Hebrews 1:1-2.

2. God is the creator of the universe but also close to us. How is that possible?

3. Why do people run after other gods?

4. Who is God for you?

3. No idols

Reading: Exodus 20:4-6

Introduction: The people of Israel found it hard to believe in a God they could not see. They liked the gods of Canaan better. But they are idols. We want them to do as we like. In our time money,

power or sex can become an idol in our lives.

- Questions:** 1. What does God say about idols in Isaiah 44:14-18?
2. An idol is something we place ahead of God in our lives. What were idols in our traditional religion? What are idols in our time?
3. Exodus 20:5 says that God is jealous of anything that would take his place. Why is that?
4. Why do children suffer when parents run after idols (Exodus 20:5)? How are we blessed when we obey God's commandment (Exodus 20:6)?
5. How do we keep ourselves from idols (1 John 5:21)?

4. God's name

Reading: Exodus 20:7

Introduction: God is our Creator and our Lord. We need to respect him and his name. We should not swear. We should not abuse or dishonour his name.

- Questions:** 1. What is the meaning of the Hebrew name Yahweh (the LORD) according to Exodus 3:14-15?
2. How do we dishonour God's name? See also Titus 1:16.
3. Why is the name of the Lord so important (Acts 2:21)?
4. How can we honour the name of our God?

5. The Sabbath

Reading: Exodus 20:8-11

Introduction: This is the longest commandment. God himself rested after 6 days of work. We also need to have a day of rest.

- Questions:** 1. Why do people rather work on Sunday?
2. The Jewish Sabbath is on Saturday. Why do Christians keep the Sunday? See Matthew 28:1 and Acts 20:7.
3. How do we make the Sunday a special day for the Lord?
4. How are we blessed when we follow this commandment?

6. Honour your parents

Reading: Exodus 20:12

Introduction: Family is God's idea. He wants us to be part of a family. Parents should love and care for their children. Children should respect their parents.

Questions: 1. What does God promise if we honour our parents (Exodus 20:12)?

2. What was wrong in Jacob's family in Genesis 37:2-4?

3. In Ephesians 5 and 6 the apostle Paul gives advice to families. What is important according to Ephesians 5:18 and 5:21?

4. We see many broken families around us: children without parents and wives without a husband. How can the Church be a family to those who don't have a good family?

7. Do not murder

Reading: Exodus 20:13

Introduction: Life is a gift from God. He is our Creator. He gives life and he takes it away. We are created in God's image. A human being is not allowed to destroy another human being.

Questions: 1. Why do people murder?

2. Why does God not allow killing? See Genesis 9:6.

3. Why does Jesus connect murder with anger in Matthew 5:21-22?

4. Many people look for revenge. What does the apostle Paul tell us to do with our anger in Romans 12:19-21?

8. No adultery

Reading: Exodus 20:14

Introduction: Marriage is God's plan. A man and a woman should live together, love each other and be united. This bond between a man and a woman should not be broken.

Questions: 1. Why do people commit adultery?

2. What does Genesis 2:24 tell us about marriage?

3. How can we have a strong marriage as Christians?
4. Make 2 groups: one with only women and one with only men. Each group discusses this question separately: How can we avoid sexual immorality and adultery?

9. Do no steal

Reading: Exodus 20:15

Introduction: Many people want more wealth. The Bible teaches that everything we have, comes from God. It is not ours.

Questions: 1. Why do people steal?

2. If God is the owner of everything we have (1 Chronicles 29:10-13), what does that mean for our possessions?

3. What do you think of this statement: 'If we steal, we don't trust God to provide for us.'?

4. Is corruption stealing? How can we deal with corruption in our community?

5. What is Proverbs 30:8-9 telling us?

10. Do not lie

Reading: Exodus 20:16

Introduction: We need to speak the truth. Lies destroy relationships. God is truth and he wants his children to be reliable.

Questions: 1. Why do people lie? Look at an example in Genesis 12:10-20.

2. What was the first lie in the Bible (Genesis 3)? What was the result of that lie?

3. How do lies hurt other people?

4. How can we become people of truth (Philippians 4:8-9)?

11. Do not wrongly desire

Reading: Exodus 20:17

Introduction: Many people are jealous. They want what other people have. The Bible teaches that it is better to give than to receive.

- Questions:**
1. Why do people want to have what others have?
 2. What are good desires?
 3. What do we learn from Proverbs 15:16 about wealth?
 4. Why is greed dangerous according to Jesus (Luke 12:15)?

H. How can we share the Gospel? (5)

1. You must be willing

Reading: Matthew 9:35-38

Introduction: When it is harvest time, we need a lot of people to harvest the ground nuts. If we don't get help, the ground nuts go bad. The harvest of God is ready but who is willing to help?

- Questions:**
1. Why did Jesus go around the towns and villages to teach and heal (verse 35)?
 2. Do you ever feel sorry for people who do not know the Gospel (verse 36)? Why or why not?
 3. How can we become willing to share the Gospel (verse 37)?
 4. What can we do to get more workers for the Gospel (verse 38)?

2. You will receive power

Reading: Luke 24:36-49

Introduction: We need strength to do the work of God. We can't do it by ourselves. The Holy Spirit gives us that strength.

- Questions:**
1. Why were the disciples so afraid when they saw the risen Christ (verses 36-37)?

2. Why do we need God's help to understand the Bible (verse 45)?
3. We have not seen Jesus when he was on this earth. How can we be 'witnesses of these things' (verse 48)?
4. When you share the Gospel with others, have you experienced the power from the Spirit (verse 49)? How?

3. You must go

Reading: John 20:19-23

Introduction: A motorbike will not move unless you start the engine. The Holy Spirit helps us to go out and talk to people to share the Gospel.

- Questions:**
1. Why were the disciples together in one place (verse 19)?
 2. What promises and which command does Jesus give his disciples (verses 21-22)?
 3. Why are we sometimes afraid to go out with the Gospel?
 4. What big responsibility does Jesus give us as Christians and as a Church (verse 23)?

4. Preach the Gospel

Reading: 2 Timothy 4:1-2

Introduction: Many people find the Christian faith strange. Or they don't understand it. We must explain the Good News to them.

- Questions:**
1. Why does Timothy need to preach the Gospel (verse 1)?
 2. What is the purpose of preaching according to Paul in verse 2? Give 3 points.
 3. Paul talks about urgency and about patience in sharing the Gospel (verse 2). Why does he say that?
 4. How would you explain the Gospel to someone who does not

know it? Practice with the person sitting next to you.

5. Live the Gospel

Reading: James 2:14-17

Introduction: Our actions speak louder than our words. People know if we do not do what we say. We need to do like Jesus did.

- Questions:**
1. What do outsiders in your area say about the Church and about Christians?
 2. Why should we put our faith into action (verse 15-16)?
 3. James talks about a dead faith (verse 17). How can we have a living faith?
 4. How can you show the love of Christ in your community?

1. How do we grow in faith? (6)

1. Be a disciple

Reading: Mark 1:16-20

Introduction: A Christian is like a student. The Lord Jesus is our Teacher. We learn from Him. He teaches us how to live.

- Questions:**
1. Why did Simon and Andrew follow Jesus (verses 16-18)?
 2. How can we follow Jesus in our time?
 3. What is Jesus teaching us (verse 17)?
 4. Why is it not easy to be a disciple of Jesus (see also Mark 8:34-35)?

2. Read your Bible

Reading: 2 Timothy 3:14-17

Introduction: A baby needs food to grow. A Christian needs spiritual food. The Bible is our spiritual food. We need to read and study it. Every day.

- Questions:** 1. Why is it important to read the Bible (verses 15-17)?
2. Timothy learned already about the Bible when he was a child. How can we help our children to study the Bible?
3. Why is it sometimes difficult to study the Bible?
4. Tell the person next to you how the Bible has encouraged you in certain situations.

3. Pray: talk to God

Reading: Matthew 7:7-11

Introduction: If a son does not talk to his father, something is wrong. We need to talk to our heavenly Father. He also speaks to us. In this way we will trust God more.

- Questions:** 1. Do you find it easy or difficult to pray? Why?
2. Our heavenly Father gives us good things (verse 11). Why don't we get everything we want?
3. This passage talks about a father and a son. Prayer is all about relationship. Why is that?
4. Tell the person sitting next to you how and when you pray.

4. Do the will of God

Reading: James 1:22-25

Introduction: We need to do what God wants. We can't be a Christian and do what we like. We must love God and also our neighbour. Then we do the will of God.

- Questions:** 1. How can we put our faith into practice (verse 22)?
2. What is the 'perfect law' that James talks about? See also Matthew 22:37-40.
3. Why does God bless us when we do his will (verse 25)?
4. How can we help each other to do the will of God?

5. The Holy Spirit helps you

Reading: Galatians 5:16-26

Introduction: A healthy mango tree produces fruit. A healthy Christian shows the fruit of the Spirit. When we live close to God, these fruits will grow.

Questions: 1. If the Spirit is not directing our lives, what is (verse 16)?

2. What are the fruits of the Spirit (verse 22-23)?

3. How do we get those fruits in our lives (verses 24-25)?

4. How can we help each other to be fruitful?

6. We do it together

Reading: 1 Peter 2:4-5

Introduction: You cannot believe by yourself. We need each other. We learn together. We live together. In this way we honour our God.

Questions: 1. Why are all of us needed to build the Church (verse 5)?

2. What is the difference between a dead stone and a living stone (verse 4-5)?

3. What gift or talent can you contribute to your local parish?

4. Why do we need each other to grow in faith?

