

Missions:

An Adventure In Faith



Fourteen bible studies on Missions optimized for Sunday School and Home Groups.
Recommended Age Range: 16+, Adult Sunday School

Topics	
Jonah – God’s Sovereign Call	Elijah – Confronting The Powers
Paul – The Message Of The Cross	Abraham – A Blessing To All Nations
Jesus – Incarnational Missions	Priscilla & Aquilla - Tent-Making
Acts - Missions In The Power Of The Holy Spirit	Ezekiel - Ministry to Migrants, Exiles & Refugees
Daniel – Wisdom In Missions	Antioch - A Sending Church
Titus – Appointing Leadership & Solving Problems	Philemon – Missions Supporters
John – The Persecuted Church	John Mark - The Restored Missionary

How To Study This Material

1. The study leader should be equipped with a good study bible (e.g. NIV Study Bible or Thompson Chain-Reference) and go through the study before hand.
2. You will need a copy of "Operation World" by Patrick Johnstone. It is a guide to praying for all the countries in the world. It can be bought at most Christian bookstores. We will use it to pray for a country each week.
3. These studies work best if the members do the bible-reading at home before the session, and answer the questions, then discuss the answers in class.
4. The idea is for group members to answer the questions with the leader simply acting as a facilitator – the leader should do no more than one-third of the talking.
5. These *Missions: An Adventure In Faith* studies make extensive use of bible passages because we believe that the bible is the basis for all missionary work.
6. Each study has twelve questions and the same outline:
"Open in prayer asking God for truth and wisdom from His Word.
Read the Bible passage
Answer the questions, writing the answers in the space provided.
Take about 3-5 minutes per question.
Fill in the "Personal Application" section
Pray for a country using Operation World."
7. You can use the following verse as an opening prayer:
Psalms 119:18 Open my eyes, so that I may behold wonderful things out of Your Law.
8. These studies take about one hour each. Sometimes you may want to break a study in half and do it over two weeks (especially for some of the deeper topics).

You can download this study book from the Internet at: <http://www.aibi.ph/ebooks/>

You may email questions and comments on this study book to the author at: johned@aibi.ph

Missions: An Adventure In Faith

STUDY NO: 1

TOPIC: Jonah – God’s Sovereign Call To Preach The Gospel To All Nations

BIBLE PASSAGES: Jonah 1-4 plus also Matthew 28:18-20, Mark 16: 15-18, John 20:21-23, Acts 1:8

HOW TO STUDY THIS LESSON:

Open in prayer asking God for truth and wisdom from His Word.

Read the Bible passage

Answer the questions, writing the answers in the space provided.

Take about 3-5 minutes per question.

Fill in the “Personal Application” section

If you have time write down prayer points for members of the group.

Close in prayer.

Jonah was perhaps the first person sent by God specifically to preach to Gentiles to get them to repent. He was a famous prophet in the northern part of Israel, close to King Jeroboam and was in his “comfort zone” preaching to the Jews. Being sent to the enemies of Israel (in Nineveh, capital of Assyria) did not appeal to him, but God used a series of miracles to get Jonah back on track. This short book shows us God’s heart for the nations and for missions. Jesus refers to the book and its events as literally true and as a model for His own ministry and the events of the cross. (Matthew 12:38-41; Matthew 16:4; Luke 11:29-32)

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. What did God call Jonah to do? (Jonah 1:1-2, 3:1,2)

2. Was Jonah to preach his own philosophy? What was he to declare? (Jonah 1:1-3, 3:1,2)

3. Why do you think Jonah avoided being a missionary? (Jonah 1:3, 3:10-4:3)

4. What did God use to get Jonah back on track? (Jonah 1:4-17) What happens to those who try and avoid God’s specific calling?

5. “And God spoke to the fish...” (Jonah 2:10) If God speaks to fish, will He not also speak to His children, His servants and the “members of His household”? (Ephesians 2:18-22) Should missionaries expect to hear clear and specific instructions from God?

6. What happened when Jonah began to preach? (Jonah 3:1-5)

7. How did the king respond? (Jonah 3:6-9) How can converted leaders assist the spread of the gospel?

8. What was God's response to the repentance of Nineveh? (Jonah 3:10, 4:9-11)

9. Does God care about those who have not yet heard the gospel? (1 Timothy 2:3,4, Romans 10:13-15)

Statistic: About 1.5 billion people have not heard even the name of Jesus! These are mainly Hindus, Buddhists and Muslims in the "10-40 Window". In such places there is no adequate local witness so cross-cultural missionaries to these people groups are still needed!

10. What about those who have not heard? (John 14:6, Acts 4:12, Romans 10:1-4, 17,18)

11. What was Jesus' solution to the problem of an unsaved world? (Matthew 28:18-20, Mark 16:15-18, John 20:21-23, Acts 1:8)

12. Why is it essential that the task of missions be completed? (Revelation 5:9,10, Matthew 24:14)

PERSONAL APPLICATION – a command to obey, a warning to heed, a promise to claim, a deed to do, an attitude to change....

PRAYER POINTS - Use "Operation World" by Patrick Johnstone to pray for: India

Missions: An Adventure In Faith

STUDY NO: 2

TOPIC: Paul – The Missionaries Message - The Cross

BIBLE PASSAGE: 1 Corinthians 1:17- 2:16, and also Matthew 16:24, Matthew 23:34, Mark 10:21,22, Luke 9:23, 14:27, Galatians 2:20, 5:11,24; 6:12-14

HOW TO STUDY THIS LESSON:

Open in prayer asking God for truth and wisdom from His Word.

Read the Bible passage

Answer the questions, writing the answers in the space provided.

Take about 3-5 minutes per question.

Fill in the "Personal Application" section

If you have time write down prayer points for members of the group.

Close in prayer.

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. What was Paul's main message? (1 Corinthians 1:17-23, 2:2)

2. What is the message of the cross? (Acts 2:22-36) What are the benefits? (1 Corinthians 1:24-31)
What are the costs? (Galatians 6:12-14)

3. What is the glory of the cross? Why was Paul so enthusiastic to preach its message?
(Romans 1:16,17, 1 Corinthians 1:24.30, 2 Corinthians 3:9-18, Colossians 1:20, 2:13-15, 2Timothy 2:10)

4. Why are missionaries to proclaim the cross? (1 Corinthians 2:1-9)

5. Why are they not to use "enticing words of man's wisdom"? (1 Corinthians 2:1-5)

6. What did Jesus say about Christians and the cross? (Matthew 16:24, Matthew 23:34, Mark 10:21,22, Luke 9:23, 14:27)

7. Why do you think people find the message of the cross so offensive? (1 Corinthians 1:18,23,27 Galatians 5:11, 6:12)

8. How does "taking up our cross" separate us from "the world"? (Matthew 16:24, Galatians 6:14, 1 John 2:15-17) How does this seem to apply to those in missionary service? (1 Corinthians 4:9-16)

9. What does the cross do to our old nature? (Romans 6:6; Galatians 2:21,22, 5:24)

10. Why do false teachers avoid teaching about the cross? (Galatians 6:12-14, Colossians 2:8-23)

11. True or false? "To proclaim the gospel is to proclaim the Good News of what Jesus did for us on the cross and to teach those who believe to take up their cross in obedience to all the teachings of Jesus." (Matthew 28:18-220, 1 Corinthians 2:1-5) What are some of the implications of this for church life and for missionary service?

12. How do you personally feel about the Cross?

PERSONAL APPLICATION – a command to obey, a warning to heed, a promise to claim, a deed to do, an attitude to change....

PRAYER POINTS - Use "Operation World" by Patrick Johnstone to pray for: China

Missions: An Adventure In Faith

STUDY NO: 3

TOPIC: Jesus – The Word Made Flesh – Incarnating The Gospel – Incarnational Missions

BIBLE PASSAGE: John 1:1-18, Philippians 2:5-11, 1 Corinthians 9:18-23, 10:14-33; 2 Corinthians 8:9

HOW TO STUDY THIS LESSON:

Open in prayer asking God for truth and wisdom from His Word.

Read the Bible passage

Answer the questions, writing the answers in the space provided.

Take about 3-5 minutes per question.

Fill in the "Personal Application" section

If you have time write down prayer points for members of the group.

Close in prayer.

Sometimes the culture (and the wealth) of the missionary can hinder the gospel message. At other times it can give offense (e.g. eating pork in the Middle East). A missionary has to adopt the language, culture and lifestyle of the people he/she is ministering to – as far as possible without sin (e.g. he cannot take up their magic practices). Just as Jesus left Heaven behind, and became a man, a normal "average" Jew, born of a woman, under the Jewish Law, (Galatians 4:4,5) so the missionary has to "incarnate" the gospel in the new culture. This is a difficult process to get right and needs much wisdom from God.

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. Read John 1:1-18 & Philippians 2:5-11 - What are some of the things that happened when Jesus became the incarnate Word of God? How can the gospel become "incarnate" through the life of a missionary?

2. What sacrifices / changes did Jesus have to make? (Philippians 2:5-11, 2 Corinthians 8:9)

3. How did Paul change his lifestyle to suit the people he was ministering to? 1 Corinthians 9:18-23, 10:31-33

4. What sort of lifestyle changes do effective cross-cultural missionaries have to make?

5. Read 1 Corinthians 10:14-33 - Are there some cultural practices that a missionary can never adopt? Are there some others that can be exercised with caution?

6. Jim is a new missionary in Africa and the tribal chief presents Jim with his daughter and asks Jim to take his beautiful daughter as a second wife. (Jim is already married). Polygamy is not actually banned (in an outright fashion) in the Scriptures. What should Jim do?
7. You are ministering to young people on the street. The Old Testament Jewish Law bans body piercing & tattoos (Leviticus 19:28) – should you get a tattoo to gain acceptance? What does being free from the Jewish Law now mean? (Romans 7:1-11, Galatians 4:1-10)
8. You are ministering to Jews In Israel. Do you keep the Jewish Sabbath? (1 Corinthians 9:18-23, Colossians 2:16,17, Galatians 4:10) What was Jesus' attitude to the Sabbath? (Matthew 12:1-8)
9. You are a missionary in the Philippines and you are presented with "dinuguan" a dish that looks like chocolate but is pig offal cooked in pig's blood. The eating of blood is banned in both Old and New Testaments (Acts 15:19-21, Genesis 9:4, Leviticus 17:10,11). What should you do? If No" how would you "get out of it" without causing offense?
10. Should missionaries be much wealthier than the people they serve? How can the perception of a major lifestyle difference hinder the progress of the gospel?
11. The wife of William Carey's (a famous Baptist missionary to India) went insane from the stress of missionary life. How much stress can we put on family and loved ones for the sake of the gospel? (1 Timothy 5:8, Mark 7:9-13)
12. How much equipment (e.g. a car) might be needed for ministry? Should you risk your health (e.g. by living in a house without a functioning toilet or drinking the polluted village water) for the sake of being "incarnational"? Are there limits to this missionary principle? (Personally I insist on physical safety, clean water, safe food, and functioning plumbing.)

PERSONAL APPLICATION – a command to obey, a warning to heed, a promise to claim, a deed to do, an attitude to change....

PRAYER POINTS - Use "Operation World" by Patrick Johnstone to pray for: Japan

Missions: An Adventure In Faith

STUDY NO: 4

TOPIC: Missions In The Power Of The Holy Spirit

BIBLE PASSAGES: Matthew 3:13-17, Acts 1:8, Matthew 10:1-42, Luke 10:1-24, Acts 19:1-20

HOW TO STUDY THIS LESSON:

Open in prayer asking God for truth and wisdom from His Word.

Read the Bible passage

Answer the questions, writing the answers in the space provided.

Take about 3-5 minutes per question.

Fill in the "Personal Application" section

If you have time write down prayer points for members of the group.

Close in prayer.

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. Read Matthew 3:13-17 – What happened at Jesus' baptism? Why is this always regarded as the start of His ministry?

2. Read Acts 1:8 - What were the apostles to wait for before they began their ministry?

3. What "spiritual equipment" should a missionary have before going to the field? (Acts 1:8, Ephesians 6:10-18)

4. Read Matthew 10:1-8 – What ministry gifts did Jesus give the disciples so they could proclaim the gospel?

5. Read Luke 10:17-20 – What is the proper attitude toward such spiritual gifts?

6. Read Acts 8:5-8 – What is the result of missionary work done in the power of the Holy Spirit?

7. Read Romans 15:18-21, 2 Corinthians 12:12, Galatians 3:5, Hebrews 2:3,4; Acts 14:3, 19:11,12 - how are miracles, signs and wonders part of sharing the gospel in new places?

8. Can we “earn” a miracle? (Acts 3:12, Galatians 3:5)

9. Have you ever heard of someone coming to Christ because of a miracle?

10. Read Acts 19:1-20 - What are the spiritual forces behind idols and other religions? (1 Corinthians 10:20) What will missionaries have to do if they are to break the power of idols, superstitions and spiritual bondage? How can they get the power to do this? What will happen if they lack such power?

11. What do people do in ministry who lack the power of the Holy Spirit? What do they substitute for it?

12. Would you like to minister in the power of the Holy Spirit?

PERSONAL APPLICATION – a command to obey, a warning to heed, a promise to claim, a deed to do, an attitude to change....

PRAYER POINTS - Use “Operation World” by Patrick Johnstone to pray for: Bangladesh

Missions: An Adventure In Faith

STUDY NO: 5

TOPIC: Daniel – A Wise Man of God – Wisdom In Missions

BIBLE PASSAGE: Daniel chapters 1 & 2, Philemon 1

HOW TO STUDY THIS LESSON:

Open in prayer asking God for truth and wisdom from His Word.

Read the Bible passage

Answer the questions, writing the answers in the space provided.

Take about 3-5 minutes per question.

Fill in the "Personal Application" section

If you have time write down prayer points for members of the group.

Close in prayer.

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. 1 John 2:20,27; James 1:5-8, John 6:44,45 - There are many difficult problems that a missionary must solve. These are often made even more complex by the fact that the missionary often has to deal with powerful people from another culture, language and world-view. How can the missionary get guidance?
2. Read Daniel chapter 1 - Daniel was in a foreign country and working for a foreign government headed by the people who had just invaded and destroyed his nation. Furthermore Daniel and his friends were put in the "Astrologers, Conjurers and Diviners" department of government advisors. How did they cope?
3. Read Daniel 2:1-30 - What was the Insoluble Problem that Daniel faced?
4. How did Daniel gain wisdom from God to solve this problem? (Daniel 2:17-19)
5. What was Daniel's attitude when he received the answer? (Daniel 2:20-30)

6. What was the King's response? (Daniel 2:46-49)

7. How can the "wrong place" (the astrology department in Babylon) sometimes turn out to be "the right place"? Can we trust God's dealings in our lives?

8. Can God give you wisdom and solutions even in the darkest of places and the most threatening of situations? How does this apply to Christian ministry in non-Christian nations?

9. What is the process for obtaining wisdom from God? (James 1:5-8, Daniel 2:17-19)

10. Sometimes wisdom from God is not religious or spectacular – it can seem like skill (Exodus 31:1-6) or just plain common sense (Isaiah 28:23-29) but wisdom from God is always a constructive solution to a real need.

11. How do missionaries need wisdom when dealing with: governments, development projects, personal conflicts, and issues of culture and church practice?

12. What issues facing you could be helped by the gift of wisdom from God?

PERSONAL APPLICATION – a command to obey, a warning to heed, a promise to claim, a deed to do, an attitude to change....

PRAYER POINTS - Use "Operation World" by Patrick Johnstone to pray for: Afghanistan

Missions: An Adventure In Faith

STUDY NO: 6

TOPIC: Titus the Troubleshooter – Appointing National Leadership

BIBLE PASSAGES: Titus chapters 1 – 3, 2 Corinthians 7:6-16

HOW TO STUDY THIS LESSON:

Open in prayer asking God for truth and wisdom from His Word.

Read the Bible passage

Answer the questions, writing the answers in the space provided.

Take about 3-5 minutes per question.

Fill in the "Personal Application" section

If you have time write down prayer points for members of the group.

Close in prayer.

Good missionaries hand over portions of the work to national leaders who are trustworthy and of ability in the area concerned so that the national church can grow and assume responsibility. It seems that this was not happening in Crete so Titus was sent there to appoint leaders (in a not very democratic fashion) and to set the church in order. He was also sent to Corinth – another spiritual trouble spot and helped with a collection for international relief – which is why I call Titus "the trouble-shooting apostle". We can learn a great deal about missions – and about responsible Christian living from Titus.

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. Titus was a Greek Christian (Galatians 2:3) and one of the non-Jewish apostles in the NT (there are 33 apostles mentioned in the New Testament see <http://www.aibi.ph/aibi/apostle.htm> or Lockyer's "All The Apostles In The Bible".) Why do you think Paul chose Titus to deal with the Greek communities of Crete and Corinth? What are the advantages of leaders that understand the local culture?

2. Read Titus 1:10-14 - What was the problem in Crete? How does Paul describe the culture there? Is it politically correct to describe a people group in these terms? Are some places worse than others culturally and spiritually?

3. How important is it that missionaries teach correct doctrine? How important is it that the national churches follow correct doctrine? (Titus 1:10-14, 2:1,7,8; 3:9-11)

4. There are a lot of "lifestyle issues" in Titus (e.g. Titus 2:1-15). How is the Christian faith a lifestyle as well as a set of beliefs? What happens when deeds and beliefs do not match? (Titus 1:16)

5. What was Titus to do in Crete? (Titus 1:5)

6. What were the elders to be like? (Titus 1:6-9) Put the characteristics of elders into two columns entitled "Character" and "Competence".

7. How are we to interpret these leadership characteristics in different cultures?

8. In Titus 2:9,10 Paul instructs Titus on the behavior of slaves. If you were in a culture today that endorsed slavery (e.g. Sudan) how would you react? What would you teach? How do we have to think about how the Scriptures apply when there are changes in culture and time? How does the fact that most of the modern slave trade ("human trafficking") is sexual slavery change things?

9. Titus was to instruct the Cretans in how to be "zealous for Good works" (Titus 2:14). How can missionaries help to develop active, holistic, helpful Christians?

10. Do these good works save us? (Titus 3:4-7) Why should we do them? (Titus 3:14)

11. When Titus went to Corinth he had to sort out a problem in the church that had caused much anguish. (2 Corinthians 7:6-16) How did the Corinthians receive Titus? (2 Corinthians 7:15)

12. How important is it that Christian leaders possess spiritual authority so that they are as respected as Titus was above? How should we regard men and women of God?

PERSONAL APPLICATION – a command to obey, a warning to heed, a promise to claim, a deed to do, an attitude to change....

PRAYER POINTS Use "Operation World" by Patrick Johnstone to pray for: Maldives

Missions: An Adventure In Faith

STUDY NO: 7

TOPIC: John – The Persecuted Church

BIBLE PASSAGES: Matthew 10:16-42, John 15:18-25, 16:1-4, 17:14; Revelation 1-3, 6:9-11, Romans 8:35-39,

HOW TO STUDY THIS LESSON:

Open in prayer asking God for truth and wisdom from His Word.

Read the Bible passage

Answer the questions, writing the answers in the space provided.

Take about 3-5 minutes per question.

Fill in the "Personal Application" section

If you have time write down prayer points for members of the group.

Close in prayer.

John was the apostle to the underground church. After his brother James was beheaded by Herod and his friend Peter is imprisoned, John went underground (as the Jews wanted to kill him as one of the "big three" apostles closest to Jesus). After the early chapters of Acts John "disappears" from the record and is not mentioned even in the greetings in the epistles. There is a 60 year silence until he writes the gospel of John, the Johannine epistles and Revelation. Even then he is cautious saying things such as: 2 John 1:12 Having many things to write to you, I do not want to say with paper and ink. But I trust to come to you and speak face to face". In Revelation we find John imprisoned on the isle of Patmos for his faith and his writings are full of references to persecution. Even today many Christians are being persecuted for their faith – it is estimated that around 200,000 Christians are martyred very year for their faith –mainly in Muslim and Communist countries. Countries that engage in vigorous religious persecution of Christians include North Korea, China, Sudan, Vietnam, Saudi Arabia and Indonesia.

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. What do you think Jesus meant when He said: (Matthew 10:16) Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves. Therefore be as wise as serpents and as harmless as doves.
2. Read John 15:18-25, 16:1-4, 17:14 - What are some of the reasons that Christians are "hated by the world" and persecuted?
3. Missionaries to countries where the church is persecuted have to very careful. What are some precautions you think they should observe?
4. Read Matthew 10:16-42 – What are some of the things that Jesus said would happen to his first missionaries?
5. What attitudes were they to have in the face of persecution? (Matt 10:16,19, 22, 26,28 32,33, 37, 38)
6. What promises does Jesus give to persecuted missionaries? (Matthew 10: 19,20, 29-31, 32, 33, 39)

7. What does Jesus promise those who give help to such workers - despite the danger? (Matt 10:40-42)

8. What are some of God's promises to persecuted Christians? (Revelation 2:7,10,11, 17, 26,27; 3:5, 3:8-12, 20,21)

9. What happens to those, in the last days, who abandon the faith because of persecution? (Rev 14:9-11)

10. Read Romans 8:35-39 - How does this apply to the persecuted Church?

11. Is God going to let His Church be persecuted forever? (Revelation 6:9-11)

12. How can we support missionaries that work to establish the Church amidst persecution?

PERSONAL APPLICATION – a command to obey, a warning to heed, a promise to claim, a deed to do, an attitude to change....

PRAYER POINTS – Use "Operation World" by Patrick Johnstone to pray for: **Vietnam**

Missions: An Adventure In Faith

STUDY NO: 8

TOPIC: Elijah – Confronting The Powers

BIBLE PASSAGES: 1 Kings chapters 17 & 18; Mark 5:1-20; Acts 8:5-25; 13:6-12,16:16-19; 19:11-20

HOW TO STUDY THIS LESSON:

Open in prayer asking God for truth and wisdom from His Word.

Read the Bible passage

Answer the questions, writing the answers in the space provided.

Take about 3-5 minutes per question.

Fill in the "Personal Application" section

If you have time write down prayer points for members of the group.

Close in prayer.

Power encounters are clashes between Christ and Satan of such intensity the life of the missionary is perceived to be literally at stake. They may involve contests over the power of magic, the exorcism of demons, the breaking of superstitions and taboos or control over natural phenomena. In a successful power encounter Jesus is shown to be more powerful than the most powerful local spirit. This is an important realization that is a big step towards people coming to accept Jesus as their Lord and Savior. Ultimately they are a contest for the loyalty of the people. Elijah's encounter with the prophets of Baal is a classic case of such a power encounter as are the incidents such as Jesus and Legion, Peter and Simon Magus, Paul and Elyamas, and the seven sons of Sceva.

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. Read 1 Kings 17:1-6 - What did Elijah tell King Ahab?
2. Baal was thought to be a fertility and agricultural "god" – so why do you think that Elijah called for a drought?
3. How did God provide for Elijah? Do you have some stories of God's unusual provision?
4. Read 1 Kings 17:7-16 the story of the widow of Zarepath. How is this yet another case of God's unusual provision? How is it a "power encounter"? What would have happened to both of them had God not kept His Word?
5. Read 1 Kings 17:17-24 – the story of the widows son. What is the issue here? (v. 18,24) How does God come through for Elijah? How is it a power encounter?

6. Read 1 Kings 18:1-16 – What was at stake for Obadiah?

7. Read 1 Kings 18:17-40 – Describe what happened. How is this a power encounter? What are the contending parties? What happens to the losers? What does God do?

8. Read 1 Kings 18:41-46 – How did this decisively demonstrate the power of God? (ref. 1 Kings 17:1)

9. Read Mark 5:1-20 – Jesus & Legion. What was the effect on the bystanders? (v. 15-17)

10. Read Acts 8:5-25 - How do power encounters and revivals seem to go together? What was the problem here?

11. Read Acts 13:6-12,16:16-19; 19:11-20 – How are power encounters important in spreading the gospel?

12. How can we see such miracles happening in our midst today?

PERSONAL APPLICATION – a command to obey, a warning to heed, a promise to claim, a deed to do, an attitude to change....

PRAYER POINTS – Use “Operation World” by Patrick Johnstone to pray for: **Saudi Arabia**

Missions: An Adventure In Faith

STUDY NO: 9

TOPIC: Abraham – A Blessing To All Nations

BIBLE PASSAGES: Genesis 12:1-3, 18:18, 22:16-18, 26:1-6, 28:11-15, Acts 3:17-26, Galatians 3:6-14

HOW TO STUDY THIS LESSON:

Open in prayer asking God for truth and wisdom from His Word.

Read the Bible passage

Answer the questions, writing the answers in the space provided.

Take about 3-5 minutes per question.

Fill in the "Personal Application" section

If you have time write down prayer points for members of the group.

Close in prayer.

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. Read Genesis 12:1-3, 18:18, 22:16-18 – What was God's promise to Abraham? Who would Abraham be a blessing to? Was the blessing confined to just his own family, tribe or nation?
2. What is a "blessing"? (Genesis 1:26) What does it mean to "be fruitful, multiply and have dominion?"
3. Read Genesis 26:1-6, 28:11-15 – What did God promise to Isaac and to Jacob? How did they end up being a blessing to all nations?
4. Read Acts 3:17-26 - How are the nations blessed through Abraham and through His descendant - Jesus Christ?
5. Read Galatians 3:6-14 – Who are sons of Abraham? Does the blessing of Abraham also come to the Gentiles?
6. What is the blessing of Abraham for Christians? (Galatians 3:14)

7. What curse are we redeemed from? (Galatians 3:10-14, Deuteronomy 28:15-20 & following)

8. How are missionaries taking the blessing of Abraham to the nations?

9. How are missionaries removing the curses that oppress the nations? How does the cross of Christ break all bondages?

10. How is the gospel and the gift of the Holy Spirit important for the poor and for the destiny of nations? How does it change things? (see also Ephesians 1:3, Luke 4:17-21, Isaiah 10:27)

11. How should the Church be a source of blessing to the local community and to "all nations"?

12. We are "blessed to be a blessing". How can we be a blessing outside our "home circle" or our own nation?

PERSONAL APPLICATION – a command to obey, a warning to heed, a promise to claim, a deed to do, an attitude to change....

PRAYER POINTS – Use "Operation World" by Patrick Johnstone to pray for:

Missions: An Adventure In Faith

STUDY NO: 10

TOPIC: Priscilla & Aquila –Tentmaking & Self-Supporting Missionaries

BIBLE PASSAGES: Acts 18:1-3, 18, 24-26; Romans 16:3, 1Corinthians 16:19, 2 Timothy 4:19

HOW TO STUDY THIS LESSON:

Open in prayer asking God for truth and wisdom from His Word.

Read the Bible passage

Answer the questions, writing the answers in the space provided.

Take about 3-5 minutes per question.

Fill in the "Personal Application" section

If you have time write down prayer points for members of the group.

Close in prayer.

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. Read Acts 18:1-3 - What profession were Priscilla and Aquila?
2. How were they helpful to Paul? (Acts 18:18, 24-26)
3. What does Paul call them? (Romans 16:3)
4. What sort of church did they lead? Where was it? (1 Corinthians 16:19)
5. The "Priscilla & Aquila" model is that of a professional who runs a bible study or house church. They are associated with a senior minister (Paul) and are theologically competent themselves (Acts 18:24-26). What do you think of this model? What is its potential for missions?
6. What is the normal way that missionaries are supported? (Luke 10:7, 1 Corinthians 9:14, 1 Timothy 5:17,18; Galatians 6:6)

7. What sort of circumstances might lead to a missionary having to earn his/her own living as well as do the work of the ministry? (1 Corinthians 4:9-13, 2 Corinthians 6:3-10, 2 Thessalonians 3:8)

8. What sort of people try to stop missionaries being supported? (3 John 1:5-10)

9. What is the correct attitude towards those who take the gospel to other nations? (3 John 1:5-8)

10. If a missionary is a "tentmaker" what sort of balance would need to be kept between the two jobs? (The secular profession and the ministry?)

11. How could the secular profession help with entering the country? Also how could it assist in making contacts for the gospel?

12. What sort of countries would require a "Tentmaking" approach?

PERSONAL APPLICATION – a command to obey, a warning to heed, a promise to claim, a deed to do, an attitude to change....

PRAYER POINTS – Use "Operation World" by Patrick Johnstone to pray for: **Libya**

Missions: An Adventure In Faith

STUDY NO: 11

TOPIC: Ezekiel- Ministry to migrants, international students, and refugees.

BIBLE PASSAGES: Ezekiel 1:1-3, 3:10-15, Acts 2:1-11, 1 Peter 2:11,12, Hebrews 11:11-15

HOW TO STUDY THIS LESSON:

Open in prayer asking God for truth and wisdom from His Word.

Read the Bible passage

Answer the questions, writing the answers in the space provided.

Take about 3-5 minutes per question.

Fill in the "Personal Application" section

If you have time write down prayer points for members of the group.

Close in prayer.

Ezekiel ministered to the Jewish refugees who were in exile in Babylon. Sometimes the nations come to us and dwell in our midst – as migrants, refugees and international students. Even tourists to major sporting events such as the Olympics can be won for Christ! And most churches these days are multi-cultural with folk from six or seven different nations. Sometimes we find churches with services in a wide range of different languages. The first church that I worked in was a Chinese church in Brisbane Australia and the services were in Mandarin, Cantonese and English. Showing hospitality to strangers and those dwelling in foreign lands can open doors for the gospel and make friendships across the continents. ***A good study bible would be helpful during this lesson.***

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. Who did Ezekiel minister to? (Ezekiel 1:1-3, 3:10-15)

2. Why are refugees often quite open to the gospel?

3. Read Acts 2:1-11 – why were people of so many nations in Jerusalem? How did God use this opportunity for the gospel?

4. How can we use a major international event in our city as an opportunity for the gospel?

5. Peter wrote to Jewish migrants in Turkey. How did he tell them to behave? (1 Peter 2:11,12)

6. How can Christian migrants that go to non-Christian nations be a witness there?

7. Read Hebrews 11:11-15 – How are we all “pilgrims and strangers” on the earth?

8. How should we treat people from other countries in our midst? What might be some of their needs? How can we minister to them? (Job 31:32)

9. How are we to “do justice” for migrants and refugees? (Exodus 22:21, 23:9,12; Leviticus 19:10, 33,34; 23:22, 25:6, 35; Deuteronomy 10:17-19, 14:28,29, 24:17-22, 16:12,13; 31:12)

10. What are some of the different nationalities in your local area?

11. What are their spiritual backgrounds? (Catholic, Buddhist, Hindu, Muslim etc)

12. How can we share Christ with these neighbours from the nations?

PERSONAL APPLICATION – a command to obey, a warning to heed, a promise to claim, a deed to do, an attitude to change....

PRAYER POINTS – Use “Operation World” by Patrick Johnstone to pray for: **Migrants & Refugees**

Missions: An Adventure In Faith

STUDY NO: 12

TOPIC: Antioch – A Sending Church

BIBLE PASSAGES: Acts 11:15-30, 13:1-4, 14:26-28, 15:1-4, 22-36, 18:22,23

HOW TO STUDY THIS LESSON:

Open in prayer asking God for truth and wisdom from His Word.

Read the Bible passage

Answer the questions, writing the answers in the space provided.

Take about 3-5 minutes per question.

Fill in the "Personal Application" section

If you have time write down prayer points for members of the group.

Close in prayer.

Antioch was the first non-Jewish church. It was formed just after Peter had visited Cornelius and first preached the gospel to the Gentiles. Greek-speaking Jews fleeing the persecution in Jerusalem started it. (Acts 11:18-21) It was then checked out by Barnabas, - who then went and recruited Saul (Paul) from Tarsus. Together they taught and established the new church and Acts records that "the disciples were first called Christians at Antioch". It was a church full of prophets such as Agabus and Silas that fasted and prayed and ministered in the Spirit. During one of these times the Holy Spirit indicated that they should send out Paul and Barnabas as missionaries. (Acts 13:1-4) They did this and sent them out. After their journey they reported back to the Antioch church (Acts 14:26-28). Later Antioch was recognized as the main Gentile church when a dispute arose over the need to observe the Jewish Law. The resulting decision was relayed first to Antioch and then to the rest of the Gentiles. (Acts 15:2-36) Paul often returned to Antioch after his missionary journeys. (Acts 18:22)

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. Read Acts 11:15-30 – What is happening here?

Theologically (Acts 11:15-18)?

With the Gospel (Acts 11:19-21) ?

With the church leaders (Acts 11:22-26) ?

With prophecy & good works (Acts 11:27-30) ?

2. Read Acts 13:1-4 – What were the spiritual circumstances behind the sending of Barnabas and Saul?

3. Why is it highly probable that Spirit-filled churches will also be sending Churches?

4. What is the laying on of hands? Why is it an important part of sending out a missionary? (Luke 4:40, Acts 6:6, 8:16-18, 13:3, 19:6,28:8 1 Timothy 4:14, Hebrews 6:1-3)

5. Acts 13:3 – **"Separate..to the work..to which I have called them"** How are missionaries "separated" from others? What is their work? How are they "called"? What might this involve?

6. Read Acts 14:26-28 – Did the church at Antioch ignore the returned missionaries? Should missionaries report back to their sending churches?

7. Did Saul and Barnabas engage in extended ministry with their home church after their return?

8. List ten or more practical things that a sending church can do for its missionaries.

9. Read Acts 15:1-4 – What doctrinal error caused dissension at Antioch? Who did they send to Jerusalem to settle this matter? What did they do along the way?

10. Read Acts 15:22-30 – What was the outcome of this dispute?

11. Read Acts 15:35-51 – What caused a separation between Paul and Barnabas? How are relationships very important on the mission field? Who do you think was the more argumentative?

12. Read Acts 18:22,23 –Antioch is where Paul pauses between missionary journeys and gets re-charged. How should a sending church also be a place of spiritual refreshment?

PERSONAL APPLICATION – a command to obey, a warning to heed, a promise to claim, a deed to do, an attitude to change....

PRAYER POINTS – Use “Operation World” by Patrick Johnstone to pray for: **Turkey**

Missions: An Adventure In Faith

STUDY NO: 13

TOPIC: Philemon – Missions Supporters

BIBLE PASSAGES: Philemon 1:1-7, 20-25; and Luke 8:1-3; Acts 16:14,15; Romans 16:1,2; 1 Corinthians 9:4-14, 16:14-18, 2 Corinthians 9:5-15, Philippians 4:3,10-19, 2 Timothy 1:16-18; 3 John 1:5-8

HOW TO STUDY THIS LESSON:

Open in prayer asking God for truth and wisdom from His Word.

Read the Bible passage

Answer the questions, writing the answers in the space provided.

Take about 3-5 minutes per question.

Fill in the "Personal Application" section

If you have time write down prayer points for members of the group.

Close in prayer.

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. Read Philemon 1:1-7 – What seems to be Philemon's ministry to people? (1:5-7) What is Paul's opinion of Philemon?

2. Read Philemon 1:20-25 – What important Christian leaders did Philemon know? How do you think his gift of hospitality was working to his spiritual advantage?

3. What did Paul ask Philemon to prepare for him?

4. Read Luke 8:1-3 – How did the women minister to Jesus? Do you think it strange that even Jesus would require financial support?

5. Someone once said that: "The world operates by buying and selling but the Kingdom operates via giving and receiving". What do you think of this quote? (see also Matthew 10:8, 19:11, John 3:27, 7:39; 17:8, Acts 20:35, 1 Corinthians 2:12, Philippians 4:15)

6. What was Lydia's response as a new convert? (Acts 16:14,15) What did Paul ask the Roman church to do for Phoebe? (Romans 16:1,2) and the church of the Philippians to do for his co-workers (Philippians 4:3) ? Why did he ask this? How are these women helping the progress of the gospel?

7. Read 3 John 1:5-8 –How are missionary supporters co-workers with the Truth?

8. Read 2 Corinthians 9:5-15 – What are some of the rewards for cheerful giving?

9. Read 1 Corinthians 9: 4-14 - What right do hard-working missionaries have to financial support?

10. When a church fail to give what does God have to do? (1 Corinthians 16:17,18)

11. Philippians 4:10-19 – How is there a balance between the missionary's duty to be adaptable and content in all circumstances and the church's duty in giving to the work of the gospel?

12. Read 2 Timothy 1:16-18 – Why did Paul pray for mercy on the household of Onesiphorus? Does God remember the good we have done for others? (Acts 10:4,31)

PERSONAL APPLICATION – a command to obey, a warning to heed, a promise to claim, a deed to do, an attitude to change....

PRAYER POINTS – Use "Operation World" by Patrick Johnstone to pray for: **Brazil**

Missions: An Adventure In Faith

STUDY NO: 14

TOPIC: John Mark – A Restored Missionary

BIBLE PASSAGES: Acts 12:12-17,25; 13:5,13; 15:36-41; Colossians 4:10; 2 Timothy 4:11, Philemon 1:24; 1 Peter 5:13

HOW TO STUDY THIS LESSON:

Open in prayer asking God for truth and wisdom from His Word.

Read the Bible passage

Answer the questions, writing the answers in the space provided.

Take about 3-5 minutes per question.

Fill in the "Personal Application" section

If you have time write down prayer points for members of the group.

Close in prayer.

Missionary work is tough – and many people are damaged during their first attempt at being a missionary. They may then need to go through a time of restoration before going out again. John Mark (John is his Hebrew name, Mark his Roman name) was from a good Christian family in Jerusalem that seems to have been quite wealthy and was friendly with the apostle Peter (Acts 12:12-17) who seems to have converted John Mark (1 Peter 5:13). John Mark was also a relative of Barnabas (Colossians 4:10). He thus teamed up with Paul and Barnabas (Acts 12:25) as an assistant preacher (Acts 13:5). However John Mark gave up in Pamphylia and returned to Jerusalem (Acts 13:13). Pamphylia is a small country with Perga /Pergamum as its capital and was a center of spiritual warfare "where Satan's throne is" (Revelation 2:13) and was home to the statue of the goddess Leto that was worshipped and dominated that area. Paul seems to have taken John Mark's resignation as a sign of weakness and a lack of spiritual preparation and thus refused to take John Mark with him on the next journey. The argument over this resulted in his split with Barnabas. (Acts 15:36-41) John Mark seems to have then teamed up with the apostle Peter and journeyed with him as far as Babylon (1 Peter 5:13), which was still a center of Jewish culture at that time. John Mark then journeyed with Peter to Rome where he wrote Mark's gospel, which is generally agreed to be a record of Peter's preaching. John Mark is eventually forgiven by Paul and seem as useful to the gospel (2 Timothy 4:11) and finally Paul includes John Mark among the list of senior Christian apostles and fellow-workers at the end of the book of Philemon. (Philemon 1:24)

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. Read Acts 12:12-17,25 – What can you tell about John Mark's family and background?
2. What incidents happened on his first missionary trip? (Acts 13:1-13) Do you think this may have been a bit overwhelming?
3. What would it be like to minister "where Satan's throne is"? (Revelation 2:13) How can spiritual warfare drain and defeat inexperienced missionaries?
4. How can we protect ourselves during such spiritual attacks? (Ephesians 6:10-20)
5. Read Acts 15:36-41 – What was the argument over? Do you think that Paul was a bit unreasonable? What was the result?

6. Read Colossians 4:10 – What is Paul’s opinion of John Mark at this point?

7. Read 2 Timothy 4:11 - What does this say about John Mark’s ministry skills?

8. Read Philemon 1:24 – Who is John Mark ranked alongside? What is he called?

9. Read 1 Peter 5:13 – Who is John Mark with? Where is he? Why is this significant?

10. Why do you think the Holy Spirit entrusted a “failed missionary” with the task of writing one of the four main gospels? How does God restore people?

11. How can we have mercy on servants of God? How important is proper pastoral care of Christian workers?

12. John Mark got up and tried again. That is important – failure is never final in God. Is there an area of ministry that God has called you to that you need to “get up and try again” ?

PERSONAL APPLICATION – a command to obey, a warning to heed, a promise to claim, a deed to do, an attitude to change....

PRAYER POINTS – Use “Operation World” by Patrick Johnstone to pray for: **Philippines**

About The Author



John Edmiston B.Sc. B.D. is the President of the Asian Internet Bible Institute and an Associate Pastor with the Assemblies of God in Southern California. He has been involved in missions since 1980 and has served in Australia, Papua New Guinea and the Philippines and spends much of his year travelling in Asia.

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The Asian Internet Bible Institute www.aibi.ph

The Asian Internet Bible Institute is a missionary society that uses computers and the Internet to facilitate the Great Commission.

There are five aspects to the AIBI:

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