

GOD

CAN

USE

YOUR

LIFE

# GOD CAN USE YOUR LIFE

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# GOD CAN USE YOUR LIFE

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*What are you doing here!?* It may sound like a funny question, but it's one we all ask at one time or another. You may word it like: "Does God even care?" , "Why am I here?" or "Does my life have any meaning?"

The Bible has some great answers to those questions. And this study is designed to help you tap into God's purposes for your life. God can use your life! This semester you'll see how/where and look at five biblical examples of God using ordinary people. He can use you too. Let's start by setting the stage.

## **MADE**

Read Genesis 1:26-31 and 2:18-25. What observations do you have about God's design in the following areas?

WORK:

RELATIONSHIPS WITH ONE ANOTHER:

RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD:

# BROKEN

Now read Genesis 3:1-24. What observations do you have about the effect of sin on those same areas?

WORK:

RELATIONSHIPS WITH ONE ANOTHER:

RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD:

Choose 3-5 words to describe the state/condition of...

Chapters 1-2:

Chapter 3:

# THE PLAN

## 2 CORINTHIANS 5:14-21

14 For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; 15 and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised.

16 From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. 17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. 18 All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; 19 that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. 20 Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. 21 For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

### GOD'S BIG PLAN: RECONCILIATION

What observations do you have of God's "Big Plan" of reconciliation?

v17-

v18-

v19-

v21-

### GOD'S STRATEGY: AMBASSADORS

*Circle the plural pronouns above (us, we, etc)*

What observations do you have about God's strategy to accomplish the plan?

# NOW

What do you learn about God by considering his "Big Plan" of reconciliation?

What do you learn about God by considering his strategy of accomplishing the plan?

What would it look like for you to grow in trusting God with your life and his plan and strategy this semester?

# GOD CAN USE YOUR LIFE

for his glory

## MOSES

**OVERVIEW:** Moses was the star of the Old Testament. God used him to lead a million Israelites out of captivity, establish them as an independent nation, institute the Law (including the Ten Commandments) and prepare them to enter the Promise Land.

**NAME:** His name sounds like the Hebrew for "to draw out"

**STUDY PASSAGE:** Exodus 1-4

Read these chapters and make observations.

Optional reading- Exodus 12-14, 19-20, 34

**Historical Context:** What was happening in the world at Moses' time?

**Personal Background:** What do you observe about his upbringing, family life, relationships, etc?

**Experience with God:** What was his relationship and interaction with God like?



Highlights/Major Accomplishments: What strengths do you observe about Moses? Are there any unique phrase describing him? What other highlights do you observe?

Lowlights/Shortcomings: Do you observe any weaknesses in Moses' life? What reasons would you give for the presence of those weaknesses? Any other observations about his struggles?

Relationships: What do you observe about the significant relationships in his life?

What did faith look like in Moses' life?

How are you similar to Moses?

Additional Observations:

What do you learn/observe about God from this passage?

How does this connect to God's "Big Plan" of reconciliation?

How does this story point forward to Jesus?

**L** Leading lesson of Moses' life?

**I** Impact on you?

**F** Future changes you want to make?

**E** Experience with God you want to pursue?



# GOD CAN USE YOUR LIFE

*for his glory*

When speaking of God, "Glory" means the display of His divine attributes and perfections—His magnificence or excellence made known.

1) What do the following verses reveal about God's thinking about his glory?

Numbers 14:21-

Isaiah 43:7-

Habakkuk 2:14-

2) Read Psalm 67. In what ways is God practically glorified on earth?

Verse Analysis:

JOHN 15:8

- 1) Verse for study: Copy the verse from one or more versions of the Bible
- 2) Message: Write it out in your own words what the verse says– what it commands, teaches, warns of or promises.
- 3) Context: Now look at the verses in the surrounding context (consider at least the verses from the same paragraph you are studying). Make observations first from the verses preceding your study verse, then do the same with those following.
- 4) Cross References: Add observations from similar verses or concepts elsewhere in the Bible (some are given for you, search for more!)
- 5) Questions: Record questions that rise in your minds, or problems you think it might pose for yourself or others.
- 6) Application: Describe one specific way you can live out what you're studying.

VERSE FOR STUDY:

MESSAGE:

CONTEXT:

————— *for his glory* —————

CROSS REFERENCES:

John 17:4

Philippians 1:20,21

1 Corinthians 10:31

QUESTIONS:

# GOD CAN USE YOUR LIFE

to change the world

## ABRAHAM

OVERVIEW: Abraham is the founder of the Hebrew nation. God used him and his barren wife to start a people group (physically and spiritually) that exists on every continent today.

NAME: His name means "father of a multitude"

### STUDY PASSAGE:

Genesis 12, 15, 17, 21:1-7, 22

Read these chapters and make observations.

Historical Context: What was historical context of Gen 10-11?

Personal Background: What do you observe about his upbringing, family life, relationships, etc?

Experience with God: What was his relationship and interaction with God like?



Highlights/Major Accomplishments: What strengths do you observe about Abraham? Are there any unique phrase describing him? What other highlights do you observe?

Lowlights/Shortcomings: Do you observe any weaknesses in Abraham's life? What reasons would you give for the presence of those weaknesses? Any other observations about his struggles?

Relationships: What do you observe about the significant relationships in his life?

What did faith look like in Abraham's life?

How are you similar to Abraham?

Additional Observations:

What do you learn/observe about God from this passage?

How does this connect to God's "Big Plan" of reconciliation?

How does this story point forward to Jesus?

**L** Leading lesson of Abraham's life?

**I** Impact on you?

**F** Future changes you want to make?

**E** Experience with God you want to pursue?



# GOD CAN USE YOUR LIFE

*to change the world*

- 1) Read Isaiah 61:1-4. What things does God say he wants to change in the world?
- 2) Read some current world news headlines. What practical examples do you see of the problems in Isaiah 61?
- 3) If you were tasked with “fixing” the problems, what would be your strategy? Why?

Verse Analysis:

MATTHEW 28:18-20

- 1) Verse for study: Copy the verse from one or more versions of the Bible
- 2) Message: Write it out in your own words what the verse says– what it commands, teaches, warns of or promises.
- 3) Context: Now look at the verses in the surrounding context (consider at least the verses from the same paragraph you are studying). Make observations first from the verses preceding your study verse, then do the same with those following.
- 4) Cross References: Add observations from similar verses or concepts elsewhere in the Bible (some are given for you, search for more!)
- 5) Questions: Record questions that rise in your minds, or problems you think it might pose for yourself or others.
- 6) Application: Describe one specific way you can live out what you're studying.

VERSE FOR STUDY:

MESSAGE:

CONTEXT:

————— *to change the world* —————

CROSS REFERENCES:

Acts 1:8-

Isaiah 49:6-

QUESTIONS:

APPLICATION:

# GOD CAN USE YOUR LIFE

*right where you're at*

## RUTH

OVERVIEW: Ruth was a Moabite woman (non-Jew) who married a Jewish man while his family was displaced due to famine.

NAME: Her name means "friend" or "compassionate friend"

### STUDY PASSAGE:

Ruth 1-4

Read these chapters and make observations.

Historical Context: What was happening in the world at Ruth's time?

Personal Background: What do you observe about her upbringing, family life, relationships, etc?

Experience with God: What was her relationship and interaction with God like?



Highlights/Major Accomplishments: What strengths do you observe about Ruth? Are there any unique phrase describing her? What other highlights do you observe?

Lowlights/Shortcomings: Do you observe any weaknesses in Ruth's life? What reasons would you give for the presence of those weaknesses? Any other observations about her struggles?

Relationships: What do you observe about the significant relationships in her life?

What did faith look like in Ruth's life?

How are you similar to Ruth?

Additional Observations:

What do you learn/observe about God from this passage?

How does this connect to God's "Big Plan" of reconciliation?

How does this story point forward to Jesus?

**L** Leading lesson of Ruth's life?

**I** Impact on you?

**F** Future changes you want to make?

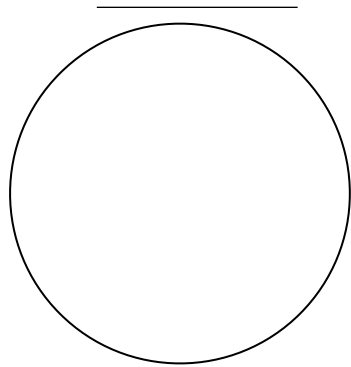
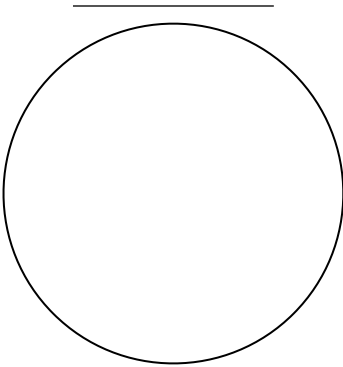
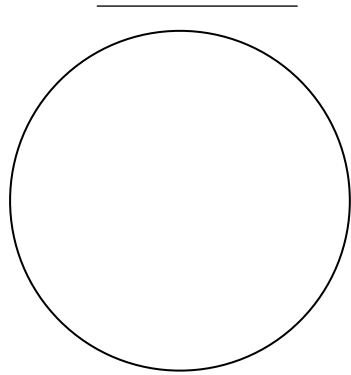
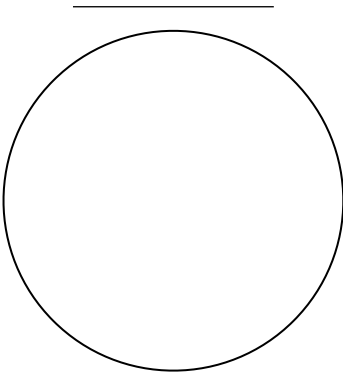
**E** Experience with God you want to pursue?



# GOD CAN USE YOUR LIFE

*right where you're at*

- 1) What spheres of influence has God placed you in (ie "Classes")? Try to list 4 and put the area of influence on the blanks below.



- 2) What people are you at in those spheres? Put their names inside the circles.
- 3) Describe some of the challenges you're facing in the midst of those places and relationships?

Verse Analysis:

ACTS 17:26,27

- 1) Verse for study: Copy the verse from one or more versions of the Bible
- 2) Message: Write it out in your own words what the verse says– what it commands, teaches, warns of or promises.
- 3) Context: Now look at the verses in the surrounding context (consider at least the verses from the same paragraph you are studying). Make observations first from the verses preceding your study verse, then do the same with those following.
- 4) Cross References: Add observations from similar verses or concepts elsewhere in the Bible (some are given for you, search for more!)
- 5) Questions: Record questions that rise in your minds, or problems you think it might pose for yourself or others.
- 6) Application: Describe one specific way you can live out what you're studying.

VERSE FOR STUDY:

MESSAGE:

CONTEXT:

————— *right where you're at* —————

CROSS REFERENCES:

Colossians 4:5,6-

Philippians 1:12

Matthew 5:14-16

QUESTIONS:

APPLICATION:

# GOD CAN USE YOUR LIFE

*despite your past*

## DAVID

OVERVIEW: David was the second king of Israel. A talented musician he wrote the majority of the Psalms. An incredible warrior he led a band of mighty men to victory in many battles.

NAME: His name means "beloved"

### STUDY PASSAGE:

1 Samuel 16-17,

2 Samuel 11-12; Psalm 51

Read these chapters and make observations.

Historical Context: What was happening in the world at David's time?

Personal Background: What do you observe about his upbringing, family life, relationships, etc?

Experience with God: What was his relationship and interaction with God like?



Highlights/Major Accomplishments: What strengths do you observe about David? Are there any unique phrase describing him? What other highlights do you observe?

Lowlights/Shortcomings: Do you observe any weaknesses in David's life? What reasons would you give for the presence of those weaknesses? Any other observations about his struggles?

Relationships: What do you observe about the significant relationships in his life?

What did faith look like in David's life?

How are you similar to David?

Additional Observations:

What do you learn/observe about God from this passage?

How does this connect to God's "Big Plan" of reconciliation?

How does this story point forward to Jesus?

**L** Leading lesson of David's life?

**I** Impact on you?

**F** Future changes you want to make?

**E** Experience with God you want to pursue?



# GOD CAN USE YOUR LIFE

*despite your past*

1) What things in your past seem to plague you in the present? Why do you think?

2) Read Micah 7:18-20. List each statement made about how God treats your sin.

3) List each statement made about how God relates to you.

4) In your own words, write a summary statement of questions 2 and 3.

Verse Analysis:

1 PETER 2:9,10

- 1) Verse for study: Copy the verse from one or more versions of the Bible
- 2) Message: Write it out in your own words what the verse says— what it commands, teaches, warns of or promises.
- 3) Context: Now look at the verses in the surrounding context (consider at least the verses from the same paragraph you are studying). Make observations first from the verses preceding your study verse, then do the same with those following.
- 4) Cross References: Add observations from similar verses or concepts elsewhere in the Bible (some are given for you, search for more!)
- 5) Questions: Record questions that rise in your minds, or problems you think it might pose for yourself or others.
- 6) Application: Describe one specific way you can live out what you're studying.

VERSE FOR STUDY:

MESSAGE:

CONTEXT:

CROSS REFERENCES:

Romans 8:1-

1 Timothy 1:12-16

QUESTIONS:

APPLICATION:

# GOD CAN USE YOUR LIFE

*by taking risks*

## DANIEL

OVERVIEW: Daniel was among the Israelites captured and exiled to Babylon. God used him to influence his captors and prophecy about the end of the world.

NAME: His name means "God is my judge"

### STUDY PASSAGE:

Daniel 1,2,6

Read these chapters and make observations.

Historical Context: What was happening in the world at Daniel's time?

Personal Background: What do you observe about his upbringing, family life, relationships, etc?

Experience with God: What was his relationship and interaction with God like?



Highlights/Major Accomplishments: What strengths do you observe about Daniel? Are there any unique phrase describing him? What other highlights do you observe?

Lowlights/Shortcomings: Do you observe any weaknesses in Daniel's life? What reasons would you give for the presence of those weaknesses? Any other observations about his struggles?

What did faith look like in Daniel's life?

How are you similar to Daniel?

Additional Observations:

What do you learn/observe about God from this passage?

How does this connect to God's "Big Plan" of reconciliation?

How does this story point forward to Jesus?

**L** Leading lesson of Daniel's life?

**I** Impact on you?

**F** Future changes you want to make?

**E** Experience with God you want to pursue?



# GOD CAN USE YOUR LIFE

by taking risks

YOU

OVERVIEW:

NAME: What does your name mean? (look it up if you have to)

Historical Context: What is happening in the world at this time?

Personal Background: What do you note about your upbringing, family life, relationships, etc?

Experience with God: What is your relationship and interaction with God like?

Highlights/Major Accomplishments: What are some of your strengths? Life highlights ?

Ask three friends to describe you. What do they say?

Lowlights/Shortcomings: What are some of your weaknesses? What reasons would you give for the presence of those weaknesses? Any other observations about your struggles?

What does faith look like in your life?

What areas is God asking you to trust him in?

What is one risk you could take in one of those areas?

What have you learned/observed about God this semester?

How has he been revealing to you his "Big Plan" of reconciliation?

How does your story point to Jesus?

**L** Leading lesson of your life this semester?

**I** Impact on others around you?

**F** Future changes you want to make?

**E** Experience with God you want to pursue?