



**BIBLE
STUDIES
FOR LIFE.**



**PEEPLES VALLEY
BAPTIST CHURCH**
Together we are becoming!
One Spirit

**BIBLE
STUDIES
FOR LIFE.**

KJV ADULTS
Personal Study Guide
SUMMER 2022



STUDY 1:
*Never Alone:
The Holy Spirit
in Our Lives*

STUDY 2:
*How to Love
Your Neighbor*

HOW TO LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR

Build Relationships. Love is the key building block to establishing, encouraging, and strengthening our relationships. To put it another way, our efforts to build relationships come to nothing if we do not ground our words and actions in love.

July 24 Session 1 **Who Is Your Neighbor?** (Luke 10:25-37)

July 31 Session 2 **What Does Love Look Like?** (1 Corinthians 13:1-13)

August 7 Session 3 **Pray for Your Neighbor** (1 Timothy 2:1-8)

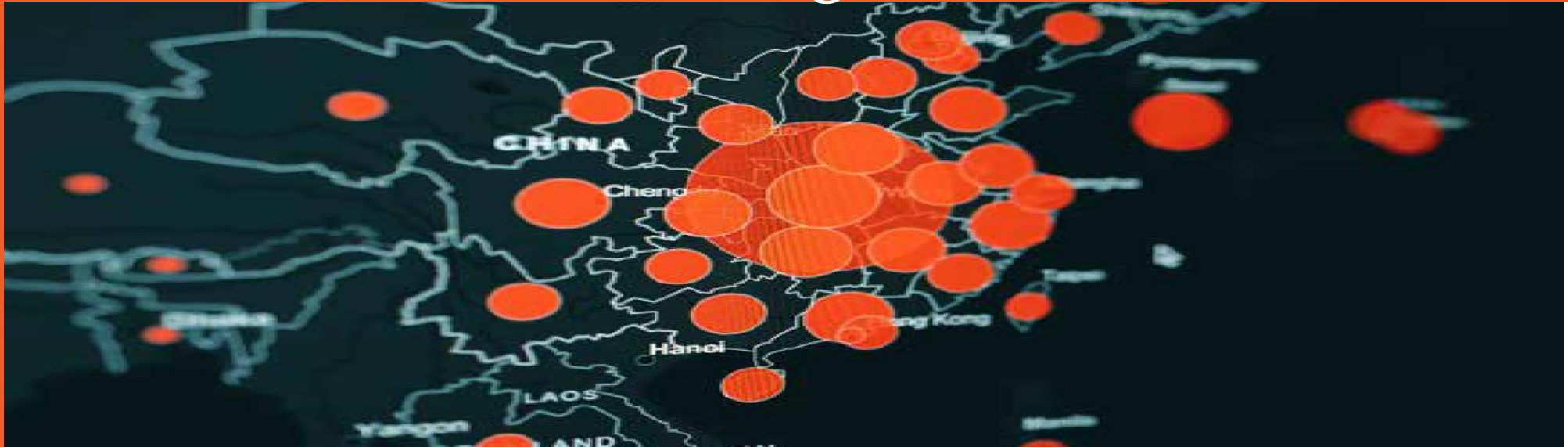
August 14 Session 4 **Honor Your Neighbor** (Romans 12:9-21)

August 21 Session 5 **Forgive Your Neighbor** (Matthew 18:21-35)

August 28 Session 6 **Share Christ with Your Neighbor** (John 1:40-49)

68 Ledford Lane
Cartersville, Ga. 30121

6 | Share Christ with Your Neighbor



THE BIBLE MEETS LIFE

For many of us, the initial news of a virus in China was just that—news—and we moved on to the next news item. It didn't take long for that little news blip to become something far greater. Within a few days, the flurries of news stories became an avalanche that affected every sphere of our lives.

One bright spot in that season of uncertainty and grief was how people cared for one another. Neighbors checked in on each other. Food banks saw record-breaking donations.

6 | Share Christ with Your Neighbor



THE BIBLE MEETS LIFE

Social media friends even helped each other find toilet paper! People felt a sense of responsibility for one another.

The devastating effects of COVID-19 pale in comparison to the desperation of being separated from a right relationship with God and the urgency of our mission to reach those lost people with His message of reconciliation. Let's consider how we can love our neighbors by helping them find their greatest joy and deepest need – the Lord Jesus Christ.

THE POINT: We love our neighbors when we TELL THEM about Jesus.

I'll never forget a story I once heard about a man who tried to share the gospel with his longtime friend . The man didn't know where to begin or what to say, so he just handed his friend a small booklet that explained the message of salvation . His friend read it and gave a most startling reply: "If this is really true, I can't believe we've been friends all these years and you've never told me ."

FIVE tips for Sharing the Gospel

- 1. Develop your Relationship.**
- 2. Talk about Similarities.**
- 3. Eat Something.**
- 4. Analogies are Great, Direct Truth is Better**
- 5. You Don't work on Commission.**

How to Share the Gospel in 30 Seconds.

Acts 16:31 (KJV)

³¹ ~~And they said,~~ **Believe on the Lord
Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be
saved, and thy house.**

How to Share the Gospel in 30 Seconds.

John 3:16 (KJV)

~~16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that~~ **whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.**

We make sharing the message of Jesus far too complicated . As helpful as evangelism methods and training programs might be, the most effective witness you can give is to be filled with the Holy Spirit and to use the gifts and the personality God gave you . You see different approaches and responses from Jesus's disciples in how they told others about Him .

John 1:40-42 ⁴⁰ One of the two which heard John speak, and followed him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. ⁴¹ He first findeth his own brother Simon, and saith unto him, We have found the Messias, which is, being interpreted, the Christ. ⁴² And he brought him to Jesus. And when Jesus beheld him, he said, Thou art Simon the son of Jona: thou shalt be called Cephas, which is by interpretation, A stone.

1. Love others by telling them about your experience with CHRIST.

When Andrew responded to Jesus's invitation to follow Him, he had already been listening to the preaching of John the Baptist . As one of John's disciples (**John 1:35**), it is apparent that Andrew already had publicly turned away from his sins and was waiting for the promised Messiah, God's Anointed One . After John professed that Jesus was indeed the Messiah, Andrew didn't waste any time . Interestingly, **verse 41** notes that Andrew **"first findeth his own brother Simon, and saith unto him, We have found the Messias,"** indicating that telling his brother was a top priority to him . Also, it implies that Simon may have been the first person he told, but Andrew probably told a lot of other people this good news, as well .

And that's what evangelism is: proclaiming the good news about Jesus .

John 1:43-46 ⁴³ The day following Jesus would go forth into Galilee, and findeth Philip, and saith unto him, Follow me. ⁴⁴
Now Philip was of Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. ⁴⁵
Philip findeth Nathanael, and saith unto him, We have found him, of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets, did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph. ⁴⁶ And Nathanael said unto him, Can there any good thing come out of Nazareth? Philip saith unto him, Come and see.

2. INVITE others to “come and see” about Jesus for themselves.

Did you catch Philip’s approach to evangelism in **verse 46** when Nathanael was skeptical? Philip simply said, **“Come and see” (v . 46)** . Those three words tell us as much about what evangelism *is not* as they tell us what evangelism *is* . As followers of Christ, we are simply messengers, heralds who invite people to encounter the Lord Jesus for themselves . We’re not sharing our message; we’re sharing His message . That simple truth is incredibly freeing when we feel inadequate to be His witnesses . We only need to share the message . It’s not our job to convict . We don’t even have to persuade . We only need to invite them to **“come and see”** who Jesus is and what He has done .

John 1:47-49 ⁴⁷ Jesus saw Nathanael coming to him, and saith of him, Behold an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile! ⁴⁸ Nathanael saith unto him, Whence knowest thou me? Jesus answered and said unto him, Before that Philip called thee, when thou wast under the fig tree, I saw thee. ⁴⁹ Nathanael answered and saith unto him, Rabbi, thou art the Son of God; thou art the King of Israel.

3. Trust God to WORK in the Hearts of others.

In all the testimonies I've ever heard of how a person came to faith in Christ, I've never heard someone say he was argued or shamed into conversion . An invitation to "come and see" can lead someone's eyes to be opened through exploring the claims of Christ . As one encounters Jesus, the Holy Spirit does His work of conviction . It's the kindness of God that works in a person's heart . "The goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance" (Romans 2:4) .

Engage

How might God use these characteristics and skills to tell others about Jesus?

MADE FOR HIS PURPOSE

List three words that describe your personality .

Risk-taker - 1

Energetic - 2

Adaptable and - 3

Determined – 4 one to grow on

THE POINT | We love our neighbors when we tell them about Jesus.

LIVE IT OUT

How will you love others and tell them about Jesus?

Trust. What holds you back from sharing Christ? Pray and ask God to make your faith in Him greater than your fears.

Invite. With the same “come and see” mindset seen in both Andrew and Philip, invite friends to come with you to your Bible study group. Your group can provide a non-threatening way to “come and see” Jesus, as your group discusses God’s Word.

THE POINT | We love our neighbors when we tell them about Jesus.

LIVE IT OUT

How will you love others and tell them about Jesus?

Share. Draw three circles and make a list of people God has put in your life. In the first circle, include your closest relationships. In the second circle, write a list of your friends and coworkers. And in the third circle, include acquaintances or neighbors you don't know well.

Who in those circles does the Lord want you to reach with the gospel?

As you pray, look for opportunities to share Christ.

THE POINT | We love our neighbors when we tell them about Jesus.

TALK IT OUT

Want to go a step further? Gather with two or three Christ-followers of the same gender. Read **John 1:40-49**, then use the following summary and questions for a deeper discussion.

Of all the needs we have, none is greater than the need for salvation and eternal life. We can help our neighbors with a lot of their physical, emotional, or relational needs, but more than anything else, they need Christ. We cannot meet this need for them, but we can point them to Christ, the only one who can provide eternal life. To invite someone to know Christ is the greatest thing we can do for anyone.

THE POINT | We love our neighbors when we tell them about Jesus.

TALK IT OUT

*When you hear the word “**evangelism,**” what comes to mind?*

Evangelism is the practice of spreading the Christian belief in salvation

How does that word make you feel?

What are some common reasons people give for rejecting the gospel?

How have you seen God work in someone’s heart to bring them to Christ?

DAY 1: Evangelism begins with telling the people near us about Jesus.Read **John 1:40-42**.

[VERSE 40]: John the Baptist had been telling his disciples about the coming Messiah . Two of John's disciples heard what he said about Jesus and began to follow Jesus (John 1:29-39) . The Gospel identifies one of the two as Andrew, Simon Peter's brother . This is the second time John used this verb "follow" with these two disciples of John the Baptist (v . 37) . The verb was commonly used in the teacher/student or rabbi/disciple relationship . To be a follower meant the student had made a commitment to his teacher and believed in his teacher's doctrine .

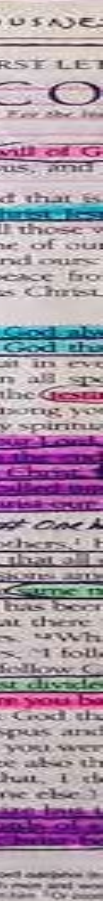
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DAY 1: Evangelism begins with telling the people near us about Jesus.

Read **John 1:40-42**.

[VERSE 41]: “First” may mean Andrew found Simon before he did anything else, or it could mean he found Simon before the other disciple found his brother .
Regardless, Andrew’s priority was finding Simon . He then stated they had found the “Messias,” a Hebrew term referring to someone who had been anointed or smeared with oil as a symbol they had been set apart or consecrated for a special service . Jews of the first century longed for a Messiah to destroy their enemies and to restore David’s royal kingdom—it was an expectation . After centuries of anticipation, Andrew’s statement was certainly a triumphant proclamation—“We have found the Messias .”

DAY 1: Evangelism begins with telling the people near us about Jesus.

Read **John 1:40-42.**

[VERSE 42]: Andrew brought Simon to see Jesus . Here, Jesus made a proclamation regarding Simon’s future—he would be Cephas, the Aramaic word “Rock,” that in Greek is “Petros,” Anglicized as “Peter .”

And he brought him to Jesus.”

JOHN 1:40 - 42A

DAY 2: Don't give up or lose heart when sharing Christ.

Read **John 1:43-46**.

When we invite others to “come and see” Jesus for themselves, we’re showing the message of Christ the way Jesus himself did. During

[VERSE 43]: Jesus left the area where John had been baptizing and headed to Galilee, about a hundred miles north . At this point, Jesus found Philip and called him to: “Follow me .”

they needed but believing did not come easy to them . Look at how Jesus interacted with them . He still included them . He didn't write them off . He patiently allowed them to “**come and see**” for themselves .

DAY 2: Don't give up or lose heart when sharing Christ.

Read **John 1:43-46.**

[VERSES 44-46]: After his experience, Philip could not wait to tell his friend, Nathanael, about Jesus . With the plural “we have found,” Philip included himself among Jesus’s followers . Matthew, Mark, and Luke refer to Nathanael as Bartholomew; only in John is he called Nathanael . Philip linked Jesus’s identity with what Moses had written . In doing so, Philip may have been referring to Moses’s prophecy (Deuteronomy 18:15-18) or may have been speaking more generally about Jesus as the fulfillment of the law and the prophets— all the Old Testament said about the coming Messiah . Regardless, Philip declared Jesus to be the Messiah .

Philip also referred to Jesus as “Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph .” In the New Testament era, Nazareth was a small village, perhaps lacking culture and morally lax . However, Nathanael’s question about anything good coming from Nazareth likely had nothing to do with the village’s reputation . Nazareth was an insignificant village and not mentioned in the Old Testament or other Jewish writings that foretold the coming Messiah . Surely the Messiah could not come from such an obscure place! In response to Nathanael’s question, Philip responded simply, “Come and see .”

DAY 3: Make love a hallmark of your relationships.

Read **1 John 4:7-8**.

In his book, *The Invested Life*, Joel Rosenberg observes all the ways Jesus interacted with His followers . Keep in mind, these weren't just the Andrews and the Peters of Jesus's earthly ministry . This also included the Judases of Jesus's ministry . Jesus lived with His followers . He ate with them, cooked with them, sang with them, showed them how to care for others, challenged their faith, and forgave them . He did this all the while knowing that not all of them would believe—and even those who did believe needed time to understand who He was .¹⁶

DAY 3: Make love a hallmark of your relationships.

Read **1 John 4:7-8**.

When we look at how Jesus shared His message of salvation, we see His love for others on display . We see Him show mercy to those with physical and spiritual needs . We watch Him teach His followers to value loving one another more than perfectly following religious rules . We see Him respond to others' failures with kindness and forgiveness . We see Him ceaselessly concerned that their hearts are right with God . Essentially, when we see Jesus, we see love .

Write out three things you would like others to know about Jesus and how He has changed your life. Be prepared to share these things with others.

DAY 4: Begin gospel conversations with grace and care.

Read **John 1:47**.

We see the heart of Jesus in how He greeted Nathanael with a blessing . He said Nathanael was an honest man . There was no deceit in him . His heart and motives were pure . How did Jesus know this? Because Jesus is God . He created Nathanael . He knew Nathanael better than Nathanael knew himself . Jesus knows what is in the hearts of all people (**John 2:24-25**) . He knows our sinful state and He sees our corruption . No one could accuse Jesus of being overly optimistic about the human condition .



DAY 4: Begin gospel conversations with grace and care.

Read **John 1:47**.

When Jesus saw Nathanael, His first words to him were kind, even identifying what was admirable in him . Jesus could have begun with words of condemnation or judgment, but instead He started with words of grace . That principle should guide us as we lead our family and friends to “**come and see**” Jesus . For example, we might affirm someone’s desire to be a good person and start a conversation with the truth that none of us can live up to even our own standards, much less God’s standards .



DAY 4: Begin gospel conversations with grace and care.

Read **John 1:47**.

[VERSE 47]: Seeing the two men approach, Jesus revealed that He knew supernaturally the purity of Nathanael's heart, in which was "no guile ." The earliest Greek writers used the word translated "guile" to refer to bait; in time, it referred to anything that was cunning . In saying Nathanael was truly "an Israelite," Jesus was affirming Nathanael was a man of genuine faith, not a man of Hebrew ancestry who was content merely to observe Jewish rules and rituals .

believers. Don't hold back but share your joy with others in a genuine way.

DAY 5: Jesus knows the heart of each person we will seek to share the gospel with.

Read **John 1:48-49**.

The exchange between Jesus and Nathanael in John 1 is fascinating to me . I'm curious about the significance of the fig tree where Jesus saw Nathanael . What happened to lead Nathanael to believe Jesus was the promised Messiah? Was it just because the Lord knew he was there? The apostle John doesn't give us those details, but perhaps the fig tree was Nathanael's place of prayer and self-examination before the Lord .

DAY 5: Jesus knows the heart of each person we will seek to share the gospel with.

Read **John 1:48-49**.

It's possible, as C . H . Spurgeon noted, **“The moment our Lord mentioned that hallowed spot, its remembrances were to Nathanael so secret and so sacred, that he felt that the omniscient One was before him .”**¹⁷

It's not necessary we know Nathanael's backstory, because the point isn't really about Nathanael at all . It's about how deeply and perfectly Jesus knew him and the condition of his heart .

DAY 5: Jesus knows the heart of each person we will seek to share the gospel with.

Read **John 1:48-49**.

[VERSE 48]: Nathanael was astonished, and recognized Jesus had seen into his very core . Jesus’s answer further validated His divinity; He had seen Nathanael “under the fig tree .” This phrase was part of a Hebrew idiom . Since a person did not gather a crop from a fig tree or a grapevine for some years after they were planted, “sitting under” could refer to a prolonged period of peace when the plants had not been destroyed by war (1 Kings 4:25) . By the New Testament era, the phrase had come to refer to the place where men of faith could study the law in tranquility and relative comfort . That Jesus had seen Nathanael under the fig tree was His way of acknowledging Nathanael as a student of the Word .

DAY 5: Jesus knows the heart of each person we will seek to share the gospel with.

Read **John 1:48-49.**


[VERSE 49]: Nathanael, who had been skeptical, made a great declaration of faith . Nathanael realized that standing before him was none other than the Son of God and “the King of Israel .”

“The Gospel is not good advice to be obeyed, it is good news to be believed.”

HARRY IRONSIDE



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