

Character Bible Study

(Answering the What, Why and How?)

I. What is a Bible character study?

- A Bible character study is a method for studying the **Bible** that focuses on one specific **person** written about in **God's Word** in order to learn from their **mistakes** and **victories**, understand their role in God's ultimate plan, and **apply** lessons in their life to ours.

II. Why do a Bible character study?

- A. One benefit is that we get to learn from **real** life people who **walked** with God (or who chose to walk against God).
 - We get to learn from their **mistakes** and their **victories**, from their strengths and weaknesses.
- B. Another benefit is that we get to see the **role** they play in **God's** plan to **save us** from our sins. It's SO amazing to see the **lineage** of Jesus and the role people play in it.
- C. A third benefit from this study is getting to learn more about a **Bible character** that we may have already been exposed to previously.
 - We have seen over and over again these past several weeks that **God's Word** is **living** and **active**. Anytime that we open the Bible, to **read** it, **study** it, and most importantly **apply** it, we become more like **Christ**.

III. How to do a Bible character study?

1. Choosing a Character

2. Summarize their story




- Write **a summary of the story**
- Jot **down what stood out to you**
- Keep it **short**

▶ Summarize Nehemiah:

Partners: Discuss/Write down everything you can think about Nehemiah:

3. What is this character known for?

- **While the summary focuses on the overall view of the story, this step focuses on specifics**

- Ask yourself this, "when I hear about **Nehemiah**, I know he did _____ and what was He like? What was his personality like?"
_____."
 - **For table Discussion:** 
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4. Strengths and Weaknesses

- ▶ **Example: Nehemiah**

For table Discussion: 

- ▶ Strengths

- ▶ Weaknesses

5. Victories and Challenges

- ▶ **Example: Nehemiah**

For table Discussion: 

- ▶ Victories

- ▶ Challenges

6. How do they point us to Christ?

- Everything in God's Word points to **Christ** and His **redemption** for us (the gospel). The same is true for the people written about in the Bible. Sometimes they **exemplify** Christ. Other times their **actions** point us to God's plan. Some people are in the physical lineage of Christ. Other characters reveal some of **God's attributes**, whether in their example or how God interacts with that character.



For table Discussion:

- Here are some questions you can ask yourself as you complete this step:
 1. Do they exemplify Christ, and if so, how?
 2. Do their actions point to Christ?
 3. Are they in the lineage of Christ?
 4. What attributes do they reveal about God?
 5. How do they fit in God's redemptive plan for us? How does their sin and/or their righteousness point us to Christ?

Homework:

7. What lessons we can learn from their life?

- Make this personal. Look for lessons learned that can apply to your life.
- **Here are some questions you can ask yourself:**
 1. What did this person do in their walk with God that I can be doing in mine?
 2. What things did this person do or not do that I need to be doing or not doing?
 3. How did this person grow in their faith with God?
 4. What can I learn from their mistakes?