



LEAD STUDY GUIDE



Ezrah Community Training and Development NPC

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LEAD STUDY GUIDE

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Note: It is recommended that the Amplified Version of the Bible be used with this study guide.

SESSION 1: LOOKING OUT FOR OTHERS (L)

1. Quotes

The second mile has been established by Jesus Christ. His goodness is our standard and our model. His attitude toward us ought to be reflected in our treatment of other people. In other words, we must walk as He walked.

Mel Blackaby (Going the second mile)

2. Key Scripture

- a) Ephesians 3:14-20
- b) Ephesians 4:1-2
- c) Ephesians 5: 1-2
- d) Matthew 5:43-48
- e) Galatians 5:22-23

3. Let's reflect

- a) What is Paul's appeal to believers in Ephesians 4:1-2 and Ephesians 5:1-2 with regards to the life they ought to lead? Why?

- b) Who is our example in leading this life (Eph. 5:1-2)?

- c) Who enables believers to look out for others? How? (Eph. 3:14-20)

- d) Who is included in the group of people that we need to look out for (Matt. 5:43-48)? Why do we need to respond with kindness to all people, including our enemies (Matt. 5:45-48)?

- e) How essential is the fruit of the Spirit in looking out for others (Gal. 5:22-23)?

- f) What are practical ways that you can look out for those who may oppose or hurt you? (Matt. 5:43-48)?

4. Personal questions

- a) In which ways are you leading a life in line with Paul's appeal of living a life worthy of our divine calling?

- b) Who is your example in how you look out for others?

- c) What enables you to look out for others?

- d) How are you looking out for others in your daily walk? In which area do you still need to grow?

- e) How are you responding to those that oppose or hurt you? How do you need to change your response in line with God's Word?

5. Prayer points

- a) That I will take the appeal to live a life worthy of our divine calling seriously.
- b) That I will look to God and Christ as my example of looking out for others.
- c) That I will remain rooted and grounded in love through faith in Christ and the indwelling power of the Holy Spirit so that I may be able to look out for others.
- d) That I will demonstrate the fruit of the Spirit in my relationship with others.
- e) That I will treat all people including those who hurt or oppose me in line with Biblical principles.

SESSION 2: KINDNESS

1. Quotes

In every area of your life, be generous when you don't have to be. In relationships, forgive freely, show kindness, and be gentle. At work, give your best, do more than is expected, and live with integrity.

Mel Blackaby (Going the second mile)

She opens her mouth in skillful and godly Wisdom, and on her tongue is the law of kindness (giving counsel and instruction).

Description of the virtuous woman in Proverbs 31:26 (Amp)

2. Key Scripture

- a) Proverbs 21:21
- b) Proverbs 31:26
- c) Philippians 2:3-5
- d) Ephesians 4:26,29, 31-32
- e) Colossians 3:12-13,15

3. Let's reflect

- a) How is the speech of the excellent woman of Proverbs 31 described (Pro. 31:26)?

- b) What is the outcome of those who earnestly seek to be kind (Pro. 21:21)?

- c) What is the attitude (learned from Christ) from which kindness flows (Phil. 2:3-5)?

- d) What are some practical ways in which we need to show kindness to others according to Ephesians 4:26, 29, 31-32?

- e) What are some attitudes and acts of kindness that we need to strive for according to Colossians 3:12-13?

- f) What can help us to continue on this journey of kindness (Col. 3:15)?

4. Personal questions

- a) How important is it to you to demonstrate kindness to others?

- b) What is the evidence that you are kind to others in your attitude towards them?

- c) How are you intentionally choosing to demonstrate acts of kindness towards others?

- d) What enables you to continue on this journey of kindness?

- e) In which area of kindness do you still need to grow?

5. Prayer points

- That I value kindness as essential to my walk with Christ.
- That I will actively strive to grow in attitudes of kindness.
- That I will actively strive to grow in acts of kindness.
- That I will make sure that inner peace (that comes from Christ's rule in my heart), helps me to grow in kindness.

SESSION 3: FORGIVENESS

1. Quotes

Bitterness robs us of joy and peace. It hijacks us, taking us places we never wanted to go, doing things we never wanted to do, and making us people we never wanted to be."

Bill Elliff (quoted by Nancy Leigh De Moss in Seeking Him)

We always need to remember that forgiving another person is not an expression of emotion but an act of *self-discipline*. For this we can depend upon the Holy Spirit, who is a Spirit "of power, of love and of self-discipline" (2 Timothy 1:7).

Derek Prince (Rules of engagement)

2. Key Scripture

- a) Matt. 6:12-15
- b) Matt. 7:1-6,12
- c) Matt. 18:15-17, 21-35

3. Let's reflect

- a) What is the golden rule in how we need to treat others (Matt. 7:12)? Why?

- b) Why should we not judge others (Matt. 7:1-2)? What shall we do instead (Matt. 7:3-5)?

- c) How must we aim to deal with conflict situations, especially those of a serious nature? What are some principles we can follow (Matt. 18:15-17)?

- d) What condition is attached to the request for forgiveness in the Lord's prayer (Matt. 6:12)?

e) What does true forgiveness look like (Matt. 6:12; Matt. 18:21-22)?

f) Why is forgiving others so important (Matt. 6:14-15)?

g) What are some consequences of unforgiveness (Matt. 18:23-35)?

4. Personal questions

a) What is your understanding of forgiveness?

b) What role does forgiveness play in your life? How important is forgiveness to you?

c) On what basis do you forgive others?

d) How do you make sure that you forgive others (letting go of both the offence and resentment)? In which area of forgiveness do you still need to grow?

5. Prayer points

- That I will place a high priority on the value and importance of forgiveness.
- That I will make sure to forgive others because God forgives me.
- That I will view the consequences of unforgiveness in a serious light.
- That I will take active steps to forgive continuously.

SESSION 4: ENDING WELL THROUGH ENDURANCE (E)

1. Quotes

Paul had taught that the true apostle is the one who hangs on when everybody else gives up...The first evidence of an apostolic ministry is not miracles, but perseverance. Yet, right at the end his co-workers left him in prison. What did they lack? Endurance. What marked the apostle? Endurance. We need to ask the Lord to help us build a character of endurance.

Derek Prince (Rules of engagement)

Only one thing will suffice to keep us faithful in communing with God – *a sincere desire for fellowship with Him*. We were created in God's likeness in the hope of spending eternity with Him. Fellowship with Him can equip us for a true and blessed life, both here and in the hereafter. To have more of God, to know Him better, to receive from Him the comfort of His love and strength, to have our life filled with His – for this He invites us to enter our closet and shut the door, so to speak.

Andrew Murray (A life of obedience)

2. Key Scripture

- a) Romans 5:6,11
- b) James 1:2-4
- c) Hebrews 12:1-3
- d) John 6:38-40

3. Let's reflect

- a) What is the starting point in beginning and continuing our walk with God (Rom. 5:6,11)?

- b) How essential is endurance in developing character (Jam. 1:4) and how is endurance developed (Jam. 1:2-4)?

- c) How did Jesus complete His work with joy (Heb. 12:2)? What was the outcome of His endurance (Heb. 12:2)?

d) How can the example of Jesus give us courage to end well (Heb. 12:2-3)?

e) What practical principles did Jesus follow to ensure that He completed His Father's work (John 6:38-40)?

f) What are key steps to develop endurance and active persistence in order to complete the appointed course of the race that is set before us (Heb. 12:1)?

4. Personal questions

a) What do you consider to be the starting point of your walk with the Lord?

b) How is the example that Jesus set an inspiration for you to end well?

c) In which areas of your life do you need to make adjustments to make sure that you end well?

d) Which practical principles do you need to implement in order to end well?

5. Prayer points

- a) That I will understand the important role that endurance plays in developing mature character.
- b) That I will make sure that I have a clear understanding of the starting point of my relationship with Christ.
- c) That I will continually look to Jesus as the Beginner and Finisher of my faith, especially when going through trials.
- d) That I will make sure to implement practical Biblical principles to end well in my journey with God.

SESSION 5: PASSION AND PURPOSE

1. Quotes

Settle this matter once and for all. Remember God's rule: Give Him all and He will give you all. Consecration avails nothing unless it means presenting yourself as a living sacrifice to do nothing but the will of God.

Andrew Murray (A Life of Obedience)

Your holiness is not secondary to whatever other goals you may have for your life – it is God's supreme purpose for your life. It is something He desired, planned, and made provision for before He even created the world... Do you share His goal for your life? What are you living for? From the time you put your feet on the floor in the morning till you pillow your head at night, are you consciously cooperating with Him and pursuing His eternal purpose to make you holy?

Nancy Leigh DeMoss (Holiness)

It is when you are moving in the purposes of God that everything works together for good. It is when you are moving in the purposes of God that whatever you ask the Father in the name of Jesus is done. But the secret of this entire matter is to find the task of God and fulfil it.

Derek Prince (Set apart for God)

The best way to serve God and those around us is to determine the very purpose for which we were created, the exact purpose for which we exist, and then serve in that capacity.

O.S. Hawkins (VIP)

2. Key Scripture

- a) Philippians 3:10-11
- b) Psalm 27:4
- c) 1 Corinthians 3:5-10
- d) Matthew 11:28-30
- e) Romans 12:2, 9-21

3. Let's reflect

- a) What is the main purpose that Paul pursued (Phil. 3:10-11)? And David (Ps. 27:4)?

- b) In which way are we co-labourers with God, each assigned with a specific task (1 Co. 3:5-10)?

- c) What is a key principle to fulfilling our purpose as co-labourers with Christ (Matt. 11:28-30)?

- d) How do we discover the good, acceptable and perfect will of God for us (Rom. 12:2)?

- e) How will our behaviour look, as evidence of a renewed mind (Rom. 12:9-21)?

4. Personal questions

- a) How do you know that you are a co-labourer with God?

- b) What is the one purpose that you are pursuing above all else?

- c) What is your motivation in pursuing this purpose?

- d) Are there maybe areas in your life where God is redirecting you to pursue another purpose as first priority?

- e) What is the evidence that you are seeking the will of God for your life with a renewed mind? In which area do you still need to grow?

5. Prayer points

- a) That I will make sure my purpose is in line with God's will and priorities.
- b) That I will not run ahead of Christ, but work as a co-labourer with Him under His leadership and guidance.
- c) That I will be transformed by the renewal of the mind.

SESSION 6: PERSEVERANCE AND PATIENCE

1. Quotes

Every God-given vision will become real if we will only have patience...While still in the light of the glory of the vision, we go right out to do things, but the vision is not yet real in us. God has to take us into the valley and put us through fires and floods to batter us into shape, until we get to the point where He can trust us with the reality of the vision. Ever since God gave us the vision, He has been at work. He is getting us into the shape of the goal He has for us, and yet over and over again we try to escape from the Sculptor's hand in an effort to batter ourselves into the shape of our own goal...Allow the Potter to put you on His wheel and whirl you around as He desires. Then as sure as God is God and you are you, you will turn out as an exact likeness of the vision.

- Oswald Chambers (My utmost for His Highest)

2. Key Scripture

- a) Hebrews 6:1
- b) Hebrews 10:35-36
- c) 2 Peter 1:3-11
- d) 1 Corinthians 9:24-27
- e) Psalm 27:14
- f) Luke 18:1-8
- g) Isaiah 30:18
- h) Isaiah 64:4
- i) Philippians 2:12-13

3. Let's reflect

- a) Towards which goal should we be steadily advancing in our walk with Christ (Heb. 6:1)?

- b) How are we able to become partakers of the divine nature of Christ (2 Pe. 1:3-4)?

- c) What are qualities of the divine nature (2 Pe. 1:5-7)?

d) Why is it important to develop these qualities (2 Pe. 1: 8-11)?

e) What can we learn from the widow in Luke 18:1-8 about the value of persistence in prayer?

f) What is the promise that God gives to those who wait on Him with patience and perseverance (Isaiah 30:18; Isaiah 64:4)?

g) Which principles did Paul follow to ensure that he ran his race with perseverance and patience (1 Co. 9:24-27)?

h) What are some additional principles to ensure that we run our race with perseverance and patience as co-labourers of Christ (Phil. 2:12-13; He. 10:35-36)?

4. Personal questions

a) What motivates you to grow in spiritual maturity?

- b) How are you succeeding in developing the qualities that are part of a mature spiritual character?

- c) Which principles are you implementing to ensure that you run your race with perseverance and patience?

- d) How persistent are you in prayer?

- e) In which areas of your life do you need to grow in perseverance and patience?

5. Prayer points

- a) That I will make sure that spiritual maturity is an important goal in my life,
- b) That I will take intentional steps to develop the qualities associated with maturity as God leads me.
- c) That I will intentionally implement the principles necessary to run my race with perseverance and patience.
- d) That I will be persistent in prayer.

SESSION 7: ATTITUDE (A)

1. Quotes

Motives and attitudes are of primary importance with God. God does not look at us as we look at ourselves or even as we look at one another...We just look at the outward appearance – we hear the words, we see the appearance and we form our conclusions. But the Lord looks below the surface – at a person's motive and his or her own heart attitude.

Derek Prince (The promise of provision)

God is more concerned with character than with achievements. Achievements are important only in the realm of time, but character is eternal. It determines what we will be throughout eternity.

Derek Prince (Rules of engagement)

God looks for a person whose heart is right toward Him and who will look to Him for leadership. God looks for a person who will point the people to Him for leadership.

Henry Blackaby and Claude V. King (Fresh encounter)

2. Key Scripture

- a) Philippians 2:5-8, 14-15
- b) Philippians 4:8
- c) Ephesians 4:20-32

3. Let's reflect

- a) How is the attitude of Jesus Christ described (Phil. 2:5-8)?

- b) How should our mind and attitude reflect what we are really learning from Christ (Eph. 4:20-24; Phil. 4:8)?

- c) What type of behaviour is associated with a fresh mental and spiritual attitude (Eph. 4:24-32; Phil. 2:14-15)?

4. Personal questions

a) How important is it to you to have the same attitude as Jesus Christ?

b) In which ways are you demonstrating the attitude of Christ?

c) In which ways are you pointing people to God for leadership?

d) In which areas do you still need to grow?

5. Prayer points

- a) That I will strive to demonstrate the attitude of Christ in all that I do.
- b) That I will develop a renewed mind in line with God's Word as foundation for displaying the attitude of Christ.
- c) That I will point people to God for leadership.
- d) That I will work intentionally with God to grow in the areas of my life that are not reflecting the attitude of Christ.

SESSION 8: SPIRIT OF EXCELLENCE

1. Quotes

Originally, in secular Greek, the word was applied to excellence in any area of life – to moulding a clay pot, steering a boat or playing a flute. Here in the New Testament also, I believe, its meaning should not be restricted solely to moral character. It covers every possible area of life.

Derek Prince (Rules of engagement)

Remember, the Spirit of the Lord is looking for a certain type of person – one whose heart is perfect toward God. Be that person of character, and God will show Himself strong in your behalf.

Derek Prince (Rules of engagement)

In our professional lives, when we show up for work on time and perform our duties with excellence, we are doing what integrity demands and thereby reinforcing what has been rooted in us.

O.S. Hawkins (VIP)

2. Key Scripture

- a) Daniel 6:2-4
- b) Philippians 1:9-10
- c) Philippians 4:8
- d) 1 Peter 2:9,12
- e) 2 Peter 1:5

3. Let's reflect

- a) How was Daniel distinguished above the other presidents (Dan. 6:2-4)?

- b) How can we develop discernment into what is vital, excellent and of real value (Phil. 1:9-10; Phil. 4:8)?

- c) In which way is excellence part of the divine nature (2 Pe. 1:5)?

- d) How can our conduct be a witness to the world of God's excellent virtues (1 Pe. 2:9,12)?

4. Personal challenge: discipleship questions

- a) Do people recognise a spirit of excellence in you?

- b) How are you developing discernment into what is vital, excellent and of real value?

- c) How serious are you in exercising your faith with diligence in order to develop excellence?

- d) In which ways are you reflecting the excellence and virtues of God?

5. Prayer points

- a) That my constant goal be to reflect the excellence and virtue of God through my daily choices and behaviour.
- b) That I will set my mind on that which has real value and is excellent.
- c) That I will be diligent in exercising my faith to develop excellence.

SESSION 9: SOLUTION-FOCUSED THROUGH GODLY WISDOM

1. Quotes

There is sufficient grace in Christ for all the work you have to do. You will see with ever-increasing gladness how He, the Head, works all in you, the member. You will see how work for God may become your closest and fullest fellowship with Christ – your highest participation in the power of His risen and glorified life.

Andrew Murray (God's plans for you)

The realization that God is the source of all provision leads us to a basic principle that is emphasized consistently throughout Scripture: *Obedience to God brings blessings – abundance in every area of our lives.*

Derek Prince (The promise of provision)

2. Key Scripture

- a) James 1: 5-7
- b) Isaiah 28:29
- c) Proverbs 2:4-12
- d) Proverbs 3:13-19
- e) Proverbs 4:6-8
- f) James 3:17-18

3. Let's reflect

- a) What can we do when we need wisdom in facing problems and challenges (Jam.1:5)?

- b) How is God described in terms of His ability to provide wisdom to the righteous (Isaiah 28:29; Pro. 2:6-7; Pro. 3:19)?

- c) What are promises associated with receiving Godly wisdom (Pro. 2:4-5, 8-12; Pro. 3:13-18)?

- d) What should our attitude be towards Godly wisdom (Pro. 4:6-8)? What are important principles to remember?

- e) What is the fruit of Godly wisdom (Jam. 3:17)? And the harvest of Godly wisdom (Jam. 3:18)?

4. Personal challenge: discipleship questions

- a) How important is it to you to seek Godly wisdom in every area of life?

- b) How often do you ask for Godly wisdom? What is the fruit of this in your life?

- c) How has Godly wisdom helped you to overcome challenges in the past?

- d) How can you ensure that seeking Godly wisdom becomes a principal priority for your life?

5. Prayer points

- That I will make Godly wisdom a principal priority in my life and decision-making.
- That I will prize Godly wisdom highly, seek for it and not forsake it.
- That I will make sure to seek Godly wisdom in every area of my life.

SESSION 10: DISCIPLINE (D)

1. Quotes

A transformed prayer life is the clearest evidence that a person is walking with Jesus. Remember, God predestined that we become conformed to the image of His Son, and the most characteristic mark of Jesus was His prayer life. To walk on that second mile is to be a person of prayer who impacts eternity.

Mel Blackaby (Going the second mile)

2. Key Scripture

- a) Hebrews 5:7-9
- b) Hebrews 12:5-11
- c) 2 Timothy 2:3-6
- d) 2 Timothy 3:16

3. Let's reflect

- a) How is God's discipline related to His love for us (He. 12: 6)?

- b) How should we respond to God's discipline (He. 12:5,7-10)?

- c) What is the result when we accept God's discipline in our life (He. 12:11)?

- d) How was Jesus an example of discipline and obedience to us (He. 5:7-8)? And how is He helping us now to learn obedience (He. 5:9)?

- e) What is the role of Scripture in training us in discipline and obedience (2 Tim. 3:16)?

f) What are some Biblical examples of discipline (2 Tim. 2:3-6)?

g) How important is it to have a disciplined prayer life (Phil. 4:6)? What does it lead to (Phil. 4:7)?

4. Personal challenge: discipleship questions

a) How disciplined are you in studying the Scripture and in prayer?

b) What is the evidence of discipline and obedience to God in your life?

c) In which areas do you still need to grow?

5. Prayer points

- a) That I will value God's discipline in my life.
- b) That I will be disciplined to study the Scripture and to pray consistently.
- c) That I will choose to grow in every area of my life through making disciplined decisions.

SESSION 11: DILIGENCE

1. Quotes

There is no room for sloppiness or laziness in any area of the Christian life. Very rarely, if ever, does God call a person out of failure in a secular calling to success in a spiritual calling. He who is unfaithful in the least (the secular) will be unfaithful also in the greatest (the spiritual) (see Luke 16:10).

Derek Prince (Rules of engagement)

Our Lord took His people into partnership with Himself and entrusted His work on earth entirely to their care. Their neglect would cause it to suffer. Their diligence would be His enrichment. Here we have the true basic principle of Christian service: Christ has made Himself dependent on the faithfulness of His people for the extension of His kingdom.

Andrew Murray (Gods plans for you)

2. Key Scripture

- a) Proverbs 12:11,24, 27
- b) Proverbs 13:4
- c) Proverbs 27:18
- d) Galatians 6:9
- e) Ecclesiastes 10:18-19
- f) Luke 16:10-11
- g) Ephesians 6:5-9

3. Let's reflect

- a) What are key promises associated with diligence (Pro. 27:18)?

- b) How is the diligent person described as opposed to a lazy (slothful) person (Pro. 12:11, 24 and 27; Pro. 13:4)?

- c) What is the effect of idleness, especially when leaders display idleness (Ecclesiastes 10:18-19)?

d) Why is it important to be faithful and diligent in the least (Luke 16:10-11)?

e) What are important principles in the workplace (Eph. 6: 5-9)?

4. Personal challenge: discipleship questions

a) How diligent are you in seeking God in every area of your life?

b) How diligent are you in your daily tasks and commitments?

c) Will people describe you as a diligent leader in your areas of influence?

d) In which area do you need to grow?

5. Prayer points

a) That I will diligently seek God in every area of my life.

b) That I will be diligent in leadership, daily tasks and all of my commitments.

c) That I will intentionally aim to work with God to develop diligence in areas where I am lacking.

SESSION 12: SELF-CONTROL

1. Quotes

Every test of endurance is also a test of self-control. It will expose any weakness in any one of the various areas of our personality. In the area of emotions, the weakness may be fear or discouragement or depression. In our fleshly nature, it may be unbridled lusts or appetites. In our personal relationships, it may be anger or jealousy. In our spiritual development, it may be pride or self-confidence.

Derek Prince (Rules of engagement)

2. Key Scripture

- a) 2 Timothy 1:7,9
- b) 2 Timothy 2:22-25
- c) Titus 2:11-12
- d) Romans 6:14,18

3. Let's reflect

- a) What are the characteristics of the Spirit that God gives us (2 Tim. 1:7)?

- b) What is the calling that we need to align ourselves with (2 Tim. 1:7)?

- c) What is the purpose and function of grace (Titus 2:11-12)?

- d) What is the evidence that a person is living under grace (Rom. 6:14,18)?

- e) How is a life which is characterised by self-control, described (2 Tim. 2:22-25)?

4. Personal challenge: discipleship questions

- a) How intentional are you in living out the calling to holiness through self-control?

- b) How evident is the purpose and function of grace in your life?

- c) In which area of self-control do you need to grow?

d) Prayer points

- a) That I will be intentional to live out the calling to holiness through self-control.
- b) That I will make sure that I understand the purpose and function of God's grace correctly.
- c) That I will show evidence of living under grace.
- d) That I will learn self-control through endurance, especially in areas of weakness.
- e) That I will end my race well through discipline, diligence and self-control.

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