

How to Enjoy the Bible Events Series

You hold in your hands one of the most remarkable Bible study materials ever written and published. This series was first published in English years ago and has been used by many thousands of people in the English-speaking world.

Now, with permission of the original publishers, the series is available in several languages as collections printed under many contemporary titles.

What makes this series so valuable is that each Bible event leads the reader or the group to discover the deepest truths of the Bible history for themselves. This is done through insightful multiple choice questions which draw the readers to enter into the story and find for themselves its meanings and implications and to apply the history to their own lives.

The series is best “taught” by persons who encourage the group to do most of the talking and thinking. The teacher best acts as a leader in which the group discovers its way through the Scriptural events. The teacher may help the group when he or she believes that valuable truths have been overlooked, but the first discoverers should be members of the group itself. This stirs tremendous interest on the part of the group. This also relieves the teacher of the responsibility, under older systems of teaching, to carefully master all the truths of the text and present them in a way that would hopefully interest and “teach” the group.

Almost all teachers report that their classes or groups show much more interest than before and that teaching this series is much easier than it was under the older systems of teaching.

In the same way, individuals who use these booklets for their own personal study find this investigative method much more interesting and meaningful. The reader is invited to sense the drama of each story in his or her own Bible, be it Catholic or Evangelical, and be led to discern the spiritual truths that are packed into each story.



Inspiring Women

From the “Bible Events” Series

**NATIONAL
BIBLE READING
CAMPAIGN**

“Every Community on Earth Deserves a New Testament Church”



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Inspiring Women

The pages of the Bible tell stories about many inspiring women. An inspiring women is one whose soul is brightened by the light of God and whose life attracts others.

There is a tendency in the modern world, as it was in past centuries, to ignore or belittle the brilliant roll of women to change society and the nations for good. Many women doubt the possibility of being inspired and inspiring at the same time, making it impossible for them to impact their world. Paul spoke for women as well as for men when he said, ***I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. Philippians 4:13***

The stories included in this series of Bible events should inspire every woman, irregardless of her station in life. God has an inspiring plan for every woman who looks to Him in faith. A careful study of the following lives may help each woman to discover inspiration for her own life.

National Bible Reading Campaign

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First Bible Event

A WOMAN SEARCHING FOR TRUTH**1 Kings 10:1-13**

The queen of Sheba knew that Solomon was the most prosperous of all kings. She also knew that Jews believed in one God, creator of the universe, and not in several gods as the other nations did. The queen's curiosity led her to travel far to find the truth. In these days, women find the truth of God as it is revealed in God's book, the Bible.

THE QUEEN OF SHEBA

1. What motivated this dignitary to travel 1,200 miles to visit Solomon?

- ☐ his achievements
- ☐ his wisdom
- ☐ his faith
- ☐ her curiosity
- ☐ her national interests

2. What impresses you the most about Solomon?

- ☐ his achievements
- ☐ his wisdom
- ☐ his faith
- ☐ his generosity
- ☐ his political and economical savvy
- ☐ other _____

3. What impresses me the most about the queen of Sheba was that she:

- ☐ had the intelligence to test Solomon with hard questions
- ☐ saw the connection between Solomon's wisdom and his God
- ☐ knew how to flatter Solomon
- ☐ didn't seem overly concerned about her image

4. What were her words in verse 9?

- ☐ sincere
- ☐ full of understanding
- ☐ manipulative
- ☐ a confession of the Lord as her God, as well.
- ☐ recognized that the Lord of Solomon is also the Lord of Israel

5. What did the queen of Sheba take home with her?

- ☐ seeds of truth
- ☐ a new faith
- ☐ a business deal
- ☐ wonderful gifts
- ☐ more than she brought

6. Who is someone whose godly wisdom has drawn you to the Lord? What might you do to express your appreciation to them?

7. If someone could give you "all you desired and asked for", which three of the following would you choose?

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> great wealth | <input type="checkbox"/> a life without stress |
| <input type="checkbox"/> good health | <input type="checkbox"/> a close walk with God |
| <input type="checkbox"/> physical attractiveness | <input type="checkbox"/> a clear sense of purpose |
| <input type="checkbox"/> a successful career | <input type="checkbox"/> assurance of salvation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> a happy family | |

8. What do your choices in the last question indicate about the next steps you need to take in your life?

9. What keeps you from pursuing God's inner beauty in your life?

- ☐ family demands
- ☐ television
- ☐ time with others
- ☐ lack of discipline
- ☐ too much time spent on my outward image

10. What are you doing to discover what God wants you to be? What are you doing to discover who God really is?

Second Bible Event

THE INFLUENCE OF A WOMAN**Acts 18:1-4, 18-28**

In the pages of the Bible, the name Priscilla shines. She and her husband, Aquila, were Paul's companions in missionary work. It's obvious that Priscilla was a person who had a lot of influence. She probably helped her husband to influence others for the sake of the gospel. The experience of this couple with the famous preacher, Apollos, illustrates this truth. Modern women should never underestimate the power of their influence to impact the work of God in their community.

**PRISCILLA, AQUILA AND APOLLOS**

1. What surprises you most?

- ☐ that the apostle Paul supported himself by making tents
- ☐ that Paul had his hair cut off because of a vow
- ☐ that Priscilla, a woman, was so active in the ministry, and her name has even been mentioned before her husband's
- ☐ that Apollos, with all his fervor and knowledge did not understand Christian baptism

2. What best illustrates Priscilla and Aquila's virtues as servant-leaders?

- ☐ their tent making business partnership with Paul
- ☐ their willingness to travel with Paul
- ☐ Paul's leaving them in Ephesus to start a new church there
- ☐ their ability to teach Apollos
- ☐ their hospitality toward Paul in Corinth and Apollos in Ephesus

3. How do you envision Apollos?

- ☐ a silver-tongued orator
- ☐ an absent-minded professor
- ☐ a fiery preacher
- ☐ a sophisticated philosopher

4. In their lives, Priscilla and Aquila encountered Paul and Apollos - one was a teacher to them and one they taught. Who was one of your early mentors? Whom have you in turn mentored - or could you mentor?

5. What are the primary gifts God has given you for Christian service?

6. On a scale of one (totally disagree) to ten (totally agree) how do you feel about each one of the following statements:

- ___ Women in leadership was acceptable in the New Testament church
- ___ Women in leadership is acceptable in the church today
- ___ God encourages women to be all that they can be
- ___ Women can realize their full potential in the church
- ___ Gender doesn't matter; what matters is using our gifts for Christ

7. What type of role do you have in the church? What role would you like to have?

8. Priscilla and Aquila were a model of partnership in marriage. What do you wish from your husband?

- ☐ that he knows how to make tents
- ☐ that he shares my faith and values
- ☐ that he cares about his appearance
- ☐ that he completes my personality and gifts
- ☐ that I can serve the Lord with him
- ☐ that he likes to do what I like

9. How can you as a couple use your gifts to serve God and others? How would finding a ministry or service project to share affect your marriage?

- ☐ disastrous - We don't have much free time the way it is
- ☐ mostly bad - It would keep our focus off of our marriage
- ☐ mostly good - It would force us to spend more time together
- ☐ wonderful - A common fulfillment would bind us together
- ☐ We are already doing this.

A WOMAN'S FAITH**2 Kings 4:8-37**

Real faith is not just to believe, but to act. Faith is proved by actions and God promised to bless those who show real faith in Him. The story of the grieving woman illustrates the spirit of faith that many women have these days.

ELISHA AND THE GRIEVING WOMAN

1. Why did this woman want to provide accommodations for Elisha?

- ☐ She was thinking of opening Shune's first bed and breakfast.
- ☐ She loved to entertain.
- ☐ She had the gift of hospitality.
- ☐ Her heart went out to this traveling minister.
- ☐ She thought her life would be blessed by blessing a "holy man."

2. After years of hoping, how would you have reacted when Elisha said, "Next year you will hold a son"?

- ☐ "Sure, Pops."
- ☐ "This is too good to be true."
- ☐ "Don't get my hopes up."
- ☐ "I'll believe it when I see it."
- ☐ "I knew God would do it."
- ☐ "How wonderful is the Lord!"

3. Why did the woman say, "Everything is all right"?

- ☐ She had accepted her son's death.
- ☐ She was in denial.
- ☐ She had faith for a miracle.
- ☐ She was determined to share her distress with no one but Elisha.

4. How would you describe Elisha's remedies for the dead boy?

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> bizarre | <input type="checkbox"/> Spirit-led |
| <input type="checkbox"/> dramatic | <input type="checkbox"/> successful |
| <input type="checkbox"/> courageous | <input type="checkbox"/> hard to believe |

5. When was the last time you went out of your way to provide for someone like this woman did? How did you feel about what you did? What reward do you expect for serving others?

6. When you have a problem, to whom can you "tell it like it is" rather than pretend "everything is all right"?

7. What was this woman's focus?

- ☐ herself
- ☐ what she had
- ☐ what she didn't have
- ☐ in God's power

8. How does your experience of loss relate to this story?

- ☐ I had a loved one die in my arms
- ☐ I couldn't face my loss
- ☐ I "froze out" people close to me
- ☐ I've hidden my pain from others
- ☐ I've resented God for giving me someone only to take them away

9. Do you feel you have passed through the "denial" stage of grief? What about the loss you are still struggling to face?

Fourth Bible Event

A WISE AND BRAVE WOMAN**Esther 4:6-17; 5:1-8; 7:1-10**

Every woman faces difficult situations and even dangerous ones. Sometimes she has to be involved in situations for the benefit of others, whether she wants to or not. The story of Esther should be an inspiration and an example.

Beautiful, young Esther has been chosen to be the new queen of Persia. Haman, an official who despised Jews in general and Mordecai (Esther's cousin and adopted father) in particular, has just persuaded King Xerxes to order the annihilation of all the Jews in the empire. Although Mordecai earlier instructed Esther not to reveal she was a Jew, when he learned of Haman's plot he challenged her to act on behalf of their people.

ESTHER ACTS FOR HER PEOPLE

1. How did Esther respond to Mordecai's first message?

- ☐ with fear
- ☐ with honesty
- ☐ with faith
- ☐ with caution
- ☐ with open eyes

2. How did Mordecai respond back?

- ☐ "You are our only hope."
- ☐ "Buck up!"
- ☐ "Look at the opportunity you have."
- ☐ "If you don't risk your life now, you'll lose it after all."
- ☐ "If God doesn't use you, he'll use someone else."

3. What was Esther feeling as she made the decision to go to the king?

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> fear | <input type="checkbox"/> hope |
| <input type="checkbox"/> faith | <input type="checkbox"/> resignation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> humility | <input type="checkbox"/> inadequacy |

4. The king did receive Esther when she approached him (5:1-3). What did Esther's eventual appeal in chapter 7 say about her?

- ☐ She was interested in herself.
- ☐ She was most interested in her people.
- ☐ She was out for revenge.
- ☐ Her strategy was ingenious.
- ☐ She knew how to get what she wanted.

5. What's the moral of this story?

- ☐ Everything will come out all right in the end.
- ☐ One person can make a difference.
- ☐ No guts - no glory.
- ☐ What goes around comes around.
- ☐ Whatever will be will be.
- ☐ Prayer changes things.

6. When have you stepped out in faith like Esther did?

7. How do you respond to a crisis?

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> with fear | <input type="checkbox"/> with prayer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> with faith | <input type="checkbox"/> with action |
| <input type="checkbox"/> with worry | <input type="checkbox"/> with inaction |

8. How do you prepare to do God's will when it isn't easy?

9. How did Esther most clearly demonstrate wisdom?

- ☐ the way she respected Mordecai
- ☐ the way she followed her adopted father's instructions
- ☐ the way she called for a fast
- ☐ the way she approached the king

10. What situations or circumstances make it most difficult for you to be assertive? What would make it easier for you to "speak up"?

11. In what area of your life do you desire more wisdom? Where would you desire more boldness?

PAIN SURVIVORS**Ruth 1:1-22**

We live in a world of sadness and loss. Few people escape from such experiences. The beautiful thing is that God sets people with a special love to be near them. This is shown in the lives of Naomi and Ruth.

**NAOMI AND RUTH**

1. When famine struck Israel, Naomi, Elimelech and their sons decided to emigrate to Moab. Over the next 10 years all three men died. How would you evaluate this family's decision to move to Moab?

- ☐ They should have stayed at home.
- ☐ You do what you have to do.
- ☐ God judged them for the sons marrying women who weren't Israelites.
- ☐ Bad things happen to everyone, so don't second guess yourself.

2. Did Naomi make the right decision to return to Israel?

- ☐ Yes - go back to your roots.
- ☐ No - there is no going back.
- ☐ Be careful - things have changed.

3. Why did Naomi tell her daughters-in-law to return to their homes?

- ☐ She was concerned about their welfare.
- ☐ She was immersed in self-pity.
- ☐ She was tired of them and wanted to gently get rid of them.
- ☐ She was testing them to see if they really wanted to go with her.
- ☐ She couldn't bring herself to ask them to leave their people.

4. Why did Ruth insist on going with Naomi?

- ☐ because she loved to travel.
- ☐ because she loved Naomi.
- ☐ because she felt sorry for Naomi.
- ☐ because she had become dependent on her mother-in-law.
- ☐ because she had become committed to Naomi's God as well as to Naomi.

5. What do you think awaited Ruth at the end of the road to Israel?

- ☐ warm welcome and acceptance
- ☐ cold shoulder and a lonely future
- ☐ fears similar to Naomi's when her family moved to Moab
- ☐ a difficult, but hopeful, transition

6. In what way is your life full? In what way is it empty? Which word depicts your life now more accurately?

7. Who has been a "Ruth" to you - someone who has gone out of their way to be there for you in a time of need? What impact has that person had on you? For whom are you like Ruth - a faithful and supportive friend in their time of need?

8. In what way has your loss been like Naomi's or Ruth's?

- ☐ My "roots" have been destroyed.
- ☐ I have gone through a series of painful losses.
- ☐ I have felt unworthy of other's support or wanted to be alone in my grief.
- ☐ I have assigned my loss to my self identity.
- ☐ I have been angry about my loss.
- ☐ I have blamed God for my loss.
- ☐ I have clung to God and his people.

9. How long have your children been gone? What has been the most difficult thing about being an empty nester? What has been most helpful in keeping you from being sad or bitter?

WOMEN AS BLESSED MOTHERS**Luke 1:39-56**

It should be really special for a woman to be a mother. It's even better when a woman is convinced that God will use her son or daughter in a very special way, knowing that she becomes an instrument of God.

The angel Gabriel appeared to Mary, telling her that, though she was a virgin, she would become the mother of the Messiah. The angel also reported that Mary's relative, Elizabeth, was pregnant as well. Elizabeth was six months pregnant with the child who would be known as John the Baptist.

MARY VISITS ELIZABETH

1. Why did Mary go to Elizabeth's house?

- ☐ for a little "female bonding"
- ☐ to share her exciting news
- ☐ to share in the joy of another pregnant woman
- ☐ to get some advice from an older and wiser relative
- ☐ to get away from the talk about her "illegitimate" pregnancy

2. Why did Elizabeth's baby leap in her womb when Mary arrived?

- ☐ He was a hyper child.
- ☐ He was filled with joy.
- ☐ The Lord was demonstrating how special these babies were- especially Mary's.
- ☐ Elizabeth just imagined it.

3. Why did God choose Mary to give birth to his Son?

- ☐ She was at the right place at the right time.
- ☐ She earned the honor by her holy life.
- ☐ God had her in mind from the beginning.
- ☐ Only God knows why he did
- ☐ to fulfil the Old Testament prophecy

4. How did Mary envision herself?

- ☐ a lowly servant
- ☐ a surrogate mother
- ☐ an ordinary person
- ☐ greatly blessed
- ☐ deserving of her recognition
- ☐ as someone who would never be forgotten

5. What do you need to share with an "Elizabeth" right now?

- ☐ a joy I've been waiting to share
- ☐ a burden I need to talk about
- ☐ some questions about my faith
- ☐ just a good time
- ☐ Other _____

6. Which of the words found in Mary's song best describes how you are feeling about your spiritual life?

- | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> rejoicing | <input type="checkbox"/> lifted up |
| <input type="checkbox"/> humble | <input type="checkbox"/> filled |
| <input type="checkbox"/> blessed | <input type="checkbox"/> hungry |
| <input type="checkbox"/> proud | <input type="checkbox"/> empty |

7. What do you appreciate most about Mary?

- ☐ She had a humble background.
- ☐ She had a humble spirit.
- ☐ She gave God all the glory for her blessings.
- ☐ She had faith to believe that the amazing things she heard would be accomplished.
- ☐ She didn't let what others would think about her (like becoming pregnant out of wedlock) control her.

8. How would you like to be more like Mary?

9. What have you really appreciated about this course? Conclude your time together by affirming each other like Elizabeth affirmed Mary: One at a time, have each group member simply listen as others share with them affirmations or blessings.