

CARE BIBLE CHURCH

2024 BIBLE STUDY MANUAL

THE YEAR OF DIVINE ELEVATION

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Introduction

Welcome to the year 2024 whose theme is: The year of divine elevation. The Key Scripture for the year is **Isaiah 58:12** which reads, *“Those from among you shall build the old waste places, You shall raise up the foundations of many generations, And you shall be called the Repairer of the Breach, The Restorer of Streets to Dwell In.”*

The verse above can be divided into four: 1. Building the waste places. 2. Raising the up the foundations for many generations. 3. Repairing the breach. 4. Restoring the streets to dwell in. The four divisions represent what we believe God to do for us in each quarter. In the year of divine elevation, the Lord is lifting us to where we belong, where the eagles fly because that is where we are supposed to be. We are not going to settle for less than what God has for us.

First Quarter (Building the Old Waste Places)

In the communities we live in, families we belong to, in life and in ministry, there are areas where the enemy would have attacked and left a trail of destruction. Let us pick up the pieces, rise from where we fell and rebuild the ruins. We are called to care for the community and to minister to the broken. As much as we are not perfect, we are also called to minister to imperfect people. We are called to build the old waste places and this can be a daunting task but we are well able to do it because the One who called us has given us the grace to serve and the anointing to carry out the work. We build the old waste places through prayer, preaching of the word of God, equipping the saints and acts of love towards the community. We believe that from these waste places shall rise giants in the faith, a glorious community and a healed nation.

January: Divine Elevation Through Prayer

Week One

Matthew 7:7: *Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you shall find; knock and the door will be opened to you.*

Lesson: In this month of prayer and fasting, Jesus Christ gave us the instruction to ask, seek and knock because not every closed door is locked. Keep on asking, do not give up. Even if it seems as if God is silent, keep on knocking. There is a promise to those who ask, it will be given to them.

Reflection Questions

- Why should we ask?

- How do we seek God?

- Why is important to keep on knocking?

Week Two

Hebrews 5:7: *Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplication with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard because of his godly fear.*

Lesson: Jesus Christ was a man of prayer. Therefore, his ministry was marked by such great and remarkable mighty works. He is our example that we also should be prayerful people. Breakthroughs are a result of fervent prayer. Prayer at two levels, firstly, in your closet and secondly, corporate prayer with other believers. Jesus was a man of intents and fervent prayer, giving himself over to countless hours of godly pursuit. The result is

that he was heard because his life was marked with reverence and godly fear.

Reflection Questions

- What is the secret behind Jesus' ministry?

- Why is intense and fervent prayer important to get a breakthrough?

- What is the difference between fear and godly fear?

Week Three

Luke 18:1: *The Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up.*

Lesson: Jesus Christ taught his lessons using parables. A parable is an earthly story with a spiritual or heavenly meaning. Jesus used the example of the woman who kept persistently knocking on the judge's door seeking justice until he gave in to her request. The same is true for us; we should keep on praying and not faint. A prayerless life leads to giving up.

Reflection Questions

- What is a parable and why are they important in conveying your message?

- What happens if we do not always pray?

- What can we learn from the story of the woman and the wicked judge?

Week Four

James 5:17: *Elijah was a human being, even as we are. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain for three and a half years.*

Lesson: When we look at the heroes in the bible, their journey, and their experiences, it is easy to conclude that they are super special and far detached from our reality. However, the bible teaches us that Elijah was a man just like us. He experienced all the things we experience as people. The reason was he was natural but experienced supernatural results are because he was a man of prayer. God is no respecter of persons, if we pray like he did we will also experience the same results.

Reflection Questions

- What does it mean that Elijah was human just like us?

- What made Elijah to have such a powerful impact in his generation?

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- **What does it mean that God is no respecter of persons?**

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Week Five

1 Thessalonians 5:17: *Pray without ceasing.*

Lesson: Many believers stop praying after God has answered their prayers or when they have not seen the answer to their prayers. They see prayer as a transaction not as a permanent relationship with God. As much as there is the transactional aspect of prayer, the most important thing is to maintain a relationship with God through continuous prayer. Your prayers today are not just helping you now, but they are shaping your future. Even when you don't see the results now, don't stop praying. Pray until something happens, and when something happens, keep on praying. The best thing to do after praying is praying. If you run out of prayer items, pray the prayer of thanksgiving. Pray without ceasing because God hears and blesses without ceasing.

Reflection Questions:

- What makes believers stop praying?

- Why are your prayers important for both now and the future?

- What must you do after praying?

February: Divine Elevation Through Relationships

Week One

Psalms 37:25: *"I have been young, and now am old; Yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his descendants begging bread."*

Lesson: As an old man, King David is reflecting upon his life experience as well as his interactions with other righteous people. He came to conclusion that from his youth to his old age he had never seen the righteous forsaken or their children begging for bread. That is a lifetime observation of the goodness of God upon the righteous and their family. This means that God is faithful from generation to generation. The children are reaping the rewards of the obedience of their parents. What we do as parents and how we walk before God has a lasting impact in the coming generations. Though our children may not see it now but in the future, they will see it because time and experience prove everything.

Reflection Questions

- What was David's lifetime observation?

- Why is important for us to be righteous now?

- What are the long-term positive effects of our righteousness?

Week Two

Ephesians 6 :1-3: *Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. "Honor your father and mother," which is the first commandment with promise: "that it may be well with you, and you may live long on the earth."*

Lesson: The word of tells children to obey their parents and gives the simple reason why. It says the reason is because this is right. It does not say obey your parents for they are right, but it says obey your parents for this is right. What is right here is the principle of obedience. Many children disrespect their parents on the basis that they feel their parents are wrong in certain areas. However, the basis of respect is the principle of right not on whose wrong or right. This is the first commandment because it was given before the Ten Commandments were given and then it was repeated or validated in the Ten Commandments. This commandment carries a promise of success and longevity of life.

Reflection Questions

- Why should children obey their parents?

- What is the first commandment with promise and what promise is it?

- What are the two benefits of obeying this commandment?

Week Three

Ephesians 6:4: *"And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord."*

Lesson: When parents insist of being obeyed by their children while failing to uphold the same standard on themselves, they provoke their children to anger. This verse speaks to fathers who are the leaders of the home. It also speaks to mothers because oftentimes they must play the role of the father when they are absent. As parents we should demonstrate the desirable character that we want to instill in our children. Instead of sending them to church we must lead them to church. Instead of instructing them to serve and participate we must lead by example. The training aspect here has to do with leading by example. They should see God in our lives, and they should desire to have the same relationship.

Reflection Questions

- Why should parents lead by example?

- What can provoke children to anger?

- How should we train our children?

Week Four

Ephesians 5:22, 25: *"Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord." "Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her,"*

Lesson: Strong families are made up of strong marriages. If we get the marriage aspect right, then it is easy to build a strong family. Wives are instructed to submit to their husbands as to the Lord. Meaning that the same way the church submits to the Lord Jesus, it should be the same way wives submit to their husbands. This is not a submission of women to men but of wives to their own husbands. Submission means being subject to a mission and the challenge comes when husbands demand submission in the absence of a mission or vision for the family. Husbands are instructed to love their wives just as Christ loved the church and gave himself for her. This is unconditional love that sacrifices itself for the benefit of the other. Where God's pattern is followed, with wives submitting to their husbands as the church to the Lord and husbands loving their wives, as Jesus loves the church, this is a marriage for a lifetime.

Reflection Questions

- What makes strong families?

- Why and how should wives submit to their husbands?

- Why and how should husbands love their wives?

March: Divine Elevation Through Winning Souls

Week One

Verse of the Week

Mark 16:15. *He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation”.*

Lesson: This is not just a suggestion but a direct instruction and commission from the Lord Jesus given to the entire church. A believer or church that is not winning souls is living in disobedience. There is no other way the world can be saved except by hearing the preaching of the gospel. This is the only good news that can save them. Going into the world does not mean abandoning our lives and careers and going into missions but it means reaching out wherever we are. That is our world. Every creation means everybody in the world regardless of class, tribe, race and background. The gospel does not discriminate. Every believer should preach the gospel wherever they are. We should see every place we are as a harvest field.

Reflection Questions

What is the Great Commission?

Why should we all engage in evangelism?

What does going into all the world mean to you?

Week Two

Verse of the Week

Proverbs 11:30: *The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, and the one who is wise saves lives.*

Lesson: We are all called to bear fruit and our fruit is a tree of life. The tree of life is Jesus and when we share the good news about Him, we are sharing the fruit of this tree. The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life and we know that trees do not bear fruit for themselves but for others. The world should eat the fruit of the tree of life. God sees a soul winner as a wise person. Wisdom sees danger from afar and takes shelter. This is because the best thing you can ever do for anyone is to help them have a relationship with God. By so doing you would have helped them secure eternity.

Reflection Questions:

What are we called to do?

What happens when we share the good news of Jesus?

Why is a soul winner a wise person?

Week Three

Verse of the Week

1 Corinthians 9:16. *For when I preach the gospel, I cannot boast, since I am compelled to preach. Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel!*

Lesson: Preaching of the gospel should not be seen as one of the options among many tasks but should be seen as the core of the ministry. We should be compelled to preach the gospel because the gospel is not just one of the things we do but it is the main thing we do. We should learn from Paul who saw preaching the gospel as a matter of life and death to the extent that failing to preach the gospel was a very bad thing for him. His life was so wrapped around the gospel that without it he was nothing. The world must hear the gospel because that is its only hope.

Reflection Questions

Where does preaching of the gospel feature in your life?

What is the core of the church's activities?

Why was Paul so consumed with preaching of the gospel?

Week Four

Verse of the Week

Mark 16:20. *Then the disciples went out and preached everywhere, and the Lord worked with them and confirmed his word by the signs that accompanied it.*

Lesson: Immediately after the ascension, the disciples went everywhere preaching the gospel. This is what they were commanded to do and it formed the basis of the early church's ministry and the later church's mandate as well. The Lord worked with them on matters of the gospel and confirmed His word with signs following. The Lord confirmed His word with signs and wonders. If we want the Lord to work with us today we will have to do what the early disciples did. They went everywhere and preached the gospel. The Lord confirmed His word, not their opinions or ideas but His word.

Reflection Questions:

What did the disciples do after the ascension?

How did the Lord work with the disciples?

How can the Lord work with us today?

Second Quarter (Raising Up The Foundations Of Many Generations)

The foundation is the most important part of the building because whatever is built on a faulty foundation will not last. The foundation is the basis for future of anything. We should be raising foundations so that future generations will be established. Foundations are built downwards so that future generations can build upwards. As Care Bible Church, we believe that we are called to be a generational church and that whatever we do today will benefit future generations to come. A strong foundation is built on the word of God and we must be Christ-centred. Jesus should be the centre of everything we do because we exist to glorify His name and further His kingdom. Jesus is the Rock on which we build, no other foundation can be laid other than that which has been laid. Future generations do not have to lay another foundation, Jesus is the foundation.

April: Divine Elevation Through The Cross

Week One

Verse of the Week

Romans 1:16. *For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile.*

Lesson: The first taste of shame in the bible was when Adam and Eve sinned and they tried to run away and hide from God. They tried to hide their shame by covering themselves with fig leaves. Jesus Christ came to take away shame in our lives. Shame only ends at the cross because that is where Christ suffered us for us that we should be accepted into the family of God. There is no longer any shame for those who are in Christ because their shame has been taken away. Shame is a result of sin-consciousness. We should not be ashamed of the gospel because it is the power of God that brings salvation. We should boldly declare the gospel in the streets, at homes, in the marketplace and everywhere we are. The gospel is the hope for salvation to all humanity. This gospel is the power of God that saves both Jews and Gentiles.

Reflection Questions:

When did shame first appear and why?

How did the first couple try to cover their shame?

Why should we not be ashamed of the gospel of Jesus Christ?

Week Two

Verse of the Week

2 Corinthians 8:9: *For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich*

Lesson: Our elevation is a result of Christ's humiliation and suffering on the cross. The cross was a place of exchange, our sin for His righteousness, our poverty for His riches, our weakness for His strength, our death for His life, and our mortality for His eternity. That is the work of the grace of God. We are winners because Jesus fought for us. We are blessed because He became a curse. That is the reason why we should be grateful because on our own we would not have made it. Jesus became what we were so that we may become what He is.

Reflection Questions:

Why should we be grateful for our elevation?

What does the cross represent to you?

Why does it mean that Jesus became what we were so that we might become what He is?

Week Three

Verse of the Week

Ephesians 2:13: *But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ.*

Lesson: Christianity is not a religion but a relationship. Religion is mankind's way of trying to find God but Christianity is God's way of reaching to mankind through Jesus Christ. We were all born into a world of sin, separated from God and without God. We worshipped different things and in different ways trying to please God. However, that gap that existed between God and mankind has been bridged by the blood of Jesus. We are no longer far away but we have now been brought near. We are now part of God's family. The blood of Jesus has made us to be no longer strangers but family members of God's household.

Reflection Questions:

Why is Christianity not a religion but a relationship?

What caused separation between God and mankind?

What does it mean to be part of God's family?

Week Four

Verse of the Week

2 Corinthians 5:21: *God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.*

Lesson: Mankind became sinners by virtue of practicing sin. It was this sin that birthed in mankind the sin nature and this nature is contrary to God. In order for God to rescue us from this nature of sin, God sent His Son to become sin so that we might become the righteousness of God. Jesus became sin not by practicing sin but by taking upon Himself the nature of sin on the cross. We become the righteousness of God by accepting Jesus as Lord and Saviour. Righteousness is a gift from God, we do not work for it but we receive it simply by believing in Jesus Christ. Righteousness means right standing with God or the right to stand before God and not be condemned. It means to be in good terms with God.

Reflection Questions:

What is the sin nature and how did mankind become sinners?

How did Jesus become sin for us without sinning?

What is righteousness and how do we get it?

Week Five

Verse of the Week

2 Corinthians 6:2: *For he says, "In the time of my favor I heard you, and in the day of salvation I helped you." I tell you, now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation.*

Lesson: The period before Christ Jesus came into the world was a very difficult time for humanity because we had to work at being perfect before being accepted by God. No human being achieved this state of perfection by works. God sent His Son to become what we failed to be in our own strength. Today we are living in the time of favour and in the day of salvation. In the time of favour our cries and prayers are heard by God. In the day of salvation we have received God's help. The death and resurrection of Jesus Christ has ushered in a new era of favour and salvation where we are heard and helped.

Reflection Questions:

How difficult was the time before Christ came to die for us?

How did God rescue us from that difficult time?

What happens in the time of favour and day of salvation?

May: Divine Elevation Through Obedience

Week One

Verse of the Week

Isaiah 1:19: *If you are willing and obedient, you will eat the good things of the land;*

Lesson: The blessings of God are unconditionally given but conditionally received. They are given out of the goodness of God without conditions but we receive them in line with the conditions stated in the word of God. For example, when we pray we must ask in faith. Faith therefore is a precondition to receiving. The verse above states that 'if' we are willing and obedient, meaning that willingness and obedience is a precondition to eating the good of the land. God wants His people to have good things in life but we must be willing and obedient. Being willing is a choice and being obedient is an act. We therefore must choose to be obedient in order to eat the good of the land. The good of the land means the good things of life.

Reflection Questions:

Why are God's blessings unconditionally given but conditionally received?

What does it mean to be willing and obedient?

What does the term ‘good of the land’ mean to you personally?

Week Two

Verse of the Week

Deuteronomy 11:27: *You will be blessed if you obey the commands of the LORD your God that I am giving you today.*

Lesson: To be blessed means to be empowered to prosper and it is God's will for all His people to enjoy His blessings. However, these blessings must be accompanied by obedience. Obedience is important in that it matches the attitude and spirit of the giver. When we obey God we show by our attitude, thoughts and actions that we love Him. We show that we are not just interested in His but in Him. Blessings oftentimes turn into burdens when received by a disobedient person. The true DNA of a blessed person is that they are blessed to be a blessing. That is the purpose of the blessings. Blessings are always 'others-focussed' not selfish. We must obey the voice of God found in His word, the ministers of the word and our hearts. God is always speaking, but are we always listening? The choice is ours.

Reflection Questions:

What does it mean to be blessed?

Why is obedience important in receiving blessings?

What is the DNA of the blessed person?

Week Three

Verse of the Week

Deuteronomy 28:13: *The LORD will make you the head, not the tail. If you pay attention to the commands of the LORD your God that I give you this day and carefully follow them, you will always be at the top, never at the bottom.*

Lesson: God has ordained His people to be the head and not the tail, on top and not beneath because of our heavenly citizenship. Citizens of heaven cannot be beneath because they come from a far superior place. We are the children of the King of kings and Lord of lords, we are royalty. That realisation should not make us proud but rather humble because we understand that our greatness is in humility. Our greatness is in our obedience to God's word. When we do whatever God tells us to do, no matter how inconveniencing it may be, that is a sign that we love God no matter what. Being the head means there is a responsibility thrust on us to lead by example. Being on top is an opportunity to lift others as well.

Reflection Questions:

What does it mean to be the head and not the tail?

Why is it important to understand our true citizenship?

Why is it important to obey God no matter how inconveniencing it may be?

Week Four

Verse of the Week

Genesis 26:13: *The man became rich, and his wealth continued to grow until he became very wealthy.*

Lesson: God is not against His people being rich and wealthy; it's His desire for that to happen. God wants us to own good things; He doesn't want us to be owned by things. Just as Abraham became rich until he was very wealthy, God does not want anything less for us. We are the children of Abraham and his pattern of faith is an example for us to follow. We must avoid the temptation of being critical of wealth and wealthy people because wealth in itself is a good thing. The means of acquiring it may be wrong but wealth in and of itself is good. We must use wealth for good purposes like helping other people, advancing the gospel, and building the kingdom for the glory of God. That is wealth with a purpose. Wealth must finance the gospel and further His kingdom.

Reflection Questions:

What is God's view on His people being rich and wealthy?

What does it mean to be a child of Abraham and what should we copy from him?

What is the purpose of wealth and riches?

June: Divine Elevation Through Repentance

Week One

Verse of the Week

Daniel 9:3: *And I set my face unto the Lord God, to seek by prayer and supplications, with fasting, and sackcloth, and ashes:*

As children of God we must never lose the attitude of repenting. Repentance is admitting our faults, confessing our sins and making amends. We all fall sometimes, say or do things that hurt other people, and find ourselves in the wrong. We must humble ourselves and repent, not just to God but to other people. Repentance is a sign that we are accountable to God and other people and it is also a sign that we are responsible for our thoughts and actions. Only a hardened heart and a dead conscience is unable to repent. Just because our sins are forgiven past, present and future does not mean we do not need to repent. Understand the true grace of God by living a repentant life. Do not abuse the provision of forgiveness by deliberately sinning. Grace means shunning evil.

Reflection Questions:

What is repentance?

What kind of a person refuses to repent?

How can people abuse the grace of God?

Week Two

Verse of the Week

Daniel 9:4-5: *And I prayed unto the LORD my God, and made my confession, and said, O Lord, the great and dreadful God, keeping the covenant and mercy to them that love him, and to them that keep his commandments; We have sinned, and have committed iniquity, and have done wickedly, and have rebelled, even by departing from thy precepts and from thy judgments:*

Walking in the fear of God is a sign of spiritual maturity. Let us not live with hidden sin, or with destructive habits that will short-circuit what God is doing in our lives. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us. God loves us dearly and tenderly, He does not want anything to stand in the way between Him and us. Sin hinders us from enjoying God's best, that is why it must be confessed so that we may receive His grace and walk in it. God is a gracious God, and He wants everyone to know this.

Reflection Questions:

Why should we repent of our sins?

What are the dangers of hidden sin?

What is grace?

Week Three

Verse of the week

Romans 3:21-22: *But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested...even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe."*

Righteousness is more than just about doing good things, even though doing good things is very important. It is about having a relationship with God based on His standards through Jesus Christ. Christ is the only one who met the standard of righteousness and pleased God. Afterwards, that righteousness was given to us as a gift. The kind of righteousness that God offers you and me is righteousness that is "through faith in Jesus Christ," and it's unto all and upon all who believe. There are two kinds of righteousness—the righteousness of man and the righteousness of God. The righteousness of man is a person's very best behavior and the good works they do, but that can't make you acceptable before God. You need a righteousness that equals God's, and He is offering it to you—the righteousness of God that is without the law.

Reflection Questions:

What is righteousness?

How did Jesus become our righteousness?

What is the difference between God's righteousness and mankind's righteousness?

Week Four

Verse of the week

1 John 3:1: *Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.*

When Jesus Christ gave the disciples the model of prayer, commonly known as the Lord's Prayer, He started by addressing God as 'our heavenly Father'. This was a revolutionary concept to a people who were used to referring to God as Yahweh or Jehovah. They did not know that there are depths of intimacy and relationship with God that are so personal and familial. We can actually have and enjoy a Father/son relationship with God. One of the most important things about any relationship is to understand the person with whom you're going to have a relationship with, and that also applies to God. You need to understand the basic nature and character of God in order to have a healthy relationship with Him.

Reflection Questions:

Why is the Lord's Prayer so important?

Why is important to know God in order to relate with Him?

What happens when you misunderstand God's nature and character?

Third Quarter (Repairing The Breach)

A breach is the exact point in the wall that the enemy used to get into the city. In this season we are believing God to help us locate the breaches and repairing them. It may have been a lack of concentration on the watchmen that caused a certain area of the wall to be exposed and the enemy took advantage of it. We are reinforcing this area and making sure that it is strong. Breaches may be our bad habits, prayerlessness, lack of commitment, bad company or past mistakes that keep on repeating themselves. There is grace to restore the breaches. We are closing the access points that the enemy uses.

July: Divine Elevation Through Service

Week One

Verse of the Week

Colossians 3:23: Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters,

Lesson: There is no shame in labour but there is honour because work is one way we worship God. Our attitude towards work should not differentiate between that which is secular and that which is sacred because all forms of work are sacred before the eyes of God. Even when we work for earthly bosses, we should see it as a service unto the Lord. If Jesus was your boss at work, how would you serve Him? You would be punctual, diligent, attentive to details and honest in your dealings. That is same attitude we should give our bosses at work because we are doing it as unto the Lord and not people. We should view our work not as a distraction from serving the Lord but as part of our service to the Lord.

Reflection Questions:

Why is there no shame in labour?

Why is work and worship the same thing?

Why should we work as unto Lord even though we are working for people?

Week Two

Verse of the Week

Genesis 39:2: The LORD was with Joseph so that he prospered, and he lived in the house of his Egyptian master.

Lesson: Joseph had been unjustly treated, sold as a slave to the Egyptians, yet his attitude towards work and service was remarkable. He was a diligent man who sought to please his master and God was with him. He is a true definition of what it means to turn your lemons into lemonade. He had every reason to be bitter but he chose to shine through that dark period in his life. Let us learn from Joseph and choose to be the best we can be even in unfavourable circumstances. Our world does not have to be perfect before we can do our best but we can do our best even in the darkest of times. Light will surely shine.

Reflection Questions:

What do we learn from Joseph?

What does it mean to turn your lemons into lemonade?

Why should we be positive in a negative world?

Week Three

Verse of the Week

Proverbs 22:29: Do you see someone skilled in their work? They will serve before kings; they will not serve before officials of low rank.

Lesson: A skill is a perfected talent. We are all talented, but not all of us are skilled. A talent is natural but a skill is developed. Most of the skills are developed through practice and repetition. The skills we possess will enable us to serve in high places. God will cause you to profit from your skill by opening doors for you to serve in places where your skills will be highly regarded and highly rewarded. The secret to your success is in your daily routine. It is the ordinary talents you have that you must develop in order to reach high places. You must be ready for the opportunities that are coming because they will surely come.

Reflection Questions:

What is a skill?

How should you develop your skills?

What is the secret to your success?

Week Four

Verse of the Week

Proverbs 18:16: *A man's gift makes room for him,
And brings him before great men.*

Lesson: Do not despise your gifts because they make room for you. This means two things. Firstly, what you give or have to offer will make room for you. This means that you are bringing something to the table. You are not just coming empty-handed. Secondly, it means your areas of specialisation will so distinguish you from the rest to the point of being recognised by great people. The bottom is saturated because that is where most people are operating at. Your gift will make room for you because people can ignore you as a person but they cannot ignore what you can do.

Reflection Questions:

Why should we not despise our gifts?

What does it mean for our gift making room for us?

How does your gift make you irresistible?

Week Five

Verse of the Week

Hebrews 6:10: *God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them.*

Lesson: There are times when we feel like our efforts are in vain but there is one thing we should never forget. God is not unjust to forget our work and labour we have

shown Him by helping His people. It's not in vain. People can easily forget the good you have done for them. They can easily discount your effort and credit your work to another person but God is just. He knows the labour you have put in to help other people. Some of the work is done behind the scenes and does not receive as much recognition but God sees all this and He will reward you openly. Continue being a blessing.

Reflection Questions:

What is the justice of God in rewarding our labour of love?

Why should we work without being too concerned of what others say about us?

What does it mean to work behind the scenes?

August: Divine Elevation Through Generosity

Week One

Genesis 8:22: *As long as the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease.*

Lesson: Soon after the flood that consumed the entire human race except for Noah and his family God made a covenant with him. This covenant was a re-establishment of the order in Genesis chapter one and two of each plant producing seed after its own kind. This covenant would endure for as long the earth remains. The principle of sowing is equated to the steadfastness and surety of cold and heat, summer and winter and day and night. As surely as these seasons come every year without fail, so shall every seed sown bear a harvest without fail. Let us trust God for a harvest of every seed sown the same we are certain of the seasons of life.

Reflection Questions

- What is the significance of the rainbow?

- Why is the principle of seedtime and harvest so secure and steadfast?

- Why should we trust God for the harvest?

Week Two

Amos 9:13: *"The days are coming," declares the Lord, "when the reaper will be overtaken by the plowman and the planter by the one treading grapes. New wine will drip from the mountains and flow from all the hills".*

Lesson: This is in reference to the last days we live in when the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ is nearer than ever before. The need for a financial revival to fund the end time harvest is so great. This is an acceleration of the harvest. The reaper will be overtaken by the plowman, meaning that the harvest season will be so great that it overtakes the time to sow seed. The treading of grapes will overtake the planting of grapes. While we are busy planting this year's seed, last year's harvest will still be unfinished. While we are busy sowing this year's seed, the other side of the field is ready for harvest. Such is the frequency and acceleration of the seedtime and harvest process that it will result in abundance. This is harvest with a purpose. This is the blessing that there will be no room for it.

Reflection Questions

- Why is the sowing and reaping principle so important?

- **What is the purpose of this harvest?**

- **What does it mean to be blessed to be a blessing?**

Week Three

2 Corinthians 9:6: *Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.*

Lesson: The principle of sowing and reaping is not a natural law but a vital kingdom principle for increase. The word of says 'remember this 'meaning it is possible to forget and ignore this principle. When we sow sparingly, we will reap sparingly. The term 'sparingly ' means that you are giving less than you are supposed and keeping to yourself more than you are supposed to. We can determine the level of harvest by the level of sowing. Generosity is the standard of giving in the New Testament. Generosity means you are liberal in your giving because you understand how great a sacrifice was made for our salvation. We saw in the book of Acts how they gave. They sold houses and fields and came placed the proceeds at the feet of the apostles. Through their generosity the gospel was spread far and wide and today we are beneficiaries of their sacrificial giving.

Reflection questions

- Why did God tell us to remember this principle of sowing and reaping?

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- What does the term 'sparingly' mean?

- What is the standard of giving in the New Testament?

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Week Four

Malachi 3:10: *Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the Lord Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it.*

Lesson: The giving of tithes and offerings is neither an Old or New Testament issue but a kingdom principle for all eternity. Just as God will never cease to be a giver, because he will never cease to be a good God. We also we will never cease to be givers. We should bring our tithes and offerings to the storehouse which is our local church. This is the only place in the bible where God says test me in this matter. The result of our bringing the tithes will be the floodgates of heaven being open and God pouring out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it. Giving is a win/win proposition, it is never a win/lose proposition. The number one reason we give is because we love God, and we want to see his work prosper.

Reflection Question

- Why is giving of tithes and offerings neither an Old nor New Testament issue

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- **Why will God never cease to be a giver?**

- **Why is giving a win/win proposition?**

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September: Divine Elevation Through Career Development

Week one

Deuteronomy 28:12—“*The LORD will open to you His good treasure, the heavens, to give the rain to your land in its season, and to bless all the work of your hand. You shall lend to many nations, but you shall not borrow.*”

Lesson: The blessing of the Lord belongs to all his children in whatever career they may be in. To be blessed means to be empowered to prosper. God's blessing causes fruitfulness and there will be no drought or barrenness in our career. The blessing of God cannot rest on a vacuum, it must rest on something. God has promised to bless the work of our hands. Whatever we do, in word or action, as our work will be blessed of the Lord. We shall lend to many and borrow from none. This is the promise of debts being demolished and we are being a blessing wherever we are.

Reflection Questions

- What does it mean to be blessed?

- What is the result of being blessed and what are the signs of a blessed life?

- What is the promise of our debts being demolished?

Week Two

Genesis 39:3 *And his master saw that the LORD was with him and that the LORD made all he did to prosper in his hand."*

Lesson: Though Joseph was sold as a slave with no hope or possibility of freedom, yet the Lord was with him and caused him to prosper. He refused to be bitter with life and his circumstances and served with diligence even in an uncomfortable situation. His attitude and willingness to walk in the fear of the Lord caused him to prosper in a foreign land. Whatever was placed in his care prospered and his Egyptian master recognized that he was blessed because of Joseph.

Reflection Questions

- What is your attitude towards God, life and your career when you are under stress or pressure?

- Why is it important to refuse to be bitter in the face of unfair treatment?

- What was the result of walking in the fear of the Lord for Joseph?

Week three

Daniel 1:17 *“As for these four young men, God gave them knowledge and skill in all literature and wisdom; and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams.”*

Lesson: Spirituality is not an enemy of education but rather it complements it very well. We see an example of the four Hebrew boys excelling in all kinds of literature and learning because of the wisdom gave them. They excelled in their career but that does not mean they did not study. God's blessing does not fill our minds with knowledge, but rather the blessings empower us to remember whatever we have studied. Not only that, Daniel excelled also in spiritual gifts. God wants to be both knowledgeable in earthly matters and to be gifted in spiritual matters.

Reflection Questions

- Why is spirituality not an enemy of education?

- Does the blessing of God take the place of study?
Explain with examples.

- What made Daniel different from his peers?

Week Four

Deuteronomy 28:6 *"Blessed shall you be when you come in and blessed shall you be when you go out."*

Lesson: The blessing of God creates a balance of prosperity so that you will have blessings without sorrow. This balance of prosperity means we will not only prosper in the marketplace, but we shall also prosper at home. When we come into our homes we are blessed, when we go out of our home we are also blessed. There will not be a place for shame in our lives. We shall go out full of expectation and we shall not come back empty handed. The blessing of the Lord shall be evident in every place we shall be, whether at home or school, or work or place of business.

Reflection Questions

- What is the balance of prosperity?

- What are the areas of your life where you have faced shame and you need God's intervention?

- What does it mean to be blessed in every area of your life?

Fourth Quarter (Restoring The Streets To Dwell In)

In this season we are believing God for restoration of structures and order. Streets represent the subdivisions that mark demarcations of houses, locations and personal addresses. When the streets to dwell in are restored it is easy to locate people. Your blessing shall be able to locate you because your street has been restored. It shall be a time and a place of easy access. We shall not be hidden but we will indeed become the city that is built on hill. The streets shall have delightful names.

October: Divine Elevation Through Spiritual Growth

Week One

Proverbs 28:1: *The wicked flee though no one pursues, but the righteous are as bold as a lion.*

Lesson: The unlimited believer is the one who knows and understands who they are in the Lord. They are not ruled by fear or dominated by worry over the challenges they face. A believer is as bold as a lion. A lion may not be the biggest, strongest, and smartest animal in the jungle, but it is regarded as the king of the jungle because of its attitude. The righteous are different from the wicked who are always looking over their shoulder unsure what harm might befall them. The righteous are bold like lions because of the God who is both leading them and backing them.

Reflection Questions

- Why is important to know who you are in the Lord?

- **What makes the lion a special animal?**

- **What does it mean to have God leading and backing you?**

Week Two

Philippians 4:13: *I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.*

Lesson: In our own ability and strength we are unable to do many things but Christ we can do all things. This is a declaration of a life wholly surrendered to God and His will. Too many times we have looked at and to ourselves for help and sustenance and become discouraged by the many challenges we face. However, as we look to Christ and lean on the strength, he provides we will find ourselves excelling even in very difficult moments.

Reflection Questions

- Why should we not depend on our own strengths but on Christ?

- What does it mean to be surrendered to God?

- **What is your response to God during difficult moments?**

Week Three

1 John 4:4: *Greater is he that is in me than he that is in the world.*

Lesson: The God who is in us is far greater than the devil in the world. So many times, we have put our focus on what the devil is doing to the extent of ignoring what God is doing. Our God is greater, His power to help and sustain us is greater but we need to trust Him. Our God has come to make permanent residence in us and there is no force in the world that can limit a believer who is 'God-inside' minded. The greater One in us makes great.

Reflection Questions

- Who is the greater One inside us and why is it important to know this?

- Why do people become overwhelmed by the challenges of life?

- **What is the greater One doing inside us?**

Week Four

Revelation 1:6: *And has made us kings and priests unto God and Father, to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.*

Lesson: We are royalty and priests unto our God. As royalty it means we are special people who are heavenly guarded and preserved. We are not ordinary people, though we may look normal but there is absolutely nothing normal about a person who is the child of the Most High God. We are heavenly citizens enjoying an earthly experience. As kings we are called to reign over the affairs of life and as priests, we have spiritual authority to serve in the presence of God. This is the mandate that was given to us by God, we did not give it to ourselves. We should start confessing who we are in Christ, it's not pride but its humility and wisdom.

Reflection Questions

- What does it mean to be a king and a priest?

- **What makes us extraordinary?**

- **Why is confessing who we are in Christ not pride but humility and wisdom?**

November: Divine Elevation Through Grace

Week One

Verse of the Week

1 Corinthians 15:10: *But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect. No, I worked harder than all of them—yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me.*

Lesson: We all work by the grace of God given to us but we should also understand that we have to put our effort as well. The grace of God does not mean that we do not have to put our effort. The grace is the same but the effort and dedication we give to our work is what makes the difference. Even though the world advocates working smart, which is good, but we must also work hard. We must put in the hours, rise early, sleep late, put in the effort until the work is done. Anything worth doing is worth doing well. The grace of God is there with us but we should also work hard. Grace does not take away the labour, it maximises it. Paul did more work than all the apostles because he was not only graced, but that he was a hard worker.

Reflection Questions:

Why should we add hard work on top of grace?

Why is dedication to our work important and not a substitute to grace?

What distinguished Paul from the rest of the apostles?

Week Two

Verse of the Week

Psalm 18:35: *You make your saving help my shield, and your right hand sustains me; your help has made me great.*

Lesson: God is our help in times of need. When there is peace and tranquillity around us, it is easy to forget that God is our help. It takes a crisis for us to realise that is with us. God has made His saving help our shield, meaning that we are surrounded on every side. This shield is not like the shields of the world which protect the front area but this shield covers us completely leaving no place vulnerable and exposed. This is the grace of God that makes us great. David moved from being a shepherd of sheep to being a king over Israel because God's help made him great.

Reflection Questions:

Why is easy to forget God in times of peace?

What is the difference between the world's shield and God's shield?

What did the grace of God do for David?

Week Three

Verse of the Week

Deuteronomy 7:7: *The LORD did not set his affection on you and choose you because you were more numerous than other peoples, for you were the fewest of all peoples.*

Lesson: The nation of Israel rose from being a tiny insignificant nation to be a beacon of hope and light to the whole world. Though this nation was once small yet by the grace of God it was chosen to be a great nation by being the land that birthed the Messiah. This is the reason why the nation of Israel should not boast and think of itself as better than all the other nations. It was grace that chose this nation. It was not because it had the potential to be great but it was because of its disqualification that it was qualified. This is a lesson to us that it is by grace that we are chosen. We should humble ourselves and always be grateful because it was not our own goodness that qualified us but the grace of God.

Reflection Questions:

Why was the nation of Israel chosen among many other nations better than it?

What is the best thing to happen to the nation of Israel?

Why should we be humble before God?

Week Four

Verse of the Week

Deuteronomy 7:9: *Know therefore that the LORD your God is God; he is the faithful God, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commandments.*

Lesson:

God is God, He does not change, and this unchanging nature makes Him God. Seasons may change, people may change, situations may change but God remains faith for all eternity. This is what makes our God dependable. He keeps His covenant; He will never break His word. His covenant is not just a covenant of convenience but it is a covenant of love to a thousand generations. That is a covenant that is eternal. When we keep God's word, we can rest assured that God will keep His end of the bargain. The new covenant is better than the old covenant in that it is established on better promises. If the old covenant required God to keep His covenant to a thousand generations, how much more the new covenant. We have this eternal security in our relationship with God.

Reflection Questions:

What makes God to be God?

What makes God dependable?

Why is the new covenant better than the old covenant?

December: Divine Elevation Through Thanksgiving

December: The month of Unlimited Celebration.

Week One

Psalms **47:1** *"Oh, clap your hands, all you peoples! Shout to God with the voice of triumph!"*

Lesson: God is not allergic to noise. If there is one thing that both heaven and hell have in common is noise. The only difference is the type of noise. One is the noise of pain while the other is the noise of joy. We are instructed to clap hands and shout to God with the voice of triumph. The voice of triumph is the public declaration of what Jesus did for us, how he overcame the world, sin, and the devil. After overcoming, he gave us the victory. There is no reason to be quiet about it. After all, Jesus defeated the devil publicly by making him a public spectacle before heaven, hell, and the earth. It's no secret, the earth has an empty grave to prove it, hell has open gate to prove it, heaven has an occupied throne to prove it.

Reflection Questions

- Why is God not allergic to noise?

- What is one common thing between heaven and hell and what is the difference?

- What proof does heaven, hell and earth have that Jesus is triumphant?

Week Two

Philippians 4:4 *Rejoice in the Lord always. Again, I will say, rejoice!"*

Lesson: This letter was written by a prisoner to people outside. Paul writes this letter while awaiting his eventual persecution, but he encourages believers to be joyful. Joy is a fruit of the spirit; it is different from happiness which is determined by happenings. People tells us to rejoice, up in case we missed it the first time he repeats it that we should always rejoice. This is because the joy of the Lord is our strength. It does not matter what is happening around us, we can be filled with joy because joy is not circumstantial, but it is a choice.

Reflection Questions

- What condition was Paul in when he wrote this letter?

- What is the difference between joy and happiness?

- Why is joy our strength and a choice we make?

Week Three

Psalms 126:1-2 *"When the LORD brought back the captivity of Zion, We were like those who dream. Then our mouth was filled with laughter, And our tongue with singing. Then they said among the nations, "The LORD has done great things for them.""*

Lesson: The captivity of Zion was the people captured and taken to Babylon as slaves. A prophetic word had been given earlier that their captivity would only last for

seventy years and they would return to their homeland. It looked impossible because of the strength and grip of their captors but when the Lord eventually brought them back it was like a dream. A dream that came true. There was joy, their mouths filled with laughter and singing and the nations that observed this mighty act of deliverance confessed that the Lord has done great things for them. Even in our lives, there those seemingly impossible situations that the Lord will deliver us from, and it will seem like a dream, but it would be true. Even the critics will confess that this is God's work.

Reflection Questions

- What is the captivity of Zion?

- Why was there celebration, laughter, and joy among the people?

- How did God prove their critics wrong?

Week Four

Joshua 6:5 *"It shall come to pass, when they make a long blast with the ram's horn, and when you hear the sound of the trumpet, that all the people shall shout with a great shout; then the wall of the city will fall down flat. And the people shall go up every man straight before him."*

Lesson: The walls of Jericho were fortified and strong, never been breached before. They were built to last. History has it that those walls were so thick that you could ride a chariot or two on top of them. No sledgehammer could bring them down and the city was closed. It took a shout of victory after the blowing of the ram's horn to bring them down. There is something

about a shout of victory that provokes God's power to be in manifestation. We should not be quiet about the victory but rather we should shout until the walls of Jericho fall. The wall may seem great and insurmountable but wait until the victory cry is heard, that wall will fall flat.

Reflection Questions

- How strong were the walls of Jericho?

- Why is shouting important in releasing the power of God?

- Are you ready to shout yourself into victory? Enter the new year with a shout of victory.
