

# BIBLE STUDY SAMPLES

## Fourth Mile

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Welcome to *RACING TOWARD THE PRIZE: FOURTH MILE!* The goal of this course is to assist you in your ministry project while continuing to encourage you in your own spiritual growth.

You will need to carefully read thorough this entire lesson to fully understand your responsibilities this year.

### RESPONSIBILITIES AS MATURE DISCIPLES

At this point in your spiritual journey, you are rapidly moving beyond the need for guided study. Lessons for this year will take a very different approach. You are at the stage where you can facilitate lessons on your own. You are at the point where you should already understand the value of a regular quiet time, daily Bible readings and prayer, sermon notes, and Scripture memory. In fact, you are actively engaged in ministry. You are a multiplying leader. You are involved in helping create other disciples for Christ. You are involved in fulfilling the Great Commission of **Matthew 28:18-20**.

However, as advanced as you are in understanding the things of God, it is important to remember to guard against pride. Some, at this level, seem to think they have "arrived" at some sort of spiritual high point, making them better than anyone around them. This is

very dangerous. The process of becoming a disciple never ends. We must always be "pressing on" in our spiritual development. Therefore, it will be important for you to remain accountable in your own continuing spiritual growth. You will be expected to do weekly Bible studies, continue with Scripture memory, continue in your quiet times, maintain sermon notes, work in your ministry, and maintain proper balance in life between school, family life, church life, physical health, hobbies, etc. Does this sound difficult? It will be! Remember, nothing in life worth doing is ever easy.

### WEEKLY LESSON PREPARATION

While there will be no formal assignment page as in previous lessons, you can expect to accomplish the following every week.

1. Weekly Bible Study as assigned
2. At least 5 quiet times per week
3. Sermon notes
4. Ministry Project work as you have outlined
5. Scripture memory as assigned

To prepare for the Bible study assignments, each of you will facilitate a number of discussions during this year. Keep in mind the difference between facilitating a study and leading a study. Leading a study involves lecture and assumes you will do most of the talking while students do most of the listening. On the other hand, a facilitator guides a discussion, keeps the discussion on target, and encourages learning by giving others the opportunity to

speak and contribute. However, this does not excuse you from being prepared. If you follow the instructions below, you will be adequately prepared to facilitate as assigned.

There will be 21 student-led lessons during this year, beginning on week #3 and carrying through to week #23 (weeks #2 and #24 will be led by your instructor). Based on the number of people in your class, you will be assigned particular weeks as your weeks to facilitate. For example, if there are 7 students in your *FOURTH MILE* discipleship group, each of you will be assigned 3 weeks. You might facilitate on weeks #4, #11, and #18, etc. If this were the case, you would be expected to facilitate 3 lessons during the year on the dates that correspond with these weeks.

At your regular meeting, your instructor will assign you various weeks according to the formula above. Once you know how many weeks you are going to facilitate and when, you can begin your preparation as to what you will select as a chapter of study for each respective week.

On week #24, you will have a special one-day retreat to review your entire discipleship process and your ministry project. This may be as short as 3-4 hours or as long as an overnight event, based on the wishes of your group leader.

## LESSON PREP DETAILS

Each weekly lesson, beginning in week #3, will be as follows:

### 20 minutes = PROJECT DISCUSSIONS

The first 20 minutes of every lesson will be dedicated to discussing your various ministry projects. This is a time where you will share your victories, defeats, prayer needs, and seek any help from the others as may be required.

### 15 minutes = PRAYER TIME

This 15-minute period will be devoted to praying for your project needs as well as any other prayer requests you may have.

### 5 minutes = ASSIGNMENT CHECK

This will be a time to check memory verses for the week, Bible studies, quiet times, and sermon notes, as assigned. Remember, you will be accountable to continue in your discipleship process even though you are actively involved in ministering and leading others.

### 20 minutes = BIBLE STUDY

The final 20 minutes will be a group discussion, led by the facilitator, of the Bible chapter selected for that week.

Keep in mind your group leader will not be teaching most of these lessons. You are in charge of the weekly Bible study.

You will be involved in each lesson as one of the following: a facilitator or a participant. Your duties are as follows:

## FACILITATOR

If this is your week to facilitate a lesson, you will need to do the following tasks:

1. Be very familiar with the chapter you have selected and, of course, know the memory verse you selected.
2. Be prepared to answer the following questions about your selected chapter.
  - a. Why did you select this chapter?
  - b. Why did you select this memory verse?
  - c. What is most significant to you about this passage?
  - d. What do you think others should learn from this chapter?
3. You will then allow others to share what the chapter means to them and what they learned in reading the chapter.
4. Close the discussion by leading in prayer.

## PARTICIPANT

Any week where you are the participant, you will need to do the following tasks:

1. Carefully read the chapter and memorize the assigned verse.

2. Write down all thoughts you have about this passage. Include what is most significant to you about this chapter and what you learned from studying it.
3. Come prepared for an open discussion on the chapter.

In summary, at your first meeting, your group leader will assign you (or allow you to select) weeks based on the size of your group divided by the 21 weeks available. At your second meeting, you will be expected to identify the chapters you will use for your turn to facilitate and select a memory verse from each respective chapter. Of course, for week two, your group leader will select a chapter and a memory verse from that chapter. You will need to study that chapter as a participant and have your memory verse ready for that week. All lessons will then be determined by the facilitator, including Bible chapter and memory verse. By week three student- led studies will begin.

A chart of these activities follows:

## WEEK ONE

Meet to learn the format for the year. Your group leader will assign (or allow students to select) various weeks to each student so that chapters and verses can be selected. The group leader will assign a chapter and verse for week two.

## **BIBLE STUDY #2 (and 24)**

### **Instructor-Led Lesson**

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Date this lesson is to be facilitated:

Name of facilitator:

Chapter Selected:

Memory Verse Selected:

Notes (use a Quiet Time Form if desired):

## **WEEK TWO**

Come with your chapters and verses selected for your assigned weeks. The headings for each Bible study for the year will be charted as to the facilitator, Bible chapter and memory verse so everyone will have all the information for the year in their notebooks. Come prepared to discuss the chapter selected for this week. Come with your memory verse prepared as assigned by your instructor.

## **WEEK THREE**

Student-led Bible studies begin and continue through week #23.

## **BIBLE STUDY #3 (through 23)**

### **Student-Led Lesson**

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Date this lesson is to be facilitated:

Name of facilitator:

Chapter Selected:

Memory Verse Selected:

Notes (use a Quiet Time Form if desired):