



Disciplers

BIBLE STUDIES

My dear fellow Disciplers,

Today I was privileged to accompany my 94 year-old Aunt B to a Salvation Army Women's Auxiliary luncheon. Actually, I've taken her to these luncheons twice a year since she gave up driving her car three years ago. But this time it was extra special because Aunt B received an award for 50 years of service to the Auxiliary and the Salvation Army. Fifty years is a long time to keep doing anything! The vice president of the Auxiliary illustrated this by announcing that she had been born the year Aunt B joined the group. My Aunt B had been serving for as long as that woman had been alive.

I think my Aunt B's service is an example of faithfulness, and that got me to thinking about faithfulness, how important it is, and how rare it seems to be. Proverbs 20:6 seems to agree that faithfulness is a rare quality: *"Many claim to have unfailing love, but a faithful person who can find?"* Are you blessed to have faithful people in your life? Are you a faithful person? Numerous references in Scripture remind us that God is faithful. He is the "faithful Creator" (1 Peter 4:19). *"He is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and mercy for a thousand generations with those who love Him and keep His commandments"* (Deuteronomy 7:9). Revelation 3:14 refers to Jesus as the "Faithful and True Witness", and 2 Timothy 2:13, says, *"If we are faithless, He remains faithful, for he cannot deny himself."* The apostle Peter, in 1 Peter 2:21 reminds us that Jesus Christ set an example for us, and we are called to *"follow in His steps"*. So all believers are called to faithfulness. Faithfulness is one of the fruits of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22).

Back in 1987, when I began studying the Bible under Pearl Hamilton in the first Disciplers Bible Studies class, our pastor preached a sermon on faithfulness, and I've always remembered something he said, "Faithfulness makes up for many shortcomings." Since I am a person with many shortcomings, that was very meaningful to me, and from that time on, I have tried to be faithful in all God calls me to do. Up to that time, I hadn't always been faithful in studying God's Word. I was a busy mom and didn't always prioritize my time as I should have. But I made up my mind to be faithful - never to miss a class and to always be fully prepared. I committed to being a faithful class member with my lesson always completed, eager to share and to encourage others. And to always be faithful to pray. Faithfulness to God and His Word in that way has enriched my life beyond what I could even describe. And I hope my small commitment to faithfulness has resulted in blessings for others as well.

So I would like to close by encouraging you to remain faithful in studying God's

Word, to make it a priority in your life, and to faithfully answer your questions and share in class and pray for those in your group and for your leader even when you're busy or tired or just don't feel like it. As you practice this small bit of faithfulness, you will reap rewards in wisdom and knowledge and joy in the Lord (I promise), and in the end, those who are *"called, chosen, and faithful"* will stand with the *"Lord of lords and King of kings"* as "overcomers" and we will reap the *"crown of life"* (Revelation 2:10).

In the pages ahead, you will meet some precious examples of individuals and groups who are faithful to God and His Word. I hope it will be a blessing and encouragement to you. Perhaps it will inspire you to send a picture and some comments about your group as well. We would love to hear from you.



From my heart, your sister in Christ,

Suzie
Director of Disciplers
Bible Studies

Books Worth Reading

Knowledge of the Holy by A.W. Tozer

This book is a Christian classic, a short but powerful theology book that enumerates and explains the attributes of God, including His faithfulness. It is easy to understand but packed with insight and wisdom into the awesomeness of our God.

I Will Not Fear by Melba Pattillo Beals

Here is a powerful reminder of God's faithfulness and protection over those who choose to follow Him. It is the biography of one of the nine African-American

students chosen to integrate Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas in the 1950s and her daily dependence on God to get her through the terrors she experienced.

Shalom in Psalms by Jeffrey Seif, Glenn Blank, and Paul Wilbur

I would describe this as a devotional commentary on the Psalms, written from a Jewish perspective. The authors describe their purpose as presenting the Jewish essence of Psalms in a way that promises *shalom* for the heart and soul. I think they achieved their purpose.

Sunday morning community Bible study at New Life Christian Fellowship, Medina, OH

Group leader Frank Haugh writes that these men and women particularly enjoy participating in the discussion time and then breaking into smaller groups to focus on practical application in their own lives. The Disciplers studies they use are chosen to coordinate with their Pastor's sermon series, so presently they are studying the Book of Romans.



Ladies Sunday School class at CMA Church, Orville, OH

Jeanne Altland and Monica Alexander have been downloading Disciplers studies for use in their Sunday School class since 2017. Jeanne writes that when they first started using Disciplers, the ladies felt burdened by the lessons, thinking they were too hard. But they faithfully persisted and began alternating Disciplers with lighter material. Now the women have grown to love doing the Disciplers studies. "God has worked in hearts and now we are all eagerly look forward to the next Disciplers study. We pray this joy and hunger will continue because it has changed lives."



Women in the Word at La Habra Hills Presbyterian Church

Cathy Herman (far right in photo) has been leading this group of ladies since 1974 and they have been using Disciplers studies since 1992. Pat Henderson (far left) has been partnering with Cathy in leadership for the past several years.

Cathy writes that the ladies are a faithful group, both church members and those from the community, and some have been attending for 20 years or more. They all enjoy sharing their answers in small groups, applying the Scripture to their lives, and praying for each other and

their families. Not only do they find it a joy to support one other, they also support two missionary families, in Cameroon and the Congo, with their prayers, keeping in touch, and gifts. They love it when the missionaries are available to visit their group and share at one of their luncheons. "We think the Disciplers studies are great, and we have learned so much. They certainly mean a lot to me personally, and encourage my desire to know more of Jesus Christ my Savior."



Thank You

We want you to know how grateful we are to each and every class and individual who has so generously supported Disciplers Bible Studies this past year. Your gifts have been a blessing to many, especially the Disciplers classes in Kenya, India, and Nigeria and individuals in the U.S. who live in remote areas and do not have computer access to download studies. We joyfully send these people studies by mail at no cost to them. In the past year we have cut our expenses by having printing done locally for the groups in Kenya and Nigeria. The cost of printing is less and we avoid shipping costs. We thank God for all His provisions.

All who serve in Disciplers have been called by the Lord to freely give as He has freely given to us. There are no paid positions in Disciplers ministry. If you are interested in how your donations are used we will happily send you that information, compiled by our Chief Financial Officer Dick Freeman.

Disciplers Bible Studies Inc. is a 501(c)(3) organization and all gifts are tax deductible.

Samuel Simwa in Mabanga, Kenya in front of print shop with a new Acts study booklet.

For classes in remote areas, we have the studies bound in booklets to make it easier for class members to keep their studies organized.

Disciplers Group in Temecula, CA

This group of ladies studied the Gospel of John last year and are now deep into the study of Romans.

Ellen Daniel writes, “We were so blessed as we learned much more about our Savior Jesus, and His love for us. We have also learned what a “True Disciple” is and are striving towards being more like Jesus.”

Here are comments from some other ladies in the group.

“I learned so much from the ladies that were doing the study with me. So many personal insights and so much maturity in the Lord shared.” *Crystal*

“Jesus became more real to me through this study as I saw His

amazing love for us and His call to us to be His disciples and share this love with others.” *Rita*

“The study has definitely brought me closer to my Lord and given me knowledge and understanding of the scriptures.” *Karen*

“Our journey through John has been an amazing experience. Although I had studied John in the past, new truths and thoughts from Scripture, surfaced and became more real to me. This study was so rich, and my personal relationship and walk with the Lord became deeper than ever before.” *Claire*



Monday Ladies Study Group, Grace Brethren Church, Rittman, OH

These ladies meet faithfully every Monday afternoon, weather permitting. After a devotion and prayer, they all share answers from their personal study and then close class with prayer and a song. "It's such a blessing to study and learn Gods word through the Disciplers Study lessons and sharing our answers and personal testimonies. A big thank you to everyone involved in Disciplers Bible Studies. In Christ's Love, Rae Hall and The Monday Ladies Study Group."



San Luis Obispo, CA Disciplers Christmas brunch



These ladies were introduced to Disciplers studies by Geri Whalen, who had been leading a Disciplers class in nearby Arroyo Grande since 2008. The San Luis Obispo women were a "satellite class" of another structured Bible study group and Geri was their leader also. In the spring of 2018 when class was over for the summer, the ladies wanted to continue studying together for a few weeks, so Geri introduced them to the Disciplers study of Philipians. They had never heard of Disciplers before, and the women were "really blessed by the study".

They continued with the satellite class in the fall, but in January (2019) their class was closed for reasons beyond their control and they were all very dismayed - until they remembered the study of Philipians from the summer before! Geri had been away on the East Coast but was happy to be back in time to lead the group as they began with the study of Ephesians. She says that what made her happiest was "to see the hand of God in the situation turning

something sad into something grand!" After finishing Ephesians, the ladies were so eager to continue they studied 1 & 2 Peter and Jude over the summer. Then they moved on to the Book of Hebrews and are now tackling Judges and Ruth.

Group member, Vanessa Holcombe, (front left corner in the picture) writes, "We feel so blessed to have found the Disciplers Bible study lessons. Please keep writing, because I have a feeling our group will likely exhaust all the resources you offer! :) Thank you for making these studies available. This past summer, my Mom, Esther Lynch, came to visit me in CA for two months and joined in our study. She is now back at home in Tulsa, OK doing the study with a friend and growing in the Lord. Thank you for helping her get her lessons printed."

Fun facts from 2019

- ◆ 32 years of Disciplers Bible Studies
- ◆ 25 studies available
- ◆ Most popular studies:
 - Old Testament: Genesis
 - New Testament: Acts
- ◆ 178 classes in North America
- ◆ 7 classes in Africa
- ◆ 7 classes in Asia
- ◆ 1 class in Australia
- ◆ 1 class in South America
- ◆ 1 class in Europe
- ◆ 30 homeschool classes in USA, Canada, Malaysia and Singapore

"Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful." Hebrews 10:23