



DOERS OF THE WORD

CLOVERDALE 2022 BIBLE STUDY PLAN

"But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like.

But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing."
(James 1.22-25)

At Cloverdale, we want to be people who not only regularly read God's word, but also do what it says, and that is the focus of this year's Bible study plan.

Each month, there will be a **daily reading** centered on one of the key ideas from our statement of purpose (see the back page): discipleship, inviting, maturing, sending, hospitality, and intergenerational. Following each reading will be a **reflection question** along with space to **write down your thoughts**. In order to be doers of the word, we have also provided ideas that you can choose from or come up with your own to help you **put the word into practice**.

As in previous years, we ask that you find someone who will commit to being your Bible study partner for the year, and one day each week, meet with your partner to discuss your reflections on that week's readings, and also to discuss the things you are doing to be obedient to God's word.

Name of my Bible study partner _____

FEBRUARY

I N V I T I N G

February 1: Exodus 3

Moses makes excuses to God as to why he cannot do what God is asking him to do. Do I make excuses related to sharing my faith with others?

February 2: Exodus 12.33-39

A "mixed multitude" of non-Israelites journeyed from Egypt with the Israelites. In what ways am I living that encourages or invites others to journey with me?

February 3: Exodus 24

When God invites Israel into covenant with Him, there are expectations that they will be obedient. How does my life reflect that I am in a covenant relationship with God?

February 4: Psalm 78.1-8

Who is someone from another generation to whom I can tell of the "glorious deeds of the LORD"?

February 5: Psalm 105.1-45

What sorts of things should I "make known" to people about God?

Putting it into Practice (choose one of these ideas or come up with your own)

- Pray to God about an excuse I have made to avoid inviting others to follow Jesus, and ask Him to help me overcome that excuse.
- Have a conversation about my faith with someone of another generation and have them share their faith with me.

February 6: 1 Kings 19.19-21

Who is the Elisha in my life that I am inviting to follow, study, and walk with me as I walk with Christ?

February 7: 2 Kings 4.8-10

How has God blessed me and would want me to use those blessings to partner with efforts to spread the gospel?

February 8: Ezekiel 2.1-10

God warned Ezekiel that his ministry may not be successful. Should a person's possible negative response to my invitation stop me from inviting them?

February 9: Ezekiel 3.17-19

What responsibility do I bear if I fail to invite others to follow Jesus?

February 10: Matthew 9.35-38

How can I work in God's harvest? Do I pray that God would raise up and send out laborers? Am I willing to be a laborer myself?

Putting it into Practice (choose one of these ideas or come up with your own)

- Identify a possible "Elisha" and invite them to walk with me as I follow Jesus.
- Get involved with (financial, prayer, time) a Cloverdale mission effort (Bassays, Borbas, Sandy Rogers, Mission House, Mission Machine, Maple House, etc.).
- Pray regularly that God will raise up laborers in His harvest.

February 11: Matthew 11.28-30

What invitation does Jesus extend here? In what ways does Jesus give me rest when I accept His invitation?

Feb.12: Matt. 11.28-30; 23.1-4

Jesus' invitation is to come to him for rest, while the Pharisees lay burdens on people. Do I offer Jesus' invitation, or might I actually lay burdens on people seeking relief? How?

February 13: Matthew 22.1-14

After the King's invitation was spurned by the expected guests, he brings in unexpected guests, "good" and "bad". Do I invite only those from whom I might expect to get a good response, or do I extend the invitation to all?

February 14: Psalm 95

This is a psalm inviting praise and worship of the LORD. Who have I recently invited to worship with me?

Feb. 15: Lk 5.27-32; Jn 1.43-46

Levi invited those in his circle of influence to meet Jesus. Philip invited Nathanael. Are there people in my circle that I need to invite in?

Putting it into Practice (choose one of these ideas or come up with your own)

- Identify someone from whom I would expect rejection and invite them anyway (to dinner, to small group, to worship, etc.). Be okay if rejection actually occurs!
- Identify people in my circle of influence who do not know Jesus and begin praying for opportunities where I can share faith with them.

February 16: Luke 7.36-50

We don't know why Simon invited Jesus into his home or how he responded to Jesus' parable. Have I ever invited someone with ulterior motives; to point out flaw or error, or simply to justify myself in some way?

February 17: Isaiah 2.1-5

What is a possible benefit of inviting others to learn the ways of the LORD and walk in His paths?

February 18: John 4.1-45

What can I learn from the Samaritan Woman about sharing my experience with Jesus with others?

February 19: John 15.18-27

Jesus tells the disciples that they should expect difficulties. Sometimes, rejection can silence us. How does the Holy Spirit help me to share my faith despite rejection?

February 20: Acts 4.23-31

Am I bold to share my faith with others? Have I prayed that God would give me boldness to share my faith with others and invite them to follow Jesus?

Putting it into Practice (choose one of these ideas or come up with your own)

- Do I know my story of coming to faith? Take time to write that out.
- Pray regularly that I would have boldness to share my faith with others.
- Confess a time when I failed to share my faith when I had the opportunity to do so.

February 21: Acts 8.1-18

Persecution of the early church led to the spreading of faith. Has God put some hardship in my life to move me to speak to others to whom I have not shared my faith?

February 22: Acts 8.26-40

Am I confident that the word of God will convict someone if I share it, or do I feel the pressure to convince someone on my own?

February 23: Acts 11.1-18

Am I willing to cross barriers and even feel awkward in order to invite someone to come to church with me?

February 24: Acts 13.1-47

How do we see Paul and Barnabas inviting people to follow Jesus? How can I be a "light to the nations", to "bring salvation to the end of the earth" (13.47)?

February 25: Acts 20.17-27

What was the ministry that Paul had received from the Lord (v. 24)? Is this particular to Paul, or a task that all disciples of Jesus have?

Putting it into Practice (choose one of these ideas or come up with your own)

- Read a book about someone who crossed boundaries to share Jesus (see back page for suggestions).
- Pray to God to reveal to me how best to shine as a light to the nations.

February 26: 2 Cor. 5.11-21

What does it mean for me to be Christ's ambassador?
What appeal should I be making to people? Am I doing this?

February 27: 1 Peter 3.8-22

What am I doing to make sure that I am ready to give a defense to anyone who asks for a reason for my hope in Christ (v. 15)?

February 28: Rev. 3.14-22

Jesus pleads with this church to repent and return to Him with continual knocking at the door and calling out to those inside to open. Do I have the same desire to bring people (back) to Jesus? Or have I been content to walk away after a few soft raps on the door?

Extra space for notes to write your story of faith and/or a defense of your faith.

Putting it into Practice (choose one of these ideas or come up with your own)

- Read a book to help me to be more confident about defending my faith if someone were to ask me about it (see back page for suggestions). Write down my "defense".
- Invite someone to worship or small group who I have tried to invite before.
- Reach out to someone I know who no longer actively attends church.

Cloverdale seeks to be an intergenerational church that loves God and loves others by:

- **Inviting** all peoples to become disciples of Christ
- **Maturing** as disciples by the power of the Holy Spirit
- **Sending** disciples to engage in God's mission throughout the world

INVITING: *We strive to be a congregation who is engaging with our city, meeting the needs of the least among us, and shining like a house on a hill to the community around us.*

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

Crossing Boundaries to Share Jesus:

- Vance Christie, *Hudson Taylor: Founder, China Inland Mission.*
- Georgia Hobby, *They Called Him Muluti: The Life and Times of Alvin Hobby, A Teacher in Africa.*
- Ruth A. Tucker, *From Jerusalem to Irian Jaya: A Biographical History of Christian Missions.*

A Defense of Faith:

- John Dickson, *The Christ Files: How Historians Know What They Know About Jesus.*
- Lee Strobel. *The Case for Christ.*



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