



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 _____

MARCH

HOSPITALITY

March 1: Genesis 18.1-8

If I thought a person that I met could be God appearing in human form, how would that affect the way I treated them?

March 2: Leviticus 19.9-10, 34

How were the Israelites supposed to treat sojourners in their land, and how does this apply to hospitality?

March 3: Judges 6.1-22

In Gideon's story, an act of hospitality ultimately becomes a sacrifice. If I think of my hospitality as a sacrifice to the Lord, how might it change my attitude toward it?

March 4: Ruth 2.8-13

How have I shown compassion and hospitality to outsiders in my life?

March 5: 2 Samuel 9.1-13

Are there people in my life that I have justified treating poorly? What could I do to remedy that situation?

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

- Invite someone new to Cloverdale whom you do not know well out to lunch or over to your house.
- Think of a brother or sister in Christ you have had conflict with and invite them out for coffee.

March 6: Job 31

Job is described as blameless; how did he exemplify hospitality in his life?

March 7: Matthew 25.34-46

Is hospitality optional for disciples of Jesus? What are the consequences of refusing hospitality to those who are in need of it?

March 8: Luke 10.25-37

How might showing hospitality require great risk or expense on my part?

March 9: Luke 10.38-42

Is it possible to place too much emphasis on hospitality? Do I keep hospitality in proper balance with spiritual priorities?

March 10: Luke 14.12-14

List ways that I show hospitality to those who cannot repay me or return the favor.

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

- What have I done recently to be hospitable to others? If I can't think of anything, what steps will I take to change that?
- In your Small Group, consider skipping a meal for an additional time of Bible study and prayer.

March 11: John 12.1-8

How do Mary, Martha, and Lazarus show hospitality to Jesus in different ways?

March 12: Acts 2.42-47

What examples of hospitality do I see in the descriptions of the early church?

March 13: Acts 16

How do I see hospitality in the stories of Lydia and the Philippian Jailer?

March 14: Romans 12.9-13

Hospitality is an attitude of openness to others. Have I let down my guard to include new people in my life?

March 15: Romans 14.13-19

How have I put matters of opinion (related to Christian belief or practice) above relationships and peace, tearing down rather than building up my brothers and sisters in Christ?

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

- If Cloverdale were to be more like the early church in terms of hospitality, what might that look like? Take a step that helps to promote that culture within the body here.
- Send an encouraging card or text to a visitor or new member at church.
- Identify a position I hold that others do not, and resolve to approach it in a manner of building up and promoting peace (Romans 14).

March 16: Romans 15.1-7

What things have I done or am doing currently to build up my neighbor, to welcome them as Christ has welcomed me?

March 17: Romans 16.16

What is the big deal with the holy kiss? Paul seemed to think it was important (cf. 1 Cor. 16.20; 2 Cor. 13.12); what might this look like today?

March 18: Galatians 5.13-15

How can freedom lead me to serving others? How can it destroy me?

March 19: Ephesians 4.25-32

How are Christians able to be truthful, kind, and forgiving? Does this describe me?

March 20: Philippians 2.1-11

How does humility set me up to be a better friend to others?

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

- For the next month, commit to speak to at least one person I do not know (or know well) at worship each Sunday.
- Identify someone I think of as very humble. Talk with them about humility, confessing any weakness I have in this area.

March 21: 1 Thess. 2.9-12

Have I taken advantage of the hospitality of others to the point of burdening them?

March 22: Titus 1.7-8

Why is it so important that leaders in the church be hospitable (see also 1 Timothy 3.2, 5.10)?

March 23: Philemon

What are all the examples of hospitality that we see in this letter?

March 24: Hebrews 12.1-14

Is it possible to be hospitable in times of trial? Does God expect it of me?

March 25: Hebrews 13.1-3

How should the thought that a stranger might be an angel influence how I show hospitality toward them?

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

- Identify someone who I may have been a burden to and show hospitality to them instead.
- Am I going through a trial? Find someone else who is as well, and seek to serve them.
- Look for an opportunity to show hospitality to a complete stranger as though they were an angel from heaven.

March 26: Hebrews 13.16

List some possessions that I have shared with others.

March 27: James 5.13-16

Hospitality and *hospital* share the same root word; how are these words related? How is the idea of communal responsibility involved in both?

March 28: 1 Peter 4.7-11

Do I show hospitality graciously or do I grumble in the process? What gifts have I received that I need to use to serve others?

March 29: 1 John 3.11-18

What are ways that the love of God reveals itself in God's children in terms of hospitality?

March 30: 1 John 4.7-21

What is the correlation between our love for others and the nature of the Gospel?

March 31: 3 John

What do verses 5-8 teach about showing hospitality to missionaries and workers in the gospel? In what ways have I put that into practice?

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

- Share a possession that I value with someone who needs it.
- Take a spiritual gifts survey (see the back page for a link); identify a gift I have and use it to show kindness to one of my neighbors.
- Make plans to do something special for a missionary (one that Cloverdale supports or another one you have contact with).

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

HOSPITALITY: *In order to be inviting to all, we will be a congregation that welcomes all people, regardless of social status, education, language, age, or appearance.*

SPIRITUAL GIFT INVENTORY:

- <https://gifts.churchgrowth.org/cgi-cg/gifts.cgi?intro=1>

SPIRITUAL GIFT DESCRIPTIONS:

- <http://mintools.com/gifts-list.htm>
- <http://buildingchurch.net/g2s-d.htm>



CLOVERDALE CHURCH OF CHRIST
3000 East Park Avenue, Searcy, AR 72143
cloverdale.family@gmail.com | 501-268-4553
www.cloverdalechurchofchrist.com