



# 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 \_\_\_\_\_

**MAY**

**S E N D I N G**

May 1: Genesis 10

The book of Genesis considers all the nations of the world. Why would the Israelites need to know or be informed about the origins of other nations?

May 2: Genesis 12.1-3

Abram and Sarah were sent away from their homeland to a place of promise. How does being sent correspond with blessing all peoples on the earth (Galatians 3.8)?

May 3: 1 Chronicles 16.8-36

David lived in a time of national pride among the Israelites, but still had a sense of responsibility to tell the nations of God's glory and salvation. Am I able to be patriotic while still having a heart for the nations?

May 4: Psalm 18

How does David balance the images of the LORD being his rock, fortress, shield, and deliverer with the image of shining the LORD's praises to the nations? How do we balance the troubles in the world with God's love for the world (John 16.33)?

May 5: Psalm 67

How was Israel supposed to understand the connection between their blessings from God and their part in sharing those with *all nations*? Do we have the same responsibility today?

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

- Sandy Rogers is searching for people who can help carry on their mission in Japan after she returns to the US in a few years. Pray for God to prepare someone for this ministry.
- Pray this week for a specific Harding senior as they prepare to leave Searcy. Try and help them connect with a church wherever they go.

May 6: Psalm 96

John Piper once said, "God's glory is the primary purpose of mission. Missions exist because worship doesn't." How do the Psalmist's words reflect this idea?

May 7: Amos 9.1-10

Would Amos have been surprised by the LORD's working in other nations besides Israel? Do I consider how God is already working in people's lives even before I meet them?

May 8: Jonah 3-4

How many ways is Jonah a poor example of responding to being sent on God's work? Do I see some of those traits in my heart?

May 9: Matthew 24.1-14

How does Jesus' answer to the disciples about short-term concerns help give perspective to the importance of the long-term sending of the gospel to the whole world?

May 10: Matthew 28.16-20

What authority stands behind the Great Commission? What assurance is given to those who obey these instructions?

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

- The Mission House is in need of skilled labor to prepare their house for service. Consider how I might be able to help.
- Pray that God would stir within me a passion for the sending of the gospel to the whole world.

May 11: Mark 16.12-20

Disbelief is paralyzing, but belief results in the gospel being shared to the world. How do my actions reflect a state of belief or unbelief?

May 12: Luke 10.1-24

Jesus saw a great harvest, but few laborers. Jesus saw lambs that would encounter wolves. How does Jesus explain that what they had seen and shared was a blessing?

May 13: John 3.1-21

Jesus emphasizes to Nicodemus the necessity of being born again in order to enter God's kingdom. How does Jesus' "in or out" perspective challenge the way I look at things?

May 14: John 20.21

As God sent Jesus, Jesus sent his disciples. Do I consider sending to have stopped with Jesus and the disciples or is this a mission for me, a disciple of Jesus, as well?

May 15: Acts 1.6-11

The disciples were witnesses of Jesus' life and resurrection. Were the 12 able to go to the ends of the earth? How am I a witness with the same knowledge and task?

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

- Volunteer to help the Borbas as they reach out to their community in South Florida by becoming pen pals with one of their English students.
- Volunteer to help out with a local ministry that is "sent" into the community (like after school tutoring at The Maple House, etc.).

May 16: Acts 5.1-32; 8.1-13

The disciples were persecuted for sharing the gospel, but chose to obey God rather than men. What should my response be to sending and being sent in difficult times?

May 17: Acts 13.1-3

Antioch was a thriving city with many faiths and ethnicities. Why were Barnabas and Saul sent off to work somewhere else? What was the church doing when the Holy Spirit initiated this sending moment?

May 18: Acts 13.44-52

Sometimes we decide on a plan of action and are prevented from sending or being sent as we had hoped. How do Paul and Barnabas respond to rejection? Why don't they just quit?

May 19: Acts 26.12-18

Paul was sent by Jesus to do a particular task. Is that a task that applies to all disciples or just certain ones? In addition to our "official" missionaries, how am I "sent" as well?

May 20: Romans 3.21-26

How does the problem and God's corresponding solution in these verses place every Christian in the category of being sent?

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

- Find a Harding student and invite them to help me in my ministry efforts this month. If I am a student, find a member and ask to learn how to help in their ministry efforts.
- Pray for God to reveal who I am "sent" to share the Good News of Jesus with, and for boldness to be faithful to that task.

May 21: Romans 10.5-21

For the world to hear the gospel, someone must go and share the news. What are the different roles in getting the good news to the world?

May 22: Ephesians 2.1-10

Those saved by God in Christ have been created for "good works." What good works have I been created for and am I walking in them? If I don't know the answer to this question, how might I find out?

May 23: Ephesians 3.1-13

The Church has a purpose in God's plan to make known "the mystery." How do I fit into making known the "manifold wisdom of God"?

May 24: Philippians 1.18-30

How does Paul include the Philippian Christians in his work? What is the "worthy life" to which he is calling them?

May 25: 2 Timothy 1.3-14

Paul encourages Timothy not to be "ashamed of the testimony" about Christ. Am I afraid and hiding from opportunities to share the gospel? If I am, have I prayed for boldness?

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

- The Bassay family is returning to Arkansas on furlough this summer. Consider how I might be able to serve or support them during their stay.
- Have a conversation this week about how the church can help send out Harding students to do Kingdom work.

May 26: Titus 2.11-3.11

Paul points out how a sending state of mind can proclaim God's work in Jesus in many ways. The message is simple; the methods are many. How does my life call attention to the grace, goodness, lovingkindness, and power of "God our Savior"?

May 27: James 3.13-18

What are ways that I can share wisdom "from above"? How can this lead to a "harvest of righteousness"?

May 28: 2 Peter 1.3-15

How does dwelling on God's divine power and nature encourage me to keep to the task of sending and being sent into the world where so many are lost?

May 29: Revelation 7.9-12

This is the end goal. We send now in anticipation of the day worshipping before the throne. How can I engage fully in the present while keeping the end in mind?

May 30: Revelation 14.1-13

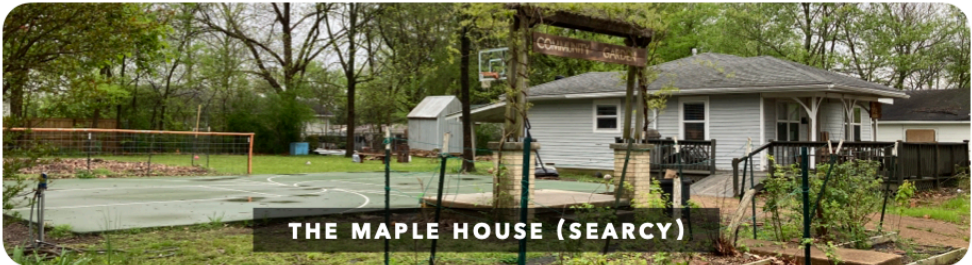
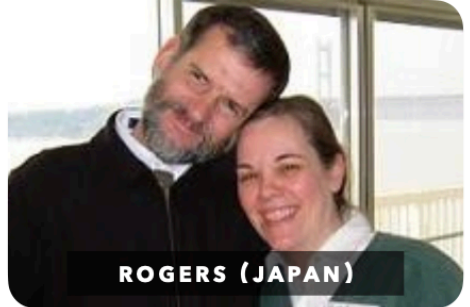
John is given a vision for the churches to understand their purpose during times of difficulty. Is there ever a time when sending stops? How does persecution often unintentionally benefit the spirit of sending by the saints?

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

- Cloverdale is in a position to assume full-time support of a missionary family. Ask the Lord to show us who He wants us to sponsor.
- Take part in a short-term mission effort, financially support someone else who is participating in one.

**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



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