

# 1 Life's Great Decisions: Choosing Your Career

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## BASIC ATTITUDES IN CHOOSING YOUR CAREER

The first step toward making the proper choice of a career is to have the proper heart attitude. Study the following to discover two basic attitudes revealed in Scripture, and the result of each of these attitudes:

### A. The First Basic Attitude: Read Isaiah 14:12-20

1. Whose attitude is described in this Scripture? Isaiah 14:12b  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. From Bible Dictionaries, Commentaries, etc. find at least two other names for this person:  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Where was his purpose in life formulated? Isaiah 4:13a  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. State the various parts of this purpose: Isaiah 14:13b-d, 14a, b
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. \_\_\_\_\_
  - e. \_\_\_\_\_
5. Around whom were all his plans for life centered? (*THINK!*)  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. Whom did he intend to exalt, or glorify? (*THINK!*)  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. What did God say would happen to him? Isaiah 14:15  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. Notice how others who had known him would respond to this: Isaiah 14:16, 17.
9. What usual rite at life's end would he not have? Isaiah 14:18-20  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. Did he accomplish what he had planned in his heart to do? Isaiah 14:12a, c, d  
\_\_\_\_\_

### B. The Second Basic Attitude: Read Hebrews 9:24-10:10

1. Whose attitude is revealed in this Scripture? Hebrews 9:24a, 28a  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. At what point in His life did he have this attitude? Hebrew 10:5a  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Because it was not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins (Hebrews 10:4), what did God do for Jesus? Hebrews 10:5c  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. What was Jesus' response to this plan of God? Hebrews 10:7a, c, 9a  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. What happened to him because He responded in this way? Hebrews 9:28a  
\_\_\_\_\_

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6. But what did He accomplish through this? Hebrews 9:26b, 10:10, 14

a. \_\_\_\_\_

b. \_\_\_\_\_

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7. What happened to Him after He had obeyed God's plan for His life? Hebrews 10:12, 13  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. Did He feel that it was worthwhile to obey God's will? Hebrews 12:2b  
\_\_\_\_\_

#### C. Evaluations of These Basic Attitudes: Read James 4:13-17; John 12:24, 25

1. From God's Word in James 4:13, 14, does it seem that He approves of those whose attitude is similar to the first basic attitude given above?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What does He indicate that they should consider primarily in making their plans? James 4:15  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. If one *knows* he should do this, but does not *do* it, what does God call his action? James 4:17  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. What did Jesus in John 12:24 indicate would happen to a grain of wheat if it:
  - a. does not fall into the ground and die? \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. does die? \_\_\_\_\_
5. According to John 12:25, what will happen to the person who:
  - a. loves his own life, so that he holds onto it for himself? \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. hates his life, so that he gives it up for God's plan? \_\_\_\_\_

#### QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. Whose example does one follow when he plans his own life? When he allows God to plan for him? What will be the end of each type of person? Luke 14:11, 18:14b, c  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Which of the above attitudes is mine more like? To what end will it lead me? Would I like this? If not, what should I do? *Will* I? When? (See Luke 22:42)  
\_\_\_\_\_



### THE FIRST BIBLE CAREERS

God Himself chose these careers of the first man and the first woman. Study these, to see if you can find any principles which guide you in discovering God's plan for your life:

**A. God's General Plan for All Mankind:** Read Genesis 1:26-28

1. When God first planned to make mankind, what did He say they were to do? Genesis 1:26

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2. What additional purpose is implied in His first command to them? Genesis 1:28

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**B. God's Specific Purpose for Adam:** Read Genesis 2:15-18, 1:29, 30

1. What job did God give to Adam? Genesis 2:15

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2. Why was this necessary? Genesis 1:29, 30

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3. Were there any restrictions placed on him concerning his food? Genesis 2:16, 17a

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4. What would be the result if he disobeyed these regulations? Genesis 2:17b

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5. What additional purpose for Adam is implied in Genesis 2:18?

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**C. God's Specific Purpose for Eve:** Read Genesis 2:18

1. What specific purpose for Eve is implied in Genesis 2:18?

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2. What were to be her two principal functions in this relationship? Genesis 2:18

a. \_\_\_\_\_

b. \_\_\_\_\_

3. What additional function is implied for Eve in Genesis 2:18b?

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**D. The Effect of Sin on the First Careers:** Read Genesis 3:1-19

1. Did Adam obey God's command to him concerning what food he should eat? Genesis 3:6

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2. Did Eve carry out the function God had designed for her as was mentioned in Genesis 2:18c, 3:6?

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3. What effect would her actions have upon her future role in childbearing? Genesis 3:16a-c

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4. What new relationship entered Eve's marriage because of her sin?  
Genesis 3:16d, e
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5. What effect did Adam's failure to obey God's command have on his future role as provider of food for his family? Genesis 3:17-19
  - a. 17f \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. 17g \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. 18a \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. 19a \_\_\_\_\_
6. What was the total effect on both man and woman? (*THINK!*)  
\_\_\_\_\_

### E. The Fulfillment of the First Callings: Read Genesis 3:20-24, 4:1, 2, 5:1-5

1. What parts of God's purpose for Adam and Eve were fulfilled in the following?
  - a. Genesis 3:23 \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. Genesis 3:20, 4:1, 2, 5:3 \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. Genesis 3:23 \_\_\_\_\_
2. To what extent do you believe they fulfilled the other parts of God's purpose for them? (*THINK!*)

### QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. From the above, what would you say will probably be God's general plan for nearly every man? For nearly every woman?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Do my plans for my life so far fit in with God's general plans for mankind, and His specific plans for men or for women, as studied above? If not, why not?  
\_\_\_\_\_

## OTHER EARLY BIBLE CAREERS

Although Adam was primarily a keeper of a garden at first, and a tiller of the ground later, his early descendants had widely varied occupations. Discover now some of these, noting mentally God's evaluation of them:

**A. The Work of Adam's Children:** Read Genesis 4:1, 2, 4:25, 26, 5:3-8

1. What was the work of:
  - a. Cain, Adam's first born? Genesis 4:1, 2c \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. Abel, Adam's second born? Genesis 4:2a, b \_\_\_\_\_
2. Is the occupation of Seth, Adam's third son, given? Genesis 4:25, 26, 5:3, 6-8  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Is the occupation of any of Adam's other children given? Genesis 4:4, 5  
\_\_\_\_\_

**B. The Work of Cain's Descendants:** Read Genesis 4:17-23

1. After Cain had killed Abel, what great work did he do? Genesis 4:16, 17  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What were the occupations of some of Cain's descendants?  
Genesis 4:20-22
  - a. Jabal: 4:20 \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. Jubal: 4:21 \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. Tubal-cain: 4:22 \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. Lamech, the father of these three: 4:23 \_\_\_\_\_

**C. The Work of Seth's Descendants:** Read Genesis 5:9-32, 6:1-3, 14

1. What three things did nearly all of Seth's descendants listed in Genesis 5:9-27 do?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Who was the only exception in this list? Genesis 5:21-24  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. For what two unusual things was he noted? Genesis 5:22-24
  - a. 22a, 24a \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. 24b, c \_\_\_\_\_
4. What was evidently the chief occupation of all these men? Genesis 5:29 and *THINK!*  
\_\_\_\_\_

**D. The Work of Noah:** Genesis 6-9

1. After 500 years evidently in this same occupation, what additional work did Noah begin, and why? Genesis 6:13, 14



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2. About how long did this evidently continue? Genesis 6:3; 1 Peter 3:20b, c

3. For the next seven months, what was Noah's occupation? Genesis 7:6, 8:4

4. After the flood, what did Noah begin to be? Genesis 9:20

### E. The Work of Noah's Descendants: Genesis 9-11

1. What purpose did God have for Noah and his sons after the flood?  
Genesis 9:1, 7

2. For what was one of Noah's descendants noted? Genesis 10:8, 9

3. Later, what did many of Noah's descendants become? Genesis 11:3, 4b

4. What was the dual purpose of their work? Genesis 11:4c, d

- a. \_\_\_\_\_  
b. \_\_\_\_\_

5. Were these goals in line with God's purposes for them? (*THINK!*)

6. Did the Lord approve of their actions? Genesis 11:5-7

7. Therefore, what did He do? Genesis 11:8a

8. As a result, what happened to the plans they had made for their lives? Genesis 11:8b, 9

### QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. Did it pay Noah's descendants to make plans that were contrary to God's purposes for them? What happened concerning God's purposes? Were they fulfilled?

2. What are God's stated purposes for *my* life? Do any of my plans for my life run contrary to God's plans? If so, what may I expect to happen?

### THE CAREERS OF THE PATRIARCHS

We think of the Patriarchs as being very great in the eyes of God. It may be quite surprising to discover what their work was. Make this your goal for this lesson:

**A. The Work of Abram (Abraham):** Genesis 11:26-25:11

1. What did God call Abram to become? Genesis 12:2, 17:5c

\_\_\_\_\_

2. What was evidently Abram's occupation? Genesis 13:2, 7a

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Later, what did he become for a short while? Genesis 14:12-16

\_\_\_\_\_

4. Although Abram was of a humble occupation, what great things happened to him?

a. Genesis 12:1 \_\_\_\_\_

b. Genesis 12:7 \_\_\_\_\_

c. Genesis 13:14 \_\_\_\_\_

d. Genesis 15:1 \_\_\_\_\_

e. Genesis 15:18 \_\_\_\_\_

f. Genesis 17:1 \_\_\_\_\_

g. Genesis 18:1 \_\_\_\_\_

h. Genesis 18:17-33 (see 33b) \_\_\_\_\_

i. Genesis 19:17, 18 \_\_\_\_\_

j. Genesis 21:1-7 \_\_\_\_\_

k. Genesis 22:1, 2, 10-12 \_\_\_\_\_

l. Genesis 22:15-18 \_\_\_\_\_

**B. The Work of Isaac:** Genesis 21:1-35:29

1. Before Abraham died, what did he give to Isaac? Genesis 25:5

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Therefore, what would Isaac's occupation have been? (*THINK!*)

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3. But what did Isaac evidently spend some time doing? Genesis 24:63

\_\_\_\_\_

4. After Abraham's death, what did God do for Isaac? Genesis 25:11

\_\_\_\_\_

5. What did Isaac make a vital part of his life? Genesis 25:21

\_\_\_\_\_

6. What wonderful things happened in the life of Isaac?

a. Genesis 26:2 \_\_\_\_\_

b. Genesis 26:12-14 \_\_\_\_\_

c. Genesis 26:22 \_\_\_\_\_

d. Genesis 26:24, 25 \_\_\_\_\_

7. What happened as a result of all these things? Genesis 26:28, 29

\_\_\_\_\_

### C. The Work of Esau and Jacob: Genesis 25:19-49:33

1. What was Esau's occupation? Genesis 25:27b

\_\_\_\_\_

2. What kind of person was Jacob? Genesis 25:27c

\_\_\_\_\_

3. What did his work include? Genesis 25:29-34

\_\_\_\_\_

4. Although Jacob was a deceitful man (Genesis 27), what wonderful thing happened to him? Genesis 28:12-17

\_\_\_\_\_

5. What did Jacob later do for a living? Genesis 30:31d

\_\_\_\_\_

6. After he had done this for 14 years, why did his father-in-law want him to continue? Genesis 30:27

\_\_\_\_\_

7. After 6 more years in this occupation, what wonderful things happened to Jacob?

a. Genesis 31:3 \_\_\_\_\_

b. Genesis 31:29, 42 \_\_\_\_\_

c. Genesis 32:24-30 (see 30) \_\_\_\_\_

d. Genesis 33:1, 4 (and *THINK!*) \_\_\_\_\_

e. Genesis 35:1 \_\_\_\_\_

f. Genesis 46:2-4 \_\_\_\_\_

### QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. Although Abraham, Isaac and Jacob were all cattlemen, what was the outstanding characteristic of their lives?

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2. Does one have to be in "full-time Christian service" to be great in the eyes of God? Which is more important: What you *do*, or what you *are*? (See Galatians 3:29)

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### THE CAREER OF JOSEPH

Sometimes the career of an individual may be very closely interwoven with God's purpose for his entire family group. Notice how this was true in the case of Joseph:

**A. God's Purpose for Abraham's Descendants:** Read Genesis 15:7-21

1. In connection with God's promise that Abram's seed should inherit Canaan (Genesis 15:7-12), what did God say would happen to them first  
Genesis 15:13-16
  - a. 13b, c \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. 13d \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. 14b \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. 16 \_\_\_\_\_
2. Notice how this prophecy began to be fulfilled in the life of Joseph.

**B. Joseph's First Occupation:** Genesis 37

1. In what work was Joseph engaged as a youth? Genesis 37:2  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What unusual gift did he have then? Genesis 37:5-11  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. How did Joseph's brothers feel toward him? Genesis 37:4, 5,11  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Therefore, what did they conspire to do? Genesis 37:18-20  
\_\_\_\_\_

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5. But what did they actually do instead? Genesis 37:25-28
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### C. Joseph's Second Occupation: Genesis 39:1-20

1. What was Joseph's new occupation once he was in Egypt? Genesis 39:2c
- 
2. What did his master soon notice about him? Genesis 39:3 (See 39:2a, b)
- 
3. Therefore, to what position was he promoted? Genesis 39:4-6b
- 
4. But what brought an abrupt end to this occupation? Genesis 39:6c-20
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### D. Joseph's Third Occupation: Genesis 39:20-41:45

1. What was Joseph's new occupation now? Genesis 39:20
- 
2. But what was still true of him there? Genesis 39:21a
- 
3. Therefore, to what position was he promoted? Genesis 39:22, 23
- 
4. What unusual opportunity did he have in this position? Genesis 40:1-22
- 
5. Because his interpretation of these dreams came to pass, what was he later given opportunity to do? Genesis 41:1-32
- 
6. To whom did he give credit for his ability to do this? Genesis 41:15, 16
- 
7. What did he recommend that Pharaoh do to prepare for the future? Genesis 41:33-36
- 
8. What did Pharaoh notice about Joseph? Genesis 41:38, 39
- 
9. Therefore, what position did he decide to give Joseph? Genesis 41:40-43
- 

### E. Joseph's Fourth Occupation: Genesis 41:46-50:26

1. How old was Joseph when he began his work in this position? Genesis 41:46
- 
2. What unusual opportunity was afforded him in this position? Genesis 42-45 (See Genesis 45:5, 7, 50:20)
- 
3. Who did he recognize had been guiding in all the affairs of his life? Genesis 45:5, 7, 50:20
-

- 
4. Is there evidence that Joseph continued in a similar position even after the emergency was passed? Genesis 47:7, 8 compared with 27, 28 and 50:4-6, 21
- 

**QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:**

1. Does one always continue in the same occupation he begins with? Does God have a purpose even in the "bad breaks" of life? To what position in today's world would Joseph's fourth position be comparable?
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2. Might God lead Christians today to take positions in their government? Might He want *me* in such a position? What does He want me to do, regardless of whether I have such a position? (See Psalm 122:6; 1Timothy 2:1-4)
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### THE CAREER OF MOSES

A great part of the Bible is devoted to the events during Moses' life span. Study now the career of this important man:

**A. Moses' Early Years:** Exodus 1:1- 2:10; Acts 7:17-22; Hebrews 11:23

1. According to the law of the land of Egypt, what should have happened to Moses as soon as he was born? Exodus 1:22

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Why was this not done? Exodus 2:1-4; Hebrews 11:23; Acts 7:17-21

\_\_\_\_\_

3. As a result, whose son did he become? Exodus 2:5-10

\_\_\_\_\_

4. Where did he spend his earliest years? Exodus 2:7-10

\_\_\_\_\_

5. What evidently occupied a good many of his early years? Acts 7:22a

\_\_\_\_\_

6. How is Moses described at the end of this time? Acts 7:22b

\_\_\_\_\_

**B. Moses' Middle Years:** Exodus 2:11-3:1; Acts 7:23-29; Hebrews 11:24-26

1. What caused Moses to give up his position of esteem in the land of Egypt? Hebrews 11:24-26

\_\_\_\_\_

2. How old was he when this occurred? Acts 7:23

\_\_\_\_\_

3. When he tried to help his people, what did he expect them to understand? Acts 7:24, 25

\_\_\_\_\_

4. Where had Moses learned this fact? (*THINK!*)

\_\_\_\_\_

5. But since his people did not understand and accept him as their deliverer, where did he have to go? Acts 7:26-29; Exodus 2:11-15

\_\_\_\_\_

6. What happened to him there? Exodus 2:16-22; Acts 7:29

\_\_\_\_\_

7. What was his occupation while he was there? Exodus 3:1

\_\_\_\_\_

8. How long did he stay there? Acts 7:30a

\_\_\_\_\_

**C. Moses' Later Years:** Exodus 3:2-Deuteronomy 34:7

1. How old was Moses by this time? Compare Acts 7:23 with 7:30

\_\_\_\_\_

2. What did God then call him to do? Acts 7:30-35; Exodus 3:2-10

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3. Did Moses feel qualified for this task? Exodus 3:11

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4. Yet did he accomplish it? Exodus 3:12-12:42 (See 12:40-42 and Acts 7:36)

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5. What was the secret of his ability to accomplish this task? Exodus 3:12a

\_\_\_\_\_

6. To what place was God going to lead the people of Israel?

Exodus 3:17, 13:5, 11

\_\_\_\_\_

7. To what place did they travel on their way there? Exodus 19:1

\_\_\_\_\_

8. What two very important things did God give to Moses for His people there?

a. Exodus 24:12-18, 31:18, 34:1, 29-35; Acts 7:38b

\_\_\_\_\_

b. Acts 7:38a; Exodus 25:8, 9

9. During these journeys, what did the people Moses was leading do?

a. Exodus 15:24, 16:2; Numbers 14:1, 2, 16:41

b. Exodus 17:2; Numbers 20:3

c. Numbers 11:1, 4

d. Numbers 12:1

e. Numbers 16:3, 20:2

f. Numbers 21:4, 5

10. Would this have been an easy position to fill? (*THINK!*)

\_\_\_\_\_

11. How long did Moses continue in this position? Acts 7:36; Deuteronomy 34:7

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### QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. During what period of Moses' life was his most outstanding work done? Could he have done this work without the preparation received during the earlier parts?

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Might God have a great work for *me* to do for Him? But what might be necessary before I can do this work? Am I willing to endure faithfully until then? (See Philippians 1:29)

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### THE CAREER OF JOSHUA

Often the life of one great leader is interwoven with that of another under whom he was trained. See how this was true in the case of Joshua:

#### A. Joshua's First Position: Exodus 17-Numbers 26

1. Soon after Israel had left Egypt, what did Moses commission Joshua to do? Exodus 17:8-16  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What was Joshua's position after this? Exodus 24:13; Numbers 11:28  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What unique privileges did he have in this position?
  - a. Exodus 24:12-18, 32:15-17 \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. Exodus 33:7-11 \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. Numbers 11:24-30 \_\_\_\_\_
4. Later, what other privilege did he share with eleven others? Numbers 13:1-24  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Be able to tell how Joshua and Caleb's report of this expedition differed from that of the others who went: Numbers 13:25-14:9  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. What did the people want to do to them as a result? Numbers 14:10a  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. Who intervened to prevent this? Numbers 14:10b-11  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. What then happened to the ten spies? Numbers 14:36, 37  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. But what happened to Joshua and Caleb? Numbers 14:38  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. What wonderful promise did they receive, that no other Israelites received? Numbers 14:24, 30  
\_\_\_\_\_
11. About 38 years later, what had happened? Deuteronomy 2:14, 15  
Numbers 26:63-65  
\_\_\_\_\_

#### B. Joshua's Second Position: Numbers 27-Joshua 24

1. When Lord told Moses that his time had come to die, what was his main concern? Numbers 27:12-17  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Whom did the Lord appoint for this position? Numbers 27:18-23  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. At God's command, what did Moses charge him that he should do? Numbers 27:19, 23; Deuteronomy 31:23  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. What else did God promise Joshua would be able to do?  
\_\_\_\_\_

Deuteronomy 1:38, 3:28

- 
5. On what condition would he be able to accomplish this? Joshua 1:6-9
- 
6. What supernatural experiences did Joshua have as he performed this task? Joshua
- a. 2:9, 20 \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. 3:15-17 \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. 5:13-15 \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. 6:20, 21 \_\_\_\_\_
  - e. 7:5-21 \_\_\_\_\_
  - f. 8:1, 2, 26 \_\_\_\_\_
  - g. 10:11 \_\_\_\_\_
  - h. 10:12-14 \_\_\_\_\_
7. What was the secret of Joshua's success in completing the first phase of what God had planned for him to do? Joshua 10:42, 11:15, 23
- 
8. How old was Caleb then? Joshua 13:1, 14:7, 10
- 
9. What did God then tell Joshua to do, and how? Joshua 13:7, 14:2a
- 
10. Who was evidently the last to receive his inheritance? Joshua 19:49, 50
- 
11. Did Joshua complete the task given him by God?  
Joshua 21:44, 45, 23:9, 10, 14
- 
12. How was Joshua esteemed by his people? Joshua 3:7, 4:14
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**QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:**

1. Why was Joshua chosen to be Moses' chief helper? His successor? Did he have a full, satisfying life, and an effective ministry for the Lord in these positions?
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2. Would it ever be God's will for a Christian today to be a soldier? A politician?
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### THE CAREERS OF THE JUDGES AND SAMUEL

Although Joshua had conquered the kings and the armies of the land of Canaan, the ordinary people of Canaan still lived there. See now what happened to them, and with what result:

#### A. The Occasion for the Judges: Judges 1-2

1. What had God said the people of Israel must do to the peoples of the other nations in Canaan? (See Exodus 23:31-33)  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Did they do this? Judges 1:19, 21, 27, 29-31, 33, 34  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What did they do instead? Judges 1:28, 30c, d, 33e, 35d  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Therefore, what did the angel of the Lord tell them? Judges 2:3  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. How long did the Israelites continue to serve the Lord? Judges 2:7  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. Then what did they do? Judges 2:11-13  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. Then what did the Lord do? Judges 2:14, 15d  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. How did this cause the Israelites to feel? Judges 2:15e  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. Then what did the Lord do? Judges 2:16  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. Notice how this four-fold cycle of sin, punishment, repentance, and deliverance was repeated over and over again in the days that followed: Judges 2:17-23.  
\_\_\_\_\_

#### B. The Career of the Judges: Judges 3-16

1. What caused each of the judges to embark upon his career as a military and civil leader? Judges 2:16, 18, 3:9, 15, 4:6, 6:11-24  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. When was Samson chosen for this position? Judges 13:2-14  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What was God's purpose for his life? Judges 13:5e  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. How did Barak learn of God's plan for his life? Judges 4:4-7  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. What was Gideon doing when he received God's call for special service? Judges 6:11-14  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. What miracles did God perform to make him *sure* of this call?
  - a. Judges 6:36-40 \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. Judges 7:9-15 \_\_\_\_\_
7. Through whom did Jephthah's call come? Judges 11:1-11  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. What was the secret of the judges' power for service? Judges 3:10, 6:34, 11:29, 13:25, 14:6, 19, 15:14, 16:28  
\_\_\_\_\_

**C. The Career of Samuel:** 1 Samuel 1-7

1. By whom was Samuel's career chosen? 1 Samuel 1:11, 20, 24-28  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What did Samuel do as the first phase of this career? 1 Samuel 2:11b, 18, 3:1  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Why were his services especially needed? 1 Samuel 2:12-17, 35  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. What supernatural experience did he have early in life? 1 Samuel 3:1-18  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. What did this experience prove him to be? 1 Samuel 3:19-21  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. After the death of Eli and his sons, what did Samuel become?  
1 Samuel 7:6g, 15-17  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. In this position, what was he used of God to do? 1 Samuel 7:3, 4, 13  
\_\_\_\_\_

**QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:**

1. Were the judges similar to our judges today? What officers were they more like? Why did they need God's Spirit to empower them for this work  
(See John 15:5)  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Does God have a special work for *me* to do for Him? Could He have been preparing me for it before I was born? Will God's Spirit be needed to empower me for it?  
\_\_\_\_\_



## THE CAREERS OF SAUL AND DAVID

After Samuel had been used of God to turn Israel back to God from their worship of idols, he continued to judge Israel until he was old. Read to see what happened then:

### A. The Career of Saul: 1 Samuel 8-31

1. When Samuel was old, what did the Israelites ask that he do?  
1 Samuel 8:1-5  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Although the Lord warned them of the bad results of such action, when they insisted, what did He tell Samuel to do? 1 Samuel 8:6-22  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What was evidently Saul's work at first? 1 Samuel 9:3, 11:5a  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Why did he change his occupation? 1 Samuel 9:15-17, 10:1, 17-24  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. In this position, what did he often have to do? 1 Samuel 11:11, 13:5  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. What was the secret of his success in his early ventures? 1 Samuel 11:6  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. What caused his downfall? 1 Samuel 13:14d, 15:22, 23  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. What two things happened to him after this? 1 Samuel 16:14
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_
9. What did he often try to do after this? 1 Samuel 18:9, 11, 17, 25e, 19:1, 10, 11, 20, 20:31, 23:8, 14c, 25, 24:2, 26:2  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. What finally happened to Saul? 1 Samuel 31:2-6; 1 Chronicles 10:13, 14  
\_\_\_\_\_

### B. David's Preliminary Works: 1 Samuel 16-2 Samuel 1

1. What was David's first work? 1 Samuel 16:11  
\_\_\_\_\_
1. What two great feats did he accomplish as he worked in this capacity  
1 Samuel 17:34-36  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. To whom did he give credit for these victories? 1 Samuel 17:37  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. What happened to indicate that David would change his occupation?  
1 Samuel 16:1, 12, 13b  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. What happened to him after this? 1 Samuel 16:13c  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. What was David's next position? 1 Samuel 16:21d  
\_\_\_\_\_



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7. What was one of his duties in this capacity? 1 Samuel 16:14-23  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. What did David later do that attracted Saul's attention? 1 Samuel 17:45-50  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. What position was he given after this? 1 Samuel 18:2, 5c  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. What two things were true of him then? 1 Samuel 18:5b, 14a, 15a, 30c, 18:12b, 14b, 28a  
\_\_\_\_\_
11. Then, because of Saul's attitude toward him, what did he do for several years? 1 Samuel 19:10d, 12, 18, 20:1, 21:10  
\_\_\_\_\_
12. During these years, what did David learn to do in every emergency? 1 Samuel 23:2, 4, 10-12, 24:12, 15  
\_\_\_\_\_

### C. David's Main Work: 2 Samuel 2-1 Kings 2:12; 1 Chronicles 11-29

1. After Saul was dead, what did David again do? 2 Samuel 2:1  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. When he followed the directions thus given, what happened? 2 Samuel 2:4  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. How long was it before he was made king over all the land? 2 Samuel 2:11, 3:1, 5:1-5  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. What was the general character of David's life after this? 2 Samuel 5:10; 1 Kings 15:5a, b  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. What was the one exception to this general rule? 1 Kings 15:5c  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. What happened because of this sin? 2 Samuel 12:10  
\_\_\_\_\_

### QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. Although both Saul and David were chosen by God to be king, were they at all alike? What was the chief difference? 1 Samuel 13:14b; Acts 13:22d-f, 36  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Which am I more like: Saul, or David? To what end will my present course take me? Would I like this? If not, what must I do? When?  
\_\_\_\_\_



## THE CAREERS OF SOLOMON AND THE OTHER KINGS OF ISRAEL AND JUDAH

Even before Solomon was born, God had spoken words concerning him which indicated His plan for Solomon's life. Study his life now, and the lives of those who followed him:

**A. The Career of Solomon:** 2 Samuel 7, 12:24-1 Kings 11; 2 Chronicles 1-9

1. Even before Solomon was born, what great promises had God made to David?
  - a. 2 Samuel 7:12-15 \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. 2 Samuel 7:16, 13b \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. 1 Kings 2:4, 8:25, 9:5; 2 Chronicles 6:16 \_\_\_\_\_
2. What was true of Solomon from birth? 2 Samuel 12:24, 25  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. In David's old age, when he learned that his son Adonijah planned to be king, what did he do? 1 Kings 1:20-40  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. What was Solomon's relationship to the Lord at first? 1 Kings 3:3  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. What unusual opportunity did God give him at the beginning of his reign?  
1 Kings 3:5-14  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. What was true of him after this? 1 Kings 3:28, 4:29-34  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. What was Solomon's great contribution to his nation? 1 Kings 6:1, 7:1, 2  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. After 20 years (1 Kings 9:10), when Solomon had finished this, what again happened to him? 1 Kings 9:1-9  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. Did God keep His promises to Solomon? 1 Kings 9:26-10:29  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. Yet in his old age, what did Solomon do, and with what result? 1 Kings 11:1-8  
\_\_\_\_\_
11. Therefore, how did the Lord feel toward him? 1 Kings 11:9, 10  
\_\_\_\_\_
12. What did the Lord say He would do to Solomon, and when?  
1 Kings 11:11-13  
\_\_\_\_\_
13. What happened for the rest of his life? 1 Kings 11:14, 23, 26  
\_\_\_\_\_

**B. The Careers of the Kings of Israel:** 1 Kings 12-2 Kings 17

1. Did God's threat concerning Solomon's kingdom come to pass?  
1 Kings 12:1-24  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Although God had made wonderful promises to Jeroboam  
\_\_\_\_\_

(See 1 Kings 11:37, 38), what did he do? 1 Kings 12:28-30

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3. What did the first six kings of Israel who followed Jeroboam do?  
1 Kings 15:26, 34, 16:7, 19, 26, 31a  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. What new sin did the seventh king introduce? 1 Kings 16:31c-d  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Whose example did most of the later kings follow? 1 King 22:52;  
2 Kings 3:2, 3, 10:28, 29, 13:2, 11, 14:24, 15:9, 18, 24, 28  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. Therefore, what happened to the first three dynasties? 1 Kings 14:10, 11, 15:29, 16:3,  
4, 10-13, 21:21-24; 2 Kings 10:11, 17  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. What happened to several other kings? 2 Kings 15:10, 14, 25, 30  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. What finally happened to the nation Israel? 2 Kings 17:6, 18, 23  
\_\_\_\_\_

### C. The Careers of the Kings of Judah: 1 Kings 12-2 Kings 25;

2 Chronicles 10-36

1. How did each of Judah's kings obtain his position? 1 Kings 11:43c, 14:31d, 15:8c, etc.  
and *THINK!*  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Whose example did some of Judah's kings follow?
  - a. 1 Kings 15:11; 2 Kings 18:3, 22:2 \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. 2 Chronicles 21:5, 6, 22:1c, 3 \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. 2 Kings 16:1, 3, 21:1, 2, 21:19-21 \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. 2 Kings 23:31, 32, 23:36, 37, 24:8, 9, 24:18, 19 \_\_\_\_\_
3. What did Judah have that Israel did not? 2 Chronicles 11:13, 16, 17, 15:2, 12, 15, 17:3,  
4, 20:32, 33, 26:4, 5, 27:6, 29:10, 34:3  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Yet what eventually happened to Judah? 2 Chronicles 36:15-21  
\_\_\_\_\_

### QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. What unique opportunity did God give to Solomon? To Rehoboam?  
To Jeroboam? To each of the other kings of Israel and Judah? Did any take  
full advantage of it?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Is it possible that God has given or will give to me a unique opportunity? What will be  
the effect if I take full advantage of it? If I do not?  
\_\_\_\_\_

## THE CAREERS OF THE PROPHETS

Very early in the history of the nation Israel, men were called prophets because they spoke forth messages for God. Study now the careers of some of these men:

**A. Description of the Function of a Prophet:** Read Deuteronomy 18:15-22

1. Why did the office of prophet become necessary? Deuteronomy 18:15-17  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What was to be the function of a prophet? Deuteronomy 18:18c, d  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What must the people then do? Deuteronomy 18:19  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. What two things must the prophet make sure that he did not do? Deuteronomy 18:20
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_
5. What was the proof of whether one was a true prophet?  
Deuteronomy 18:21, 22  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. Notice what some false prophets would be able to do: Deuteronomy 13:1-5.
7. How did one become a prophet? Deuteronomy 18:15a, 18a  
\_\_\_\_\_

**B. The Careers of the Early Prophets:**

1. Who is the first to be called a prophet? Genesis 20:1-7  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Who was the next prophet? Exodus 7:1, 2, 4:15, 16  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. In what two ways would God commonly make Himself known to the prophet?  
Numbers 12:6  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. In what form were His messages given? Numbers 12:8c  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. In what way was Moses different from the other prophets?  
Numbers 12:7, 8b, d; Deuteronomy 34:10, 12  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. Who else was called a prophet? 2 Chronicles 35:18; Acts 13:20  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. What had prophets before his day been called? 1 Samuel 9:9  
\_\_\_\_\_

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6. What two prophets brought messages to King David? 1 Samuel 22:5;  
1 Kings 1:32, 44; 2 Samuel 12:1-15, 25
- 

### C. The Careers of the Later Prophets:

1. List some of the prophets of the divided kingdom period:
  - a. 1 Kings 11:29-39, 14:2-18 \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. 1 Kings 13:1-32 \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. 1 Kings 16:7, 12 \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. 1 Kings 17:1-2 Kings 2:11 \_\_\_\_\_
  - e. 1 Kings 19:16b -2 Kings 13:20 \_\_\_\_\_
  - f. 2 Chronicles 12:5 \_\_\_\_\_
  - g. 2 Chronicles 13:22, 12:15, 9:29 \_\_\_\_\_
  - h. 2 Chronicles 15:1-8 \_\_\_\_\_
2. Of these, which had a most unusual call, and served an apprenticeship under another?  
1 Kings 19:16b, 19-21  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Who was proven to be a false prophet? Jeremiah 28:1-17  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Which of the writing prophets had a most unusual call? Isaiah 6:1-13  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. When was another chosen for his task? Jeremiah 1:4, 5  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. What three things happened to Ezekiel before he was called to his task?
  - a. Ezekiel 1:3a \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. Ezekiel 1:3c \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. Ezekiel 2:2a \_\_\_\_\_
7. To whom was he called to minister? Ezekiel 2:3-7, 3:4-11  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. Notice what was to be the content of his messages: Ezekiel 2:8-3:3.
7. What was Amos' occupation before God called him to prophesy?  
(See Amos 7:14, 15)  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. What happened to Jonah when he disobeyed God's call to prophesy against Nineveh?  
Jonah 1:1-17  
\_\_\_\_\_
11. After repented, what did God again tell him to do? Jonah 3:1-10  
\_\_\_\_\_

### QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. Did any of the prophets choose his own occupation? Was it an easy task for any? But was it a rewarding one?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Is it possible that God might want me to be a messenger for Him? Full-time? If so, how will I know? What will be my response?  
\_\_\_\_\_

(See Isaiah 6:8; Romans 11:29)

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## THE CAREERS OF OLD TESTAMENT WOMEN

In the process of accomplishing their primary tasks of being helpers to their husbands and mothers of children, several Old Testament women accomplished very significant feats for good, while others were given to great evil. Study now some of these:

### A. The Work of Old Testament Women:

1. What position did few women hold? Esther 2:17; 1 Kings 10:1  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What two women used this position to accomplish evil purposes?  
1 Kings 21:1-16; 2 Kings 9:30-37; 2 Kings 11:1-16  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What title was given to several other women? Exodus 15:20; Judges 4:4a;  
2 Kings 22:14; 2 Chronicles 34:22; Isaiah 8:3  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. What other important position was held by one of these? Judges 4:4b, 5c  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Who was evidently a false prophetess? Nehemiah 6:14  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. What tasks were performed by the following women?
  - a. Rebekah: Genesis 24:15, 16 \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. Rachel: Genesis 29:9 \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. Miriam as a girl: Exodus 2:4; Numbers 26:59 \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. Jochebed: Exodus 6:20, 2:1-10 \_\_\_\_\_
  - e. Zipporah and her sisters: Exodus 2:16, 17, 21 \_\_\_\_\_
  - f. Women who left Egypt: Exodus 35:22, 25, 26, 29 \_\_\_\_\_
  - g. The Shunamite woman: 2 Kings 4:8-10 \_\_\_\_\_
  - h. Jehosheba: 2 Kings 11:1-20; 2 Chronicles 22:10-23:21 \_\_\_\_\_
7. List several tasks that even a wealthy woman's schedule included:  
Proverbs 31:10-27  
\_\_\_\_\_

### B. Unusual Guidance for Old Testament Women:

1. To what three women did the angel of the Lord appear to give guidance? Genesis 16:7-14, 21:8-21, 18:1, 9-15; Judges 13:2-25  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Who else received definite guidance from the Lord  
Genesis 24:12-21, 49-51  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. For whom was a special ruling obtained from the Lord, and why?  
Numbers 27:1-11  
\_\_\_\_\_

### C. The Faith of Old Testament Women:

1. What women received definite answers to their prayers? Genesis 25:21-23, 30:6, 22; 1 Samuel 1:9-11, 20, 2:20, 21
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2. What women received miracles worked in their behalf? Hebrews 11:11; Genesis 17:15-17, 21:1-7; 1 Kings 17:8-16, 17-24; 2 Kings 4:1-7, 11, 17, 18-37

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3. What other Israelite women demonstrated their faith in definite ways? Judges 4:6-24; 2 Kings 5:1-14; 1 Samuel 19:11-17, 25:2-42

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4. What two heathen women demonstrated such faith in God that they became members of the nation Israel? Hebrews 11:31; Joshua 2:9-21, 6:22-25 Ruth 1:8-18, 4:9-17

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5. What else did these two women also become? Matthew 1:5, 16 and *THINK!*

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6. What woman received a special gift from her father at her wedding? Joshua 15:16-19; Judges 1:12-15

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7. What women wrote beautiful songs after the Lord had given great victories? Exodus 15:21; Judges 5:1-31; 1 Samuel 2:1-10

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8. Which women also demonstrated a definite lack of faith upon occasion? Genesis 16:1-6, 27:1-17, 30:1, 2, 31:32, 34; Numbers 12:1-15 2 Samuel 6:12-23; Job 2:7-9

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### QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. Was the work of women in Old Testament times very different from that of women in our culture today? Were they themselves? Was their relationship to God?

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2. What are the primary responsibilities of a woman today? How do I compare with Old Testament women who showed great faith? Who showed lapses of faith?

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### REVIEW OF OLD TESTAMENT CAREERS

As you come to the end of this unit of study, review all you have learned about Old Testament careers, and principles derived from them which could help in your life:

#### A. Types of Careers:

1. What were the six main types of leaders in Old Testament days?  
Genesis 20:7; Exodus 28:1; Judges 2:16a; 1 Samuel 10:24; Exodus 17:9; Genesis 41:41  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What were the main occupations of most of the common men?  
Genesis 4:2a, b  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. In what other occupations did some men engage? *(THINK!)*  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. What was main occupation of most women in Old Testament days?  
Genesis 2:18c, 3:20b  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. In what other occupations did some women engage? *(THINK!)*  
\_\_\_\_\_

#### B. Choice of Careers:

1. What people were specifically called by God, and to what career?
  - a. Genesis 2:15 \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. Genesis 6:13, 14 \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. Acts 7:30-34; Exodus 3:2-10 \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. Numbers 27:18-23 \_\_\_\_\_
  - e. Judges 4:6, 7 \_\_\_\_\_
  - f. Judges 6:11-14 \_\_\_\_\_
  - g. 1 Samuel 9:15-17, 10:1, 17-24 \_\_\_\_\_
  - h. 1 Samuel 16:1, 12, 13 \_\_\_\_\_
  - i. 1 Kings 19:16b, 19-21 \_\_\_\_\_
  - j. Isaiah 6:1-13 \_\_\_\_\_
2. When were some chosen for their tasks? Judges 13:5; 2 Samuel 7:12-15; Jeremiah 1:4, 5  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. How did others evidently enter upon their careers? Genesis 25:5 and *THINK!*  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Even where a specific call of God to a certain career is not recorded, was it ever evident that God had guided the person into that particular position? Give examples to prove your answer:  
\_\_\_\_\_

#### C. Basic Attitudes Toward Different Careers:

1. Did many of the people in the Old Testament choose their own careers?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Who either chose the careers for most of those we have studied, or guided in the circumstances through which they were led into them? *(THINK!)*  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. Therefore, should one career be considered to be superior to another?
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4. What should be the main consideration as to whether one should enter one career rather than another? (*THINK!*)
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### D. Progression of Careers:

1. What persons began in one career and progressed into one or more others?
- a. Genesis 5:29 \_\_\_\_\_, from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ (6:13, 14) to \_\_\_\_\_ (2 Peter 2:5), to \_\_\_\_\_ (Genesis 7:6 -8:4), to \_\_\_\_\_ (9:20).
  - b. Genesis 37:2 \_\_\_\_\_, from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ (39:2), to \_\_\_\_\_ (39:20), to \_\_\_\_\_ (41:40-43).
  - c. Acts 7:22 \_\_\_\_\_, from \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ (Exodus 3:1), to \_\_\_\_\_ (3:10) and \_\_\_\_\_ (Deuteronomy 34:10-12).
  - d. Exodus 17:9 \_\_\_\_\_, from \_\_\_\_\_ to (Exodus 24:13), to \_\_\_\_\_ (Numbers 27:18-23).
  - e. 1 Samuel 2:11b, 18a, 3:1a \_\_\_\_\_, from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ (3:20) and \_\_\_\_\_ (7:6f, 15-17c).
  - f. 1 Samuel 9:3; 11:5a \_\_\_\_\_, from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ (10:24).
  - g. 1 Samuel 16:11 \_\_\_\_\_, from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ (16:21d) to \_\_\_\_\_ (18:5c), to \_\_\_\_\_ (21:10), to \_\_\_\_\_ (2 Samuel 2:4), to \_\_\_\_\_ (5:3).
  - h. Daniel 1:6a \_\_\_\_\_, from \_\_\_\_\_ (1:3), to \_\_\_\_\_ (1:19c), to \_\_\_\_\_ (2:48), to \_\_\_\_\_ (6:2), to \_\_\_\_\_ (Matthew 24:15).
2. In the case of Adam, what caused a change in occupation? Genesis 3:17-24 \_\_\_\_\_
- 
3. What effect did sin have on Eve's career? Genesis 3:16 \_\_\_\_\_
- 
4. Would sin still have the same effect today? (*THINK!*) \_\_\_\_\_
- 
5. What did God sometimes use to get others from one position to another? Genesis 50:20, 39:17-20, 40:23 \_\_\_\_\_
- 

### E. Basic Purposes for Careers:

1. What was one of the original purposes of careers for men? Genesis 2:15, 16 and *THINK!*
- 
2. Can you think of at least one other purpose?
- 
3. Tell how this purpose would be carried out in women's careers, also:
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### F. Power for Carrying Out One's Calling:

1. What were two secrets of many people's being able to fulfil their callings?
- a. Genesis 39:2a, 3a, 21a; Exodus 3:12a; Joshua 1:5b, 9e;

Judges 2:18b, 6:12c; 1 Samuel 17:37, 45-47, 18:12b, 14b, 28a

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b. Judges 3:10a, 6:34a, 11:29a, 13:25, 14:6a, 19a, 15:14c; 1 Samuel 11:6, 16:13c; 2 Samuel 23:2; 1 Kings 18:12; 2 Chronicles 20:14; Isaiah 61:1; Ezekiel 11:5; Micah 3:8

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2. For what definite jobs was this true? (See above and *THINK!*)

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3. What did many learn to do in times of crisis? Genesis 15:2-3, 18:22-23, 25:21-22, 30:6, 22, 32:24-26; Exodus 32:11; Numbers 11:2, 11, 27:5, 15; Joshua 7:6, 10:12; Judges 16:28; 1 Samuel 1:10, 7:5, 23:2, 4, 10-12, 24:12, 15; 2 Samuel 2:1

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4. What did others do instead? Judges 2:1, 2; 1 Samuel 13:13, 14, 15:22, 23, 1 Kings 11:11; Jonah 1:1, 2

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5. What happened when people failed to count on God's presence and power? Judges 2:1-3; 1 Samuel 13:14, 15:22-23, 16:14

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### G. The Ultimate Goal of All Careers:

1. Regardless of what career one was in, what sex one belonged to, whether he was specifically called by God to his career, or simply guided by his circumstances or family members into it, with whom was it possible for him to have a vital relationship? Genesis 3:8a, 5:22, 6:8, 9,12:1-3, 13:14-18, 15:1-16, 17:1-21, 18:1-33, 22:11-18, 26:2, 24, 25, 28:12-17, 31:3, 32:24-30, 35:1, 46:2-4, etc.

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2. Was this true only under "good" circumstances? Genesis 39:1-6, 19-23, 40:23

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3. What often happened as a result of this vital relationship? Genesis 26:28, 29, 30:27, 39:3, 41:38; 1 Samuel 18:28a

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4. What did others sometimes do as a result of seeing such evidence?

a. Daniel 2:47 \_\_\_\_\_

b. Daniel 4:37 \_\_\_\_\_

c. Daniel 6:25-27 \_\_\_\_\_

d. Joshua 2:9-11 \_\_\_\_\_

e. Ruth 1:16 \_\_\_\_\_

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### QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. We have studied mostly those who allowed God to guide in their choices of careers; but what other group is largely represented in the Old Testament?

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2. Which group should I follow? Does it matter what field of work I enter? How is it chosen? What my attitude toward it is? How long I stay in it? What purpose is accomplished through it? Whether I have power in carrying it out? Whether its

ultimate goal is reached? What will be the result of all these things--to me? to my parents and descendents? to God and His work?

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## THE CAREER OF JOHN THE BAPTIST

The first person to appear on the New Testament scene (correlating all four Gospel accounts), was Zacharias, the father of John the Baptist. Read now to discover the unusual things which were told him concerning his now-famous son:

### A. The Prophecies Concerning John's Birth: Read Luke 1:5-22

1. What was Zacharias' occupation? Luke 1:5  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What kind of people were he and his wife? Luke 1:6  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Why had they had no children? Luke 1:7a  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. What was now true of them both? Luke 1:7b  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. What was Zacharias' job as a priest? Luke 1:8, 9  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. As he was performing this task one day, what happened? Luke 1:10, 11  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. What message did this angel bring? Luke 1:13a-d  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. What specific things did the angel predict concerning this child? Luke 1:
  - a. 13e \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. 15a \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. 15b \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. 15c, d \_\_\_\_\_
  - e. 16 \_\_\_\_\_
  - f. 17a \_\_\_\_\_
9. Notice two groups whose hearts he would be able to turn: Luke 1:17b, c.  
What would be the purpose of all his ministry? Luke 1:17d  
(See Isaiah 40:3; Malachi 4:5, 6)  
\_\_\_\_\_

### B. John's Ministry: Read Luke 3:1-22; Mark 1:1-11; Matthew 3; John 1:15-34

1. What was the main theme of John's preaching? Luke 3:3b  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Did many respond to his message? Mark 1:5  
\_\_\_\_\_

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3. What attitude was thus aroused in many hearts? Luke 3:15a

4. Who did they think John might be? Luke 3:15b (Also John 1:21a, b)

5. Who did John say he was? John 1:23

6. For what purpose did he say he was come? John 1:31

7. With what event was this purpose fulfilled? Matthew 3:13-17

8. Because of what took place at this time, what did John later say about Jesus? John 1:32-34
- 
9. Still later, what did John say about the relationship between himself and Jesus? John 3:30
- 

**C. The End of John's Life:** Read Luke 3:19, 20, 9:7-9; Matthew 14:3-12; Mark 6:17-29

1. For what two things did John reprove Herod the tetrarch? Luke 3:19
- a. \_\_\_\_\_
- b. \_\_\_\_\_
2. Therefore, what did Herod do? Luke 3:20
- 
3. What did his wife Herodias want to do? Mark 6:19a, b
- 
4. Why could she not do this? Mark 6:19c, 20
- 
5. But notice how she finally accomplished her desire: Mark 6:21-28
- 
6. What did Jesus say John was? Matthew 11:9
- 
7. How did Jesus compare him with other men? Matthew 11:11a, b
- 

**QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:**

1. Who chose John the Baptist's career? Did he fulfil God's purpose for his life? Was it an easy life? But was it a rewarding one? (See Luke 1:16, 17)
- 
2. In what sense was John the Baptist's life unique? Are there any ways in which my life could be similar to his? Am I willing for it to be? Even if it costs?
-



## THE CAREERS OF THE TWELVE APOSTLES

In the lives of the twelve apostles, there seem to be several successive callings, denoting the various stages of their commitment to Jesus as their leader, and to the work He had planned for them to do. Notice these callings as you study the following:

### A. The First Call of Jesus: Read John 1:35-51

1. When John the Baptist told two of his disciples that Jesus was the Lamb of God, what did they do? John 1:35-37  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. After they had spent one day with Jesus, what did they decide about Him? John 1:39-41  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Were they content to keep this information to themselves? John 1:40, 41  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Name two of the three men now following Jesus. John 1:40, 41  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Whom did Jesus then call? John 1:43  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. What was his opinion of Jesus after meeting Him? John 1:45  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. With whom did he share this opinion? John 1:44, 45a  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. Although Nathanael at first was skeptical (John 1:46a), what did he decide after just a few words with Jesus? John 1:47-49  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. In one word, summarize this call:  
\_\_\_\_\_

### B. The Second Call of Jesus: Read Mark 1:16-20; Matthew 4:18-22, 9:9; Luke 5:1-11, 27, 28

1. What was the career of Simon, Andrew, James, and John? Mark 1:16, 19  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What did Jesus call them to do? Mark 1:17a, b, 20  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What did He promise to make of them? Mark 1:17c  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. What was their response? Mark 1:18, 20  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Read of one event which may have helped them make this decision: Luke 5:1-11  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. What was the original occupation of Matthew or Levi? Luke 5:27  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. When Jesus called him, what did he do? Luke 5:28; Matthew 9:9  
\_\_\_\_\_

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8. How could you summarize this call? (See Luke 6:13a)
- 
-

**C. The Third Call of Jesus:** Read Luke 6:12-16; Mark 3:13-19

1. After spending a whole night in prayer, whom did Jesus call unto Him?  
Luke 6:12, 13b  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. From among them, how many did He choose, and what did He call them? Luke 6:13c, d  
(Notice how this word summarizes this calling)  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. For what special duties were they called? Mark 3:14b, 14c, 15
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. \_\_\_\_\_

**D. The Fourth Call of Jesus:** Read Mark 6:7-13; Matthew 10; Luke 9:1-6

1. Quite some time after the above call, what did Jesus begin to do with the twelve disciples? Mark 6:7a, b  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What power did Jesus then give them? Mark 6:7c; Matthew 10:1; Luke 9:1  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What two things were they to do? Luke 9:2  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. After instructing them quite thoroughly (Matthew 10:5-16; Mark 6:8-11; Luke 9:3-5), how did Jesus warn that they would be treated?  
Matthew 10:17-20, 22a, 23a  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. In spite of this, how were they to feel? Matthew 10:26a, 28a, 31a  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. What must they be willing to do for Jesus? Matthew 10:32, 33, 37-39  
10:37 \_\_\_\_\_  
10:38 \_\_\_\_\_  
10:39 \_\_\_\_\_
7. Did the apostles do as they were told? Mark 6:12, 13  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. To what was this call? (*THINK!*)  
\_\_\_\_\_

**QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:**

1. What was required to respond to each call of Jesus? What would have happened had any not responded affirmatively?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. How many of these callings have I experienced? Would I be willing to respond to others if God should give me that privilege?  
\_\_\_\_\_



### THE CAREERS OF LEADERS AMONG THE TWELVE

Up until this point, all of the twelve apostles seemed to be on about the same basis in their relationships with the Lord Jesus. But more and more, three began to come to the forefront, and one of these led even the three. See now who these were:

#### A. The Emergence of "The Inner Circle":

1. When Jesus raised Jairus' daughter from the dead, what three disciples were permitted to witness this miracle? Luke 8:51-55  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What three were present when Jesus was transfigured? Matthew 17:1, 2  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What three did Jesus take with Him as He went to pray in the garden of Gethsemane? Matthew 26:36-38  
\_\_\_\_\_

#### B. The Emergence of the Leader:

1. When Jesus came to the disciples walking on the water, which of them asked Him to bid him come to Him on the water? Matthew 14:25-28  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. The next day, when many of Jesus' disciples left Him for good, and Jesus asked if the twelve would also go away, which of them answered for the group? John 6:66-69  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. When Jesus later asked the twelve who they said that He was, who answered? Matthew 16:13-16  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Notice the promise Jesus then gave Peter: Matthew 16:17, 18. When had Jesus first given Peter a name meaning rock or stone? John 1:42  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. After the wonderful events of the transfiguration, who was the spokesman for the three? Matthew 17:4  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. When Jesus and His disciples passed the fig tree Jesus had cursed, who called attention to the fact that it was withered? Mark 11:20, 21  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. When Jesus predicted that Peter would deny Him, notice what Peter said: Matthew 26:31-35; Mark 14:27-31; Luke 22:31-34; John 13:37, 38.  
\_\_\_\_\_

8. When Judas led the soldiers in arresting Jesus, who was the only disciple who fought against them? John 18:10; Matthew 26:51; Luke 22:50  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. After Jesus' arrest, which of His disciples followed Him to His trial?  
John 18:15  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. Although Peter three times denied His Lord (John 18:16-27), to whom did Mary Magdalene come when she discovered Jesus' tomb empty?  
John 20:1, 2  
\_\_\_\_\_
11. Who was one of the first two disciples to visit the empty tomb? John 20:3-10  
\_\_\_\_\_
12. After Jesus' resurrection, who again took the initiative among the disciples? John 21:1-3  
\_\_\_\_\_
13. After Jesus appeared to the disciples, to which of them did he address a special conversation? John 21:15-19  
\_\_\_\_\_
14. When Peter asked what another disciple would do, note what Jesus said:  
John 21:20-22.  
\_\_\_\_\_

**C. The Work of the Leader:**

1. Who led the disciples in choosing a successor for Judas? Acts 1:15-26  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Who spoke on the day of Pentecost? Acts 2:14-40 \_\_\_\_\_
3. List some of the other outstanding things Peter did:  
a. Acts 3:1-11 \_\_\_\_\_  
b. Acts 5:1-11 \_\_\_\_\_  
c. Acts 9:32-35, 36-42 \_\_\_\_\_  
d. Acts 10 \_\_\_\_\_
4. What wonderful miracle was performed in his behalf? Acts 15:1-11  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Who was one of the main speakers at the Jerusalem council? Acts 15:7-11  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. What else did Peter later do? (See 1 Peter 1:1; 2 Peter 1:1 and *THINK!*)  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. Notice how Jesus predicted that Peter would die: John 21:18, 19b  
\_\_\_\_\_

**QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:**

1. Did Peter determine that he would be the leader among Jesus' followers? How did he obtain this position? Luke 22:31, 32  
\_\_\_\_\_

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2. Is it possible that God would have me to serve Him in a place of leadership over others? If so, is it likely to come all at once?
- 

### THE CAREER OF SAUL, LATER CALLED PAUL

At the height of Peter's ministry as leader of the Christians, God was preparing a new leader who would have a ministry different from Peter's. Study about him now:

**A. Saul's Early Life:** Read Acts 22:3, 25-29, 23:6, 26:4, 5

1. What was Saul's race by birth? Acts 22:3a  

---
2. In what city was he born? Acts 22:3b (This was essentially a Greek city, where Greek language was spoken and Greek literature was cultivated. It was the third university center of the world, surpassed at that time only by Athens and Alexandria. Thus Saul became a Greek by culture.)  

---
3. In what city did Saul receive his schooling? Acts 22:3c, 21:17  

---
4. What very famous man was his teacher? Acts 22:3d, 5:34  

---
5. What subject matter had he studied? Acts 22:3e  

---
6. To what group of the Jewish religion did Saul belong as a result of this schooling? Acts 23:6, 26:5  

---
7. What name was given Saul because of his citizenship? Acts 22:25, 27, 29c  

---
8. How had he obtained this citizenship? Acts 22:28b  

---
9. Although Saul's father was of the purest Hebrew stock (Roman 11:1; Philippians 3:5), he had probably obtained this citizenship: (See Acts 22:28.) What three things could not legally be done to a Roman citizen?  
Acts 22:29, 25b, 16:37a

10. This citizenship also meant that one could not be crucified, and had the right to appeal to Rome for justice. Notice in Acts 25:10-12 how Saul did just this.

11. Thus we see that Saul was a *Jew* by race, a *Greek* by culture, a *Roman* by citizenship, and a *Pharisee* by religion. Note how each figured in his later life.

**B. Saul's Early Adult Life:** Read Acts 7:58-9:19

1. What was Saul doing the first few times he appeared in the book of Acts?
  - a. Acts 7:58c, d \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. Acts 8:1a \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. Acts 8:3, 22:4 \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. Acts 9:1a, b \_\_\_\_\_
2. As he journeyed to Damascus to continue such activities, what happened to him? Acts 9:2-19 \_\_\_\_\_
3. To what three groups did the Lord say He had chosen Saul to witness? Acts 9:15 \_\_\_\_\_
4. What else did God say Saul must do for Him? Acts 9:16 \_\_\_\_\_

**C. Saul's Later Adult Life:**

1. In the next few years, in what activities did Saul engage?
  - a. Acts 9:20, 22, 29 \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. Acts 11:25, 26 \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. Acts 11:29, 30, 12:25 \_\_\_\_\_
2. After this preliminary service, what special call came to him and Barnabas? Acts 13:1-4 \_\_\_\_\_
3. To whom did they minister at first? Acts 13:5 \_\_\_\_\_
4. When these rejected their message, to whom did they turn? Acts 13:46 \_\_\_\_\_
5. Notice that by this time, Saul is called Paul: Acts 13:9 \_\_\_\_\_
6. After completing three missionary journeys, before what kings did Paul bear testimony for his Lord? Acts 26:27, 28, 25:12b \_\_\_\_\_
7. In what ways did Paul suffer for the Lord? Acts 14:19, 16:22-24, 21:31, 32; 2 Corinthians 11:23-28 \_\_\_\_\_

**QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:**

1. When did God begin to prepare Paul for his life's work?  
(See Ephesians 1:4). Did Paul accomplish all that God had stated as His purposes for him?

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2. What is God able to do with every circumstance of my ancestry and past life? (See Philippians 1:12)
-

## OTHER NEW TESTAMENT CAREERS

Several others in the New Testament were definitely chosen for certain careers, or engaged in careers that we could profit from studying. Note some of these now:

### A. The Career of Mary, Jesus' Mother:

1. When the angel told Mary that she would be the mother of Jesus, why did she question this possibility? Luke 1:28-34  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Yet what was her response? Luke 1:35-38  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Would this have been an easy response to give? (*THINK!*)  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. What did her fiancée consider doing because of her condition? Matthew 1:18, 19 (See Deuteronomy 24:1)  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Why did he not carry out this plan? Matthew 1:20-25  
\_\_\_\_\_

### B. The Careers of Some of Jesus' Followers:

1. What did one man Jesus had transformed want to do? Mark 5:18  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. But what did Jesus tell him to do instead? Mark 5:19  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Did he fulfil this calling? Mark 5:20  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. What did many women do to help Jesus? Matthew 27:55, 56  
Mark 15:40, 41  
\_\_\_\_\_

### C. The Career of John, Jesus' Closest Friend:

1. How did John the apostle often describe himself? John 13:23, 25, 19:26, 21:20  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What special task did Jesus commit to him before His death? John 19:26, 27b  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Did he fulfil this calling? John 19:27c  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. What else did he later do? John 21:24 and *THINK!*  
\_\_\_\_\_

### D. Careers in the Book of Acts:

1. What did Jesus say that all of His disciples should be after the Holy Ghost had come upon them to give them power? Acts 1:8

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2. Did this include only the apostles? Acts 1:13-15

---

3. When the work of leading the church became too great for the twelve apostles, how many others were appointed to help them as deacons?  
Acts 6:1-3  

---
4. What two things did this leave the twelve free to concentrate on? Acts 6:4  

---
5. When all the Christians except the apostles were scattered into Judea and Samaria, what did they do? Acts 8:1, 4  

---
6. As Philip was doing this in the city of Samaria, through what two means did he receive guidance to go elsewhere? Acts 8:26, 29  

---
7. Through what means was Paul guided as to where he should witness?  
Acts 16:6, 7, 9, 10  

---
8. After the church council in Jerusalem, what two did the Jerusalem church send to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas? Acts 15:2  

---
9. How did Silas become a member of Paul's missionary team? Acts 15:40  

---
10. How did Timothy get started in Christian service? Acts 16:1-3  

---
11. For what reason was he chosen? 2 Timothy 1:5a  

---
12. Who evidently had a large share in bringing this to pass in Timothy's life?  
2 Timothy 1:5b, c  

---
13. How did Lydia, Aquila and Priscilla, and Justus help Paul and his team?  
Acts 16:15, 18:1-3, 7  

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**QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:**

1. Were the more outstanding people in this lesson any more in the center of God's will for them than were the least outstanding ones?  

---
2. Is it necessary for me to be in some spectacular position in order to carry out God's perfect plan for my life? How can I discover this plan?  
(See Romans 12:1, 2)  

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## INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS

In the Epistles, one finds very little concerning choosing one's career, but a great deal concerning spiritual gifts. Begin your study of this fascinating subject below:

### A. Initial Observations Concerning Spiritual Gifts:

1. How many Christians would have a spiritual gift? Romans 12:5, 6a

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Are these all alike? Romans 12:6a, 4b

\_\_\_\_\_

3. What is the purpose of each gift?

a. Ephesians 4:12a \_\_\_\_\_

b. 1 Corinthians 12:7 Living Bible: \_\_\_\_\_

4. What did Paul tell the Corinthians concerning spiritual gifts in 1 Corinthians 12:1

\_\_\_\_\_

### B. Three Categories Relating to Spiritual Gifts: Read 1 Corinthians 12:4, 5, 6

1. Paul said there were differences in three areas relating to spiritual gifts. To understand just what is meant by each of these terms, chart below the words used in the New King James, New International Version and the New American Standard:

vs. 4:	vs. 5:	vs. 6:
NKJV _____		
NIV _____		
NAS _____		

2. Compare these with the following definitions, taken from the Amplified Bible and Jamieson, Fausset and Brown's commentary:

Amp. Endowments	Service and ministrations	Operation—of working to accomplish things
JFB Spiritual endowments	The various <i>functions</i> and <i>services performed</i>	The actual <i>effects</i> resulting from both the former.

3. Decide which of the above words best describes each of the three categories.
4. Find one word that tells which of the above categories is listed in each of these :
  - a. Romans 12:6-8: \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. Ephesians 4:11: \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. 1 Corinthians 12:7-11: \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. 1 Corinthians 12:28: \_\_\_\_\_

### C. Continued Observations Concerning Spiritual Gifts:

1. When one exercises his spiritual *gift*, as listed in Romans 12, through whatever opportunity for service or *ministry* God gives him/her, as listed in Ephesians 4:11 and 1 Corinthians 12:28, who will determine what *manifestation* of the Spirit will be given to each of those ministered to?

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1 Corinthians 12:11

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2. Therefore, should one seek any *certain* manifestation of the Spirit's working?

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3. On what two things should he rather concentrate? Romans 12:6-8a, 8b-d (See also 1 Corinthians 12:31a, 14:1b)

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### QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. In the past, have I been ignorant concerning spiritual gifts? Have I known as much as God would have me know? 1 Corinthians 12:1

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2. Have I been guilty of concentrating on the *manifestations* of the Spirit's workings, rather than on my spiritual *gift*, and the most effective *ministry* through which I can express this gift for the benefit of others? (See Romans 12:6-8.)

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## DEFINING SPIRITUAL GIFTS

If one is to concentrate fully on the gift God has given him, as Romans 12:3-8 indicates he should, he must first of all know what that gift is. In an effort to determine what your gift might be, first of all seek to define exactly what is meant by each of the terms in the first two lists below. Use all sources at your disposal, including definitions in concordances, Bible dictionaries, commentaries, etc., plus conversations with others.

### A. Gifts (Romans 12)

1. Prophecy: \_\_\_\_\_
2. Ministry of Ministering: \_\_\_\_\_
3. Teaching: \_\_\_\_\_
5. Exhortation: \_\_\_\_\_
6. Giving: \_\_\_\_\_
7. Ruling: \_\_\_\_\_
8. Showing Mercy: \_\_\_\_\_

### B. Ministries (Ephesians 4)

1. Apostle: \_\_\_\_\_
  2. Prophet: \_\_\_\_\_
  3. Evangelist: \_\_\_\_\_
  4. Pastor: \_\_\_\_\_
  5. Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_
- Additional ministries (1 Corinthians 12:28) \_\_\_\_\_

8. Worker of Miracles: \_\_\_\_\_
9. Healer: \_\_\_\_\_
10. Helper: \_\_\_\_\_
11. Governor or Administrator: \_\_\_\_\_
12. Tongues: \_\_\_\_\_

### C. Manifestations (1 Corinthians 12:7-11)

1. Word of Knowledge: \_\_\_\_\_
2. Word of Wisdom: \_\_\_\_\_
3. Faith: \_\_\_\_\_
4. Healing: \_\_\_\_\_
5. Miracles: \_\_\_\_\_
6. Prophecy: \_\_\_\_\_
7. Discerning of Spirits: \_\_\_\_\_

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8. Tongues: \_\_\_\_\_
9. Interpretation of Tongues: \_\_\_\_\_

### QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. Which of the *ministries* could be used to express each of the seven spiritual *gifts*? Which *manifestations* could result from each of these ministries?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What is *my* spiritual *gift*? Through what *ministry* might it best be expressed? What *manifestations* could the Holy Spirit give in others' lives as a result?  
\_\_\_\_\_

### DISCERNING YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFT

Now that you have gained a bird's-eye view of all the spiritual gifts, study each in detail, seeking to determine which of them God has given to you. Note the following observation as you begin your study:

#### A. The Number of One's Spiritual Gifts:

1. Which functions listed as spiritual gifts are all Christians commanded to perform?
  - a. 1 Corinthians 14:1c \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. Galatians 5:13c (See also Colossians 3:22-24) \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. Colossians 3:16b (See also Matthew 28:20) \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. Hebrews 3:13, 10:25c-e \_\_\_\_\_
  - e. Luke 6:38; 2 Corinthians 9:7 (Matthew 10:8; Romans 12:13) \_\_\_\_\_
  - f. 1 Timothy 3:4; Proverbs 16:32b (See also Proverbs 17:2) \_\_\_\_\_
  - g. Luke 10:37; 6:36 (Colossians 3:12; 2 Corinthians 13:8) \_\_\_\_\_
2. Yet how many basic spiritual gifts do the following Scriptures indicate that each Christian will have? 1 Peter 4:10; Romans 12:4, 3-8  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. To reconcile the above facts, consider the possibility of each Christian performing each of the seven functions as a means of carrying out his own basic spiritual gift. Illustrate how this might be true:  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. If one could learn to approach every activity in this way, how should it affect:
  - a. the amount of weariness he experiences in his work? \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. the effectiveness of his work? \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. his emotions regarding his work? \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. his sense of personal fulfillment in his work? \_\_\_\_\_
  - e. his sense of purpose and direction for his life? \_\_\_\_\_
5. On the other hand, what would be the results if one fails to discover his spiritual gift, or simply tries to copy the gift of one he admires?  
\_\_\_\_\_

Illustrate the above in terms of two different members of the human body, and their respective functions: (See 1 Corinthians 12:12, 14-18 for ideas)

6. If each Christian knows the basic spiritual gifts of others, what results could this bring about in the body of Christ? Ephesians 4:13a, 16a, b
- 

**B. Barriers to the Discovery of One's Spiritual Gifts:**

1. Why might some fail to discover their spiritual gifts? (Read and consider *FULLY!*)

a. Psalm 66:18; Isaiah 59:1, 2 \_\_\_\_\_  
(Note that in Romans 1-12 and 1 Corinthians 11, 12, Paul dealt *first* with sins, then with gifts.)

b. Matthew 25:18; Luke 19:20 \_\_\_\_\_

c. See A-5 above \_\_\_\_\_

d. Compare Sections A with B and C, page 40 \_\_\_\_\_

2. To discover your gift, would it be worth the effort to eliminate the above?
- 

3. Would it help to consider carefully which activities you do and do not enjoy?
- 

**C. The Relationships Between Spiritual Gifts and Careers:**

1. Would the possession of a certain spiritual gift necessarily indicate that one should enter a certain career?
- 

2. Could the possession of a certain spiritual gift be an indication that one might be better fitted for a certain type of career? Give at least one specific example to support your answer:
- 

**QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:**

1. How many of the functions listed as basic spiritual gifts have I learned to perform as a regular part of my Christian life? In which of them do I find the greatest joy and sense of personal fulfillment? Does any of them bring me weariness and frustration? Do I feel especially effective or ineffective in any?
- 

2. Do the answers to the above questions give me any indication as to what my spiritual gift might be? As to what career God might have me to enter?
-

### PINPOINTING YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFT

Now that you know that God has given you one particular basic spiritual gift, you should be eager to pinpoint that gift, so that you can concentrate fully on it. The following procedures should help you in this quest:

#### A. Describe the Characteristics of Those with Each Gift:

1. Persons with the same gift tend to share certain characteristics in common, and also to be misunderstood because of some of these characteristics. The Advanced Seminar of Bill Gothard's Institute in Basic Youth Conflicts lists in detail these characteristics and misunderstandings.
  - a. If possible, obtain from someone who has attended this seminar a list of these characteristics and misunderstandings. Write those concerning each gift on a separate page, using fronts of pages only, so that pages may later be spread out for comparison.  

---
  - b. If you cannot locate anyone who has attended the seminar, compile your own lists, from your own and others' observations of people.  

---

#### B. Decide Which Most Nearly Match Your Own:

1. Study each of these lists, placing a check before each item which you feel is definitely true of you, and an "x" through the number of any item that you feel is definitely *not* true of you.  

---

2. Compare your seven lists, noting which has the most check marks in the margin.
  - a. If one definitely stands out above the others, this would indicate clearly that it probably is your gift.  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - b. If several seem about even, check back with your informant to obtain additional questions given in the seminar which may help you pinpoint your gift.  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - c. If you still are not sure, it may help you to eliminate those which you feel are *not* your gift. Place a large "X" before the title of each of these.  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. If you still are unable to decide, re-read the questions relating to Hindrances to Discovering One's Spiritual Gift, to see if you can locate the cause. Then, no matter how difficult it is, nor how long it takes, seek to eliminate that cause.  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. If you still are unable to decide which is your spiritual gift, keep re-reading and studying your lists of characteristics and misunderstandings and seeking the Lord until He makes you sure in your own mind and heart just what your spiritual gift is. Do not become discouraged in your search, since it is not unusual for this process to take several weeks or even months, especially in the case of one who is well-established in Christian work, and has developed ministry gifts in several of the areas listed. Remember that God does not want you to be ignorant concerning spiritual gifts, and therefore He *will* show yours to you.

**C. Relate Your Spiritual Gift to Your Ministry and Manifestations:**

1. Once you are sure which is your spiritual *gift*, place a large check mark before its title on the page listing its characteristics. Then turn to page 40, and circle its definition in section A.
2. Next, determine which *ministry* in section B God has given you, and circle that.
3. Think through carefully each of the *manifestation* listed in section C, seeking to determine if God has ever given any of them as a result of your ministry. If so, write on the line exactly what occurred.
4. Compare A, B and C, to see how your spiritual *gift* has resulted in a certain *ministry*, through which the Holy Spirit has given certain *manifestations* of His workings in the hearts of those to whom you have ministered.
5. Praise God for what He has already done, and thank Him that He is going to accomplish even more through you in the future, as you learn more exactly how to use the gift He has given.

**QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:**

1. Have I been guilty of misunderstanding those with gifts differing from my own? Which people in particular? In what ways?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Has the study of this page helped me to understand such people better? Should it help me appreciate them more in the future? Get along with them better?  
\_\_\_\_\_



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3. Has a study of the misunderstandings helped me to see why some people do not understand or get along well with *me*? Could I do anything to improve this situation? Exactly what?
- 

### USING YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFT IN YOUR OWN PERSONAL LIFE

Discovering one's spiritual gift is intended not simply to increase one's knowledge, but to enable one to concentrate on *using* that gift in every area of one's life. Discover below some of the ways in which such knowledge can help in one's personal life:

#### A. Locating Areas Which Need Improvement:

1. Who is usually able to see your weaknesses, faults and failings better: you yourself, or another? (See Matthew 7:3)  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. On what basis would you as a Christian tend to *judge* another: your own weak points, or your own strong points? (See Romans 2:1-3, and *THINK!*)  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. On the basis of which of the above would you tend to *evaluate* another? (*THINK!*)  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. In what specific ways would those with the following gifts be able to help point up the weaknesses in the lives of others? (Consult characteristics, *THINK!*)
  - a. Prophecy: \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. Serving: \_\_\_\_\_

- c. Teaching: \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. Exhortation: \_\_\_\_\_
  - e. Giving: \_\_\_\_\_
  - f. Ruling: \_\_\_\_\_
  - g. Mercy: \_\_\_\_\_
5. What would one have to do in order to be able to take advantage of their knowledge in these areas?  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. What would their evaluation of us help us to be able to do? Romans 12:3d-f  
\_\_\_\_\_

**B. Meeting Obligations:**

1. How are Christians commanded to do everything that they do?  
Colossians 3:23a, b (Phillips paraphrase)  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. If everything that one does could be viewed as an expression of his spiritual gift, would this help or hinder him in obeying the above command?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Give at least one specific example of how an activity *you* must do now could be viewed as an expression of *your* spiritual gift:  
\_\_\_\_\_

**C. Deciding on Preferences Among Activities:**

1. Do Christians ever assume responsibilities which God did not intend for them to have?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Do they ever engage in activities which detract from their ability to concentrate on their gift, as they are commanded in Romans 12:6-8 to do?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Could one's knowledge of his/her spiritual gift help in determining which activities should be eliminated? How?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. What effect would eliminating such responsibilities and activities have upon the contribution he would be able to make to the cause of Christ? *(THINK!)*  
\_\_\_\_\_

**D. Sharing Duties With Others:**

1. If one knows that each Christian has a certain spiritual gift, how should this make one feel about delegating responsibilities to others?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. To what kind of person would he seek to delegate each responsibility? *(THINK!)*  
\_\_\_\_\_

### QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. Do I have a problem that someone with another spiritual gift could help me with? Who do I know with such a gift, that I could go for help and counsel?  

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2. Are there any responsibilities or activities I should delegate to others so that I can concentrate more fully on my gift? To whom could I delegate them?  

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### USING YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFT IN THE LIVES OF OTHERS

In addition to the ways that a knowledge of your spiritual gift can help you in your own personal life, there are several ways in which this knowledge can help you as you come in contact with others. Study some of these ways below and be prepared to discuss:

#### **A. Foreseeing and Benefiting from the Reactions of Others:** (Be prepared to discuss)

1. How could a knowledge of others' spiritual gifts help us to foresee and understand their reactions in various situations?  

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2. How could such knowledge help us to appreciate their reactions, and live in harmony and unity with them?  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. How could such knowledge help us to profit in our own lives from the reactions of others?  
\_\_\_\_\_

**B. Building Up Other Christians:**

1. Is a Christian usually content just to be able to exercise the skills which are emphasized through his/her gift? What does one usually want other Christians to do?  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. As we learn to share our spiritual gift with others (1 Peter 4:10), what happens  
a. to us? Ephesians 4:12-15  
\_\_\_\_\_

b. to others? Ephesians 4:15a, 16 (last word)  
\_\_\_\_\_

c. to the body of Christ? Ephesians 4:12c, 16  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. By contrast, when any member fails to exercise their gift in this way, what happens? 1 Corinthians 12:26a; Ephesians 4:12  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. Exactly what would those with the following gifts emphasize in the local church?

a. Prophecy: \_\_\_\_\_

b. Serving: \_\_\_\_\_

c. Teaching: \_\_\_\_\_

d. Exhortation: \_\_\_\_\_

e. Giving: \_\_\_\_\_

f. Ruling: \_\_\_\_\_

g. Mercy: \_\_\_\_\_

**C. Advanced Projects Relating to Spiritual Gifts:**

1. How could one's spiritual gift affect his/her actions in every situation in life. Think through what each of the following seven basic spiritual gifts would...

a. say when visiting a sick person;  
\_\_\_\_\_

b. ask to test another's sincerity; \_\_\_\_\_

c. say or do in a specific home situation. (You state the situation: Remember that each Christian home is a small unit of the local church.)  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. Study the relationship of each verse in Romans 12:9-13 to the needs of those with each of the seven basic spiritual gifts listed in Romans 12:6-8.  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. Look up in a large concordance, such as Young's or Strong's, the Greek word translated "gifts," and note its relationships to other words from the same root.  
\_\_\_\_\_

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4. The ministry gifts (section 2, page 40) obviously are to be used in the local church, as well as in everyday relationships. Think through and list the basic purpose of each, and specific ways it can be used to the church's best advantage.  

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5. List the ministries you have been involved in, in your local church. Then add any ministries the above study reveals you should now begin to perform. Plan what steps you will take to make such ministries effective.  

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### QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. Is there any gift that is not needed in any local church  
(See 1 Corinthians 12:12-26) (21)  

---
2. What is *my* spiritual gift? Am I doing all in my power to exercise and develop it? Am I doing my part in my local church, in my home, and in every other Christian group I belong to? Or do these groups suffer because I fail to do my part? What should I remember always to do?  
(See 1 Timothy 4:14; 2 Timothy 1:6)  

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## **ACCOUNTABILITY FOR CHOICE AND AND USE OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS**

One final question must be faced as we conclude our study of careers and spiritual gifts: Does it really matter whether I choose the right career, or use the spiritual gift God has given me? The following should help you answer this question correctly:

**A. An Old Testament Example:** Jonah 1-4

1. What did God tell Jonah to do? Jonah 1:1, 2

\_\_\_\_\_

2. But what did he do instead? Jonah 1:3

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Therefore, what two things did God cause to happen on the sea? Jonah 1:4

\_\_\_\_\_

4. In trying to still the tempest, what did the mariners do? Jonah 1:15

\_\_\_\_\_

5. As a result, what happened to Jonah? Jonah 1:17

\_\_\_\_\_

6. What did Jonah do after this? Jonah 2:1-9

\_\_\_\_\_

7. Then what did God do? Jonah 1:10

\_\_\_\_\_

8. Afterwards, what did God tell Jonah to do? Jonah 3:1, 2

\_\_\_\_\_

9. Did Jonah obey this time? Jonah 3:3, 4

\_\_\_\_\_

10. What happened as a result? Jonah 3:5-10

\_\_\_\_\_

**B. A New Testament Example:** Read Matthew 25:14-30

1. When the man entrusted his goods to his servants in his absence, what did the first two do with theirs? Matthew 25:14-17

\_\_\_\_\_

2. What did the third do? Matthew 25:18

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Upon his return, what did the man do for the first two servants?  
Matthew 25:19-23

\_\_\_\_\_

4. What did he do to the third servant? Matthew 25:24-30

\_\_\_\_\_

5. What was the basic difference between these servants?  
Compare vs 21 and 23 with 26

\_\_\_\_\_

**C. A Second New Testament Example:** Read Luke 19:11-27

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1. How much did the nobleman give to each of his servants?

Luke 19:13, 16, 18, 20

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2. When he returned, what did he want to know? Luke 19:15
- 

3. How much had two of the servants gained? Luke 19:16, 18
- 

4. What was done with each of these? Luke 19:17, 19
- 

5. What had a third servant done? Luke 19:20, 21
- 

6. What did the nobleman say he should have done? Luke 19:22, 23
- 

7. What was done with this servant? Luke 19:24-26
- 

### D. Other Pertinent Verses:

1. Who will judge each of us? Hebrews 10:30; Psalms 98:9; 1 Peter 1:17

Acts 17:31; Romans 2:3, 14:10c, 12

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2. What two things will be the basis for this judgment? 2 Corinthians 5:10; Ecclesiastes 12:14; Romans 2:16; Jeremiah 17:10; Revelations 22:12
- 

3. What will determine how great is the punishment for those who did not do their Lord's will? Luke 12:47, 48
- 

4. For examples of God's judgment, (See 2 Peter 2:4-6; Jude 5-7

Hebrews 10:31

---

### QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. Did it make any difference whether Jonah did what God wanted Him to do? Whether the servants used what was committed to them?
- 

2. Does it matter whether I enter the career of God's choice for me? Whether I use the spiritual gift He has given to me? What might happen if I don't?
-

## REVIEW OF NEW TESTAMENT CAREERS

As you come to the end of this unit of study, review all you have learned about New Testament careers, and principles derived from them which could help in your life:

### A. Types of Careers:

1. List seven main types of leaders among New Testament Christians:  
 Matthew 11:9: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Luke 6:13c: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Acts 21:8: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Ephesians 4:11d: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Titus 1:5c, 7a: \_\_\_\_\_  
 1 Timothy 3:8-13: \_\_\_\_\_
2. What were many New Testament men before they became leaders  
 Mark 1:16, 19  
 \_\_\_\_\_
3. In what other occupation did New Testament men engage (*THINK!*)  
 \_\_\_\_\_
4. What did most women do in New Testament days? 1 Timothy 5:14  
 \_\_\_\_\_
5. In what other occupations did some women engage?  
 \_\_\_\_\_

### B. Choice of Careers:

1. What people were specifically called by God, and to what career?  
 a. Luke 1:13-17 \_\_\_\_\_ Matthew 11:9 \_\_\_\_\_  
 b. Luke 6:13c \_\_\_\_\_ d \_\_\_\_\_  
 c. Luke 22:31 \_\_\_\_\_ 32c, d \_\_\_\_\_  
 d. Acts 9:11 \_\_\_\_\_ 15, 16 \_\_\_\_\_  
 e. Acts 13:1, 2 \_\_\_\_\_ (*THINK!*) \_\_\_\_\_  
 f. Luke 1:26, 27 \_\_\_\_\_ 28-30 \_\_\_\_\_  
 g. Mark 5:18 \_\_\_\_\_ 19 \_\_\_\_\_
2. How did others get placed in their jobs? Acts 6:1-6; 15:39c, 40a, 16:1-3a  
 \_\_\_\_\_



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### C. Progression of Careers:

1. What persons began in one career and progressed into one or more others?
  - a. Luke 6:13c \_\_\_\_\_, from secular careers such as \_\_\_\_\_ (Mark:16, 19) and \_\_\_\_\_ (Luke 5:27), to \_\_\_\_\_ (Luke 6:13a), to \_\_\_\_\_ (Luke. 6:13d).
  - b. 1 Timothy 1:1 \_\_\_\_\_, from \_\_\_\_\_ (1 Timothy 1:13b) to \_\_\_\_\_ (Acts 9:20), to \_\_\_\_\_ (Acts 11:25, 26) to \_\_\_\_\_ (Romans. 11:13b).
2. How did some obtain positions of leadership? (*THINK!*)  
\_\_\_\_\_

### D. Power for and Guidance in Carrying Out One's Calling:

1. What did Jesus indicate would be the secret of His followers' power for living and serving Him? Acts 1:8  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Through what means were people guided in their witness?  
Acts 8:26, 29, 16:6, 7, 9  
\_\_\_\_\_

### E. The Ultimate Goal of New Testament Careers:

1. What did Jesus indicate that each of His followers should be? Acts 1:8c  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What were two vital parts of this?
  - a. 2 Corinthians 3:18 \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. Acts 8:1, 4 \_\_\_\_\_
3. Do the lives of New Testament Christians evidence something of the same vital relationship with God that was characteristic of great Old Testament saints?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Was this true even under adverse circumstances? Acts 4:13, 29, 6:15, 7:59, 60, 8:1-4, 14:19-22, 16:22-25, 20:24, 21:31, 39; 2 Corinthians 11:23-28  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. As a result of this vital relationship, as they spoke in power, what often happened to their hearers? Acts 2:37a, b, 9:5e, 5:33a, b, 7:54a, b  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. In what two ways did these hearers respond to this conviction?
  - a. Acts 2:37c-41, 9:6, 17, 18 \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. Acts 5:33c, 7:54c-58 \_\_\_\_\_

### QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. Was the response to the disciples' ministry any different from that to Jesus'?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Do I have such a vital relationship with God that others can tell I have been with Jesus? That it shows in my face? That I pray for those who seek to harm  
\_\_\_\_\_

me? That I keep on doing what I should regardless of what others do to me?  
That I sing when I've been beaten? That I try to win those who seek to kill  
me?

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## REVIEW OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS

Now review all you have learned about spiritual gifts, applying what you have learned to your own life. Note especially questions marked \*, which may be tested by recall:

### A. Understanding Spiritual Gifts:

1. How many Christians have a spiritual gift? Romans 12:5, 6a  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What is the purpose of each spiritual gift? Ephesians 4:12a;  
1 Corinthians. 12:7 LB  
\_\_\_\_\_
- \*3. Name the three distinct categories relating to spiritual gifts:  
1 Corinthians. 12:4-6  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Be able to explain the difference among these three categories.
5. On which of these three categories does scripture indicate that we should concentrate? Romans 12:6-8  
\_\_\_\_\_
- \*6. List the seven basic gifts: (Also make sure you understand each)  
Romans 12:6-8  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. Should one seek any certain manifestation of the Spirit's working? Why?  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. How many spiritual gifts does each Christian have? 1 Peter 4:10;  
Romans 12:4, 3-8  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. Yet how many of the activities listed as spiritual gifts is each Christian commanded to perform? (See page 41, A-1)  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. How should he approach each of these? Why?  
\_\_\_\_\_
11. What are some values of knowing each other's spiritual gift?  
\_\_\_\_\_

### B. Discovering Your Spiritual Gift:

- \*1. List five things which might hinder one from discovering his spiritual gift:
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. \_\_\_\_\_
  - e. \_\_\_\_\_
2. Review the characteristics emphasized by each gift, and the misunderstandings which often result from these.
- \*3. What is your spiritual gift?  
\_\_\_\_\_

**C. Using Your Spiritual Gift:**

1. List six ways in which a knowledge of spiritual gifts can help one:

- a. \_\_\_\_\_
- b. \_\_\_\_\_
- c. \_\_\_\_\_
- d. \_\_\_\_\_
- e. \_\_\_\_\_
- f. \_\_\_\_\_

2. Tell what specific areas those with each gift could help us with:

- a. \_\_\_\_\_
- b. \_\_\_\_\_
- c. \_\_\_\_\_
- d. \_\_\_\_\_
- e. \_\_\_\_\_
- f. \_\_\_\_\_
- g. \_\_\_\_\_

3. In what specific place are all seven gifts especially needed?

\_\_\_\_\_

**QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:**

1. Is the teaching of Scripture regarding spiritual gifts clear?

\_\_\_\_\_

2. How could the knowledge of my spiritual gift help me in choosing my career?

\_\_\_\_\_