

EXPLORING THE BIBLE | 7 • BIOGRAPHICAL STUDY

SMALL GROUP STUDY | EASTSIDE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

WEEK 7: Exploring the Bible | Biographical Study

- Do you have a favorite Bible character whose life has inspired you?

Play teaching video for Week 7.

- [Vimeo](#)
- [You Tube](#)

Discussion Questions

- Read [Romans 15:4](#). What do you think of this statement that the purpose of the Old Testament scriptures is to teach us so that we might have hope? How have Old Testament accounts of endurance encouraged you?
- How did reading Lydia's story encourage or challenge you? Did Lydia's story inspire you to make a change in your life or a difference in the lives of others?
 - If so, what specific actions might you take this week to do so?
 - Are there obstacles in your life that might stop or hinder you?
 - How might you overcome them?
- How does this story point back to Jesus?

Going Deeper | Put into Practice

Once you've selected a character from the Bible to be the subject of your study, use the following steps to guide you. Be prepared to share with the group next week if you'd like to.

BIOGRAPHICAL STUDY

Tools:

- Study Bible
- At least one other Bible version; available at apps and websites we've mentioned.
- Concordance or online searchable Bible
- Bible handbook, dictionary or encyclopedia; also available online. Recommended: the International Standard Bible Encyclopedia on blueletterbible.org
- Notebook

Keep in mind:

- Take into account the social and cultural norms of the subject's time. Much that was considered acceptable or not in ancient cultures is different from what is so today.
- Remember the people we are studying did not have the benefit of the hindsight we have now; they did not know how everything would turn out.
- Bible characters served as a part of the larger story that God is writing in history. We can learn a lot from them, but they are not primarily there as object lessons.
- People are complex. God uses imperfect, broken people to accomplish his purposes.

Steps:

1. Search the name of your subject using a concordance or blueletterbible.com or other Bible website to identify all the relevant scriptures.
2. Read all of the verses in at least two different translations.
3. List what there is to learn about your subject from those verses. Think through the who, what, where, when, why, and how. Write down your observations and questions. Pay special attention to things that stick out or seem out of place; they may be worth exploring further.
4. Develop a timeline of your subject's life.
5. Refer to a Bible dictionary or encyclopedia to learn more about him or her.
6. List your subject's character qualities, both positive and negative.
7. Summarize what you've learned about the person.
8. Write out a personal application. What have you learned from this person's story that impacts your own life and faith?