



GENERAL EPISTLES

HEBREWS, JAMES, 1 PETER, 2 PETER, 1 JOHN, 2 JOHN, 3 JOHN, JUDE

MISSION 66 STUDY GUIDE



Mission 66

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HERE'S YOUR MISSION 66 STUDY GUIDE OF THE GENERAL EPISTLES OF THE NEW TESTAMENT!

Embark on a daily spiritual adventure with Mission 66, where the Scriptures unfold from Genesis to Revelation. Our engaging hosts guide you through the Bible, enhancing your comprehension and deepening your connection with God.

John Mathews and Esther Sisulu provide insightful, chapter-by-chapter audio commentary, making the Bible relevant and applicable. This Study Guide complements each session, ensuring the lessons resonate with you in your walk with God.



Drawing from the teachings of renowned Brazilian Bible scholar Luiz Sayão, originally delivered in Portuguese, John and Esther bring these lessons to life in English. In Brazil, the program is known as Rota 66, named after the iconic U.S. roadway. Mission 66 offers a nod to both the legendary Route 66 and the 66 books that comprise the Bible.



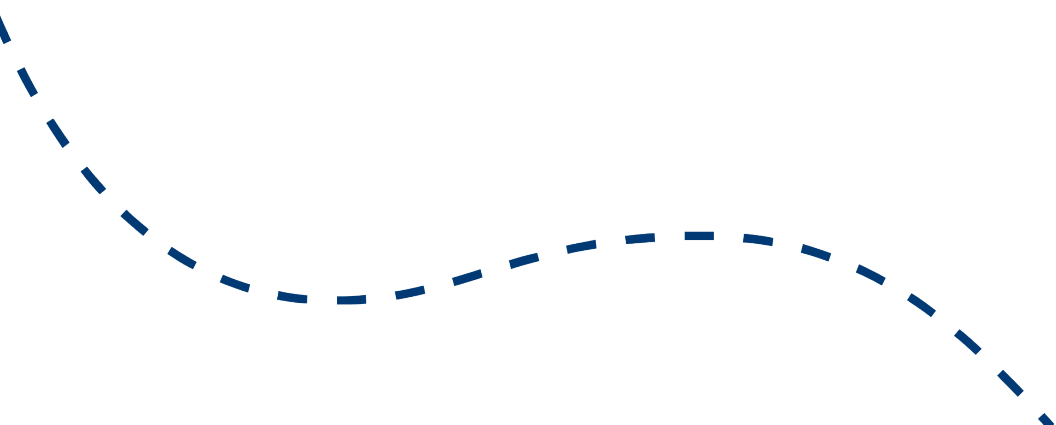
Mission 66 represents a collaborative effort between Dr. Sayão and TWR (Trans World Radio). This partnership took a significant leap forward in 2023 by initiating an effort to adapt, record, and share the program across the globe's most widely spoken languages. Each language version is taught to audiences by a dedicated pair of co-hosts, who impart the teachings with cultural relevance.

Currently, production, translation, and distribution are progressing in several languages including English, Spanish, Mandarin, Bahasa Indonesian, German, Japanese, Arabic, French, as well as others.

Contributions made to Mission 66 via www.mission66.org will help expand the creation, broadcasting, podcasting and other digital distribution in the world's top 10 languages.

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HEBREWS 1

SUMMARY

Hebrews Chapter 1 emphasizes the supremacy of Christ over angels and other religious figures. It explains that Jesus, the Son of God, is the ultimate revelation of God's truth, superior to the prophets and angels. Jesus is the exact representation of God and upholds the universe. He made purification for sins and sits at the right hand of God. The chapter cautions against angel worship, highlighting that Jesus, not angels, deserves our worship. This message is directed to Jewish Christians to encourage them to stay with Christ despite facing persecution and the temptation to return to old beliefs.

QUESTIONS

What is the main theme of Hebrews Chapter 1?

How is Jesus' role in creation described?

Why is Jesus considered superior to angels?

What does it mean that Jesus is the "exact representation" of God's nature?

How did Jesus make purification for sins?

How does the chapter address the issue of angel worship?

REFLECTION

How does understanding Jesus' supremacy over angels change the way we view the spiritual realm?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

How can we ensure that our worship and focus remain on Jesus rather than being distracted by other spiritual beings or practices?

HEBREWS 2

SUMMARY

Hebrews Chapter 2 cautions against neglecting the great salvation available through Christ. It explains that Jesus, who was made a little lower than angels, tasted death for everyone and became the founder of salvation through suffering. He is not ashamed to call us brothers and sisters, sharing in our humanity to defeat death and the devil. By experiencing suffering and temptation, Jesus is able to help those who are being tempted, making him the perfect high priest.

QUESTIONS

Why must we pay close attention to the message of salvation?

How did Jesus become the founder of our salvation?

What does it mean that Jesus was made lower than the angels?

How does Jesus' humanity help him understand our struggles?

What did Jesus accomplish through his death?

How is Jesus able to help those who are tempted?

REFLECTION

How does the knowledge that Jesus experienced suffering and temptation influence your relationship with Him?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

In what ways can you draw closer to Jesus, knowing that he understands your struggles and can aid you in times of temptation?

HEBREWS 3

SUMMARY

Hebrews Chapter 3 compares Jesus to Moses, declaring Jesus as superior and the faithful son over God's house, which is the church. Believers are urged to hear God's voice and not harden their hearts as the Israelites did in the wilderness, leading to their inability to enter God's rest. The chapter encourages Christians to exhort one another and warns against the deceitfulness of sin and the danger of unbelief, which can prevent entering God's eternal rest.

QUESTIONS

How is Jesus compared to Moses in this chapter?

What warning is given about hardening hearts?

What is the "rest" that believers are encouraged to enter?

How can Christians encourage each other according to the chapter?

What consequence did the Israelites face for their unbelief?

What does the chapter say about the Word of God?

REFLECTION

What does the "rest" mentioned in this chapter mean to you personally?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

How can we apply the encouragement to exhort one another in our daily lives and faith communities?

HEBREWS 4

SUMMARY

Hebrews Chapter 4 discusses the concept of “rest” as a metaphor for salvation and eternal life with God. It explains that just as God rested on the seventh day, believers are invited to enter into God’s rest through faith in Christ. The chapter warns against the dangers of unbelief and disobedience, which prevented the Israelites from entering their promised rest. It emphasizes the power of God’s word and introduces Jesus as our sympathetic high priest.

QUESTIONS

What is the significance of “rest” in this chapter?

How is the message of the gospel supposed to be received?

What does the chapter say about Joshua and rest?

What role does the Word of God play in our lives according to this chapter?

Who is our high priest, and what does this mean for believers?

How can we approach the throne of grace?

REFLECTION

How does the concept of rest relate to your understanding of salvation and faith in Jesus?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

What steps can we take to ensure we are not falling into the same pattern of disbelief as the Israelites?

HEBREWS 5

SUMMARY

Hebrews Chapter 5 illustrates Jesus as the Great High Priest, surpassing the old priesthood. He is appointed by God and offers a direct connection to him. Jesus, through suffering, learned obedience and became the source of eternal salvation. The chapter then criticizes some believers for being spiritually immature, urging them to move beyond basic teachings and deepen their understanding and practice of God's Word.

QUESTIONS

What role does a high priest play, and how is Jesus the ultimate high priest?

How did Jesus learn obedience, and what does this teach us?

Who is Melchizedek, and why is he significant in the discussion of Jesus' priesthood?

What is the critique given to the readers in the latter part of the chapter?

What is meant by Jesus being a priest in the order of Melchizedek?

According to this chapter, how can we become mature in our faith?

REFLECTION

Why is it important for Christians to grow in spiritual maturity and not remain stagnant in their faith?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

What areas of your faith do you need to deepen or seek further understanding in to grow toward spiritual maturity?

HEBREWS 6

SUMMARY

Today's theme is "impossibilities." Hebrews Chapter 6 brings a stern warning to Jewish Christians not to abandon their faith in Christ. The impossibility discussed here is not about losing salvation by committing sins, but about the deliberate, final rejection of Christ after fully knowing the truth. The chapter emphasizes that it is impossible for God to lie and assures us of his promises. Jesus is shown as superior to all, and faith in him is necessary for salvation. This chapter serves as a reminder that once we have embraced the way of righteousness and been filled with the Holy Spirit, turning our backs on Jesus is senseless, and true believers will always return to the Lord.

QUESTIONS

What are the two impossibilities mentioned in Hebrews 6?

Why is it impossible to restore someone to repentance if they have fallen away from Christ?

What does the writer of Hebrews suggest is a better way to live than returning to Judaism?

How does God's promise to Abraham relate to the theme of impossibilities?

What does the writer mean by saying that the land that drinks rain and produces crops is blessed?

According to Hebrews 6, how can a wayward Christian be restored?

REFLECTION

Think about a time when you felt challenged in your faith. How did you overcome that challenge, and what role did perseverance play?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

In what ways can you strengthen your commitment to your faith, ensuring that you do not drift away from the teachings that guide you?

HEBREWS 7

SUMMARY

Hebrews 7 highlights the theme “Melchizedek,” revealing the superiority of Jesus’ eternal priesthood compared to the Levitical priesthood. Melchizedek, an ancient priest who blessed Abraham, serves as a type of Christ, with neither beginning nor end. This chapter presents Jesus as the guarantor of a better covenant, one that saves completely and is forever effective. It emphasizes that Jesus, as the high priest, intercedes for us and has made the ultimate sacrifice once and for all, abolishing the need for the old system of sacrifices.

QUESTIONS

Who was Melchizedek, and why is he significant?

How does the priesthood of Melchizedek relate to Jesus?

What does it mean that Jesus’ priesthood is according to the order of Melchizedek?

Why is Jesus referred to as the guarantor of a better covenant?

How is Jesus’ sacrifice different from the sacrifices offered by the Levitical priests?

What role does Jesus currently serve as a high priest?

REFLECTION

Consider the concept of Jesus being both the high priest and the ultimate sacrifice. What does this mean for your understanding of salvation?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

How can you draw near to Jesus, our high priest, in your daily life and rely on his intercession?

HEBREWS 8

SUMMARY

In Hebrews Chapter 8, we learn about the “New Covenant,” which is far superior to the Old Covenant. The New Covenant allows us to have a direct relationship with God through Jesus Christ. This new arrangement means that God’s laws are written on our hearts, and we have the Holy Spirit to guide us. The chapter also explains that the old way of sacrifices and rituals is no longer needed because Jesus has fulfilled all the requirements for us.

QUESTIONS

What is the main difference between the Old Covenant and the New Covenant?

How does the New Covenant relate to the teachings of the prophet Jeremiah?

What does it mean that the New Covenant is written on our hearts?

Why is it unnecessary to teach others to “Know the Lord” under the New Covenant?

Why does the author of Hebrews refer to the Old Testament tabernacle?

How do we know that the Bible is complete and that God won’t bring forth a “new” new covenant?

REFLECTION

Consider how the idea of a New Covenant might change the way you think about your relationship with God.

Personal Application

How can you apply the concept of having God’s laws written on your heart to your daily life?

HEBREWS 9

SUMMARY

Hebrews Chapter 9 discusses the concept of “one chance at life,” emphasizing the finality of Jesus’ sacrifice for our sins. The chapter compares the old tabernacle worship with the New Covenant, where Christ serves as the perfect, eternal high priest. It explains that earthly rituals were merely a shadow of the heavenly reality that Christ has fulfilled. We’re reminded that we die only once, and after death comes judgment, reinforcing the urgency of securing salvation through faith in Jesus during our lifetime.

QUESTIONS

What was the role of the Most Holy Place in the tabernacle?

How did the sacrifices in the old tabernacle differ from Christ’s sacrifice?

What does it mean that Christ entered heaven itself on our behalf?

Why is it significant that Christ’s sacrifice was once for all?

How does the chapter address the concept of judgment after death?

What does this chapter say about the possibility of entering heaven?

REFLECTION

How does the reality of death and the promise of judgment influence your thoughts and actions today?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

What can you do to ensure that you are living in a way that reflects your faith in the eternal sacrifice of Jesus?

HEBREWS 10-11

SUMMARY

Hebrews Chapters 10 and 11 teach us about faith as the means by which we receive the promises of God. Chapter 10 explains that the Old Testament law was only a shadow of the good things to come through Christ, who offers a single, perfect sacrifice for sins. It encourages us to hold onto our faith and meet with other believers to stir up love and good works. Chapter 11, known as the “hall of faith,” recounts the lives of those who lived by faith, from Abel to Abraham to Moses, demonstrating that faith is timeless and essential for pleasing God.

QUESTIONS

According to Hebrews 10, what is the significance of Christ's sacrifice?

How is faith defined in Hebrews 11?

Can you name three individuals mentioned in Hebrews 11 who lived by faith?

According to Hebrews 10, why is it important for Christians to meet together?

What does it mean that without faith it is impossible to please God?

How do the examples of faith in Hebrews 11 encourage believers today?

REFLECTION

Reflect on the lives of those mentioned in Hebrews 11. How does their faith challenge or inspire you?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

Consider how you can live out your faith in practical ways that encourage others and demonstrate your trust in God's promises.

HEBREWS 12

SUMMARY

In Hebrews Chapter 12, our teacher, John Mathews, uncovers the purpose behind life's challenges. As athletes discipline their bodies to win a race, God disciplines us for a greater purpose. This divine training is not punishment but preparation. God treats us as his children, refining our character and guiding us toward a peaceful life of righteousness. Difficulties are a part of God's "discipline by design," intended to strengthen us in our spiritual journey. By focusing on Jesus, enduring trials and embracing God's discipline, we're promised a kingdom that cannot be shaken and a future of eternal peace.

QUESTIONS

What analogy is used in Hebrews 12 to describe the Christian life?

Why does God discipline us, according to Hebrews 12?

What should we consider when facing hardships, as advised in Hebrews 12?

How does Hebrews 12 describe Jesus in relation to our faith?

What does it mean when it says God disciplines those he loves?

What is the ultimate goal of God's discipline, as mentioned in Hebrews 12?

REFLECTION

How does understanding God's purpose for discipline change the way you view your personal struggles?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

What is one area in your life where you can embrace God's discipline to grow in character and faith?

HEBREWS 13

SUMMARY

In Hebrews Chapter 13, John Mathews emphasizes the importance of living out our faith through actions. He advises against the allure of wealth and self-sufficiency, reminding us that God's presence is our true comfort. The chapter outlines practical ways to demonstrate faith, such as hospitality, supporting those in distress, honouring marriages and leading a content life. It concludes with the idea that Jesus Christ's sacrifice is superior to any religious practice and that our worship should reflect a heart changed by his unshakeable kingdom.

QUESTIONS

Why should we show hospitality, according to Hebrews 13?

How are we advised to treat marriage in Hebrews 13?

What should our attitude be toward money, as mentioned in Hebrews 13?

Who should we remember and imitate, based on Hebrews 13?

What is the "city that is to come" referred to in Hebrews 13?

How does Hebrews 13 describe our relationship with earthly leaders?

REFLECTION

Reflect on a time when you experienced God's discipline as a form of his love and care for you.

PERSONAL APPLICATION

Identify one way you can practice hospitality or support those in distress this week as an expression of your faith.

JAMES 1

SUMMARY

John Mathews explores how trials refine our faith in James Chapter 1. He highlights the transformative power of enduring hardships, encouraging believers to find joy in the process. The chapter stresses the importance of wisdom, self-control and genuine faith reflected in actions. Our speech and actions should align with God's Word, and we are warned against the deception of empty religious practices. True faith produces a life that cares for others and remains untainted by the world's influence.

QUESTIONS

Why are trials considered a cause for joy in James 1?

How can we obtain wisdom, as mentioned in James 1?

What is the relationship between faith and action in James 1?

How does James 1 describe the impact of the tongue?

What does "pure religion" look like according to James 1?

Why is it important to be not only a listener but also a doer of the Word?

REFLECTION

Think of a situation where you need wisdom to respond correctly. How can you seek God's guidance in it?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

What practical step can you take to demonstrate your faith through action this week?

JAMES 2

SUMMARY

John Mathews addresses the relationship between faith and works in James Chapter 2. He teaches that genuine faith is evidenced by good deeds. The chapter warns against favouritism and the sin of partiality, reminding us that loving our neighbour is central to living out our faith. James uses the examples of Abraham and Rahab to illustrate that faith is made complete by actions. A living faith is active and produces works that align with God's will.

QUESTIONS

What warning does James 2 give about showing favouritism?

How does James 2 define the relationship between faith and works?

How are Abraham and Rahab examples of faith and works in James 2?

Why is it said that breaking one part of the law makes one guilty of all?

What does James 2 say about the power of mercy?

How can we show that our faith is alive, according to James 2?

REFLECTION

Consider a time when your actions did not align with your faith. How can you bring your actions into alignment with your beliefs?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

Identify a specific way you can show impartial love to someone this week, regardless of their social status.

JAMES 3-4

SUMMARY

In James Chapters 3 and 4, John Mathews teaches the power and danger of the tongue. He illustrates how a small organ can have a significant impact, likening it to a rudder steering a ship. The chapters call for self-examination, urging believers to replace jealousy and selfish ambition with humility and wisdom from above. James calls out worldly desires as the source of conflicts and challenges believers to draw near to God, cleanse their lives and submit to his will, promising that humility before the Lord leads to exaltation.

QUESTIONS

What analogy is used in James 3 to describe the power of the tongue?

How does James 3 differentiate between earthly wisdom and wisdom from above?

What does James 4 say is the source of quarrels and fights among people?

How are we advised to approach God in prayer in James 4?

What does James 4 say about planning for the future?

How does James 4 define true humility?

REFLECTION

Reflect on the impact of your words on others. How can you use your speech to positively influence those around you?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

Commit to speaking words of encouragement and life this week, and note any changes in your interactions with others.

JAMES 5

SUMMARY

James Chapter 5 warns the rich about the misery that awaits them due to their selfishness and injustice toward workers. It encourages patience in suffering, just like a farmer waits for the harvest. Christians are to avoid grumbling against each other and to follow the example of the prophets and Job who showed endurance. James emphasizes the importance of honesty, prayer and confession of sins to one another. He also highlights the power of prayer, using Elijah as an example. The chapter concludes with the call to bring back those who have wandered from the truth, as this saves souls and covers a multitude of sins.

QUESTIONS

What does James say to the rich in Chapter 5?

How does James suggest Christians should deal with suffering?

What should we do instead of swearing, according to James?

How are sick people to be treated in the church?

What is the effect of the prayer of a righteous person?

What does James say about bringing back a sinner from wandering?

REFLECTION

How can I practice patience in difficult situations as James advises?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

What steps can I take to include more heartfelt prayer in my daily life, like Elijah, and truly believe in its power?

1 PETER 1

SUMMARY

In 1 Peter Chapter 1, the apostle addresses Christians who are dispersed and facing trials, providing them with hope and assurance. He celebrates the new birth through Jesus Christ, which promises an inheritance that is incorruptible. Peter reminds believers of their salvation, a theme prophesied by the prophets and longed to be seen by angels. He calls for holy living, in reverence to God, and encourages love among the faithful, as they are cleansed by obeying the truth.

QUESTIONS

To whom is Peter writing, and what is the reason for his letter?

What is the inheritance that Peter talks about?

How are trials beneficial to believers, according to Peter?

What did the prophets search for concerning salvation?

How should Christians conduct themselves during their time on Earth?

What is the significance of being “born again” as mentioned by Peter?

REFLECTION

Consider how trials have tested and refined your own faith. How can you hold onto hope during such times?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

What are some practical ways you can demonstrate holy living and sincere love toward others in your daily life?

1 PETER 2

SUMMARY

In 1 Peter Chapter 2, believers are described as living stones being built into a spiritual house with Jesus as the cornerstone. Christians are urged to live honourably among others, even when wronged, and to submit to authority out of reverence for God. Peter reminds us that Jesus suffered for us, leaving an example to follow, and that we are called to endure for doing good.

QUESTIONS

How are believers described in relation to Jesus, the cornerstone?

What should our attitude be toward authority, and why?

How did Jesus respond to suffering, according to Peter?

How should we live among nonbelievers?

What does Peter mean by saying we are a royal priesthood?

Why is Jesus considered a stone that causes stumbling?

REFLECTION

In what ways can I build my life more aligned with Jesus, the cornerstone?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

What can I do to honour those in authority, even when I disagree with them?

1 PETER 3

SUMMARY

1 Peter Chapter 3 addresses the roles of wives and husbands, highlighting the importance of inner beauty and consideration. It discusses how to handle suffering for doing good, reminding us that Christ also suffered. Peter explains baptism as a pledge of a good conscience toward God and emphasizes that it is not merely an external act but a reflection of an inward faith.

QUESTIONS

What advice does Peter give to wives with unbelieving husbands?

How should husbands treat their wives?

What is the attitude believers should have toward suffering for righteousness?

What is the significance of baptism, according to Peter?

How can someone be prepared to explain their Christian hope?

What does Peter say about Christ preaching to the spirits in prison?

REFLECTION

How can I better exemplify the qualities Peter describes in my relationships and my response to suffering?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

What is one way I can prepare myself to explain my hope in Christ to someone who asks?

1 PETER 4-5

SUMMARY

These chapters encourage Christians to live for God's will and to expect suffering as part of their faith journey. Believers are reminded to use their gifts to serve others, and elders are instructed on how to shepherd the flock. The final exhortation is to be humble, casting anxieties on God, and to be vigilant against the devil's attacks. The letter closes with personal greetings and a call to stand firm in the grace of God.

QUESTIONS

How does suffering relate to sin, according to Peter?

What is the role of love in the Christian community?

What does Peter say about the end times and how believers should live?

How should elders lead the church?

How are Christians to resist the devil?

What encouragement does Peter give to those who are suffering?

REFLECTION

In what ways can I better embrace suffering as a part of my Christian walk, trusting in God's purpose?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

How can I actively guard against the devil's attempts to disrupt my faith?

2 PETER 1

SUMMARY

In 2 Peter Chapter 1, our teacher John Mathews emphasizes that believers have “Everything We Need” for a godly life through their knowledge of Jesus Christ. He reassures us that Jesus’ sacrifice is sufficient and that the teachings of the apostles provide us with all the necessary guidance. Peter encourages Christians to lead lives of virtue, knowledge, self-control, godliness and love, confirming their calling and election. He also affirms the truthfulness of Scripture, emphasizing that prophecy is not open to personal interpretation but is inspired by the Holy Spirit.

QUESTIONS

What is the main message Peter conveys in his second letter?

Who is Peter writing to in this letter?

How does Peter describe the knowledge of Jesus Christ in relation to life and godliness?

What qualities does Peter urge believers to develop in their faith?

Why does Peter insist on the truthfulness of Scripture and prophecy?

How does Peter contrast his eyewitness account of Jesus with the written Word of God?

REFLECTION

How can we apply the principles Peter lists for a godly life to our daily routines and decisions?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

What steps can you take to strengthen your faith and ensure you're not just a passive believer but actively seeking knowledge and wisdom?

2 PETER 2

SUMMARY

In 2 Peter Chapter 2, our teacher John Mathews discusses “Getting Off Mission” by examining the dangers of false prophets and teachers. These individuals introduce heresies, denying Christ and leading others astray. Peter warns of their destructive impact and the ultimate judgment they face. He reminds believers to stay true to the teachings of Christ and to maintain integrity in their faith.

QUESTIONS

According to Peter, what are the characteristics of false prophets?

How does Peter compare God’s past judgments with the future judgment of false teachers?

What does Peter mean by saying that the false teachers “forsake the right way”?

How does Peter describe the deceptive nature of heresy?

What is the fate of those who have known the way of righteousness but turn from it?

How does Peter encourage believers to respond to the presence of false teachers?

REFLECTION

In what ways can we guard ourselves against being influenced by false teachings in our community or church?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

How can you actively seek to understand and apply the truth of the Bible to recognize and refute heresy?

2 PETER 3

SUMMARY

In 2 Peter Chapter 3, our teacher John Mathews introduces the theme “Global Warming,” referring to the prophecy of the end times when the heavens and earth will be destroyed by fire. He emphasizes that God’s patience offers time for repentance, and the importance of living holy and godly lives in anticipation of a new heaven and earth. Peter urges believers to hold fast to the truth and to grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ.

QUESTIONS

What does Peter say about the timing of the Lord’s return?

How does Peter describe the day of the Lord and its consequences for the earth?

What is the significance of living a life of holiness and godliness in light of the end times?

How does Peter affirm the certainty of God’s promise for a new heaven and earth?

According to Peter, what is the role of patience in God’s plan?

How does Peter address the interpretation of Paul’s letters and their complexity?

REFLECTION

How does the anticipation of the end times and a new creation shape your perspective on current events and personal priorities?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

What changes can you make in your life to align more closely with living in the light of God’s future promise for a new heaven and earth?

1 JOHN 1

SUMMARY

In 1 John Chapter 1, our teacher John Mathews explains that the theme “No Ghost” addresses the reality of Jesus Christ’s life, death and resurrection. John emphasizes firsthand experience with Jesus, the importance of walking in the light of truth, and the necessity of confessing sins to maintain fellowship with God and fellow believers. He warns against claiming sinlessness and deceiving oneself.

QUESTIONS

Why does John stress his firsthand experience with Jesus Christ?

What does “walking in the light” signify in this chapter?

How does John describe fellowship among believers?

According to John, what is the result of confessing our sins?

Why is it dangerous to claim we have not sinned?

What is the relationship between sin, forgiveness and fellowship in John’s message?

REFLECTION

In what ways have you experienced the light of Christ in your life, and how has it affected your relationships with others?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

What steps can you take to ensure you are walking in the light and maintaining honest fellowship with God and your community?

1 JOHN 2

SUMMARY

1 John Chapter 2, as explained by our teacher John Mathews, centres on the theme “The True and the False.” John advises believers on identifying and differentiating between true followers of Christ and those who are deceptive. He emphasizes the importance of obedience, love and walking in the way of Jesus as marks of genuine faith. John also warns against the love of the world and the dangers of antichrists who lead others away from the truth.

QUESTIONS

Who is Jesus Christ in the role of our advocate?

What does John mean by saying Jesus is the propitiation for our sins?

How do we know that we truly know Jesus, according to John?

What commandment is John referring to as both old and new?

What is the anointing that John speaks of in this chapter?

What does John say about the antichrist and many antichrists?

REFLECTION

How can you discern true teachings from false ones in your own spiritual journey?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

What practical steps can you implement to walk more closely in the way of Jesus and demonstrate love toward others?

1 JOHN 3

SUMMARY

In 1 John Chapter 3, the main themes are love and the difference between God's children and those led astray by sin. John emphasizes that true believers don't make a habit of sinning, because God's seed is in them. Instead, they practice righteousness and love. This love is not just in words but in actions, like helping those in need. John also tackles a false belief that it's OK to sin because Jesus paid for all sins. He clarifies that although everyone makes mistakes, living in constant sin without remorse shows a lack of true connection with Jesus. This chapter teaches us to understand love by looking at Jesus' example: He laid down His life for us, and we should do the same for others. It's not about evolving into something divine on our own but about reflecting God's love and purity in our lives.

QUESTIONS

What is the main theme of 1 John Chapter 3?

How does John describe those who are truly God's children?

What false belief does John address regarding sin?

How can we show love according to 1 John Chapter 3?

What does John say about those who keep on sinning?

How does John say we can be assured of our relationship with God?

REFLECTION

What does true love look like in my daily life, and how can I better demonstrate it to those around me?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

How can I align my actions with my faith to ensure I'm not just saying I love others, but actually showing it in my behaviour?

1 JOHN 4-5

SUMMARY

In 1 John 4-5, our teacher John Mathews highlights the importance of distinguishing between truth and falsehood, light and darkness. He presents us with tests to determine what comes from God and what belongs to the devil. A key test is to confess that Jesus Christ came in the flesh, an affirmation against the false ideas of the time. John emphasizes God's nature as love and the necessity of loving one another as a reflection of our relationship with God. He assures us that fear has no place in perfect love and that true believers have the Holy Spirit as a guide. Obedience to God's commands, which are not burdensome, is a sign of overcoming the world through faith. Moreover, believers have eternal life in Jesus, and we are encouraged to keep ourselves from idols and to love one another deeply.

QUESTIONS

What is the first test John gives to identify true believers?

How does John describe the nature of God and how should we reflect this in our lives?

What does John say about fear in relation to love?

How can believers be assured they have eternal life?

What does John say about the "sin that leads to death"?

According to John, how are true Christians protected?

REFLECTION

Reflect on how you can apply the test of brotherly love in your daily interactions with others.

PERSONAL APPLICATION

Think about a time when you had to choose between following God's Word and a popular but unscriptural idea. How did you handle it, and what would you do differently now?

2 JOHN 1

SUMMARY

Today's Mission 66 study brings us to Second John, where our teacher, John Mathews, delves into the importance of adhering to the essentials of the Christian faith and the need for discernment when faced with false teachings. The early church faced challenges from false prophets trying to introduce harmful ideas, which required a firm and united stand from church leaders. John emphasizes love and truth, warning against those who deny Jesus Christ's coming in the flesh—a dangerous heresy. It's stressed that we must stay true to the core teachings of Christ and not be led astray by those who offer a different message, even in our personal interactions and hospitality. Christians are encouraged to be vigilant, to uphold the truth, and to demonstrate love through obedience to God's commandments.

QUESTIONS

Who is the “elect lady” John is writing to in this letter?

What does “walking in truth” mean, according to John?

How does John define love in this letter?

What is the heresy that John is warning against in his letter?

What is the essential Christian doctrine that John is urging believers to hold onto?

Why does John advise against offering hospitality to those preaching false doctrines?

REFLECTION

How can we balance the command to love with the need to reject false teachings and uphold the truth?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

In what ways can you practice discernment in your daily life to ensure you are following the true teachings of Christ?

3 JOHN 1

SUMMARY

In this chapter, our teacher, John Mathews, explores the third letter written by the apostle John. The key theme is “Characters in Contrast,” where John commends the good character of two men, Gaius and Demetrius, and criticizes the behaviour of Diotrephes. The importance of walking in truth, showing hospitality, and respecting authority are emphasized, providing valuable lessons for us today.

QUESTIONS

Who were the three characters that John mentioned in his letter?

What character traits did Gaius and Demetrius exhibit?

What were the actions of Diotrephes that John criticized?

Why did John praise Gaius for his hospitality?

What does it mean when John said the brothers had gone out for the sake of the name?

How did John describe the balance between truth and love?

REFLECTION

How can we apply the lessons from the character traits of Gaius, Demetrius and Diotrephes in our own lives?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

How can you practice hospitality in a safe and meaningful way in your own life?

JUDE 1

SUMMARY

Today's theme in the study of Jude 1 is "Contend for the Faith." Jude, a leader in the early Christian church and brother of James, wrote this letter as a warning against false teachers. These teachers were distorting the truth and leading believers astray. Jude called for steadfastness in faith and warned against falling into heresy. He stressed the importance of staying true to the teachings of Jesus Christ and to resist the temptations of false prophets.

QUESTIONS

Who was Jude?

What is the main theme of Jude's letter?

What were some of the heresies Jude was battling against?

What is the "Way of Balaam," and how does it relate to false prophets?

What is "Korah's Rebellion," and what does it teach us?

How can believers protect themselves against dangerous heresies?

REFLECTION

How can you apply Jude's warning about false teachers to your life today?

APPLICATION

What are some practical ways you can "contend for the faith" in your daily life?

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HEBREWS 1 | ANSWERS

The theme is the superiority of Christ over angels.

Jesus is described as the agent through whom God created the world.

Jesus is superior because he is the Son of God and worshiped by angels, unlike angels who are servants.

Jesus perfectly reflects God's nature, being divine and having the same essence as the Father.

Jesus made purification by sacrificing himself on the cross and resurrecting.

The chapter advises against worshiping angels, emphasizing that Jesus, not angels, should be the object of worship.

HEBREWS 2 | ANSWERS

We must pay close attention to avoid drifting away from the truth and to fully embrace the salvation Jesus offers.

Jesus became the founder of salvation by suffering death and being made perfect through suffering.

Being made lower than the angels refers to Jesus' incarnation as a human, temporarily ranking beneath celestial beings to suffer death for humanity.

Jesus' humanity allows him to sympathize with our weaknesses and be a merciful and faithful high priest.

Through his death, Jesus destroyed the power of death held by the devil and freed those who were held in slavery by their fear of death.

Jesus helps those tempted because he himself was tempted and suffered, enabling him to provide the help we need.

HEBREWS 3 | ANSWERS

Jesus is compared to Moses as being more glorious and faithful as the Son over God's house.

The warning is not to harden your hearts as the Israelites did, leading to rebellion and God's wrath.

The "rest" refers to the spiritual rest in Christ, which is akin to the Promised Land for Israelites.

Christians can encourage each other daily to stay faithful and avoid the deceitfulness of sin.

The Israelites' unbelief led them to wander in the wilderness and not enter the Promised Land.

The Word of God is living, active and discerns the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

HEBREWS 4 | ANSWERS

The significance of "rest" is a metaphor for the salvation and eternal life offered in Jesus.

The gospel message must be received with faith to benefit the listener.

The chapter suggests that Joshua did not provide the ultimate rest, pointing to a future, eternal rest.

God's Word is powerful, discerning and judges our thoughts and intentions.

Our high priest is Jesus, who understands our weaknesses and intercedes for us.

We can approach with confidence because Jesus provides mercy and grace in times of need.

HEBREWS 5 | ANSWERS

The high priest acts on behalf of men in relation to God, offering sacrifices for sins, with Jesus being the ultimate high priest.

Jesus learned obedience through suffering, which teaches us about the importance of obedience and perseverance.

Melchizedek was a king and priest who blessed Abram, and Jesus' priesthood is in the same eternal order.

The critique is that some believers are not progressing in their understanding and need to move beyond elementary teachings.

Jesus being a priest in the order of Melchizedek means he has a unique, everlasting priesthood.

To mature in faith, believers must practice discernment and deepen their understanding of God's Word.

HEBREWS 6 | ANSWERS

The two impossibilities are that it's impossible to restore someone to repentance if they deliberately reject Christ after knowing the truth, and it's impossible for God to lie.

Because a willful, persistent and final rejection of Christ is opposed to repentance.

To mature in faith and recognize Jesus as superior.

It illustrates God's unchangeable nature and His promises.

Those who are right with Jesus will produce good fruit.

By repentance and faith in Jesus, anyone can be restored.

HEBREWS 7 | ANSWERS

He was a king-priest who blessed Abraham and received tithes from him.

Jesus is a priest forever, like Melchizedek, but with an eternal priesthood.

It signifies that Jesus' priestly authority is not based on human lineage.

Because he ensures a covenant that is based on better promises and eternal life.

Jesus' once-for-all sacrifice is perfect and does not need repeating.

He continues to intercede for believers before God.

HEBREWS 8 | ANSWERS

The New Covenant is written on our hearts and is based on better promises.

It fulfills Jeremiah's prophecy of a New Covenant.

We have an internal desire to obey God's laws.

Under the New Covenant, knowing the Lord is innate for believers.

The tabernacle was a model of worship that foreshadowed Christ.

The Bible is complete because the New Covenant is perfect.

HEBREWS 9 | ANSWERS

It contained God's presence and was where atonement was made.

The old sacrifices were temporary; Christ's is eternal.

He made the ultimate sacrifice and now advocates for us in heaven.

It was done once and is effective forever.

We face judgment after death, emphasizing the need for salvation.

Only through faith in Jesus Christ.

HEBREWS 10-11 | ANSWERS

It is the ultimate atonement for sins, perfecting the believers.

Faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.

Abel, Enoch and Noah, among others.

To encourage each other and grow in faith.

Because faith shows trust in God and his promises.

They remind us that faith has always been essential in relating to God.

HEBREWS 12 | ANSWERS

An athlete training for a race.

Troubles train us for righteousness and peace.

Jesus endured hostility; we should endure as well.

Jesus is the founder and perfecter of our faith.

God disciplines those he loves as a father disciplines a child.

God's discipline aims to make us share in his holiness.

HEBREWS 13 | ANSWERS

Hospitality can unexpectedly bless us, possibly with angels.

Marriage should be honoured and kept pure.

Be content and trust God's provision.

Leaders who live out God's Word faithfully.

A heavenly city, the eternal Jerusalem.

Church leaders should be obeyed as they guide us spiritually.

JAMES 1 | ANSWERS

Trials test our faith and produce perseverance.

By asking God, who gives generously.

True faith leads to action and good works.

It can bless God and curse men, which shouldn't be.

Caring for the afflicted and keeping oneself pure.

Hearing the Word must lead to doing what it says.

JAMES 2 | ANSWERS

Favouritism goes against loving our neighbour as ourselves.

Faith is completed and evidenced by works.

Both demonstrated faith through their actions.

Failing in one part makes one guilty of the whole Law.

Mercy triumphs over judgment; it's a higher virtue.

By doing good works and treating others without partiality.

JAMES 3-4 | ANSWERS

A small rudder directs a large ship, like the tongue directs life.

Godly wisdom is pure, peaceful and humble; worldly wisdom is selfish and envious.

Personal desires and passions lead to conflict.

Ask with pure motives, not selfish desires.

We should acknowledge God's will in our plans.

By submitting to God and resisting pride.

JAMES 5 | ANSWERS

He warns them that their hoarded wealth will be a testimony against them and that they will face misery for their fraudulent actions and self-indulgence.

By being patient, establishing their hearts and waiting for the Lord's return, much like a farmer waits for his crops.

To let their "yes" be yes and their "no" be no, avoiding swearing by heaven, earth or any other oath.

They should call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord.

It has great power and can bring about healing and forgiveness.

Bringing someone back from wandering will save their soul from death and cover a multitude of sins.

1 PETER 1 | ANSWERS

Peter is writing to the elect exiles of the Dispersion in various regions, to encourage them amid persecution and to remind them of the living hope they have through Jesus Christ.

The inheritance Peter talks about is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for believers, signifying eternal life and salvation.

Trials test the genuineness of faith, purifying it like gold in fire, and they result in praise, glory and honour at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

The prophets searched for the person or time the Spirit of Christ was indicating when predicting the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories. They served not themselves but future generations, revealing the grace that would come.

Christians should conduct themselves with fear and reverence for God throughout their time on Earth, knowing they were ransomed by the precious blood of Christ, not with perishable things like

silver or gold.

Being “born again” signifies a spiritual rebirth that leads to a living hope and an eternal inheritance, contrasting with perishable human nature, and is achieved through the Word of God, which endures forever.

1 PETER 2 | ANSWERS

As living stones being built into a spiritual house, with Jesus as the cornerstone.

To submit to every human authority for the Lord’s sake, as a testimony and to silence foolish people.

He did not retaliate or threaten but entrusted himself to God who judges justly.

Honourably, so that nonbelievers may see good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.

It means that every believer has direct access to God and can offer spiritual sacrifices.

He is a stone that causes stumbling because they disobey the Word and reject Christ.

1 PETER 3 | ANSWERS

By conducting themselves with purity and respect, winning them over without words.

With understanding and honour, as they are co-heirs of the grace of life.

To not fear or be troubled, but to honour Christ and be prepared to explain their hope with gentleness and respect.

As a pledge of a good conscience toward God, not just an external washing but a response to God for a clear conscience.

By always being ready to gently and respectfully explain why they

have hope in Christ.

It's suggested that Christ proclaimed to the spirits in prison, possibly those from Noah's time or disobedient beings.

1 PETER 4-5 | ANSWERS

"Suffering in the flesh" is associated with ceasing from sin, as it refines faith like gold in fire.

"Love earnestly" covers a multitude of sins, and believers should use their gifts to serve one another.

That believers should be self-controlled, love one another deeply, and use their gifts to serve others.

By being willing shepherds, not greedy for money, and setting an example for the flock.

By being firm in faith and knowing that fellow believers worldwide are also facing persecution.

To trust their faithful Creator and continue to do good, knowing that God will restore and strengthen them.

2 PETER 1 | ANSWERS

The main message is that believers have everything they need for life and godliness through their knowledge of Christ.

Peter is writing to Christians scattered throughout Asia Minor, possibly the same audience as his first letter.

The knowledge of Jesus grants us divine power and promises for life and godliness.

Believers should develop virtue, knowledge, self-control, steadfastness, godliness, brotherly affection and love.

Peter insists on the truthfulness of Scripture because it is inspired by the Holy Spirit and confirmed by prophetic word.

Peter's eyewitness account provides concrete evidence of Jesus's majesty, while the written Word is a more secure and enduring testimony.

2 PETER 2 | ANSWERS

False prophets introduce destructive heresies, deny Christ and exploit believers through greed.

Peter compares past judgments (angels, the ancient world, Sodom and Gomorrah) with the future judgment awaiting false teachers.

Forsaking the right way refers to abandoning the true teachings of Christ for heresies and immorality.

Heresy is deceptive because it appears religious but leads people away from the truth of the gospel.

Those who have known righteousness but turn back are worse off than before, and their final state is worse than their first.

Peter encourages believers to stay true to Christ's teachings, maintain integrity and be wary of false teachings.

2 PETER 3 | ANSWERS

Jesus will return like a thief, at an unexpected time, to judge and destroy the world by fire.

The earth and heavenly bodies will be consumed in fire, exposing human works.

Considering the end times, we should live holy and godly lives, hastening the Day of God.

A new heaven and earth are promised where righteousness dwells.

God's patience offers time for repentance, not wishing any to perish.

Paul's letters contain complex matters, but they align with other Scriptures and the truth should be sought.

1 JOHN 1 | ANSWERS

John stresses his firsthand experience to combat the heresy that Jesus was not truly human or resurrected.

Walking in the light signifies living in the truth and purity of God.

Fellowship among believers is based on shared belief in Christ and walking in the light.

Confessing sins leads to forgiveness and cleansing from all unrighteousness.

Claiming sinlessness is self-deception and contradicts God's truth.

Sin hinders fellowship with God and others, but confession and forgiveness restore it.

1 JOHN 2 | ANSWERS

Jesus advocates for us before the Father, defending us against accusations of sin.

Jesus' sacrifice appeases God's wrath and opens the way for our forgiveness.

Knowing Jesus is evidenced by obedience to his commandments.

The commandment is to love one another, as demonstrated by Jesus.

The anointing refers to the Holy Spirit's teaching and guidance.

The antichrist denies Jesus as Christ; many antichrists lead people astray.

1 JOHN 3 | ANSWERS

The main theme is distinguishing between God's children and those led astray by sin, emphasizing love and righteousness.

True children of God do not habitually sin, but practice righteousness and love.

The false belief that it's OK to sin because Jesus paid for sins is corrected by John.

Love is shown through actions of caring, helping and sacrificing for others.

Those who continue sinning without remorse are not truly connected with Jesus and are of the devil.

We can be assured of our relationship with God by the presence of the Holy Spirit within us.

1 JOHN 4-5 | ANSWERS

To confirm true believers, John says they must confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh (1 John 4:2).

God is love, and we should emulate him by loving others as he loved us (1 John 4:7-12).

John states that perfect love casts out fear, implying that fear is associated with punishment, and those who love should not be afraid (1 John 4:18).

Believers can be assured they have eternal life because they have the testimony of Jesus in themselves and believe in the Son of God (1 John 5:10-13).

John refers to a sin that leads to death as wilful apostasy or rejection of Christ, which cannot be forgiven if one does not repent (1 John 5:16-17).

True Christians are protected by Christ, and the evil one cannot touch them (1 John 5:18).

2 JOHN 1 | ANSWERS

The "elect lady" could refer to an actual woman and her children or metaphorically to a church. The identity is not definitive, but the message applies to all believers.

"Walking in truth" means living according to the teachings and doctrines of the Bible, upholding ethical and moral laws, and

aligning one's actions and thoughts with God's commandments.

John is referring to "Agape" love, which is selfless and seeks the well-being of others, much like the love Christ showed by sacrificing himself for humanity.

The heresy John warns against is that Jesus did not come in the flesh but only appeared to, known as Docetism, which contradicts the eyewitness accounts of Jesus' life and resurrection.

The essential Christian doctrine is the belief in Jesus Christ's true nature -- fully human and fully divine -- and adherence to his teachings as the foundation of the faith.

John advises against offering hospitality to false teachers to prevent them from spreading their doctrines within the home churches, protecting the congregation from deception.

3 JOHN 1 | ANSWERS

John mentioned Gaius, Diotrephes and Demetrius in his letter.

Gaius and Demetrius exhibited traits of truth, hospitality and respect for authority.

Diotrephes was criticized by John for his pride, refusal to acknowledge authority and speaking against John and other brothers.

John praised Gaius for his hospitality as he welcomed and supported the brothers sent by John.

When John mentioned the brothers had gone out for the sake of the name, he meant they were promoting the gospel of Jesus Christ.

John described a balance between truth and love by emphasizing that both are needed, and that Jesus Christ is the only place where truth and love meet in perfect harmony.

JUDE | ANSWERS

Jude was a leader in the early Christian church and the brother of

James.

The main theme of Jude's letter is to "contend for the faith" and guard against false teachers.

Jude was battling against heresies that distorted the truth of the gospel, including legalism, immorality and Gnosticism.

The "Way of Balaam" refers to false prophets who, like Balaam, use their position for personal gain.

"Korah's Rebellion" teaches us about the dangers of rejecting God's appointed leaders and trying to take matters into our own hands.

Believers can protect themselves against dangerous heresies by immersing themselves in God's Word, being vigilant and discerning the truth from falsehood.



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