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Speaking Topics

(Cover art and descriptions of each are on our website)

Meant for Good: A Study of Joseph

The life story of Joseph is one of the most beloved and chronicled in the Bible. It's a story of broken dreams and impossible circumstances, of family conflict and unfair treatment. From a favorite son to a slave and a prisoner who became prime minister of Egypt, Joseph's story demonstrates the power and necessity of letting God's love and forgiveness lead. Through this study, we come away recognizing our own circumstances in Joseph's story, inspired to place our trust in God. (This study focuses on Genesis 37-50.)

Unshakable: Standing on the Rock When Life Quakes Hard

Throughout Scripture we see pillars of faith undergoing seemingly devastating tests of faith. We can relate in our post-pandemic world. This study looks at eight different characters in Scripture. We study what their life looked like before God shook them to the core, what happened to shake them, and how they used the lessons they learned to leverage the saving message of the Gospel. They are stories that inspire us to leverage what we learn from those hard seasons for good instead to shine forth the light, hope, and grace of Jesus Christ. (This study focuses on Joseph from Genesis, Mary the mother of Jesus, David, James the brother of Jesus, Mary Magdalene, Paul, Gideon, and John.)

Chosen: A Study of Esther

The story of Esther is as dramatic as any major motion picture. You and I can relate to dealing with drama. Are you feeling as if God is absent? Like His presence isn't around and He's gone? The best news in the world is that the hiddenness of God does not mean the absence of God. Rather, God is always present, faithfully working behind the scenes to govern all circumstances for our good and His glory. No book of the Bible shows this better than Esther. Set in the opulent Persian Empire, we see how God moves in Esther's life to elevate her from adopted orphan to queen of Persia in order to save an entire nation from annihilation. In Esther's story, we receive clear biblical direction on how we are chosen, equipped, and given God's perfect counsel from Scripture. We will see that God's hand is involved in every detail of our lives—whether or not we perceive His presence—to learn how to live wise, bold journeys of faith every single day. (This study focuses on the book of Esther.)

Where Love Abides

Seasons matter in vineyards. Seasons also matter in our spiritual journey. We experience winter seasons that seem prolonged and harsh. We endure seasons of pruning where God removes the superfluous to nurture deep roots in Him. We also experience bountiful seasons of harvest where we, through the power of the Holy Spirit, experience the abundance of God's beautiful fruit. But this fruit is not just for believers to sit back and enjoy. God calls us to go into the world and share His fruit. Jesus, our Vine, lovingly invites us to abide in Him as He abides in us. What does that mean? What does it look like amidst our modern, fast-paced days? This study provides a clearer understanding of both the blessing and responsibility of being chosen for God's vineyard. Jesus said, "Love one another as I have loved you." When we abide in Him through the faith He gives, He draws us into an intimate relationship with Him as branches in His vineyard -- that beautiful sanctuary *where love abides*. (This study focuses on John 15:1-17.)

Peter: From Fisherman to Fisher of Men

We can learn much from the life and ministry of the Apostle Peter. His passion for the Gospel was sometimes overshadowed by the shortcomings of his nature. Peter demonstrates that zeal without discipline is reckless, a prideful heart stunts growth, God uses people who make mistakes, and the Holy Spirit enables us to humbly welcome Jesus into our lives. Through this study, we will walk through the life and ministry of Peter to learn how holy boldness can move and inspire multitudes in the name of Christ. (This study focuses on Peter's life as recorded in the Gospels, Acts, 1 Peter, and 2 Peter).

Perseverance: A Nehemiah Battle Plan

We all have that *one thing* hanging over our lives that's been there for a while. It keeps showing up. It sits smack dab in the middle of the room like the proverbial pink elephant. It could be an addiction to conquer, a habit to break, goal to accomplish, long-standing project to complete, relationship to restore (or toxic one to end), or even a debt to retire. *What is your one thing?* We all have one thing if not four. We've tried everything and failed. But what if we surrendered that one thing to God for real this time, wholeheartedly persevering in the strength of the Lord? Perseverance is key – persevering in prayer, focus, His resources, and His strength. Observing how Nehemiah accomplished God's call to rebuild the wall around Jerusalem provides helpful methods that you and I can deploy in our own lives to accomplish the extraordinary. The enemy will oppose us at every turn, but Nehemiah demonstrates how you and I can surround ourselves with people who are committed to God and our success. Nehemiah began with prayer and ended with praise as God provided the confidence, resources, and people that carried Nehemiah to successful completion. When we apply what we observe through Nehemiah to our *one thing*, we will begin to see God work in incredible ways in our own lives. (This study focuses on Nehemiah chapters 1-7.)

Forgiveness: Received from God, Extended to Others

Forgiveness is always personal. It's incredibly difficult to do. But it's never optional. When someone has offended us, the temptation to not forgive is great. But the roots of unforgiveness and bitterness can grow deep in the human soul. Left alone, unforgiveness produces bitter fruit that shows itself in angry thoughts, words, and deeds. Eventually, it will destroy us from the inside out. Through this study, we learn of the rich, life-altering teachings God's Word offers about forgiveness. Our hearts will soften as we learn of Jesus' forgiveness for us. And, most important, we will be encouraged to extend that same forgiveness to others.

Quenched: Christ's Living Water for a Thirsty Soul

What quenches your thirst? Wealth or health? Career or activities? Or do these things still leave you with a certain level of dehydration? Perhaps right now you're experiencing a detour through a spiritual desert. Perhaps you see the dry, cracked road ahead and feel like giving up. Perhaps you're new to Christianity and uncertain about how to live your new life in Christ. Take heart. Jesus offers the goodness and grace that quenches. He shows you the path to streams of living water that will quench your soul's thirst. He doesn't care where you've been. He doesn't care what you've done. He cares about you. This study is designed for both new Christians and Christians going through spiritual dehydration. Regardless of the state you're in, you will be led to the life-giving waters of Christ's grace, mercy, and hope. This study points readers to the Gospel message of forgiveness and salvation and emphasizes that it is only Christ and His grace that quench the parched soul.

Overflowing Abundance

Aside from the resurrection, Jesus' feeding of the five thousand is the only miracle recorded in all four Gospels. Even though Jesus dealt with doubting disciples, fatigue, personal grief, and limited resources, God desired to use that spring day to feed the masses with the Bread of Life. The disciples find one boy willing to hand over his basket of provisions. Five loaves and two fish. Not nearly enough. Until they offer it to Jesus. This study digs deep into Scripture to see a compelling picture of our compassionate Savior. Sometimes, in seasons of stress and brokenness, we keep our eyes down. Trudging forward. Never looking up to see our Provider. Yet when Christ is present, the weary find rest, and the hungry soul is satisfied. (This study focuses on Matthew 14:13-21.)

God of All Comfort

Life is hard. *Really* hard for some of us. We suffer, we grow discouraged, and we struggle with sin. But when we view our sufferings from the balcony of faith, we rest in the assurance that God never leaves us unloved or uncared for. His hope is a beacon of comfort. We journey with the apostle Paul (an expert when it came to suffering) to provide insight and encouragement that God is not blind to our troubles. This study allows us to experience the unmistakable handprint of a loving, merciful Savior. (This study focuses on 2 Corinthians 1:3-7.)

Your Strong Suit

This study of the armor of God details the incredible protection that God has provided to His children. Even though we may not like discussing spiritual warfare, it is necessary because it is real. Spiritual warfare has the potential to rob us of peace and security only to leave behind doubt and unrest. But God offers protection to us – HIS protection. Journey through this study as we learn about the battle, our enemy, our armor, and our place in God's army. But most importantly, we come to know the rock-solid truth that God has provided everything we need to proclaim ultimate victory. (This study focuses on Ephesians 6:10-18.)