

Character Study

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: Isaiah 28:9-10, 13.

B. Five qualities to look for in a man. (II Timothy)

1. Strong in the grace.

2. Available.

3. Industriousness.

4. Teachable.

5. Understanding.

C. A character study is selecting a Biblical character and researching all the Scriptures about that individual in order to study his life and characteristics and examine one's own life in light of the study asking God to help one make positive character changes.

D. The New Testament is the book of instruction, and the Old Testament is the book of illustration.

E. Tools: Young's Concordance, Naive's Topical book, a Bible Dictionary.

F. Suggestions.

1. Start with a simple character.

2. Read the references multiple times.

3. Be careful not to confuse people of the same name.

4. Be careful to identify the different names of the same person.

II. Select your character.

III. Using your reference tools, list all the references you can find to a person and related events.

IV. Write down initial notes and questions.

V. Make an outline of the person's life.

VI. Try to read all the references in one setting looking for natural divisions or progressions in the character's life. (John 9)

VII. Look over references again for possible answers to questions of which you can think.

VIII. Review the references again for positive and negative characteristics and cross references that illustrate Bible truths.

IX. Summarize the main lesson taught by a person's life—is there any one word that illustrates the person's life?

X. Application.

- A. Did I see any of myself in this person's life?
- B. What impressed me most about this person's life?
- C. Where do I fall short in this area?
- D. What do I intend to do about it?

XI. Make it transferable.

XII. Character study: Mary of Bethany. (Luke 10, John 11:32, 12:3)

- A. Every time she is mentioned she is found at the feet of Jesus.
- B. She sees Jesus as a teacher, a healer and as Messiah.

Application questions:

1. How would you summarize the steps of a character study?

2. How does one go about finding all the references for a character in the Bible?

3. Which question for application stands out to you the most? What strikes you?

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