

## Life With God Bible Study Guide



### THE IMMANUEL INVITATION Abandoning With-less Living

*Imagine* walking more closely with the Master Jesus.

*Envision* knowing real love, joy and peace in all conditions.

*Anticipate* abandoning the "With-less" existence common to so many.

The Immanuel Invitation is a journey through the Bible from the Genesis creation to the Revelation fulfillment of an all-inclusive community of love. Our road map is the *Life with God Study Bible*, compiled by over 50 pastors, scholars & theologians introducing the story of a loving God who wants to spend forever with you starting right now.

The "*Life with God*" Bible declares,

*"An overarching essay describing the unifying theme in Scripture as **the Immanuel Principle, or the "with-God" life**, allows us to better recognize how God is with us and how we are with God, now, today. Fifteen progressive essays on the People of God are designed to help us see the flow of the "with-God" history - from individual to family to tribe to people to nation to all humanity." (p. XV)*

### THE IMMANUEL INVITATION *A 17 Session Study through the entire Bible*

~ Session Handouts & Study Guide available in the [Jesus College Library](#)  
Find online Courses in partnership with [Dallas Willard Ministries](#) in a collection of over 150 free resources to enhance your friendship with Jesus.

~ The resources were compiled by Pastor Doug Webster, Founder & Senior Apprentice of [Jesus College](#), serving the Master as a student of His Word, and lead investigator of scripture with the effort of intentional integration of the principles, practices and person of Jesus into our everyday lives.

## Life With God Bible Study Guide

### THE SCHEDULE (17 week Study + Optional OT Overview)

WEEK	FOCUS
1	Introduction - part 1
2	Introduction - part 2 V-I-M Principle and Spiritual Disciplines
3	The People of God in Individual Communion
4	The People of God Become a Family
5	The People of God in Exodus
6	The People of God in the Promised Land
7	The People of God as a Nation
8	The People of God in Travail
9	The People of God in Prayer and Worship
10	The People of God in Daily Life
11	The People of God in Rebellion
12	The People of God in Exile
13	The People of God in Restoration
Optional	Old Testament Review
14	The People of God with Immanuel
15	The People of God in Mission
16	The People of God into Community
17	The People of God into Eternity

### An Apprentice's Six Tools from the Carpenter's Tool Box

- #1 - The Immanuel Principle - "*Living in the Kingdom of God Among Us*"
- #2 - V-I-M: Vision - Intention - Means
- #3 - Spiritual Formation
- #4 - The Principle of Indirection
- #5 - Spiritual Disciplines
- #6 - Grace, Grace & More Grace

### The Scribe's Personal Note

If you are like me, this Bible surprised you. I presumed it was a regular Bible format with added commentary on certain texts with a unique perspective from a "spiritual formation" perspective - a more typical "Bible + Devotion". One day I was using it as a study tool when I discovered the depth of the panoramic overview of Scripture and the intentional thinking invested in this study Bible. Little did I know over 50 people spent 5 years creating this study Bible. I was inspired, and a bit overwhelmed. The depth and breadth of this study Bible prompted to me lead our Church on a rich, insightful, inspiring, one year "Immanuel Invitation" study through the *Life With God Bible*.

May your journey with Jesus be like a walk on the road to Emmaus where He reveals to you everything in the Law and the Prophets about Him and His Father's Kingdom.

*Doug Webster, Jesus College*

## LIFE WITH GOD BIBLE Background

### FOREWORD - How this Bible Came to Be (XV-XVII)

- *Why another study Bible?* We need a study Bible that will draw us irresistibly into the biblical drama of love and terror and pity and pain and wonder until the biblical witness becomes all over autobiographic of us. (XV)
- *Why this particular study Bible?* An overarching essay describing the unifying theme in Scripture as **the Immanuel Principle, or the "with-God" life**, allows us to better recognize how God is with us and how we are with God, now, today. Fifteen progressive essays on the People of God are designed to help us see the flow of the "with-God" history - from individual to family to tribe to people to nation to all humanity. (XV)
- *Why use the NSRV translation?* (XVI)
  1. Best English translation; Scholarship is unsurpassed.
  2. Gender accurate language frees it from linguistic sexism.
  3. Inclusion of the Deuterocanonical books
- *Why included the Deuterocanonical Books?*
  1. They were in the Ancient Greek Bible - the Septuagint
  2. Help Christian readers understand the New Testament context. The people Jesus encountered and taught were in many ways spiritual formed by these writings.
  3. Most of the Church throughout history has included them.
  4. Bridge the gap between Malachi and Matthew.
  5. They do not affect any central doctrine of the Christian faith, but they do contain many helpful insights for spiritual formation.
- *Why use the masculine person when speaking of God?* The lack of a common-gender third-person singular pronoun in the English language. "It" is impersonal. "God" is awkward and convoluted.

### TO THE READER (XIX-XXIV)

The NRSV is an authorized revision of the RSV (1952) which was a revision of the ASV (1901) which, embodied earlier revisions of the KJV (1611). During the years following the publication of the RSV, 26 other English translations and revisions of the Bible were produced and 25 other translations and revisions of the New Testament alone.

Over 50 scholars, theologians, pastors and ordinary folk (XV) supported a Committee of translators (XIX) sub-grouped as Old Testament (XX) and New Testament (XXII).

## **A GENERAL INTRODUCTION (XXV-XXXVI)**

### **CATCHING THE VISION - (XXV-XXVIII)**

God, in sovereign grace and outrageous love, has given us a written revelation of who He is and what His purposes are for humanity. And God has chose to accomplish this great work through His people on earth.

We can often use the Bible in ways that stifle spiritual life or even destroy the soul. Think of the millions of people who say, sincerely, that the Bible is the guide to life, but who still starve to death in the presence of its spiritual feast. The source of the problem is rotted in the two most common objectives of Bible study.

1. The practice of studying the Bible for information or knowledge alone.
2. To find some formula that will solve the pressing need of the moment.

Thus we seek out specific passages that speak to particular needs rather than seeking whole-life discipleship to Jesus.

What we must face up to about these two common objectives for studying the Bible is that we or our human instructors are in charge of the process. The are, in fact, ways of trying to control what comes out of the Bible rather than a means of entering the process of transforming our whole person and our whole life into Christlikeness.

### **The Supernatural Power of Love (XXVI-XXVII)**

Jesus founded on earth a new type of community, and in it and through Him love - God-given agape love, came down to live with power on earth. Now, it is this God-given agape love that transforms our lies and gives us true spiritual substance as persons. Suppose the, we simply agreed that the proper outcome of studying the Bible is growth in the supernatural power of love, the love of God and of all people. The test of whether we have really gotten the point of the Bible would then be the quality of love we show.

When we turn to Scripture in that was our reason for "knowing" the Bible and everything it teaches would be that we might love more and know more of love. We would experience this love not as an abstraction, but as a practical reality by which we are possessed. And since all those who love through and through obey the law, we would become ever more obedient to Jesus Christ and His Abba.

Shall we try to control the Bible, that is, try to make it "come out right," or shall we simply seek to release its life into our lives and our world? Can we surrender freely to the life we see in the Bible, or must we remain in

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control of that life, only selectively endorsing it when we find it proper and safe from our "perspective"? Can we trust the living water that flows from Christ through the Bible, open ourselves to it and release it into the world as best we can, and then get out of its way?

### **Life "With God": The Immanuel Principle (XXVII-XXVIII)**

The Bible is all about human life "with God." It is about how God has made this "with-God" life possible and will bring it to pass. The name Immanuel meaning in Hebrew "God with us," is the title given to the one and only Redeemer, Indeed, the unity of the Bible is discovered in the development of life "with God" as a reality on earth, centered in the person of Jesus We might call this the Immanuel Principle of life.

**The LWGB has as the primary aim enabling us to see and understand the Immanuel Principle...to make clear how the "with-God" life works in all the circumstances of human existence, both for individuals and groups, both in specific historical periods and through all times.**

Any Bible study worthy of the name should help, and not hinder, the spreading of the waters of that river [of life] abroad. Now, once we decide to surrender freely to this river of life, we must learn how it is done.

### **NURTURING THE INTENTION (XXVII-XXXII)**

God not only originated the Bible through human authorship; He remains with it always. It is God's book. No one owns it but God Himself. It is the loving heart of God made visible and plain. And receiving this message of exquisite love is the great privilege of all who long for life with God. Reading, studying, memorizing, and meditating upon Scripture have always been the foundation of the Christian disciplines. "The life that really is life" (I Timothy 6:19)

And the Bible has been given to help us. God has so superintended the writing of Scripture that it serves as a most reliable guide for our own spiritual formation. But as in its authorship, so in its presentation to the world, God uses human action. So we must consider how we can ourselves come to the Bible and also how we can present it to people in a way that does not destroy the soul, but inducts it into the eternal kind of life.

We begin by opening our lives in Christian community to the influx of God's life and by experientially finding, day to day, how to let Jesus Christ live in every dimension of our being. We can gather regularly in groups of two or more to encourage one another to discover the footprints of God in our daily existence and to venture out with God into areas where we have previously walked alone or not at all.

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But the aim is not external conformity, whether to doctrine or deed, but the reformation of the inner self - of the spiritual core - the place of thought and feeling, of will and character.

The transformation of the person into one of greater Christlikeness. "Spiritual formation" is the process of transforming the inner reality of the self (the "inward being" of the psalmist) in such a way that the overall with-God life seen in the Bible naturally and freely comes to pass in us. Our inner world (the "secret heart") becomes the home of Jesus by His initiative and our response. As a result, our interior world becomes increasingly like the inner self of Jesus, and therefore, the natural source of words and deeds that are characteristic of Him. (Phil. 2:5)

To see clearly the Life that burns brightly on the pages of the Bible and to show, by practical steps, how they can bring their entire life into that Life. An intelligent, humble, careful, intensive, straightforward reading of the Bible will direct us into life in the Kingdom of God.

### **Reading with the Mind** (XXIX-XXXI)

Literary Forms of Scripture

1. Law
2. Prophecy
3. Apocalyptic
4. Writings

Deuterocanonical - Apocryphal - Between OT & NT

The Gospels - The majestic teaching of Jesus Christ. Here the brilliance of Jesus' words and actions catapult us into the life that is Life indeed, and that more abundantly (John 10:10). We learn deeply and fully what it means to live with God. Even more, by Himself coming as incarnate Lord, Jesus ushers us completely into the with-God life, a life that is in and through Him who is "the way, the truth and the life" (John 14:6).

The Book of Acts - We see the dramatic unfolding of life with God...through the dynamic power of the Holy Spirit.

The Letters - Here we learn how the people of God, scattered in diverse local settings, live in the Kingdom of God and transformed by the power of God, obey the commands of God.

Revelation - As the drama moves toward its glorious conclusion, the new heaven and the new earth, God's ultimate intention of establishing an eternal relationship with us is fully revealed. (Rev. 21:3, 22:4-5)

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### **Reading with Understanding** - 4 Ways to read the Bible (XXXI-XXXII)

1. Literally
2. In Context
3. In Conversation with itself
4. In Conversation with the historic witness of the People of God.

### **Reading with the Heart** (XXXII)

Slow down, breathe deeply, and read with the heart.

*Lectio Divina* - Listening, submitting, reflecting, praying, applying and obeying the text.

### **UNDERSTANDING THE MEANS** (XXXII-XXXVI)

The with-God life that we see in the Bible is the very life to which we are called. It is in fact, exactly the life Jesus is referring to (John 10:10). It is a life of unhurried peace and power. But such a life does not fall into our hands. There is a God-ordained means to becoming the kind of persons and the kind of communities that can fully and joyfully enter into such abundant living. And these "means" involve us in a process of intentionally "training in godliness" (I Timothy 4:7) This the purpose of the disciplines of the spiritual life.

The Spiritual Disciplines are the God-ordained means by which each of us is enabled to place the little, individualized power pack we all possess- the human body- before God as a "living sacrifice" (Romans 12:1). It is the way we go about training in the spiritual life.

### **Many and Varied** (XXXIII-XXXIV)

What are the Spiritual Disciplines? They are many and varied...the way God's people trained toward godliness...the ways of growing in grace. (II Peter 3:18).

Biblical examples - "athletes of God" - The Psalms, Daniel, Jesus, Christians at Antioch.

God's People throughout the ages - Ignatius of Loyola, Teresa of Avila, Jeremy Taylor, William Law

Now, through all this we need not fear. We are not left to our own devices. God is with us. Christ is our everlasting teacher. The Spirit will guide and direct. Wise Christian counsel abounds both in Scripture and among loving and mature friends. We will be taught which response is right and when, and which disciplines are needful and when. Our only tasks are to listen and obey.

## **The Principle of Indirection (XXXIV)**

When we engage in the Spiritual Disciplines we are seeking the righteousness of the Kingdom of God through "indirection". You see, we can not by direct effort make ourselves into the kind of people who can live fully alive to God. Only God can accomplish this in us. Only God can incline our heart toward Him.

We train with Spiritual Disciplines appropriate to our need. This indirect action will place us - body, mind and spirit - before God as a living sacrifice. God then takes this little offering of ourselves and in His time and in His way produces in us things far greater than we could ever ask for or think of. It is, to repeat, the righteousness of the kingdom of God by indirection.

## **What is a Spiritual Discipline? (XXIV-XXXV)**

A Spiritual Discipline is an intentionally directed action by which we do what we can do in order to receive from God the ability (or power) to do what we cannot do by direct effort.

By an act of the will, we choose to take up disciplines of the spiritual life that we can do...all actions of body, mind, and spirit that are within our power to do.

The Spiritual Disciplines in and of themselves have no merit whatsoever. They possess no righteousness, contain no rectitude. Their purpose - their only purpose - is to place us before God. After that they have come to the end of their usefulness. But it is enough. Then the grace of God steps in, takes the simple offering of ourselves, and creates out of it the kind of person who embodies the goodness of God - indeed, a person who can come to the place of truly loving their enemies.

Again, Spiritual Disciplines involve doing what we can do in order to receive from God the power to do what we cannot. And God graciously uses this process to make us the kind of person who automatically will do what needs to be done when it needs to be done.

The ability to do what needs to be done when it needs to be done is the true freedom in life. Freedom comes not from the absence of restraint, but from the presence of discipline. The disciplined gymnast, the disciplined violinist. When we are on the spot, when we find ourselves in the midst of a crisis, it is too late. Training in the Spiritual Disciplines is the God-ordained means for forming and transforming the human personality, so that when we are in the crisis we can be "response-able" - able to respond appropriately.



**Grace, Grace and More Grace** (XXXV-XXXVI)

It is vitally important for us to see spiritual training in the context of the work and action of God's grace. Even our desiring the with-God life is an action of grace; it is "prevenient grace" say the theologians. We are not just saved by grace, we live by grace. All the disciplines are permeated by the enabling grace of God.

But do not misunderstand, there are things to do. Daily. Grace never means inaction or total passivity.

The opposite of grace is works, not effort. "Works" have to do with earning, and there is simply nothing any of us can do to earn God's love or acceptance. And of course, we don't have to. God already loves us so utterly and perfectly, and our complete acceptance is the free gift of God through Jesus Christ our Lord.

As Jesus says, "we strive to enter through the narrow door" (Luke 13:24). Peter urges us to "make every effort..." (II Peter 1:5-7)

**GO AND DO LIKEWISE** (XXXVI)

Pay special attention to those who do come through on the other side - albeit with many slips and falls. Note their joy, their peace, their strength, their love. They are the ones who are experiencing ever more fully the Immanuel Principle, the with-God life. The, go and do likewise.

**A Panoramic View of God's Purpose in History** (LWGB, XXXVII-XXXIX)

\* Diagram (LWGB, XXXIX)

From the beginning and into the unlimited future of God with humanity we can see the unity of the Bible in the interplay of two aspects of the with-God life: human character transformation and divine mediation - that is God's ways of arranging to be with us.

Individuals - Adam & Eve fell because, though innocent, they lacked character. God arranged for them to "be on their own" and the result was then expressed in what they did. This allowing us to be "on our own" in order to develop character within us is an arrangement God still abides by and respects.

To develop Adam and Eve's character - and ours too - God has to be "absent" as well as present in human life. God is intently present to us at our spiritual infancy and then allows us to be increasingly "on our own" as we spiritually mature. Through the ages God purposely works to establish a balance between His "manifest presence" and His "seeming absence" so that we will develop character: the character required of those who will not only "exercise dominion in life through the one man Jesus Christ" (Romans 5:17) but also will "reign forever and ever" (Rev. 22:5) with Him, hence realizing His ultimate purpose for humanity.

Family, Tribe, People, Nation - Beginning with Abraham, by contrast, God begins working indirectly mediating His presence through the social structure of the family unit. (Gen. 12:3) This mediation develops over a long and painful history as Abraham's descendants become tribes, a people and then under the monarchy, a nation that rises to great power, dominating its neighbors. All the while, God's presence with the people of Israel is the central, unifying reality in its history.

Intertestamental Period - New possibilities of character development and relationship to God develop within the framework of the ethnic Israelite culture.

Incarnate Word - Then into this Greco-Roman, Mediterranean world Jesus, the incarnate Word, who personally mediates the presence of God, is born. By the means of His life, death, and resurrection, Jesus breaks open the ethnic vessel within which the treasure of God's presence had developed. The entire history of God-with-His-people now becomes, through Jesus Christ, (I Timothy 2:5) the treasure of all peoples and fulfills the ancient promise to Abraham (Genesis 12:3)

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After Jesus ascension into the heavens we see God's all-inclusive people, the "light of the world" and the "salt of the Earth" being indwelt by the Holy Spirit, who also personally mediates God's presence for the formation of Christ's character in individuals and "all nations". Alongside this [the Holy Spirit] continues the indirect mediating work of Scripture (the Word of God written), preaching and prophetic utterance, (the word of God spoken), and sacraments, (the Word of God made visible.)

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### **THE THEMES of each ESSAY** (LWGB, XL-XLV)

This panoramic view of biblical history helps us understand the progressive nature of how God has mediated His presence with individuals and groups over the ages to form an all-inclusive community of loving persons.

The People of God...

- ...in Individual Communion
- ...Become a Family
- ...in Exodus
- ...in the Promised Land
- ...as a Nation
- ...in Travail
- ...in Prayer and Worship
- ...in Daily Life
- ...in Rebellion
- ...in Exile
- ...in Restoration
- ...with Immanuel
- ...in Mission
- ...in Community
- ...into Eternity

*{See "Background" in each individual Essay for information from this section of the LWG Study Bible}*

**A Brief Overview of the With-God Life** (LWGB, XLVI-XLVII)

**ESSAY #1**

**“The People of God in Individual Communion”** Overview (LWGB, XLVI-XLVII)

SCRIPTURE	Genesis 1-11
GOD’S ACTION	Creates, instructs, steward of a good creation, banishes, destroys, restores
HUMAN REACTION	Name animals, disobey, rebel, sacrifice, murder, repent, obey
MEDIATION	Face-to-face
LOCATION	Garden, field, Noah’s Ark
SOCIAL CONTEXT	Individuals
KEY INDIVIDUALS	Adam & Eve, Enoch, Noah
SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES	Practicing the Presence, Confession, Sacrifice Obedience/Submission
PROFILES	Adam & Eve p. 21; Cain p.24; Noah p. 28

OVERVIEW: In the beginning God creates the world and places the first humans into the Garden of Eden to work and care for it. Here we see Adam and Eve in partnership encountering God face-to-face. But Adam and Eve disobey God’s instructions, are banished from the garden and suffer social and physical consequences. God’s Spirit continues to strive with human beings during a downward spiral into immorality and political chaos. Finally, God destroys everyone except Noah and his family. LWGB, p. XLI

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**ESSAY #2**

**“The People of God Become a Family”** Overview (LWGB, XLVI-XLVII)

STAGE 2	People of God Become a Family
SCRIPTURE	Genesis 12-50
GOD’S ACTION	God’s Covenant makes a great people
HUMAN REACTION	Faith, Wrestling, Perseverance
MEDIATION	Through the family
LOCATION	Tent, Desert, Jail, Egypt
SOCIAL CONTEXT	Extended families & nomadic clans
KEY INDIVIDUALS	Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph
SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES	Pilgrimage, Sacrifice, Chastity
PROFILES	Abraham (37), Lot (41), Joseph (71)

OVERVIEW: Beginning with Abraham, God begins working indirectly mediating His presence through the social structure of the family unit. (Genesis 12:3) This mediation develops over a long and painful history as Abraham’s descendants become tribes, a people and then under the monarchy, a nation that rises to great power, dominating its neighbors. All the while, Gods’ presence with the people of Israel is the central, unifying reality in its history. LWG Bible, p. XXXVIII

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### ESSAY #3

#### **"The People of God in Exodus"** Overview (LWGB, XLVI-XLVII)

STAGE 3	People of God in Exodus
SCRIPTURE	Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy
GOD'S ACTION	Mercy, grace & deliverance, Mosaic Covenant, the Law
HUMAN REACTION	Obey & disobey; Develop rituals
MEDIATION	God's terrifying acts & the Law
LOCATION	The Ark & the Tabernacle in the Wilderness
SOCIAL CONTEXT	Nomadic tribes
KEY INDIVIDUALS	Moses
SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES	Submission, Silence, Simplicity, Worship
PROFILES	Moses (p. 105); Caleb (p. 217)
OVERVIEW:	During their journey, God gives the people the Mosaic Law, the Tabernacle and the Ark of the Covenant. (LWG Bible, XLII)

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### ESSAY #4

#### **"The People of God in the Promised Land"** Overview (LWG Bible, XLVI-XLVII)

SCRIPTURE	Joshua, Judges, Ruth, I Samuel 1-12
GOD'S ACTION	Establishes a Theocracy; Bequeaths the Promised Land
HUMAN REACTION	Inhabit the land and accept Judges as mediators
MEDIATION	Through conquest and learning to act with God
LOCATION	Shiloh & Bethel
SOCIAL CONTEXT	An ethnic people with fluid leadership
KEY INDIVIDUALS	Joshua, Deborah, Ruth, Samson, Gideon, Samuel
SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES	Guidance, Radical Obedience, Submission, Secrecy
PROFILES (Index p.581)	Joshua (311), Rahab (317), Deborah (351), Gideon (357) Samson (369), Ruth (385), Samuel (409), Saul (415)
OVERVIEW:	Administrative leadership shifts from Moses to Joshua. God leads the Israelites across the Jordan to conquer the land. God establishes a Theocracy and mediates through Judges. (297-298)

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### ESSAY #5

#### **"The People of God as a Nation"** Overview (LWG Bible, XLVI-XLVII)

SCRIPTURE	I Samuel 13 - II Chronicles
GOD'S ACTION	Allows monarchy; Exalts good kings; Blesses by nations
HUMAN REACTION	Embrace the monarchy
MEDIATION	Thru kings, prophets, priests & sacrifices
LOCATION	Altars, consecrated places, Solomon's Temple
SOCIAL CONTEXT	Political nation on the world stage
KEY INDIVIDUALS	Saul, David, Hezekiah, Elijah, Elisha
SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES	Worship & Prayer
PROFILES (Index p.581)	Saul (415), Elijah (517), Ahab (521), Manasseh (665)

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OVERVIEW: Divine permission allows a tribal federation to become a nation. God chooses Saul; God blesses David; God appoints Solomon. The "Golden Age of Israel" of Israel's full reign of glory with the Temple.

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### ESSAY #6

#### **"The People of God in Travail"** Overview (*LWG Bible*, XLVI-XLVII)

SCRIPTURE	Job, Psalms of Lament, Ecclesiastes, Lamentations, Tobit
GOD'S ACTION	Allows suffering to strengthen the faith
HUMAN REACTION	Complain yet remain faithful
MEDIATION	Through suffering and disappointments of life
LOCATION	Ash heap and hard circumstances
SOCIAL CONTEXT	Individuals
KEY INDIVIDUALS	Job; Israel as the suffering servant
SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES	Fasting, Solitude, Silence, Submission, Service, Celebration
PROFILES (Index p.581)	Job (765)
OVERVIEW:	Just as Job represents human suffering, so Israel becomes a type fo the suffering servant. XLII

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### ESSAY #7

#### **"The People of God in Prayer & Worship"** Overview (*LWG Bible*, XLVI-XLVII)

SCRIPTURE	Psalms
GOD'S ACTION	Establishes liturgical worship
HUMAN REACTION	Praise & Prayer
MEDIATION	Through song, prayer, worship
LOCATION	Jerusalem, flowering of Individual experience
SOCIAL CONTEXT	Nation
KEY INDIVIDUALS	David
SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES	Prayer, Worship, Confession, Celebration, Meditation
PROFILES (Index p.581)	David (797)

OVERVIEW: Worship of God was formalized during the exodus with the ark of the covenant and the tabernacle. With the emergence of the monarch, Jerusalem is the center of worship. Psalms teaches a liturgical framework. XLIII

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### ESSAY #8

#### **"The People of God in Daily Life"** Overview (*LWG Bible*, XLVI-XLVII)

SCRIPTURE	Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon
GOD'S ACTION	God gives precepts for living in community
HUMAN REACTION	Teachable, learning, treasure beautiful words & poetry
MEDIATION	Through wisdom
LOCATION	Temple, City Gates, Home
SOCIAL CONTEXT	Nation triumphant ("Golden Years of Israel")
KEY INDIVIDUALS	Solomon
SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES	Study, Guidance, Celebration, Meditation

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PROFILES (Index p.581) Solomon (491)

OVERVIEW: Wise sayings about situations faced by ordinary people every day: morality, romance, marriage, injustice, discouragement, laziness, sexual purity, to name a few.

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### ESSAY #9

**"The People of God in Rebellion"** Overview (*LWG Bible*, XLVI-XLVII)

SCRIPTURE - Isaiah, Jer. 1-36, Hosea, Joel, Amos, Jonah, Micah, Nah, Hab, Zeph

GOD'S ACTION Judgment & Redemption, Rule, Promises Immanuel

HUMAN REACTION Disbelieve & Reject, False Prophets, Faithful Remnant

MEDIATION Through Prophets & Gentile repression

LOCATION High places; Temple desecrated & destroyed

SOCIAL CONTEXT Nation under siege and dispersed

KEY INDIVIDUALS Isaiah (991), Hosea (1277), Amos (1303)

SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES Fasting, Repentance, Obedience, Solitude, Silence, Law

PROFILES (Index p.581) Cyrus & Darius (1045), Jeremiah (1091), Jonah (1321)

OVERVIEW: God always sends messengers, emissaries, or prophets "rising early and speaking. (Jeremiah 35:14) to warn the Israelites." XLIII

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### ESSAY #10

**"The People of God in Exile"** Overview (*LWG Bible*, XLVI-XLVII)

SCRIPTURE II Kings 25, Ezekiel, Daniel

GOD'S ACTION Judges yet remains faithful to covenant promises

HUMAN REACTION Mourn, survive, long for Jerusalem, faith w/out institutions

MEDIATION Through punishment and being a blessing to captors

LOCATION Babylon

SOCIAL CONTEXT In a foreign land without a homeland

KEY INDIVIDUALS Ezekiel, Daniel

SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES Fasting, Simplicity, Prayer, Silence, Service

PROFILES (Index p.581) Ezekiel (1181), Daniel (1253)

OVERVIEW: Jerusalem and the Temple lie in ruins. The deported mourn and long to return to Jerusalem in hopes of rebuilding the Temple. XLIII

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### ESSAY #11

**"The People of God in Restoration"** Overview (*LWG Bible*, XLVI-XLVII)

SCRIPTURE Haggai, Zephaniah, Malachi, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther

GOD'S ACTION Regathers, redeems & restructures Israel's social life

HUMAN REACTION Return, obey, rebuild, worship, seek Messiah, Septuagint

MEDIATION Repentance, Service, Synagogue, Study

LOCATION Rebuilt Temple & the Synagogues

SOCIAL CONTEXT International scene, foreign leaders' ethics

KEY INDIVIDUALS Ezra, King Cyrus, Nehemiah, Maccabees, Essenes, John

SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES Pilgrimage, Confession, Worship, Study, Service

PROFILES (Index p.581) Ezra (671), Esther (709), Zechariah (1369)

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OVERVIEW: The Jewish exiles return to Jerusalem to rebuild the Temple. Jewish leaders are appointed to political office and the priests gain power. The synagogue dominates village religious life. XLIII

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### ESSAY #12

#### **"The People of God with Immanuel"** Overview (*LWG Bible*, XLVI-XLVII)

SCRIPTURE	Matthew, Mark, Luke & John
GOD'S ACTION	God sends His Son and acts with His Son
HUMAN REACTION	Hear and follow; Resist and reject
MEDIATION	Thru the Incarnate Word & living presence of the Kingdom
LOCATION	Temple & synagogue, boats & hillsides, disciples gathered
SOCIAL CONTEXT	Small groups, disciples, apostles, hostile critics
KEY INDIVIDUALS	Jesus the Messiah Incarnate
SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES	Celebration, study, submission, prayer, service, obedience
PROFILES (Index p.581)	John the Baptist (65), Elizabeth (99), Anna (107), Nicodemus (161)

OVERVIEW: Jesus is born in humble circumstances. His ministry breaks sharply with tradition. His proclamation is 'the Kingdom of God is among you.' (Luke 17:21) His ministry, life, execution and resurrection introduces a radical change in the way the People of God develop. XLIV

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### ESSAY #13

#### **"The People of God in Mission"** Overview (*LWG Bible*, XLVI-XLVII)

SCRIPTURE	Acts
GOD'S ACTION	Sends the Holy Spirit and creates the Church
HUMAN REACTION	Believe & proclaim; Disbelieve & persecute
MEDIATION	Thru the Holy Spirit, persecution and martyrdom
LOCATION	Temple, Synagogue, Schools, Riversides, Public Square
SOCIAL CONTEXT	Jew, Gentile, House Churches, Abandonment of social strata
KEY INDIVIDUALS	Peter & Paul
SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES	Speaking & hearing the Word, sacrifice, guidance, generosity, service, fasting, prayer
PROFILES (Index p.581)	Ananias & Saphira (209), Barnabas (225), Stephen (213), Phillip (217)

OVERVIEW: The Kingdom of God bursts out of the old wineskins of ethnicity and ritual. The growing community takes the message of the Kingdom of God throughout the Roman Empire. XLIV

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### ESSAY #14

#### **"The People of God in Community"** Overview (*LWG Bible*, XLVI-XLVII)

SCRIPTURE	Romans through Jude (21 letters)
GOD'S ACTION	God builds, nurtures and mobilizes the Church
HUMAN REACTION	Become and make disciples of Jesus Christ across the Earth



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MEDIATION	Word, preach, teach, prophecy, care, the Spirit, sacraments
LOCATION	Gathered community
SOCIAL CONTEXT	The Body of Christ in a decadent Roman culture
KEY INDIVIDUALS	Peter, Paul and John
SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES	Prayer, Study, Accountability, Submission, Fellowship
PROFILES (Index p.581)	Paul (327) Tim. (383) James (425) Peter (441) John (459)
OVERVIEW:	The body of Christ literally become a new organism by the Spirit gathering in the name of Jesus as birthplaces of belief and centers of instruction of Life-with-God. (255)

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### ESSAY #15

#### ***"The People of God into Eternity"*** Overview (*LWG Bible*, XLVI-XLVII)

SCRIPTURE	Revelation
GOD'S ACTION	Reveals infinite progress towards infinite good
HUMAN REACTION	Worship & Praise; Creativity that magnifies God
MEDIATION	Throughout the cosmos
LOCATION	New Jerusalem and throughout the cosmos
SOCIAL CONTEXT	The Trinity and its community
KEY INDIVIDUALS	God the Father, Son & Holy Spirit, apostles, prophets
SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES	Now living beyond disciplines

OVERVIEW: The efforts of God to form an all-inclusive community of loving persons on Earth comes to fulfillment beyond time in the formation of a new Heaven and a new Earth. Worship of self gives way to worship of God. "The healing of the nations" (Rev. 22:2-4) XLIV

To everyone who longs to be part of this loving, nurturing, all-inclusive community: "The Spirit and the bride say, 'Come'. And let everyone who has ears say, 'Come'. And let everyone who is thirsty come. Let anyone who wishes take the water of life as a gift." (Rev. 22:17) XLV