

# 2009 BIBLE STUDY OUTLINE

## LEADERSHIP IN THE HOUSEHOLD OF GOD

### FOREWORD

BY THE PRIMATE OF ALL NIGERIA

The Most Rev. Peter J. Akinola, CON

Our Bible Study Theme for 2009, “**Leadership in the Household of God**” is very appropriate and timely, considering the moral decadence of our present generation and the need to arrest this decay from the root cause – “families’ disintegration”. Whatever decay, whatever moral laxity, whatever corruption we have in our society today is a result of leadership failure in the smallest units of God’s household – the family. Congregations of families make up the communities while the communities make up the **Nation** and the **Church**. This year’s Bible Study theme is therefore a perfect graduation from our previous year study on “God’s own family”.

We are, in these Bible Study Outlines, reminded that leadership in the household of God starts from our immediate families. In Genesis 6ff, it is stated that God saw that in every household, there was wickedness and evil even in the heart of all men created by God and these brought regret into His heart. Only one family was the exception. The universal wickedness such as disobedience, infidelity, evil and hard-heartedness were never found in their daily thoughts and living. This family was the family of Noah. Noah led his immediate family very well and this made his family to be the choice of God for future generations. Can God choose your own family for the same purpose today?

We thank the Committee on Liturgy and Spirituality for yet another year of sacrificial hard work to bring out this edition of the annual Bible Study outlines for the year 2009.

Of a truth, our leadership qualities as Christians will make or mar the societies we find ourselves. Apostle Paul reminds us in 1 Timothy 3:1-11 that leadership in the household of God is noble, and whoever aspires to that position must be blameless, with one wife, temperate, with self-control, respectable and must possess all the qualities befitting a man of God.

Those who occupy the position of national leadership should also listen to the voice and directive of God that it may be well with our nation and people. The city of Jericho stood as a barrier to the Israelites in entering the Promised Land. But Joshua, as the national leader asked for Divine Guidance on how best to win the battle. Joshua hearkened to the voice and directives of God and a miraculous victory was given to the Israelites.

The Church of Christ is the “Household of God” and the light of the world! Therefore, leadership in the Church should be the yardstick by which all other leadership should be measured. If the Church fails in her divinely given responsibility to lead, it will affect the entire society negatively.

We expect that as the various congregations engage in the regular and systematic study of the Word of God, using these Bible Study Outlines, there would be rapid transformation of lives. We therefore send out this edition of the outlines with many prayers for the edification of all our members, the Church and our Nation.

**The Most Rev. Peter Akinola, CON**

*The Primate of All Nigeria*

## PREFACE

We give thanks to the Almighty God, for His guidance and blessings on the Church, especially for making the Bible Study Outline a source of spiritual nurture to many people. We are grateful for individual and group comments and suggestions.

Following up on the 2008 study “God’s own family” we have produced this rich Bible Study for 2009 with the Theme “Leadership in the Household of God”

One of the challenges of our time is quality Leadership in Family, Church, Community and State. At such a time when the family and the Church face greatly questioned, we are convinced that God’s standards and purpose in establishing them remain unshakeable. As such the leadership qualities desired by God for Family, Community and State need to be studied, emphasized and people need to be guided by them. A leadership that is dependent on God, rooted in God’s word, secured and instructed by God will always be fruitful, purposeful and achieving God’s goals for His people.

To lead means to show somebody the way, especially by going in front, to guide, direct, and be an example set by somebody’s behaviour to be followed by those he/she is leading, so as to achieve the desired goal for the individuals and the group. There are different styles of leadership but our attention is on the quality and impact of leadership on the people, church or Nation. It is intended that this study will help us to assess our leadership at different levels. Our desire is that God fearing and heaven minded leadership will emerge in our generation. As the Scripture says “when the righteous is on the throne the people rejoice but when the wicked rule, the people mourn.

The Bible Study, therefore traces the great leaders in the Bible and their leadership and their achievements and also looks at the bad leaders and their negative impacts. This study addresses some of the issues confronting leadership at the different levels. Why do some churches thrive while others languish? Why are some churches and community vibrant and purposeful while others falter and are unstable? Some of the answers for the above questions are traced to leadership. This is a comprehensive overview of both Lay and Ordained, spiritual and secular leadership. This Bible study makes clear that a leader should be a goal setter, a goal fulfiller, a definer of values, a satisfier of needs of the people and a steward and servant of the people.

Nothing will substitute God’s ordained and guided leadership. Jesus Christ is our pattern for leadership at all times. In Jesus, leadership is in righteousness, built on God’s authority and Word, and through Him wholesome and purposeful leadership is exercised.

The Bible Study is meant to be a Group Discussion in which everyone is encouraged to participate and contribute. As such, we are adding a Guideline for those who will lead the study. We encourage Bible Study leaders to prepare in prayer and study before they lead. We encourage personal application of the lessons learnt in daily living

May the Great Teacher, the Holy Spirit, teach and lead us to the depths of the Truth of His word. Amen.

**Bishop Henry Ndukuba**

*Chairman, Liturgy, Prayer and Spiritual  
Committee for the Church of Nigeria*

## **GUIDELINES TO ORGANISING/LEADING BIBLE STUDIES**

These are actually guidelines as indicated above. We trust the Holy Spirit to use them to enrich your time together.

Leaders should spend much time in prayer before any study.

Emphasis should be on small and effective groups of between 10 and 20 persons depending on the size of the congregation and spaces available to teachers.

Where possible, separate youths from adults so lessons can be more appropriately applied.

All leaders should meet a day or more to the study to preview. Individual leaders are encouraged thereafter, to still go through the studies on their own.

Good time management can be done by assigning time to each section of the study and limiting the number of persons that contribute to each section.

If you begin the study by reading the text, then only make passing reference to it in the study when it occurs again. Do not read it again.

The memory verse and conclusions as well as “food for thought” are important since they capture the essence of a study. Therefore, endeavour to go through them. The introduction is to be briefly handled. Do not use it as a medium for lengthy teaching.

Work out ways of stimulating people’s interest for Bible studies. Adopt the time most suitable for your congregation and change when so desired, but with the approval of the Church leadership.

Leaders must be sensitive to contributions and ensure they address the questions or issues raised. Find out polite and effective ways of bringing contributions to focus on the study.

Find out from your vicar seasons of the Church year and explain them in two three sentences to your class at the beginning of the study.

Leaders of small group should know their members very well, visit and encourage them to bring others to their groups. Appoint an assistant leader for each group who should become the leader when the group splits with growth.

***CHRISTMAS 2***

**Theme:** Leadership in the Household of God.

**Topic:** What is Leadership?

**Text:** Rom. 13:1-7; I Sam. 8:1-5.

**Aim:** To teach Christians what Leadership means and to tell us that the position of Leadership comes from God.

**INTRODUCTION:** We thank the Lord for leading us into the New Year; it is our prayer that the Lord Almighty who has been leading us will continue to lead us throughout this year in Jesus name. Amen. Today, we are to look at the meaning of Leadership. It simply means the state or position of being a leader. The state of leadership is always ordained by God, it is a calling to lead the people of God from a state of oppression, nepotism, uncleanness, fear, discouragement to a state of freedom, holiness, comfort and peace.( Ex.3: 7-10). Leadership is a position of justice and honesty. The Sons of Samuel were supposed to follow the loyal leadership qualities of their Father, but they failed, and that made the Israelites to demand for a type of leadership they felt will honestly lead them to God and to victory.

**DISCUSSION GUIDE**

1. How can you define leadership in your own term. Ex. 3:7-10. Rom. 13:1-2.
2. What should be the attitude of every Christian to any leadership position? Rom. 13:5.
3. List some of the duties expected from the position of leadership. Rom. 13:3-4.
4. In your own view, who is the author of leadership? Prov. 8:15-16 Rom. 13:1; Dan. 2:21; 1Pet. 2:13.

**CONCLUSION:** The humility and obedience to God of every one in leadership position will earn the respect and trust of the people he leads; and the humility and obedience of every one to the people in leadership position will earn him peace and comfort.

**FOOD FOR THOUGHT:** God loves whoever humbles himself before Him and before His anointed leaders.

**MEMORY VERSE:** - Rom. 13:1

## STUDY TWO

JANUARY 11, 2009

### *EPIPHANY*

- Theme:** Leadership in the Household of God.
- Topic:** Types of Leadership – Household Leadership.
- Text:** Gen. 6:7 – 22.
- Aim:** To enable Christians know that leadership starts from the immediate family.

**INTRODUCTION:** The whole world became very corrupt and wicked. This wickedness starts from each family. The family makes the home that is called the household. Households make the community while communities make up the nation. God saw that in every house, there are wickedness and evil even in the heart of all men created by God and these brought regret into the heart of God. (Gen. 6:1-3) Out of the whole world there was a particular house where wickedness such as disobedience, infidelity, evil and hard-heartedness were never found in their daily thoughts and livings. This family was the family of Noah. God therefore decided to spare this family in order to procreate future generations of God's people. Noah led his immediate family very well and this made his family to be the choice of God for future Generations.

#### **DISCUSSION GUIDE**

1. What do you understand by household? Gen. 6:9-10.Eph.6:1-5
2. Tell us three qualities found in Noah as a leader in his house. Gen. 6:9
3. How will you differentiate between the families of Noah, Eli and Samuel?  
Gen. 6:13; 1 Sam. 2:22-25; 1 Sam. 8:1-3.
4. What is the danger in bad household Leadership? Acts. 5:1-2. 1Sam. 3:11-14.  
1 Sam. 4:17-18.
5. What is the joy in good Household leadership? Gen. 8:15-18

**CONCLUSION:** - The father is the head of his family and how he leads will determine the future generation. However, in the absence of the father, the mother leads. When both parents are absent, the eldest takes over the leadership. Lead your family in the fear and love of God so that you can live to enjoy the blessings of God at the end.

**FOOD FOR THOUGHT:** - God is ready to wipe out any evil household for the benefit of future generations.

**MEMORY VERSE:** - Prov. 22:6.

## STUDY THREE

JANUARY 18, 2009

### *EPIPHANY 2*

**Theme:** Leadership in the Household of God.

**Topic:** Types of Leadership – Christian Leadership.

**Text:** 1 Tim. 3:1-11,

**Aim:** To remind Christians that our Leadership qualities will make or mar the societies we find ourselves.

**INTRODUCTION:** - Apostle Paul instructs Timothy, who himself was overseeing the Church at Antioch at the time about what is expected of Christian leadership. Leadership in the house of God is noble, and whoever occupies that position must be blameless, with one wife, temperate, self-control, respectable and must possess all the qualities befitting a man of God. The post of Christian leadership should not be occupied by recent converts; it is not for people who cannot control their own family, it is not also for people whose children cannot be presented as Godly. The position of Christian leadership is to be honoured with high love. 1 Thess. 5:12-13.

#### **DISCUSSION GUIDE**

1. Who is an overseer, or Christian leader? 1 Tim. 3:1; Eph.4:11-13.
2. List six things that are expected of a Church leader. 1 Tim. 3:1-11.
3. Relate the quality of Philip's daughters in Act. 21:9. with what the Bible says in Joel 2:28.
4. Consider 1 Tim. 3:2-4 and explain how some Church leaders disobey these instructions. Are some of your Church leaders innocent of these?

**CONCLUSION:** - Church leaders must know that the house of God should be a shining example to the community and so whatever they do in their leadership position affects the community either positively or negatively.

**FOOD FOR THOUGHT:** - Judgment of leadership will start from the house of God.

**MEMORY VERSE:** - 1 Tim. 3:5.

## STUDY FOUR

JANUARY 25, 2009

### EPIPHANY 3

- Theme:** Leadership in the Household of God.
- Topic:** Types of leadership – Community Leadership.
- Text:** Nehemiah 6:1-16.
- Aim:** To make Christians know that good and faithful community leadership is important if peace and progress are expected in our local community.

**INTRODUCTION:** - In our text today, we see two groups of leaders. The progressive leaders, e.g. Nehemiah and the retrogressive leaders, e.g. Sanballat, Tobiah and Geshem. In his good effort and loyal mind to the progress and peace of his community, Nehemiah risked his life and his post as the cupbearer of King Arterxerxes in Shushan to come down to his desolate fatherland to rebuild and encourage his people.

The retrogressive leaders led by Samballat, Tobiah and Geshem did all things to make sure that the work was never done, but with courage, wisdom and good leadership qualities of Nehemiah, the work was completed in fifty two days.

#### DISCUSSION GUIDE

1. What was the intention of Sanballat and Geshem concerning Nehemiah in vs. 2? And why were they of such an intention?
2. According to the letter of Sanballat in verse 5-7 how can you explain the way by which blackmail is used today to bring depression to the heart of progressive Church leaders? Read – Mark. 3:22
3. How did Nehemiah conquer the spirit of depression? Vs. 8-9
4. Read Nehemiah 6:10-14 and explain how good leaders with good intension are being opposed today.
5. Name four things that are responsible for Nehemiah's success. Neh.1:4; Neh. 5:6-12; Neh. 5: 14-18; Neh. 6:12-13.

**CONCLUSION:** - If our leaders should shun oppression, nepotism and fear of rebuking the evil in the society, our society will be filled with peace, love, progress, prosperity and unity.

**FOOD FOR THOUGHT:** - Good leaders bring peace and love while bad leaders bring war and despondency.

**MEMORY VERSE:** - Prov. 29:2

## STUDY FIVE

FEBRUARY 1, 2009

### EPIPHANY 4

- Theme:** Leadership in the Household of God.
- Topic:** Types of Leadership – National Leadership.
- Text:** Joshua. 6:1-27.
- Aim:** To teach us that those who occupy the position of national leadership should listen to the voice of God.

**INTRODUCTION:** - The city of Jericho stood as a barrier to the Israelites in entering the Promised Land. Joshua as the national leader asked for divine guidance on how best to win the battle. Joshua hearkened to the voice of God and a miraculous victory was given over to the Israelite. Joshua led the Israelites in the power of God. It is very necessary for our leaders today to seek the face and directive of God in order to lead the nation to victory and Joy.

#### DISCUSSION GUIDE

1. Before Joshua went to battle, who did he contact? Josh. 6:2. And why? Jer.33:3
2. Describe the attitude of the Israelites to the command of Joshua Josh. 6:8-9
3. Read 2 Chr.20:20-25 and compare it with Joshua 6:20-21. Explain how songs of praises to God can help us win spiritual battles.
4. What are the walls of Jericho that are disturbing the progress of your nation?
5. What are the walls of Jericho disturbing the progress of your Church?

**CONCLUSION:** -Christians in leadership position should lead people in the fear of God, not always confrontational but sometimes with voice of praise to God so as to achieve maximum victory from God.

**FOOD FOR THOUGHT:** Songs of praise is the only thing we can offer to God and it is a quiet weapon for victory and success.

**MEMORY VERSE:** Hag.2:23.



## STUDY SIX

FEBRUARY 8, 2009

### THIRD SUNDAY BEFORE LENT (SEPTUAGESIMA)

**Theme:** Leadership in the Household of God.

**Topic:** Importance of Leadership.

**Text:** Judges 17:6, Mark 6:34-44

**Aim:** To teach that any organization without a leader may lack direction and care.

**INTRODUCTION:** - The sentence in Judg. 17:6 “In those days Israel had no King, everyone did as he saw fit” occurred again in the Judges. (Judg. 18:1; 19:1; 21:25). The fact that there was no King was not a problem in itself, but that there was no leader. Israel had no King in the times of Moses, Joshua, and Samuel and yet there was orderliness in their physical, political and spiritual life. (Deut. 34:10-12; Joshua 24:23-24). To have a leader is not as important as the leader being responsible and God fearing as in Mark 6:34-44, Jesus was moved when he saw the multitudes, because they were like sheep without a shepherd, not because there were no scribes, Pharisees and the high priests leading them spiritually.

#### DISCUSSION GUIDE

1. Why was Jesus moved when he saw the great multitudes? Mark 6:34; 1Tim.3:1
2. Why in your own view do you think the crowd listen to Jesus without being tired and without complaint? Mark 6:34b-35a; Jn.6:68.
3. The venue of Jesus’ teaching was a desert place, why did Jesus ask the people to be fed before dispersing them? Mark. 6:35b-37a. Are our Church leaders today ready to cater for the physical and spiritual needs of the Church members? If yes how, if not, why?
4. How can our political leaders deliver us from poverty and give clear direction?
5. What practical things make Jesus’ leadership unique?

**CONCLUSION:** The importance of leadership is for the leader to be willing and creative enough to provide the people’s political, moral, and spiritual needs.

**FOOD FOR THOUGHT:** There is need for selflessness in leadership. A leader must always seek the comfort and peace of his people.

**MEMORY VERSE:** Judges 17: 6.

**SECOND SUNDAY BEFORE LENT (Sexagesima)**

**Theme:** Leadership in the Household of God.

**Topic:** Qualities of a good leader – Love and prayerfulness

**Text:** John 14:1-4; John 14:15-25; Ex.32:31-35

**Aim:** To teach that love and prayerfulness for those we lead are very important qualities for effective leadership.

**INTRODUCTION:** - In John 14:1-4 Jesus shows his deep love to his disciples by giving them words of comfort. John 14:1 he gave them the assurance of a better place and that his leaving them is only temporary because it is to prepare an everlasting abode for them. John 14:2-3, He also promised them another comforter, peace and joy. John 14:15-18; 25-27. All these promises will never been made if Jesus did not have the love of his disciples. This love led him to pray for Peter their leader so that after he might have left them Peter will not lead his followers astray. Lk.22:31-32.

**DISCUSSION GUIDE**

1. What is love and how is it an essential quality needed by a leader? Exodus 32:7-14; 32:31-33.
2. In Exodus 32:7-14 how can you explain the love and prayerfulness of Moses to the people he was leading? Num.12:1-13
3. What is likely to happen if a leader lacks the spirit of love and prayerfulness for his followers? 1Sam.18:8-12. Ex.32:9-14.
4. How is your Church leader showing love and does he even pray sincerely for the Church members? If yes how and when?
5. How would you want your Church leaders to show these two qualities?

**CONCLUSION:** As Christian leaders, we should show divine love for the people we lead so that we can effectively pray for their needs to be met and even go beyond to be part of solution to their problems?

**FOOD FOR THOUGHT:** loving leaders pray for the well-being of their followers.

**MEMORY VERSE:** Luke. 22:32.

**QUINQUAGESIMA SUNDAY**

- Theme:** Leadership in the Household of God.  
**Topic:** Qualities of a good leader – Appreciation.  
**Text:** 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10. 1 Thessalonians 3:6-10.  
**Aim:** To teach that a good leader should learn to appreciate his followers and the people he leads.

**INTRODUCTION:** - It is always very encouraging and comfortable when we point out the better side of people. It gives the people more confidence in themselves and spurs them to do better. Seeing good in the progressive abilities of followers will make them love the leaders more. They will trust us and will even be ready to sacrifice all they have to be better followers. Paul, in 1 Thess. 1:2-10, appreciated the relentless efforts of the Thessalonians in showing their faith, love, labour, patience, hope, affliction, joy in the spirit, shining examples to others, preaching the word of God, and their spirit of repentance. 1 Thess. 1:6-10 Also in 1Thessalonians 3:7 Paul appreciated the faith of the Thessalonian Church, which had become a comfort to him and other believers. There is no doubt that appreciating them contributed to the goodness and soundness in faith of the Thessalonian Church. In John 12:7 Jesus shows appreciation to the woman who anointed him. Mark. 16:1-2.

**DISCUSSION GUIDE**

1. Mention two benefits of leaders who show appreciation to the people they lead.
2. List or categorise and discuss the qualities Paul appreciated in the life of the Thessalonian Church. 1 Thess. 1:3, 7,9,10. Are all these spiritual qualities present in your church?
3. Do your Church leaders appreciate some good works by the members of your Church? Do you also appreciate the good work of your leaders?
4. State 3 things that can be caused when we don't show appreciation for the good works of others?

**CONCLUSION:** Whoever will lead effectively must show to people that he appreciates their support, zeal and even their criticisms. By so doing, we will lead our people with maximum love and by this; they will love and support their leaders more.

**FOOD FOR THOUGHT:-** Appreciation leads to encouragement.

**Memory Verse:** John. 12:7.

**FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT**

**Theme:** Leadership in the Household of God.

**Topic:** Qualities of a good leader – Holiness.

**Text:** 1 Tim 3:1-10

**Aim:** To show that Holiness is very essential if one would lead effectively as God desires.

**Introduction:** - Paul saw the work of a leader in the house of God as a noble task. Such an office needs the right kind of people to fit in. It must be remembered that the Christians come from different backgrounds, and this accounts for the seemingly elementary character of some of the requirements, especially the negative ones in V.3. There are qualities about the personal life of prospective leaders. They must be temperate, self-controlled and respectable etc. They must be above reproach. V.2-3. All these qualities are to be expected in any serious Christian person especially in Christian leaders.

**DISCUSSION GUIDE**

1. What is holiness? Relate this to leadership. Ps. 24:3-4; 1 Pet. 1:16;
2. Point out the needs of these qualities in the life of a leader. 1 Tim. 3:1-3. Num.11:24-29.
3. How then should a Christian leader handle his family and community problem?
4. What are the factors that can enable the Christian have these qualities? 2 Cor. 7:1; 2 Tim. 2:21

**CONCLUSION:** A leader's domestic life is important – he must be the husband of one wife, and must manage his children well. A leader must set high example in marital relationship. Position of responsibility within the community requires people whose example others can follow.

**FOOD FOR THOUGHT:** Every leader must separate him/herself from anything unclean.

**MEMORY VERSE:** 2 Cor.6:14

**SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT**

**Theme:** Leadership in the Household of God.

**Topic:** Qualities of a good leader: Courage.

**Text:** Matt. 27:57-61.

**Aim:** To teach that we will need courage to stand firm by good actions if truly we would be good leaders.

**INTRODUCTION:** - In our text today, we see how Joseph of Arimathea demanded for the body of Jesus Christ. Yet he was a Jew, but he was not from Jerusalem, but a neighbouring town, south of Jerusalem. He was a rich man who knew that it may be dangerous for him to demand for the body of a condemned criminal as Jesus was portrayed to be, but he defied all fears John 19:38 and went boldly to demand for the burial of Jesus.

**DISCUSSION GUIDE**

1. Study John 19:38, why was it that Joseph who was formerly afraid to be called a disciple of Jesus now came out openly to demand for his burial?(Matt. 27:57)
2. Joseph of Arimathea was a rich man. How can our rich leaders today help in the propagation of the gospel? 1Tim. 6:17-19; Neh.2:1-6.
3. How can you donate your personal precious gift for Christ's sake?
4. Pilate did not deny Joseph of his request. Why? Matt 27:58.

**CONCLUSION:** We must be courageous to use our position and God given talents to further the promotion of the gospel even in the face of all oppositions.

**FOOD FOR THOUGHT:** Courage for the sake of Christ and his kingdom amount to a champion of the faith before God.

**MEMORY VERSE:** Heb. 13:6.

**THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT**

**Theme:** Leadership in the Household of God.

**Topic:** Church Leadership.

**Text:** Philippians 2:1-11; Acts 6:1-7.

**Aim:** To teach that leadership in the Church should be the yardstick by which all other factors of leadership should be measured.

**INTRODUCTION:** - The Church, which is the house of God, should be the university in which moral, physical and spiritual standards are learnt. Paul understood the Philippians whose city stood out to be the pride of the Roman Empire in terms of gold production and because of the many military personnel in the Church, He advised them to allow the kind of physical dignity and exemplary life they lived to be portrayed in the Church so that they would be both physical and spiritual examples to unbelievers. Paul advised them to be good examples in radiating love, spirituality in all their doings, humility in all their actions, obedience at all times and long sufferings.

**DISCUSSION GUIDE**

1. What example is Paul demanding from the Philippians in Phil. 2:2-3? Is there any unity in your Church?
2. Study Philippians 2:3 very well and explain how pride has entered the Church of God today.
3. How can you relate Phil.2: 3-5 to the proliferation of Churches today in our society?
4. How is your Church leadership able to make your Church shine as light in your Community? – Phil. 2:15-16.
5. Point out from 2:12-18, some other leadership functions Paul discharged and success attained. How relevant are they to your Church?

**CONCLUSION:** The Church of Christ is the light of the world and it should be seen to be so.

**FOOD FOR THOUGHT:** If the Church fails in its leadership, it affects the society negatively.

**MEMORY VERSE:** Matt. 5:14.

**STUDY TWELVE**

**MARCH 22, 2009.**

**FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT**

**Theme:** Leadership in the Household of God.

**Topic:** Examples of Good Leadership - Abraham.

**Text:** Genesis 14:14-16, Gen. 18:22-33.

**Aim:** To remind us how Abraham as a good leader interceded for his nephew Lot.

**INTRODUCTION:** - Despite the fact that Lot chose the best part of the land for himself because of his pride, greed and stubbornness. (Gen. 13: 5-11) Abraham never thought of these before he decided to go out with his own army to rescue Lot from the hands of his captors (Gen. 14:14-16). This is physical intervention to save the life of a family and his household. After this, Abraham had another opportunity to intercede for his nephew. He pleaded with the Angel for the sake of Lot and the Angels of the Lord were always ready to grant his request. Paul urged us to always pray for erring brethren with all gentleness because we too can be tempted.

**DISCUSSION GUIDE**

1. What attributes of Abraham do we have in Gen. 14:14-16 – How can they help you as a person?
2. How effective was the plea of Abraham for Lot? Gen. 19:1-2.
3. Why should we intercede for our erring members Gal. 6:1-2; I Thess.5:14-15; Rom.12:10,14-16.
4. How can we bear the burdens of others? Gal. 6:1-2

**CONCLUSION:** As leaders in the house of God, we should always intercede for our members and even for those in position of authority, because we ourselves are saved by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**FOOD FOR THOUGHT:** The more we intercede, the more we forgive and save souls.

**MEMORY VERSE:** Gal. 6:1

**FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT**

**Theme:** Leadership in the Household of God.

**Topic:** Example of good Leadership – Joseph.

**Text:** Genesis 45:1-11

**Aim:** To explain the type of leadership practiced by Joseph who knew the will of God for him.

**INTRODUCTION:** - The most surprising episode of the ten brothers of Joseph happened today in our text. For over fifteen years they had not seen their young brother whom they sold into slavery. All hopes of seeing the young lad had been lost since they sold him to a distant land. They never expected Joseph in the position they met him. Joseph was the governor they had been paying homage to, he was the commander of the whole land. But the most surprising speech from Joseph when his brothers realized who he was was not of revenge, harshness or reproach as was expected by his brothers, but of a dream fulfilled of God's plan being brought to manifestation and of love and joy of re union. People in leadership position today should see their positions as the fulfilment of God's plan to bring joy and nothing more to the people. Genesis 45:5.

**DISCUSSION GUIDE**

1. In your own view, how would you expect Joseph to have reacted when he made himself known to his brothers?
2. Why was it difficult for Joseph's brothers to answer his question in Gen. 45:3
3. Why did Joseph weep before revealing himself to his brothers? Gen. 45:2. Does weeping contribute anything to forgiveness?
4. Explain the attitude of Joseph in Gen. 45:11 and compare with Rom.12:20.
5. What would the three things Joseph did in Gen.45:8 challenge you to do in your home, office etc.?

**CONCLUSION:** When we as leaders understand the purpose of God for our Lives, we will lead with joy and success and thereafter put joy to the lives of others.

**FOOD FOR THOUGHT:** The best way to live a joyful life is to understand God's purpose for your life.

**MEMORY VERSE:** Gen. 45:5.



## STUDY FOURTEEN

APRIL 5, 2009.

### PALM SUNDAY

**Theme:** Leadership in the household of God.

**Topic:** Example of good leadership –Jesus.

**Text:** Matt. 21:1-11

**Aim:** To teach us that a leader should learn to follow the humble way so that God may exult him.

**INTRODUCTION:** - We thank God for yet another Palm Sunday, a day that signifies the demonstration of Jesus' humility on his way to the great task of redemption. Jesus is the King of kings and Lord of Lords, he knew he is the only Son of God, one with him and in him, but yet he refused to demonstrate his greatness by humbly using a colt instead of a horse or a chariot. Despite his humble choice, people came out to spread their clothes and even entered the bush without prior notice to get palm fronds John 12:13 and spread them on the road for Jesus. Even the annoyance of the Pharisees was not able to stop the honour given to Jesus as he rode majestically to Jerusalem. (Luke. 19:39).

#### DISCUSSION GUIDE

1. Why did Jesus decide to ride on a colt to Jerusalem? (Zech.9:9; Matt.11:29).
2. What is the difference between the use of a colt, a horse and a chariot? Rom.12:16; Ps.20:7-8
3. How can we allow the Jesus' example to affect our choice and taste as individuals and as a body? Phil.2:6-11; Matt.21:2.
4. The multitude knew Jesus as the prophet from Nazareth of Galilee, who is Jesus to you? Matt. 16:16.

**CONCLUSION:** Jesus Knew how great he was on earth, yet he never demonstrated his greatness or his power. He gave us an example that the path to the kingdom of God is the path of humility. Matt. 26:52-53.

**FOOD FOR THOUGHT:** The more you move up, the more humble you should be. The higher you go, the greater your crash if you fall.

**MEMORY VERSE:** 1Peter 5:6

**EASTER SUNDAY**

**Theme:** Leadership in the Household of God.

**Topic:** Example of good Leadership -Jesus

**Text:** Luke 9:18-24; 24:4-8

**Aim:** To teach that godly leadership requires dying to self and a willingness to lay down one's life for Kingdom's sake.

**INTRODUCTION:** - Today, we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ who died for our sins. But the truth is that there cannot be resurrection without a dying to something. The Scripture teaches there is spiritual death and there is physical death in the same way. The spiritual is to be quickened from being dead to sin and be renewed in God's glorious likeness. (Eph. 4:22-24; Col. 3:10)  
Physical resurrection is a physical bodily resurrection as we see in Jesus' case and at the end time.

**DISCUSSION GUIDE**

1. What are the facts of the resurrection Luke 24:48 Matt. 28:1-10
2. What are the implications of the resurrection for believers? Rom. 4:11; Romans 5:17-19 (I Cor. 15:12-19)
3. What does it mean to die to sin and self? Rom. 6:3-6; 1 Cor. 5:17
4. What are the things we are putting to death when we choose to die to self? Gal. 5:19-26, 1 Tim. 5:22
5. To what extent does dying to self help the following Rm. 6:3-4 leaders in achieving their divine purpose
  - Samuel – (I Sam. 12:3-4)
  - Esther – (Esther – 4:16)
  - Rechabites – (Jer. 35:6-7)
  - Paul - (Acts 20:17-14)

**CONCLUSION:** We have likened resurrection to having a new life or enjoying a new birth. But like a seed that needs to grow and bring forth fruits this cannot take place until it is released and dies. Are we willing to allow "Mr. Self" to die and Christ enthroned to the center of our lives?

**FOOD FOR THOUGHT:** "Followers will do all things for a leader they know is selfless"

**MEMORY VERSE:** Gal. 2:20

## STUDY SIXTEEN

APRIL 19 2009.

### EASTER I

**Theme:** Leadership in the Household of God.

**Topic:** Example of good Leadership – Joshua.

**Text:** Joshua. 24:1-18.

**Aim:** To explain the type of leadership practiced by Joshua as one that will never compromise with evil and ungodly acts.

**INTRODUCTION:** - Toward the end of Joshua's life as Israelites' leader, he noticed insincerity in the service to the Almighty God by the Israelites. Instead of succumbing to majority pressure, he made a challenge to them concerning their backsliding Josh. 24:1-13 and admonished them to fear the Lord, serve him sincerely Josh. 24:14. The people reacted to Joshua's challenge by re-affirming their faith in the only God of Israel. Josh. 24:16-18. Joshua maintained his stand with God, that even if the whole Israelites would backslide, he and his family would serve Jehovah God. Josh. 24:15.

#### DISCUSSION GUIDE

1. Why did Joshua challenge the Israelites? Josh. 24:14-15.
2. Why did the people initially go astray to serve Idols – Josh. 24:14a and later re-affirm their faith in Josh. 24:16-18?
3. Explain what is meant by compromise as seen in 1 Kings 11:1-5.
4. What is the danger in compromising leadership? Read 1 Sam. 28:3, 7, 16-19.
5. Are you an upright leader or a compromising leader?

**CONCLUSION:** A leader who will maintain dignity with man and God must be one who will never bow down to evil pressure or compromise with evil. He will lead his people always to success.

**FOOD FOR THOUGHT:** The followers always know when they are going astray. It will only take an upright leader to say no to ungodly force.

**MEMORY VERSE:** Matt. 10:22

**EASTER II**

**Theme:** Leadership in the Household of God.

**Topic:** Example of Good Leadership-David.

**Text:** 1 Sam. 24:1-7; Luke23: 24

**Aim:** To explain the type of leadership exemplified by David as one that is devoid of revenge.

**INTRODUCTION:** - The story in our first passage was one of the two opportunities that David had to free himself from Saul's pursuit. (See 1 Sam. 26 for the other story). In his jealous rage, Saul had tried to kill David many times David had every right to fight back and to protect himself, but he refused to do it. The David who killed Goliath, God's enemy, refused to harm Saul, God's anointed. What a model David provides for us to follow when people do wrong to us!

**DISCUSSION GUIDE**

1. How will you differentiate between Vengeance and revenge?
2. What two reasons did David give for not retaliating? 1 Sam. 7:10b; and 1 Sam. 7:15
3. What do you think will happen when you leave your case to God? 1 Sam. 7:15
4. Is it proper to respect any priest whose action runs contrary to God's standard? (see Article 26, page 489 of our New Book of Common Prayer).

**CONCLUSION:** - David left revenge in the hands of God and at the appropriate time, God dealt with his archenemy.

**FOOD FOR THOUGHT:** - When your "rights" are trampled upon or somebody 'steps on your toes', don't do what occurs to you naturally. But follow the David example.

**MEMORY VERSE:** - **Romans 1:19.**

## **STUDY EIGHTEEN**

**MAY 3, 2009.**

### **EASTER III**

**Theme:** Leadership in the Household of God.

**Topic:** Example of Good Leadership –Daniel.

**Text:** Daniel 6:10-28

**Aim:** To explain the type of Leadership practiced by Daniel as one that shows steadfastness even in a strange land.

**INTRODUCTION:** - If there was ever a man who had to stand for his beliefs against stiff opposition, that man was Daniel. Because of his spiritual consistency in a strange land, his enemies carried out a clever plot to eliminate him. King Darius sympathized with Daniel, but the law he himself had enacted wouldn't allow him to help his friend (Vs 8-9). Yet Daniel knew he wasn't alone and that God was his constant companion. He simply refused to allow opposition from anyone or anything to stop him from praying. He did not even for a brief moment postpone his prayers to save his skin. At the end, the plot of the enemy failed and went against them.

#### **DISCUSSION GUIDE**

1. Who was Daniel? Daniel 1:1&2; and V.6
2. What qualities of leadership did Daniel possess? Dan.6:6&7; 9:3&4.
3. Why was it that the King could not help Daniel? Dan. 6:14-15
4. Why could the lions not harm Daniel? Ps.118:8-9.

**CONCLUSION:** - Although we are not likely to be thrown into the lion's den, yet there are times when our faith is being tried. We should pray and stand by the word of God.

**FOOD FOR THOUGHT:** - Can you dare to be a Daniel in the storms of life?

**MEMORY VERSE:** - Acts 5:29.

## STUDY NINETEEN

MAY 10, 2009.

### EASTER 4

**Theme:** Leadership in the Household of God.

**Topic:** Example of Good Leadership -Nehemiah.

**Text:** Nehemiah 5:1-13, Nehemiah 2:3

**Aim:** To explain the type of Leadership practiced by Nehemiah who was very empathic in his attempt to lead the remnants of Israel out of disgraceful and sorrowful state to a state of optimism.

**INTRODUCTION:** Nehemiah's life is an example of leadership in an organization. He gave up a comfortable and wealthy position in Persia, and returned to the fractured homeland of his ancestors and rallied all Jerusalem against all forces of opposition. He adopted wise defence method to call for the people and kept the project moving.

#### DISCUSSION GUIDE

1. Mention some of the various forms of oppressions to which the Jews in exile were exposed. (Neh. 5:1-6)
2. Do we have people facing similar problems in our country today? Discuss.
3. What is Usury? Does it still exist? See Ex. 22:25; Ps.15:5, what should be our attitude to usury as Christians?
4. Will the congregation be bold to say "Amen" if the Pastor says the prayer in Neh. 5:13

**CONCLUSION:** - We need people in the Church today who will not just discuss situations, but will do something about them. Nehemiah saw a problem and was distressed. He then took necessary action instead of complaining or wallowing in self-pity.

**FOOD FOR THOUGHT:** An activist is the man who cleans up the river and not the one who concludes it is dirty.

**MEMORY VERSE:** Nehemiah 6:9.

## STUDY TWENTY

MAY 17, 2009.

### EASTER 5

- Theme:** Leadership in the Household of God.
- Topic:** Example of Good Leadership –Jehoshaphat.
- Text:** 2 Chronicles 20:14-25.
- Aim:** To explain the leadership style practised by Jehoshaphat who was very obedient to the leading of God.

**Introduction:** - Jehoshaphat was the Son of King Asa. In this passage, he was faced with an attack from the Moabites, Ammonites and people from Mount Seir. He was wise enough to realize that many good Kings of Judah did not win battles when they depended on their strength and military strategies, or alliance; consequently he sought the face of God in prayer and followed the instructions from God without asking any questions. The result was VICTORY.

#### DISCUSSION GUIDE

1. When Jehoshaphat was informed about impending war what was the first thing he did? (2 Chr.20:3)
2. What was the reaction of the people to his call for prayer? 2 Chr. 20:4and13.
3. What specific instruction was given to Jehoshaphat and the people? And what was the result of their obedience?
4. What were the two specific things the people did to win the battle? V 15-17
5. What was the end result of following God's instructions? Vv 18-21, 29-30.

**CONCLUSION:** When we depend on God and follow his instructions, we will definitely overcome Psalm 20:7

**FOOD FOR THOUGHT:** When you are faced with a problem, learn to praise the Lord.

**MEMORY VERSE:** - Proverbs 3:5-6.

**SUNDAY AFTER ASCENSION**

**Theme:** Leadership in the Household of God.

**Topic:** Example of Good Leadership –Micaiah.

**Text:** 2 Chronicles 18:1-27.

**Aim:** To explain the type of Leadership practised by Micaiah, the lone prophet who decided to be unique and frank in his prophetic duty.

**INTRODUCTION:** - Micaiah belonged to the group of prophets that can be regarded as solitary prophets. He was valiant for the faith and was not afraid to challenge the established religious or political order. Micaiah the son of Imlah could, without fear or favour, deliver his message even when that was unpalatable and contradictory to every other word claimed by other prophets to have come from God. (1 Kings 22:6&7). Like Ahab, most of our leaders today love to be surrounded by sycophants and anyone who tells them the truth is branded a rebel.

**DISCUSSION GUIDE**

1. Are our priests bold enough to speak against our political leaders in the country today? Give examples.
2. How can we uphold truth and righteousness in the multitude of falsehood and ungodliness? 2Chr.18:12-16; Jer.23:21-22.
3. Mention five things that characterized the false prophets in Samaria (Jeremiah 23:13-14).
4. What personal leadership qualities can we see in the ministry and life of Micaiah from 2Chr.18:18-27?

**CONCLUSION:** Micaiah spoke the truth without caring whose ox was gored. Let us follow the footstep of this good leader.

**FOOD FOR THOUGHT:** Is the fear of what you will eat or punishment you will receive preventing you from speaking against unjust leadership?

**MEMORY VERSE:** Acts 5:29



## STUDY TWENTY-TWO

MAY 31, 2009.

### WHITSUNDAY

**Theme:** Leadership in the Household of God.

**Topic:** Power for Leadership

**Text:** Num. 11:16-17, 24-29

**Aim:** To show that a leader needs to be divinely empowered to be effective

**INTRODUCTION:** - Some men were chosen in Moses' time to serve with him as leaders. The leaders were given to the Israelites to ensure that Moses did not carry the burdens of his people alone. The Lord placed His Spirit upon the leaders. The sign of the Spirit's coming was prophecy. It was the same in the days of Saul too (1 Sam. 10:6-13). Throughout the Bible, the leaders of God's people were enabled to function only by the power of the Holy Spirit. The Judges, Saul, David, the Prophets, the Apostles and Elders of the Church at Ephesus are all examples.

#### DISCUSSION GUIDE

1. Why does the Church need leaders? Num. 11:16-17; Acts 6:1-4 Exod. 3:7-10
2. How does the Holy Spirit help a leader to be effective? 1 Sam. 10:6; Acts 1:8; Acts 4:31
3. What can we learn from the style of Moses' leadership and that of Joshua? Num. 11:26-29
4. Point out factors that can enable a leader to receive the Holy Spirit? Num. 11:26 John 7:37; Luke 11:13

**CONCLUSION:** A Christian leader needs to be equipped for leadership by the Holy Spirit. This will give him assurance that he has the necessary gifts and abilities for the task of leadership.

**FOOD FOR THOUGHT:** Are you a leader, if yes what is your evidence? Every Christian leader must have a proof (Mk. 16:17, 20)

**MEMORY VERSE:** Acts 1:8

## STUDY TWENTY-THREE

JUNE 7, 2009.

### TRINITY SUNDAY

**Theme:** Leadership in the Household of God.

**Topic:** Example of Good Leadership –John the Baptist.

**Text:** John 3:22-36.

**Aim:** To explain the type of Leadership provided by John the Baptist who did not portray himself to be the Messiah, but a forerunner.

**INTRODUCTION:** - Although, John the Baptist was six month older than Jesus Christ he did not allow that factor to blind fold him in recognizing Jesus as his superior. People are always on the lookout for points of disagreement so that they can sow seeds of discord, doubt and discontent among friends or families. The answer of John silenced the disciples. His willingness to decrease in importance show unusual humility, which we must all copy on the one hand, many leaders hate to see their subordinates rise above them because of pride and envy, and on the other hand, subordinates often fail to give honour to whom honour is due.

### DISCUSSION GUIDE

1. How will you define humility? (Phil. 2:3-4) (See NIV & NKJV Rom. 12:3).
2. What is the benefit of humility in each of the following passages?
  - a. Psalm 18:27.
  - b. Matt. 23:12
  - c. Pro. 22:4
  - d. Isaiah 66:2.
3. If John had not humbled himself what do you think would have happened between him and Jesus?
4. How did Jesus Christ show humility in the following passages?
  - a. John 13:13 –14
  - b. Phil. 2:6-8.
5. How can you liken John's humility to that of Jesus' in Phil.2:9-11?

**CONCLUSION:** Humility means lowliness and the absence of pride.

**FOOD FOR THOUGHT:** Pride is the only poison that is good when swallowed so swallow your pride.

**MEMORY VERSE:** 2 Cor. 8:9.

**FIRST SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**

**Theme:** Leadership in the Household of God.

**Topic:** Example of Good Leadership -Stephen - Intercession

**Text:** Acts 7:54-60

**Aim:** To explain the type of Leadership practiced by Stephen who prayed for the salvation of his enemies and the propagation of the gospel in the world even at the point of death.

**Introduction:** - Intercession is a prayer said by one person on behalf of others. Many examples of intercession prayers abound in the Bible. It is common and not strange when somebody intercedes on behalf of his friends but interceding on behalf of one's enemy, like Stephen did, points to one of the qualities of a good leader that is rare among human beings. His final words show how much like Jesus he had become in a short time.

**DISCUSSION GUIDE**

1. What are the qualities that qualified Stephen to be made a leader (Acts 6:3-5).
2. Will you intercede for people if you know that you will enjoy greater benefit by not interceding? (Exodus 32:9-11)
3. Mention the names of some people who interceded for others in the Bible. Job. 1:5, Philemon vs. 4, Acts 12:5&12
4. What are the purposes of human intercession? Numbers 14:13-19; Romans 15:31, Numbers 6:24-26 1 Timothy 2:2.

**CONCLUSION:** Like Stephen we must imbibe the spirit of praying for our enemies and we must also intercede on behalf of our leaders in the Church and in the country.

**FOOD FOR THOUGHT:** If you are in the habit of using the imprecatory Psalm (e.g. Psalm 35&69) it is high time you changed and learned to pray for your enemies.

**MEMORY VERSE:** Matt.5:44.

**STUDY TWENTY-FIVE**

**JUNE 21, 2009.**

**SECOND SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**

**Theme:** Leadership in the Household of God.

**Topic:** Example of Good Leadership-Paul.

**Text:** Ephesians 2:11-22

**Aim:** To explain the type of Leadership practiced by Paul who will never discriminate among his followers.

**INTRODUCTION:** - Paul was committed to declaring the message of reconciliation between Jews and Gentiles. He often wrote and spoke about tearing down the barriers that separated Jews and other races. The war of hostility that Paul mentioned here (vs14) is a reference to the ultimate symbol of Jewish/ Gentile separation. In his death and resurrection, Jesus Christ destroyed all such walls after which he said "it is finished." Today as in the days of Christ, Christians have not always lived in the unity that Christ has won for us.

**DISCUSSION GUIDE**

1. Mention the message for us in each of the following verses 14,16,18,19.
2. How does being built on the foundation of the Apostles and prophets keep us from being discriminatory (Vs 20)
3. Why did God choose the Jews alone before the advent of Christ? (Deut 7:6-8)
4. How then can we become children of God like the Jews (John 1; 12, Galatians 3:26-29).
5. What are the things that tear believers apart and cause discrimination? Eph.4:5; 1Cor.1:11-13.

**CONCLUSION:** By His death, Christ has ended the angry resentment between Jews and Gentiles. Both Jews and Gentiles are now free to come to God through Christ. You have been brought near to Him (2:13)

**FOOD FOR THOUGHT:** Do you still consider the other fellow as being inferior to you? Have a re-think.

**MEMORY VERSE:** Galatians 3: 28

**THIRD SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**

- Theme:** Leadership in the Household of God.
- Topic:** Example of good Leadership- John the Elder and Job
- Text:** Job 2:1-10; Rev.1: 9.
- Aim:** To explain the type of Leadership practiced by Job and John the Elder who, in the face of tribulations proved that suffering can yield good results if we endure.

**INTRODUCTION:** - Job was considered blameless, and upright and somebody who feared God and shunned evil yet he was visited with misfortune of the highest order. In all these he did not allow his leadership quality as a husband who put his trust in God to wane. Similarly John the Apostle, also called John the elder, faced a lot of persecutions that can cause some to waiver in faith. Tradition says that he was persecuted by Emperor Domitian. He was eventually banished to the Island of Patmos where he wrote the **BOOK OF REVELATION**.

**DISCUSSION GUIDE**

1. Why did Job's wife urge him to curse God and die? (vs.9)
2. Mention some reasons why good people suffer. (James 1:1-4, Job 1:1-6, 2 Corinthians 12:7-10; Heb. 12:4-11)
3. Job was a man of faith, how did he show his faith by his work? Job 29:12-17, and 30:25
4. (a) Was the promise of God in Psalm 34:19 fulfilled in the lives of Job and John?  
(b) If 'yes' How
5. Why were Job and John able to face the problems of their life?.

**CONCLUSION:** The real issue in Job is not suffering, but sovereignty. The lesson that Job ultimately learned through his sufferings is that God alone is in sovereign control of all things.

**FOOD FOR THOUGHT:** Compare Job 2 :9 with 1 Kings 21:25 and make a choice on whether you as a woman will push your husband to do a wrong thing.

**MEMORY VERSE:** Psalm 34:19.

**FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**

**Theme:** Leadership in the Household of God.

**Topic:** Example of good Leadership – Moses

**Text:** Exodus 14: 10-31.

**Aim:** To teach the type of leadership practised by Moses as one full of hope and courage even in time of despair and physical danger.

**INTRODUCTION:** - The day was very bright, with a joy of freedom and a hope of a blessed promised land, but suddenly this joy turned into sorrow and the hope suddenly turned into despair as Pharaoh and the host of Egyptian Army appeared behind the Israelites. The comments that followed were of fear, regret and self condemnation, Exodus 14:10-12. But behold, the courage of a leader is needed here if the destiny of the Israelites will not be shattered. Moses rose to the challenge and spoke words of encouragement, hope and anticipated victory. Ex. 14:13-14. He cast his hope on God. This courage coupled with faith in God and hope of victory, ended in songs of victory. Ex.14: 30-31.

**DISCUSSION GUIDE**

1. Why were the Israelites afraid when they lifted up their eyes? Ex. 14:10.
2. What was the reaction of the Israelites when they saw their enemies approaching? And what was their regret? Ex. 14:11-12.
3. How do we as Church members react when we see negative challenges or problems? Read Ps. 121:1-2. and comment
4. How do you understand the courageous action of Moses in Ex. 14; 13-14. What was the result of his hope and courage? Ex.14: 15-18.
5. What does fear cause in the life of a Christian? Matt. 14:28-31.

**CONCLUSION:** We need hopeful, optimistic and courageous leaders if we will reach our economic, political, physical, moral and religious promised land.

**FOOD FOR THOUGHT:** Courage with Godliness will make a leader register for himself an everlasting victory.

**MEMORY VERSE:** Exodus. 14:13,

**FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**

**Theme:** Leadership in the Household of God.

**Topic:** Example of Bad Leadership – Lot.

**Text:** Gen. 12:5-13, Gen. 19:1-8, 30-38.

**Aim:** To teach that bad leadership can be caused by lack of foresight, which always leads to woes and eternal curse

**INTRODUCTION:** - When Lot separated himself from Abraham, he did not have the foresight of what it would cost him. His separation was not fruitful. God sent destruction to his territory. However, God showed mercy on him. He lost his wife and all his belongings.

**DISCUSSION GUIDE**

1. Lot welcomed the two Angels. How did he welcome them and how did the people of Sodom welcome them? Vs. 2-5. Do we have people like those of Sodom today? What is God's view about them? Rom. 1:25-32
2. When Lot separated from Abraham (Gen. 13:3-13) did he make the right choice? Discuss.
3. Did his choice have any adverse effect on him and his family? Read Gen.19:30-36. Should we use wrong means to achieve right ends?
4. What lessons do we learn from Lot's life and choice?

**CONCLUSION:** Whenever a child of God lives where God does not want him to live, he will have problems. Lot's decision to separate from his uncle made him lose his wife, properties, and it also made his daughters wayward and he, himself, alcoholic.

**FOOD FOR THOUGHT:** It pays to live a righteous life though you do not see it now.

**MEMORY VERSE:** 1 Tim.6: 6

## STUDY TWENTY-NINE

JULY 19, 2009

### SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

**Theme:** Leadership in the Household of God.

**Topic:** Example of Bad Leadership-Aaron.

**Text:** Exodus 32:1-33.

**Aim:** To teach that bad leadership becomes the norm when people are out of tune with God.

**INTRODUCTION:** - Aaron was consecrated as priest of the Lord to offer daily offering to the Lord. Exodus 29: But fell away from the Lord because he wanted to please the people. While Moses was with the Lord on the mountain they began to wonder where he had gone. The people begged Aaron to make an Idol for them because he was the next leader. He left his first love for God to please the people.

#### DISCUSSION GUIDE

1. What is backsliding? Rev. 2:4-5, 3:15-16; why do people backslide? Heb.10:39; Matt 13:22 2 Tim. 4:10, 1 John 2:15-17.
2. To what extent could we blame Aaron for his falling and spiritual decline in his spiritual leadership? Gen 32:7-10, 25,
3. What leadership traits of Aaron can we see led to his bad leadership? Gen. 32
4. What are the consequences of forsaking the Lord? Jer. 15:6, Joshua 24:20, Heb 10:26

**CONCLUSION:** People are like sheep that need to be shepherded. They always need shepherd Mark 6:34. People always exhibit needs but hate delay. Goodly leadership should always learn to wait on The Lord and Christian leaders should derive their strength from God.

**FOOD FOR THOUGHT:-** Every shepherd must learn to be under shepherd to be able to lead aright.

**MEMORY VERSE:** 2 Peter 2:21



## STUDY THIRTY

JULY 26, 2009

### SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

**Theme:** Leadership in the Household of God.

**Topic:** Example of Bad Leadership -King Saul

**Text:** 1 Sam.18:1-10

**Aim:** To teach that bad leadership can be caused by jealousy and envy of leaders who will not see any good in what their followers do.

**INTRODUCTION:** - Saul's reaction to David's victory over the Philistines is an example of bad reaction to a good action. The defeat of the Philistines was a joyful event for everybody in Israel except Saul. The women ascribed the victory to David rather than Saul. Through their song, King Saul became angry and jealous that David was seen as being more successful than him.

#### DISCUSSION GUIDE

1. What is jealousy? What is the difference between jealousy and envy? What happens in a Church where both exist? James 3:14-16
2. What in your own views happens in an organization where the leader is jealous of his subjects? What types of relationship exist in such place? Do you see jealousy among the priests and Laity today?
3. What was the root cause of jealousy in Saul? Vs. 6-7; 12-16. Discuss.
4. Compare the reaction of Saul and his Son Jonathan in verse 1-4, 8 to the victory of David. Which one should we emulate?
5. Do you blame the woman for singing the song? see Prov.23:23; Col.4:6

**CONCLUSION:** The Lord had departed from Saul so he became angry and jealous of David's success. The consequence of jealous is deadly and it does not work out the righteous of God. Check yourself against it. Jealousy is like a cancer.

**FOOD FOR THOUGHT:** The more jealous we are, the more wicked we will be. Where there is jealousy, there is no progress.

**MEMORY VERSE:** Songs of Solomon 8:6.

**STUDY THIRTY –ONE**

**AUGUST 2, 2009**

**EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**

**Theme:** Leadership in the Household of God.

**Topic:** Example of Bad Leadership -Rehoboam

**Text:** 1 Kings 12:1-17

**Aim:** To teach that bad leadership can be caused by the arrogance of proud leaders.

**INTRODUCTION:** - Pride is a sin, which affects human life and causes great havoc. Many relationships have been destroyed because of pride. Pride is when one thinks highly of himself or exalts himself above all others. Pride is a sin and not a virtue. May the Lord deliver us from pride. When we don't listen to the views of other people, we are proud.

**DISCUSSION GUIDE**

1. What are the causes of pride according to the following passages? Ezk. 28:17, Ezk 28:5, Gen. 2: 16-17, 1Tim 6:3-4, James 3:14-16. Examine yourself.
2. What does pride do in one's life? Acts 12:20-23, Deut 8:14, Prov. 16:18.
3. Can we say that Rehoboam is proud? Discuss.
4. What are the warnings against pride? Prov. 27:2, Psalm 18:27, Exd.7:8b, Luke 14:10, 1 Cor. 4:7, Luke 18:14b.

**CONCLUSION:** Rehoboam ignored the counsel of the elders and opted for the counsel of his friends. He preferred to satisfy them to the elders. Many of our leaders today have failed to sense the feelings of their followers including the Church because of their love for power. Many of our leaders believe that they cannot be challenged and this has led to serious trouble. Let us consider others' views. By grace we are what we are

**FOOD FOR THOUGHT:** Who made you to differ from another? What do you have that is not a gift?

**MEMORY VERSE:** 1 Peter 3:4

**STUDY THIRTY –TWO**

**AUGUST 9, 2009**

**NINETH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**

**Theme:** Leadership in the Household of God.

**Topic:** Example of Bad Leadership - Nebuchadnezzar

**Text:** Dan. 2:1-10, 46-49.

**Aim:** To teach that bad leadership can be caused by the inconsistency of leaders.

**INTRODUCTION:** - Inconsistency lowers one's integrity and integrity is one of the most important characteristics we can find in a leader. Inconsistency makes a leader unfit and does not value set forth rules. Inconsistency does not enhance relationship of leader with his subjects. Nebuchadnezzar ruled with earthly wisdom given by enchanters, magicians and astrologers and not by God.

**DISCUSSION GUIDE**

1. In what ways can we say Nebuchadnezzar is an inconsistent leader? Vs. 5-8, 10.
2. Why did Nebuchadnezzar set up an image even after acknowledging God in Dan. 2:46-49, Dan. 3:1-6; Point out the dangers of inconsistency?
3. In what ways do we show inconsistency in our walk with God? Rom.2:17-24; 1Cor.10:1-14; our Church, Diocese and nation. How can we prevent this folly?
4. In what ways does inconsistency of a leader affect his followers? How should we relate with our leaders who are inconsistent? 1Tim.2:1-2; Ex.32:1-4; 10:21-24.

**CONCLUSION:** Many leaders today believe that they owned people and could handle them as they wished. They rule with earthly wisdom that is limited. What wisdom do you lean on for your daily living? Do you trust God at all times or you turn to him when other solutions have failed.

**FOOD FOR THOUGHT:** Maintaining Christian consistency is vital to Christ's cause

**MEMORY VERSE:** Titus 2:11-12.

**TENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**

**Theme:** Leadership in the Household of God.

**Topic:** Example of Bad Leadership – Herod Antipas.

**Text:** Matt.14:1-12

**Aim:** To teach that bad leadership can be caused by selfishness of those in position of authority.

**INTRODUCTION:** Herod married his half brother's wife against the Jewish law (Lev. 18:16). John the Baptist boldly condemned such act, which later cost him his life. Herod did not want to be challenged in spite of his habit because of selfishness.

**DISCUSSION GUIDE**

1. What do you think made Herod marry his brother's wife? Matt.14:2-5; 1John 2:15-17. Rom.13:14.
2. What was the result of John the Baptist action? Why did the King take such action against John Vs. 6-9? What lesson can we learn? 2Tim.3:12-13.
3. Give examples of selfish actions we find in our leaders today and discuss how we can correct them; Matt. 23:4, 27, 28. 2 Sam. 12:1-7.
4. Discuss the causes and remedy of adultery. Heb. 13: 4; 1 Cor. 7:2; Ps. 119:9, 105; Ex. 20:26.

**CONCLUSION:** In this lesson we see the arrogance and selfish pride in Herod. The heart of arrogant is self-centeredness to think and act as though the whole world revolves around their desires. We must pray for our leaders that they will humble themselves before the Lord. We must pray for our leaders and create opportunities for them to hear the word of God. Do you consider yourself above others?

**FOOD FOR THOUGHT:** Find out those things you can give up for Jesus' sake in your life.

**MEMORY VERSE:** 1Cor.6:18

**ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**

**Theme:** Leadership in the Household of God.

**Topic:** Example of Bad Leadership – Peter’s Hypocrisy

**Text:** Galatians 2:9-18

**Aim:** To show that a hindrance to good leadership are hypocrisy and sanctimony.

**INTRODUCTION:** - Today, we still see the attitude of “*holier than thou*” as a common feature in Churches. This is an element of inconsistency exhibited by many leaders. It is an element of hypocrisy, by which a leader is afraid to be identified with certain persons who are lower than him or different in social status, for fear of losing in integrity among his contemporaries. This attribute is not in consonance with the teaching and examples of Jesus Christ who himself dined with “sinners” Luke. 19:49.

**DISCUSSION GUIDE**

1. What is hypocrisy, and how did Peter demonstrate it? Vs.11-12;14,
2. What was the effect of Peter’s action on (a) the Church in Galatia as a corporate body; (b) Barnabas as an individual? Vs. 13.
3. What are the causes and effects of holier than thou attitude in the Church? John 4:7-9; Matt 23:1-7; How can these be avoided? Matt. 23:8-9, Luke. 22:27; Gal. 6:1-5;
4. To what extent do we apply the principles of 1 Cor. 9:22 with our relationship with unbelievers and younger Christians? Luke 19:49; Matt. 9:9-12
5. What should be the relationship of leaders with new converts in the Christian fold? Luke. 19:49; Matt. 9:9-12; Luke. 5:27-31

**CONCLUSION:** Divine purpose and human choice lie side by side. Each person is created for a purpose and placed in a particular social status where the purpose(s) can well be manifested. We all need to have the spirit of Jesus Christ in bridging the gap between the rich and the poor.

**FOOD FOR THOUGHT:** We give evidence of our trust in God by obeying his commandments

**MEMORY VERSE:** Phil. 1:27

**STUDY THIRTY-FIVE**

**AUGUST 30, 2009**

**TWELVETH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**

**Theme:** Leadership in the Household of God.

**Topic:** Example of Bad Leadership - Jonah.

**Text:** Jonah 4:1-11

**Aim:** To teach that bad leadership occurs when a leader finds it difficult to forgive and forget the mistakes of their followers. When God forgives, leaders should also forgive

**INTRODUCTION:** - Unforgiveness is one of the barriers to answered prayers by God. When we do not forgive we too will not receive forgiveness. Asking for forgiveness many a time is hard. It requires great humility and willingness to confess our faults. It is hard because pride often stands in the way. We want others to ask us rather than for us to ask them. If a leader has an unforgiving spirit, he can do and undo and nobody would be able to stop him because of his absolute power to do anything he wished.

**DISCUSSION GUIDE**

1. Why did Jonah find it difficult to deliver the unique message of God to the people of Nineveh Note: Assyria was the greatest enemy of Israel and Nineveh was one of its great cities?
2. Why was Jonah angry in Vs. 1? Read Jonah 3: 4-10, 4:2. Does what matter to God matter to you?
3. When a leader has an unforgiving spirit, what would be the effect on the people?
4. How does unforgiveness affect human relationship, e.g. Church, Community and country 1Kings 2:9-16?

**CONCLUSION:** We should learn not to work against the will of God by keeping malice. If God forgives, then we need to forgive. Unforgiveness has physical and spiritual effect on a person.

**FOOD FOR THOUGHT:** An unforgiving person breeds a heavy heart. Lighten the yoke of unforgiveness in your heart and be happy.

**MEMORY VERSE:** Eph. 4:31.

**THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**

**Theme:** Leadership in the Household of God.

**Topic:** Example of Bad Leadership - Samson

**Text:** Judges 13:1-5, 16:1-6

**Aim:** Leadership is a divine call that should be placed under divine influence.

**INTRODUCTION:** - Samson's birth was (all the more) remarkable as an act of pure grace (Judges 13:2-5). It showed the strength of God's commitment to his people. He portrayed the real picture of the life style of the Israelite. He was separated to God, but could not fully come to terms with his separation. As Israel went after foreign gods, Samson went after foreign women.

**DISCUSSION GUIDE**

1. Point out the factors that led Samson into trouble, and suggest how to avoid such today Judges 14:1, 16:1, 4, Job.31: 1
2. In your own view, did Samson fulfil the mandate given to him by God? Judges 13:2-5, 17:12-30
3. Was anything wrong with his leadership? Discuss.
4. What was the reason behind his father's advice in Judges 14:1-3? 2Cor 6:14, Neh. 13:23-27

**CONCLUSION:** - Samson was not ignorant of his calling. He had known all along that he was a Nazirite and that the secret of his strength laid in his special relationship with God (hair as sign) incidentally, he was unable to separate himself from sin. He chose rather to enjoy the pleasures of the world at the expense of the presence of God. He was drawn away from God by the things of the world.

**FOOD FOR THOUGHT:** Samson would have been one of Israel's greatest leaders, yet he turned to be one of the worst. How could someone with such a good start finish poorly?

**MEMORY VERSE:** Prov. 6: 23-24.

**STUDY THIRTY-SEVEN**

**SEPTEMBER 13, 2009**

**FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**

**Theme:** Leadership in the Household of God.

**Topic:** Traits of Bad Leadership –Covetousness.

**Text:** 1 Kings 21:1-16

**Aim:** To teach that a selfish leader will always bring sorrow to his followers.

**INTRODUCTION:** - King Ahab had all the conveniences of life including land and wealth, yet he was never contented and this made him to selfishly demand for the small piece of vineyard inherited by Naboth. The selfishness of Ahab was not limited to him alone, but extended to his wife who engineered the plot to murder Naboth in order to pave the way for claiming the land.

**DISCUSSION GUIDE**

1. How will you view the action of Ahab in 1 Kings 21:4?
2. The action of Jezebel in 1 Kings 21:7-10 was a wicked and selfish one. In your own view, how would you expect her to have reacted to the emotion of Ahab her husband in vs.4?
3. Was Naboth wrong to have refused King Ahab from total possession of his inherited property? 1 Kings 21:3; Lev.24:8-34?
4. How does covetousness promote injustice and oppression in our society?

**CONCLUSION:** - A covetous leader will always want to enjoy all at the expense of poor followers. Whoever believes in these covetous acts will never live to enjoy what he acquires by it.

**FOOD FOR THOUGHT:** - Generous leaders offer joy and prosperity while selfish leaders offer sadness and poverty.

**MEMORY VERSE:** - Jeremiah 17:11



**FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**

**Theme:** Leadership in the Household of God.

**Topic:** Traits of Bad leadership –Deception.

**Text:** Acts. 5:1-11.

**Aim:** To show that any leader that is not loyal to God and receptive to the people he leads will never receive the glory of God.

**INTRODUCTION:** - It would never have been a crime if Ananias had sold his land and told the Apostles that he needed part of the money for personal use. After all, he was the original owner and the Apostles would not even force him to do what he was not willing to do. (Acts. 5:4).

Deception simply means making somebody to believe what is not true or doing contrary to the general agreement within a community. The Apostles had been practising communal livelihood and Ananias with his wife Saphira had been partakers of this unique fellowship, but when it came to their turn to give for the general use, they hid part of their belongings. God was not happy and the consequence on them was instant death.

**DISCUSSION GUIDE**

1. In your own words, how will you explain deception?
2. Give examples of deceptive people in the Bible. Josh. 7:1, 16-17 Esau, Jacob, Rachel. Gen.31:32-34; 27:19-20.
3. What comments can we make about Acts 5:3-4?
4. What is the consequence of an agreement to do evil? Acts 5:9-10, Num. 16:1-3, 31-34.

**CONCLUSION:** - When our leaders conspire together to do evil, they are only preparing themselves and their followers for doom, because God will never spare his rod off the back of disloyal leaders.

**FOOD FOR THOUGHT:** - Deception can bring down the godly

**MEMORY VERSE:** -Prov.24: 28.

**SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**

**Theme:** Leadership in the Household of God.

**Topic:** Traits of Bad leadership – Inordinate ambition

**Text:** Matt. 20:20-29.

**Aim:** To teach us that it is good to be ambitious but to be over ambitious is evil and ungodly.

**INTRODUCTION:** - The disciples of Jesus had been living in peaceful harmony until the mother of James and John Zebedee came with a request of positioning her two sons at Jesus' right and left hand in his kingdom. The mother of Zebedee's sons thought that it was only her two sons that were qualified for these exalted positions is ambiguous. Nevertheless, Jesus told her that it was not to him to decide who would be.

**DISCUSSION GUIDE**

1. How would you explain the cup that Jesus drank and the baptism by which he was baptized? Acts 13:28-29; Matt.20:21; 26:27, 29, 42.
2. What was the result of the demand of the mother of Zebedee's Sons? Matt. 20:24.
3. An over ambitious leader will always want to be served rather than serve, explain – Num. 12:1-2.
4. How can somebody be a leader and at the same time a servant? Matt. 20:27; Lk.22:29
5. How can our leaders be the servants of the people they lead today?

**CONCLUSION:** - A good leader is not over ambitious in seeking earthly wealth and will serve his people by sharing of his God given gifts, talents and wisdom with them for the common use of the society

**FOOD FOR THOUGHT:** - The more ambitious a leader is, the less caring he will be.

**MEMORY VERSE:** - Matt. 20:27.

**STUDY FORTY**

**OCTOBER 4, 2009.**

**SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**

**Theme:** Leadership in the Household of God.

**Topic:** Causes of bad leadership – Human influence.

**Text:** 1 King 13: 1-32.

**Aim:** To teach us that any leader who allows human influence to make him set aside the instruction of God on him, will definitely end up losing his vision and mission.

**INTRODUCTION:** - The Lord instructed a young “man of God” from Judah to go to Israel to prophesy. His mission was to prophesy against the heathen altar of Jeroboam and to turn people away from worshipping at the heathen altar. Nevertheless, he lost this and did not fulfil the task because he allowed the older prophet, probably one of those who always prophesy at the Altar to deceive him. His allowing himself to be influenced by the old prophet over and above God’s instruction turned his fame to one of ridicule and shame. 1 Kings 13:26

**DISCUSSION GUIDE**

1. What was the proof that the man of God from Judah was truly sent by God? 1 Kings 13:4-6.
2. What was the fault of the man of God in 1 Kings 13:8-9?
3. How can you describe the action of the old prophet in Bethel 1 Kings 13:18-22?
4. Name the most dangerous consequence of negative human influence on a leader? Deut. 32:48-52; 1 Sam. 13:11-14; 1 Kings. 13:23-15.
5. How are our Church leaders negatively influenced today by rich men in the Church? Gal. 2:11-13.

**CONCLUSION:** As leaders in the household of God, we must be careful of human influences devoid of God’s will.

**FOOD FOR THOUGHT:** We cannot obey God rather than man.

**MEMORY VERSE:** Psalm 118:8.

**STUDY FORTY-ONE**

**OCTOBER 11, 2009**

**EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**

**Theme:** Leadership in the Household of God.

**Topic:** Causes of bad Leadership – Backsliding.

**Text:** 1 Samuel 28: 3-25.

**Aim:** To open the eyes of Christians to the fact that when a leader goes back to the bad things which he had once renounced, he is bound to meet with failure and disgrace.

**INTRODUCTION:** - King Saul had driven out the witches and wizards from the land of Israel in order to follow God's instructions in Leviticus 19:31 and Deuteronomy 18:11. There is no doubt that this action won favour for him before God. After the death of Samuel, King Saul reneged on this earlier position and went to consult with the witch of Endor.

**DISCUSSION GUIDE**

1. How can you explain the word Backsliding?
2. Why was Saul afraid of the philistine's war team? 1 Sam. 28:4-6.
3. When someone refuses to seek the face of God, he will see the face of the Devil. Explain this in the context of 1 Sam. 28: I Sam. 28:7, 20-23
4. What was the major sin committed by Saul? 1 Sam. 28: 18
5. What was the outcome of Saul's visit to the witch? 1 Sam. 28: 17-19, 1Sam.31:1-6.

**CONCLUSION:** - The end of a backslider is terrible, so let us hold unto our faith so as to have a bright and victorious end.

**FOOD FOR THOUGHT:** - It is good to know Christ and stick to him to the end.

**MEMORY VERSE:** - Matthew 10:22.

**NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**

**Theme:** Leadership in the household of God.

**Topic:** Christian duties for leaders: intercession for spiritual leaders.

**Text:** Acts 12:1-17

**Aim:** To teach us that one of our major duties for our leaders is to intercede for them.

**INTRODUCTION:** - In our text today, we read about the imprisonment of Peter, the leader of the early Christian Church. When James was killed, Herod noticed that it pleased the Jews and so he stretched his hand again to arrest Peter who was the preacher on the Pentecost day. Acts 2:14-39. It was the same Peter that healed the man at the beautiful gate of the Temple. Acts 3: 1-10, and all other wonderful works were done by this giant of faith. It was not a mistake for King Herod to plot the execution of this man of God. The Church could not appeal, but they appealed to God through prayer of intercession for Peter, and God answered the prayers and Peter was miraculously released from prison.

**DISCUSSION GUIDE**

1. What is intercession? See Gen.13:20-33 and Ex.32:11-14
2. Was the intercession of Moses for the Israelites justified?
3. Read Num.18:1-2 and identify what the people can do for their leaders on interceding for them?
4. Study Acts. 12:11 and discuss extensively the actions and belief of Peter compare Matt. 14:25-31.
5. What should be the attitude of intercessors when they intercede for spiritual leaders? When you pray, believe. Mk.11:22-23; Acts.12: 13-15.
6. Why were the intercessors astonished when they saw Peter? Acts 12:16.
7. What are the difficult things you are praying for today? Do you have faith that they will be done?

**CONCLUSION:** - It is better to intercede for our leaders with a pure heart instead of grumbling and complaining against them.

**FOOD FOR THOUGHT:** Since intercession is the key to success in the ministry, how often would we pray for your leaders?

**MEMORY VERSE:** Acts 12:9

**TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**

**Theme:** Leadership in the household of God.

**Topic:** Christian duties for leaders – Godly counsel..

**Text:** 2 Sam. 12:1-15.

**Aim:** To remind us that one of the Christian duties to people in leadership position is to give them Godly counsel when the need arises.

**INTRODUCTION:** - Our text today reminds us the great offence committed by King David who was seen and believed to be a good King by his followers, but in his life were great sins of Adultery, evil plot and assassination. In order to check King David of further crime, the Lord sent Prophet Nathan, who himself summoned courage with wisdom and humility to confront the King. The King gave the judgment before realising that he had judged himself. He nevertheless bowed down to the mercy of God and repented of his sin.

**DISCUSSION GUIDE**

1. Discuss the wisdom of Prophet Nathan in confronting King David with his sin. 2 Sam. 12:1-4.
2. What inspiration can we draw from the courage of Prophet Nathan in 2 Sam. 12:7-12?
3. What can our leaders learn from King David's response to Prophet Nathan? 2 Sam. 12:13; Prov.29: 1. Can our leaders in Nigeria do such today?
4. How do your Church leaders react to corrections in their leadership?

**CONCLUSION:** - When a leader takes to Godly counsel, he will excel in his leadership, but if he rejects it, he perishes with the people.

**FOOD FOR THOUGHT:** - Godly Counsel through correction saves, but fear of correction leads to doom.

**MEMORY VERSE:** Prov. 15:10

**THIRD SUNDAY BEFORE ADVENT**

**Theme:** Leadership in the household of God.

**Topic:** Christian Duties as Leaders – Living by example.

**Text:** 2 Cor. 3:1-18.

**Aim:** To open our eyes to the fact that an important way to lead is by showing good example.

**INTRODUCTION:** Paul wrote to the Corinthians and informed them that the Corinthian were letters to be read. He told them that they don't need any ink to write for them, but that by their examples, they will preach the message of Christ to the Jews. As leaders in the household of God, we should always give good example to the people we lead, because our actions will definitely speak to the people about what we prophets to be.

**DISCUSSION GUIDE**

1. What does Paul mean by saying "you are our Epistle"? 2 Cor. 3:1.
2. How should a Christian leader react to any problem that comes his way? 2 Cor. 3: 5-6.
3. How can a Christian leader lead effectively in the face of oppression and ungodliness? Phil.3:17-21; 2Cor.3: 12, 17.
4. How can we assess the life-style of our leaders in the light of this study?
5. What is our reward when we lead by example?

**CONCLUSION:** When we lead by example, we have joy and win more converts to the kingdom of God.

**FOOD FOR THOUGHT:** What you do speaks loud that people don't hear what you are saying.

**MEMORY VERSE:** 2 Corinthians 3: 2

**FOURTH SUNDAY BEFORE ADVENT – ALL SAINT DAY**

**Theme:** Leadership in the household of God.

**Topic:** Christian Duties as Leaders – Caring.

**Text:** Acts 9:36-43

**Aim:** To teach us that part of our duties as leaders is to care for the needs of others and most especially those in the household of God.

**INTRODUCTION:** Our Bible passage today shows to us how a woman had been so caring about her immediate church family. Dorcas was so useful to her neighbours that even at her death, there was good testimony about her. Her usefulness and responsibility made Peter to hasten to Joppa immediately he was told. The Lord who also knew how useful and caring Dorcas was while she was alive did not disappoint Peter and the disciples at Joppa (who had already given testimonies of the good works of Dorcas while alive), raised her up from the dead. Dorcas, as a church leader saw herself in a position to help, and she did all she could, Acts 9:39.

**DISCUSSION GUIDE**

1. Name two major duties of Dorcas among the Christians. Acts 9:36
2. In your own view, why did the disciples in Joppa send for Peter even when they knew that Dorcas was Dead Acts 9:38?
3. Is there any reward for caring for God's people as Leaders? 2 Kings 4:8-10; 16-17; Matt. 25:37-46; Mk.1:30-31.
4. How caring are our leaders today to the plight of the masses in our country? Are your Church leaders so caring? How.

**CONCLUSION:** As God fearing leaders, we must look for ways by which we can help the people we lead through caring for their needs. We should always know that whatever we do for them has a heavenly reward from God.

**FOOD FOR THOUGHT:** A caring leader will forever be remembered for his good works.

**MEMORY VERSE:** 2Cor.9: 7.



**SECOND SUNDAY BEFORE ADVENT**

**Theme:** Leadership in the household of God.

**Topic:** Jesus our Example – Self Sacrifice.

**Text:** Philippians 2:5-11

**Aim:** To show to us that leadership position is not meant for luxury but selfless service to others.

**INTRODUCTION:** Our text revealed to us that it took our Lord Jesus Christ great task and self-sacrifice to leave his splendour in heaven to come down to this wretched world to die for our sins. Jesus did not even come to be King but he came to die for the sins he never committed. Mk.10: 44-45. As we are looking forward to the second coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, we should always ponder on what we can offer the society and not what the society will offer us. In so doing, we will lay an everlasting record of good and sound leadership.

**DISCUSSION GUIDE**

1. Read Isaiah 6:8. Who is the “I” in the Bible quotation?
2. Why did Jesus accept to come down to die a shameful death for the sins he never committed Phil. 2:8?
3. What was the reward of Jesus’ self sacrifice on earth? Phil.2:9-11.
4. Name two people in the Bible that lived a life of self-sacrifice – 1 Sam. 17:34-37; Est. 4:15-16; Gen. 44:18-34.
5. Do our leaders today sacrifice their talents for the people they govern or do they sacrifice the people’s talent for their own selfish benefits?

**CONCLUSION:** As Christians we should always aspire to what we can do to make our society better than we met it.

**FOOD FOR THOUGHT:** The price of self-sacrifice is the ransom of many.

**MEMORY VERSE:** Mark. 10:45.

**SUNDAY BEFORE ADVENT**

**Theme:** Leadership in the household of God.

**Topic:** Jesus our Example – Diligence.

**Text:** Matt. 14:13-36

**Aim:** To teach us that the position of leadership requires diligence and not slothfulness.

**INTRODUCTION:** - A lot of people today have taken the post of leadership to be position of self-aggrandizement, serving self interest and comfort, sometimes at the expense of church or the public. Jesus had every power to live a life of luxury on earth but he did not, instead he worked all day and all night, making sure no stone was left unturned. In our passage today, we read about Jesus' feeding of five thousand. Instead of rejoicing after this miraculous ministration, he sent his disciples away and he went back to the mountain to pray. He later walked on the stormy sea at night and on crossing the sea, he started healing the multitude again. What a dutiful Lord Jesus Christ is!

**DISCUSSION GUIDE**

1. What can we learn from the action of Jesus in not sending the multitude away after his ministration? Matt. 14:15-16
2. Name two types of work that Jesus did in Matt.9:35-38; 14:13-21.
3. Why did Jesus go back to pray on the mountain instead of joining his disciples to cross to the other side or going to sleep? Matt. 14:22-23. Luke 6:12 11:1.
4. Can you see any result from Jesus' Prayer? Matt.14: 24-25.
5. Instead of complaining, Jesus continued his task of saving souls in Matt.12: 34-26. As leaders what do we learn from this?

**CONCLUSION:** - Christians in position of authority must never be tired to serve the people they represent, realizing the call to duty by God, they need to please God and not themselves.

**FOOD FOR THOUGHT:** - The hand of the diligent shall be full of golden reward.

**MEMORY VERSE:** John 9:4.

**ADVENT SUNDAY**

**Theme:** Leadership in the Household of God.

**Topic:** Jesus our Example –Courage.

**Text:** Matt.23: 1-36

**Aim:** To remind us that Jesus Christ's ministry included his condemnation of the evil acts of the Pharisees.

**INTRODUCTION:** Our Lord Jesus Christ had at the back of his mind the work of salvation and redemption that he came to do on earth. This work cannot be complete if the evil hearts of the scribes and Pharisees were not touched. He courageously condemned the evil acts of these self-righteous religious leaders and told them to repent of their sins otherwise they have no eternal inheritance in the kingdom of God.

**DISCUSSION GUIDE**

1. What were the attitudes of the scribes and Pharisees in the synagogue? Matt.23: 1-2; 4-7. Rm. 2:17-24
2. What did Jesus condemn in the scribes and Pharisees' behaviour in vs. 13-14; 15; 16-22; 23-24
3. How do you understand the phrase "Brood of Vipers" according to Matt. 23:31-35. Who are the brood of vipers today in our societies? Rom. 1: 18-end.
4. Name the things Jesus condemned in the behaviour of the scribes and Pharisees.
5. What can we do about the attitude of our spiritual and political leaders in the light of the attitude of the scribes and Pharisees of Jesus' days?

**CONCLUSION:** We as Christians should be courageous to preach against the evils in our society, because our salvation message is never complete if the heart of our rich men who oppress the poor are not touched.

**FOOD FOR THOUGHT:** Truth is bitter but it gives life.

**MEMORY VERSE:** Phil.1: 10

**SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT**

**Theme:** Leadership in the Household of God.

**Topic:** Jesus our Example – Defending the faith.

**Text:** John. 8:13-20.

**Aim:** To teach us that we need to strongly defend the faith which we confess even in the face of all opposition.

**INTRODUCTION:** The Pharisees were looking for a way to ensnare Jesus Christ by telling him that he was bearing witness to himself. Jesus wisely answered them affirming the truth of his witnessing. In order to adequately defend the faith, Jesus needed to show and affirm where he came from, his mission on earth, his relationship with the father and where he would return to. A lot of Church leaders today cannot defend what they preach, they are ignorant of the salvation power of God, they don't even know why they are in the Church ministry and so they lead a lot of people astray. John.8: 19b. As Christian leaders we should know and be able to defend the faith, otherwise our ministerial leadership will be in chaos and a shambles.

**DISCUSSION GUIDE**

1. Why did the Pharisees say the witness of Jesus was not true? John. 8:13, 19b. Lk.20:20-26.
2. Some people of other religions believe that Jesus Christ is just one of the prophets, how can you answer this? Matt. 16:13-20; Jn.14:5-6; 19:1-5.
3. Do you believe in the virgin birth of Jesus Christ and in his death and resurrection? How can you defend these? Isa.7:14; Lk.1:26-33; Isa.53; Mk.10:45; Mt.16:16-21; Mt.28:1-10.

**CONCLUSION:** We as Christian leaders must be firm in our belief in order to defend our faith and the positions we find ourselves. We must not be ashamed to confess and defend our faith in Christ.

**FOOD FOR THOUGHT:** A person who preaches what he or she does not understand is not better than a blind man.

**MEMORY VERSE:** Prov. 22:21.

**THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT**

**Theme:** Leadership in the Household of God.

**Topic:** Jesus our Example– Ascribing Glory and honour to God

**Text:** John. 5:31-47.

**Aim:** To teach all leaders in the household of God that whatever they achieve is not by their power nor by their might but by the special grace of God.

**INTRODUCTION:** - A lot of Church leaders today preach themselves and not Christ. Jesus laid a good example for all believers today by telling the whole world that it was God who sent him and he did not send himself. John 5:37. Jesus reminded the Pharisees that John the Baptist also bears witness concerning his coming and that John did not bear witness concerning himself. When we lift Christ, he will uplift us. Rev.4: 11. Therefore we must learn to give all glory and honour to the Lord in all our achievements.

**DISCUSSION GUIDE**

1. Why did Jesus claim he did not bear witness to himself? John. 5:1.
2. What is the danger of claiming honour due to God? Acts 12:20-24; 2Chr.26:19-23; Isa.42:8.
3. Can reading the Bible without knowing Christ save? John 5:38-40.
4. What can you say about religious founders who claim to be the saviour of the world today? Acts. 5:36-38.
5. Who do you praise today? God or man? Discuss. Matt. 24:4-5; Acts 8:9, 18-23.

**CONCLUSION:** - As we await the second coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, let us continue to show to the whole world that our works are not by our own power or might, but by the grace of God.

**FOOD FOR THOUGHT:** - Give honour to whom honour is due so that you can also be honoured.

**MEMORY VERSE:** 1Peter 4:11

**FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT**

**Theme:** Leadership in the Household of God.

**Topic:** Ungodly Leadership

**Text:** Matt. 2:13-18.

**Aim:** To teach us that when a wicked and ungodly leader rules, there will be pains and sorrows among the people.

**INTRODUCTION:** Our God Almighty had a mission for sending Jesus Christ his Son to the world and so, he will never allowed this mission to be aborted underway by a wicked ruler. God never allowed King Herod to see the star of Jesus Christ and he did not allow the Magi to go back to him to tell him the where about of the child until the parents had safely carried the child to Egypt out of his reach. The ungodly ruler, because of his wickedness ordered the massacre of all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under. Matt 2:16. As wicked as he was, he impacted his wickedness on others in his service.

**DISCUSSION GUIDE**

1. Why was Herod looking for the Child to be killed? Matt.2:13; Matt. 2:3.
2. Why are our leaders opposed to a good successor?
3. Why don't leaders today want to leave their position of authority?
4. What are the causes of political assassinations today in our country? Is it happening in the Church of God?
5. In your own opinion, can someone who is not killed by God be killed by man? Matt.4:19-20.

**CONCLUSION:** As we are going to the end of the year let us all be careful of the kind of leadership quality we deliver to people because we shall all account for all that we do while on earth.

**FOOD FOR THOUGHT:** No matter the wickedness of a leader, he can never change the purpose and plan of God concerning his followers.

**MEMORY VERSE:** Prov. 28:15.

**SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS**

**Theme:** Leadership in the Household of God.

**Topic:** Example of good leadership - Elisha

**Text:** II Kings 6:1-7.

**Aim:** To show personal commitment and closeness of a godly leader to the people and the attendant results.

**INTRODUCTION:** Elisha humbly served Elijah and received a double portion of his masters' anointing. With this, Elisha was certainly moved out for greatness. Yet we see in our text that he allowed neither his great potential nor achievements to distance him from his students. It is amazing that Elisha agreed to follow his students to fetch wood to expand their hostel.

**DISCUSSION GUIDE**

1. How would you describe the relationship between Elisha and the Sons of the prophets in V1? Cf 1 Thess. 2:7-9
2. What can we learn from Vs2,3 about his quality as a leader? John 13:4,13.
3. Compare Elisha's reaction to the incident in Vs 4.5 to those of some other leaders today
4. They trusted Elisha to help and they were not disappointed. What qualities of a good leader ensured this? Acts 10:38; John 6:5-12; Ps.23: 1
5. What do you think was the effect of Elisha's leadership on the students, their mission and calling?

**CONCLUSION:** Good and truly godly leaders beautifully combine personal and spiritual attributes that give glowing testimony to their ministry

**FOOD FOR THOUGHT:** He who stands before Kings can also identify with the lowly

**MEMORY VERSE:** John 13:16-17