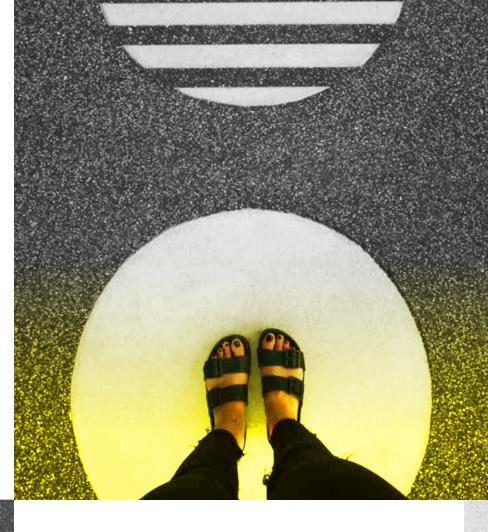
STUDY 1:

Mentoring: Investing in Others

STUDY 2:

Set Apart: A Life Lived for God



BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE®

YOUNG ADULTS
Personal Study Guide

SUMMER 2023 | CSB

OPEN FOR AN IMPORTANT UPDATE.

New changes coming next quarter.

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DON'T MISS THIS!



ЕВООК

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COMMENTARY

Dig deeper into Scripture with the *Bible Studies for Life: Advanced Bible Study.* This resource features in-depth Bible exposition on the passages studied in this book.

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Bible Studies for Life: Young Adult Personal Study Guide

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WELCOME

The days are getting warmer, and summer is upon us. For many of us that means a break from the normal slate of activities that consume our time during the rest of the year. Whatever breaks your summer provides, one thing that doesn't require a break is your growth in Christ. Discipleship is a year-round need in all our lives. For that reason, I'm glad you're taking the time for Bible study this summer.

Mentoring is a part of that discipleship process. In the study Mentoring: Investing in Others, Dr. Sam Crouch shows us six mentoring relationships in Scripture. In this study, we will see how we can let others speak into our lives and how we can, in turn, disciple others.

Holiness is a key term in the Christian life, but what exactly does that mean on a personal and practical level? In the study *Set Apart: A Life Lived for God*, Dr. Freddy Cardoza walks us through the significance and beauty of holiness, and how we can live it out on a daily basis.

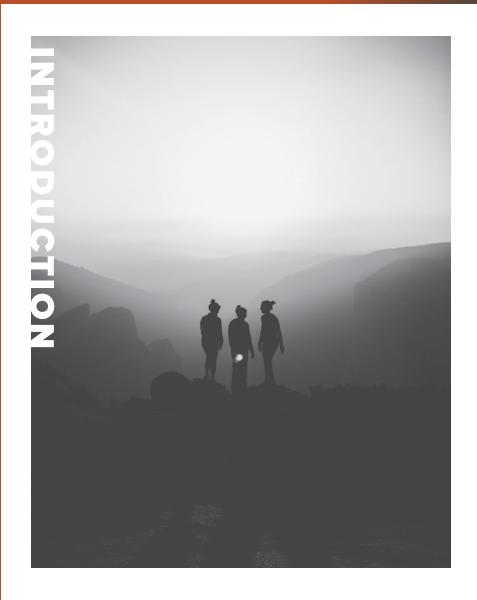
Two rich studies to make this a memorable summer. Thank you for letting us be a part of your Bible study!

Lynn H. Pryor

Team Leader, Bible Studies for Life

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MENTORING: INVESTING IN OTHERS

One of the most important words in the English language is *relationships*. All of life is about relationships: our relationship with God and our relationships with others. We were created for a relationship with God, but we're also created to be in relationship with each other. Nothing in life is more critical than that.

Every follower of Christ is called to mentor or disciple others, helping them grow in wisdom and maturity. Mentoring occurs in any number of contexts—within the family, the church, the workplace, the school setting, anyplace we meet with others. This study focuses on six different mentoring relationships seen in the Bible, challenging us to get involved in helping others develop their spiritual walk. We will discover valuable principles to guide us as we invest time and energy in the lives of others.

Sam Crouch is retired from fifty-two years in ministry. He lives with his wife in Tucson, Arizona. Dr. Crouch is a graduate of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. His latest book is Clearing the Fog: Gaining an Understanding and Appreciation of the Old Testament.



How This Study Supports the Discipleship Plan (see page 130).

BUILD RELATIONSHIPS. We strengthen our relationships as we help one another walk wisely and in step with Christ. As the body of Christ, we are to support one another in being the men and women of God we're called to be.

MENTORING: INVESTING IN OTHERS

Session 1	Jethro and Moses // Exodus 18:9-11,14-21
Session 2	Moses and Joshua // Numbers 27:12-23
Session 3	Eli and Samuel // 1 Samuel 2:22-26; 3:7-10,15-18
Session 4	Mordecai and Esther // Esther 2:5-7; 4:8-17
Session 5	Barnabas and Paul // Acts 9:26-28; 11:22-26; 15:36-40
Session 6	Paul and Timothy // Acts 16:1-5; 2 Timothy 2:1-2; 3:10-12

Session 1: Jethro and Moses



THE POINT

Be ready to give and receive godly wisdom.



THE BIBLE MEETS LIFE

We have a choice: we can learn from our experiences, or we can learn from the experiences of others. Learning from our own experiences can often be painful, frustrating, and time consuming. Learning from others shortens the time frame and lessens the pain and frustration. A wise person lets others go through the stress and learns from their experience.

We need three types of people in our lives: friends (those who walk alongside us whom we can mutually support and encourage), mentors (those we learn from as they share wisdom and life lessons and challenge us to grow and fulfill our potential), and those we mentor (those we support, invest in, and challenge to grow just as others have done for us).

As we have been mentored, we can do the same for someone else. Everyone can profit from the wisdom and experience of others, and we can then pass those things along as well.

Today's session looks at a brief incident of mentoring in the life of Moses. Without this mentoring that took place, Moses's life could have been quite different.

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY?

Exopus 18:9-11

⁹ Jethro rejoiced over all the good things the LORD had done for Israel when he rescued them from the power of the Egyptians. ¹⁰ "Blessed be the LORD," Jethro exclaimed, "who rescued you from the power of Egypt and from the power of Pharaoh. He has rescued the people from under the power of Egypt! ¹¹ Now I know that the LORD is greater than all gods, because he did wonders when the Egyptians acted arrogantly against Israel."

We read about Moses first meeting Jethro in Exodus 2:16-21. After fleeing from the pharaoh in Egypt, Moses met Jethro in the land of Midian. Subsequently, Moses married one of Jethro's daughters, Zipporah. For the next forty years, Moses tended the flocks of Jethro in the wilderness area of Midian.

After Moses encountered God at the burning bush (3:2), he decided to return to Egypt with his wife and family. At some point, either during that journey back to Egypt or after arriving in Egypt, Moses sent Zipporah and his two sons back to Jethro (18:2).

When we come to Exodus 18, Moses and the children of Israel had seen the plagues in Egypt and experienced the miraculous crossing of the Red Sea, water from a rock, and quail and manna in the wilderness. Now they were camped at Rephidim, a short distance from Mount Sinai. It is at Rephidim that Jethro caught up with Moses to deliver Zipporah and her two sons to Moses. Thus began a brief, yet critical period of mentoring between Jethro and Moses.

QUESTION 2:

What are some benefits of acknowledging God's work?

From this passage, we discover some truths about mentoring that will prove profitable:

- There is much that can be learned from family members. Look within your own extended family for wisdom and council from a mentor.
- There will be people in our families who need to profit from our life experiences and knowledge. Look for opportunities to share with them.
- You and I will have short-term situations when our guidance in needed. We should seize these opportunities when they present themselves. These could also be brief periods where we need direction from someone else.
- In all mentoring relationships, celebrate the good things that are happening. Begin with positive reinforcement before offering any constructive direction.

The mentoring relationship between Jethro and Moses was brief, and yet it was extremely profitable for Moses. Following the initial worship celebration of all God was doing for the children of Israel, Jethro would spend a few more days in the camp. During this time, he began to observe some things that disturbed him greatly.

EXODUS 18:14-18

¹⁴ When Moses's father-in-law saw everything he was doing for them he asked, "What is this you're doing for the people? Why are you alone sitting as judge, while all the people stand around you from morning until evening?" ¹⁵ Moses replied to his father-in-law, "Because the people come to me to inquire of God. ¹⁶ Whenever they have a dispute, it comes to me, and I make a decision between one man and another. I teach them God's statutes and laws." ¹⁷ "What you're doing is not good," Moses's father-in-law said to him. ¹⁸ "You will certainly wear out both yourself and these people who are with you, because the task is too heavy for you. You can't do it alone.

Through observation, Jethro discerned the difficult position that both Moses and the people were in. The people would stand all day waiting for their turn to speak with Moses.

The questions he asked may have helped Jethro understand the situation and proved to be eye-opening for Moses. Perhaps Moses hadn't seen the enormity of the task he had undertaken. This is seen in the words of Jethro: "What you're doing is not good."

Through observation and questions, mentors can lead those they're guiding to come to their own understanding of a situation. Once they see the problems or challenges, they're ready for further guidance on how to address them. Good mentoring questions follow these guidelines:

- Questions will be open-ended and lead to more than just a "yes" or "no" answer.
- Questions will move from surface issues to deeper implications.
- Questions will allow a person to think more critically about challenges.
- Questions will progressively lead to growth, insights, and resolution.

OUESTION 3:

What is the difference between constructive criticism and just being critical?

In Moses's reply to Jethro, he revealed two aspects of his leadership: "I make a decision between one man and another. I teach them God's statutes and laws." But Moses's current approach wasn't good stewardship of his time, nor was it the best approach.

Mentoring requires honest communication and bold frankness. Doing this with grace and a Christ-centered attitude will be a source of encouragement to the one being mentored. The goal of mentoring is always to build up rather than tear down.

QUESTION 4:

What can we learn from Jethro's example about offering criticism?



Exopus 18:19-21

¹⁹ Now listen to me; I will give you some advice, and God be with you. You be the one to represent the people before God and bring their cases to him. ²⁰ Instruct them about the statutes and laws, and teach them the way to live and what they must do. ²¹ But you should select from all the people able men, God-fearing, trustworthy, and hating dishonest profit. Place them over the people as commanders of thousands, hundreds, fifties, and tens.

Only after observing and listening to Moses did Jethro offer his advice. He said Moses's essential task was being a representative between God and the people of Israel. In this role, Moses's responsibility was twofold:

- Instruct them about the statutes and laws. Specifically, these are the commands of God spelled out in the law given to Moses.
- ▶ Teach them the way to live and what they must do. As the people obeyed the commands of God, they also needed to be taught the duties and actions involved in daily living.

Jethro next turned to the task that was consuming Moses's time and keeping him from giving his full attention to instructing and teaching the people (serving as a judge and mediator in the disagreements that had arisen). It was here that Jethro highlighted the greatest weakness in Moses's approach to leadership, for his current approach would wear out both Moses and the people.

Jethro advised his son-in-law to divide the duty between capable men who could take this burden from Moses. These men were to be characterized by some essential traits. Jethro even suggested a breakdown of how to organize these judges or "commanders" in their duties.

"Moses listened to his father-in-law and did everything he said" (Exodus 18:24). While verse 25 indicates that Moses chose the people to serve in these roles, he did so by allowing the individual tribes to delegate who those "wise, understanding, and respected men" would be (Deuteronomy 1:13). So, Moses took the men the tribes delegated and set them up as the leaders and commanders (v. 15).

Moses modeled a critical component of being mentored: a teachable spirit. Moses wasn't so puffed up with pride that he couldn't learn from others. Instead, he was open to learning and improving. In any mentoring relationship, an attitude of humility and a willingness to learn is absolutely essential. As you consider entering a mentoring relationship, look for these traits and seek to develop these traits. Only then can the relationship be fruitful.

QUESTION 5:

What can we learn from the relationship between Jethro and Moses?

WISE COUNSEL

In the space below, list anyone you consider an active or prospective mentor in your life.

Next to each name, describe why this person is an effective source of guidance.

Name	How this person provides effective guidance	
Where in your life do y	you feel the biggest need for godly wisdom?	

Did you have a hard time naming a mentor or potential mentor? Ask God to lead you to someone who can pour into your life to strengthen you, as well as prepare you to pour into the lives of others.

LIVE IT OUT

Good leaders surround themselves with good advisors. The best leaders are those who don't think too highly of themselves and who have a teachable spirit. At the same time, we shouldn't be hesitant to offer wise principles to those who could benefit. How will you live out the truths of this study?

- Pray. Over the next week, pray each day that God would either lay on your heart someone you can learn from or someone who could benefit by learning from you.
- Seek. Intentionally search out someone who could serve as a mentor to you. Ask this person to prayerfully consider walking alongside you and helping you grow.
- Invest. Choose to mentor someone else. Ask someone if he or she would be willing to walk alongside you and allow you to speak into his or her life.

As we have been mentored, we can do the same for someone else. Everyone can profit from the wisdom and experience of others, and we can then pass those things along as well.