



S

tanding Firm



FOCUS
Military Ministry

Handy Bible Study for you or a group

God gave his only Son

John 3:16

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

- Does this passage include all the important ideas about Christianity that you think are important? What might be missing?
- What is your Christian story?
- How do you feel about trusting in Jesus and living for God?
- Is it simply a matter of believing?
- Is believing the same as faith?
- How could you use this verse to explain the gospel to someone else?

Standing up for Jesus

Romans 1:16

I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile.

- How are we tempted to be ashamed of the gospel?
- How is the gospel ‘power’?
- Why is hard to stand up and say you are a Christian?
- How do we talk about it naturally in conversation?
- Why is it hard even to say the name Jesus or God—and easier to say ‘church’ or ‘religious’?

New Mind

Romans 12:2

Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.

- How does ‘the world’ seek to conform us to its pattern?
- What motivates you to live God’s way?
- How does the mind get renewed?
- How can you change the way you evaluate what the world thinks is attractive?

Christian Mates

Ephesians 2:19-20

You are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone.

- Where do you build Christian friendships?
- What motivates you to be part of church?
- How can we talk more deeply about Christian issues in life?
- Why is it important to have good Christian mates?

Living with people

Ephesians 4:1-2

As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received.

Be completely humble and gentle;
be patient, bearing with one another in love.

- How do you cope with being in close quarters with people?
- How does the 'calling' motivate us?
- Is love an attitude or an action?
- How does 'patience' and 'bearing with one another in love' work with the people you are living with?

Work & Study

Ephesians 6:5-8

Slaves, obey your earthly masters with respect and fear, and with sincerity of heart, just as you would obey Christ. Obey them not only to win their favor when their eye is on you, but like slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from your heart. Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not men, because you know that the Lord will reward everyone for whatever good he does, whether he is slave or free.

- How much are we like the slaves or masters of Paul's day?
- Why is it hard to work well when no one is watching?
- How do we serve wholeheartedly without work becoming an idol?

Drinking

Ephesians 5:18

Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead be filled with the Spirit.

Jesus turned water into wine at the wedding at Cana (John 2: 1-10).

- How can we rethink our approach to drinking? (wine and alcohol that is!)
- What is the problem with alcoholic drinks?
- Why are the flow-on effects a problem?
- How do you know when you have had enough? (What is your tell tale sign?)
- How will you resist the peer pressure to drink more than you want to?

Bible

Hebrews 4:12

For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

- How does the Word of God penetrate into your soul?
- What is the best time of day for you to get into the bible?
- How do you read the bible differently when you do it:
 - reflectively?
(ie small bits to think over)
 - extensively?
(lots of it to get the full story)
- How could you fit these into your life more?

Prayer

Ephesians 6:18

And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.

- Why is praying hard sometimes?
- What prompts you to pray?
- What does praying in the Spirit mean? (context is the armour of God, and the Word being the Sword of the Spirit)
- How could you fit a regular prayer slot into your life right now?