

THIS IS YOUR HANDBOOK FOR SUCCESSFUL LIVING!

A HANDBOOK FOR SUCCESSFUL LIVING

*An Interactive Bible Study for those
interested in knowing more about
life in Christ.*

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Artwork by Robin, who gave us permission
to use the drawings in this book
with the prayer they will
help the reader think about
the meaning of life.

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We are anxious for you to understand the secret of successful living! This book includes everything you need to know to do so.

Use this booklet in a special way. The Study Guides may be reviewed in groups, or one at a time. Do not be in a hurry. Let each area lead to whatever discussions you desire to have about the materials.

You will need a full copy of the New Testament. The Study Guides will help you locate special verses of scripture to answer questions. You will be given the reference for every scripture. You may wish to underline each scripture reference as you read it. This will help you recall later on the verses that were reviewed in this study.

This material is written in small “steps” called “frames.” Read the materials with a pencil in your hand. Some frames give information. Others tell you to look up scripture references. Following them, you will find **testing frames**, which ask you for a response. Write in all answers as you go, even if it seems foolish to do so. You will retain much more by writing your answers than by just thinking about them. All answers should be easy for you, if you have fully read the frames just before the questions.

After you have answered each frame, check your answer against the one written upside down at the bottom of the page. If you have answered correctly, go on; if you have not, you may wish to go back a frame or two and review.

We trust you will fully enjoy each one of the Study Guides. Those of us who wrote and tested this material will be praying for you . . . praying that Jesus Christ will become as wonderful and lovely to YOU as He has to US!

PRACTICE SECTION

You ask, “Since the answers are at the bottom of the page, why bother to write my answers?” Writing your answers is the only way you can be sure you have learned essential points. If you do not write the answers, you will give yourself the illusion you know the material. (Why cheat yourself?) By immediately checking your answer, you know if you are ready to move on. If you missed the answer, review.

**P-1 The reason for writing my a_____ is to be sure I
know the e_____ p_____.**

P-1: answer—essential points

STUDY GUIDE ONE: FACT OR FICTION!

To experience SUCCESSFUL LIVING, life must be built on a solid, trustworthy foundation. People have selected many foundations for life. Some let desires shape their lives. Others let their careers shape life's patterns. We recommend a better foundation, which millions have found to be best of all . . . the Bible. You are now going to look into the New Testament, a significant section of the Bible.

May we give you some very basic information about the Bible? It is a collection of 66 books, written by 40 people who lived within a period covering hundreds of years of time. These 66 books are divided into two sections, the Old and New Testaments, separated by the birth of Jesus Christ.

The 39 books of the Old Testament were written before His birth. The 27 books of the New Testament were written after it.

1-1 The Bible is a collection of _____ books, written by _____ people.

1-2 Find and read 2 Timothy 3:16:

The Bible claims for itself that it is G_____ b_____.

1-3 Find and read 1 Peter 1:10-11:

The prophets who wrote the Old Testament scriptures s_____ i_____, trying to discover what the Spirit of Christ in them was saying as they wrote down "God-breathed" words.

Don't rush by these important verses! They help us understand that the authors of the books of the Bible had God breathing upon (inspiring, guiding) them as they wrote the manuscripts. When they finished writing, they studied their own writings to understand what God had said through them.

1-4 Find and read 1 Peter 1:12:

Who did they discover they had been writing for?

Themselves **Their own generation** **For Us!**

The staggering truth is that the Bible was written by God, writing through men controlled by Him. What they learned was that their writings were actually meant for those of us who live today!

If, as 1 Peter 1:12 says, "even angels long to look into these things," think how important it should be for us to study this amazing book. Remember . . . God prepared this book for *you* to read!

1-1: 66, 40; 1-2: God-breathed; 1-3: searched intently; 1-4: For Us!

1-5 Find and read Luke 19:41-44: To what place was Jesus referring?

J_____

These words were spoken by Jesus about 32 A.D., and Luke wrote them down about 58 A.D. They were exactly fulfilled in 70 A.D., when the Roman general Titus destroyed Jerusalem. Poor Jerusalem! The nation of Israel was scattered to the winds. Would they ever again live in the land?

In 600 B.C., the prophet Jeremiah wrote (Jeremiah 31:10):

The LORD says, "Nations listen to me, and proclaim my words on the far-off shores. I scattered my people, but I will gather them and guard them as a shepherd guards his flock."

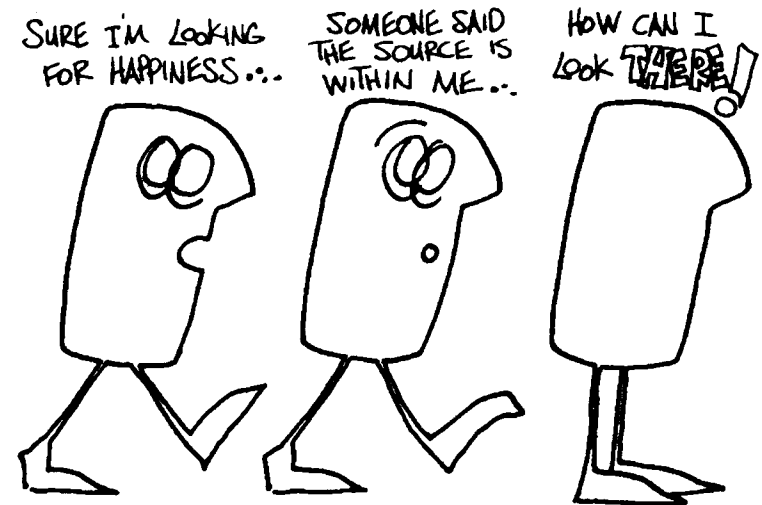
This prediction was fulfilled in 1948, when Israel was established as a nation. There are literally hundreds of predictions in the Bible which have been fulfilled. They cannot be explained away! God breathed the truth that is found in this book.

1-6 Find and read 2 Peter 3:3-15:

Record in a couple of sentences the impact of verses 3-8 and 9-15 upon you as you study them:

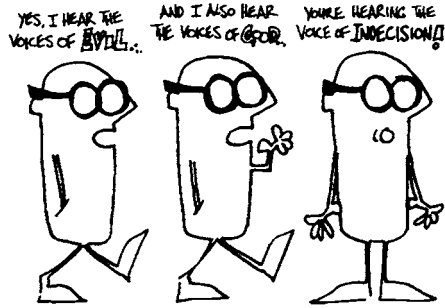
Verses 3-8: _____

Verses 9-15: _____



1-5: Jerusalem; 1-6: Your choice of response . . .

STUDY GUIDE TWO: WHAT MAKES ME TICK?



To live successfully, one must be sure to select the proper VALUES for life. Everything we do is based upon what we value.

2-1 Draw lines connecting each action with each value:

- | | |
|------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. MATERIALISTIC | a. Watches horror movies |
| 2. SELF-CENTERED | b. Lives for the next pay check |
| 3. GOAL-CENTERED | c. Prays daily |
| 4. ESCAPIST | d. Satisfies personal desires |
| 5. GOD-CENTERED | e. Works to become the manager |

2-2 Which of the persons described below is ruled by materialism?

- A. George took up medicine because he wanted to help heal sick persons.
- B. Marian took up medicine because she was fascinated by surgery.
- C. Fred took up medicine because he knew it would make him wealthy.

2-3 Which one chose medicine because of self-centered values?

- A. B. C.

2-4 Find and read Luke 12:16-21:

Why did Jesus say the man was not "rich" toward God?

- A. He valued wealth, but not a relationship with God.
- B. He did not think spiritual things were profitable.
- C. Neither of the above statements are true.
- D. Both of the above statements are true.

We rarely think about the values we have selected for living. We pick them up "like germs from the streets," in the same way we might pick up a virus or the measles. We are never sure where we found our values, and we seldom consider the long-range effect of them. In fact, we seldom *think* about our inner values. To uncover them, we must examine the activities in our life style we have selected as "normal."

What about the values which control your life style? Have you ever scrutinized them? Why don't you do so now? Place a ✓ beside activities mentioned below which are important to your life style:

- 2-5 I am a "workaholic," and am proud of it.
 Recreation is the highlight of my day.
 Making money occupies my idle thoughts.
 Partying is definitely a part of my week.
 Having a personal relationship with God is important to me.
 I would do almost anything to preserve my friendships.

2-6 Did you find the above list did not include some important activities in your own lifestyle? If so, jot down a couple of them here:

2-7 List two or three of the key values which cause your actions, as revealed by the activities listed above: (Example: materialism)

2-8 Find and read Philippians 3:7-14. These words were written by Paul, an early Christian who was a brilliant attorney. They reveal his values and his lifestyle activities. In verse 7, what lifestyle activities had he deliberately discarded?

"w_____ was to my p_____"

2-9 List the activities in his new life style, as described in these verses:
 A. Verse 10: "I want to k_____ C_____"
 B. Verse 14: "I press on toward the goal to w_____ the p_____"

We have been thinking about lifestyles, and the way they reveal our true values. Paul has obviously thrown over former values to adopt a radically different life style. What made him tick? What caused him to change? His own report of the reasons for his radical change are found in Acts 26:4-29. If you are interested enough, you might like to ponder his explanation.

Obviously, before any person is open to change, there must come a dissatisfaction with the way things are. Paul's case proves this!