

DISCIPLE



INTO
THE WORD
INTO
THE WORLD

DVD Segment Summaries

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Session 1: God Speaks

Presenter: William Power

Torah (teaching, instruction) includes Genesis through Deuteronomy and bears witness to the Hebrew understanding and experience of God. It tells of God's saving power, God's fidelity, God's grace, and God's will for God's people, who are to live in God's world on God's terms. The nature of the relationship that God established is that of covenant, a binding agreement.

Session 2: God Scatters the Proud

Presenter: William Power

The tower of Babel story shows the alienation, isolation, and inability to communicate that people experience when they try to live apart from God. The name and the security they sought are lost. Like Adam and Eve in the garden, they trust their own

choices instead of following God's instruction; and the results are calamitous. But God's unlikely choice of Abram and Sarai is the first step in setting matters straight and restoring communication.

Session 3: God Welcomes

Presenter: Keith Schoville

God called Abraham to go to Canaan and promised that the land would belong to Abraham's descendants, but other people lived in the land. Themes of welcome, hospitality, and election emerge as Abraham and Sarah try to fulfill the promise themselves through Ishmael instead of waiting for God's purpose through Isaac. Today Abraham's descendants through Ishmael and Isaac still contend for the place God promised, and Christians as spiritual descendants of Abraham have a holy concern for the peace of Jerusalem.

Session 4: Carrying the Covenant

Presenter: Katheryn Darr

The future of God's people is based on obedient faith in the present. Though Abraham questioned and bargained with God to save the people of Sodom, he obeyed without question God's command to sacrifice his son Isaac. How could Abraham have understood that command or the God who would make such a demand? The Scripture tells us only that in absolute obedience Abraham faced this test of his faithfulness that is equally a test of the faithfulness of God.

Session 5: Conflict Within the Family

Presenter: Kathleen Farmer

The stories of Jacob and Esau and of the rivalry between Jacob's wives emphasize the importance of children to the biblical ancestors and to their surrounding culture. The conflict between Jacob and Esau also reminds us that God's choice does not depend on the worthiness of the recipient. These conflicts within the family of God remind us that the promise is God's to give and God's to fulfill. Only God could guarantee that the covenant promises would be fulfilled.

Session 6: Wrestling With God

Presenter: Walter Harrelson

Jacob was a complex personality, a conniver who used trickery and deception. Through his encounters with God at Bethel and the Jabbok River, he struggled with the purpose of God for him and for his people. Through all the struggle, Jacob cared about God's promise and was ready to do his part in its realization.

Session 7: In God's Time

Presenter: John Holbert

The twelve sons of Jacob represent the twelve Hebrew tribes that bear their names. Their names reveal something of the character of each son and tribe. Their stories show us that God works with real human beings and groups of human beings in spite of their greed, violence, anger, and hatred in order to accomplish God's purpose. They remind us that God's choices are often not our own.

Session 8: God Works for Good

Presenter: W. Sibley Towner

The family stories of Genesis—Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Jacob's sons, their wives—present the “incandescent idea” of blessing, brought to a

climax in the story of Joseph. God made good the promise of blessing first made to Abraham by using Joseph's exile to feed the people of his world.

Session 9: The Bonds of Slavery

Presenter: Celia Brewer Marshall

God is the hero of the Exodus, but women played a decisive role in the beginning of this story of Israel's salvation history. Shiphrah and Puah, Jochebed and Miriam, Pharaoh's daughter, Zipporah, illustrate a creative response to oppression in using deception, which would be wrong under other circumstances, to undermine false authorities and accomplish God's purpose.

Session 10: God in the Fire

Presenter: Zan Holmes, Jr.

The God of Israel is a personal God who takes a personal interest in the plight of the people of Israel. God called Moses by name and directed him to bring the Israelites out of Egypt. God still calls people by name. People must listen for God's call and in response discern God's direction and move with God to bring liberation from all forms of oppression to all God's children.

Session 11: God Opens the Sea

*Presenters: Stephen Fuchs
and William Willimon*

Two statements about salvation history from first Jewish and then Christian perspectives introduce a dialogue between a Jewish rabbi and a Christian pastor. The statements focus on common grounds of salvation history, that of Jews seen in the light of the Exodus and Passover and that of Christians seen in the light of the Crucifixion and Resurrection. Both Jewish and Christian faiths celebrate the God who saves. The promises God made to Israel are now offered to the whole world in Jesus. Because we once were slaves in Egypt and once slaves to sin, we must work for the liberation of others.

Session 12: Amid the Struggle God Provides

Presenter: James Fleming

The human setting of the Exodus is one of hardship, from Goshen, across the Sea of Reeds, through the barren Sinai Desert. The Feast of Tabernacles (Booths) celebrates the journey. Through the deserts the Hebrews complained about the hardships; and God provided fresh water, manna, and quail to preserve their

lives. A bright cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night assured them that God was leading the way through the desert.

Session 13: God's Commands

Presenter: Walter Kimbrough

God had a special relationship with Israel. They were chosen by God; they were family. The Ten Commandments were given by God as an act of love for Israel and for us. They are our guide to right relationship with God and others. Whether the commands are stated negatively or positively, God's authority prevails; and we are called to obedience. The Ten Commandments are rules to live by, and they represent God's plan for our salvation.

Session 14: The Just Laws of God

Presenter: Bruce Birch

The Old Testament law codes are both a response to and an expression of covenant. They emphasize justice and righteousness as responsibilities of the covenant relationship between God and the people Israel. Two groupings of laws in the early legal collections are case laws, reflecting the cultural and social environment in the ancient world, and Yahwistic laws, referring to behavior in rela-

tion to God. This mixing of religious and social matters still guides us and tells us how to live as God's faithful people in the world.

Session 15: Protector of the Powerless

Presenters: Bruce Birch and Richard Wilke

The law codes of Exodus and Deuteronomy are still relevant for people today. Covenant cannot remain abstract but must be embodied in concrete social structures. Concepts like justice, righteousness, and compassion set the covenant community apart. Israel was different in terms of economics in the way the community reflected its values in distributing resources and in terms of politics in the way the community made decisions and used power. These law codes model for the church the commitment to God's demand for justice, righteousness, and compassion reflected in love of neighbor.

Session 16: God's Dwelling Place

Presenter: Maxie Dunnam

The Tabernacle, a portable tent, was the symbol of God's abiding presence with the covenant people Israel. Pitched in the sand of the wilderness

with no covering for the floor, the Tabernacle contained the ark of the covenant, the most powerful symbol of God's presence. Three biblical incidents involving the ark of the covenant show three aspects of God's presence: Crossing the Jordan River into the Promised Land shows God's prevenient presence. The collapse of the walls of Jericho shows God's powerful presence. The ark in captivity shows God's passing presence.

Session 17: Good News for the Whole World

Presenter: Steven Plymale

Luke wrote two volumes to communicate the significance of Christ for the entire world—the Gospel of Luke and the Acts of the Apostles. Though we need one to understand the other, they are two very different pieces of literature. The Gospel is a unique kind of writing, a statement of faith told from personal experience. Acts is written like an adventure story to present some serious issues. Both volumes focus on selected persons—Jesus in the Gospel and Peter and Paul in Acts—though the real focus of both is the God who directs them.

Session 18: Our Savior Has Come

Presenter: James Charlesworth

What was the holy land like in the time of Jesus? Some writings from his own time give clues, especially the Dead Sea Scrolls from Qumran. Coins from the time remind us of Jesus' parables and help us see him in his Jewish environment. Ruins of Herod's Temple show us the setting of many teachings. An ancient boat found in the Sea of Galilee tells us about the life and work of some of the disciples. Grounded in the faith and the hopes of Israel, the Easter community moved out to proclaim the good news of the Savior.

Session 19: Teach Us to Pray

Presenter: Hae-Jong Kim

The Bible contains all kinds of prayers, those of individuals and the community, thanksgiving, petition, in crisis, in joy, for forgiveness, for deliverance. Prayer was important for Jesus, so his followers look to him to teach them how to pray. Prayer begins with the posture of faith. It links us to God, releases power to change things, including ourselves, and opens worlds of spiritual possibilities. Jesus modeled the life of prayer and gave us a model for prayer and for life in the Lord's Prayer.

**Session 20: Despising
His Goodness**

Presenter: Fernando Segovia

Luke shows Jesus unceasingly engaged in teaching and great deeds. He defined his own role as reaching out to outcasts and functioned as a severe social critic. As a result of these actions he was accepted by some, intensely opposed by others. Mainline churches today find these characteristics of ministry missing and seek social acceptance instead. But the vision of ministry in the life of Jesus provides a serious challenge to churches today and requires an open and explicit response.

Session 21: Teach Us How to Live

Presenter: Jerry Mercer

Luke's Gospel presents Jesus as the royal Christ, greater than David, and the perfect king who cares for his people through acts of love and justice. He is the divine warrior, waging war in human hearts to open the kingdom of heaven. He is the deliverer, Messiah, who frees his people from bondage to sin. As students of the Teacher, disciples of Jesus the Christ are to deny self, take up the cross, and faithfully follow by living according to his teachings.

Session 22: Signs of God's Rule

Presenter: James Fleming

After the Transfiguration Jesus came down from the mountain determined to go to Jerusalem to face his critics head-on. In a way, Jesus and the disciples took two different roads to Jerusalem. The disciples were caught up in the power and glory concept of the Kingdom, but Jesus took the suffering servant's road. Teaching and healing all the way, he went through Bethsaida, into Samaria, across to Perea, on to Jericho, and to the house of Mary and Martha in Bethany, just outside Jerusalem. The high road of the king by power and might left the disciples unprepared for the last week in Jerusalem at the end of the low road of the suffering and servant king.

Session 23: Learning to Follow

Presenter: Thomas Boomershine

Jesus taught about the rule of God in a way that was shaped by the way he saw time. People see human history and their own lives moving in time from the past through the present into the future. But Jesus looked back on the present from the perspective of the future kingdom of God. For example, he evaluated the use of money now in relation to its

use in caring for the poor and seeking the lost. Learning to follow Jesus is learning to think about life from a Kingdom perspective, from its end back into the present.

Session 24: Sent as Witnesses

Presenter: Mack Stokes

The Resurrection was the final act of God in completing the divine plan of salvation. Resurrection faith was not the whole story. Many witnesses saw the empty tomb and the risen Lord, and the Holy Spirit illuminated the minds of believers. Life is a gift from God, and only God can guarantee eternal life. The apostles and others became witnesses to this marvelous salvation in Christ.

Session 25: Acts of the Holy Spirit

Presenter: William Willimon

Jesus promised to give his followers the same Spirit that empowered him. In the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, the great divisions among humanity, signified by the babble of incomprehensible languages, were healed. Peter, who had denied Jesus, preached with power. Acts is the story of the amazing force of the Holy Spirit let loose in the world, empowering ordinary people to speak up for Jesus.

Session 26: Community in Jerusalem

Presenter: C. Clifton Black, II

Luke recounts Paul's conversion three times in Acts. Paul's former persecution of the first Christians emphasizes the dramatic nature of his conversion. Paul himself describes the experience in Galatians in defense of his calling as an apostle but does not give the details recorded by Luke. Both writers agree that the call to discipleship comes from God, transforms one's viewpoint and way of life, and initiates the process of costly obedience.

Session 27: Missionary Zeal

Presenter: Warren Carter

The meeting of the Jerusalem Council underlines the understanding that salvation has come to Gentiles without their observing the Law. Paul and Barnabas (representing the Gentiles) and the apostles and elders (representing the Jerusalem church) discuss and decide on four requirements for Gentile converts, all four concerning practices that would be offensive to Jewish members. The new consensus identified the church as the people of God constituted not by ethnicity but by God's grace responded to with faith in Jesus Christ.

Session 28: Count It Joy
Presenter: Donald English

Philippi, an important city of the Roman Empire, subject to Roman law, was the first place in Europe where the Christian gospel was established. It had no synagogue, but Paul found some people there receptive to the gospel. He made three visits to Philippi, was put in jail there, and accepted support from the church. His letter to this church emphasized unity, service, and joy in the Lord.

Session 29: Fellowship of Courage
Presenter: Robert Jewett

Paul may have written as many as seven letters to the Corinthian church. The weaving together of these letters may account for some of the dramatic shifts in the two letters as they appear in the Bible. He addresses specific congregational problems, including proper respect for the Lord's Supper, immoral persons, mutuality of the sexes, bodily discipline, spiritual power, dealing with superapostles, and the priority of love, and offers correction and encouragement. Through these letters Paul comes across as deeply committed to the health of a congregation under extreme stress.

Session 30: Temples, Politics, and Business

Presenter: Karen Carter

At Miletus, on his last missionary journey, Paul said good-bye to the elders of the church at Ephesus. He warned them to be diligent in their care of the community, to discern the difference between true and false leadership, and to follow the leading of the Holy Spirit. Church leaders are called to teach, preach, nurture, care, heal, and build up the church.

Session 31: Boldness for the Gospel

Presenter: Robert Jewett

Why did Paul write a letter to the church in Rome? He did not found the church there but wrote to ask for help in accomplishing a mission to Spain. Five groups made up the Roman church: house churches, two groups connected with the Roman government, and two uncertain groups that may have consisted of mostly slaves. Since Paul had no contact with Spain, he needed help from these groups in preparing for the journey intended to take the gospel to the end of the earth.

Session 32: Ordering Our Lives

Presenter: Calvin McConnell

What difference has the study of the Bible made in the way we will live our lives? What we have learned about faithful living through biblical examples, God's invitation and instruction followed by faithful response, informs the rhythm of being in God's Word and living in

the world. We cannot stay with the transfigured Christ on the mountain-top but must focus on ordering our lives in three specific areas: our attitude toward money, our participation in the family, and our openness to the needs of others. Biblical information can be formed by prayer and intention into effective responses as we apply Jesus' teaching in our world.

Video Segment Summaries **Visual Credits (Used by permission)**

Session 1

Creation Painting-Heinz Selig, Biblical Archaeology Society (BAS).
3111 Rittenhouse St., Washington D.C.
People with scrolls-Richard Nowitz

Session 2

Tower of Babel-Kunsthistorisches Museum, Vienna

Session 3

Ishmael-MetropolitanMuseum of Art of New York
Ur-Mr. Gerster with Comstock
GoldenCalf-Michael Holford

Session 4

Abraham & Isaac-Art Resource, (BAS)

Session 6

Upper Jordan River and Sea of Galilee-© 1986 (BAS)

Session 9

Pharaoh's Daughter-John Neitzel, (BAS)

Session 9

Moses with Mother and Miriam-Private Collector in New York (unknown), (BAS)
Star worn by Danes-Art Resource

Session 10

Moses at burning bush- © 1987 (BAS)

Session 11

Passover-Richard Nowitz

Session 12

Satelite Photo-© 1987 (BAS)
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Oasis of Feiran-© 1987 (BAS)

Session 13

Moses Receiving Tablets-Superstock,
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Moses with tablet-Art Resource, (BAS)

Session 16

Tabernacle-Marshall Editions Limited

Session 17

St. Luke Reading-David Harris, (BAS)

Session 18

Galilean Boat-Danny Friedman & Israel
Dept. of Antiquities & Museums, (BAS)
Dead Sea Scroll-Shrine of the Book
(Israel Museum)
Scroll of Isaiah-John C. Tever
Scriptorium and Study Rooms,
Qumran-© 1981 (BAS)
Qumran, Aerial View-© 1986 (BAS)
Boat from Sea of Galilee-© 1989
(BAS)

Session 21

Terracotta Bust of Christ-Art Resource

Session 22

Mary and Martha-National Gallery of
Scotland

Session 24

Emmaeus-Garo Nalbandian

Session 25

John Baptizing Jesus-Bulloz, J. E.

Session 28

St. Paul in Prison-Superstock, (BAS)
Philippi, Forum and Christian Basilica-
© 1986 (BAS)

Session 29

Paul-Sonia Halliday

Session 32

Transfiguration-Art Resource, (BAS)

Carta, Map of Canaan The Israel Map
and Publishing Company Ltd.

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Israel Map and Publishing
Company Ltd.

Carta, Map of Spread of Christianity,
The Israel Map and Publishing
Company Ltd.

Carta, Map of Paul's Journey, The Israel
Map and Publishing Company Ltd.

Map of Journey from UR to Canaan-
Inter-Varsity Press

