

## **“FRAMEWORKS** – Navigating the New Testament”

*Study Guides available at [www.women-in-the-word.com](http://www.women-in-the-word.com)*

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# **FRAMEWORKS – Navigating the NEW TESTAMENT**

## **LESSON 1 - AN INTRODUCTION TO THE NEW TESTAMENT**

“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.” II Timothy 3: 16 – 17

“The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the Word of our God stands forever.” Isaiah 40: 8

“Blessed are they whose ways are blameless, who walk according to the law of the LORD. Blessed are they who keep His statutes and seek Him with all their heart.” Psalm 119: 1 – 2

“Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good.” I Peter 2: 2

### **QUESTIONS FOR YOU TO CONSIDER as You Begin This Study –**

1. Why do you believe that it is important to study the Bible?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. What would you like to accomplish through this study of the New Testament?

### **INSIGHTS and INFORMATION - Frameworks – Part 1 by Eric Larson**

As you read pages 1 – 55 of our guide book, it will be helpful for you to write down the ideas and pages that you find most interesting, new or informative, so that you will be able to access them easily during the entire study.

### **INTRODUCING THE FOUR GOSPELS – Pages 58 – 61**

1. How do Matthew, Mark and Luke differ from the Gospel by John? (p. 58 – 59)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. How do each of these Gospels depict the various aspects of the life and ministry of Jesus? (p. 60 – 61)

### **PREPARING YOURSELF –**

Studying the Bible is far more than an academic or intellectual pursuit, isn't it? It is an encounter with God Himself. It is through the Spirit of God that our eyes are opened to the truths the God has revealed about Himself and about mankind so that we can come to know Him and His Son, Jesus, and to experience life, eternal life. Take time to express (in writing if possible) your thanks and your requests as you commit to this study of God's love letter to you.

# **FRAMEWORKS – Navigating the NEW TESTAMENT**

## **Lesson 2 - MATTHEW – GOD’S LION ROARS**

“Jesus said, ‘I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth.’” Matthew 28:18

### **PREPARATION – THINGS YOU WANT TO KNOW ABOUT MATTHEW - Pages 62 - 73**

1. Intro – What is the book like?
2. Theme – What is this book about?
3. Purpose – Why was it written?
4. Outline – How is the book organized?
5. Verses – How does it read?
6. Navigation – How do I move through it?
7. Unique things – What makes this book or its author special?
8. Recap – What should I remember most?

### **INFORMATION – READ THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW FOR YOURSELF**

What are the verses, stories, or ideas that impressed you or caught your attention?

- 1.

### **MEDITATION –**

1. Would you agree or disagree with the statement that “Matthew is the most important book in the New Testament”?
2. In what ways do you picture Jesus to be “God’s Lion”? How is He like other lions? What are some differences?
3. Matthew focuses on “the kingdom of heaven” or “. . . of God” with His Son, Jesus, as the King. What did you learn about this kingdom through reading this gospel? Why were these ideas important to the Jews? Are they important for you and me to understand? Why?

### **APPLICATION –**

What is the invitation that Jesus is giving to you through your study of His Word? Could it be that He is asking you to be one of His followers/disciples? (Matt. 4: 19) Does He want you to understand more clearly what His Kingdom is like so that you can be part of making His kingdom visible on earth? (Matt 5 – 7) Perhaps He simply wants you to be in His presence, to enjoy His tender mercy and at the same time to feel His strength, to find rest in Him, or to be assured that He is with you throughout your journey. Take time to listen to His voice and to hear Him call your name.

# **FRAMEWORKS – Navigating the NEW TESTAMENT**

## **LESSON 3 - MARK – GOD’S OX DIES**

“For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve and to give His life as a ransom for many.”

Mark10:45

### **PREPARATION – THINGS YOU WANT TO KNOW ABOUT MARK - Pages 74 - 85**

1. Intro – What is the book like?
2. Theme – What is this book about?
3. Purpose – Why was it written?
4. Outline – How is the book organized?
5. Verses – How does it read?
6. Navigation – How do I move through it?
7. Unique things – What makes this book or its author special?
8. Recap – What should I remember most?

### **INFORMATION – READ THE GOSPEL OF MARK FOR YOURSELF**

What are the verses, stories, or ideas that impressed you or caught your attention?

- 1.

### **MEDITATION –**

1. In Matthew Jesus is like the roaring lion who speaks often. In Mark, He is the powerful ox who is doing and serving. Is one of these more important or effective than the other? Which of these characteristics are you drawn to more?
2. Jesus met the deepest needs of people everywhere He went, didn't He? How did this communicate to them what His ultimate goal and destiny would be? How did He prepare His disciples for His crucifixion and resurrection?
3. As you think about the many different individuals and ways that Jesus demonstrated His desire to serve, what does His example teach you about His life, His love, and His compassion?

### **APPLICATION –**

What is the invitation that Jesus is giving to you through your study of His Word? Did you happen to notice that although Jesus was busy, very busy, He seemed to know that taking time to be alone and to pray would enable Him to be a servant and to do the Father's will - Mark 1:35, 6: 46, and 14: 32 – 39. Does your busy life ever cause you to spend too little time with your Heavenly Father? Why not take time right now to listen to His voice and to let Him set the priorities for your day(s)?

# **FRAMEWORKS – Navigating the NEW TESTAMENT**

## **LESSON 4 - LUKE – GOD’S MAN THRIVES**

*“And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.”* Luke 2: 52

### **PREPARATION – THINGS YOU WANT TO KNOW ABOUT LUKE - Pages 86 - 97**

1. Intro – What is the book like?
2. Theme – What is this book about?
3. Purpose – Why was it written?
4. Outline – How is the book organized?
5. Verses – How does it read?
6. Navigation – How do I move through it?
7. Unique things – What makes this book or its author special?
8. Recap – What should I remember most?

### **INFORMATION – READ THE GOSPEL OF LUKE FOR YOURSELF**

What are the verses, stories, or ideas that impressed you or caught your attention?

- 1.

### **MEDITATION –**

1. Would you agree or disagree with the statement that “Luke is the most beautiful book ever written”?
2. Luke succeeded in writing a very careful documentation of the life of Jesus so that His friend would have full confidence in his faith in Jesus. In what ways did reading the Gospel written by Luke help you to know Jesus better?
3. Jesus – the Son of God and yet totally the Son of Man. Why did Jesus need to come to us, to become fully human, in order to make it possible for us to become children of God – forgiven and heirs with Jesus of life eternal?

### **APPLICATION –**

What is the invitation that Jesus is giving to you through your study of His Word? Jesus came to “seek and to save those who are lost” – Luke 19: 10. How would you explain this concept to a child? To an adult? Is Jesus still seeking your attention and devotion or have you responded to His voice and become of child of God? What’s your story? Take time to listen to the voice of the Good Shepherd and give Him your thanksgiving and praise.

# **FRAMEWORKS – Navigating the NEW TESTAMENT**

## **LESSON 5 -JOHN – HEAVEN’S EAGLE SOARS**

“I am the resurrection and the life”.

John 11: 25

### **PREPARATION – THINGS YOU WANT TO KNOW ABOUT JOHN - Pages 98 - 109**

1. Intro – What is the book like?
2. Theme – What is this book about?
3. Purpose – Why was it written?
4. Outline – How is the book organized?
5. Verses – How does it read?
6. Navigation – How do I move through it?
7. Unique things – What makes this book or its author special?
8. Recap – What should I remember most?

### **INFORMATION – READ THE GOSPEL BY JOHN FOR YOURSELF**

What are the verses, stories, or ideas that impressed you or caught your attention?

- 1.

### **MEDITATION –**

1. Why do you think that John is considered by many to be “the most precious NT book”?
2. John clearly explained his purpose for writing about the life of Jesus in John 20: 31. Do you think he accomplished his purpose? What are some of the other verses that he wrote that explain why Jesus, the Son of God, came?
3. As you think about Jesus as the lion, the ox and the man, how does John’s picture as the soaring eagle expand your understanding of God’s Son, your Savior? Which picture captures your attention most dramatically and why?

### **APPLICATION –**

What is the invitation that Jesus is giving to you through your study of His Word? This would be a good time to look back at the things that were on Jesus’ mind and heart as He prayed to His Father just before He was arrested – John 17: 6 – 25. He prayed for you and for me, didn’t He? How do your desires line up with the ones that He expressed? Take time to listen to His voice.

# **FRAMEWORKS – Navigating the NEW TESTAMENT**

## **LESSON 6 - ACTS – THE SPIRIT SPREADS LIKE WILDFIRE**

Suddenly there was a sound from heaven like the roaring of a mighty windstorm. . .  
Then, what looked like flames . . . of fire appeared and settled on each of them.

Acts 2:2 -3

### **PREPARATION – THINGS YOU WANT TO KNOW ABOUT ACTS - Pages 112 - 133**

1. Intro – What is the book like?
2. Theme – What is this book about?
3. Purpose – Why was it written?
4. Outline – How is the book organized?
5. Verses – How does it read?
6. Navigation – How do I move through it?
7. Unique things – What makes this book or its author special?
8. Recap – What should I remember most?

### **INFORMATION – READ THE BOOK OF ACTS FOR YOURSELF**

What are the verses, stories, or ideas that impressed you or caught your attention?

### **MEDITATION –**

1. Why did Luke write this book? What were his objectives/motivations and why is it an important book?
2. In what ways do you think that the mental picture of a raging wildfire in a remote area is an appropriate visual image for the work of the Holy Spirit as it is described by Luke?
3. What things were important to Peter and to Paul and to the new believers in the early church? Why?

### **APPLICATION –**

What is the invitation that Jesus is giving to you through your study of His Word? It might be a good time to think about the ways in which the presence and power of the indwelling Holy Spirit has changed your life – your responses, courage, strength, wisdom. Take time to listen to God's voice as He reminds you of the things that happened to the ordinary people in Acts.

# **FRAMEWORKS – Navigating the NEW TESTAMENT**

## **LESSON 7 - ROMANS – COMPLETELY SAVED**

“And having given them right standing, He gave them His glory.”

Romans 8: 30

### **PREPARATION – THINGS YOU WANT TO KNOW ABOUT ROMANS - Pages 134 - 149**

1. Intro – What is the book like?
2. Theme – What is this book about?
3. Purpose – Why was it written?
4. Outline – How is the book organized?
5. Verses – How does it read?
6. Navigation – How do I move through it?
7. Unique things – What makes this book or its author special?
8. Recap – What should I remember most?

### **INFORMATION – READ ROMANS FOR YOURSELF**

What are the verses, stories, or ideas that impressed you or caught your attention?

- 1.

### **MEDITATION –**

1. Someday Paul would visit Rome, but when he wrote this letter to the new believers there, what did he want to accomplish? Why is this book considered to be “the textbook of our Christian faith”?
2. How does the idea of “completely saved” add to your understanding of the salvation which is in Christ Jesus?
3. If you were to summarize Paul's letter to the Romans, what would you say are the most important things to know?

### **APPLICATION –**

What is the invitation that Jesus is giving to you through your study of His Word? From death to life? From hopelessness to an eternal inheritance? From sinfulness to righteousness? From selfishness to godliness? From a life of worry to the gift of peace? Where are you on your faith journey? What blessings does God want to give you through His Spirit right now?



# **FRAMEWORKS – Navigating the NEW TESTAMENT**

## **LESSON 8 - I CORINTHIANS – ELEVEN MIGRAINES**

“I appeal to you, dear brothers and sisters . . . Let there be no divisions in the church.” I Corinthians 1: 10

### **PREPARATION – THINGS YOU WANT TO KNOW ABOUT FIRST CORINTHIANS - Pages 150 - 161**

1. Intro – What is the book like?
2. Theme – What is this book about?
3. Purpose – Why was it written?
4. Outline – How is the book organized?
5. Verses – How does it read?
6. Navigation – How do I move through it?
7. Unique things – What makes this book or its author special?
8. Recap – What should I remember most?

### **INFORMATION – READ FIRST CORINTHIANS FOR YOURSELF**

What are the verses, stories, or ideas that impressed you or caught your attention?

- 1.

### **MEDITATION –**

1. What was it about the Corinthian society that made it so challenging to establish a church there? How do you think that it is similar to our culture? How is it different?
2. How does Paul approach the people in the church in Corinth? Do you think his methods are admirable and effective?
3. Unity – What is it? Why is it so important? How is it possible? What did Paul teach the Corinthians about it?

### **APPLICATION –**

What is the invitation that Jesus is giving to you through your study of His Word? The perfect church – it didn't exist in Paul's time and it doesn't exist today, does it? But obviously, the solution is not to withdraw, to criticize, or to fantasize. What do you think that God would want you to remember about HIS church, those people who gather together to worship Him and to encourage each other to bring the Good News of Jesus' love to everyone around them? How does He want you to be involved?

# **FRAMEWORKS – Navigating the NEW TESTAMENT**

## **LESSON 9 - II CORINTHIANS – HIT ME WITH YOUR BEST SHOT**

“I don’t consider myself inferior in any way to these ‘super apostles’”. II Corinthians 11: 5

### **PREPARATION – THINGS YOU WANT TO KNOW ABOUT II CORINTHIANS - Pages 162 - 173**

1. Intro – What is the book like?
2. Theme – What is this book about?
3. Purpose – Why was it written?
4. Outline – How is the book organized?
5. Verses – How does it read?
6. Navigation – How do I move through it?
7. Unique things – What makes this book or its author special?
8. Recap – What should I remember most?

### **INFORMATION – READ II CORINTHIANS FOR YOURSELF**

What are the verses, stories, or ideas that impressed you or caught your attention?

- 1.

### **MEDITATION –**

1. Why do you think that Christ-followers still need to be on guard against false teachings? How does studying the truth revealed in the Bible help you to discern when there is error?
2. How does Paul continue to show his genuine love for the believers in Corinth? What keeps him from “giving up”?
3. What gives Paul the confidence that he has in his defense of truth and correction of error?

### **APPLICATION –**

What is the invitation that Jesus is giving to you through your study of His Word? Because of his “thorn in the flesh”, Paul was forced in certain ways to understand more clearly that it was only through Christ’s power that he could effectively live out his faith –II Cor. 12: 7 – 10. Any idea why he wanted to share this in his letter to the believers then and throughout the centuries? Does it help you?

# **FRAMEWORKS – Navigating the NEW TESTAMENT**

## **LESSON 10 - GALATIANS – RUN HARD FROM BAD RELIGION**

*"I am shocked that you are turning away so soon from God."* Galatians 1: 6

### **PREPARATION – THINGS YOU WANT TO KNOW ABOUT GALATIANS - Pages 174 - 183**

1. Intro – What is the book like?
2. Theme – What is this book about?
3. Purpose – Why was it written?
4. Outline – How is the book organized?
5. Verses – How does it read?
6. Navigation – How do I move through it?
7. Unique things – What makes this book or its author special?
8. Recap – What should I remember most?

### **INFORMATION – READ GALATIANS FOR YOURSELF**

What are the verses, stories, or ideas that impressed you or caught your attention?

- 1.

### **MEDITATION –**

1. If freedom, equality, brotherhood are the 3 watchwords for Christians, which one of them causes you to pause and think? Is one more important than another? Why or why not?
2. The distinguishing fact that sets apart the Christian faith from all other religions is that we do not earn the favor of God through our good works. Because of Jesus sacrificial death and resurrection we become children of God through faith alone - as a gift from Him. How does this change your view of "should", "ought", "must"?
3. Faith in Christ is the bedrock of Christianity, isn't it? Take time to memorize Galatians 2: 20 – 21. If you started every day with these truths embedded in your mind, how would it affect your attitudes and behavior?

### **APPLICATION –**

What is the invitation that Jesus is giving to you through His Word? A healthy tree produces fruit – good, sweet edible fruit. Paul reminds us that it is the Holy Spirit that produces the good fruit in our lives. It is His joy to make you a healthy believer! Are you willing to let Him or do you like your old habits more?

# **FRAMEWORKS – Navigating the NEW TESTAMENT**

## **LESSON 11 - EPHESIANS – MASTERPIECE!**

*"For we are God's masterpiece."* Ephesians 2: 10

### **PREPARATION – THINGS YOU WANT TO KNOW ABOUT EPHESIANS - Pages 184 – 193**

1. Intro – What is the book like?
2. Theme – What is this book about?
3. Purpose – Why was it written?
4. Outline – How is the book organized?
5. Verses – How does it read?
6. Navigation – How do I move through it?
7. Unique things – What makes this book or its author special?
8. Recap – What should I remember most?

### **INFORMATION – READ EPHESIANS FOR YOURSELF**

What are the verses, stories, or ideas that impressed you or caught your attention?

- 1.

### **MEDITATION –**

1. Think about the church – throughout the centuries, around the world. Sometimes it is believers that gather together in wonderful cathedrals and at other times they are huddled together secretly in a cave. Wherever and whenever, the church is God's "workmanship" – His "masterpiece"? What makes this church so mind-boggling and spectacular?
2. As you look back at Ephesians 1: 3 -14, what are the special blessings that Paul describes for those who are "in Christ"?
3. Why is maintaining Christian unity so critically important to God and to us? What makes it possible? Why is it so often very difficult to achieve? Are there any helpful ideas in this letter to remember?

### **APPLICATION –**

What is the invitation that Jesus is giving to you through His Word? When you pray for your friends, what is most important to you? Check out what Paul prayed for his friends – 1: 15 – 22, 3: 14 – 21, and 6: 18 – 20. Any differences or similarities or things you can learn?

# **FRAMEWORKS – Navigating the NEW TESTAMENT**

## **LESSON 12 – PHILIPPIANS – JOY, JOY, JOY**

“Always be full of joy in the Lord. I say it again - rejoice.” Philippians 4: 4

### **PREPARATION – THINGS YOU WANT TO KNOW ABOUT PHILIPPIANS - Pages 194 – 203**

1. Intro – What is the book like?
2. Theme – What is this book about?
3. Purpose – Why was it written?
4. Outline – How is the book organized?
5. Verses – How does it read?
6. Navigation – How do I move through it?
7. Unique things – What makes this book or its author special?
8. Recap – What should I remember most?

### **INFORMATION – READ PHILIPPIANS FOR YOURSELF**

What are the verses, stories, or ideas that impressed you or caught your attention?

- 1.

### **MEDITATION –**

1. What made Paul so motivated to express his thankfulness to the Philippians? How did this help both parties? What are some of your clearest ways to express your thankfulness to your family and friends?
2. Why is it that some people seem to exude joy wherever they go and so many other people tend to be critical, complaining, and more focused on the difficulties of life? How do others see you? How do you see yourself?
3. What do you think is the connection between freedom from anxiety and rejoicing? How does praying help move someone from a place of worry and fearfulness to experiencing God's peace? (Phil. 4: 4 – 7)

### **APPLICATION –**

What is the invitation that Jesus is giving to you through your study of His Word? If the Christian life is like a marathon – a long race to the finish line, what are the lessons that can be learned to help you complete your race and hear the Lord say, “well done” when you have reached the end. (Phil. 3: 12 – 15)

# **FRAMEWORKS – Navigating the NEW TESTAMENT**

## **LESSON 14 - COLOSSIANS – Summa Christo!**

“He is first in everything.” Colossians 1: 18

### **PREPARATION – THINGS YOU WANT TO KNOW ABOUT COLOSSIANS - Pages 204 - 213**

1. Intro – What is the book like?
2. Theme – What is this book about?
3. Purpose – Why was it written?
4. Outline – How is the book organized?
5. Verses – How does it read?
6. Navigation – How do I move through it?
7. Unique things – What makes this book or its author special?
8. Recap – What should I remember most?

### **INFORMATION – READ COLOSSIANS FOR YOURSELF**

What are the verses, stories, or ideas that impressed you or caught your attention?

- 1.

### **MEDITATION –**

1. Why do you think it is vitally important to know and to believe the truth about Christ which is found in the Bible? What happens when conflicting or additional ideas become mixed with Biblical truth?
2. In Colossians 1: 15 – 20, Paul presents many facts about who Christ is and what He has done. Write these ideas out in your own words so that they become personal to you.
3. What are the 3 words of advice that Paul gives in Colossians 3: 15 – 17? How do you put these into practice in your own life?

### **APPLICATION –**

What is the invitation that Jesus is giving to you through your study of His Word? Did you notice the check list in chapter 1? Bearing fruit . . . , growing in the knowledge . . . , being strengthened . . . and giving thanks . . . – How are you doing when it comes to pleasing the One you have redeemed you and made you His child?

# **FRAMEWORKS – Navigating the NEW TESTAMENT**

## **Lesson 14 - I THESSALONIANS – JESUS IS COMING BACK SOON**

“The day of the Lord’s return will come unexpectedly . . .” I Thessalonians 5: 2

### **PREPARATION – THINGS YOU WANT TO KNOW ABOUT I THESSALONIANS - Pages 214 - 223**

1. Intro – What is the book like?
2. Theme – What is this book about?
3. Purpose – Why was it written?
4. Outline – How is the book organized?
5. Verses – How does it read?
6. Navigation – How do I move through it?
7. Unique things – What makes this book or its author special?
8. Recap – What should I remember most?

### **INFORMATION – READ I THESSALONIANS FOR YOURSELF**

What are the verses, stories, or ideas that impressed you or caught your attention?

- 1.

### **MEDITATION –**

1. Why do you think that Paul wanted to write this letter? Do you think that he accomplished his purposes? How do you think the new believers would have responded to this letter?
2. Along with many words of affirmation and encouragement, Paul wrote some instructions. What did he want them/us to remember and to do?
3. Jesus is coming again! What did Paul teach in this letter about His return and what could be expected?

### **APPLICATION –**

What is the invitation that Jesus is giving to you through your study of His Word? There is a wonderful blessing that Paul gave to his friends and gives to us in I Thess. 5: 23 – 24. As you listen to the quiet voice of God, you might want to use this as the basis of your own prayer of thanksgiving and commitment.

# **FRAMEWORKS – Navigating the NEW TESTAMENT**

## **LESSON 15 - II THESSALONIANS – But Not THAT Soon**

*“Now, dear brothers and sisters, let us clarify some things about the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.”*

II Thessalonians 2: 1 - 2

### **PREPARATION – THINGS YOU WANT TO KNOW ABOUT II THESSALONIANS - Pages 224 - 231**

1. Intro – What is the book like?
2. Theme – What is this book about?
3. Purpose – Why was it written?
4. Outline – How is the book organized?
5. Verses – How does it read?
6. Navigation – How do I move through it?
7. Unique things – What makes this book or its author special?
8. Recap – What should I remember most?

### **INFORMATION – READ II THESSALONIANS FOR YOURSELF**

What are the verses, stories, or ideas that impressed you or caught your attention?

- 1.

### **MEDITATION –**

1. Put yourself in Paul’s place. What would you have done to encourage the believers who were suffering and being distracted by false teachers? What can you learn about encouragement from this letter?
2. What did Paul teach about the Antichrist and his activities? Why didn’t he provide more details? Should he? Why or why not?
3. What do you think Paul would want to write about to the believers that you know the best? Would it be laziness, being a “busy body”, or simply complacency about meeting needs which are so obvious and real (doing what is right and good)? Or would it be something entirely different?

### **APPLICATION –**

What is the invitation that Jesus is giving to you through your study of His Word? It is a great prayer to pray for yourself and for others – II Thessalonians 3: 5. “May the Lord direct your hearts (my heart) into God’s love and Christ’s perseverance”. What would living out these 2 ideas look like for you today and tomorrow?



# **FRAMEWORKS – Navigating the NEW TESTAMENT**

## **LESSON 16 - I TIMOTHY – HOLD ON, I'M COMING**

*"I am writing these things to you now, even though I hope to be with you soon . . ." I Timothy 3: 14*

### **PREPARATION – THINGS YOU WANT TO KNOW ABOUT I TIMOTHY - Pages 232 - 243**

1. Intro – What is the book like?
2. Theme – What is this book about?
3. Purpose – Why was it written?
4. Outline – How is the book organized?
5. Verses – How does it read?
6. Navigation – How do I move through it?
7. Unique things – What makes this book or its author special?
8. Recap – What should I remember most?

### **INFORMATION – READ I TIMOTHY FOR YOURSELF**

What are the verses, stories, or ideas that impressed you or caught your attention?

- 1.

### **MEDITATION –**

1. Would you qualify to be in leadership based on the list in I Timothy 3: 1 – 13 and 5: 17 – 20. Why or why not? Do you think this is a good list that should continue to serve as a guideline for church leadership today?
2. Why do you think Paul is so concerned about the behavior and relationships within the church? How will this letter encourage Timothy to be an example that will reinforce what he is teaching?
3. When it comes to the subject of money, Paul gives some very clear warnings and advice – I Timothy 6: 6 – 10 and 6: 17 – 19. Is this applicable to you and to me?

### **APPLICATION –**

What is the invitation that Jesus is giving to you through your study of His Word? As you read Paul's testimony, his story, in this letter (1: 12 – 17), take time to think about your own story and give God your praise and thanksgiving. He delights in hearing from those who have responded to His grace and mercy, freely given through His Son, Jesus.

# **FRAMEWORKS – Navigating the NEW TESTAMENT**

## **LESSON 17 - II TIMOTHY – GOODBYE FOR NOW**

“The time of my death is near. I have fought the good fight,  
I have finished the race, and I have remained faithful.” II Timothy 4: 6 - 7

### **PREPARATION – THINGS YOU WANT TO KNOW ABOUT II TIMOTHY - Pages 244-253**

1. Intro – What is the book like?
  
2. Theme – What is this book about?
  
3. Purpose – Why was it written?
  
4. Outline – How is the book organized?
  
5. Verses – How does it read?
  
6. Navigation – How do I move through it?
  
7. Unique things – What makes this book or its author special?
  
8. Recap – What should I remember most?

### **INFORMATION – READ II TIMOTHY FOR YOURSELF**

What are the verses, stories, or ideas that impressed you or caught your attention?

- 1.

### **MEDITATION –**

1. In II Timothy 2: 1 – 7, Paul uses the triple metaphor of a combat soldier, an Olympic athlete & a diligent farmer to convey his message. What do you think he is trying to help Timothy grasp through these illustrations?
  
2. There are some very clear instructions about teaching and preaching in this short letter. Clearly Paul was very concerned that Timothy stay focused on the Word and true to the things that he had been taught. What else did he want Timothy to know about his responsibilities?
  
3. Around the world and throughout the centuries, Christians have suffered and endured intense persecution. How do you think you would do if persecution or the possibility of prison or death were constantly threatening you?

### **APPLICATION –**

What is the invitation that Jesus is giving to you through your study of His Word? Have you memorized II Timothy 1: 7? It might be a good thing to do, so that you can keep clearly in mind what the Spirit of God wants to do for you and in you.

# **FRAMEWORKS – Navigating the NEW TESTAMENT**

## **LESSON 18 - TITUS – CLEANING UP A CRETAN MESS**

“I left you on the island of Crete so you could complete our work there.” Titus 1: 5

### **PREPARATION – THINGS YOU WANT TO KNOW ABOUT TITUS - Pages 254- 263**

1. Intro – What is the book like?
2. Theme – What is this book about?
3. Purpose – Why was it written?
4. Outline – How is the book organized?
5. Verses – How does it read?
6. Navigation – How do I move through it?
7. Unique things – What makes this book or its author special?
8. Recap – What should I remember most?

### **INFORMATION – READ TITUS FOR YOURSELF**

What are the verses, stories, or ideas that impressed you or caught your attention?

- 1.

### **MEDITATION –**

1. Why do you think that Paul writes a rather lengthy introduction about himself to his “true son”, Titus? What does he want Titus to think about as he begins to read this letter?
2. While Paul makes it clear that salvation is only because of God’s mercy and never because any one’s righteous behavior, the emphasis on good works is impressive – 1: 16, 2: 7, 3: 1, 8, and 14. Why?
3. There is a succinct explanation of why Jesus came in Titus 2: 11 – 14. Try writing these verses in your own words. How does it modify or strengthen what you believe?

### **APPLICATION –**

What is the invitation that Jesus is giving to you through your study of His Word? Find the word hope in this letter and underscore it. How did “hope” motivate Paul’s entire life and message? What is your hope based on and how does this hope influence the way that you think about your future?

# **FRAMEWORKS – Navigating the NEW TESTAMENT**

## **LESSON 19 - PHILEMON – YOU OWE ME ONE**

*“It seems Onesimus ran away for a little while so that you could have him back forever.”* Philemon - verse 15

### **PREPARATION – THINGS YOU WANT TO KNOW ABOUT PHILEMON - Pages 264 - 271**

1. Intro – What is the book like?
2. Theme – What is this book about?
3. Purpose – Why was it written?
4. Outline – How is the book organized?
5. Verses – How does it read?
6. Navigation – How do I move through it?
7. Unique things – What makes this book or its author special?
8. Recap – What should I remember most?

### **INFORMATION – READ PHILEMON FOR YOURSELF**

What are the verses, stories, or ideas that impressed you or caught your attention?

- 1.

### **MEDITATION**

1. Rather than use his authority, Paul appeals to his friend Philemon on the basis of love. Why do you think that he chose to do this? How would the results be different – for everyone involved?
2. How do you explain verse 6 – “as you actively share your faith, you will have a full understanding of every good thing we have in Christ”. What do new believers bring to those who have “shared their faith”?
3. How do you think Paul’s willingness to pay back Onesimus’ debt of any kind for him impact the decision that Philemon made? Why would Paul offer to do this for his friend?

### **APPLICATION –**

What is the invitation that Jesus is giving to you through your study of His Word? Forgiveness. Why? When? How? Is there someone who needs your forgiveness – your acceptance, your willingness to accept him/her as a brother or sister? Let the One who is always ready to forgive you speak reassurance and clarity into your heart and mind.

# **FRAMEWORKS – Navigating the NEW TESTAMENT**

## **LESSON 20 - HEBREWS – CHOOSE THE BETTER PATH**

“Jesus . . . has been given a ministry that is far superior.” Hebrews 8: 6

### **PREPARATION – THINGS YOU WANT TO KNOW ABOUT HEBREWS - Pages 272 - 283**

1. Intro – What is the book like?
2. Theme – What is this book about?
3. Purpose – Why was it written?
4. Outline – How is the book organized?
5. Verses – How does it read?
6. Navigation – How do I move through it?
7. Unique things – What makes this book or its author special?
8. Recap – What should I remember most?

### **INFORMATION – READ HEBREWS FOR YOURSELF**

What are the verses, stories, or ideas that impressed you or caught your attention?

- 1.

### **MEDITATION –**

1. Today, Jesus is in heaven, interceding before the Father's throne for His followers on earth. As you picture this, how does it make you feel? What do you think this means?
2. Angels have a very specific assignment, don't they? Hebrews 1: 14 indicates that they are to assist and protect “those who will inherit salvation”. How do Paul's words about angels fit with what you have been taught?
3. The author of Hebrews repeats this idea throughout the book – “Keep your thoughts/eyes focused on Jesus!” How do you think that we do this? What helps you? What distracts you?

### **APPLICATION –**

What is the invitation that Jesus is giving to you through your study of His Word? Aren't you thankful that your salvation is not dependent on “trying harder”. Think about the blessing given in Hebrews 13: 20 – 21. It is the Lord Jesus who will equip you to do His will and will work in you what is pleasing to Him. Believe or not! That's what we call faith, isn't it?

# **FRAMEWORKS – Navigating the NEW TESTAMENT**

## **LESSON 21 - JAMES – STEP UP**

*“Unless (faith) produces good deeds, it is dead and useless.”* James 2:17

### **PREPARATION – THINGS YOU WANT TO KNOW ABOUT JAMES - Pages 284 - 293**

1. Intro – What is the book like?
2. Theme – What is this book about?
3. Purpose – Why was it written?
4. Outline – How is the book organized?
5. Verses – How does it read?
6. Navigation – How do I move through it?
7. Unique things – What makes this book or its author special?
8. Recap – What should I remember most?

### **INFORMATION – READ JAMES FOR YOURSELF**

What are the verses, stories, or ideas that impressed you or caught your attention?

- 1.

### **MEDITATION –**

1. Why is Abraham a good example of the relationship between faith and actions? Does this contradict or compliment verses such as Romans 3: 21 – 31? How do you explain James 2: 26?
2. James uses some very clear illustrations about the power of the tongue for good and for evil – James 3: 1- 12. How would you summarize this very forceful teaching? Do you agree with James? Why or why not?
3. As you read this letter, what is the tone of voice that you hear? He used the phrase “my brothers” at least eleven times and yet the words are so direct and sometimes harsh. Obviously he feels very strongly about the need for his message to be heard and to be taken seriously. Do you think believers need to hear from James today? Why?

### **APPLICATION –**

What is the invitation that Jesus is giving to you through your study of His Word? There are some very reassuring promises in this letter – James 1: 5 and 12, 4: 8 and 10, and 5: 16. What would God like to whisper in your ear as He calls you to Himself. Listen for His still, small voice and His reassurance that His Spirit is within you.

# **FRAMEWORKS – Navigating the NEW TESTAMENT**

## **LESSON 22 - I PETER – HANG TOUGH**

**"Stand firm against (the devil), and be strong in your faith."** I Peter 5: 9

### **PREPARATION – THINGS YOU WANT TO KNOW ABOUT I PETER - Pages 294 - 303**

1. Intro – What is the book like?
2. Theme – What is this book about?
3. Purpose – Why was it written?
4. Outline – How is the book organized?
5. Verses – How does it read?
6. Navigation – How do I move through it?
7. Unique things – What makes this book or its author special?
8. Recap – What should I remember most?

### **INFORMATION – READ I PETER FOR YOURSELF**

What are the verses, stories, or ideas that impressed you or caught your attention?

- 1.

### **MEDITATION -**

1. Life may have been really hard, but Peter modeled for his readers, exactly what to do when the temptation is to give up or give in. How did he start his letter? What did he include in the first 12 verses? How did this help?
2. What did Peter teach about suffering? Find all of the verses that mention it. What are your observations, your questions and your insights?
3. Tucked in among the verses about suffering and the call to holy living are some wonderful promises that give hope to those who know Jesus. Find some of them and put them in to your own words.

### **APPLICATION –**

What is the invitation that Jesus is giving to you through your study of His Word? We have never been promised that this life will be easy, painless or predictable. What has the "God of all grace" promised you – I Peter 5: 10 - 11? Will you trust Him?

## **FRAMEWORKS – Navigating the NEW TESTAMENT**

### **LESSON 23 - II PETER – WATCH OUT FOR THE WOLVES**

“Be on guard so that you will not be carried away . . . ” II Peter 3: 17

#### **PREPARATION – THINGS YOU WANT TO KNOW ABOUT II PETER - Pages 304 - 311**

1. Intro – What is the book like?
2. Theme – What is this book about?
3. Purpose – Why was it written?
4. Outline – How is the book organized?
5. Verses – How does it read?
6. Navigation – How do I move through it?
7. Unique things – What makes this book or its author special?
8. Recap – What should I remember most?

#### **INFORMATION – READ II PETER FOR YOURSELF**

What are the verses, stories, or ideas that impressed you or caught your attention?

- 1.

#### **MEDITATION –**

1. According to II Peter 1: 2 – 4, we have “everything that we need to experience life and godliness”. How does this work out in real life for you and for the believers that you know best?
2. Do you think that the problem of false teachers is with us today? How would you identify them? Why are they so dangerous?
3. If you were living under really intense persecution, do you think your interest in “the day of the Lord” would be different than your present experience? How do the words in chapter 3 encourage or inspire you?

#### **APPLICATION –**

What is the invitation that Jesus is giving to you through your study of His Word? “Grow in grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ” – I Peter 3: 18. What are you doing to “fertilize” the seeds of faith in your own life these days? Why not take a serious look at the divine power that is yours in Christ and the promises that are in His Word?



# **FRAMEWORKS – Navigating the NEW TESTAMENT**

## **LESSON 24 - I JOHN – YOU'VE LOST THAT LOVIN' FEELING**

*"God is love, and all who live in love live in God, and God lives in them."*

I John 4: 16

### **PREPARATION – THINGS YOU WANT TO KNOW ABOUT I JOHN - Pages 312 - 321**

1. Intro – What is the book like?
2. Theme – What is this book about?
3. Purpose – Why was it written?
4. Outline – How is the book organized?
5. Verses – How does it read?
6. Navigation – How do I move through it?
7. Unique things – What makes this book or its author special?
8. Recap – What should I remember most?

### **INFORMATION – READ I JOHN FOR YOURSELF**

What are the verses, stories, or ideas that impressed you or caught your attention?

- 1.

### **MEDITATION –**

1. When John wrote this letter, he was probably over 80 years old, so it seems natural that he would call the readers "dear or little children". What is he trying to communicate to them by using this term of endearment?
2. Intellectualism comes in many forms, doesn't it? What are the fundamentals of the faith that John reminds these believers to recall and to believe? How will this help them to be clear about who Jesus is and why He came.
3. Love is a central theme in this entire letter. John carefully explains the source of genuine love and illustrates the concept of what real love actually is. He also takes time to warn the readers about what not to love. What impresses you about this presentation of love? How is it different than our culture's view of love?

### **APPLICATION –**

What is the invitation that Jesus is giving to you through your study of His Word? There seems to be 2 extremes among people. Some people can hardly believe that God could really forgive them – everyone else, yes, but not them. The opposite extreme is that there are other people who do not even see themselves as sinners needing much forgiveness. Where do you think you fit in to this spectrum? As you listen to the Lord, let the words of John 1: 5 – 2:2 fill your heart and mind.

## **FRAMEWORKS – Navigating the NEW TESTAMENT**

### **LESSON 25 - II JOHN – Guess Who’s NOT Coming to Dinner?**

“I say this because many deceivers have gone out into the world.” II John – verse 7

### **III JOHN – Memo’s to 3 Christian Brothers with Difficult Names**

“Dear friend, don’t let this bad example influence you. Follow only what is good.” III John verse 11

#### **PREPARATION – THINGS YOU WANT TO KNOW ABOUT II and III JOHN - Pages 322 - 331**

##### SECOND JOHN –

1. Distinctives to Remember
2. Navigation – How do I move through it?
3. Unique things – What makes this book or its author special?
4. Recap – What should I remember most?

##### THIRD JOHN -

1. Distinctives to Remember
2. Navigation – How do I move through it?
3. Unique things – What makes this book or its author special?
4. Recap – What should I remember most?

#### **INFORMATION – READ II and III JOHN FOR YOURSELF**

What are the verses, stories, or ideas that impressed you or caught your attention?

#### **MEDITATION –**

1. What are the Biblical basics (theological convictions) in your faith that you consider to be “non-negotiable”? Make a list of them for your own consideration.
2. How do you discern truth from error in your church and with your associates? What helps you know truth?
3. What is the criticism that John made against Diotrophes and why did he commend Demetrius?

#### **APPLICATION –**

What is the invitation that Jesus is giving to you through your study of His Word? There it is again! The idea that we are called to “walk in love” or as the Amplified Version says “guided by it and following it”. How will that impact you today?

# **FRAMEWORKS – Navigating the NEW TESTAMENT**

## **LESSON 26 - JUDE – OUR CHURCHES HAVE WORMS**

"Some ungodly people have wormed their way into your churches." Jude – verse 3

### **PREPARATION – THINGS YOU WANT TO KNOW ABOUT JUDE - Pages 332 - 339**

1. Intro – What is the book like?
2. Theme – What is this book about?
3. Purpose – Why was it written?
4. Outline – How is the book organized?
5. Verses – How does it read?
6. Navigation – How do I move through it?
7. Unique things – What makes this book or its author special?
8. Recap – What should I remember most?

### **INFORMATION – READ JUDE FOR YOURSELF**

What are the verses, stories, or ideas that impressed you or caught your attention?

- 1.

### **MEDITATION –**

1. What do you think that Jude would write to your church and mine today? Would he be concerned about some of the very same issues or not? What are your concerns today in the arena of morals and truth for believers?
2. There are many people today who oppose Christians, aren't there? Sometimes they come in the guise of an atheist, who mocks the existence of God or a critic who believes that there are many ways to God or a cynic who feels that there are mostly hypocrites in the church. What other forms do scoffers take in your experience? How do they undermine faith?
3. What are the 6 things that Jude advises his friends to do in verses 20 – 23? Are they all equally important?

### **APPLICATION –**

What is the invitation that Jesus is giving to you through your study of His Word? Jude's final blessing and doxology is full of reassurance and praise – verses 24 and 25. Make it your own by putting it in your own words – a prayer of thanksgiving and worship.

# **FRAMEWORKS – Navigating the NEW TESTAMENT**

## **LESSON 27 - REVELATION – GOD’S LION RETURNS, ROUTS and REIGNS**

“On his robe . . . was written . . . King of all kings and Lord of all lords.” Revelation 19: 16

### **PREPARATION – THINGS YOU WANT TO KNOW ABOUT REVELATION - Pages 340 - 353**

1. Intro – What is the book like?
2. Theme – What is this book about?
3. Purpose – Why was it written?
4. Outline – How is the book organized?
5. Verses – How does it read?
6. Navigation – How do I move through it?
7. Unique things – What makes this book or its author special?
8. Recap – What should I remember most?

### **INFORMATION – READ REVELATION FOR YOURSELF**

What are the verses, stories, or ideas that impressed you or caught your attention?

- 1.

### **MEDITATION –**

1. In this book, God uses symbolic language to convey meaning. What are both the potential advantages and disadvantages of this type of presentation for John’s readers? For today’s readers, like you and me?
2. As you watch for descriptions and names of Jesus, what are some of them that stand out to you and give meaning to who He really is and what is will do when He comes as King of Kings and Lord of Lords?
3. Revelation 22: 20 – “Come, Lord Jesus.” Do you agree with the idea that this is the most important prayer in the Bible? Why or why not? When are you most inclined to pray this prayer along with believers of all time?

### **APPLICATION –**

What is the invitation that Jesus is giving to you through your study of His Word? Two invitations – one in Revelation 3: 20 and the other in Revelation 22: 17. Who extends these invitations and to whom are they given? What is your RSVP?