

A Passion for the Fatherless

*Developing a God-Centered
Ministry to Orphans*

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Session 1: The Uniqueness of Christian Orphan Care

Pre-Study

Purchase *A Passion for the Fatherless* and read pages 19-38.

Introductions and Starter Questions

Why is a Bible study necessary?

1. It is necessary because we must do the _____ things for the _____ reasons.
2. It is necessary because _____ are in _____.
 - a. Matt 9:35-38
 - b. Mark 6:30-44
 - c. Luke 7:11-17
3. It is necessary because Christians are not thinking _____ about caring for orphans.
4. It is necessary because the church lacks _____ to help its people learn how to care for orphans.

What is not unique about the Christian's care for the orphan?

What is unique about the Christian life?

1. Isaiah 43:7:
2. Psalm 106:7-8:
3. Isaiah 48:9-11
4. Matthew 5:16
5. Habakkuk 2:14.

What is unique about the Christian's care for the orphan?

Preparing for next time: Read *A Passion for the Fatherless*, pages 39-55.

Session 2: Compassion, the Disenfranchised, and the Orphan

Pre-Study

Read *A Passion for the Fatherless*, pages 39-55.

Fellowship and Prayer

Starter Questions

Passionless Compassion

God has Compassion for the Disenfranchised

1. God's care for the disenfranchised
 - a. Proverbs 23:10-11
 - b. Malachi 3:5
 - c. James 5:4
2. Jesus' compassion
 - a. Matthew 9:35-38
 - b. Mark 6:30-44
 - c. Luke 7:11-17
3. Four groups that receive God's special attention and compassion
 - a. Exodus 22:21-27
 - b. Leviticus 25
 - c. 1 Timothy 4:3-16
 - d. Luke's theology

The Essence of God's Compassion

1. James 1:26-27
2. Isaiah 61:1-3

God's People have Compassion

Application Questions

Preparing for Next Time

Read pp. 57-81 of *A Passion for the Fatherless*

Session 3: A Theology of Adoption

Pre-Study

Read pp. 57-81 of *A Passion for the Fatherless*

Fellowship and Prayer

Starter Questions

Six Truths Regarding Our Adoption from the Book of Romans

1. Our adoption was accomplished _____ our _____
(Romans 3:10-23; cf. Romans 5:6-11).
2. Our adoption was an _____ of _____ (Romans 3:24-26).
3. Our adoption was accomplished through the _____ of our _____
(Romans 5:6-11; 6:1-11).
4. Our adoption makes us a _____ of a _____ (Romans 8:14-17).
5. Our adoption can never be _____ (Romans 8:14-39).
6. Our adoption is for the _____ of _____ (Romans 9:22-29).

Application Questions

Preparing for Next Time

Read *A Passion for the Fatherless*, pp. 85-96.

Session 4: Blessings, Missions, and Orphans

Pre-Study

Read pp. 85-96 of *A Passion for the Fatherless*

Fellowship and Prayer

Starter Questions

#1: Missions and Orphan Ministry Both _____ .

#2: Missions and Orphan Ministry Both _____ .

#3: Missions and Orphan Ministry Both _____ .

Preparing for Next Time

Read *A Passion for the Fatherless*, pp. 97-113.

Session 5: When *Not* to Care for Orphans

Pre-Study

Read *A Passion for the Fatherless*, pp. 97-113

Fellowship and Prayer

Do not care for orphans if you are _____ .

Do not care for orphans if you have not properly _____ the _____ .

Do not care for orphans if you are doing so on your _____ .

Do not care for orphans if you are _____ .

Preparing for Next Time

Read *A Passion for the Fatherless*, pp. 113-127

Session 6: Caring for the Orphan is Gloriously Painful

Pre-Study

Read *A Passion for the Fatherless*, pp. 113-127

Fellowship and Prayer

The Idolatry of Ease

Why Suffer?

Suffering Produces _____ (2 Cor 1:3-6).

Suffering Strengthens _____ (2 Cor 1:8-10).

Suffering Proclaims _____ (2 Cor 4:7-12).

Suffering Yields _____ (2 Cor 4:16-18).

Suffering Results _____ (2 Cor 12:7-9).

Preparing for Next Time

Read *A Passion for the Fatherless*, pp. 129-146

Session 7: Decision Making & Moving Forward

Pre-Study

Read *A Passion for the Fatherless*, pp. 97-113.

Fellowship and Prayer

1. Read Isaiah 46:1-11. What does this tell you about God's will?
2. Look through the following passage and identify whether they are referring to God's will of decree or his will of desire:
 - a. Mark 3:35
 - b. John 1:13
 - c. Romans 15:32
 - d. Ephesians 1:1
 - e. Ephesians 6:5-7
 - f. Colossians 4:12
 - g. Hebrews 10:36
 - h. 1 John 2:17
 - i. Revelation 4:11

Reviewing Principles from the Chapter

1. What is meant by God's decreed will? How does understanding that aspect of God's will impact our life? How should we view the plans we make for our life?
2. What is meant by God's declared will? What are some clear instructions that God has given that you struggle to obey? Can you think of ways your obedience might help you with decisions you need to make?

3. What are some of the mistakes people make as they search for God to direct specific decisions they must make? What are some unbiblical ways that people search for guidance?
4. What are some of the things we can be confident of as we speak of God's will?

Application Questions

1. What are some of the big decisions you need to make in your life regarding orphan care ministry? List the top 5-10 decisions that need to be made.
2. Look at the suggestions given in the section "God's Will and the Orphan" (see pp. 165ff.) How can they be applied to the decisions you listed?