

GOD'S TEAM



GULF SHORES
CHURCH OF CHRIST
Gulf Shores, AL

BIBLE CLASS STUDY GUIDE

Prepared by Ray Reynolds



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This study guide was created by Ray Reynolds for use in Bible classes at the Gulf Shores Church of Christ (Gulf Shores, AL). The material presented in this class series will be gleaned from personal notes, the New King James Study Bible, and other various sources.



GOD'S TEAM

Lesson #1 = God's Dream Team (by Ray Reynolds)

Text: Romans 12:1-2

Introduction: God is calling us to become a member of His team. He is looking for people that will accept His coaching, commit to work hard, and will not quit in the fourth quarter of life. Paul said, *"For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's"* (**I Corinthians 6:20**). You belong to Him! What does it mean to be purchased and adopted by God? Let's study together...

Discussion:

I. God Needs Your Heart

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind" (**Matthew 22:37**). What can you do to surrender your heart to God?

II. God Needs Your Eyes

"The lamp of the body is the eye. Therefore, when your eye is good, your whole body also is full of light. But when your eye is bad, your body is also full of darkness" (**Luke 11:34**). What can you do to surrender your eyes to God?

III. God Needs Your Ears

"He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches" (**Revelation 2:7**). What can you do to surrender your ears to God?

IV. God Needs Your Mouth

"Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor, for we are members of one another" (**Ephesians 4:25**). What can you do to surrender your mouth to God?

V. God Needs Your Hands

"Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double minded" (**James 4:8**). What can you do to surrender your hands to God?

VI. God Needs Your Feet

"How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, who bring glad tidings of good things" (**Romans 10:15**). What can you do to surrender your feet?

Conclusion: We need to surrender everything we have to God! Are you a member of God's team? Are you doing your part to bring growth to the church? Are you active, involved, and contributing to the Lord's work? The body of Christ needs you!



GOD'S TEAM

Lesson #2 = Recruiting New Members (by Ray Reynolds)

Text: Acts 17:16-34

Introduction: Many of you have asked me to deliver lessons on how to do personal evangelism. We need to reach the lost in our community. We need to be looking for ways to bring people into the church. How can we get them to join God's team? What would Jesus do? What would Paul do? Let's notice twelve tips from Paul. Let's study together...

Discussion:

TIP #1 = Be Touched By The Lost (v.16)

How can you do accomplish this task?

TIP #2 = Seek Listeners Everywhere (v.17)

How can you do accomplish this task?

TIP #3 = Know Their Philosophy & Be Ready To Respond To It (v.18)

How can you do accomplish this task?

TIP #4 = Present The Gospel (v.18)

How can you do accomplish this task?

TIP #5 = Use Common Sense (vs.18-21)

How can you do accomplish this task?

TIP #6 = Find Common Ground (v.22)

How can you do accomplish this task?

TIP #7 = Hold Their Attention (vs.18-23)

How can you do accomplish this task?

TIP #8 = Talk About The Nature of God (vs.24-27)

How can you do accomplish this task?

TIP #9 = Respect Their Culture (v.28)

How can you do accomplish this task?

TIP #10 = Challenge Them To Change (vs.29-30)

How can you do accomplish this task?

TIP #11 = Lead Them To Conform To The Lord's Will (v.31)

How can you do accomplish this task?

TIP #12 = Be Kind & Courteous (vs.32-34)

How can you do accomplish this task?

Conclusion: Our work will be a blessing to this community. As we bear fruit our zeal will be contagious. We need to trust that God will provide us with opportunities and blessings. Are you recruiting new team members? Are you on God's team?



GOD'S TEAM

Lesson #3 = God's Playbook (by Ray Reynolds)

Text: Romans 12:3-4

Introduction: In sports, in order to be an effective player, and make a lot of plays, it's important to know your position and how to position yourself to make the plays. In Christ we have all been given positions, ministries, gifts and talents that make up our calling in God. Do you know your position? Let's look at part of God's playbook

Discussion:

I. Give Glory to God, Not Yourself (v.3)

What does the Bible say about this? What will you do about it?

Ephesians 1:11	II Timothy 1:9	Matthew 16:18	Joel 2:2-11
Romans 12:1-2	II Corinthians 3:17-18	Ephesians 4:13	Ephesians 6
Matthew 24:14	I Timothy 3:15	Romans 12:3	

II. Elevate Christ's Example, Not Your Own (v.3)

What does the Bible say about this? What will you do about it?

I Peter 2:21-25	Philippians 2:5	I Corinthians 11:1	Romans 12:3
II Peter 1:3-4	I Samuel 14	Philippians 4:13	Romans 8:37
II Corinthians 2:14			

III. Follow His Plan, Not Your Own (v.3)

What does the Bible say about this? What will you do about it?

Ephesians 1:17-19	Daniel 11:32	II Samuel 17	Matthew 6:33
I Peter 2:15	Matthew 26:39	James 4:13-17	Romans 12:3

IV. Have Faith, Not Doubt (v.3)

What does the Bible say about this? What will you do about it?

Mark 9:23	Matthew 17:20	II John 8	Proverbs 3:5
Philippians 3:14	Hebrews 11:1	Psalms 37:5	Romans 12:3

V. Stay Focused, Don't Quit (v.4)

What does the Bible say about this? What will you do about it?

Acts 20:24	II Corinthians 11:23	II Timothy 4:6-8	I Peter 5
Luke 22:60-62	Romans 12:4	Acts 2	Acts 4
Acts 9	Acts 10-11	Acts 12	

Conclusion: While we sit on the sidelines, it should drive us crazy. We should want to get back in the game. Have you allowed your wounds and disappointments to take you out of the game? Remember the advice of the Hebrew writer in **Hebrews 12:12-13**. Get some rehab, recoup, and get back in the game! God wants to do great things in our lives! Let's put on our uniform and start following God's playbook! Let's follow His game plan and we will succeed!



GOD'S TEAM

Lesson #4 = The Right Equipment (by Ray Reynolds)

Text: Ephesians 4:1-16

Introduction: Have you ever entered a game and learned all too late that you were ill equipped? **Romans 12:4-16** and **I Corinthians 12:12-31** encourage us to get in the game, but **Ephesians 4:1-16** tells us that we need to be equipped. Are you using the right equipment? Let's study together...

Discussion:

I. Equip Yourself With Knowledge

- A. ONE GOD = ONE LORD, ONE SAVIOR, AND ONE SPIRIT (**Ephesians 4:3-6**)
- B. ONE BODY = THE CHURCH (**Romans 12:4-8, I Corinthians 12:12-26, Ephesians 4:13**)
- C. ONE PURPOSE = TEACH & EDIFY (**I Corinthians 12:27-31**)
- D. ONE FELLOWSHIP = UNITY (**Romans 12:4-5, I Corinthians 12:27, Ephesians 4:3, 13**)
- E. ONE VALUE = ALL ARE SPECIAL (**I Corinthians 12:14-22, Ephesians 4:12-13**)
- F. ONE FAITH = ALL CAN BELIEVE (**Romans 12:13, Ephesians 4:5**)
- G. ONE BAPTISM = ALL ARE SAVED (**Romans 12:13, Ephesians 4:5**)

What else can you do to equip yourself with knowledge?

II. Equip Yourself With Maturity

- A. WE SEEK COMMON GRACES (**Romans 12:4-10, I Corinthians 12:12, Ephesians 3:14-19, 4:2,15-16**)
- B. WE PERFORM COMMON DUTIES (**Romans 12:9-16, I Corinthians 12:21-26**)
- C. WE HAVE COMMON GOALS (**I Corinthians 12:18, I Corinthians 13:1-13**)

What else can you do to equip yourself with maturity?

III. Equip Yourself With Purpose

- A. ONE BODY = MANY MEMBERS (**Romans 12:4-5, I Corinthians 12:4-21**)
- B. MANY MEMBERS = DIFFERENT GIFTS (**Romans 12:6, I Corinthians 12:7-11, Ephesians 4:7**)
- C. DIFFERENT GIFTS = DIFFERENT FUNCTIONS (**Romans 12:4, Ephesians 4:11-13**)
- D. DIFFERENT FUNCTIONS = DIFFERENT WORKS (**Romans 12:6-8, I Corinthians 12:4-6, Ephesians 4:11-13**)
- E. DIFFERENT WORKS = EVERYONE IS IMPORTANT (**Ephesians 4:16, I Corinthians 12:7**)

What else can you do to equip yourself with purpose?

IV. Equip Yourself With Focus

- A. CHRISTIAN SERVICE (**Acts 2:3, I Corinthians 12:4-11, Ephesians 4:7, Hebrews 2:4, I Peter 4**)
- B. MINISTRY MOMENTS (**Romans 11:29, I Corinthians 9:16, Ephesians 4:12, Philippians 4:15, Titus 2:14, 3:1-14**)
- C. PERSONAL INVENTORY (**I Corinthians 12:12-13, 18, Ephesians 4:16**)
- D. GET CONNECTED (**I Corinthians 12:12-13, Ephesians 4:16, I Peter.4:10, Hebrews 10:24-25**)

What else can you do to equip yourself with focus?

Conclusion: Are you properly equipped? If not, you won't get very far and you will not be successful. Are you ready to get in the game? If not, the sidelines may look fun, but when the final buzzer goes off you will regret that decision. Are you ready to win? Only on God's team!



GOD'S TEAM

Lesson #5 = Focus On Teamwork (by Ray Reynolds)

TEXT: Romans 12:5-8

Introduction: Paul continually advocates that Christians are one body in Christ (**Romans 12, I Corinthians 12, Ephesians 4-5**, etc.). As one body, we are individually members of one another and must work together in unity to assure that the body is working at its peak efficiency. This takes both focus and determination. It also will prove to be a guaranteed road to success. Let's study together...

Discussion:

I. SOME HAVE THE GIFT OF PROPHECY (v.6)

II Timothy 4:2, II Timothy 1:6

What was the purpose of this gift? Explain.

II. SOME HAVE THE GIFT OF SERVING (v.7)

II Timothy 4:5, Romans 16:1-2, I Timothy 3:8-13

What was the purpose of this gift? Explain.

III. SOME HAVE THE GIFT OF TEACHING (v.7)

Acts 18:26, Acts 28:31, Titus 2:1-10

What was the purpose of this gift? Explain.

IV. SOME HAVE THE GIFT OF EXHORTING (v.8)

Acts 4:36, Hebrews 3:12-13, Acts 15:31

What was the purpose of this gift? Explain.

V. SOME HAVE THE GIFT OF GIVING (v.8)

II Corinthians 9:8-11, I Timothy 6:17-19, Acts 4:32-37

What was the purpose of this gift? Explain.

VI. SOME HAVE THE GIFT OF LEADING (v.8)

Acts 20:17-28, I Peter 5:1-2, Hebrews 13:17, I Timothy 3:1-7, Titus 1:5-9

What was the purpose of this gift? Explain.

VII. SOME HAVE THE GIFT OF SHOWING MERCY (v.8)

Matthew 25:35-36, I Timothy 5, James 1:27, II Corinthians 5:18

What was the purpose of this gift? Explain.

Conclusion: This passage is very enlightening. My prayer is that you will study these seven roles and see where you fit in the Lord's church. Remember that these are the natural gifts of the Holy Spirit. Are you ready to find your place? Are you ready to help God's team? Are you on the right side? Let's work together to bless the kingdom of God!



GOD'S TEAM

Lesson #6 = Developing Team Chemistry (by Ray Reynolds)

Text: I Corinthians 12:12–33

Introduction: The body of Christ exists to show the world that Christ is still working today. Paul challenges us to see the members of our physical bodies and view them as members of the body of Christ. Each one is significant and dependent upon the others. Let's see how we can have unity and develop team chemistry.

Discussion:

I. We Are All Invited (vs.12-13)

Mark 16:15-16

Ephesians 4:11-16

Acts 2:38

Matthew 11:28-30

Matthew 22:14

Revelation 22:17

How can this fact help us to develop team chemistry? Explain.

II. We Are Not Insignificant (vs.14-20)

Romans 12:4-6

Ephesians 3-6

I Corinthians 3:16-17

Matthew 5:13

Matthew 5:15-16

I Corinthians 6:15-20

How can this fact help us to develop team chemistry? Explain.

III. We Cannot Survive Independently (vs.21-26)

Romans 12:5-8

I Corinthians 1:10

Hebrews 10:26-27

Matthew 5:14

Matthew 28:18-20

Psalm 133

How can this fact help us to develop team chemistry? Explain.

IV. We Cannot Thrive Ignorantly (vs.27-29)

John 3:16

John 8:32

John 14:6

Galatians 5:22-23

I Thessalonians 5:16-17

Matthew 22:37-40

How can this fact help us to develop team chemistry? Explain.

V. We Must Consider Our Influence (vs.30-33)

Matthew 7:12

I Corinthians 11:1

I Corinthians 10:23

I Corinthians 13:13

I Corinthians 6:12

John 13:34-35

How can this fact help us to develop team chemistry? Explain.

Conclusion: What do people see when they look at you? Are you a team player or is it all about you? These are important things to reflect on because you may hinder the team's success. We need to work on our team chemistry. Are you ready to help God's team? Will you do your part? Are you willing to do your very best for the kingdom?



GOD'S TEAM

Lesson #7 = The Red Zone (by Ray Reynolds)

Text: Luke 14:25-35

Introduction: Christians are not just members of the Body of Christ, we are disciples of Christ (**Matthew 28:19**). Jesus has no use in His army for any person who does not bear the marks of a Christian. He also has no use for one who does not meet His demands for discipleship. You cannot be a genuine disciple of Christ unless you continue in His Word. When we are on the goal line, in the red zone, and ready to score, we need to consider four things to assure our victory. Let's study together...

Discussion:

I. DIE TO SELF & GUARD AGAINST SELFISHNESS (v.26)

- A. The greatest commandment is proclaimed here (**Matthew 23:37, Exodus 20:3**).
- B. The golden rule is proclaimed here (**Matthew 7:12, Matthew 23:38**).
- C. The respect of God is proclaimed here (**Matthew 10:37, Deuteronomy 13:6-10**).
- D. The love of God is proclaimed here (**II Timothy 3:2-3, Luke 2:48-49, Matthew 12:47-50**).
- E. The glory of God is proclaimed here (**Matthew 6:33**).

What will happen if we don't execute this part of God's plan? Explain.

II. DEMONSTRATE YOUR ATTITUDE BY SERVICE (vs.27-32)

- A. The cross speaks of sacrifice (**John 3:16, John 15:12-13, Romans 12:1-2**).
- B. The cross speaks of suffering (**I Peter 2:21-24, I Peter 4:14-16**).
- C. The cross speaks of salvation (**II Corinthians 5:21, Mark 16:15-16**).

What will happen if we don't execute this part of God's plan? Explain.

III. DEDICATE YOURSELF TO SACRIFICE (v.33)

- A. A true disciple knows what to forsake (**I Corinthians 3:11**).
- B. A true disciple knows his foundation (**Ephesians 1:3**).
- C. A true disciple will finish the task at hand (**Luke 14:28**).

What will happen if we don't execute this part of God's plan? Explain.

IV. DEVOTE YOURSELF TO STEADFASTNESS (vs.34-35)

- A. A true disciple will want to follow (**Matthew 4:19**).
- B. A true disciple will want to be fruitful (**John 15:1-8**).
- C. A true disciple will want to be faithful (**Revelation 2:10**).

What will happen if we don't execute this part of God's plan? Explain.

Conclusion: A true disciple of Christ knows the demands of discipleship. He is one who has the proper attitude toward self, service, sacrifice, and steadfastness. The Lord expects nothing less than our best and requires complete commitment. We have fulfill the will of God. Are you a disciple of Christ? Are you a faithful disciple? Are you going to finish strong? May God give us endurance!



GOD'S TEAM

Lesson #8 = 4th Quarter Christianity (by Ray Reynolds)

Text: Romans 16:1-20

Introduction: Christians must believe that God is always with us (**Matthew 28:20**) and if God is on our side we have nothing to fear (**Romans 8:31**). We know that we can do all things through Christ (**Philippians 4:13**). God foretold that the seed of Christ would bruise the head of Satan (**Genesis 3:15**). With God's help, and a little wisdom from His Holy Word, we can ALL defeat Satan. In fact, **Romans 16** shows us five things to assure our victory. Let's study together...

Discussion:

I. You Must Be Sensitive (vs.1-15)

- A. The Lord values every person.
- B. The Lord's church needs good men of God.
- C. The Lord's church needs good women of God.
- D. The Lord wants us to be sensitive about the work of others.

What will happen if you are not sensitive?

II. You Must Be Supportive (v.16)

- A. We need to greet one another.
- B. We need to recognize one another.
- C. We need to edify (build up) one another.

What will happen if you are not supportive?

III. You Must Be Steadfast (vs.17-18)

- A. We need to avoid dividers.
- B. We need to avoid destroyers.
- C. We need to avoid deceivers.

What will happen if you are not steadfast?

IV. You Must Be Submissive (v.19)

- A. We need to excel in wisdom.
- B. We need to excel in goodness.
- C. We need to excel in innocence (simplicity).

What will happen if you are not submissive?

V. You Must Be Secure (v.20)

- A. The Lord our God is peaceful.
- B. The Lord our God is mighty.
- C. The Lord our God is gracious.

What will happen if you are not secure?

Conclusion: If you will follow this five-step strategy we will be victorious in defeating Satan. God has already promised victory, but don't you want to join in the fight. Either we crush him or he'll crush us. Whose side are you on? Are you ready to achieve victory? Are you ready to reach the goal? Let's be the best we can be on God's team!



GOD'S TEAM

Lesson #9 = Back to the Basics (by Ray Reynolds)

Text: Ephesians 4:1-6

Introduction: Sometimes we need to get back to the basics. In his letter to the Ephesians, Paul identifies the basic principles of God's team. We need to analyze every word, every phrase, and every thought to achieve unity today in the Lord's church. "U" and "I" can make a difference. How? Let's study together

Discussion:

I. We Must Remember Our Specific Calling (v.1)

- A. Our calling is a source of pride (**II Peter 1:10, Galatians 6:11-15**).
- B. Our calling is a source of pleasure (**Psalm 133:1-3, Romans 8**).
- C. Our calling is a reminder of our position (**Philippians 2:1-2, James 4:10**).

What did you feel like when God called you to become His child?

II. We Must Remember To Stay Focused (v.2)

- A. Following God's direction is a personal choice (**Galatians 5:22-23, John 15:1-8**).
- B. Following God's direction is prayer-driven (**John 17:1ff, I Thessalonians 5:16-17**).
- C. Following God's direction is praiseworthy (**Philippians 1:3-11, Ephesians 4:3-13**).

How can you stay focused as a child of God?

III. We Must Remember To Seek the Right Things (v.3)

- A. Christian living is peaceful (**Philippians 4:7, Matthew 18:15-18**).
- B. Christian living is practical (**I Corinthians 1:10, Amos 3:3**).
- C. Christian living is painful (**Romans 12:9-16, Galatians 6:1-2**).

What happens when you forget the first principles?

IV. We Must Remember To Have a Strong Foundation (vs.4-6)

- A. Our unity in Christ is a power issue (**Genesis 1:1-2, John 1:1-2**).
- B. Our unity in Christ is a preservation issue (**Jude 3, John 17:1ff**).
- C. Our unity in Christ is a process that requires patience (**I Corinthians 1:10, Ephesians 3:19**).

Why must we have a strong foundation in Christ?

Conclusion: You and "I" have a place in the Lord's church! We need to be seeking unity in Christ. Are you helping or hindering the work of the church? Don't ask what the church can do for you, but what you can do for the church. Get involved. Get active. If you are struggling, then get back to the basics. God will be with you!



GOD'S TEAM

Lesson #10 = Trust Your Coach (by Ray Reynolds)

Text: Romans 8:28-31

Introduction: This has been a wonderful series! I have enjoyed the “God’s Team” theme. However, before we close this series we need to consider our coach: *Our God Is Awesome!* Let’s notice some things about the One who leads this team. Let’s study together . . .

Discussion:

I. THE CONSISTENCY OF OUR COACH

- A. All-Present: **Jeremiah 23:23-24, II Chronicles 2:6, Psalm 139:7-16, Acts 17:27-28**
- B. All-Powerful: **Genesis 18:14, I Samuel 2:6-7, Psalm 18:13-15, Revelation 19:6**
- C. All-Knowing: **I Kings 8:39, Psalm 139:1-6, Proverbs 3:19-20, I Corinthians 2:10**
- D. Eternal: **Genesis 21:33v Nehemiah 9:5-6, John 8:58, Revelation 1:8**
- E. Incomprehensible: **Job 36:26, Isaiah 40:18-26, Matthew 11:27, Romans 11:33-34**
- F. Independent (self-existent): **Psalm 115:3, John 5:26, Romans 11:35-36**
- G. Infinite: **Psalm 90:1-2, Psalm 33:11, 93:2, 145:13, Hebrews 1:8-12**
- H. Majestic: **Exodus 15:6-1, Job 37:22, Psalm 8:1-9, Jude 25**
- I. One & Only God: **I Corinthians 8:6, Deuteronomy 6:4, Isaiah 45:21-22, I Timothy 2:5**
- J. Supreme: **Colossians 1:15-19, Exodus 15:1, 11-18, Revelation 19:11-16**
- K. Sovereign: **Isaiah 46:10, Psalm 135:6; Daniel 4:35, Ephesians 1:11**
- L. Transcendent: **Job 37:23, Exodus 33:20-23, Psalm 104:1-4, Isaiah 40:21-26, I Timothy 6:15-16**
- M. Unchanging: **Psalm 102:27, Malachi 3:6, James 1:17, Hebrews 13:8**

What else can we learn about the consistency of God?

II. THE CHARACTER OF OUR COACH

- A. God is working for the good (**Romans 8:31, I Corinthians 10:13, James 1:2**).
- B. God is working for those who love Him (**John 3:16, John 10:7-17, I Corinthians 8:3**).
- C. God's attributes are exemplary (**Romans 12:1-2, Matthew 5:48**).

What else can we learn about the characteristics of God?

III. THE CALLING FROM OUR COACH

- A. We are called to God's service (**Acts 2:36-39, I Corinthians 1:21-23, Philippians 3:13-14**).
- B. We are chosen according to God's plan (**Genesis 3:15, John 3:16, Matthew 28:18-20**).
- C. We are predestined to be conformed into the image of God's Son (**Romans 10:4-13, Romans 11:11-32, Titus 2:11, II Peter 3:9, I John 2:2**).

What else can we learn about the calling we receive from God?

IV. THE CREDIBILITY OF OUR COACH

- A. We can find confidence.
- B. We can find completeness.
- C. We can find cause.
- D. We can find condition.
- E. We can find consequence.
- F. We can find compassion.

How can God's credibility help you in your walk with Him?

Conclusion: There is no question that God is of utmost character and has a proven track record of success. We are given freedom to make our own choices (i.e. free will, free moral agency, choice, etc.). Therefore, you can pick your team and your coach. What will you choose? Are you willing to be a part of His team? Are you ready to follow God? Will you trust in Him as your coach?