

Bible Study Guide: From Stagnation to the River

Theme Scripture:

- **Psalm 81** (Honey from the Rock)
 - **Ephesians 2:20** – Christ as the Cornerstone
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BIG IDEA

God did not design believers to live stagnant, self-focused lives (“floaty faith”), but to become part of a moving, life-giving river—flowing outward in mission, sacrifice, unity, and peace.

THEME

“Don’t float—flow.”

God is calling us from comfort and stagnation into movement, mission, and transformation.

STUDY OVERVIEW

This study explores:

- The danger of spiritual stagnation
- The necessity of Christ as the cornerstone

- The power of spiritual family
 - The difference between generosity and sacrifice
 - The call to live as a river bringing peace and life to the world
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SECTION 1: WE CANNOT LIVE WITHOUT JESUS

Key Insight

Just as a city struggles in crisis, our lives fall apart without Christ's presence.

Supporting Scriptures

- **John 15:5** – “Apart from Me you can do nothing”
- **Colossians 1:17** – In Him all things hold together
- **Acts 17:28** – In Him we live and move

Teaching Point

Without Jesus:

- We lose direction
- We lack spiritual power
- We drift into confusion

Application

Evaluate where you are trying to function without dependence on Christ.

Discussion Questions

1. Where do you feel spiritually disconnected right now?
 2. What areas of your life are you trying to control without God?
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SECTION 2: GOD REVEALS HIMSELF—EVEN IN HARD PLACES

Key Insight

God doesn't only show up in the "mountaintops"—He produces "honey from the rock," meaning He brings sweetness from hardship.

Supporting Scriptures

- **Psalm 81:16** – Honey from the rock
- **Romans 8:28** – God works all things for good
- **James 1:2–4** – Trials produce maturity

Teaching Point

God's greatest revelations often come through:

- Pain
- Difficulty
- Uncertainty

Illustration

Just as bees create honey through process and movement, God creates purpose through pressure and perseverance.

Discussion Questions

1. Where have you seen God work through a difficult season?
 2. Are you looking for God only in good moments?
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SECTION 3: FLOATING VS. FLOWING (STAGNATION VS. MISSION)

Key Insight

Many believers “float” spiritually—comfortable, passive, and inward-focused—instead of flowing outward in mission.

Supporting Scriptures

- **Matthew 28:19–20** – Go and make disciples
- **John 7:38** – Rivers of living water
- **Luke 9:23** – Follow Jesus actively

Teaching Point

Floating = Self-focused faith

- Comfort-driven
- Passive
- Consuming

Flowing = Kingdom-focused faith

- Mission-driven
- Active
- Outward

Warning

Stagnation leads to:

- Spiritual toxicity
- Loss of purpose
- Self-centered living

Discussion Questions

1. Are you floating or flowing in your faith?
2. What would it look like to move from comfort to mission?

SECTION 4: CHRIST MUST BE THE CORNERSTONE

Key Insight

Everything in your life must be built on Jesus—He defines direction, purpose, and structure.

Supporting Scriptures

- **Ephesians 2:20** – Christ the cornerstone
- **1 Corinthians 3:11** – No other foundation
- **Matthew 7:24–27** – Build on the rock

Teaching Point

If Jesus is not your foundation:

- Your life becomes unstable
- Your priorities become distorted
- Your mission becomes unclear

Application

Ask yourself:

- What truly governs your decisions?
- What shapes your identity?

Discussion Questions

1. What is currently the “cornerstone” of your life?
2. How do you know if Jesus truly holds that place?

SECTION 5: GENEROSITY VS. SACRIFICE

Key Insight

There is a difference between giving comfortably and sacrificing meaningfully.

Supporting Scriptures

- **Luke 21:1–4** – Widow’s offering
- **John 15:13** – Greater love sacrifices
- **Romans 12:1** – Living sacrifice

Teaching Point

- **Generosity** gives out of excess
- **Sacrifice** costs you something

Biblical Example

The Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25–37):

- Stops
- Risks
- Pays
- Returns

This is not convenience—this is sacrifice.

Discussion Questions

1. When was the last time your faith truly cost you something?
2. Are you living generously—or sacrificially?

SECTION 6: THE POWER OF SPIRITUAL FAMILY

Key Insight

God expands family beyond blood into a spiritual community rooted in Christ.

Supporting Scriptures

- **Ephesians 2:19** – Members of God’s household
- **John 19:26–27** – Jesus forms spiritual family
- **Acts 2:42–47** – Early church community

Teaching Point

The church is:

- A place of unity
- A place of growth
- A launching point for mission

Challenge

We are not just called to belong—we are called to **expand the family**.

Discussion Questions

1. How are you investing in your spiritual family?
2. Who are you inviting into God’s family?

SECTION 7: UNITY AND PEACE AS OUR WITNESS

Key Insight

Peace is the mark of a Spirit-filled life and a powerful witness to the world.

Supporting Scriptures

- **Ephesians 4:3** – Keep unity through peace
- **John 14:27** – Jesus gives peace
- **Matthew 5:9** – Blessed are peacemakers

Teaching Point

Peace requires:

- Humility
- Forgiveness
- Reconciliation

Application

- Choose peace over being right
- De-escalate conflict
- Speak life instead of division

Discussion Questions

1. Are your words creating peace or division?
 2. Where do you need to bring reconciliation?
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SECTION 8: LIVING AS A RIVER IN THE WORLD

Key Insight

We are sent into the world to reflect Christ—not to blend in with it.

Supporting Scriptures

- **Romans 12:2** – Be transformed
- **Matthew 5:14–16** – Light of the world
- **2 Corinthians 5:20** – Ambassadors for Christ

Teaching Point

The world shapes people—but Christ reshapes us so we can impact the world.

Spiritual Reality

- The world brings chaos
- Christ brings peace
- We carry His presence outward

Discussion Questions

1. How is the world shaping your thinking?

2. How are you bringing Christ into your daily environment?

FINAL CHALLENGE

Key Questions to Reflect On

- Am I floating or flowing?
 - Is Jesus truly my cornerstone?
 - Am I living generously or sacrificially?
 - Am I bringing peace or division?
 - Am I extending God's family or closing it off?
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PRAYER FOCUS

“Father, You are our cornerstone. Move us from stagnation into purpose. Take us out of comfort and into Your current. Teach us to live sacrificially, love deeply, and bring peace wherever we go. Send us into the world as a river of Your grace and truth. In Jesus' name, Amen.”

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- You were made to move, not stagnate
- Christ must be your foundation
- Faith requires sacrifice, not just comfort

- The church is a family with a mission
- Peace is your witness to the world
- You are called to be a river, not a reservoir