

1. READ

Rev. Dr. Lee P. Washington's Selected Scriptures: Matthew 16 : 17 – 19 (NKJV)

17 Jesus answered and said to him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed *this* to you, but My Father who is in heaven. 18 And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. 19 And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”

1 Kings 6 : 11 – 14 New King James Version (NKJV)

11 Then the word of the Lord came to Solomon, saying: 12 “*Concerning* this temple which you are building, if you walk in My statutes, execute My judgments, keep all My commandments, and walk in them, then I will perform My word with you, which I spoke to your father David. 13 And I will dwell among the children of Israel, and will not forsake My people Israel.” 14 So Solomon built the temple and finished it.

Rev. Dr. William Watley's Selected Scripture: Genesis 6 : 9 – 22 The Message (MSG)

9-10 This is the story of Noah: Noah was a good man, a man of integrity in his community. Noah walked with God. Noah had three sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

11-12 As far as God was concerned, the Earth had become a sewer; there was violence everywhere. God took one look and saw how bad it was, everyone corrupt and corrupting—life itself corrupt to the core.

13 God said to Noah, “It’s all over. It’s the end of the human race. The violence is everywhere; I’m making a clean sweep.

14-16 “Build yourself a ship from teakwood. Make rooms in it. Coat it with pitch inside and out. Make it 450 feet long, seventy-five feet wide, and forty-five feet high. Build a roof for it and put in a window eighteen inches from the top; put in a door on the side of the ship; and make three decks, lower, middle, and upper.

17 “I’m going to bring a flood on the Earth that will destroy everything alive under Heaven. Total destruction.



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STUDY GUIDE

18-21 “But I’m going to establish a covenant with you: You’ll board the ship, and your sons, your wife and your sons’ wives will come on board with you. You are also to take two of each living creature, a male and a female, on board the ship, to preserve their lives with you: two of every species of bird, mammal, and reptile—two of everything so as to preserve their lives along with yours. Also get all the food you’ll need and store it up for you and them.”

22 Noah did everything God commanded him to do.

2. REFLECT

[Make sure to view this weekend’s groundbreaking services!]



**REV. DR.
LEE P.
WASHINGTON**

SENIOR PASTOR EMERITUS, REID TEMPLE AME CHURCH

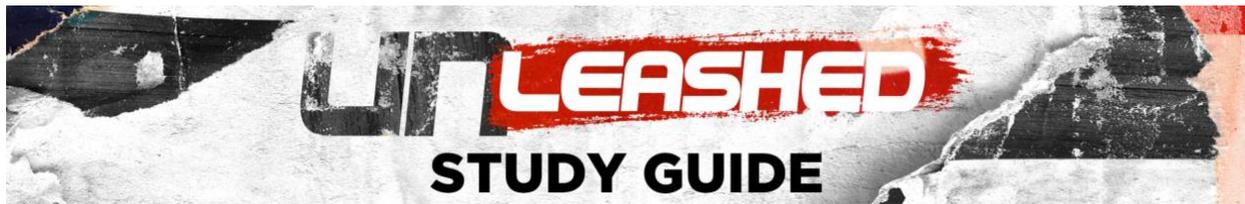
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**REV. DR.
WILLIAM
WATLEY**

SENIOR PASTOR, ST. PHILIP AME CHURCH

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A banner with a distressed, torn paper texture. The word "UNLEASHED" is written in large, bold, white letters with a red shadow effect. Below it, the words "STUDY GUIDE" are written in bold, black, sans-serif capital letters.

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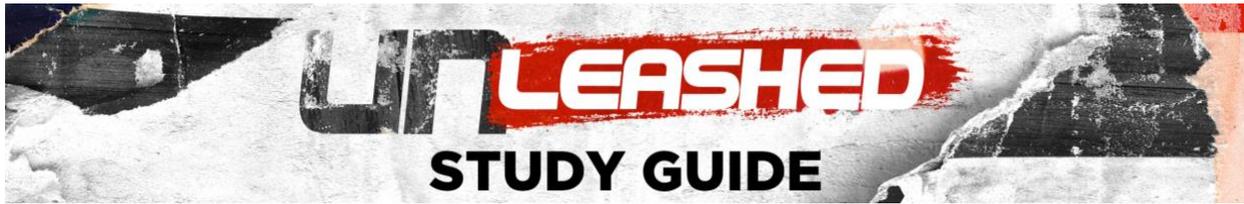
STUDY GUIDE

This past weekend, Kingdom Fellowship AME Church celebrated a tremendous event as a church family – Our Groundbreaking Worship Weekend! With tears of joy, laughter, and songs of praise, many of us gathered either in-person or online to commemorate the construction of our new church building. Under the visionary leadership of our Senior Pastor Rev. Matthew L. Watley, our church is another step closer to our new permanent base of operations!

In addition to the many members that were in attendance, we were honored to be joined by friends, family, and allies that all continue to support this vision. Two of those esteemed guests were our preachers for this celebratory weekend. On Saturday, we were blessed by the reflections of Rev. Dr. Lee P. Washington, Senior Pastor Emeritus of Reid Temple AME Church. Dr. Washington has been central to our development as a church from the inception of Reid Temple North up through our transition to Kingdom Fellowship. Likewise, on Sunday we were joined by another pivotal member of our family, Rev. Dr. William Watley, Senior Pastor of St. Philip AME Church and Pastor Matthew Watley’s father. Both guests have been guiding lights and foundational figures in the life of our pastor and our church family. Over the course of our celebration, our souls were edified by their powerful words of wisdom and encouragement.

As **Dr. Washington** reminded us, we are people of promise! When reading scripture it is nearly impossible to avoid running into the promises of God. In fact, there are 7,847 promises that God makes to his people. For example, in one of our selected scriptures for this week (Matthew 16: 17–19), we come across a very important promise. Verse 18 says, “...and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.” As another translation reads, “the gates of Hell will not have more power than my promise.” As we’ve seen and experienced, God’s promises do not mean that we can completely avoid contention or strife. However, God’s word declares that nothing can prevail or stand against the promises of God. As we now find ourselves in the midst of an international pandemic, economic decline, and corrupt national leadership, our groundbreaking as a church is a testament to the fact that God’s promises prevail!

And as we forge forward holding on to the promises of God, **Dr. Watley** encouraged us to continue obeying the will and Word of God even when it seems illogical. In fact, our bold trust and obedience to God is a characteristic of our lineage of faith. In the same spirit of Noah who built a gigantic boat in the middle of the desert, we as Kingdom Fellowship are building a church in the middle of a pandemic. While we pursue this project in difficult circumstances, we can sometimes come across, as Dr. Watley named it, the “What If It Doesn’t Rain Dilemma.” One can image that as Noah prepared for a flood without a cloud in sight, he may have asked himself, “*What if it doesn’t rain?*” What if I went through all of this trouble and my sacrifice was in vein? Although these questions are natural, Dr. Watley reminds us that when we look back at what God’s already done, we can clearly see that we are living miracles! We weren’t even guaranteed to make it this far, and yet, God has been faithful to supply all of our needs. So when the question comes across our mind, the key is to press on, hold on to God’s promises, and remain **#KingdomFocused**.



3. RESPOND

Introspective Questions

- How are you holding on to God's promises in your life?
- When have you experienced the "What if it doesn't rain dilemma?"

Discussion Questions

- What do we learn about God's character through the promise in Matthew 16:18?
- How do you think Noah counteracted his doubts and the "What if it doesn't rain dilemma?"

