

**Standing for GOD in America:
How Christians Can Make a Difference in Today's Society**
Study Guide for Small Group or Individual Study

PART 1

Introduction and Chapter 1 America's Godly History

For reflection:

1. What do you consider the most important issues for Christians today?
2. What are some of the things you remember learning about America's history and its founding fathers?
3. Have you seen historical facts being questioned, altered, or omitted recently? In what ways?
4. Discuss why people might want to alter our understanding of America's history.

For action:

1. The author provides quotes from several founding fathers. Choose one or two men and research more about them. Find additional examples of their faith in God.
2. Formulate an argument for the idea that America's history is based on a strong belief in God. Create a list of examples that you can share with others.

Chapter 2 Being Christian in America

For reflection:

1. Discuss the question posed by the author, "Are we Christians who are also Americans? Or are we Americans who are also Christian?" (p. 31)
2. Identify two or three values held by Americans and Christians. How are they similar? Different?
3. The author discussed the role of the church in the life of our country. What do you believe should be the church's focus? Is social involvement important and necessary or a distraction?

For action:

1. Talk with your pastor or leader about the role your church is playing in today's society. Identify other ways you can become involved.

Chapter 3 Does God Have a Plan for America?

For reflection:

1. Do you really believe that God cares what happens in our country? What evidence can you point to that supports your answer?
2. Discuss the four principles of a good nation described on p. 42. Does America fit this description? Why or why not?

For action:

1. Commit to pray for America for 40 days. Record the challenges and victories that you see/ experience during this time.
2. Thank God for His care, guidance, and protection for our country.

PART 2

Chapter 1 Morality in Modern Culture

For reflection:

1. In a few sentences, describe what most people in America think of when they hear the term “morality”. Does it have a positive or negative connotation?
2. Billy Graham said, “Living counter to the new morality is an uphill battle.” (p. 50) Does this describe your experience? Why or why not?
3. Contrast God’s morality with the new moral code described on p. 50
4. The author wrote “For every action that God condemns, there is a positive action that He approves and will bless.” (p. 55) Select 2 or 3 of God’s “thou shalt not”’s and consider how following them could be a blessing to you or those you love.

For action:

1. As you read, watch television, or interact with others, take note of examples of how people are expressing their morality. Are they demonstrating God’s morality or man’s?
2. Examine your own life. Are there things you are doing that are counter to God’s morality? What do you need to do to live more aligned with His moral code?

Chapter 2 Leadership

For reflection:

1. Discuss the six characteristics of a godly leader? Which of these do you believe are most important in a leader? Which do you think is the most difficult to develop?
2. Jesus provided the perfect example of leadership. Describe several of the ways He modeled leadership for His disciples.
3. Paul wrote that we are to submit to authority. Is this easy or difficult for you? How about submitting to the authority of unbelievers?

For action:

1. Choose one of the Biblical leaders discussed in this chapter. Read more about them in the Bible and reference materials. What lessons can you learn about leadership from them?
2. Pray regularly for the leaders in your sphere of influence- in your church, work, and community. Pray also for our country’s political, military, and business leaders.

Chapter 3 Wealth, Welfare, and Resources

For reflection:

1. Briefly discuss the six Biblical principles regarding wealth presented in the chapter. Were any of these principles new to you? Are there one or two principles you need to apply in your financial life?
2. The author discussed two godly attitudes we should have- a willingness to work and a willingness to give. How are these attitudes related? What happens if you have one without the other?
3. Discuss the Biblical concepts of charity and welfare. Does our current welfare system support or undermine these concepts? Why or why not?
4. Paul wrote, “If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat.” (p. 84) Is this idea too harsh? Why or why not?

For action:

1. A person’s priorities can be seen by how he spends his money. Review your past few month’s expenditures. What did you learn about your priorities? Do you need to make any changes?
2. Identify how your church is meeting the needs of others. In what ways can you be more involved?

Chapter 4 Marriage and Family

For reflection:

1. The author states that God ordained the family to be the primary building block of society (p. 89). Do you agree with this statement? Provide examples to support your answer.
2. The author presented 4 concepts related to God's plan for the family (p. 91-94). Which of these do you consider to be a priority for families in general and for your family specifically?
3. Discuss the concepts regarding a Godly marriage relationship (p. 94-101). Do you see these concepts being lived out or ignored by those around you? Why do you believe that many people do not embrace these concepts?
4. In regards to parenting, discuss how today's society influences the way parents are interacting with their children. Do you feel that this influence benefits children? Why or why not?

For action:

1. Reflect on your own upbringing. Identify ways your parents embodied a godly relationship and parenting strategies and how you are/are not following their patterns. If your background did not contain positive examples of marriage and parenting, consider how you can/ have established more godly relationships in your own family.
2. Research two current popular parenting styles: "gentle parenting" and "helicopter parenting". Do these styles follow the principles outlined on p. 101-103? Compose a response that you could offer young parents when asked about raising children.
3. Identify one or two ways that you have seen God's plan for marriage and families being attacked. Select one of these to actively advocate for God's plan (write an opinion article, make a phone call, advocate for Godly concepts).

Chapter 5 Protection, Military, and Foreign Policy

For reflection:

1. The author discussed that God is our ultimate protector, while also stating that we can and should take steps to promote peace and safety. How can these two ideas work together?
2. Discuss how the Bible deals with the concepts of protection and fighting in the Bible. Do you see a difference between the Old Testament and New Testament?
3. Discuss the concepts of war and Jesus' teaching to "turn the other cheek" (p. 112, 113). As a Christian, how can these opposite thoughts be reconciled?

For action:

1. Identify one or two people who promote a godly perspective towards protection for our country. Write to them, offering support for their stance.
2. Identify one or two ways you can support members of the military.

Chapter 6 Social Issues

For reflection:

1. Discuss the concept of race as it is found in the Bible. How is this similar/ different to today's understanding of race?
2. Discuss immigration as it was seen during the 19th and 20th centuries in America. How has it changed in recent years? Do you believe the same policies should apply? Why or why not?
3. Discuss the idea of healthcare as a "right" as described on p. 124. How would you respond to the question for a healthy person? For a person with a serious or chronic health issue?
4. Discuss the concept of education, including what should be taught and by whom. How is our current educational system succeeding or failing in these areas?

For action:

1. Identify one or two specific actions you can take to assist immigrants in your area.
2. Identify educators (public, private, home) who are providing quality, God-honoring education and support them in a tangible way (note of encouragement, purchase supplies, publicly recognize their work).

PART 3

Chapter 1 Prepare to Stand- Establish a Firm Foundation

For reflection:

1. The author presents four “identities” of Christians (p. 133-136). Which of these can you most easily identify with? Which is the most difficult for you to relate with?
2. Prayer is power for the Christian. Describe your current prayer life. Is it consistent? Specific? Intercessory? What could you do to have a stronger prayer life?
3. Why is it important to read and study the Bible rather than reading books about God and listening to sermons? What has been your attitude regarding Bible study in the past?
4. Discuss the benefits of Christian fellowship for yourself and others.

For action:

1. Consider your current relationship with God. Have you made a personal commitment to follow Jesus as your Savior? If not, prayerfully consider doing this.
2. Set aside 10-15 minutes each day for prayer. Keep a journal of requests and answers to prayer. Thank God for the privilege of prayer.
3. Consider your current commitment to Bible reading and study. Identify ways you can develop a stronger approach to both. Implement at least one action.

Chapter 2 Standing at Home- Our Daily Witness

For reflection:

1. Take an honest look at your home life. Is it currently loving, joyful, peaceful, and considerate? If not, discuss ways that you can change the climate of your home.
2. The author presented ways to share Jesus through actions. Discuss how patience, kindness, goodness, and faithfulness can be actively demonstrated daily. Which of the traits is most difficult for you?
3. Discuss the difference between self-righteous service and true service (p. 153). Identify examples of each.

For action:

1. Consider the climate of your home and implement 2- 3 specific actions/attitudes that can make your home more in line with God’s plan.
2. Identify a difficult situation that requires gentleness and/or self-control. Write out how you will respond to this situation in the future.
3. The author concluded the chapter with the quote, “If you were on trial for being a Christian, would there be enough evidence to convict you?” (p. 154) Make a list of your evidence.

Chapter 3 Standing in Public- Speak Truth

For reflection:

1. Why is it important for Christians to be informed *before* they begin to speak out?
2. The right to vote is a unique part of America’s foundation. Do you think Americans still exercise that right or do they take it for granted/ neglect it? What would the consequences be if the majority of people did not participate in the voting process?

3. Discuss ways Christians can be involved in their communities, schools, and governments. Which ways are easiest? Most difficult?

For action:

1. Identify 2-3 current issues to learn more about. Attempt to get information from a variety of sources.
2. Identify at least one way that you can show support for an elected official.
3. Identify 1-2 ways that you can become more involved in your community for the purpose of representing Christ.

Chapter 4 Standing Through Service

For reflection:

1. Discuss the concept of Christians as “change agents”. (p 166) Does this concept frighten or motivate you? Why?
2. Discuss the organizations and individuals presented in the chapter. How are they making a difference for Christ?

For action:

1. Identify 1-2 people who are actively making a difference. Write a note or send a donation to support them.
2. Consider your interests, passions, skills, training, and experience in light of where God may be calling you to stand for Him. Write down 2-3 ideas and commit to pray for God’s direction for you.