

Basic Training!

FAST Basic Training #7 - Bands of Believers

Memo:

Welcome to study seven. You are nearing the end of this program. How is it going so far? Are you keeping up with your verses? The Bible Searches? The illustrations? Determine to bring the Scriptures to bear in a very real way on your life. Let the unchanging Word do its work.



This next lesson looks at one of the great keys to staying faithful in one's walk with God: teamwork. Attendance at church and other religious gatherings is beneficial, but it is just not enough! We need the encouragement and exhortation only a small, tight-knit team can provide. And the closer we get to the end, the more important it will be for God's people to press together. Don't risk going it alone.

A spiritual awakening sometimes begins with one person, but it rarely lasts long in isolation. It must spread from person to person, until your entire church is unleashed! Then it must burst out into your town. It can happen!

**The Editor,
Hid in Christ**

Bible Secrets to Living for Christ

Objectives Week 7

Name: _____ Initialed by: _____

Date: _____

- ☐ Complete the Bible Search entitled **Bands of Believers**. Are you currently getting the encouragement and exhortation you need to be consistent in your walk with God? If yes, what can you do to ensure you continue receiving this kind of fellowship? If no, what can you do to begin getting it?
- ☐ Your memory verses this week are **Proverbs 15:22** and **Hebrews 3:13**. Try to catch up on any verses you have missed so far. Do your best to complete this program with every verse memorized. To leave "nothing undone" of all you have been assigned. See Joshua 11:15.
- ☐ Read the **Practical Suggestions** on the importance of teamwork. Being part of a team is a vital key to consistency in the Christian life. It is also critical to effectiveness in ministry! May the ideas in this booklet help you to experience more fully the powerful benefits of teamwork.
- ☐ Once again, take some time to master your illustration from last week—**The ABC's of the Bible**. Every Christian should be ready to share the Gospel at a moments notice. Have you fully learned all your other illustrations so far?

*A team is only as strong
As the weakest link in the chain*

Bands of Believers

Bible Search 7

And there went with him a band of men, whose hearts God had touched. 1 Samuel 10:26

1. Identify two places Christians can obtain encouragement, training, and fellowship:

Acts 2:46

Acts 5:42

Acts 20:20

Note: Many Christians recognize the importance of regular church attendance, but meeting together in small groups is also important! Both were clearly present in the early church.

2. Why is meeting in small groups so important?

Hebrews 3:13-14

Hebrews 10:24-25

Note: There are many blessings connected with public gatherings, but our need for exhortation and accountability often remains unmet without the fellowship of a tight-knit team.

3. What aspects of discipleship can be strengthened by involvement in small groups?

Matthew 18:19-20

Luke 24:32

Philippians 3:17

Philippians 1:14

4. Who used small teams as a basis for ministry in the following verses?

Mark 3:14

Acts 20:4

5. How does Paul describe our need to work together?

Ephesians 4:15-16

6. What are some additional reasons ministry is generally best conducted by teams?

Proverbs 15:22

Ecclesiastes 4:9-10

Romans 12:6-8

II Corinthians 8:14

Leviticus 26:7-8

7. How should we feel when not able to meet regularly with other Christians for fellowship? I Thessalonians 2:17
8. How willing are you to commit right now to meeting with fellow believers to work toward becoming more effective disciples for Jesus Christ? Why not write out your answer as a brief prayer to God?

Importance of Teamwork

Practical Suggestions

If you have been faithful in completing your objectives these last few weeks, you have likely begun sensing an increased desire to reach out to others. Discipleship *naturally* leads to a joyous sense of purpose to one's life. It awakens a desire to share Christ.

To keep that flicker of desire burning bright, it is important to band together as workers into a team. Jesus chose to build a team in His effort to reach the lost, as did Paul on his missionary labors. (See Mark 3:14, Acts 20:4). Meeting regularly with others for prayer, encouragement, and planning will go far in helping each one stay faithful and committed in ministry. Coals left off to themselves soon cool and die out. But the heat of intense fellowship can fan them into a blazing flame. The world can be reached, and it must—but it will take the power of teams!

Ministry Teams

There are many ways a team can be organized. It can resemble anything from a hastily formed posse, to a loose-knit sales network, or a highly trained symphonic orchestra. Regardless of how it is structured, teamwork makes possible the blending of different gifts. Resources can be shared. Courage is strengthened. And vision becomes more focused. A greater pool of knowledge becomes available, and better decisions can be made.

The key to every effective team, however, is a shared objective or mission. In the context of a ministry team, that purpose should be reaching people for Christ. It may focus on certain approaches, such as literature, prophecy, health, or radio. Or it may focus on certain kinds of people: homeless, seniors, single moms or international students. But if the team is committed and works together unitedly toward a shared evangelistic mission, it is sure to experience success.

Importance of Planning

That mission must be connected with a plan. It need not be complex or difficult at first, but it should aim for the specific objective you have in mind. Have your group get together and sketch out a simple strategy. Perhaps it will involve passing out cards offering Bible studies by mail. Or perhaps a parenting class, that shows a training video each week, or discusses some chapter of a helpful book. How about advertising in your local newspaper—offering a video lending library focused on endtime events? If needed, do a little research. Get ideas from your pastor, or another church leader. The possibilities are endless. As you seek and pray, the Lord will begin to clarify His plan to accomplish the mission He has put on your team's heart.

Then, execute the plan. It has been said, plans don't work until you work the plan. And it is true—a plan is only as good as its *implementation*. You may experience immediate success—or seeming failure. Either way, determine to press forward, carefully assessing everything you do, and replacing methods that do not work well with better approaches. Over time, your plan may gradually be reshaped into something far different from what you originally envisioned. The point is to keep moving forward—as God leads. As your experience grows, so will your success.

Which suggests a team should meet frequently to discuss its progress. Regular times can be set aside for members to share brief reports, discuss problems, exchange ideas, and network together in various ways. Use these times to refocus your goals, and seek power from God in prayer. To be successful in ministry, you must learn to work with others as a team!

The Importance of Commitment

From the beginning, God has used teams to accomplish great things. And teams are built on commitment.. To live a life of useful service, determine to become a committed member of some ministry team. *Together* you will impact souls for Christ!

The Disciple's Wheel Revisited