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Heart Matters

Bible Study

Sandi Pierce
Before the Bench Women's Ministry



Sandi Pierce, Before the Bench Women's Ministry

2022 **Heart Matters Resources:** The Bible; Stonecroft Ministry <https://my.stonecroft.org/evangelism-tools/> ;
"Experiencing God: Knowing and Doing the Will of God" by Henry Blackaby; Claude V. Kin; Bible Study Tools Website

Heart Matters Bible Study is a five part study that digs deep into the Word of God and scripture memorization. Go at your own pace. Search the scriptures for yourself about what God has to say about the heart.

Part 1– Heart Check

Part 2– The Heart of a Christian

Part 3– The Heart of the Gospel

Part 4- Sharing the Heart of the Gospel

Part 5- Sharing Your Testimony— Take the Challenge

*Heart Matters Bible Study is a downloadable pdf

☝ From my heart to yours,

Sandi Pierce, founder of Before the Bench Women’s Ministry—Encouraging and Equipping Women with Biblical Truths to Grow in Christ and Share Our Faith.

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*The translation of scripture used in this study is the CSB unless noted otherwise

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Heart Matters Bible Study

Let us search the scriptures for ourselves and see what God has to say about the heart

✚ *Begin in Prayer*— Each time before you begin reading and studying, take time to pray. Ask God through His Holy Spirit to speak to you, to teach you more about Himself, His Word, how to live by His Word and to open hearts of those who He puts in your path so you can share His truths

A prayer model is provided below to help lead your prayer time

A.C.T.S. Guide to Prayer

Adoration— Begin your prayer time with adoration. Praise God for who He is. Need a little help? Check out “Praying the Names of God” by Tony Evans, it is a great resource to help guide you in this step if needed.

Confession—Prayer should include confessing our sin, remembering that we are coming into God’s Holy presence and have need of His forgiveness

Thanksgiving—When we pray, we should always give thanks, remembering the grace and mercy God has shown toward us

Supplication—Prayer includes supplication or petition, which simply means bringing our requests to God for the needs of others and ourselves

*“Humans do not see what the Lord sees,
for humans see what is visible,
but the Lord sees the heart.”*

1 Samuel 16:7 CSB

Heart Matters 🖱️ Part 1

A Heart Check— What does the Bible really say about the heart?

🖱️ *Open Your Bible*— Read the following passages below and write out what each verse states about the heart, about people and about God

Mark 7:20-23

Jeremiah 17:9-10

Proverbs 3:1-8

Matthew 22:37-38

Deuteronomy 6:4-9

Joshua 22:5

✎ **Think About**— Can we really trust our heart? Is “Just follow your heart” good advice? Why or why not? Whose heart should we fully trust in??

✎ **Memorize**— Pick one of the Bible passages from this week's study to memorize. Write it out below and practice saying it outloud from memory

✎ Today and everyday, trust in the Lord with all your heart. Lean not on your own understanding. In ALL your ways acknowledge Him. And He will direct your path, your heart.

✎ *Close Your Study Time in Prayer— Write out your prayer and praises*

Heart Matters 🦋 Part 2

The Heart of a Christian

🦋 *Begin in Prayer*

🦋 *Open Your Bible*— Read the following passages and write out what each verse states about the heart, about people and about God

Romans 5:5

Galatians 5:16-26

Acts 16:14

Acts 13:22

1 Samuel 13:14

1 Peter 3:15-16

Proverbs 19:20-21

Philippians 4:8

Revelation 3:14-22

1 Peter 3:15

Joshua 1:8-9

Isaiah 6:8

✎ **Memorize**— Pick one of the Bible passages from this week's study to memorize. Write it out below and practice saying it outloud from memory

✎ **Dig Deeper**— Let our hearts be on fire for the Lord and not lukewarm as it states in Revelation 3:14-22. Let us shine the light of Jesus in this dark world. Shine like a candle. Better yet, be like a lighthouse. And may our hearts be overflowing with the fruit of the spirit: Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness and Self-control. (Galatians 5)

✎ **May our hearts be humble, reverent, respectful, trusting, loving, devoted, filled with praise and joy, faithful, obedient, and repentant**— Look to the Psalms and see how David was a man after God's own heart. *But let us also remember our ultimate example is Jesus.*

✎ **David's Heart as noted in the Psalms**

Humble— Psalm 62:9

Respectful— Psalm 31:9

Loving— Psalm 18:1

Filled with Praise and Joy— Psalm 9:1-2

Obedient— Psalm 119:34

Reverent— Psalm 18:3

Trusting— Psalm 27:1

Devoted— Psalm 4:7

Faithful— Psalm 23:6

Repentant Heart— Psalm 25:11

[illegible]

Psalm 25:11

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

“Listen to counsel and receive instruction so that you may be wise later in life. Many plans are in a person’s heart, but the Lord’s decree will prevail.”

Proverbs 19:20-21

Heart Matters 🦋 Part 3

The Heart of the Gospel– The Good News of Jesus Christ

🦋 *Begin in Prayer*

🦋 *God's Grace– God's Riches at Christ's Expense:* What does this statement mean? What does this statement mean to you personally? Most importantly, what does it tell us about Jesus?

Jesus says, “I am the good shepherd. I know my own, and my own know me, just as the Father knows me, and I know the Father. I lay down my life for the sheepThis is why the Father loves me, because I lay down my life so that I may take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down on my own. I have the right to lay it down, and I have the right to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.” John 10:14-18

“This is how we have come to know love: He laid down his life for us. We should also lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters.” 1 John 3:16

🦋 *The Heart of the Gospel Acronym by Stonecroft Ministry*

G God's Holiness

O Our Brokenness

S Sacrifice-Christ's sacrifice on the Cross

P Profession of Faith

E Equals

L Life

“For God loved the world in this way: He gave His one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him. Anyone who believes in Him is not condemned, but anyone who does not believe is already condemned, because he has not believed in the name of the one and only Son of God.” John 3:16-18

✎ *Open Your Bible*— Look up and read the following passages. Write out what each verse states about God and the Good News of the Gospel

Ephesians 2:1-10

1 Corinthians 15:3-8

Romans 6:23

Romans 3:23

✎ **Memorize**— Pick one of the Bible passages from above to memorize this week. Write it out below and practice saying it outloud from memory

✎ **Digging Deeper Into Study**— Let us dig even deeper into studying about the FREE gift of God. This is the inside story about God’s way to heaven. It is the gospel according to The One Way, The One Truth, and The Only Life.

*Jesus says in John 14:6,
“I am the way, the truth, and the life:
no one comes to the Father, but by Me.”*

✎ **From Death to Life**— “And you were dead in your trespasses and sins in which you previously walked according to the ways of this world . . . For you are saved by grace through faith, and this is not from yourselves; it is God’s gift—not from works, so that no one can boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared ahead of time for us to do.” (Ephesians 2:1-10)

✎ **Open Your Bible**— Open your Bible and Read God’s Word

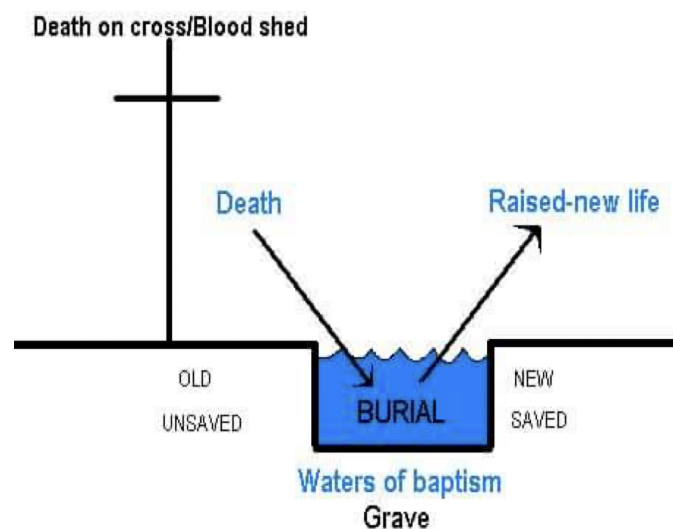
✎ God tells the truth about mankind that all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God— Romans 3:23; Romans 3:10; Ecclesiastes 7:20; 1 Kings 8:46; Isaiah 53:6

✎ God is Holy and Righteous— Romans 6:23; 1 Peter 1:15-16; Romans 3:25-26

✎ God demonstrated His own love for us in this, while we were still sinners, Jesus Christ died for us (Romans 5:8)— Isaiah 1:18; 1 Peter 2:24; Isaiah 53:5; Titus 3:5; Ephesians 2:8-9

- ✎ God wants to save us. Surrender your life to Him— John 3:16-18; John 3:36; John 20:30-31; Acts 16:31-34; Acts 2:38; Mark 16:16
- ✎ God declares that there is only one way to be saved and that is through Jesus Christ, our personal Lord and Savior— John 14:6; Acts 4:12; John 11:25-26; 1 Timothy 2:5-6
- ✎ Christ extends a personal invitation— John 6:37-38

Did you know that baptism represents the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus?? Below is a helpful visual tool for you



[illegible]

A photograph of a garden path lined with red and white roses, leading towards a dense forest of green trees. A semi-transparent white box is centered over the path, containing a quote.

"for matters of the
heart and soul, I would
implore you to read
your Bible, for it alone
contains the answers
you need"

Jon Courson

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Heart Matters 📖 Part 4

Sharing the Heart of the Gospel— Sharing Jesus

📖 *Begin in Prayer*

📖 *Comparing Translations*— Read the following passages in the different translations provided. Note the differences in wording.

📖 **1 Peter 3:15-16**

“but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence; and keep a good conscience so that in the thing in which you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ will be put to shame.”

1 Peter 3:15-16 NASB 1995

“but in your hearts regard Christ the Lord as holy, ready at any time to give a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you. Yet do this with gentleness and reverence, keeping a clear conscience, so that when you are accused, those who disparage your good conduct in Christ will be put to shame.”

1 Peter 3:15-16 CSB

“Instead, you must worship Christ as Lord of your life. And if someone asks about your hope as a believer, always be ready to explain it. 16 But do this in a gentle and respectful way. Keep your conscience clear. Then if people speak against you, they will be ashamed when they see what a good life you live because you belong to Christ.”

1 Peter 3:15-16 NLT

📖 **2 Corinthians 4:5-6**

“For we do not preach ourselves but Christ Jesus as Lord, and ourselves as your bond-servants for Jesus’ sake. For God, who said, “Light shall shine out of darkness,” is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the Light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.” 2 Corinthians 4:5-6 NASB1995

“For we are not proclaiming ourselves but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus’s sake. For God who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of God’s glory in the face of Jesus Christ.” 2 Corinthians 4:5-6 CSB

“You see, we don’t go around preaching about ourselves. We preach that Jesus Christ is Lord, and we ourselves are your servants for Jesus’ sake. For God, who said, “Let there be light in the darkness,” has made this light shine in our hearts so we could know the glory of God that is seen in the face of Jesus Christ.” 2 Corinthians 4:5-6 NLT

🔑 John 3:30

“He must increase, but I must decrease.” John 3:30 NASB1995

“He must increase [in prominence], but I must decrease.” John 3:30 Amplified

“He must become greater and greater, and I must become less and less.” John 3:30 NLT

How has comparing the different translations helped you understand the passages better??

🔑 *What is your favorite Bible translation?*

🔑 *Do you have a favorite study Bible?? If not, check out some of my favorites below*

- The CSB Study Bible For Women
- NLT Life Application Study Bible, Second Edition
- Charles F. Stanley Life Principles Daily Bible, Paperback: New American Standard Bible
- The Jeremiah Study Bible, NKJV and ESV: What It Says. What It Means. What It Means for You.

Let's keep pressing on!!

Ready, set, let's go!

Enjoy the Word!!

🔑 ***Open Your Bible***— Look up and read the following chapters listed on the following pages. As you read, be sure to write out what each chapter states about God, the Trinity (One God represented in Three Persons- God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit), about people, about sharing our faith, the heart of the Gospel and anything else God brought to your mind

This image shows a full page of blank, lined paper. It features approximately 28 evenly spaced horizontal black lines across its entire width, providing a template for handwriting practice or general note-taking. The margins are consistent on all sides.

This image shows a single page of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

This image shows a full page of blank handwriting practice paper. It features approximately 28 evenly spaced horizontal blue lines across the entire page, providing a guide for letter height and placement. The lines are consistent in color and thickness throughout.

✎ ***Memorize***— Pick a verse or two that stood out to you from the chapters in this week’s study to memorize. Write out below and practice saying it outloud from memory

✎ ***Reflect and Respond***— How and when are you sharing your faith, the heart of the Gospel?? Or have you never taken that first step? What holds you back from sharing how Jesus saved you?? Is it fear? Fear of not knowing what to say? Fear of rejection? Fear of the unknown?? Not making time?

✎ ***Digging Deeper***— Read Ephesians Chapters 1-2; 2 Timothy 1:7; 2 Corinthians 5:20-21; Acts 2:38; Matthew 28:16-20

✎ ***Reflect and Remember***—

Remember who God is and who you are in Christ.
Remember God has not given you a spirit of fear.
Remember, as Christ’s followers you are His ambassador,
commissioned to GO preach the Good News of salvation.

✱ **Prayer**— Pray the promises of God for the heart: Write out the following verses below and turn God's promises into your prayers

2 Timothy 1:7

Philippians 1:6

Psalms 138:8

Psalms 86:11-13

Psalm 19:14

2 Peter 1:3

Philppians 4:4-7

✿ *God has used the passages listed to strengthen me throughout my life. What verses has God given you in the past that have brought comfort to your heart??*

✦ ***Digging Deeper***— Open Your Bible and read the following passages. Write out what you learn about *faith* and *obedience*, about God and about people

Acts 16:11-15

Acts 16:25

Acts 16:31-34

James 2:14-26

1 Corinthian 1:17

1 Corinthian 1: 23-30

1 Corinthians 2:1-2

1 Corinthians 2:10-13

1 Corinthians 2:15-16

✎ **Reflect**— Did you see from your readings that faith and obedience go hand in hand?? Did you notice that Lydia went and shared the Gospel with her entire household? And what does Paul proclaim to preach and teach?

Lydia and Paul were obedient because they truly loved the Lord. God changed their heart and made them alive with Christ and they could not help but share this joy— The joy of Jesus our salvation.

✎ ✎ **Think About**— We have planned and unplanned times of sharing our faith. Let us be aware, steadfast and led by the Holy Spirit.

Write out ways God is calling you to step out and share Jesus: Perhaps with a family member, that person at the grocery store you just saw, or even a neighbor that you see walking out in front of your house everyday

✎ **Let's Be Aware**— Aware of God and the promptings of the Holy Spirit; Aware of Ourselves; Aware of Others' needs. (Adapted from Stonecroft Ministry)

Be A.W.A.R.E— Available-Watchful-Attentive-Responding-Encouraging

Eyes Available, offering ourselves as Christ’s ambassadors

Heart Watchful, continually praying and watching to see God at work around us

Ears Attentive, actively listening to others to really hear their stories

Hands Responding, supplying care and resources as needs are revealed and/or partnering with your church and connecting others to the right organization for help

Mouth Encouraging, speaking gracious words of hope and comfort

Open your heart to God. Be like Isaiah from the Old Testament and say to the Lord, “I’m here; send me”.

“Then I heard the Lord’s voice saying,

“Whom should I send, and who will go for us?”

I said, “I’m here; send me.”

Isaiah 6:8

✎ **Let’s Be Steadfast**— “be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the Lord’s work, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.” 1 Corinthians 15:58

✎ **Open Your Bible**— Write out the following Bible passages listed. Choose one or more to memorize AND share with someone today

Hebrews 4:12

Isaiah 55:11

Acts 16:14

Romans 1:16

✿ Remember God will equip us and The Word of God never returns back void. *We share and God is the one who opens hearts for salvation.*

God gives us daily opportunities to share His heart, to share the Good News of Jesus.

Let us step out in faith to share the heart of the Gospel to those who God puts in our path today.

Take heart and remember as believers, God equips us.

Stop right now and pray— Go to God in prayer and ask the Holy Spirit to help you, to show you personally how to connect with others, your friend(s) spiritually and who to share with this week.

Who has God put on your heart right now??

✿ *Let Us Be Prepared Spiritually and Practically—*

—Buy a few Bibles to keep in your home, your car and in your purse. The Gideons Ministry, which my husband and I are members of, have little pocket size New Testaments that are great to keep with you at all times. Get this . . . I give these New Testaments out at restaurants to the waiter/waitress with the tip included. This is a suggestion a friend gave me that is a GREAT conversation starter and often leads to sharing Jesus.

—Have wristbands made with your favorite verse and wear it. This is a great idea a friend suggested to me years ago and I have done this in my ministry and in our Church. People ALWAYS ask about the bracelet and what it says. It's a great way to engage in conversation and begin a Gospel conversation. I have given bracelets out almost everywhere I go regularly.

- Bracelet website we used: <https://www.rapidwristbands.com/>

“When you believe that nothing significant can happen through you, you have said more about your belief in God than you have said about yourself. You have said that God is not capable of doing anything significant through you. The truth is, He is able to do anything He pleases with one ordinary person fully consecrated to Him.”

Henry Blackaby

Heart Matters 🖤 Part 5

Sharing Your Testimony! Take the Challenge— Write out, practice and share your testimony this week!!

🖤 *Helpful Tip*— When sharing the Gospel or your testimony (your salvation story), it might be helpful to think of it as part of a three-step process:

- Their Story— Ask the person you are talking with to share about where they live or even their spiritual journey.
- Your Story— Then share a little about yourself and mix in parts of your testimony-shaped around their experience.
- God's Story— Finally share God's story, the Gospel. Jesus, our Salvation.

Your testimony doesn't have to be lengthy or too detailed to make an impression. In fact, keeping your story to around 3-minutes will leave time for questions and deeper conversation. Keep your testimony simple. *God can and will use your story to change lives.*

*PLEASE NOTE— When we talk and share one-on-one with someone, we usually only have a few minutes of real active listening before getting distracted. That's why keeping our testimony brief is important

Testimony_____

✿ **Take Action**— List five-ten people that the Lord has put on your heart and mark accordingly as a disciple/believer, unbeliever or unknown

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Now Choose one to three people from your list that you marked as an “Unbeliever” or “Unknown” to reach out to THIS week. Invite this person to lunch, or to church, or whatever God puts on your heart. Pray for the Lord to open up opportunities to share the Gospel, the Good News of Jesus Christ and your testimony (story of salvation).

The Christian motto should not be “Let go and let God” but “Trust God and get going.”

Memory Verses

Review all your memory verses. Now try to write out each one by memory. Review until memorized

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[illegible]

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I pray the Lord has used this study to encourage you, to help you grow in your faith, to trust in Him with all your heart, and to help you step out in faith and share Jesus with whoever God puts in your path.

✿ From my heart to yours,

Sandi Pierce, founder of Before the Bench Women's Ministry—Encouraging and Equipping Women with Biblical Truths to Grow in Christ and Share Our Faith.

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***Check out the FREE studies from Stonecroft Ministry below**

Help for "Answering Difficult Questions" when sharing our faith

<https://www.stonecroft.org/wp-content/uploads/resources/evangelism-tools/answering-difficult-questions.pdf>

Fear and Faith-Scared to Share Study

<https://www.stonecroft.org/wp-content/uploads/resources/evangelism-tools/fear-and-faith.pdf>

Starting a Faith Conversation Study

<https://www.stonecroft.org/wp-content/uploads/resources/evangelism-tools/starting-faith-conversation.pdf>

Sharing the Gospel Through Your Story Tool

<https://www.stonecroft.org/wp-content/uploads/resources/evangelism-tools/sharing-the-gospel.pdf>



BEFORE THE BENCH WOMEN'S MINISTRY

***Encouragement to press on, grow
in Christ and share our faith***

For God has not given us a spirit of fear

2 Timothy 1:7

Sandi Pierce
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