

Bible Studies for Enquirers and New Believers

by Vivienne Stacey

Acknowledgements

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– Vivienne Stacey
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About the Author

Pakistan was Vivienne Stacey's base from 1954 when she arrived from England as a partner of what is now Interserve. Educated at University College, London, the Institute of Education, London, and the London Bible College, she taught for three years at Nantwich Grammar School in Cheshire before going abroad.

After studying Urdu for a year she was seconded to the staff of the United Bible Training Centre at Gujranwala - a Centre for training lay leaders for the Pakistani church - teachers, nurses, college students, new literates, school leavers, pastors' wives and the wives of theological students. An extension ministry involved the staff in teaching in many parts of Pakistan. Vivienne Stacey became Principal of the Centre from 1967. After twenty years in Gujranwala she left in 1975 to take up an itinerant ministry among Pakistanis in the oil countries of the Middle East. She also became a part-time associate staff worker of the International Fellowship of Evangelical Students (IFES), working with the team for the Gulf, Middle East and North Africa. In addition, she undertakes lecture tours in Europe and North America.

Her extensive travels in Asia, Africa, Europe and North America together with her long experience in Pakistan have given her a wide view of the work of the Church and the challenges and changes that it faces. From 1975-1991 she lived in Bannu, a remote town in the North West Frontier Province near the border of Afghanistan, where she did much of her writing.

Her books and booklets, some published by the Christian Publishing House (MIK) in Lahore, include:

- Asian Frontiers Focus on Pakistan Go and Tell - a Case for Christian Mission Today
- Henry Martyn, Translator
- Thomas Valpy French, first Bishop of Lahore Christ Supreme over Satan
- Practical Lessons for Evangelism among Muslims

Some of her work has been translated into fifteen languages. Vivienne is also involved in sharing her experience and insights through the Lausanne Committee for World Evangelization (LOWE) and was a participant at the Lausanne II Congress in Manila in July, 1989. She led seminars on Ministry to Muslim Women. In August 1991 she moved to Cyprus to continue her writing and itinerant ministry.

Introduction

Suggestions about Studying a Passage from the Bible:

1. Pray for God's help. The Holy Spirit who inspired the Bible can help understand it. See Psalm 119:18 for a short prayer.
2. Read the passage at least twice.
3. Study the passage in general before concentrating on a particular verse. Interpret the passage in the light of its context.
4. Consider whether the passage is prose or poetry, fact or fiction, history or allegory, and treat it accordingly. Do not interpret the metaphorical literally.
5. Remember that each book of the Bible points in some way to He who is the theme of scripture.
6. Recognize the main purpose of the bible. See 2 Timothy 3:15-17.
7. Realize the progress and unity of the Bible as a whole and the place and need of every book.
8. Use the Old Testament for understanding the New Testament. Interpret the Old Testament in relation to the New Testament and to its fulfillment in Jesus Christ.
9. Seek some personal help for the present day from the passage you have studied.
 - a. Is there a truth to believe?
 - b. Is there an example to follow?
 - c. Is there a sin to confess?

Suggestions for Leading a Group Bible Study:

1. The smallest group is two people. We should not underestimate the value of one-on-one Bible study. Sometimes it is the most appropriate and beneficial way. The largest group should probably not exceed ten or twelve. After that it is probably better to divide the group.
2. Prepare carefully and frame questions.
3. Never answer your own questions. If there is no response, ask the question another way.
4. Avoid asking questions which require the answer yes or no.
5. Don't be afraid of silence.
6. Elicit several answers.
7. Get each member to speak at some time or other.
8. Stick to the passage. If other matters not relevant are introduced, offer to discuss the matter afterwards.
9. Remember that the purpose of study is to find out what the Bible really says.
10. Pray about what you have learned.

List of all Studies Written by Vivienne Stacey

Bible Studies for Enquirers and New Believers: A Series of Eight Studies

1. Holy Family: A Christmas Meditation
2. Jerusalem: A Palm Sunday Meditation
3. We See Jesus: An Easter Study
4. God's Great Summit Conference
5. Five Witnesses to Jesus Christ
6. Thine is the Kingdom
7. Thine is the Power
8. God is Great

The Lord Jesus Christ: A Series of Ten Studies

1. The Servant of God (Part 1)
2. The Servant of God (Part 2)
3. The Son of Man (Part 1)
4. The Son of Man (Part 2)
5. The Eternal Word (Part 1)
6. The Eternal Word (Part 2)
7. The Incarnate Word (Part 1)
8. The Incarnate Word (Part 2)
9. The Lord of Glory (Part 1)
10. The Lord of Glory (Part 2)

The Life of Peter: A Series of Six Studies

1. The Holiness of God
2. Peter Learns to Rely on God
3. Sufferings of Jesus
4. Sufferings of Believers
5. Learns to Respond Spiritually
6. "What Sort of Messiah?"

The Teaching of Paul: A Series of Fifteen Studies

1. Paul Study 1 – Introduction to Paul
2. Paul Study 2 – Romans 1:1-7
3. Paul Study 3 – Romans 1:8-17
4. Paul Study 4 – Romans 1:18-25
5. Paul Study 5 – Romans 1:24-32
6. Paul Study 6 – Romans 2:1-16
7. Paul Study 7 – Romans 2:17-29
8. Paul Study 8 – Romans 3:1-31
9. Paul Study 9 – Romans 3:21-31
10. Paul Study 10 – Romans 4:1-25
11. Paul Study 11 – Romans 5:1-21
12. Paul Study 12 – Romans 6:1-23
13. Paul Study 13 – Romans 7:1-25
14. Paul Study 14 – Romans 8:1-39
15. Paul Study 15 – Romans 8:5-39