

because of bethlehem study guide

because of bethlehem study guide offers an insightful exploration into the profound themes and messages conveyed in the devotional book "Because of Bethlehem" by Max Lucado. This comprehensive study guide is designed to help readers deepen their understanding of the Christmas story, highlighting the significance of Christ's birth and its transformative impact on believers. By examining key passages, theological reflections, and practical applications, this guide facilitates meaningful discussions and personal growth. It also provides structured questions and thematic breakdowns to aid group studies or individual reflection. Throughout this article, readers will find detailed analyses of major chapters, thematic overviews, and tips for maximizing the study experience. The following table of contents outlines the main sections covered in this because of bethlehem study guide.

- Overview of "Because of Bethlehem"
- Key Themes and Messages
- Chapter-by-Chapter Study Breakdown
- Discussion Questions and Reflection Prompts
- Application for Personal and Group Study
- Additional Resources and Tips

Overview of "Because of Bethlehem"

"Because of Bethlehem" is a devotional book authored by Max Lucado that focuses on the true meaning of Christmas through the lens of biblical narrative. The book emphasizes how the birth of Jesus Christ in Bethlehem is foundational to Christian faith and hope. The devotional format invites readers to pause and reflect during the Advent season, providing daily readings that connect scripture with contemporary life. This section of the study guide offers a concise summary of the book's purpose and its role in enhancing spiritual understanding during Christmas.

Author Background and Intent

Max Lucado is a well-known Christian author and pastor whose writings often focus on grace, hope, and the love of God. In "Because of Bethlehem," Lucado aims to clarify misconceptions about Christmas and redirect attention to the significance of Jesus' birth. His approachable writing style and deep theological insights make the book accessible to a wide audience. Understanding the author's background and intent provides context for the study guide's approach.

Structure of the Devotional

The devotional is structured around daily readings that explore different facets of the Christmas story, from prophecy to fulfillment. Each entry includes scripture verses, reflective commentary, and prayer prompts. This format supports both individual contemplation and group dialogue. The study guide mirrors this structure by providing corresponding questions and insights for each devotional segment.

Key Themes and Messages

The because of bethlehem study guide highlights several central themes presented in the book, which are crucial for grasping the spiritual depth of the Christmas narrative. These themes include hope, grace, redemption, peace, and the incarnation of Christ. Each theme is unpacked to show its biblical foundation and relevance to modern life.

Hope in the Midst of Darkness

One of the dominant messages in "Because of Bethlehem" is the emergence of hope through the birth of Jesus, even in a world filled with uncertainty and despair. The study guide explores how this hope transforms believers' outlook and encourages perseverance.

God's Grace and Mercy

The incarnation exemplifies God's grace extended to humanity. The study guide examines passages that illustrate divine mercy and the unearned favor bestowed through Christ's humble arrival in Bethlehem.

Redemption and Salvation

Central to the Christmas story is the promise of redemption. This theme is elaborated upon with scriptural references and reflections on how Jesus' birth initiates God's plan for salvation. The study guide helps readers understand the theological implications of redemption within the narrative.

Peace on Earth

The message of peace is intricately tied to the birth of Christ, whose coming offers reconciliation between God and humanity. The study guide discusses the biblical basis for peace and how it can be experienced personally and communally.

Chapter-by-Chapter Study Breakdown

This section of the because of bethlehem study guide offers a detailed analysis of each chapter or devotional entry in Max Lucado's book. It provides summaries, key scripture references, and thematic highlights to facilitate in-depth study.

Chapter 1: The Promise of Bethlehem

The opening chapter focuses on the prophetic promise of a Savior born in Bethlehem, setting the stage for the fulfillment of God's plan. The study guide outlines the Old Testament prophecies referenced and their significance.

Chapter 2: The Journey to Bethlehem

This chapter examines the physical and spiritual journey leading to Jesus' birth, emphasizing themes of obedience and faith. The study guide includes discussion points on the challenges faced by Mary and Joseph.

Chapter 3: The Birth of the Savior

The pivotal chapter recounts the nativity scene and the humble circumstances surrounding Christ's birth. The study guide encourages reflection on the contrast between worldly expectations and divine purpose.

Chapter 4: The Shepherds' Response

This chapter highlights the shepherds' encounter with the angelic announcement and their subsequent worship. The study guide explores the social and spiritual implications of their response.

Chapter 5: The Light of Bethlehem

Focusing on Jesus as the light of the world, this chapter connects the nativity to broader biblical themes of illumination and guidance. The study guide provides insights into how believers can live as reflections of this light.

Discussion Questions and Reflection Prompts

To enhance comprehension and application, the because of bethlehem study guide includes a variety of thought-provoking questions and reflection prompts. These are designed to stimulate critical thinking and personal connection to the themes.

Sample Discussion Questions

- What significance does Bethlehem hold in biblical prophecy and Christian tradition?
- How does the humble birth of Jesus challenge contemporary views of power and success?
- In what ways can the hope presented in the Christmas story influence daily life?
- How do grace and mercy manifest through the nativity narrative?
- What role does peace play in the Christmas message, and how can it be pursued today?

Reflection Prompts

Readers are encouraged to journal or meditate on prompts such as considering personal experiences of hope

during difficult times or identifying ways to embody the peace and grace of Christ in relationships.

Application for Personal and Group Study

The study guide offers practical advice on how to use "Because of Bethlehem" effectively in both individual devotion and group settings. It emphasizes the importance of intentional reading, prayer, and discussion to maximize spiritual growth.

Tips for Individual Study

Individual readers are encouraged to set aside daily time for reading, reflection, and journaling. The guide suggests focusing on one devotional entry at a time and using the provided questions to deepen understanding.

Facilitating Group Discussions

For group settings, the study guide recommends creating a welcoming environment, encouraging open dialogue, and using the discussion questions as a framework. It highlights the benefit of diverse perspectives in enriching the study experience.

Integrating Prayer and Worship

Incorporating prayer and worship elements is advised to foster a holistic approach to the study. This may include opening and closing prayers, singing Christmas hymns, or moments of silent meditation.

Additional Resources and Tips

Beyond the core content, the because of bethlehem study guide suggests supplementary materials and strategies to enhance the study experience. These resources support deeper engagement with the Christmas story and its implications.

Recommended Reading and Media

- Scripture passages related to the nativity and Messiah prophecies
- Other Max Lucado works for extended study
- Christian Christmas music and sermons
- Biblical commentaries on the Gospels of Matthew and Luke

Study Environment and Scheduling

Creating a quiet, comfortable study space and establishing a consistent schedule are highlighted as key factors in maintaining focus and spiritual receptiveness throughout the study period.

Encouraging Ongoing Reflection

The guide recommends continuing reflection beyond the devotional to foster lasting transformation, suggesting keeping a prayer journal or participating in church holiday events that reinforce the themes of the study.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the main theme of the 'Because of Bethlehem' study guide?

The main theme of the 'Because of Bethlehem' study guide is exploring the significance of Jesus' birth and how it impacts our lives today, emphasizing hope, joy, and the transformative power of Christ's arrival.

Who is the author of the 'Because of Bethlehem' study guide?

The 'Because of Bethlehem' study guide is authored by Max Lucado, a well-known Christian writer and pastor.

How is the 'Because of Bethlehem' study guide structured?

The study guide is structured into daily or weekly devotional readings, each focusing on a specific aspect of the Christmas story and accompanied by reflection questions, scripture references, and practical application ideas.

What age group is the 'Because of Bethlehem' study guide suitable for?

The guide is suitable for adults and teenagers who want to deepen their understanding of the Christmas story and its relevance, but it can also be adapted for youth group discussions.

Can the 'Because of Bethlehem' study guide be used for group study?

Yes, the 'Because of Bethlehem' study guide is designed for both personal and group study settings, encouraging discussion and shared reflection on the meaning of Jesus' birth.

Additional Resources

1. *Because of Bethlehem: Love Is Born, Hope Is Here Study Guide*

This study guide complements the book "Because of Bethlehem" by Max Lucado, providing readers with insightful questions and reflections to deepen their understanding of the Christmas story. It encourages personal application of biblical truths and fosters group discussions around the themes of hope, love, and redemption. Ideal for individual or group study during the holiday season.

2. *The Christmas Story: A Study Guide for Reflection and Growth*

This study guide explores the biblical narrative of Christ's birth, offering historical context and theological insights to enhance readers' appreciation of Christmas. Each chapter includes thought-provoking questions and practical applications, helping readers connect the ancient story to modern life. It is perfect for small groups or personal devotion.

3. *Advent Meditations: Preparing Your Heart for Christmas*

Designed as a daily devotional and study guide, this book helps readers focus on the spiritual significance of Advent. Through scripture readings, reflections, and guided questions, it fosters a deeper anticipation of Christ's coming. This resource is excellent for individuals or families seeking a meaningful countdown to Christmas.

4. *Journey to Bethlehem: A Bible Study on the Nativity*

This Bible study takes readers on a journey through the events leading up to Jesus' birth, highlighting key figures and moments in the nativity story. With discussion questions and prayer prompts, it encourages a thoughtful exploration of God's plan for salvation. Suitable for church groups or personal study.

5. *Hope in the Manger: A Christmas Study Guide*

Focusing on the theme of hope found in the birth of Jesus, this study guide offers scriptural insights and practical reflections. It challenges readers to find hope in their own lives through the story of Bethlehem. The guide is structured for weekly study sessions, making it ideal for church classes or small groups.

6. *Light of the World: A Christmas Bible Study*

This study guide delves into the biblical portrayal of Jesus as the Light of the World, born in Bethlehem. It combines scripture study with personal reflection questions to help participants understand the significance of Christ's coming. Perfect for deepening faith during the Christmas season.

7. *The Nativity Study Guide: Discovering the Joy of Christmas*

This guide walks readers through the nativity narrative with detailed scripture analysis and engaging questions. It aims to rekindle the joy and wonder of Christmas by focusing on the miraculous birth of Jesus. Ideal for both individual and group study, especially during the holiday season.

8. *Emmanuel: God With Us – A Christmas Study*

Centered on the meaning of "Emmanuel," this study guide explores God's presence through the birth of Christ. Each section includes biblical teachings and reflection prompts that encourage a heartfelt response to God's gift. It is a valuable resource for anyone seeking to deepen their Christmas celebration.

9. *Christmas Hope: A Scripture-Based Study Guide*

This study guide highlights the hope that Christmas brings through the fulfillment of prophecy and the arrival of Jesus. It features scripture readings, discussion questions, and practical applications to help believers embrace the true meaning of Christmas. Suitable for personal devotion or group study settings.

Because Of Bethlehem Study Guide

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because of bethlehem study guide: *Because of Bethlehem Bible Study Guide* Max Lucado, 2016-09-13 In the *Because of Bethlehem* video Bible study (DVD/digital video sold separately), bestselling author and pastor Max Lucado guides you through the Advent season to its source at an unassuming stable in Bethlehem... No one expected the Messiah to come the way he did. Yet the way he came was every bit as important as the coming itself. The manger is the message. Because of Bethlehem, God knows what it's like to be human. Because of Bethlehem, when we talk to him about tough times, he understands. He's been there. He's been here. Because of Bethlehem, we no longer have marks on our record...just grace. In the midst of your hectic Christmas season, this 4-session Bible study with Max will: Revive your wonder that the One who made everything chose to make himself nothing for us. Rekindle your connection to the Christ of Christmas who offers lasting hope. Help you lay down your endless Christmas to-do list and receive what Jesus has already done. Heal

your heartache by embracing the God who is always near you, always for you, and always in you. For some, Christmas is a time of excitement, celebration, and family, while for others it is a time of loneliness, grief, and loss. No matter what this season holds for you, the promise of Christmas will bring you a lifetime of hope. The Because of Bethlehem Study Guide includes video notes and discussion questions, Bible exploration, an individual application activity, and an Advent practice to complete between meetings. Sessions include: God Has a Face Worship Works Wonders God Guides the Wise Every Heart a Manger Designed for use with Because of Bethlehem/He Chose the Nails Video Study (9780310687849), sold separately. The DVD is a two-disc set for Christmas and Easter.

because of bethlehem study guide: *Because of Bethlehem Study Guide* Max Lucado, 2016-08-22 A remarkable gift can arrive in an unremarkable package. One did in Bethlehem more than 2,000 years ago. No one expected God to come the way he did. Yet the way he came was every bit as important as the coming itself. The manger is the message. In this four-session video Bible study, Max Lucado explores how the One who made everything chose to make himself nothing for us. He experienced hunger and thirst. He went through the stages of human development. He was taught to walk, stand, and wash his face. He was completely and genuinely human. Because of Bethlehem, we no longer have marks on our record . . . just grace. We have the promise that God is always near us, always for us, always within us--and that we have a friend and Savior in heaven. Long after the guests have left, the carolers have gone home, and the lights have come down, these promises endure. The Because of Bethlehem Study Guide includes video discussion questions, Bible exploration, and personal study and reflection materials for in-between sessions. Session Titles: God Has a Face Worship Works Wonders God Guides the Wise Every Heart a Manger Designed for use with Because of Bethlehem: A DVD Study 9780310687849 (sold separately). The DVD is a two-disc set for Christmas and Easter.

because of bethlehem study guide: Because of Bethlehem/He Chose the Nails Study Guides with DVD Max Lucado, 2016-09-27 In Because of Bethlehem, a four-session video Bible study, Max Lucado explores how the One who made everything chose to make himself nothing and come into our world. Jesus' birth gives us the promise that God is always near us, always for us, and always within us--and that we no longer need to have marks on our record. In He Chose the Nails, a five-session video Bible study, Max continues by examining the gifts that Christ gave at his crucifixion. These include not only the gift of the cross, but also the gift of the thorns, the nails, and the empty tomb. The cross is rich with God's gifts of grace, and as we unwrap them, we will hear him whisper, I did it just for you. Because of Bethlehem sessions include: God Has a Face (16:00) Worship Works Wonders (18:00) God Guides the Wise (14:00) Every Heart a Manger (17:30) He Chose the Nails sessions include: He Chose to Be One of Us (15:00) He Chose to Forgive Us (16:00) He Chose to Invite Us into His Presence (15:00) He Chose to Love Us Forever (16:00) He Chose to Give Us Victory (18:00) This pack contains one Because of Bethlehem Study Guide 9780310687054, one He Chose the Nails Study Guide 9780310687269, and one DVD 9780310687849 that houses video for both studies.

because of bethlehem study guide: Because of Bethlehem (with Bonus Content) Max Lucado, 2016-09-13 For some, Christmas is a time of excitement, celebration, and quality time with loved ones. For others, it's full of loneliness, grief, and loss. Join New York Times bestselling author Max Lucado as he unwraps the enduring promises of Christmas and discovers a lifetime of hope, all because of one baby born in Bethlehem. It's easy to lose sight of the remarkable story of Christmas. We forget that a king ordered a census, Joseph was forced to travel, Mary bounced on a donkey's back, the hotel was full, the hour was late, and the event was one big hassle. Yet, out of that hassle, hope was born. In Because of Bethlehem, Max invites us to look at the Christmas story from a different perspective. He reminds us that Christmas is about more than a pretty tree with presents piled up underneath it. Christmas begins what Easter celebrates: the child in the cradle who goes on to become the King on the cross. Because of Bethlehem, we have a place on earth and a Savior in heaven. In the midst of your hectic Christmas season, Max will give you the encouragement, advice, and tools you need to: Rekindle your connection to the Christ of Christmas Receive the promises of

the Christmas season Lay down your endless Christmas to-do list and trust what Jesus has already done Heal your heartache by embracing the God who is always near you, always for you, and always with you Because of Bethlehem also includes an Advent Devotional Guide designed to help you reflect on the miracle of Christ's birth and the promise of his return. As you curl up in a comfortable spot and take a closer look at the wild and wonderful story of Bethlehem, may you find enduring faith for all seasons of your life. No matter what this season holds for you, rest in the truth that the promise of Christmas has the power to bring you a lifetime of hope and healing.

because of bethlehem study guide: Unshakable Hope Bible Study Guide Max Lucado, 2018-08-07 This 12-session video Bible study will help you, your group, and your church stand on the definitive declarations of our mighty and loving God who governs the world according to his great and precious promises. This world has a tremble to it. There are things that seem unsteady in this life. But when we belong to God, it allows us to filter our problems through the promises of God. When we choose to be people of the promise, we choose to build our lives on the promises of God, not the circumstances of life. The stories of the men and women in Scripture were different, but the theme was the same: they were People of the Promise. Because of God's promises, Noah built an ark on dry land, Joshua claimed the Promised Land, David became king, Peter preached the first sermon, and John caught a glimpse of the future. Like them, we can also build our lives on God's promises, and trust him to keep them. This study guide includes tools for personal study and reflection, video notes, and questions for group discussion. Sessions include: You Are Stamped with God's Image God Will Win the Victory You Are an Heir of God Your Prayers Have Power God Gives Grace to the Humble God Gets You Jesus Is Praying for You Death Has Been Defeated Joy Is Coming Soon You Will Have Power There Is No Condemnation in Christ Justice Will Prevail Designed for use with the Unshakable Hope Video Study (9780310092117), sold separately.

because of bethlehem study guide: Jesus Bible Study Guide Max Lucado, 2020-01-21 Do you find it more difficult to think of Jesus Christ as a human, like you, than to think of him as God? You may believe in God, and you may believe Jesus is God, but many Christians find it difficult to think of him as a real person—fully human as he was fully divine. Award-winning author Max Lucado reveals in this video Bible study (DVD/streaming video sold separately) that in order to really know God and understand the Gospel, it's essential that we take a closer look at Jesus' humanity. The concept of Jesus' human and heavenly nature is difficult to wrap our minds around. He's the God who formed the universe and, at the same time, knows your personal struggles...because he went through the same things. For thirty-three years, Jesus felt everything you have ever felt. Weakness. Weariness. Sadness. Rejection. His feet got tired. His head ached. He was tempted and his strength was tested. The purpose of this study is simple: by journeying through these six lessons with a small group, you will get to know Jesus—and, therefore, God—like you never have before. And by learning more about the person Jesus was and is, we come to understand more clearly the people we were created to be. The Jesus Study Guide includes: Video teaching notes Group discussion questions and activities Bible exploration and prayers Weekly personal study and reflection materials. Get ready to study who Jesus was while he walked this earth and what that means for your life today. In doing this, you will get to know God, his purpose for you, and his love for you like you never have before. *Designed for use with the Jesus: The God Who Knows Your Name Video Study, available on DVD or streaming video, sold separately.

because of bethlehem study guide: You Are Never Alone Bible Study Guide Max Lucado, 2020-09-15 When life feels worn out, does God care? When you're faced with an onslaught of challenges, fears, doubts—will God help? In *You Are Never Alone*, Max Lucado will take you and your study group on an investigation of the Gospel of John to answer these questions and to show us that our miracle-working God is always nearer than we think. Each part of this 6-session video study guide (DVD/video streaming sold separately) makes this message clear in a different aspect of our lives. Sessions include: God is With You in the Ordinary God is With You When You're Stuck God is With You in the Storm God is With You in the Dark God is With You in the Valley God is With You When You Need Grace As you work through this study guide, you'll come to understand God's

nearness in new ways. You'll see with fresh perspective how God hears us, forgives us, heals us, comforts us. You'll learn that you are stronger than you think because God is nearer than you know. Designed for use with the You Are Never Alone Video Study available on DVD or streaming video, sold separately.

because of bethlehem study guide: You Were Made for This Moment Bible Study Guide plus Streaming Video Max Lucado, 2021-09-28 Join Max Lucado on a journey through the book of Esther as he reminds us that God need not be loud to be strong, he need not cast a shadow to be present...and he is active even when he appears distant. This study was born in a hard season—a pandemic that locked down the world. Church doors closed. Students were stuck at home. Masks hid smiles. And as if this weren't enough, the ancient sin of racism and hatred seems to be trying to undo us. Many of us are left wondering if this season will ever pass. To all these things, God has a six-letter word of encouragement: E-S-T-H-E-R. The book that bears her name was written to be read in hard seasons. It was crafted for those who feel outnumbered by foes, outmaneuvered by fate, and outdone by fear. In the You Were Made for This Moment five-session video Bible study (streaming included), pastor and New York Times bestselling author Max Lucado presents the story of Esther in all its drama, urgency, and hope. This study guide has everything you need for a full Bible study experience, including: The study guide itself—with discussion and personal reflection questions, video notes, and a leader's guide. An individual access code to stream all five video sessions online (DVD also available separately). Esther's is a story that reaches out of the past to our present circumstances with a singular message: God is present, and he will act. It's a story that demands from us a singular response: what will we do when he does? Sessions and video run times: Cozy in the Culture - Esther 1:1-2:18 (17:30) A Moment of Decision - Esther 2:19-4:14 (17:00) Heaven Set in Motion - Esther 4:15-6:14 (16:30) The God of Great Turnarounds - Esther 7:1-8:17 (17:30) Remembering God's Faithfulness - Esther 9:1-10:3 (16:00) Streaming video access code included. Access code subject to expiration after 12/31/2027. Code may be redeemed only by the recipient of this package. Code may not be transferred or sold separately from this package. Internet connection required. Void where prohibited, taxed, or restricted by law. Additional offer details inside.

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because of bethlehem study guide: A Study Guide for Miguel Mendez's "Peregrinos de Aztlan (Pilgrims in Aztlan)" Gale, Cengage Learning, 2016-06-29 A Study Guide for Miguel Mendez's Peregrinos de Aztlan (Pilgrims in Aztlan), excerpted from Gale's acclaimed Novels for Students. This concise study guide includes plot summary; character analysis; author biography; study questions; historical context; suggestions for further reading; and much more. For any literature project, trust Novels for Students for all of your research needs.

because of bethlehem study guide: Bible Study Guide: Ruth Andrew J. Lamont-Turner, Journey with Ruth and Naomi as they navigate the twists and turns of life in ancient Bethlehem. With the loss of their husbands and the uncertainty of their future, these two women must rely on each other and their unwavering faith to overcome adversity. But when Ruth meets Boaz, a wealthy landowner, their lives are forever changed as they embark on a journey of love, redemption, and the

fulfillment of God's plan. Don't miss this heartwarming tale of perseverance, hope, and the power of love in the Book of Ruth.

because of bethlehem study guide: *Im Waiting, God* - Women's Bible Study Guide with Leader Helps Barb Roose, 2019-09-17 Find help and hope for times when it's hard to wait on God Do you ever feel like God is taking too long to answer your prayers? Have you ever taken matters into your own hands, only to discover that you've made the situation worse? Waiting on God challenges our faith when the bills are stacking up, our families are falling apart, or our dreams feel like they won't come true. We know that God hears our prayers, but it's hard when the clock is ticking yet He hasn't shown us the answer. In this four-week Bible study, Barb Roose invites us to explore the stories of women in the Bible who had to wait on God— women such as Hannah, Ruth, Tamar, and the unnamed woman who suffered for over a decade with a painful medical condition. If you've felt anxious, angry, discouraged or depressed because God isn't giving you what you want, their stories will breathe fresh hope and practical next steps in your life. As a reforming control lover, Barb mixes in her personal stories of learning how to wait for God during long seasons of unanswered prayers, family difficulties, and challenging times in ministry. Together we will discover that there is goodness and blessing to be found in times of waiting, including a closer relationship with God than we've ever dared to dream. Other components for the Bible study, available separately, include a DVD. Barb Roose tackles the topic of patience in a way that really hit home for me personally. I have a lot of "why, how, and when" questions for God. Combining in-depth Scripture study with practical tools and personal stories, this study is one of the best I've ever read! —Melissa Spoelstra, Bible teacher, speaker, and author of *Romans: Good News That Changes Everything* and numerous other Bible studies and books When waiting is hard and long, the last thing you need is someone disregarding your pain, with platitudes like "just push through." In *I'm Waiting, God*, Barb walks with us in our waiting. Warm, tender, and a help for moving forward, Barb's study has left me stronger, knowing I can wait so His glory is seen. —Lynn Cowell, author of *Make Your Move* and member of the Proverbs 31 Ministries speaker and writer team Barb Roose is a wonderful role model of walking out biblical truth while in life's waiting room. This study is a must read for anyone wondering what to do while waiting and wanting to stay close to God in the meantime. —Pam Farrel, best-selling author of over forty books, including *Discovering Hope in the Psalms: A Creative Bible Study Experience* Bible Study Features: A shorter four-week study is ideal for in-between or busy times. Accessible and friendly format. Each week concludes with a devotional lesson featuring prayer journaling, helping women create "memorial stones" during a waiting season. DVD features dynamic, engaging teaching in four 20-minute segments. Participant Workbook includes group session guides, discussion questions, prayers, video viewer guides, and leader helps.

because of bethlehem study guide: *1 & 2 Samuel: An Introduction and Study Guide* David Firth, 2017-01-12 Scholarly study of Samuel continues to wrestle with how we interpret this pivotal text. Even such basic matters as the question of what kind of literature it is remain unresolved while older questions such as the nature of its text and sources are debated anew in the light of material from Qumran and of current approaches to Hebrew narrative. Recognizing the importance of questions such as these, David Firth explores and introduces fresh ways of reading Samuel as a unified and yet complex text, which displays high levels both of literary artistry and of theological commitment. Although some stories in the books of Samuel are well known, and in the case of David and Goliath even proverbial, much of the content of these books is strange to modern readers. It is a story about a woman wanting a child, for example, that relates the beginnings of monarchy within Israel. Even the question of the monarchy is problematic, for we are introduced to not one royal family but two—those of Saul and David. David is ultimately shown to be the king chosen by God, yet by the end of the book he is only just managing to hold on to the kingdom as it is nearly torn from him by rivalries within his family. These arresting stories are perplexing, for Samuel's writers seldom tell us how to read and interpret them. Firth presents these complex and fascinating stories as part of a bigger picture, enabling students to chart their way through the literary and historical issues of the Samuel narrative. Firth addresses issues of historicity, sources, date and authorship, as

well as -- crucially -- appreciating the text as a literary whole.

because of bethlehem study guide: *Promises of God Study Guide Series* Dennis G. Aaberg, 2002-12

because of bethlehem study guide: The Rock, the Road, and the Rabbi Bible Study Guide Kathie Lee Gifford, 2018-06-12 Kathie Lee Gifford always believed the Bible held the answers to every question a person could ask. Her problem was: how could she be sure of what the Bible was really saying when we are so separated from the ancient Jewish culture in which it was written? As a lifelong student of Scripture, Kathie Lee Gifford has always desired a deeper understanding of God's Word and a deeper knowledge of God Himself. But it wasn't until she began studying the biblical texts in their original Hebrew and Greek—along with actually hiking the ancient paths of Israel—that she found the fulfillment of those desires. In this six-session video study (DVD/video streaming sold separately), Kathie Lee invites you to join her as she visits sites in Israel that have impacted her life. As she shares her story, Rabbi Jason Sobel, a messianic Jewish rabbi who was trained in the ancient rabbinical way, provides fascinating background details into the language, culture and heritage that make the story of the New Testament come alive. Kathie Lee and Rabbi Sobel will take you and your group beyond the typical Sunday school teaching to examine the original texts of the Bible. Now you can walk with Kathie on a journey through the spiritual foundations of her faith: The Rock (Jesus Christ): Hear directly from Kathie about her life-changing and ever-deepening connection with Jesus, the Lover of her soul. The Road (Israel): Explore dozens of ancient landmarks and historical sites from Israel, the promised land of God's covenant. The Rabbi (God's Word): Go beyond a Sunday-school approach to the Bible by digging into the original languages and deeper meanings of the Holy Scriptures. Come! Explore the land of Israel and mine the treasures of God's Word. There is so much more! Sessions include: Bethlehem: Where It All Began Nazareth: The Early Years Capernaum: Ministry Headquarters Galilee: Ministry Grounds Mount of Olives: The Triumphant Entry Jerusalem: Crucifixion and Resurrection Designed for use with The Rock, the Road, and the Rabbi Video Study (9780310095033), sold separately.

because of bethlehem study guide: *New Testament Study Guide, Pt. 1* Randal S. Chase, 2010-12-01 New Testament Study Guide, Pt. 1: The Life & Ministry of Jesus Christ. This volume is the first of three on the New Testament. It covers the life of Christ from his premortal selection as the Lamb of God through His birth and childhood. Then we follow the Master during the first year of His ministry as He is tempted, baptized, performs miracles, selects Twelve Apostles, and then teaches with parables and in the Sermon on the Mount. During the second year of His ministry, He teaches the Bread of Life sermon, is transfigured, and bestows priesthood keys to the Twelve. He finishes the second year of His ministry at Jerusalem, where He declares Himself to be the Light of the World, the Son of God, and the Messiah. The cover features the classic image of 'The Sermon on the Mount' painted by Carl Heinrich Bloch in 1890.

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