

# Lifeline Bible Church Bible Study



## MAKING IMPACT FOR GOD 1:

### Main Text: Matt.5: 13-16

#### Introduction:

The Church may seem needless and unimportant to some people but can you imagine a society without the Church and Christians? God help any such society without the Church!

Have you ever wondered 'what really is the role of the Church in the society?' What do pastors do or how do they contribute in the society? Then, we should also ask ourselves as individuals, 'What are my roles in the society as a Christian? This is the heart of this Bible Study?

Christians, as Christ's ambassadors make impact and influence our environment and society for God by being salt and light. Unless we understand our purpose as Christians and relate to it, all our programmes and activities will become meaningless or pointless and we would become irrelevant and be seen as a nuisance like salt that has lost its taste or a light under a bushel or that is put out and darkness prevails. Church programmes and activities are supposed to be ONLY a means to achieve an end; they should not constitute an end in themselves.

#### An Illustration:

What are you looking for – money or value? If you have money, what value will you get from it? The following story of a fisherman and his expert American counselor best explains it:

A boat docked in a tiny Mexican village. An American tourist complimented the Mexican fisherman on the quality of his fish and asked how long it took him to catch them. "Not very long," answered the Mexican. "But then, why didn't you stay out longer and catch more?" asked the American. The Mexican explained that his small catch was sufficient to

meet his needs and those of his family. The American asked, "But what do you do with the rest of your time?" "I sleep late, fish a little, play with my children, and take a siesta with my wife. In the evenings, I go into the village to see my friends, play the guitar, and sing a few songs. I have a full life."

The American interrupted, "I have an MBA from Harvard, and I can help you! You should start by fishing longer every day. You can then sell the extra fish you catch. With the extra revenue, you can buy a bigger boat."

"And after that?" asked the Mexican. "With the extra money the larger boat will bring, you can buy a second one and a third one and so on until you have an entire fleet. Instead of selling your fish to a middle man, you can then negotiate directly with the processing plants and maybe even open your own plant. You can then leave this little village and move to Mexico City, Los Angeles, or even New York City! From there you can direct your huge new enterprise."

"How long would that take?" asked the Mexican. "Twenty, perhaps twenty-five years," replied the American. "And after that?" "Afterwards? Well my Friend, That's when it gets really interesting," answered the American, laughing. "When your business gets really big, you can start selling stocks and make millions!" "Millions? Really? And after that?" said the Mexican.

"After that you'll be able to retire, live in a tiny village near the coast... sleep late... play with your children... catch a few fish... take a siesta with your wife and spend your evenings doing what you like and enjoying with your friends."

"But that's what I'm already doing!" answered the Mexican fisherman.

Know what you want and where you're going in life... For, you may already be there. Know your goal and purpose in life!

We must not forget our purpose or goal as Christians in the world!

This is the major error of prosperity message or pursuing and acquiring money and material wealth without actually knowing what to do with them or how to touch lives and make impact for God with them. Unfortunately, money and material wealth have the inherent danger of isolating us from the people we are supposed to help in the first place. The more money we have the more we want to have and the more independent and isolated we tend to become. So, God warns us about this inherent danger involved in managing money – **Ps.62: 10; Matt.6: 24; 19: 24; 1Tim.6: 6-10.**

Jesus never taught us to be isolated from the world! We can never fulfill the Great Commission in isolation! It is impossible for us to truly live for God and His kingdom in private. The Church is called to fulfill a social mission, to make a difference and influence the world around us by outwardly expressing God's principles for the world or people around us to see.

It is so sad that Christianity has become so materialistic, Christians generally have become so selfish and self-centered, and the Church has become more and more irrelevant as we lose our influence in the society today. Why? Because too many Christians have ceased to be salt of the earth and light in the world! So, the world now ignores us and sees us more as noise makers or even confused people for failing to be what God in His Word called us to be.

Why did Jesus call us, Salt and Light and NOT Eagles, Lions, Kings, Champions or Stars in order to motivate us as many preachers are now doing? As salt, we give taste to the world around us and prevent decay. As light, we help the people see God clearly through us.

### **Purpose of Salt and Light:**

#### **A. Salt:**

Salt was very important in Biblical times. Roman soldiers were paid with salt in 'salarium' or salt-money. Hence the saying, 'A man is worth his salt.' The purposes of salt are as follows:

1. Salt is a preservative. It prevents decay or spoilage. Believers are to protect the society and prevent the full sway of evil in it – **2Thess.2: 7; 1Pet.5: 8.**
2. Salt seasons or gives flavor. As seasoning or flavoring, salt brings out the best taste of food. The Christian life is a personification and presentation of how life should be – life at its best – **Jn.10: 10; 1Tim.6: 6-8**
3. Salt is antiseptic. Salt cleanses and fights germs and infections. As Christians, we must sin and its consequences. We must practically provide healing and help to the society also – **Lk.4: 16-21.**
4. Salt creates thirst. It is said that, 'You can force a horse to the stream but can't force him to drink. But the rest of the saying states that, "You can give him salt and make him thirsty." Like Jesus Christ, we must make people around us thirst for God and the real life He offers. If the people thirst for God, He will fill them – **Matt.5: 6.**

## **B. Light:**

Light is simply defined as a source of illumination. The purposes of light are as follows:

1. Light dispels darkness. As Christians, we dispel spiritual darkness by bearing and reflecting the light of Christ – **Jn.1: 5**.
2. Light reveals. Imagine walking into a dark room at night. And suddenly, the light is switched on. Everything in the room is revealed for you to see clearly. As Christians, we are to reveal the truth about God and His word to a world in darkness.
3. Light awakens. Darkness lures sleep but light awakens. Christians as light in the world should awaken men and women around us to the presence of God and the truth of His word and kingdom.
4. Light warms. Every form of light always has some warmth with it e.g. Sun, fire of any kind and even, electrical lights. Jesus came to show us the love of God – **Jn.3: 16; 15: 13; Rom.5: 7-8**. Christians must show the warmth of God's love to the world – **Jn.13: 34-35; 1Jn.4: 7-12; 1Cor.13: 1-13**.
5. Light warns. Like a light warns of danger, Christians must continually warn a careless world by the word of the impending danger of the God's judgment and hell fire – **Ps.19: 7-11; Ezek.3: 17-21; 33: 1-11; 2Cor.5: 11a**. Paul warned the people severally in **Acts 10: 31-36; 1Cor.4: 14; Col.1: 27; 1Thess.5: 14**

## MAKING IMPACT FOR GOD 2:

### II. How to Make Impact for God:

#### 1. Recognize your Uniqueness and Distinctiveness – Matt.5: 13-14

Jesus didn't say you are like salt or you are like light but He said, "You are the salt of the earth..." and, "You are the light of the world." Salt and light are unique and distinct. There is nothing quite like salt and light. As Christians, we are to be unique and distinct from the world around us. Separation is not isolation! We are called as Christians to live a separated life but not to an isolated life – **Jn.17: 14-16; 2Cor.6: 14-18.**

There is nothing quite like being a Christian. It is a Christian's distinctiveness that makes a difference in the world and that distinctiveness is called holiness. It is what distinguishes a Christian or what sets us apart from the rest people of the world. Blaise Pascal said, "The serene, silent beauty of a holy life is the most powerful influence in the world, next to the might of God."

#### 2. Stay Close to Christ – Jn.15: 5

Salt is unique in the sense that it is an extremely stable compound that in its purest form never loses its taste. Salt will always be salt. The only way salt can lose its saltiness is when it is mixed with something else. The only way a Christian loses his saltiness or influence in the world is when we are mixed and diluted with all forms of worldliness or ungodliness. If we are not affecting the world as Christians, then, the world is affecting us; if we are not salting the world, then, the world is rotting us.

In order to prevent the world from affecting or influencing us as Christians, we must stay very close to Christ Himself. We must spend time with the Lord in His word and prayer. You can't ever be too close to Jesus! How close are you to the Lord Jesus Christ? The way it works is, a weak contact will produce a weak influence but a close and strong daily contact will produce a dynamic influence e.g. A rechargeable gadget.

#### 3. Stay Close to the Brethren also – Prov.27: 17; 1Cor.15: 33; Heb.10: 25

It is said that birds of the same feather flock together. Apart from the fact that we are far from temptations and the ungodly influence of the world, by staying close in fellowship with our brethren, we are helped to grow in the faith and together, we exert greater and better influence on the world. Christians who isolate themselves from the fellowship of fellow brethren are vulnerable to sin and stand the risk of falling away ultimately. Those Satan attacks, he first isolates.

#### **4. Make your Works Visible – Matt.5: 14-16**

Salt can be tasted and light can be seen. Their influence or effect can hardly be covered. Likewise, our influence as Christians, however small or great will be seen by men. Jesus calls us to serve as object lessons or to be audio-visual Christians i.e. Our lives should preach more than our words! There is no place anywhere for secret discipleship for true followers of Christ. It's either your secrecy will destroy your discipleship or your discipleship will destroy your secrecy. Let your Christianity be vibrant and visible! Salt in a container light under a bushel cannot make any impact. Christians without deeds of compassion have lost their influence.

### **III. The Sphere of Our Influence – Matt.28: 18-20; Mk.16: 15-16:**

Consider the following statements from the verses read:

- i. Salt of the earth
- ii. Light of the world
- iii. All power is given unto in heaven and in earth
- iv. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations
- v. Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature

From all these statements, it is very clear that the sphere of the Christian's influence is The Whole World! As Christians, the whole world is to feel our seasoning influence as salt and see our illuminating impact as light. We are not called to save the world (Jesus is the Saviour of the world) but we are called to preach and make a difference. We can't do everything but we can do something, Only you as salt cannot season all the earth just as only you as light cannot lighten the entire world but by shining your own little light, and I shine my own little light where we are, the entire world shall be lightened and delivered from darkness.

## MAKING IMPACT FOR GOD 3:

### Making Impact Through Intercessory Prayer

We can make great impact for God as intercessors. The nation of Israel was destroyed because there was no one to stand in the gap for the nation – **Ezek.22: 30-31.**

#### Biblical Examples of Great Intercessors:

##### 1. Abraham - **Gen.18: 16-33**

Abraham interceded for Sodom and Gomorrah and almost delivered the two nations. Even then, he succeeded in delivering Lot, his nephew and his family through his intercessory prayer. We also can affect and influence many lives through our intercessory prayers - **Gen.17: 16-33.**

##### 2. Moses:

- i. Moses pleaded with God for Israel after the people worshipped idols while he went to the top of Mount Sinai - **Exod.32: 7-14.**
- ii. Moses prayed for the Israelites and saved them from fire after they complained about his leadership - **Num.11: 1-3.**
- iii. He prayed and interceded for Aaron and Miriam, his brother and sister - **Num.12: 1-2, 10-13.**
- iv. He pleaded for them twice during Korah's rebellion - **Num.16: 19-22, 42-49.**
- v. He prayed to deliver them from poisonous snakes after they spoke against God and Moses - **Num.21: 7-14.**

##### 3. Daniel - **Dan.9: 1-19.**

- i. Daniel prayed and fasted in sackcloth
- ii. He meditated on the word of God
- iii. He identified with the sins and sufferings of the people
- iv. He reminded God of His promise(s) in His word
- v. Daniel asked God to fulfill His promise to Israel

##### 5. The Early Church interceded for Peter in **Acts 12.**

This goes beyond one person and is a good example of corporate or congregational intercession. We must not be too absorbed with our own needs in the church that we forget the needs of those who are outside either as absentee members or even unbelievers - **1Tim.2: 1-4.**

To serve as intercessors, we must have the following qualities:

- i. Holiness and intimacy with God –
- ii. Humility
- iii. Forgiving Spirit
- iv. Selflessness

- v. Empathy for others
- vi. Devotion and dedication
- vii. Patience and endurance e.g. fasting
- viii. Persistence and perseverance



## MAKING IMPACT FOR GOD 4:

### Making Impact Through Evangelism

The Biblical Examples of Jonah, John the Baptist, Paul & the Early Church

#### 1. Jonah - **Jon.3: 1-10; 4: 1:**

- i. Jonah was reluctant to answer God's at first and tried to dodge it. Why do we usually find evangelism difficult and try to avoid it?
- ii. God compelled Jonah to go to Nineveh. He will compel us too but why - **Rom.1: 16; 10: 14**
- iii. Surprisingly, Jonah's message was effective and successful - an entire city repented! Why was this so? What can we learn from Jonah in order to be effective in evangelism today - **2Cor.5: 11**
- iv. Jonah did not expect such a drastic, dramatic and massive change or turn around in Nineveh. Why do we preach if we don't expect people to believe our message and change?
- v. Jonah was bitter about the mass repentance in Nineveh. Have you ever seen or experienced such reaction before? Why would anybody react like that?

The story of Jonah shows clearly that evangelism is one major way we can impact our society for God and make it change for good.

#### 2. John the Baptist - **Matt.3: 1-15:**

- i. John the Baptist was called as the fore-runner of the Lord Jesus Christ - the Saviour of the world. As a fore-runner, he was to prepare or pave the way for Christ.
- ii. John the Baptist devoted himself fully to his calling without distraction. He did not marry or indulge in pleasure.
- iii. John the Baptist was effective in drawing the people's attention to God - from the general masses to the military, customs and even the Jewish leaders of the people came to listen to his message and to his baptism. Take note that Christ was also baptized by him. Later, in the book of Acts, many claimed to have believed and received the faith in form of John's baptism - **Acts 19: 1-7.**
- iv. Though he did not record 100% success like Jonah yet, through his message, John brought about a major revival and change in his society.
- v. What made John the Baptist so effective and successful in his impact? How can we bring about such major transformation in our society today by preaching the gospel like John the Baptist?

### **1. Apostle Paul – 1Cor.9: 16; 15: 10:**

- i. Paul preached in Damascus for the first time shortly after his conversion but soon took the gospel to the entire nation of Israel and as far as Rome.
- ii. Unlike, Jonah and John the Baptist, Paul's evangelism work was backed up with signs and wonder. So, evangelism can be done with or without signs and wonder.
- iii. Paul was so effective in his evangelism work that he was able to reach all the major cities then for Christ. Such cities include Damascus, Caesarea, Seleucia, Salamis, Cyprus, Antioch, Attalia, Iconium, Derby, Berea, Lystra, Mysia, Bithynia, Amphipolis, Pisidia, Perga, Pamphilia, Paphos, Phrygia, Philippi, Galatia, Ephesus, Samothracia, Neapolis, Troas, Thyatira, Thessalonica and Rome
- iv. Paul was the only Apostle who preached to the Jewish leaders (Pharisees and Saducees), King Agrippa and his wife Bernice, Governors Festus and Felix as well as the emperor in Rome.
- v. Paul's education and his dual citizenship as a Jew and also a Roman citizen no doubt helped his ministry. How can we use our education, positions and privileges to evangelize and win souls for Christ?

### **5. The Early Church – Acts 8: 4:**

- i. Peter preached his sermon on the Day of Pentecost and over 3,000 souls were instantly won for Christ.
- ii. The same Peter and John healed the crippled man at the Beautiful Gate and preached and over 5,000 souls were won for Christ again.
- iii. Members of the Early Church generally were given to evangelism. At first, they concentrated in Jerusalem but were soon scattered abroad through persecution and went everywhere preaching the gospel - **Acts 8: 4**
- iv. Phillip took the gospel to Samaria and preached to the Ethiopian Eunuch - **Acts 8: 5**
- v. Peter and Paul later became the arrow-heads as they led the Early Church to spread the gospel all over Israel and the then Roman Empire.
- vi. Members of the Early Church were so effective in their evangelistic work that they were labeled as turning the world upside down - **Acts 17: 6**
- vii. In fact, many of these first generation Christians died for preaching and some like Stephen while preaching the Gospel

### **Conclusion:**

What common threads can we see in Jonah, John the Baptist, Apostle and the Early Church that we learn from in order to be more effective in making impact for God on our society through evangelism

1. Their devotion and lack of distraction
2. Their selfless and self-denial
3. Their message - focus on fear of God and coming judgment

## MAKING IMPACT FOR GOD – LESSON 5:

### Making Impact Through Hospitality, Help, Love and Care for Others

#### A. Making Impact Through Hospitality:

##### I. Definition:

What is Hospitality? Hospitality is the quality or act of receiving and treating guests and strangers in a warm, friendly, cheerful and generous way.

What the Bible teaches generally about Hospitality, love, care and helping others - **Lev.19: 33-34; Matt.5: 42; 10: 9-10; Heb.13: 1-2**

##### II. Biblical Examples of Hospitable People:

1. Abraham - **Gen.18: 1-8**
2. Shunamite - **2Kg.4: 8-14**
3. Members of the Early Church - **Acts 2: 44-45; 1Tim.3: 2; Tit.1: 8**
4. Publius and the people of Meilta - **Acts 28: 1-7**

III. What impact does Hospitality have on people and how does it show godliness? - **Matt.5: 16; Tit.3: 8 & 14**

IV. What are the hindrances to Hospitality today?

V. How can we overcome these hindrances and make more impact for God through hospitality (individually and as a church)?

#### B. Making Impact for God by Loving, Caring and Helping Others:

##### I. Definition:

What does it mean to you to be loving, caring or helpful? To love is to have a warm and tender feeling or passionate affection for a person. To care is to show concern for a person. It is also to look after a person and provide for him or her. To help is to give or provide what a person needs or requires and to assist that person. It is clear that these three things – love, care and help are closely related.

##### II. Biblical Examples of Caring & Helpful People:

1. Joseph in prison - **Gen.49: 1-15**
2. Naaman's House help - **2Kg.5: 1-6**
3. Good Samaritan - **Lk.10: 25-37**
4. Mary Magdalene & co - **Lk.8: 1-3; Matt.27: 55-56**

5. Dorcas - **Acts 9: 36-40**

III. What is the relationship between godliness and loving, helping and caring for others?

IV. What are the major hindrances to helping people today?

V. How can we make more impact for God by being more loving, caring and helpful individually and as a church?

**Conclusion:**

Apart from making impact by touching lives for God, hospitality, loving, caring and helping others are generally rewarding even to the givers - **Prov.12: 24-25; Lk.6: 36.**

## MAKING IMPACT FOR GOD 6:

### Making Impact for God Through Volunteering, Public Service and Running Errands

#### I. Definitions:

1. What does it mean to volunteer? To volunteer is to offer oneself or service(s) for an undertaking or purpose. A volunteer therefore is someone who voluntarily offers himself or herself for a service or undertaking. It could also mean a person who performs a service willingly and without pay. It should be noted that the secret of the strength of the church lies in its volunteers. The church relies mostly on volunteer service.
2. What is public service? It is any service rendered to the public free or without making profit e.g. Supply of electricity, water, road and other services by government and civil servants. Others are radio and television broadcasts, etc.
3. What is an errand? It is a short and quick trip to accomplish a specific purpose or mission for someone else e.g. To buy something, deliver a package or convey a message

#### II. What the Bible Teaches About Volunteering and Running Errands:

1. Nobody has everything; we are all gifted differently so as to serve one another - **1Cor.12: 4-7; 2Cor.6: 1.**
2. Two are always better than one - **Eccles.4: 9-12.**
3. We should use our gifts, time, money and materials to serve one another – **Matt.20: 27-28; 23: 11; Mk.10: 45; Rom.12: 11; 1Cor.3: 9; Gal.5: 13; 6: 9; 1Pet.4: 10.**
4. We should give and serve simply, sincerely, secretly, selflessly, generously, cheerfully, honestly and humbly - **Matt.6: 1-4; 1Cor.10: 24; 2Cor.8: 21; Phil.2: 3-4.**
5. When we give or serve others, we shall be given or served also – **Prov.11:24-25; Lk.6: 38.**
6. It is more blessed to give than to receive – **Acts 20: 35**
7. God surely rewards running errands, volunteer & public service – **Gal.6: 9; Heb.6: 10.**

#### III. Biblical Examples of Volunteers Who Ran Errands and Served Well:

1. Joseph - **Gen.37: 13-14; 40 & 41.**
2. Rebekah (**Gen.24**); Rachael (**Gen.29**) & Daughters of Reuel (**Exod.2: 15-21**).
3. 12 Spies - **Num.13.**
4. Samuel - **1Sam.12: 1-5.**
5. David - **1Sam.17: 17-18.**
6. Daniel - **Dan.1 & 2; 5 & 6.**
7. Paul - **Acts 21: 13-14; Rom.12: 1-2; 1Cor.9: 16-18.**

## MAKING IMPACT FOR GOD 7:

### Making Impact with our Money, Material wealth, Gifts and Skills

#### I. Definitions:

1. Money is any article or substance used as a medium of exchange, means of payment or measure of wealth.
2. Material wealth is any physical substance that has utility and monetary or exchange value.
3. Gift is a natural endowment, talent or special ability bestowed on us by God and not earned.
4. Skill is the ability to do something well as a result of one's knowledge, practice or aptitude. It is your area of competence, excellence, expertise or dexterity in performing given tasks.

#### II. What The Bible Teaches About Using Our Money, Materials, Gifts and Skills for God:

1. Money is a powerful tool of service we can use to meet many physical human needs and make impact for God – **Eccles.10: 19**.
2. We don't all have money in equal measure; some are rich and some are poor e.g. King Solomon and the Poor Widow – **Matt.19: 16-24; Mk.14: 7**.
3. We are all gifted but in different measures also – **Matt.25: 14-30; 1Cor.12: 4-6; Eph.4: 7**.
4. We can desire and pray for some or more gifts – **1Cor.12: 31; Jam.1: 5**.
5. God wants us to use our gifts and not just leave them raw or unused e.g. Parable of the talents; **Matt.5: 14-16; Rom.12: 6 & 1Pet.4: 10**.
6. We develop our gifts by using them – **Prov.18: 16; 1Tim.4: 14; 2Tim.1: 6**.
7. We develop and sharpen our gifts and skills through training also – **Eccles.10: 10; Prov.22: 6**.
8. We should acquire as much knowledge and skills as possible – **Prov.4: 7-9; 2Tm.2: 15; Jam.1: 5**.
9. God expects us to use our money and material wealth, gifts and skills profitably to serve Him and for the benefits of others – **Prov.11: 24 & 26; Matt.6: 19-21; Lk.12: 33-34**.
10. God wants us to give and serve cheerfully without grumbling, murmuring or complaining - **Ps.100: 2; 1Cor.9: 7; Col.3: 23-24**.

11. God will bless those who use their money, material wealth, gifts and skills to bless others and impact the society for Him – **Prov.11: 25; Lk.6: 38; Mk.9: 41; Gal.6: 9; Heb.6: 10.**

12. The more we give and serve, the more God will bless us – **Prov.11: 24-25; Matt.25: 29; Lk.16: 11; 1Cor.9: 6.**

### **III. Biblical Examples of Those Who Used Money, Materials, Gifts and Skills to Make Impact for God:**

1. Noah - **Gen.6-9.**

2. Moses - **Exod.31-32.**

3. Bezaleel & Oholiab - **Exod.31: 1-11; 35: 30-35.**

4. Solomon - **1Kg.6.**

5. Shunamite Woman - **2Kg.4: 8-17.**

6. Nehemiah, Ezra & Haggai - **Neh.1-4; Ezra 1-4; Hagg.1-2.**

7. Daniel & co - **Dan.1: 17.**

8. Mary Magdalene - **Lk.7: 36-50.**

9. Joseph of Arimathea - **Matt.27: 57-61; Jn.19: 38-42.**

10. Apostle Paul - **1Cor.15: 10.**

## **MAKING IMPACT FOR GOD 8:**

### **Making Impact for God Through Good & Godly Motherhood–Tit.2: 1-5**

#### **I. Definitions:**

Motherhood can be defined as the state of being a mother. It is also the qualities or spirit of a mother. Motherhood is one thing that makes women to be very unique and gives them an edge over men. It is a great honour and privilege from God to a woman to be a mother but many modern women don't even understand or appreciate it. While they compete with men to run after money, material wealth and fame, they have no time again for their children.

Virtually every culture around the world recognizes and appreciates the role of good and Godly mothers in molding a good and Godly society (e.g. The Songs – Iya ni wura & Who sat and watched my infant head). The morality of women generally and mothers in particular directly reflects in the society. Some modern women can best be described as an Ostrich without wisdom and feelings for her young – **Job 39: 13-17; Lam.4: 3-4.**

That is why there is now so much crime, chaos and confusion in our societies today. With good and Godly motherhood, nations can be turned to God and human societies changed for the better. So, we are looking at the qualities of good and Godly mothers.

#### **II. What The Bible Teaches About Good & Godly Motherhood:**

1. Children are a gift, heritage and reward from God – **Ps.113: 9; 127: 3.**
2. Every true mother is emotionally attached to her child or children – **1Kg.3: 22-28; Isa.49: 15.**
3. Most Biblical mothers named their babies based on the circumstances surrounding their births e.g. Eve (**Gen.4: 25**), Sarah, Hagar, Rebecca, Rachel & Leah, Pharaoh's daughter (**Exod.2: 10**), Eli's daughter-in-law (Phinehas' wife), Hannah, mother of Jabez, Elizabeth, etc.
4. Women are crucial to the education and training of their children e.g. Jochebed, Sarah, King Lemuel's mother, Eunice & Lois, etc – **Prov.1: 8-9; 22: 6; 31: 1-2; 2Tim.1: 5; 3: 15.**
5. Mothers also greatly affect the choice of spouses for their children e.g. Hagar (**Gen.21: 17-21**), Rebecca (**Gen.27: 46**), Naomi, etc.



### **III. Biblical Examples of Good and Godly Mothers:**

1. Jochebed – **Exod.2: 1-9; Heb.11: 24-26.**
2. Hannah – **1Sam.1 & 2; 3: 19-20.**
3. King Lemuel’s mother – **Prov.31: 1-7.**
4. Virgin Mary – **Jn.19: 25-27.**
5. Eunice & Lois – **2Tim.1: 5.**

### **IV. Biblical Examples of Bad & Ungodly Mothers:**

1. Eve – **Gen.3 & 4.**
2. Rebecca – **Gen 27.**
3. Jezebel – **1Kg.18, 19 & 21; Rev.2: 20.**
4. Athaliah – **2Kg.11: 1-3.**
5. Herodias – **Matt.14: 1-12; Mk.6: 16-30.**

### **V. Helpful Hints on Good & Godly Motherhood:**

1. Avoid having children out of wedlock – **Deut. 23: 1; Jn.4: 16; Heb.13: 4.**
2. Feed your children with good food and balanced diet and look after their health – **Prov.31: 14-15.**
3. Clothe your children well – **Gen.37: 3; 1Sam.2: 18-19; Prov.31: 21-22.**
4. Avoid divorce! Researchers have confirmed that children from broken homes or divorced parents are usually dysfunctional – **Mal.2: 15-16; Matt.19: 6.**
5. Spend time with your children because not just children but we all learn through observation. The more time you spend with your children, the more they will learn from you – **Judg.7: 16-17; Mk.3: 14; Matt.17: 17; Jn.14: 9.** Do not do or say anything before your children which you don’t want them to learn or pick up.
6. Teach and train your children properly using instruction, audio-visual aids, correction, punishment and Godly example to instruct them in the ways and words of God – **Deut.6: 4; Josh.1: 8; Prov.1: 8; 22: 6.**
7. Avoid cursing your children, always pray for them and bless them – **Gen.27: 12; Judg.17: 1-2; Matt.5: 44-45; Rom.12: 14.**
8. Teach your children basic ethics and etiquettes, and monitor their morals and behaviour – **Prov.10: 1; 17: 25.**
9. Do not indulge, pamper or spoil your children, discipline them when and where necessary – **Prov.13: 18; 23: 13-14; 29: 15 & 17.**

10. You alone cannot wholly or fully teach and train your children; cooperate with your husband, neighbours, teachers, bosses, pastors and other Godly people to train, correct and discipline your children e.g. Rebecca – **Prov.11: 14; 24: 6; Eccles.4: 9**. Eventually, those who don't know how to behave well, who cannot manage their liberty and fit into the society are sent to prison or even killed.
11. Send your children to school or vocational centers to be well educated and trained e.g. Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Samuel, David, Daniel, Paul and even Jesus Christ – **Acts 7: 22**. Training sometimes involves suffering - **Heb.5: 8**. Teach your children endurance – **2Tim.2: 3-5**.
12. Make sure your children are regular, punctual and active in church e.g. Samuel, David, Timothy and Jesus Christ – **Ps.122: 1; 23: 6; Lk.2: 25-30, 40-52; 2Tim.3: 15**.

## MAKING IMPACT FOR GOD 9:

### Making Impact for God Through Writing

#### I. Definitions:

To write is put down, express, compose or produce ideas in form of letters, words, figures, etc on the surface of a material with a pen, pencil, marker, chalk, stick, hand, etc.

#### II. Importance & Benefits of Writing:

1. Writing is better and more dependable as source of information than spoken words. It is the best way to learn. Imagine if students don't write things down at all.
2. Writing makes knowledge clear and permanent. Sometimes, we think we know certain things until we start to write them down and then realize that we don't really know as much as we thought we knew. That is the purpose of writing examinations.
3. Writing helps us to remember and not forget things.
4. Writing helps us keep proper records, tracks and sequence of events and history.
5. Writing helps us to measure and calculate things well.
6. Writing helps us to easily transfer ideas and information to others.
7. Writing helps clear doubts and assumptions.
8. Writing reduces unnecessary conflicts and arguments.
9. Written documents serve as legal evidence.
10. The government and legal system of any society in itself depends on written documents.
11. Illiterates who cannot read or write are seriously handicapped and limited in life.
12. Writing is the foundation of societal development.

#### III. What The Bible Says About Writing:

1. God wants us to write things down and sometimes even commands it – **Exod.17: 14; 34: 1; Deut.6: 4-9; Jer.36: 1-2; Habak.2: 2; Rev.1: 11 & 19.**
2. The Bible itself is a written book – **Josh.1: 8; Jn.20: 30-31; 2Tim.3: 16; Rev.22: 7, 8-10, 18-19.** The word Bible comes from the Greek word "Biblion" meaning a scroll or little book and "Biblios" which is the inner bark of the papyrus plant used to make writing material.

3. Reading and writing always go together. That is why God commands us to read, study and meditate on His word – **Josh.1: 8; Matt.12: 3 & 5; Col.4: 16; 2Tim.2: 15; 1Thess.5: 27; Rev.1: 3**. Of what use is anything written if not read? Read the Bible, study the Bible and meditate on the Bible! Take notes in church and take time to read them also.
4. The believers' names are written in the Book of life – **Rev.20: 15**.
5. The records of our lives now are written down and we shall be judged eventually according to the records of those books in heaven – **Rev.20: 17**.
6. We cannot do without the written word as Christians – **Josh.1: 8; Matt.4: 4; 2Tim.2: 15**.
7. Not everything about God or His works are written down for our knowledge – **Deut.29: 29; 21: 25**.

#### **IV. Biblical Examples of Those Who Made Impact for God Through Writing:**

1. Moses – Genesis to Deuteronomy
2. Joshua – Joshua
3. Samuel – Judges to Chronicles
4. Ezra – Ezra
5. Nehemiah – Nehemiah
6. Mordechai - Esther
7. Job – Job
8. King David, Moses, Samuel, Solomon & others like Heman, Asaph & his sons, sons of Korah – Psalms
9. King Solomon – Proverbs, Ecclesiastes & Song of Songs
10. Prophets - The Prophets i.e. from Isaiah to Malachi
11. Matthew, Mark, Luke & John – The Gospels
12. Apostles & others like Luke, Timothy & Titus- Acts & The Epistles to Revelation