

“We train disciplemakers...”



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*Men, mark your calendars for our Spring Men's Retreat, March 28-29, 2025 at Camp David, Hesston, KS
Speaker: David Wooddell, former businessman and current Navigator Rep.*

David Wooddell Announced as Men's Retreat Speaker

Our men's retreat is just around the corner! It will be held Friday evening and Saturday, March 28-29, 2025 at Camp David (formerly Cross Wind Conference Center) in Hesston, Kansas. Our speaker this year is Mr. David Wooddell, former Kansas City Ministry Director for the Navigators who now serves as Kansas City Workplace Director.



David has a great reputation for his heart for people and making disciples. Prior to joining the Navigators, David spent 40 years in the corporate world working in the financial services industry with General Electric, Alliance Data, and Montgomery Ward. He and his wife Dinah felt the call of God to go on staff with The Navigators® in 2007. Having come out of the business world, David has a heart for business people and how they can advance the Gospel in that setting. David's topic for the retreat will be *Reflections on Discipleship from the Sermon on the Mount*. He invites all who will attend to read through the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5,6,7) several times prior to the retreat.

Registration will open soon. Watch your email, regular mail or our website.

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“Finally the crown of righteousness is reserved for me. The Lord, the righteous Judge, will award it to me in that day—and not to me only, but also to all who have set their affection on his appearing.”

—2 Timothy 4:8 (NET Bible)

30 Days to Understanding the Bible

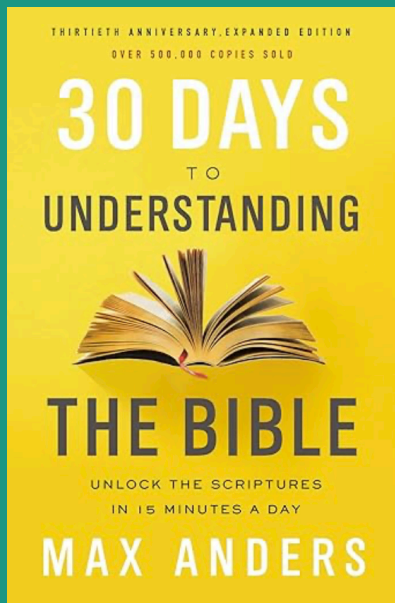
by Max Anders (Pub. Thomas Nelson, 2018)

This little volume is perfect for the person who wants a concise summary of the major portions of Scripture in an easy-to-remember format. The subtitle is *Unlock the Scriptures in 15 Minutes a Day*. The author emphasizes the importance of repetition to learn something as he lays out the Scriptures clearly.

From the book: “Dr. Max Anders is the author of over twenty-five books ... and is the creator and general editor of the 32-volume Holman Bible Commentary series. He has taught on the college and seminary level and is a veteran pastor. Max provides resources and discipleship strategies at www.maxanders.com to help people grow spiritually.”

The book starts with the “arc of Biblical history” covering first the major geographic features of the Old Testament, then the major figures, events and locations as he goes through scripture. He does the

same for the New Testament. All along the way, the chapters are short and he encourages the reader to review the preceding information to lock it in to one’s memory.



Next he covers the major doctrines of the Bible (Bible, God, Christ, Holy Spirit, Angels, Man, Sin, Salvation, Church and Future Things). He has a section he calls the “Nano Summary of the Bible” and “How to Master the Bible So Well that the Bible Masters You.”

This is designed both for personal use or one-on-one mentoring as well as a classroom setting such as a home group or Sunday School. The author provides lesson plans and ideas for a group teaching setting. This type of book appeals to the more cognitively-oriented folks, although would be excellent to go through with a young believer (or the person who has a

desire to understand the arc of Scripture) as it takes only 30 days at the rate of 15 minutes per day.

Goads and Nails

By Richard Spann

“Still More Good Things”

(Excerpt from Vol. 3 pages 103-104)

“I pray that you may be active in sharing your faith, so that you will have a full understanding of every good thing we have in Christ.” — Philemon 6

Our Lord’s declared purpose is stated in Luke 19:10, “For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost.” To the measure in which we make this our purpose in life, we enter into a fuller understanding of His purpose. A declared intent to be involved in the lives of others in a redemptive mission with Christ brings us into fellowship with His purpose. To follow the light we have as we reach out to others with the Good News leads us into further light, enabling us to clearly see others as only Christ sees them, “harassed, and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.” We are able in fellowship with His purpose, to view all people with an eye to their redemption. We understand the words of Paul in Colossians 1:28, “So, naturally, we proclaim Christ! We warn everyone we meet, and we teach everyone we can, all that we know about him, so that, if possible, we may bring every man up to his full maturity in Christ.” (PHILLIPS) In fellowship with our Lord’s purpose, we are led into a fuller understanding of Jesus’ words in John 12:24-26, “I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. The man who loves his life will lose it, while the man who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me.” A full understanding of being one with Him in His purpose enables us to anticipate many seeds without counting the cost.

Being identified with Him in His purpose enables us also to come into a fuller understanding of His perseverance. It is in continuing to be active in sharing our faith that we are stirred by His Spirit to persevere for the lives of others. For some, this may mean years. For others, it may be decades... . Luke 8:15 reminds us that it is only by persevering that lives are changed. “But the seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop.” It is my prayer that in actively sharing your faith you will come into a deeper understanding of both His purpose and His perseverance in your life. In Christ, Richard Spann

Men of Issachar by Richard Spann

“Men of Issachar, who understood the times
and knew what Israel should do ...”
1 Chronicles 12:32

These men of Issachar were among those who came to David at Hebron to turn Saul’s kingdom over to him (1 Chronicles 12:23). They were a distinct and remarkable group of men. They not only possessed knowledge, but also had the wisdom to apply that knowledge to accomplish the task at hand. Every generation requires its men of Issachar. From the prophets of the Old Testament, these men extended into the New with the presence of John the Baptist, followed by the Apostles and the early church fathers such as Athanasius and St. Augustine. More recent history has endowed us with Martin Luther, George Whitfield, John Brainerd, Dietrich Bonhoeffer and many others. They all understood their times and knew what they should do. Our culture, likewise, has continued to change, requiring men of Issachar in our time as well. In our own lifetimes, we have seen people groups classified and then reclassified the following decade! The labels that were used began with Baby Boomers, followed by Baby Busters, Generation X, Generation Y, and more recently the Millennials. Who knows what description will come next? A recent study of those in their twenties revealed the following information:



- Most declared that they did not want to go to meetings or be required to “join something.”
- They were, as a whole, looking to be resourced (equipped) rather than to be plugged in somewhere.
- Some wanted to discover their own methodology.
- An overarching theme was the desire for relationships rather than structure.

With all the changes occurring in our culture, then, the perpetual question arises, “How will we raise up a new generation of laborers for Christ?” The Lord Himself answers this question. “Therefore every teacher of the law who has been instructed about the kingdom of heaven is like the owner of a house who brings out of his storeroom new treasures as well as old.” (Matthew 13:52) What old treasures in our storeroom should we utilize, then, as we approach others in our culture? Three come to mind.

The first of these is found in Psalm 33:11. “The counsel of the Lord standeth forever, the thoughts of his heart to all generations.” (KJV) The word of God is timeless. It is His perpetual method of instruction and agent of transformation in our lives despite changes in any culture or any country. It is the sword of the Spirit, and He will use that sword regardless of varying opinions about the authenticity or validity of the scriptures.

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“The measure of a man's worth is the measure in which he no longer lives ‘to and for himself,’ but ‘to and for Jesus Christ.’ No more and no less!”

— Major Ian Thomas, b. 1914, served in the British Army and participated in the evacuation at Dunkirk. Major Thomas was a popular Christian teacher and speaker and founded Torchbearers International. This quote found at <https://www.christianquotes.info/quotes-by-author/major-ian-thomas-quotes/>
#google_vignette

Men of Issachar (Continued)

The second treasure is found in Philippians 2:5-8. “Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross!” At least three themes are apparent in this passage. These are the need to identify with others, serve them, and be involved, if necessary, at cost to yourself. People are hungry for genuine relationships. They do not find these on Twitter, Facebook, or in chat rooms. It requires an investment of time, energy and even financial cost to engage with others at a level that will produce an impact. Mark 10:45 tells us that the Son of Man came not to be served, but to serve. The passage in Philippians, likewise, declares that our fundamental relationship with others is to be their servant. At times, the process of serving others may result in a significant cost of time, energy and financial resources. It is when the cost is greatest, however, that the result in the lives of others may be most profound.

The third treasure which relates to our purpose in the lives of others is found in II Timothy 2:1-2. “You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others.” We must have the eyes of faith to see the world through the life of another individual. All of our contact with and prayers for others must be that which will prepare them for their ministry in the future.

A friend related to me some years ago that he was visiting with a business associate who described some concerns and questions about their common profession. My friend took the time to listen and then asked if he would like to get together to discuss the issues further. They began to meet and spend time together



relating the issues confronting their common pursuit. This time extended into helping with family concerns, travel together and a friendship was developed. At some point my friend stated that the most significant answers for his business and family relationships were to be found in the Bible. His associate was intrigued and, although familiar with the Bible, was from a different religious background and had never read it with any regularity. They began discussing the Bible regularly for some time before starting the thirteen-week Navigators study entitled *Growing in Christ*. As the weeks progressed, the truth of the Gospel became evident to the individual with whom my friend was meeting. As they continued to meet over

the subsequent months, the new believer in Christ became a changed man. He continued to have a hunger for God's word and developed a heart to reach others. I had the privilege of meeting him several years ago. His comment at that time was, “I want to do for others what someone has done for me!”

The question arises for us today, “Where are the men of Issachar in our generation?” Well, I can state that “I have found one!” May his tribe increase! It is my prayer that the “Men of Issachar” will increase and multiply in your ministry, your neighborhoods, your churches, and become evident throughout our culture.

In Christ, Richard Spann

"Many pastors criticize me for taking the Gospel so seriously. But do they really think that on Judgment Day, Christ will chastise me, saying, 'Leonard, you took Me too seriously'?"

~ Leonard Ravenhill, b. 1907, was a British evangelist and author who focused on prayer and revival. Quote found at <https://www.christianquotes.info/quotes-by-author/leonard-ravenhill-quotes/>