

RADICAL BOOK STUDY

BOOK STUDY RADICAL

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Scripture quotations marked (KJV) are taken from the KING JAMES VERSION.

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This study guide does not represent the thoughts or intents of David Platt or Multnomah. It is used solely as a supplement and support to their published works of *Radical* within personal studies, small groups, and within the local church.

RADICAL BOOK STUDY

The purpose of the Radical Book Study is to support the written ideas and topics given throughout *Radical* and will not seek to override the author's position. Please use this guide as a means to develop a warm and loving atmosphere of inspiration, honesty, and discipleship. Allow the Holy Spirit to use your group study to 'touch' each life and heart permanently.

REMEMBER: The purpose is to glorify the Lord and allow each member of your group to be drawn closer to Him.

When preparing for the book study, please read each chapter before answering the questions. The questions are geared to be open-ended in order to draw additional communication (and learning) with each person and the group. In group settings, it is important that there is not one main speaker, but moderators to guide the discussion along, to add key insights, and keep the topic focused on the task at hand. At some point, it may be good to even rotate moderators.

Before reading *Radical* or the book study, spend a few moments in prayer concerning the pages you are about to read. Pray for the Lord to open your minds and hearts to the pages and the impact of its message. Pray for all distractions to cease and the enemy to be kept at bay. Pray for each study to be settled within the good ground of your hearts, that it may bring forth a bountiful harvest to God's glory. Also pray for each person to be compelled and challenged through the Holy Spirit to act on all that is read and shared.

When you come together concerning a chapter, you can choose to read the chapter together; read prior to the meeting; or highlight specific areas throughout each chapter. You will find that this book study can be incorporated in either of these formats and each question does not have to be addressed within the group. Though the book study can be used for groups, its primary intent is each individual member.

Please understand that it is OK to stray from the given topic as long as it is productive – stay in the Spirit! There may be times when the discussion moves to an off-topic, but you'll find that the environment and needs of the group will allow for some to freely share other concerns on their mind and heart (they may be working out their salvation). The Lord will guide you in the way you

should go – so remain prayerful. It may be necessary to put the study guide away for a time (or even the remainder of the study) to minister to the group in ‘their’ specific need(s).

If time permits (or applicable), please answer (or discuss) the following questions at the end of each chapter:

- (1) What did you like most about the chapter?
- (2) What statement(s) challenged you in reading the chapter?
- (3) What action(s) will you take as a result of reading the chapter?

NOTE: Throughout this book study you will see titles in **ORANGE**. These titles represent the section headings throughout *Radical*. They are provided to better assist you in finding and answering chapter questions in the book study.

Lastly, don’t be concerned if there are not a lot of responses. *Radical* is one of ‘those books’ that will draw conviction and correction, which may not bring a lot of communication upfront (or throughout). Don’t allow your personal desire for external responses to sway the internal convictions being made before the Lord. Allow *Radical* and this book study to saturate your hearts with love for your Father in heaven.

INTRODUCTION

Above all, read *Radical* in its entirety.

As you prepare to use the *Radical Book Study*:

(1) Please consider purchasing a notepad/notebook to collect your questions and thoughts.

(2) Ask yourself, what does it mean to be radical?

(3) Meditate on 1 John 2:15-17 - *Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.*

CHAPTER 1

WHAT ABOUT US?

Have you ever felt the 'push' to mold Jesus into your image? ...or the image of the world around you?

At some point you may realize what Jesus is truly calling you to, but have been afraid of what it may mean for your life and plans. Did you ever try to rationalize or downplay what Jesus 'really' meant?

THE COST OF NON-DISCIPLESHIP

What is the 'price' of discipleship? Read Luke 14:26-33.

What is the true price of non-discipleship? Read Matthew 7:21-23.

IS HE WORTH IT?

Personal question: Is Jesus worth abandoning everything for?

Do you believe we have been taught to abandon everything for Jesus or have a different view of life in the Lord? Please explain.

If asked, would you be ready to give all?

FINAL THOUGHT:

After spending time in Asia, David returns to a pastorate that looks a lot different than he experienced. We may not find ourselves in such places in Asia, but we may share some of the same thoughts as David concerning the local church. As you begin on this journey through Radical, ask yourself David's two questions at the beginning and end of the chapter: [Am] I going to believe Jesus? [Am] I going to obey Jesus?

Consider these questions...and think about whether or not you will live life as 'usual' or by Jesus' standard of 'usual.'

CHAPTER 2

Under the cover of darkness, David was driven to a small room filled with 60 people...with none of the amenities we are accustomed to. Yet, God's Word was enough. How about you? If you walked into such a room on a Sunday morning, would God's Word be enough? Or are we programmed/conditioned to have 'church' a certain way?

WHO HE REALLY IS

What are your thoughts in reading this section?

God hates the sin, but loves the sinner. Many feel this way and are therefore unwilling to give their all because of how they understand God to be. Read Matthew 16:13-17. How each person sees Jesus will correspond to how they will address Him and choose to believe and live for Him.

WHO WE REALLY ARE

Most of us like to think we've done enough to get into heaven, but the gospel may give a different perspective. Read Ephesians 5:3-6. Could we have been deceived into thinking that even if we do these things we're safe? Also read Revelation 21:7-8 and share your thoughts on this section.

WHAT (OR WHOM) WE REALLY NEED

Describe the picture of Christ given.

RADICAL REVELATION

After reading Matthew 7:21-23, what is the proper response to God?

GIVE US A HUNGER

Pray for a hunger to grow within you, your family, pastor, church, country, and world.

CHAPTER 3

Under the chapter title reads: "The Importance of Relying on God's Power." What does this mean to you?

SUBTLE DANGERS

What is the difference between the goal of the American dream and the goal of the Gospel?

Why would achieving the American dream be a deadly goal?

EXALTING OUR INABILITY

How many times have you sought to exalt all you have done (i.e. your gifts and talents) rather than glorify God? Please explain.

Do we try to place ourselves in positions where we are not desperate for His power - where we depend more on our strengths rather than God's?

DEPENDENT ON OURSELVES OR DESPERATE FOR HIS SPIRIT

How can it be possible that "God's power is at best an add-on to our own strategies?"

How true do you consider David's statements to be when looking at your own Christian communities?

A DIFFERENT PICTURE

Do you or your church spend time praying/waiting/pleading for God's power before moving to accomplish a task?

Many of us want to be known as one who has been with Jesus (above seeing our own talents and gifts). What will this require in your own life?

David talks about the dream he desires to be a part of. How does this dream become a reality for you?

ORDINARY CHRISTIANS, EXTRAORDINARY GOD

In the third paragraph of the previous section (Superior Power), Davis asks a rhetorical question, 'Why do we not desperately seek it?' Please spend a moment considering this question within your personal life.

Write (or speak) of a person (or personal situation) where someone trusted God; where without His help, the situation would have failed.

GOD OUR FATHER

How do David's statements on God and the Holy Spirit bring comfort to you (and your life situations)?

Meditate on John 14:12-14. What promises does Jesus make concerning the works those who believe in Him will accomplish? Why?

ON OUR KNEES

Spend time with God pleading before Him. Begin with David's statement in the last paragraph and share your heart with the Lord.

CHAPTER 4

What are some of the accepted 'norms' in the church concerning outreach, evangelism, and missions?

Do you find yourself or others hesitant to reach other people (i.e. friends, rough areas of the city, or those overseas)?

Did you believe that evangelism was a separate ministry for those that had a 'heart' for missions?

ENJOY HIS GRACE, EXTEND HIS GLORY

Explain what David meant by Enjoy His Grace, Extend His Glory.

Why does God bless us?

Have we (you/we in our churches) ignored the great why of God?

JESUS DIDN'T DIE FOR JUST YOU

Explain David's statement of Christianity's object being me. Share your thoughts on what some believe the message of Christianity is and how they look for a church. However, first consider yourself.

What is the message of biblical Christianity?

Who should be the object of our faith?

How can we in the church adopt spiritual smoke screens and embrace national comforts that excuse us from the global plan of Christ?

I'M NOT CALLED

How have you (we in the church) reduced Jesus' commission into a 'calling'?

Share a time when you said you were not called to do something and explain why.

Do you (we in the church) ignore the obligations of Christianity while holding onto the scriptures of blessing, prosperity, and fulfillment?

Explain David's statement on having different gifts, skills, passions, and callings from God, yet the same purpose.

How does every saved person this side of heaven owe the gospel to every lost person this side of hell?

WHAT ABOUT THE NEEDS HERE?

David challenges the idea that people can have a heart (or mission) for a city or country, but not the world. He says they sound spiritual, but seem more like spiritual smoke screens. Discuss your feelings concerning this statement.

A GREATER DREAM

David said that success in the Kingdom of God involves moving down, not up. Please share your thoughts on this statement.

Do you believe you were created for more than a Christian 'spin' on the American dream? Speak on your thoughts when first coming to the Lord and your position today.

IMPACT THE WORLD

Consider and discuss Jamie's message. Have you disconnected God's blessings from His purpose? Please explain.

CHAPTER 5

How are Bullen's brothers and sisters our brothers and sisters"? Read Matthew 12:50; 1 Corinthians 12:13-26; and Ephesians 4:4-6.

Speak (or write) briefly on Bullen's statements to David.

THE NEXT STEP

What did David say Jesus needed to impact the world?

ANY AND EVERY FOLLOWER OF CHRIST

Anyone can make disciples. How does this statement challenge what you were told, believed, or accepted?

What does it mean to make disciples?

THE GOSPEL AND BOURBON STREET

What does disciple making first involve?

What is disciple making about? How can you do the same in your area?

WELCOME TO THE FAMILY

What does disciple making involve?

Answer David's question in the last paragraph of the section.

RECEIVERS OR REPRODUCERS

What are we to continually do within our relationships? Where?

Should teaching be the responsibility only for those with the gift to teach? Has this been your (or your church's) thought or assumption? Please explain.

By your actions in the past, have you been a receiver or reproducer of God's Word? Regardless of your answer, how can you be more of a reproducer?

DISCIPLING OR DISINFECTING

According to David, what is God's design for taking the Gospel to the world?

Does David believe disciple making can be mass produced? Please explain. How may this challenge your concept of disciple making today?

What are disinfecting Christians? What are discipling Christians? Compare and contrast the two.

How accessible is the purpose God created us to?

CHAPTER 6

In what ways can you declare the gospel verbally and demonstrate the gospel visibly?

Have the needy in your city, nation, and world been a 'blindspot' for you? How has the fruit you born give (or does not give) evidence of this? Read Matthew 25:31-46 and James 1:21-27.

Has materialism and achieving the American dream cause blindspots for you when reading scripture (i.e. caring for the poor, sexual immorality)?

NECESSARY CLARIFICATIONS

Consider/discuss David's challenge to you.

THE RICH MAN

Read Luke 16:20-31. When you hear the story about the rich man and Lazarus, with whom do you identify more?

SELL EVERYTHING YOU HAVE

Discuss whether you are willing to ask God if He wants you to sell everything you have and give the money to the poor? As you prepare to answer, does the desire to wait for an answer from God come or a desire to justify why God would not ask you to do this (i.e. due to job, home, family)? Conclude by reading Luke 14:26-33.

Discuss David's question: Are you and I looking to Jesus for advice that seems fiscally responsible according to the standards of the world around us? Or are we looking to Jesus for total leadership in our lives, even if that means going against everything our affluent culture and maybe even our affluent religious neighbors might tell us to do?

IT'S HARD FOR A RICH MAN

David says we (our culture and American church) doesn't believe our wealth can be a barrier to entering the Kingdom of God and that affluence, comfort, and material possessions are blessings. Has this been the way you have thought - that wealth is to your advantage? Explain your answer, as well as the state of your church congregation.

Are you willing to live a life that is content with food and clothing, having the basic necessities of life? Read Proverbs 30:7-9 and ask yourself whether you will allow Agur's prayer to become yours.

WHAT CAN WE SPARE OR WHAT WILL IT TAKE

As you look around your local city and see the needs of the poor and orphan, ask yourself what it will take rather than what you can spare. Are you willing/ready to do and give what it takes?

FREE TO GIVE

What are you free to give in your life today?

THE RICH MAN IN ME

Has the lure toward becoming the rich man been a strong lure in you? Please explain.

Many times we walk around toward the Lord with empty hands wanting more (possessions, blessings) without a thought toward the condition of our heart. Share a moment when you have chosen to fill your heart rather than your hands.

David said the way we use our money is a barometer of our present spiritual condition. Looking at your spending, what does it say about your own spiritual condition?

A CHOICE

Read James 1:21-27 and plan a visit an orphanage or senior citizen's community or residence.

CHAPTER 7

Have you accepted an intellectual or practical universalism in your life? How?

TRUTH 7: CHRIST COMMANDS THE CHURCH TO MAKE THE GOSPEL KNOWN TO ALL PEOPLES

We are the plan of God, and there is no Plan B. Share your thoughts concerning all that has been shared thus far.

NO TIME TO WASTE

Have you found yourself asking what God's will for your life is while doing nothing to make the Gospel known or bring glory to God? Please explain.

What have you already been commanded to do? Read Matthew 28:18-20 and share your thoughts.

Spend time praying for those you know that have not believed in Jesus Christ or heard His message.

How can you be an active part of the plan of God?

CHAPTER 8

GO TO DANGER

What if the center of God's will is in reality the most unsafe place for us to be?

BETRAYED, HATED, AND PERSECUTED

Read 2 Timothy 3:12 and consider Paul's message against the backdrop of your current life.

Read Matthew 10:16-42.

David said, 'The more our lives are conformed to [Jesus], the more we will receive what He received in the world.' Likewise, the more our lives are conformed to the world, the further it will not resemble Jesus.

A GREATER REWARD

What is the reward of the American Dream? Reward of Christ?

For what two reasons does David say we do not have to fear?

THEY DID NOT LOVE THEIR LIVES

Consider and discuss the following quotes by C.T. Studd and Jim Elliot:

Consider the call from the Throne above, 'Go ye,' and from round about, 'Come over and help us,' and even the call from the damned souls below, 'Send Lazarus to my brothers, that they come not to this place,' Impelled, then by these voices, I dare not stay home while Quichnas perish. So what if the well-fed church in the homeland needs stirring? They have the Scriptures, Moses, and the Prophets, and a whole lot more. Their condemnation is written on their bank books and in the dust on their Bible covers." America believers have sold their lives to the service of Mammon, and God has His rightful way of dealing with those who succumb to the spirit of Laodicea. - Jim Elliot

Too long have we been waiting for one another to begin! The time of waiting is past! The hour of God has struck! War is declared! In God's Holy Name let us arise and build! 'The God of Heaven, He will fight for us', as we for Him. We will not build on the sand, but on the bedrock of the sayings of Christ, and the gates and minions of hell shall not prevail against us. Should such men as we fear? Before the world, yes, before the sleepy, lukewarm, faithless, namby-pamby Christian world, we will dare to trust our God, we will venture our all for Him, we will live and we will die for Him, and we will do it with His joy unspeakable singing aloud in our hearts. We will a thousand times sooner die trusting only our God, than live trusting in man. And when we come to this position the battle is already won, and the end of the glorious campaign in sight. We will have the real Holiness of God, not the sickly stuff of talk and dainty words and pretty thoughts; we will have a Masculine Holiness, one of daring faith and works for Jesus Christ.

- C.T. Studd

LIFE IS RADICAL WHEN DEATH IS REWARD

What does David say is the way we can free ourselves from worldly desires, worldly thinking, etc.?
As you consider this, what thoughts keep you from moving out on what God is calling you to...or what you know you should be doing?

What is the great reward of the Gospel?

Read the last two paragraphs of this chapter.

Read Philippians 1:21 and spend a few moments meditating on this scripture and its meaning for your life.

How is the reward found in Jesus is worth the risk of following Him?

CHAPTER 9

THE RADICAL EXPERIMENT:

1. Pray for the entire world.
2. Read through the entire Word.
3. Sacrifice your money for a specific purpose.
4. Spend your time in another context.
5. Commit your life to a multiplying community.

*Note: these questions are supplemental to the *My Radical Experiment* at the end of Chapter 9 of *Radical*.

How do you pray for the entire world? Begin with Matthew 9:35-38.

Download the prayer guide from Operation World: <http://www.operationworld.org/>

Go to YouVersion.com and choose a reading plan to read the Word in one year. Join with others to read, share, and encourage one another.

In what ways can you put a cap on your present lifestyle (i.e. luxuries) and sacrifice for the year?

What can you do locally and internationally to give of yourself in another context? Read Matthew 25:31-36 and James 1:21-27.

In what ways can you commit to a MULTIPLYING community toward the purpose of disciple making? The key here is a MULTIPLYING church, not one chasing after the American dream.

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