

**BIBLE STUDY GUIDE IN PREPARATION FOR THE GREAT JUBILEE
OF THE YEAR 2000 OF OUR SALVATION**

- Heb 1:1-2 "In times past, God spoke in partial and various ways to our ancestors through the prophets; in these last days, he spoke to us through a son."
- Gal 4:4 "when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman."
- Eph 1:9-10 "he has made known to us the mystery of his will in accord with his favor that he set forth in him as a plan for the fullness of times."
- Jn 1:18 "No one has ever seen God. The only Son, God, who is at the Father's side, has revealed him." 1:12 - "to those who did accept him he gave power to become children of God, to those who believe in his name."
- Gal 4:6 "As proof that you are children, God sent the spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying out, '-Abba, Father!' So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God."
- Eph 1:7 "In him we have redemption by his blood, the forgiveness of transgressions."

1. In what ways has your faith in Jesus' name brought fullness to your experience of life in time? brought you from being a slave to being a child of God? What other experiences of God's favor upon you do you recall that stir up your gratitude?

Lev 25:10 "You shall hallow the fiftieth year, and proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants; it shall be a jubilee for you, when each of you shall return to his property and each of you shall return to his family."

2. Do you know anyone that has been alienated from their place (land) in God's sight and covenant? or from their family?
Would you pray for them, for their reconciliation? Would you make yourself available for the Lord to use as an instrument of reconciliation?
3. What reconciliation do you feel God wants to give, or you would like to ask of God for our people, our land, and all descendants and later arrivals - going back to all their roots: to colonial times here, to the native peoples, to English, French, Jewish and all other contributing peoples?

Cf. k 10 - Peter's reconciliation to the Gentiles through the conversion and Baptism of Cornelius and his household.

Lk 4:16-30 "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the afflicted; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." (Is 61:1-2)

4. What thanks can I give to God for drawing me into actively sharing in his mission: giving me the joy of proclaiming his Good News in word or action? Is there anything preventing me from appreciating the value of my witness and testimony, however simple?

Would I surrender this obstacle to the Lord and ask Him to free me from it; that I might better glorify Him?

Jn 14-26 "The Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you."

5. From my own experience of the Holy Spirit's enlightenment: in myself, my family and in others; what thanks would it be appropriate for me to render to God? At what point has sufficient thanks been given?

Mt 5:44-45 "But I say to you, love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your heavenly Father."

Jn 17:3 "This is eternal life, that they know You the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent."

Lk 15:11-32 Read Jesus' wonderful parable of the merciful father of the prodigal younger son and of the righteous but indignant elder son.

6. What wounded and sinful experiences of maternity/paternity have you and your loved ones had: regarding your own mothers/fathers or regarding your own maternity/paternity? Would you seek the Lord's forgiveness for yourself, offer it to those who have offended you, and seek reconciliation with those you have offended?

Heb 13:8 "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever."

7. In what ways have you experienced the fidelity of the Lord's presence and the consistency of his action in your life, your family, your Christian vocation? Praise Him, bless his holy Name, give Him thanks.

P.S.: Also of interest is Ex 15:1-6, on the year of forgiveness.

Scripture references taken from "The Jubilee of the Year 2000", the Apostolic Letter "Tertio Millennio Adveniente" of His Holiness Pope John Paul II, and reflection questions added by Gilles A. Surprenant, 19.11.99.