



SCRIPTURAL
RESOURCE GUIDE
FOR THE
CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY



INTRODUCTION

This guide outlines Bible stories and scriptural passages with messages of hope, healing, compassion, love, justice, and mercy.

These Biblical themes can be proclaimed along with lessons that promote HIV education, awareness, and prevention, in a manner that affirms the dignity of those living with or affected by HIV/AIDS and affirms the love of God for all.

The “Useful Biblical References” section highlights Biblical stories that illustrate relevant themes which may be useful for developing sermons about HIV/AIDS.

“Scripture Suggestions” lists other short Biblical passages that may be useful for discussions related to HIV/AIDS and health promotion more broadly.

Note: Unless otherwise stated, Scripture passages are in the New International Version (NIV). Other versions used are the New King James Version (NKJV), the New Living Translation (NLT), and the Message (MSG).

USEFUL BIBLICAL REFERENCES AND STORIES FOR SERMONS

PSALM 142 A prayer for deliverance from troubles; the psalmist calls out to God when others overlook him in his time of need, for God is his refuge.

PSALM 146 A prayer praising the Lord, who is His people’s help and hope, and who “gives justice to the oppressed and food to the hungry...frees the prisoners...opens the eyes of the blind.”

MATTHEW 22: 34-40; MARK 12: 28-34 Jesus teaches His followers The Greatest Commandment: to love the Lord with all your heart, soul, and mind, and to “Love your neighbor as yourself.”

MATTHEW 25 Jesus teaches that He will welcome those into God’s Kingdom who cared for Him when He was hungry, thirsty, naked, a stranger, sick, and in prison; when asked “When did we see you in need?” Jesus replies “I tell you the truth, when you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were doing it to me.”

LUKE 10 In the Parable of the Good Samaritan, Jesus instructs His followers to love and show mercy to their neighbors, as the Samaritan did.

LUKE 14 Jesus heals a man on the Sabbath, teaches about humility, and shares the parable of the Great Banquet.

JOHN 13 Jesus washes the disciples’ feet; He instructs His followers to love one another as He loves them.

JOHN 8 When a woman who has committed adultery is brought before Jesus, He displays mercy towards her, saying that the first person to throw a stone against her should be the one who has never sinned.

JOHN 9 Jesus heals a blind man and says his disease is not a punishment for sin.

MATTHEW 8:1-14; MARK 1:40-45 Jesus heals a man with leprosy and a Roman officer.

MATTHEW 9; MARK 5 These chapters detail many stories of Jesus healing those who believe.

MARK 2 Jesus forgives and heals a paralyzed man who is lifted through the roof by his friends.

MARK 3 Jesus heals a man on the Sabbath, despite criticism.

LUKE 7:11-19 Jesus heals a Roman officer and raises a widow’s son from the dead.

LUKE 13 Jesus heals a bent over woman on the Sabbath.

JOHN 5 Jesus heals a lame man at the pool on the Sabbath.

JOHN 11 Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead; Jesus arrives to the home of Mary and Martha four days after their brother’s death, He tells them He is the resurrection and the life, He weeps for Lazarus’ death, calls out to the Lord, instructs them to roll the tomb stone away, and shouts to Lazarus to come out of the cave, which he does.

SCRIPTURE SUGGESTIONS

Health & Healing:

MATTHEW 11:28 Then Jesus said, "Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest."

PSALM 147:2-3 The Lord builds up Jerusalem; he gathers the exiles of Israel. He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.

MATTHEW 10:8 Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received; freely give.

JEREMIAH 30:17A "But I will restore you to health and heal your wounds," declares the Lord.

JAMES 5:13-20 Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray. Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise. Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.

PSALMS 103:1-5 (NKJV) Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and do not forget all his benefits-- who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy, who satisfies you with good as long as you live so that your youth is renewed like the eagles.

MATTHEW 9:35-36 Jesus was going through all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every kind of disease and every kind of sickness. Seeing the people, He felt compassion for them, because they were distressed and dispirited like sheep without a shepherd.

ISAIAH 38:16 Lord, by such things people live; and my spirit finds life in them too. You restored me to health and let me live.

JEREMIAH 8:22 Is there no balm in Gilead? Is there no physician there? Why then is there no healing for the wound of my people?

JEREMIAH 31:8-9 See, I will bring them from the land of the north and gather them from the ends of the earth. Among them will be the blind and the lame, expectant mothers and women in labor; a great throng will return. They will come with weeping; they will pray as I bring them back. I will lead them beside streams of water on a level path where they will not stumble, because I am Israel's father, and Ephraim is my firstborn son.

MARK 1:34A ...and Jesus healed many who had various diseases.

Trust in the Lord:

PSALM 62:5-8 Yes, my soul, find rest in God; my hope comes from him. Truly he is my rock and my salvation; he is my fortress, I will not be shaken. My salvation and my honor depend on God; he is my mighty rock, my refuge. Trust in him at all times, you people; pour out your hearts to him, for God is our refuge.

PSALM 27:14 (NKJV) Wait on the Lord: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen your heart; wait, I say, on the Lord.

PSALM 25:1-2, 20 In you, Lord my God, I put my trust. I trust in you; do not let me be put to shame, nor let my enemies triumph over me...Guard my life and rescue me; do not let me be put to shame, for I take refuge in you.

Treat others with Love, Compassion, & Mercy:

MATTHEW 25:37-40 Then these righteous ones will reply, "Lord, when did we ever see you hungry and feed you? Or thirsty and give you something to drink? Or a stranger and show you hospitality? Or naked and give you clothing? When did we ever see you sick or in prison and visit you?" And the King will say, "I tell you the truth, when you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were doing it to me!"

MATTHEW 22:36-40 "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" Jesus replied: "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

MARK 12:29-31 Jesus replied, "The most important commandment is this: 'Listen, O Israel! The Lord our God is the one and only Lord. And you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength.' The second is equally important: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' No other commandment is greater than these."

1 JOHN 4:7-12 Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us. This is how we know that we live in him and he in us: He has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God. And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them. This is how love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment: In this world we are like Jesus. There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love. We love because he first loved us. Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. And he has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister.

1 THESSALONIANS 5:10-12 He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him. Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

ISAIAH 41:6 They helped every one his neighbor; and every one said to his brother, "Be of good courage."

LUKE 6:37-38 Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.

GALATIANS 6:2 Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.

COLOSSIANS 3:12 Since God chose you to be the holy people he loves, you must clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience.

LUKE 14:12-14 Then Jesus said to his host, “When you give a luncheon or dinner, do not invite your friends, your brothers or sisters, your relatives, or your rich neighbors; if you do, they may invite you back and so you will be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”

MATTHEW 7:1-3 Do not judge others, and you will not be judged. For you will be treated as you treat others. The standard you use in judging is the standard by which you will be judged. “And why worry about a speck in your friend’s eye when you have a log in your own?”

PROVERBS 24:10-12 If you fail under pressure, your strength is too small. Rescue those who are unjustly sentenced to die; save them as they stagger to their death. Don’t excuse yourself by saying, “Look, we didn’t know.” For God understands all hearts, and he sees you. He who guards your soul knows you knew. He will repay all people as their actions deserve.

HEBREWS 13:1-3 Keep on loving one another as brothers and sisters. Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it. Continue to remember those in prison as if you were together with them in prison, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering.

God's Grace and Mercy:

JOHN 8:7, 11 “Let any one of you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her.”... “Then neither do I condemn you,” Jesus declared. “Go now and leave your life of sin.”

PSALM 103:6-14 The Lord works righteousness and justice for all the oppressed. He made known his ways to Moses, his deeds to the people of Israel: The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love. He will not always accuse, nor will he harbor his anger forever; he does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us. As a father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him; for he knows how we are formed, he remembers that we are dust.

ROMANS 8:1-2 Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death.

EXODUS 33:19 And the Lord said, “I will cause all my goodness to pass in front of you, and I will proclaim my name, the Lord, in your presence. I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion.

2 CORINTHIANS 5:17-21 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people’s sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ’s behalf: Be reconciled to God. God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Justice:

AMOS 5:24 But let justice run down like water, and righteousness like a mighty stream.

JEREMIAH 22:3 (MSG), “This is God’s Message: Attend to matters of justice. Set things right between people. Rescue victims from their exploiters. Don’t take advantage of the homeless, the orphans, the widows. Stop the murdering!”

LUKE 4:18 The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free.

MATTHEW 23:23 Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You give a tenth of your spices—mint, dill and cumin. But you have neglected the more important matters of the law—justice, mercy and faithfulness. You should have practiced the latter, without neglecting the former.”

MICAH 6:8 And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.

LUKE 4:17-19 And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. He unrolled the scroll and found it was written: “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

MATTHEW 5:6 (NLT) God blesses those who hunger and thirst for justice, for they will be satisfied.

Action:

JAMES 2:17 In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

1 JOHN 3:18 Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.

JOHN 14:12-14 Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works that I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. You may ask for anything in my name, and I will do it.

JOEL 2:1 (NKJV) Blow the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in My holy mountain!

Hope:

2 CORINTHIANS 4:8-10 We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be made visible in our bodies.

1 TIMOTHY 4:10 That is why we labor and strive, because we have put our hope in the living God, who is the Savior of all people, and especially of those who believe.

ROMANS 15:13 May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.



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