

OCCUPY

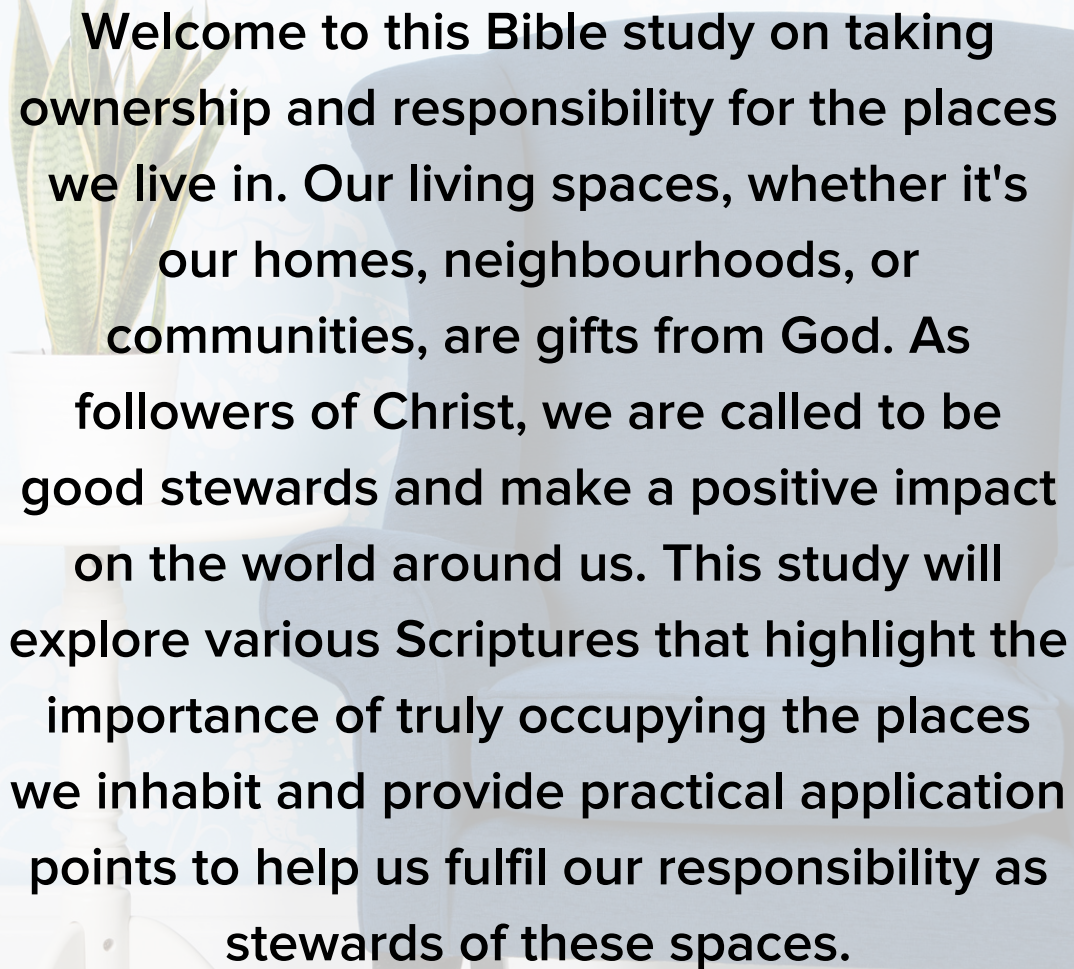
PAINT
YOUR

WAK
UP

BIBLE
STUDY



Intro



Welcome to this Bible study on taking ownership and responsibility for the places we live in. Our living spaces, whether it's our homes, neighbourhoods, or communities, are gifts from God. As followers of Christ, we are called to be good stewards and make a positive impact on the world around us. This study will explore various Scriptures that highlight the importance of truly occupying the places we inhabit and provide practical application points to help us fulfil our responsibility as stewards of these spaces.

Why not begin with a prayer, asking God to soften our hearts, open our eyes and renew our minds according to His purposes and plans for our lives.

stewards

Read Genesis 1:27-28:

*"So God created man in his own image,
in the image of God he created him;
male and female he created them.*

*And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful
and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have
dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the
heavens and over every living thing that moves on the
earth."*

Discussion Questions:

1. What do we learn about our purpose from these verses, and how we should conduct ourselves?
2. What does God's blessing look like according to v.28?
3. Reflect on how you view your space(s) as a reflection of God's creation. Consider ways you can honour God by stewarding and utilising your space(s) for His glory.

community

Read Matthew 5:14-16:

"You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead, they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."

Discussion Questions:

1. What does it mean to be a light in the world?
2. Discuss the significance of being a positive influence in our communities and how it contributes to the well-being of our spaces.
3. What practical ways could you be a light in your community, helping it to flourish and giving glory to the Father?

purpose

Read Ecclesiastes 9:10 and Colossians 3:23-24:

*"Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might."
(Ecclesiastes 9:10)*

"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving." (Colossians 3:23-24)

Discussion Questions:

1. How do these passages emphasise the importance of having a higher purpose and giving our best in everything we do?
2. How do they encourage us to make the most of our present circumstances?
3. What are some of the challenges we face to having this perspective and how can we encourage one another to push forward?

relationship

Read Acts 4:32 and Romans 12:10:


"Now, the full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of the things that belonged to him was his own, but they had everything in common." (Acts 4:32)

"Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honour." (Romans 12:10)

Discussion Questions:

1. What do these verses tell us about how a community should look?
2. Why might loving the people we're around help us commit to the spaces we're in?
3. Have you seen any spaces that model this way of living? What was it like?

Application

- 
1. Embrace your current season: Recognise that God has placed you in your current circumstances for a reason. Instead of longing for a different season, embrace the present and seek to understand the purpose God has for you right where you are.
 2. Be intentional in relationships: Invest in the relationships God has placed in your life. Be present and fully engaged with family, friends, neighbours, and colleagues. Seek to show Christ's love, offer support, and be a source of encouragement to those around you.
 3. Trust in God's sovereignty: Trust that God is in control of all circumstances and that He can work through even the most challenging situations for His purposes. Surrender your plans and desires to Him, trusting that He will use your present circumstances to shape you and fulfil His plans for your life.

Prayer

Feel free to pray your own prayers as a group or pray the prayer below together:

Gracious God, thank You for the insights we have gained from Your Word. Help us to take ownership and responsibility for the places we live in, honouring You and impacting our communities for good. Empower us by Your Spirit to be faithful stewards and loving neighbours. In Jesus' name, Amen.