

# THE DISCOVER GOD STUDY BIBLE

The Focus Makes all the Difference.



THE DISCOVER GOD STUDY BIBLE immerses readers in a deep dive experience of God's character and attributes. Over 9,000 study notes illuminate God's heart and draw readers into a rich, vibrant relationship with Him.

## Scripture passage:

## *(Study Bible Notes)*

“The Kingdom of Heaven is like a treasure that a man discovered hidden in a field. In his excitement, he hid it again and sold everything he owned to get enough money to buy the field.”

Matthew 13:44 NLT

“Then Jesus explained: ‘My nourishment comes from doing the will of God, who sent me, and from finishing his work.’”

John 4:34 NLT

“No, O people, the LORD has told you what is good, and this is what he requires of you; to do what is right, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God.”

Micah 6:8 NLT

### FOCUS: Passion for God should motivate everything we do

(Matthew 13:44) **“Rejoicing in our greatest treasure.** What motivates a follower of Jesus in the life of discipleship? Duty? Obligation? Although these may occasionally stir the heart, this parable reveals what ought to be the core of our motivation: passionate love! When we discover the treasures that are to be found as we serve in God's Kingdom, everything else pales in comparison. The pursuit of God's Kingdom-ideals is not a matter of 'what I ought to do' as much as 'what I long to do,' because passionate love becomes the foundation of everything we say and do (1 Corinthians 13:1-3). The Christian life is a delightful discovery of who loves us and how our loving God wants us to live and act. Make certain that holy passion for God and those around you is the central motivation for everything you do”

### FOCUS: Joy comes from doing God's will

(John 4:34) **“Energized by work.** Do you feel tired? Are you always busy? Do you wonder if you'll ever finish your endless projects? We all have met people who live to work; perhaps you yourself are such a person. But God wants more to overflow from our lives than what we produce through our vocations. Even though Jesus was busy with traveling and eating and other pedestrian activities of the first century, He said He existed to do God's will. Obeying God through serving others is much more satisfying than anything else we can do, and it's the only work we can do on earth that is guaranteed to fill us up, not drain us. Be filled with the joy that comes from committing to do the will of God.”

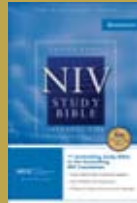
### FOCUS: A real relationship with God is what Jesus offers

(Micah 6:8) **“Religion with relationship.** How many times have you prayed before a meal without paying attention to the words you've spoken? Or sang a hymn in church while thinking of something else? It's easy to become accustomed to the routines of the Christian life. We may speak certain ways, listen to certain music, and pray before we eat, but go through a whole day without truly depending on God, repenting of our sin, and worshipping Him. We must guard against our tendency to go through the motions without experiencing an intimate relationship with God. Micah's audience wanted to find the right religious ceremony to make their nation right with God, but that would never work. Knowing God requires more than external obedience or religious habits (though obedience certainly is required). Any religion can offer ritual – only Christianity offers a real relationship with the God who created the universe. Walk humbly with Him.”

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**THE NIV STUDY BIBLE** offers historical context and commentary on Scripture.



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## (Study Bible Notes)

### FOCUS: God's kingdom is priceless, yet freely given

(Matthew 13:44) "The Kingdom of Heaven is more valuable than anything else we can have, and a person must be willing to give up everything to obtain it. The man who discovered the treasure hidden in the field stumbled upon it by accident but knew its value when he found it. Although the transaction cost the man everything, he paid nothing for the priceless treasure itself. It came free, with the field. Nothing is more precious than the Kingdom of Heaven; yet God gives it to us as a gift."

### FOCUS: We are spiritually fed when we give

(John 4:34) "The 'nourishment' about which Jesus was speaking was his spiritual nourishment. It includes more than Bible study, prayer, and attending church. Spiritual nourishment also comes from doing God's will and helping to bring his work of salvation to completion. We are nourished not only by what we take in, but also by what we give out for God. In 17:4, Jesus refers to completing God's work on earth."

### FOCUS: Are you expressing love and mercy and walking humbly?

(Micah 6:8) "People have tried all kinds of ways to please God (6:6,7), but God has made his wishes clear: He wants his people to do what is right, love mercy, and walk humbly with him. In your efforts to please God, examine these areas on a regular basis. Are you fair in your dealings with people? Do you show mercy to those who wrong you? Are you learning humility?"

### FOCUS: The great value of God's kingdom and the historical context on banking

(Matthew 13:44-46) These two parables teach the same truth: The kingdom is of such great value that one should be willing to give up all one has in order to gain it. Jesus did not imply that one can purchase the kingdom with money or good deeds.

(Matthew 13:44) treasure hidden in a field. In ancient times it was common to hide treasure in the ground since there were no banks - though there were "bankers" (25:27; see note there).

### FOCUS: John often highlights the dependence of Jesus on God

(John 4:34) "My food...is to do the will of him who sent me. John often mentions that Jesus depended on the Father and did the work the Father sent him to do (see, e.g., 5:30 and note; 6:38; 8:26; 9:4; 10:37-38; 12:50 and note; 14:31 and note; 15:10; 17:4)"

### FOCUS: Historical context on covenantal language

(Micah 6:8) "The most memorable statement in the OT defining a proper relationship to God (see Jer 22:16; Hos 6:6 and notes; cf. Jas 1:27). Micah here summarizes major themes found in the prophecies of his near contemporaries: Amos ('act justly'; cf. Am 5:24), Hosea ('love mercy'; cf. Hos 6:6), and Isaiah ('walk humbly with your God'; cf. Isa 29:19). Cf. also Mt. 23:23. man. The use of the singular makes the accusation personal, though Micah is speaking to all Israel (see also Dt. 10:12-13). *act justly...love mercy.* The kind of obedience God expects from his covenant people. *humbly.* Or 'carefully' or 'wisely; your God. Covenant language in accordance with 'My people' in vv. 3,5."

### FOCUS: Salvation is hidden, yet valuable

(Matthew 13:44-46) "These two parables have identical meanings. Both picture salvation as something hidden from most people (see note on v. 11), but so valuable that people who have it revealed to them are willing to give up all they have to possess it."

### FOCUS: Obedience to God summed up Jesus' life

(John 4:34) "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me. Most likely Jesus echoed Dt 8:3 where Moses stated, 'man does not live by bread alone; but man lives by everything that proceeds out of the mouth of the LORD'" (cf. Mt 4:4; Lk4:4). When He talked with the Samaritan woman, Jesus was performing the will of the Father and thereby received greater sustenance and satisfaction than any mere physical food could offer Him (5:23,24; 8:29; 17:4). Obedience to and dependence upon God's will summed up Jesus' whole life (Eph 5:17). God's will for Him to finish is explained in 6:38-40 (see note on 6:40)."

### FOCUS: Spiritual blindness had kept the people from knowing what's right

(Micah 6:8) "Micah's terse response (v.8) indicated they should have known the answer to the rhetorical question. Spiritual blindness had led them to offer everything except the one thing He wanted - a spiritual commitment of the heart from which right behavior would ensue (cf. Dt 10:12-19; Mt 22:37-39). This theme is often represented in the OT (cf. 1 Sa 15:22; Is 1:11-20; Jer 7:21-23; Hos 6:6, Am 5:15)."