



Sojourn™

The job of a watchman is a critical one. As Christians, God has called us to this role in the world. We hold a life-saving message that people need to hear. The time is short. The cost is high. Will we bravely go and share it?

0320a

WATCHMAN

Watchman
Family Watchman
Culture Watchman



CHOSEN GEN
Discipleship Ministry

General Instructions

THANK YOU

Thank you for downloading this Bible study series! We are excited for your family to set off on this sojourn with God in His Word. God promises that His word will not return to Him empty, but will accomplish what He desires (Isaiah 55:10-11). We pray that God would use this study to bless your faith, marriage, and family.

FEEDBACK

Your feedback is important to us. Please let us know what you like, if you have any suggestions for improvements, or if you find something that needs updating (e.g. video link no longer works). You can reach us by email at contact@chosengenministry.org using the subject line "Sojourn Feedback".

NAVIGATING AND PRINTING

Consider using the Bookmarks feature (if available) to quickly navigate to the Bible study you need. When printing, use the option to print only the pages you want instead of the entire file.

Legal Matters

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Kids Bible Study Instructions

PREPARATIONS

Commit to a day and time to do this study with your children. Then, build it up and consider how you can make this time special for your kids, something they will look forward to doing. When the time arrives, make sure you turn off or silence all distractions, especially the pings and rings of phones, which instantly shift your family's attention away from studying God's Word.

MATERIALS

Study: Parents, you will need the Bible study. Feel free to print it out or access it digitally.

Bible: For your children that can read, we highly recommend them having a Bible of their own. During the study, help them find the passages and allow them to read some of the verses. Encourage them to mark or highlight favorite passages. It's a wonderful gift to help them learn how to use their Bible.

Supplies: For activities, any items that may be needed are listed on the page of the activity.

GUIDES

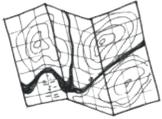
Throughout the Bible study, we guide you forward with things you can say or do:

“ This is an example of something you can say to your children.

[This is an example of something you can do.]



NAVIGATE / SOJOURN / CAMPFIRE CONVERSATIONS / GO AND TELL / COMPASS



We need to escape the noise. Do whatever it takes to remove all the distractions that connect you to the world. Silence your phone, turn off the TV, and quiet any other things that will draw you away from your time with God.

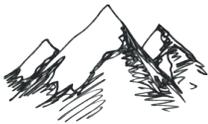
OPENING PRAYER

Always begin your study with prayer. We need the Holy Spirit to open our eyes to see and our ears to hear the truths of the Bible. Pray that God would help you to conform your life, marriage, and family to His Word.

1. Pray your own prayer.
2. If you don't feel comfortable saying your own prayer at this point, you can use this prayer:

Dear God – Thank you for loving us! As we study the Bible, please increase our love for you and for others. Help us to learn what it means to be a watchman in this world and through your Word and the Holy Spirit equip us for the job. In Jesus' name, Amen.

NAVIGATE / **SOJOURN** / CAMPFIRE CONVERSATIONS / GO AND TELL / COMPASS



Sojourn: a temporary stay. Just as Moses left the Israelites to meet with God outside the camp and Jesus found seclusion to pray, the purpose of this Sojourn is to temporarily leave the noise of the world to spend time with God as we study the Bible.

BIBLE STUDY

“ Today's top story on Sojourn News: family of five, including 3 young kids, tragically die in a house fire overnight. It appears the fire started on the first floor and quickly spread up to the second floor. Fire officials are not sure on the exact cause at this point and are investigating if the house was equipped with working smoke detectors. We will keep you posted on this story as new details become available.

- » **Discuss all the different alarms in your life.**
- » **While each has a specific purpose, what is their overall goal?**
- » **Since it isn't a pleasant experience to have them go off, do you choose not to use them or are you thankful for them?**

READ EZEKIEL 3:17

“ Life is full of alarms – smoke detectors, carbon monoxide sensors, tornado sirens, or personal clocks. These alarms blare out their calls loudly and repeatedly. They are meant to be heard because they want to communicate critical information. ‘Your life is in danger! Get to safety now! Wake up!’ In this Sojourn series, we want to talk about our job as Christians to be watchmen. Even though our words might be hard for people to hear, God has given us a life-saving message to share. In this first study, we want to start by looking at the job of the watchman.

DISCUSS

Imagine an ancient city fortified by a strong wall around it; positioned strategically on it is a watchman.

- » **What is the watchman doing? What are they looking out for?**
- » **What does the watchman do if they see something alarming?**
- » **What happens if they fail to do their job?**

“ The watchman was the person on the wall tasked with keeping watch, being always alert and aware, so if danger comes he can shout to the people in the city dependent on him so they can be ready. A watchman that sleeps on the job or fails to shout a warning is a bad watchman and harm comes to the people as a result.

READ ROMANS 10:14-15

“ The Romans 10 passage is a great reminder that we are needed. God has called Christians to be watchmen and it is just as serious of a job as the one from ancient times. So, let's make sure we know what it means to be a watchman, the message we are to proclaim, and the cost of failure.

Job of a Watchman

READ JOHN 3:16-21

- » What is the message we need to bring to an unbelieving world? Take a couple minutes to share this message in your own words with your spouse.

READ MATTHEW 5:13-15

- » In the past, salt was used for preserving things like meat. In this passage, Christians are called to be salt. What do we preserve in this world?
- » We are to let our light shine in a world dark with sin. How does living out our faith give us opportunities to share the hope that we have in Jesus? What are some responses people living in darkness will have to our light shining on them?

Message of a Watchman

READ EZEKIEL 3:17 & JOHN 12:49-50

- » Whose words are we to share and whose are we not to speak? How is this comforting?
- » If this is the case, what is a critical part of our job as a watchman?

NAVIGATE / SOJOURN / **CAMPFIRE CONVERSATIONS** / GO AND TELL / COMPASS



There is something disarming about talking around a campfire. Conversations tend to be more reflective and intimate. The goal of this section is to take what you learned during your Sojourn, talk about it together, and apply it to your life.

“ Welcome back to Sojourn News. We have an update on today’s top story about the fire that claimed the lives of five people overnight. Fire officials have just completed a short briefing with reporters on their investigation. They shared that the house was equipped with several fire alarms. Sadly, it was found that none were working. A cause for the fire is still not known. This continues to be a very tragic story.

The Cost of Failure

“ It is likely we have heard real-life news stories just like this one. They are so unfortunate especially when we learn that all might have been saved if there were just fire alarms or if the alarms were just working. As Christians, we need God to break our heart for the lost around us. As called watchmen, we cannot fail to sound the alarm. There is something much greater at stake – people’s eternity.

DISCUSS

- » **Agree/Disagree: The culture is fine with Christians as long as our beliefs stay inside the church.**
- » **What things keep Christians from sharing their faith with others when the cost of staying silent is so high?**
- » **How are you doing at being a watchman?**
- » **Can we make people believe in Jesus?**

READ 1 JOHN 4:7-21

- » **It is normal to have fears, but what needs to be greater than those fears, compelling us to rise up as watchmen?**
- » **John 14:15 says, “If you love me, keep my commands.” God is clear that He loves all people and wants no one to perish, so He has called Christians to go and make disciples. When we don’t obey God, what might it reveal about our hearts?**
- » **How do we grow in our love for God? How do we have an increased love for others?**

“ The world doesn't make it an easy place for us to share our faith. This can create fears in us that prevent us from obeying God's command to go and make disciples. God can drive out those fears as He increases our love for Him and others through time in the Bible and in prayer.

So, let's rise up! There is urgent work to do. God loves us. He is with us and equipping us. We can take comfort that the results are in God's hands. In the next two studies, we will see how we can be a faithful watchman in our families and this culture.



God tells us to go and share the good news of Jesus with all people. This command begins right in our home with our children. We've created a Bible study for you to lead with your kids of any age. Then, as a family, adventure into the world on mission together for God.

MAKE A PLAN

Don't skip over this part of the study. Open the GO AND TELL STUDY and walk through it. Then, decide the day and time you are going to do it with your kids. Yes, the thought of this can really challenge some, but overcome the lies you are hearing. Remember, there is nothing more important and no greater job that God has given to parents than to pass on our faith to our kids.



When we return to the noise, we can quickly get swept right back into life and the things we studied and discussed are forgotten. Compass is meant to point you back to the Truth so you don't lose course, but continue to head in the right direction.

1. This week, create a list of people close to you that need you to be a watchman to them. Then, be committed to praying for them and asking God for opportunities to share your faith with them.
2. Sharing our Christian faith often requires us to take intentional steps. Look for ways you can love and serve the people on your list. As you consider the news that everyone is discussing, think of how you might mention your faith casually in the conversation. Take a bold step and ask someone on your list to go for a walk or out for coffee. Use this time to grow closer and dive into real conversations.



It's an awesome privilege to pass on the good news of Jesus to our kids and show them the true life offered following Him. Let's equip our kids to know the truths of the Bible so they can stand confidently in this fallen, skeptical world.

OPENING PRAYER

Begin this study with a prayer. Showing your kids how to pray to God before reading the Bible disciplines them to do this step on their own someday. It is important that we ask God to give us understanding, to teach us about Himself, and to help us to follow Him.

1. Pray your own prayer.
2. If you don't feel comfortable saying your own prayer at this point, you can use this prayer:

Dear God – Thank you for helping us to make time as a family to study your Word. It is so wonderful to be able to spend this time together. As we read the Bible, please give us wisdom and insight into what we are studying. Help us to not only hear what you've told us, but help us to understand how to live it out. In Jesus' name, Amen.

BIBLE STUDY

Alarm Activity

Instructions: Before the study begins, go around your house and set as many alarms as possible to go off at the time you plan to start this Sojourn study. Use cell phone alarms, alarm clocks, oven timers, microwave timers, and even watch alarms. After your family has gone around the house and turned off all the alarms, begin the Bible study.

“ Alarms. We all use them, but they aren't very pleasant to hear, are they? They often catch us off guard, make sounds that are loud, irritating, and continuous. Yet they tend to work, pushing us to doing something. For example, your alarm in the morning wakes you from sleep and gets you out of bed. The timer on your oven tells you when to take the food out. Each alarm might be tough to hear going off, but they all serve a purpose.

- » **Some alarms have an even more important job. Can someone tell me the purpose of things like smoke detectors, tornado sirens, and carbon monoxide detectors?**

“ Right. They alert us to serious dangers. These alarms are designed to be loud because they communicate critical information. ‘Your life is in danger! Get to safety now! Wake up!’ Today, we are going to learn about someone called a watchman. Everyone, let’s open up our Bibles to Ezekiel 3:17. [If you only have small children, then let them know you are going to read a passage to them.]

READ EZEKIEL 3:17

“ Imagine a very old city that is surrounded by a large, strong wall. Inside this city sleep all the people: dads and moms, brothers and sisters, grandpas and grandmas, uncles and aunts. They feel safe and sleep peacefully because standing on top of that wall is a man called a watchman. He continues to stay awake in order to keep the people of the city safe. His job is to alert the people of any dangers heading toward the city.

- » **What kind of danger is the watchman looking out for?**

 - » **What does the watchman do if they see something alarming?**

 - » **What could happen to the city if the watchman doesn’t do their job?**
-

“ Right, the watchman’s job is so important. He looks for all those dangers and sounds the alarm so that people in the city can be prepared. If he falls asleep, it would mean that the people would be left unaware of the danger coming.

Did you know that God calls Christians to be watchmen? Just like the watchman on the wall had a super important job, we too have a very important job.

- » **Can anyone tell me what message we might have that is so important for the world to hear?**
-

“ Good! Let’s read a verse to help us out.

READ JOHN 3:16

“ As Christians, we are so blessed to know the most important news ever. We realize we are sinners who have disobeyed God. That’s the hard news to hear, but we also know that Jesus died on the cross for our sins. We know that through faith in Jesus as our Savior, we get to be with Him forever in heaven someday. This is such great news!

Yet so many people in the world don’t know the good news of Jesus. They don’t understand that their sins are very serious. They don’t realize that they need a savior to pay the price for all the wrong things they have done. If people don’t believe in Jesus as their Savior, they cannot be forgiven of their sins. We get to do the very important job of being like a watchman to the people God has put in our lives. We get to tell everyone we know that Jesus has died for our sins!

[This is the stopping point for the youngest kids.]

What makes a good watchman?

“ Alright, let’s talk about two key factors that make a good watchman.

» **What motivates the watchman to cry out or blast a loud signal alerting the inhabitants of the city?**

“ Right! He cares about the people and doesn’t want anything bad to happen to them. His love for those in the city moves him to do what is tough because he knows that it can save their lives.

» **What should motivate us to be bold in telling others the life-saving news of Jesus?**

“ Our love for others should be the motivation for sharing this good news. Do you think everyone will love us for sounding the alarm? Probably not. Sometimes we’ll seem like a loud alarm clock on a cold winter morning when all you want to do is stay in bed under your warm covers. People may not be happy with us for sharing about Jesus, but that shouldn’t stop us.

READ MATTHEW 5:11-16

“ You have such an incredible opportunity to let your light shine! Don’t be afraid or discouraged if people get upset with you for sounding the alarm. God loves you and is with you. In response to God’s love, let us love others and use every opportunity we have to share this life-saving news with those around us.

- » **Last question and an important one to remember: can we make people believe in Jesus?**

“ Our job as the watchman is simply to sound the alarm. The outcome rests in God’s hands and that is a comforting thing to remember. So, let’s rise up! There is urgent work to do.

Closing Activity

PRAYER JOURNAL ENTRY

End this Bible study by making a prayer list of people in your life who may not know the life-saving news of Jesus. Start by adding them to your daily prayers. Ask God to give you opportunities to share the good news of Jesus with them.

- » **This is where we will end our study. Do you have any questions?**



It's an awesome privilege to pass on the good news of Jesus to our kids and show them the true life offered following Him. Let's equip our kids to know the truths of the Bible so they can stand confidently in this fallen, skeptical world.

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BIBLE STUDY

- » Discuss all the different alarms in your life.
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So, let's make sure we know what it means to be a watchman, the message we are to proclaim, and the cost of failing to do it.

Job of a Watchman

READ JOHN 3:16-21

- » **What is the message we need to bring to an unbelieving world? Take a couple minutes to share this message in your own words.**

READ MATTHEW 5:13-15

- » **In the past, salt was used for preserving things like meat. In this passage, Christians are called to be salt. What do we preserve in this world?**
- » **We are to let our light shine in a world dark with sin. How does living out our faith give us opportunities to share the hope that we have in Jesus?**
- » **What are some responses people living in darkness will have to your light shining on them?**
- » **Discuss times or situations you've been in where you had the opportunity to share your faith or stand out because of what you believe. Was it a positive experience or a challenging one?**

Message of a Watchman

READ EZEKIEL 3:17 & JOHN 12:49-50

- » Whose words are we to share and whose are we not to speak? How is this comforting?
- » If this is the case, what is really important for us to do as part of our job as a watchman?

The Cost of Failure

Sojourn News

“ Today’s top story on *Sojourn News*: family of five tragically dies in a house fire overnight. Fire officials have just completed a short briefing with reporters on their investigation. It appears the fire started on the first floor and quickly spread up to the second floor. Fire officials are not sure on the exact cause at this point. They shared that the house was equipped with several fire alarms. Sadly, it was found that none were working. This is a very tragic story and we will keep you updated on it as new details become available.

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DISCUSS

- » What things keep Christians from sharing their faith with others when the cost of staying silent is so high?
- » How are you doing at being a watchman in the places God has placed you? Think through opportunities at school, playing sports, or time with friends and co-workers.

READ 1 JOHN 4:7-21

- » It is normal to have fears, but what needs to be greater than those fears, compelling us to rise up as watchmen?
- » How do we grow in our love for God? How do we have an increased love for others?

» **Can we make people believe in Jesus?**

“ The world doesn't make it an easy place for us to share our faith. This can create fears in us that prevent us from obeying God's command to go and make disciples. God can drive out those fears as He increases our love for Him and others through time in the Bible and in prayer.

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Closing Activity

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» **This is where we will end our study. Do you have any questions?**