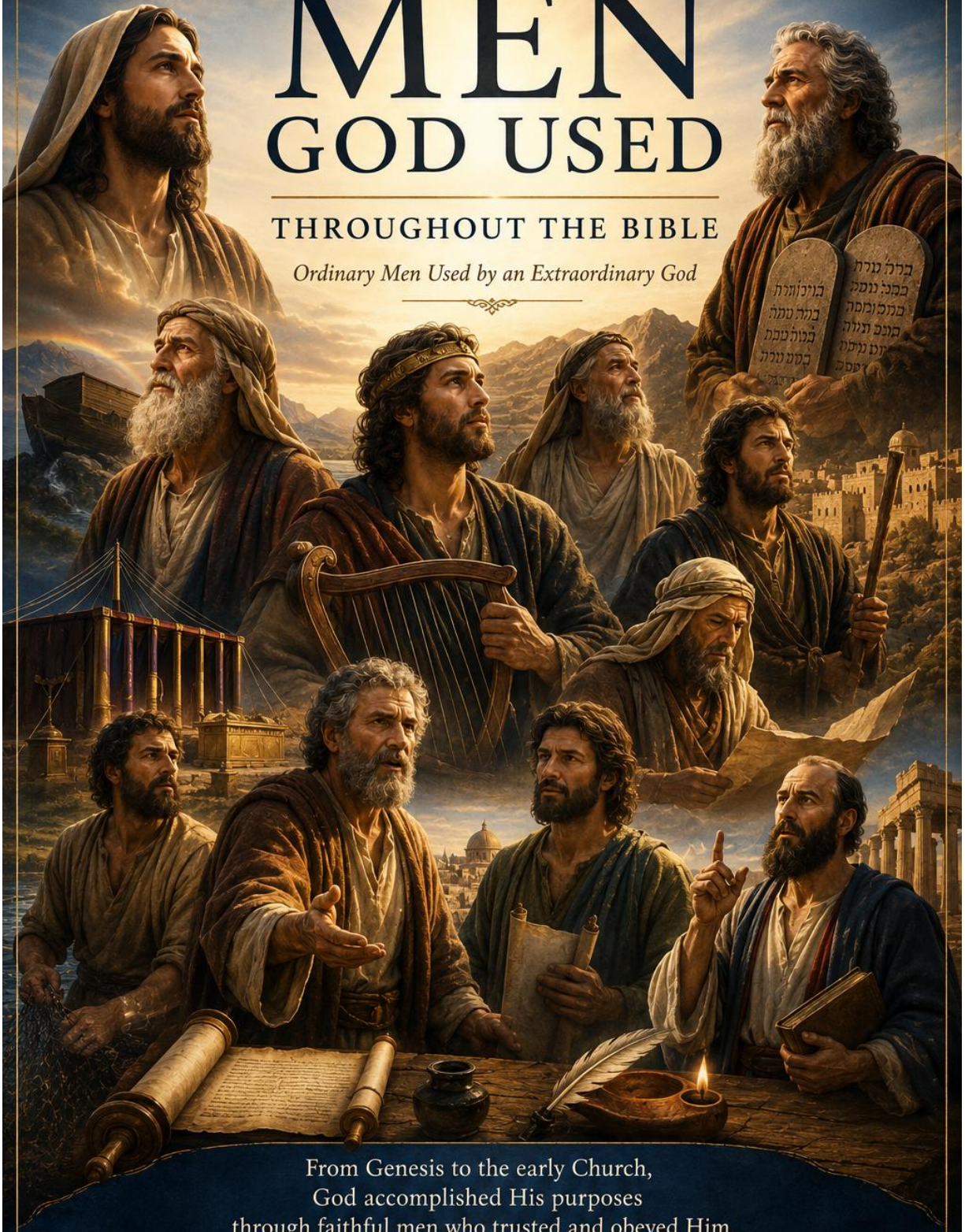


MEN GOD USED

THROUGHOUT THE BIBLE

Ordinary Men Used by an Extraordinary God



From Genesis to the early Church,
God accomplished His purposes
through faithful men who trusted and obeyed Him.

2 TIMOTHY 2:2



GOD CALLS
ORDINARY MEN



GOD EQUIPS
THEM TO SERVE



GOD USES THEM
FOR HIS GLORY

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Scripture quotations are from the New Living Translation (NLT) of the Holy Bible unless otherwise noted.

This guide has been prayerfully prepared to encourage believers to know Jesus Christ more deeply through the study of His character as revealed in Scripture. It is intended for personal Bible study, discipleship, small groups, church classes, and individual spiritual growth.

The author has made every effort to present biblical truth accurately and faithfully. Readers are encouraged to study the Scriptures personally and seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit in applying God's Word to their lives.

Unless otherwise indicated, all emphasis within Scripture quotations has been added by the author.

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*"I want to know Christ and experience the mighty power that raised him from the dead.
I want to suffer with him, sharing in his death." — Philippians 3:10 (NLT)*



About This Guide

This guide is designed to serve as a quick biblical reference to help you begin studying the characteristics of God. It provides key Scriptures and brief descriptions to help you locate where God's attributes are revealed throughout His Word. As you continue exploring this ministry library, you will find additional in-depth studies devoted to many of these characteristics, offering deeper biblical teaching, context, and practical application. My prayer is that this guide will be a starting point that encourages you to know God more fully through the truth of His Word



Introduction

Throughout the pages of Scripture, God reveals His character, His purposes, and His plan of redemption through the lives of ordinary men whom He called to accomplish extraordinary tasks. From Adam in the Garden of Eden to the apostles who carried the gospel throughout the world, each man has a unique place in God's unfolding story. Some faithfully obeyed from the beginning, while others struggled with fear, failure, or doubt. Yet despite their weaknesses, God remained faithful to His promises and accomplished His purposes through them.

This guide has been created as a biblical reference to introduce many of the significant men God used throughout the Bible. While each person's life deserves careful study, this resource provides a starting point by highlighting who they were, where their stories are found in Scripture, and how God worked through them. As you read, you will discover that these men were not chosen because they possessed extraordinary abilities, but because God is extraordinary. Their lives testify that the Lord delights in using imperfect people who are willing to trust Him, obey His Word, and follow His calling.

My prayer is that this guide will encourage you to look beyond the individuals themselves and see the faithfulness of the God who called them. As you study their lives, may you gain a greater understanding of God's character, His sovereign plan throughout history, and His continuing work through ordinary believers today. The same God who called them still calls His people to faithfully follow Him and participate in His mission.



Why Did God Use So Many Men Throughout the Bible?

From the beginning of Scripture to the birth of the early church, God chose to accomplish His purposes through men from every walk of life. They included shepherds, fishermen, kings, priests, prophets, craftsmen, farmers, physicians, government officials, and scholars. Their backgrounds, personalities, and experiences were remarkably different, yet God used each of them at exactly the right time to fulfill His redemptive plan.

God did not choose these men because they were the strongest, smartest, or most talented. He often chose those who recognized their dependence upon Him. Abraham left everything familiar because he trusted God's promises. Moses doubted his own abilities, yet God used him to deliver Israel. David was a shepherd before becoming Israel's greatest king. Daniel remained faithful while living in exile. Peter was transformed from an impulsive fisherman into a bold leader of the early church. Paul, once a persecutor of Christians, became one of the greatest missionaries in history after encountering the risen Christ.

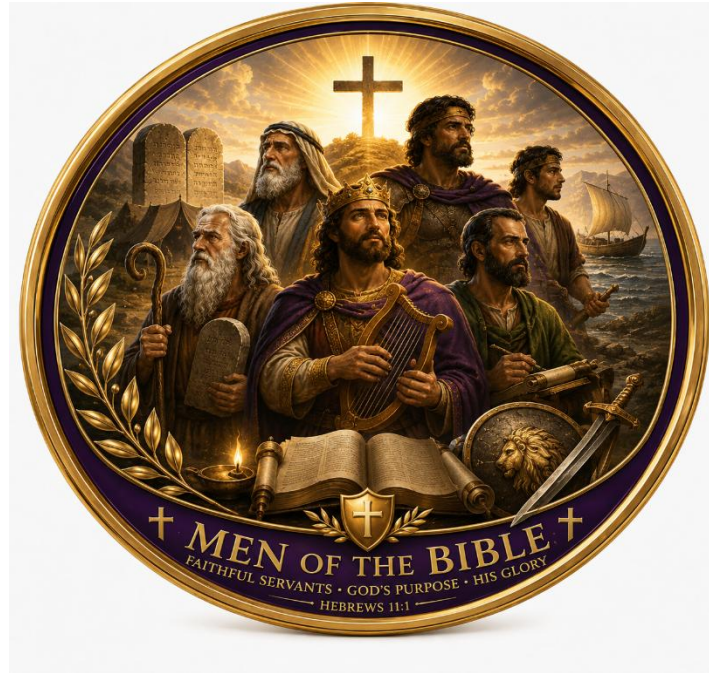
Each of these lives points beyond human achievement to the faithfulness and power of God. Their stories remind us that God's plans are never limited by human weakness. Instead, He delights in working through those who humbly trust and obey Him.

Studying these men helps us understand how God has worked throughout history and encourages us to live faithfully in our own generation. The same Lord who called Abraham, Moses, David, Peter, Paul, and countless others continues to call ordinary believers today to trust Him, serve others, proclaim the gospel, and faithfully accomplish the work He has prepared for them.

How to Use This Guide

This guide is designed to be a simple reference for personal Bible study, discipleship, teaching, or devotional reading. Read one characteristic at a time, look up the accompanying Scripture, and observe how Jesus demonstrated that quality throughout His life and ministry. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you understand Christ more deeply and to develop that same characteristic in your own life as you grow to become more like Him.





Men God Used Throughout the Bible

Genesis

Person	Primary Scripture	How God Used Him
Adam	Genesis 1–5	First man; established humanity as God's image-bearer.
Abel	Genesis 4	Example of righteous worship and faith.
Seth	Genesis 4–5	Continued the godly lineage through which God's promises advanced.
Enoch	Genesis 5	Walked faithfully with God and pleased Him.
Noah	Genesis 6–9	Preserved humanity through the Flood and preached righteousness.
Abraham	Genesis 12–25	Father of faith and recipient of God's covenant promises.
Isaac	Genesis 21–35	Continued God's covenant with Abraham's descendants.
Jacob (Israel)	Genesis 25–50	Father of the twelve tribes of Israel.
Joseph	Genesis 37–50	Preserved Israel during famine through God's providence.



Exodus-Deuteronomy

Moses	Exodus– Deuteronomy	Delivered Israel from Egypt, gave God's Law, and led His people.
Aaron	Exodus–Numbers	Served as Israel's first high priest.
Joshua	Exodus; Joshua	Led Israel into the Promised Land.
Caleb	Numbers; Joshua	Demonstrated courageous faith and wholehearted devotion to God.
Bezalel	Exodus 31–40	Crafted the Tabernacle through God-given skill and wisdom.
Oholiab	Exodus 31–40	Assisted in constructing the Tabernacle and training craftsmen.

Judges

Othniel	Judges 3	First judge who delivered Israel from oppression.
Ehud	Judges 3	Delivered Israel from Moab through God's strength.
Shamgar	Judges 3	Defeated Israel's enemies and brought deliverance.
Gideon	Judges 6–8	Defeated Midian through God's power rather than human strength.
Jephthah	Judges 11– 12	Delivered Israel from the Ammonites.
Samson	Judges 13– 16	Fought the Philistines as a judge empowered by God.

United Kingdom

Person	Primary Scripture	How God Used Him
Samuel	1 Samuel	Prophet, priest, judge, and anointer of Israel's kings.
Saul	1 Samuel	Served as Israel's first king.
David	1 Samuel–1 Kings	Shepherd, king, psalmist, and ancestor of the Messiah.
Solomon	1 Kings	Built the Temple and authored much of Israel's wisdom literature.



Divided Kingdom

Person	Primary Scripture	How God Used Him
Elijah	1 Kings–2 Kings	Called Israel back from idolatry and demonstrated God's power.
Elisha	2 Kings	Performed miracles and strengthened God's people.
Hezekiah	2 Kings; 2 Chronicles	Led Judah in spiritual reform and trusted God during crisis.
Josiah	2 Kings; 2 Chronicles	Restored worship according to God's Word.

Exile and Return

Person	Primary Scripture	How God Used Him
Daniel	Book of Daniel	Faithful witness in Babylon who proclaimed God's sovereignty.
Shadrach	Daniel 3	Demonstrated unwavering faith despite persecution.
Meshach	Daniel 3	Trusted God in the fiery furnace.
Abednego	Daniel 3	Glorified God through steadfast obedience.
Ezra	Book of Ezra	Restored God's Law among His people.
Nehemiah	Book of Nehemiah	Rebuilt Jerusalem's walls and encouraged spiritual renewal.
Zerubbabel	Ezra; Haggai	Led the rebuilding of the Temple.
Mordecai	Book of Esther	Protected God's covenant people during a time of great danger.



The Gospels

Person	Primary Scripture	How God Used Him
Joseph	Matthew 1–2; Luke 1–2	Faithfully served as the earthly guardian of Jesus.
John the Baptist	Matthew–John	Prepared the way for the coming Messiah.
Peter	Gospels; Acts	Apostle and influential leader of the early church.
Andrew	Gospels	Faithfully brought people to Jesus.
James (son of Zebedee)	Gospels; Acts	Early apostle and the first apostolic martyr.
John	Gospels; Revelation	Apostle of love and author of five New Testament books.
Matthew	Gospel of Matthew	Apostle and Gospel writer who emphasized Jesus as the promised King.
Thomas	John	Witnesses whose restored faith strengthened believers.
Philip	John; Acts	Faithfully introduced others to Christ and proclaimed the gospel.
Bartholomew (Nathanael)	John	Faithful disciple who followed Jesus wholeheartedly.
James (son of Alphaeus)	Gospels	One of Jesus' twelve apostles.
Jude (Thaddaeus)	Gospels	Faithful apostle of Jesus Christ.
Simon the Zealot	Gospels	Disciple transformed by following Christ.



Acts and the Early Church

Person	Primary Scripture	How God Used Him
Paul	Acts; Epistles	Apostle to the Gentiles, missionary, and inspired author of much of the New Testament.
Barnabas	Acts	Encouraged believers and partnered in missionary work.
Silas	Acts	Missionary companion of Paul and faithful church leader.
Timothy	Acts; 1 & 2 Timothy	Young pastor and trusted disciple of Paul.
Titus	Titus	Church leader strengthened and organized local churches.
Luke	Luke; Acts	Physician, missionary, and inspired historian of the early church.
Mark	Acts; Mark	Gospel writer who recorded the life and ministry of Jesus.
Apollos	Acts	Powerful teacher who strengthened believers through Scripture.
Stephen	Acts 6–7	First Christian martyr who boldly proclaimed Christ.
Philip the Evangelist	Acts	Evangelist who faithfully spread the gospel beyond Jerusalem.
James (brother of Jesus)	Acts; James	Leader of the Jerusalem church and author of the Epistle of James.
Jude (brother of Jesus)	Jude	Wrote the Epistle of Jude, urging believers to contend for the faith.





Personal Bible Study Guide

The men recorded throughout Scripture were not placed in the Bible simply so we would know their names or remember the events of their lives. Their stories were preserved so we could better understand the character of God and learn what it means to faithfully walk with Him. Every life recorded in Scripture points beyond the individual to the God who called, equipped, sustained, corrected, and used them for His glory.

As you study this guide, take your time with each person. Read the Scripture passages listed and observe not only what each man accomplished but also how God worked through his life. Notice both their victories and their failures. The Bible does not hide the weaknesses of God's servants because their lives demonstrate that God's grace is greater than human weakness. Their stories remind us that God is faithful even when His people struggle.

As you study each individual, ask yourself questions such as:

- What does this person's life teach me about God's character?
- Why did God choose this man for this particular purpose?
- What qualities did God develop in his life?
- How did this man respond to God's calling?
- What obstacles or failures did he face?
- How did God demonstrate His faithfulness through this person's life?
- What lessons can I apply to my own walk with Christ?
- How does this person's life ultimately point to Jesus Christ and God's plan of redemption?

Consider keeping a journal as you study. Record what each man's life teaches you about God's faithfulness, sovereignty, patience, mercy, justice, and grace. Write down meaningful verses, personal reflections, and prayers that arise from your study.

Most importantly, ask the Holy Spirit to guide you. Let these stories deepen your relationship with God and encourage you to trust Him more fully, obey Him more faithfully, and allow Him to use your life for His glory.





A Prayer of Thanksgiving

Heavenly Father,

Thank You for preserving the lives of faithful men throughout Your Word. Through their stories, You reveal Your power, wisdom, mercy, and faithfulness. Thank You for calling ordinary people to accomplish extraordinary purposes and showing that Your plans are never limited by human weakness. Their examples of faith, courage, obedience, perseverance, and repentance encourage us to follow You faithfully.

Lord, the same God who walked with Abraham, strengthened Moses, guided David, protected Daniel, restored Peter, and transformed Paul is still working today. Your faithfulness has never changed. As I study their lives, help me see Your hand throughout history and trust You more fully. May every page of Scripture draw me closer to You and inspire me to live for Your glory.

In Jesus' name, **Amen.**

A Prayer for the Reader

Gracious Heavenly Father,

I pray for every person who reads this guide. Open their hearts and minds as they study the men You called throughout Scripture. Help them see not merely historical figures but testimonies of Your faithfulness, grace, and power. May each life remind them that You delight in using ordinary people who trust and obey You.

Strengthen their faith through these examples. Encourage those who feel weak, remind the discouraged that Your grace is sufficient, and assure those who feel unqualified that You equip everyone You call. Give each reader a deeper desire to know You through Your Word and follow wherever You lead.

May this study draw them closer to Jesus Christ, strengthen their walk with You, and encourage them to serve others with humility, courage, and love. May their lives testify to Your goodness and faithfulness for generations to come.

In Jesus' name, **Amen.**



Continue Your Journey

The lives of the men recorded throughout Scripture remind us that God has always accomplished His purposes through people who were willing to trust and obey Him. Some were leaders, others were servants. Some preached before thousands, while others quietly fulfilled the task God had given them. Yet every faithful life became another testimony to God's sovereign plan and unchanging faithfulness.

As you continue studying God's Word, remember that these men are not the heroes of the Bible—God is. Their stories continually point us to His greatness, His mercy, His wisdom, and ultimately to Jesus Christ, the perfect Son of God and Savior of the world. Every person in Scripture contributes to God's unfolding plan of redemption, which reaches its fulfillment in Christ. I encourage you to continue growing in your understanding of God's Word by exploring the other Scripture Reference Guides available throughout this ministry library.

Continue your journey by exploring:

- The Characteristics of God
- The Names of God
- The Names and Titles of Jesus Christ
- Shared Divine Titles of the Father and the Son
- The Prophets of the Bible
- The Promises of God
- The Miracles of Jesus
- The Parables of Jesus
- The Characteristics of a Disciple of Jesus
- Walking with God This Week (Weekly Devotionals)

As you continue walking with the Lord, remember that the same God who faithfully guided Abraham, Moses, David, Daniel, Peter, Paul, and countless others is still calling His people today. May you trust Him wholeheartedly, follow Him faithfully, and allow Him to use your life to bring glory to His name.

May God richly bless you as you continue to grow in His grace, walk in His truth, and faithfully serve Him all the days of your life.

Prayerfully prepared by

Christie Johnson

Christie Johnson

Servant of God

"Pointing people to the hope, healing, and transformation found in Jesus Christ."