

Using this Booklet

On August 11, 2002, all pastors at all services will begin an 8-week sermon series on the revised and renewed vision statement of St. Andrew:

To invite people into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ and one another
through worshiping, learning, loving, and serving

We've prepared this booklet as a way to help us all to consider prayerfully how we can truly make this vision statement our own. You'll find that there are eight Background Studies in the booklet, one for each of the eight sermons.

A few tips on using the studies

- The purpose of each study is to give you some background on the topic for that week. I suggest that you read the two pages of background and then begin to work through the five days of bible readings. I've provided a small amount of writing space so you can jot down some thoughts or questions that occur to you in your reading. The background material is not always light reading. We hope that the studies will repay a careful reading.
- Taking sermon notes is a good idea. It will deepen your understanding of the sermon and help you to tie together the sermon and the background material.
- Don't be put off by the footnotes. Some of them will give you additional insights into the theme for that week. Others will give you references to books and articles I used in writing the study. All of the books are good and I can recommend them!
- You'll see that there are a few times when I discuss Greek or Hebrew words. I'm certainly no scholar of ancient languages, but the meaning of the actual words that were used in the Bible¹ can be very revealing and exciting. If you haven't been exposed to word studies before, I hope you'll give it a chance!

For those leading group discussions

I've included a number of discussion questions for each week, grouped into three or four themes. There are probably far more questions than any group could tackle in an hour. I suggest that you look over the questions, pick one or two that interest you, and use them to help get discussion going in your class.

We'd like some feedback!

We've never tried something like this before, but we might again! If you have some thoughts, comments or suggestions about what could be improved or what we ought to leave unchanged, we'd like to hear them. Please e-mail your thoughts directly to me: scott@engleassociates.com. Thanks!!!

Grace and peace,
Scott

¹ The Old Testament was written in Hebrew and the New Testament in Greek.