

## HOW TO DO A CHARACTER (BIOGRAPHICAL) STUDY

### 1. Choose a character you want to study.

**2. Research your character.** Use a concordance to list all the references to your character in the Bible. Some good online resources are <http://net.bible.org/bible.php> and [www.crosswalk.com](http://www.crosswalk.com).

Begin to jot down notes by each passage or verse. What do you learn about them?

Reconstruct his life. Look for the following things as you read the passages. Depending on your character, you may have much or very little information. You may not be able to answer all of these areas, but use them as a guide. You may even notice things in your passages that are not included on this list.

#### A. His (her) background

- Circumstances surrounding his birth; when, where, etc.
- Parents and family; who were they, what were they like, what was their spiritual condition?
- His environment and early training. How did this influence him later in life?
- What are some other factors that prepared him for situations later in life?

#### B. Major factors of adult life

- Occupation?
- Achievements? What were his major achievements in life?
- What was he or she most noted for?
- Did he write any portion of the Scripture? If so, what does it show you about him?

#### C. Relationships

- Who were the people most important in his life?
- Who were his friends?
- Who were his enemies?
- What influence did others have on him and vice versa?

#### D. Geography

- Where did he grow up?
- Where did he live?
- Where did he minister?
- How might geography have impacted his life?

#### E. Relationship with God

- What was his relationship with God? How would you describe it?
- How did his relationship with God affect his life and accomplishments?

#### F. Major events

- What were the major events of his life?
- What were the major crises?
- What were the various periods or phases in his life?
- What were the pivotal points which divide these periods?
- What were the manner, cause and effect of his death?

#### G. Character

- Describe his character.
- What were his strong points?
- What were his weak points?
- What were the causes and results of his strong and weak points of character?
- What were his specific faults and sins?
- What were the consequences of this?
- What was his general attitude toward life and toward others?
- What basic principles seemed to guide his life and his work?

### 3. Organize your material.

There are two ways you may want to do this:

**A. Outline:** You may choose to arrange your material in outline form. For example, you can use key events, chronological order, character traits, lessons he learned, or some other area.

**B. Theme:** Or you may choose to organize your study around a central organized theme. What did his life center on? What was a major event or outstanding trait in his life you want to build your study around? (This may be a little harder if this is your first time to do a character study.)

### 4. Make application.

- What are some "lessons for life" or principles to be derived from that person's life and apply to your own life?