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# God's Road Map for Us: The Plan of Holiness

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The

*Holy Life*

Bible Study Series

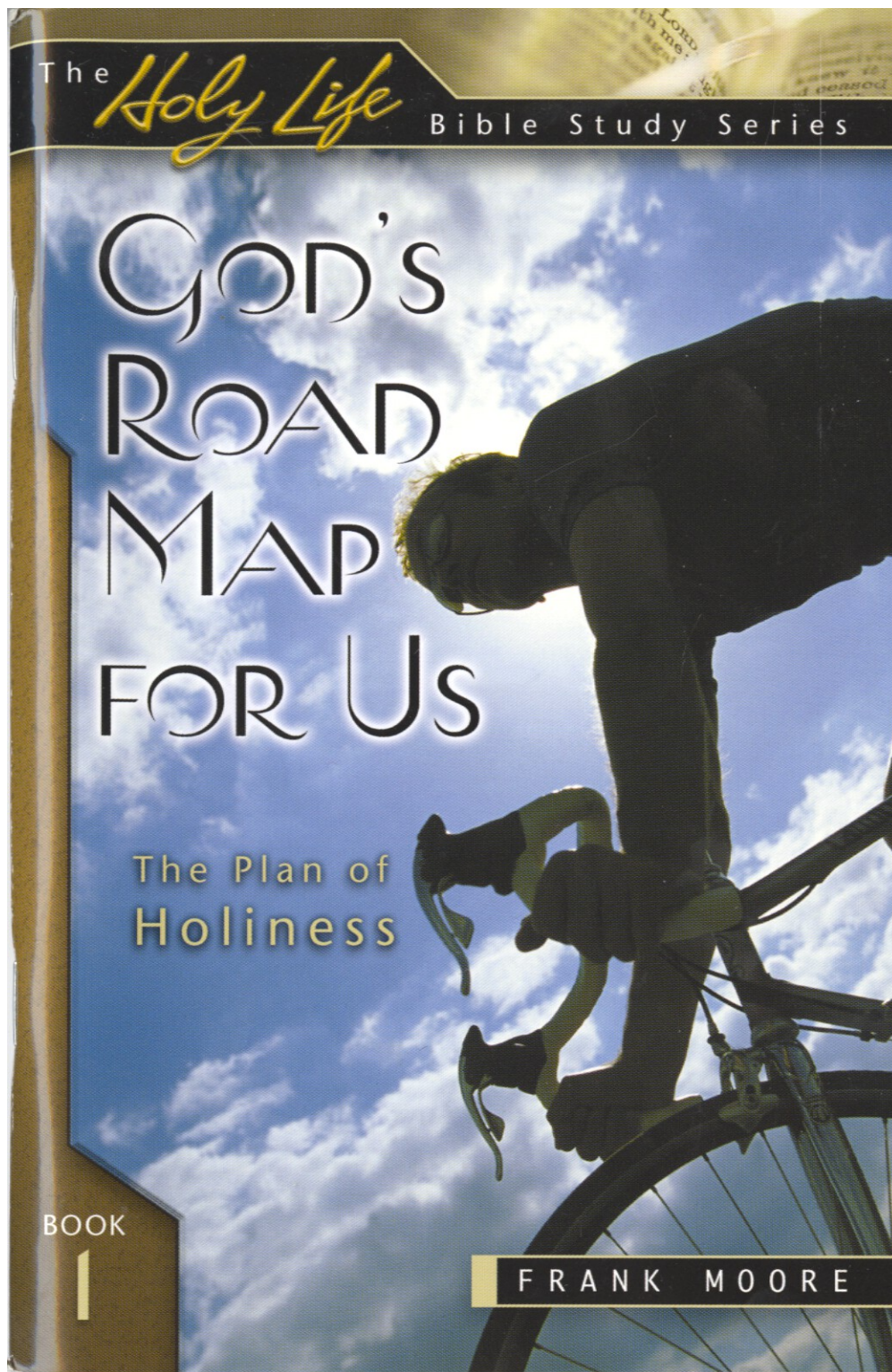
# GOD'S ROAD MAP FOR US

The Plan of  
Holiness

BOOK

1

FRANK MOORE





## Welcome to the Adventure

Col. 1:9-22

If you're using this book as part of a group Bible study, take a few minutes to go around the room and have each participant tell something about himself or herself. If class members don't already know each other, have each one share a fact that gives insight into his or her personality or interests. If class members already know each other pretty well, have them share something about themselves that's not widely known. This will open the way for better discussion of the Bible later.

The wonder and amazement of a child generates excitement wherever it's manifest. Isn't it exciting to see a child's face light up the first time he or she plays with a puppy or blows a big bubble with bubble gum or jumps into the deep end of the swimming pool? How about a young teenager's excitement the first time he or she rides the biggest, worst roller coaster in the state? How about an older teen's thrill of taking the family car out for the first time? That hunger for wonder and amazement carries over into adulthood as grown-ups participate in the "extreme sports" craze. I don't know about you, but some of those extreme sporting events look downright dangerous to me! My life is exciting enough without jumping off of a bridge with a bungee cord tied to my leg or sailing down a snowy mountain trail on a snowboard!

What is it with our fascination with new experiences or big adventures? It appears that God hardwires an adventuresome spirit into most of us. I say "most of us" because I have a few friends who seem content to sit on porch swings and watch the grass grow. They're not the norm, though. We seem to come into the world with a human nature that compels us to seek out new experiences. We love to explore and try new things. Add a little danger or some risk to the mix, and we're *really* fired up!

I had my own share of childhood adventures. I grew up on a farm with one sister and two brothers. We didn't have neighbors with children our age—we barely had neighbors—so we played with each other. We didn't have the full range of toys that youngsters have today, but we created our own games and pastimes with the objects we found around the farm. Bikes, boards, and ropes took on fresh possibilities when we got our hands on them. We all had pretty active imaginations that kept us exploring in the woods and fields. We also liked to take things apart to see how they worked. More than once our mother scolded us for disassembling our toys to analyze the secret of their operation. One thing remained certain—we were never bored!

My childhood memories remind me of humanity's natural inclination for exciting adventures. Some folks, like me, carry a natural curiosity into each and every day—a curiosity that causes us to take things apart to analyze their function. I don't know why, but God just made us this way. I'm glad He did, though. Curiosity gives added value to life.

#### PERSONAL REFLECTION

Think about your own childhood.

1. What were some of your childhood adventures?
2. What things feed your curiosity?
3. Where did your early explorations in life take you?



This book offers you an adventurous journey. It will appeal to your curiosity as you take biblical stories and concepts apart to gain a better understanding of them. It will lay out a road map for you as you set out on an amazing journey with God and He works with each of us through the highs and lows of this thing called life. God's experience with parenting us is nothing short of an extreme sport—for Him *and* for us! Words fail to adequately describe the strain on His patience and nerves as He walks beside us and parents us through our lives. By studying the adventure story of Bible characters on their journeys with God, we'll gain new insights into God's dealings with us today. By dissecting and exploring the admonitions of Scripture, we'll discover new facets of God's hopes and dreams for our lives.

#### GROUP DISCUSSION

Take a few minutes to give the members of your group a chance to formulate their responses to the following questions. Then share everyone's answers with the group.

1. Relate a time in your life when God revealed a new truth to you or gave you a new spiritual insight.
2. How did God reveal this new truth or insight to you?
3. How has the Bible figured into your spiritual growth and development?
4. In what ways might parenting compare with "extreme sports"?

5. How might our experiences with parenting our children compare to God's experience with parenting us?

#### READ COL. 1:9-22

We won't explore Col. 1:9-22 in depth at this time. Nor will we discuss the richness of its meaning. We begin this book by looking at this passage as a signpost that points out the direction our journey will take us in the weeks ahead. Note briefly the following things about these verses. Feel free as time permits to discuss further with class members any of these general observations:

1. God wants to fill us with knowledge and understanding of His will (v. 9).
2. God wants us to live lives worthy of our Creator (v. 10).
3. God wants us to live lives that please Him in every way (v. 10).
4. God wants our lives to bear the fruit of good works (v. 10).
5. God wants us to grow in our knowledge of Him (v. 10).
6. God wants to strengthen us with His power (v. 11).
7. God wants to give us endurance and patience (v. 11).
8. We should give thanks to God for all He does to make us saints in His kingdom (v. 12).
9. We have been rescued from darkness and brought into spiritual light (v. 13).
10. Christ brings us redemption through the forgiveness of our sins (v. 14).
11. Christ is the best picture we have of our Heavenly Father (vv. 15-19).
12. Our redemption comes through Christ's blood shed on the Cross (v. 20).

13. We were once alienated from God because of our sins (v. 21).
14. One of God's purposes in working with us is to make us holy (v. 22).

### GROUP DISCUSSION

1. What catches your eye in Col. 1:9-22?
2. What amazes you most about God's plan of salvation for us?
3. Do God's desires and dreams for us seem realistic? Why or why not?
4. In which of these ways do you see God already working in your life?
5. In which of these ways could you use a boost in your life?

This Bible study is going to provide you with new insights about Scripture, yourself, and God's plan for your life. It's going to stretch you, take you outside your comfort zone at times, and force you to think in new ways about spiritual matters. This study may occasionally give you the feeling of jumping from an airplane, hopefully with a well-packed parachute. Your mind may free-fall through many new ideas as



you discover new insights regarding God's incredible plan of salvation. You're certainly going to feel the puzzle of unanswered questions from time to time. And occasionally you're going to feel like a three-year-old asking "Why?" at every turn of the page.

All this questioning and discovery is OK, because you're on a big adventure. God planted that exploration bug in you. He loves it when you let your spiritual imagination take you into unexplored territory to discover new insights about yourself, your salvation, and your God.

So welcome to the journey! It's going to be exciting, and we're going to have some fun along the way. Just pretend with me for a while that you're a kid again. Read the Bible and study it with your friends as if you were reading it for the very first time. You'll be amazed at all God says to you and at His incredible plan of salvation for you.

### GROUP ACTIVITY

Close your time together with a prayer that God will bless your efforts and thrill your hearts over and over again with knowledge and understanding of His Word and its application to your lives. Ask Him to help each of you make the most of this study about your adventure with Him.

### FURTHER QUESTIONS

Take a moment at the conclusion of the session to encourage class participants to place their unanswered questions on note cards, along with this session number. They should then place their cards in an "odds and ends" box provided by the Bible study leader. Attention will be given to these questions in the last session of this study.