

2009 BIBLE STUDY OUTLINE
LEADERSHIP IN THE HOUSEHOLD OF GOD

FOREWORD
BY THE PRIMATE OF ALL NIGERIA
The Most Rev. Peter J. Akinola, CON

Our Bible Study Theme for 2009, “**Leadership in the Household of God**” is very appropriate and timely, considering the moral decadence of our present generation and the need to arrest this decay from the root cause – “families’ disintegration”. Whatever decay, whatever moral laxity, whatever corruption we have in our society today is a result of leadership failure in the smallest units of God’s household – the family. Congregations of families make up the communities while the communities make up the **Nation** and the **Church**. This year’s Bible Study theme is therefore a perfect graduation from our previous year study on “God’s own family”.

We are, in these Bible Study Outlines, reminded that leadership in the household of God starts from our immediate families. In Genesis 6ff, it is stated that God saw that in every household, there was wickedness and evil even in the heart of all men created by God and these brought regret into His heart. Only one family was the exception. The universal wickedness such as disobedience, infidelity, evil and hard-heartedness were never found in their daily thoughts and living. This family was the family of Noah. Noah led his immediate family very well and this made his family to be the choice of God for future generations. Can God choose your own family for the same purpose today?

We thank the Committee on Liturgy and Spirituality for yet another year of sacrificial hard work to bring out this edition of the annual Bible Study outlines for the year 2009.

Of a truth, our leadership qualities as Christians will make or mar the societies we find ourselves. Apostle Paul reminds us in 1Timothy 3:1-11 that leadership in the household of God is noble, and whoever aspires to that position must be blameless, with one wife, temperate, with self-control, respectable and must possess all the qualities befitting a man of God.

Those who occupy the position of national leadership should also listen to the voice and directive of God that it may be well with our nation and people. The city of Jericho stood as a barrier to the Israelites in entering the Promised Land. But Joshua, as the national leader asked for Divine Guidance on how best to win the battle. Joshua hearkened to the voice and directives of God and a miraculous victory was given to the Israelites.

The Church of Christ is the “Household of God” and the light of the world! Therefore, leadership in the Church should be the yardstick by which all other leadership should be measured. If the Church fails in her divinely given responsibility to lead, it will affect the entire society negatively.

We expect that as the various congregations engage in the regular and systematic study of the Word of God, using these Bible Study Outlines, there would be rapid transformation of lives. We therefore send out this edition of the outlines with many prayers for the edification of all our members, the Church and our Nation.

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