The Star Wars® Trilogy

A New Hope
The Empire Strikes Back
Return of the Jedi
Talking about Star Wars®
CONNECT BIBLE STUDIES: The Star Wars® Trilogy

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Using Connect Bible Studies

What Are These Studies?

These innovative home group Bible studies have two aims. Firstly, to enable group members to dig into their Bibles and get to know them better. Secondly, by being based on contemporary films, books, TV programmes, music etc, the aim is to help people think through topical issues in a biblical way.

It is not envisaged that all members will always be able to watch the films, play the music or read the books, or indeed that they will always want to. A summary is always provided. However, our vision is that knowing about these films and books empowers Christians to engage with friends and colleagues about them. Addressing issues from a biblical perspective gives Christians confidence that they know what they think, and can bring a distinctive angle to bear in conversations.

The studies are produced in sets of four – i.e. four weeks’ worth of group Bible Study material. These are available in print published by Scripture Union from your local Christian bookshop, or via the Internet at www.connectbiblestudies.com.

How Do I Use Them?

These studies are designed to stimulate creative thought and discussion within a biblical context. Each section therefore has a range of questions or options from which you as leader may choose in order to tailor the study to your group’s needs and desires. Different approaches may appeal at different times, so the studies aim to supply lots of choice. Whilst adhering to the main aim of corporate Bible study, some types of questions may enable this for your group better than others – so take your pick.

Group members should be supplied with the appropriate sheet that they can fill in, each one also showing the relevant summary.

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Leader’s notes contain:

1 Opening questions
These help your group settle in to discussion, while introducing the topics. They may be straightforward, personal or creative, but aim to provoke a response.

2 Summary
We suggest the summary of the book or film will follow now, read aloud if necessary. There may well be reactions that group members want to express even before getting on to the week’s issue.

3 Key issue
Again, either read from the leader’s notes, or summarise.

4 Scenes to watch
*New for this issue* Suggestions for clips to show from the relevant DVD, specially picked to tie in with the session themes. Please be aware of Copyright restrictions when showing films or excerpts from films.*

5 Bible study
Lots of choice here. Choose as appropriate to suit your group – get digging into the Bible. Background reading and texts for further help and study are suggested, but please use the material provided to inspire your group to explore their Bibles as much as possible. A concordance might be a handy standby for looking things up. A commentary could be useful too, such as the New Bible Commentary 21st Century Edition (IVP, 1994). The idea is to help people to engage with the truth of God’s word, wrestling with it if necessary, but making it their own.

Don’t plan to work through every question here. Within each section the two questions explore roughly the same ground but from different angles or in different ways. Our advice is to take one question from each section. The questions are open-ended so each ought to yield good discussion – though of course any discussion in a Bible study may need prompting to go a little further.

5 Implications
Here the aim is to tie together the perspectives gained through Bible study and the impact of the book or film. The implications may be personal, a change in worldview, or new ideas for relating to non-churchgoers. Choose questions that adapt to the flow of the discussion.

6 Prayer
Leave time for it! We suggest a time of open prayer, or praying in pairs if the group would prefer. Encourage your members to focus on issues from your study that had a particular impact on them. Try different approaches to prayer – light a candle, say a prayer each, write prayers down, play quiet worship music – aiming to facilitate everyone to relate to God.

*All videos and DVDs are licensed for home viewing only, so it is OK to show films/excerpts in someone’s home. If you want to show films/excerpts in a church setting, you will need permission or a licence. Christian Video Licensing Europe (www.CVLE.com) provides an annual licence for those wishing to show films in church, which covers an increasing number of large studios.
The Star Wars® Trilogy: Part One

Han: What good's a reward if you ain’t around to use it? Besides, attacking that battle station ain't my idea of courage. It's more like... suicide.


Chewbacca: [Bellows.]

Han: What are you looking at? I know what I’m doing.

Please read Using Connect Bible Studies (page 3) before leading a Bible study with this material.

Opening Questions

Choose one of these questions.

| When did you first see Star Wars®? Is it still as good today? | Which bit of the film did you enjoy the most? |
| Who’s the better character: Han Solo or Luke Skywalker?     | Star Wars® is a piece of modern mythology. Does it work that way for you? |

Summary

When idealistic farm boy Luke Skywalker buys two robots, C-3P0 and R2-D2, he finds out that they are carrying a distress message from Princess Leia Organa and the secret plans of the Death Star, the evil Galactic Empire's ultimate weapon. He also discovers that the reclusive local hermit Ben Kenobi is, in fact, Obi-Wan Kenobi, former Jedi Knight and wielder of the mysterious power of the Force.

When they meet, Obi-Wan tells Luke that he is the son of Anakin Skywalker, another Jedi Knight who was murdered by Obi-Wan's former pupil Darth Vader. Luke, Obi-Wan and the droids,
running the gauntlet of Imperial soldiers, buy passage on the Millennium Falcon, piloted by the dashing but morally dubious Han Solo and his hairy co-pilot Chewbacca. They attempt to take the plans to the planet Alderaan, only to find that the planet has been destroyed by the Death Star on the orders of the princess’ captor, Grand Moff Tarkin.

The Millennium Falcon is dragged on board the Death Star via a tractor beam, but Luke, Han, Obi-Wan and the others manage to avoid capture. They find the princess and escape, but not without loss – Obi-Wan, finding Darth Vader on the station, faces his rebellious former pupil in a duel and sacrifices himself to allow time for the others to escape. Getting away with Princess Leia, our heroes make it to Yavin, where the Rebels analyse the plans and discover a weakness in the Death Star. The Rebels stage a desperate attack on the Death Star. Luke decides to join the pilots in the attack, but Han wants no further part and takes off in the Millennium Falcon.

One by one, the Rebel fighters are picked off by Imperial fighters, under the command of Darth Vader himself, until Luke is the only one left making an attack run on the Death Star’s design flaw. As Luke is about to be shot down by Vader, Han returns just in time, rescuing him and giving him the time to fire the shot that destroys the Death Star. Luke, Han and Chewie return to a heroes’ welcome, while Darth Vader, the Death Star’s only survivor, escapes to fight again another day.

**Key Issue: The courage to overcome**

It’s all very well dreaming of escape, but in the end, Luke Skywalker still needs to find the courage to leave home, and the faith to trust in the Force to save the day. Obi-Wan Kenobi’s faith is what allows him to sacrifice himself. Han, meanwhile, has to overcome his scepticism and selfishness in order to put his friends first and play his part. All of the protagonists need to use courage and faith to get by.

**Scenes to Watch**

*(DVD chapter references/timings in brackets)*

_The Force is what gives a Jedi his power...* (Chapter 14 – 0:31:15)*_  
Obi-Wan Kenobi explains to Luke Skywalker about lightsabres, the Force and the Jedi Knights in his house on Tatooine.

*I’ve seen a lot of strange stuff...* (Chapter 27 – 0:56:49).  
Han Solo advances the cause of scepticism in a quiet moment on the Millennium Falcon.

*It’s more like... suicide...* (Chapter 33 – 1:37:17)  
Luke tries to convince Han not to leave.

*If you strike me down...* (Chapter 38 – 1:26:16)  
Obi-Wan makes the final sacrifice. Or does he?