

Thank you for your interest in the “*Folks Like Us*” Bible studies by Fran Sciacca. Whether you’re using them for your own spiritual growth and journey, or as a resource for your small group, Sunday school, or homeschool program, you’ll soon discover why these studies originally sold over 600,000 copies in their print editions. The recent decision by the publisher to discontinue print editions and to return the publishing rights back to Fran has given him the freedom to make the nearly 70 individual character studies available to you...at no cost.

Before you make copies and use the studies...

- **[COPYRIGHT]** – Each of the Bible studies that are a part of *Folks Like Us* is copyrighted. You have permission to make as many copies as you like/need for yourself and/or whatever ministry environment you intend to use them. You do *not* have permission to sell these studies. You may, however, request a small fee to cover the cost of copying, if necessary.
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- **[DONATIONS]** – Although there is no charge for the studies, feel free to make a non-deductible donation to help offset the annual cost of web-hosting, etc. at: [paypal.me/handsofthur](https://www.paypal.me/handsofthur)
- **[QUESTIONS/COMMENTS]** – Email them to: information@fransciacca.com

Other great resources on fransciacca.com

Now that you’ve begun to explore the Bible study resources developed by Fran Sciacca, you will almost certainly benefit from the other things that he has made available:

- **“*The Road to Shalom*” podcast** – thought-provoking and thoroughly biblical, Fran explores what the Bible calls “shalom,”—the way things are *supposed* to be in God’s Kingdom, why they’re not, and how to restore them. All three seasons are available on the website.
- ***Biblical literacy courses*** – Three, 13-week Bible courses covering the entire Bible. Includes individual course books, audio, and optional animated slide supplements. Course books and animated slide supplements may be purchased on the web store.
- **“*What’s Wrong With the World?*”** – A 14-part video series exploring the questions, “*What is the gospel, and does it really matter?*” and “*What is a disciple, and what does one look like?*” Each episode includes a small group handout as well as supplemental leader’s notes. You may take the series for a “test drive” and purchase the series.
- **“*Knot or Noose? - Recovering the Mystery of Marriage*”** – A 9-part video series for singles, engaged, or married couples exploring marriage from a radical perspective. Instead of trying to figure out how to get God into marriage, this series will guide you into how to place marriage into the center of the larger redemptive plan of God. This conference has been presented live throughout the U.S. in a multitude of different settings. Each episode includes everything needed for a small group. You may take the series for a “test drive” and order the series.



FOLKS Like Us

JESUS
“Handling rejection.”

Timeless truths from our ancient past,
for a journey with God in the modern era.

Fran Sciacca

“Folks Like Us” — an introduction

Over the years I’ve written and published a number of Bible studies that collectively have sold well over a half-million copies. They were forged, most of them, in the furnaces of pain, doubt, and loneliness. Maybe that’s why they were well-used, they touched people where they hurt most.

Recently, my publisher decided that they no longer wanted to handle the books that contained these 60 or so individual studies. So, I’ve decided to make them available to any who might benefit from them. At no cost.

I have always believed that because God thought it best to become human in the Incarnation, that perhaps “incarnational truth” was His preferred method of revealing Himself and His purposes to us. I suppose that’s where the basic genre of these studies originated. I wanted to provide believers with Bible studies rooted in our ancestral past. The lives of men and women, who it turns out, are “folks just like us” in so many ways.

So, please take your time and work slowly through as many of these studies as you care to do... there’s a lot of them! And may God use the combination of the struggles and insights of your *ancient* brothers and sisters, combined with those of mine, your modern brother, to help you in your spiritual journey. That is the goal of this project.

Warmly in The Lamb,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Fran Sciacca". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Fran Sciacca
Birmingham, AL

JESUS

“Handling rejection.”

A **BIDING PRINCIPLE** – As children of God, we will never be totally alone, no matter how lonely or rejected we may feel.
“You will leave me all alone. Yet I am not alone, for my Father is with me.” — Jesus

Jesus spent an entire lifetime as the object of rejection. From the time of His birth when He was being hunted down by King Herod to the time of His death when He was crucified by Pontius Pilate, Jesus the Messiah was misunderstood, ostracized, and persecuted. He was indeed *“despised and rejected by men”* (Isaiah 53:3).

In Jesus we find our ultimate point of reference as human beings. He is our example of how to live a life of righteous confidence despite constant opposition from all sides. Jesus depended primarily on his heavenly Father rather than others, for companionship and personal support.

KEY SCRIPTURES: Matthew 26:10-56, Mark 14:26-50, Luke 22:39-62, John 18:1-18

STUDY QUESTIONS...

1. Despondency often results when someone feels alone, misunderstood, or totally forsaken. Look at these different periods in the life of Jesus, and record who rejected or forsook Him, and under what circumstances.

SCRIPTURE	PERSON INVOLVED	CIRCUMSTANCES
Luke 4:16-30		
Matthew 12:1-14		
John 6:53-66		
John 7:2-5		
Luke 13:34		
Matthew 26:14-16		

SCRIPTURE	PERSON INVOLVED	CIRCUMSTANCES
Matthew 26:36-45		
Matthew 26:56		
Matthew 26:59		
Matthew 26:69-75		
Matthew 27:22-25		
Matthew 27:27-31		
Matthew 27:39-40		
Matthew 27:41-43		
Matthew 27:44		
Luke 23:36-37		
Matthew 27:45-46		

2. Examine Isaiah 53:1-12 and record the key words used by the prophet to describe the rejection and isolation Jesus was to experience more than seven hundred years later.

3. Summarize what you discovered about the isolation and rejection that Jesus experienced.

4. Examine the following Scriptures, recording the principles and promises of God that speak to your feelings of isolation and rejection. (Personalize this exercise by using first person pronouns such as I, me, and my in your answers.)

SCRIPTURE	PRINCIPLE OR PROMISE
Hebrews 12:2-3	
John 14:23	
Deuteronomy 31:6 Matthew 28:20	
Psalm 73:21-26	
Psalm 139:7-10	
Isaiah 57:15	
Job 16:19-21	
Psalm 38:9	
John 15:15	
James 2:13	

5. Was there any personal insight or comfort you received from what you discovered in Question 4? Explain.

6. Put a check beside the feelings below that have been recent causes or contributors to periods of discouragement or depression in your life.

- being criticized by others
- having no one who listens
- loneliness
- having no real friends
- being misunderstood
- isolation
- being misrepresented
- (other) _____

Scripture Memory (optional)

Choose one or two Scripture references from this study that specifically address your answer to Question 6. Make a commitment to memorize them and let them remind you each day by posting them in a visible place.