

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.

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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

MOSES

“The myth of indispensability.”

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,



Fran Sciacca
Birmingham, AL

MOSES

“The myth of indispensability”

ABIDING PRINCIPLE – The unwillingness to delegate or share responsibility, is self-perpetuating and debilitating, yet difficult to admit.

“Better bend than break” — Scottish Proverb

The book of Numbers follows directly after the book of Exodus in the story of the people of Israel. It opens with the people camped at Mt. Sinai and closes with them camped at the border of the Promised Land. Moses was the leader of Israel throughout extreme trials. As a man of great personal commitment, he often experienced the pressures of being a man of spiritual responsibility—caught between God and people.

At the time of the incident under study, Moses was in his eighties, with the experience of the plagues of Egypt, the parting of the Red Sea, and a variety of other miraculous happenings "under his belt." He was, however, relatively inexperienced as a leader of an implacable multitude. He still had to learn a crucial lesson about leadership—sharing responsibility.

KEY SCRIPTURE: Numbers 11

STUDY QUESTIONS...

- Carefully read the passages below, paying special attention for Moses' tendency to "do it alone." Note especially the what was going on and how it turned out. Then record what you discover.
 - Exodus 2:11-15 –
 - Exodus 17:8-12 –
 - Exodus 18:13-27 –
 - Numbers 20:2-13 (*Note especially to whom Moses gave credit for this miracle, in verse 10.*)
 - Numbers 11:10-15 –
- What appears to be Moses' attitude toward the authority over him? Why? (Exodus 4:1-13, 5:22-23, 6:10-12).

5. Read Numbers 20:10-13 one more time. What was *God's* reason for prohibiting Moses and Aaron from entering Canaan?

What does it mean for a person in a position of responsibility to "honor" God?

How had Moses and Aaron *failed* to do this?

Do you think this kind of respect for *God* is a vital part of handling responsibility with *people*? Why or why not?

4. What principle of *godly* leadership can you distill from this event in Moses' life?
5. With whom did Moses share his feelings of despair and exasperation about his problems as a leader? Why do you think he did this? (Numbers 11:10-15).
6. Just about everyone feels like giving up at some point, over something. What principle about this tendency can you see in the above incident?

What is the best way to deal with feelings of despair that tempt us to want to quit?

7. What was *God's* solution to Moses' supposed dilemma? (Numbers 11:16-17).
8. (*If you're learned that you are a "Moses"*) Name an area of your ministry or life as a spouse, worker, parent, or friend in which you have made *yourself* "indispensable."

List three responsibilities you could prayerfully delegate to your spouse, fellow workers, children, or a friend that might ease your own emotional load?

9. (*If you're learned that you are not a "Moses"*) Read Galatians 6:2. The word translated "carry" has the inherent meaning of support. Also, the word "burden" in verse 2 is vastly different from the word "load" in verse 5. "Load" simply refers to something *being* carried, but "burden" points to the *effects* of something pressing upon our resources. Who can you think of who is presently struggling under a severe emotional load.

What practical steps could you take to relieve him or her of some of that weight?

7. Is there something that stood out to you more than others in this study, that spoke to you about how you should handle responsibility in a way that honors God, and minimizes emotional stress?

SCRIPTURE MEMORY (optional)

- Helping *others* - Galatians 6:2
- Letting others help *you* - Exodus 18:17-18