

Exposing Enemies Within the Church: A 7-Session Bible Study Series
Session 5: Pietism

Note: This one-page teaching plan is a summary; a leader's preparation should include studying all the material provided.

Bringing the session into focus: Christians are not only to help others find their way to heaven through a relationship with Jesus Christ; they're also to make this world a better place by bringing biblical principles to bear in every sphere they have influence. This includes but is not limited to the arenas of public life and public policy. Social justice leaders in the church preach the "virtues" of being "apolitical" even as they themselves promote politically leftist — and anti-Christian — ideas in the name of "justice." You can access special resources for this Bible study session at [https:// www. discoverbedrocktruth.org/00s5-resources-ewtcbs/](https://www.discoverbedrocktruth.org/00s5-resources-ewtcbs/).

1. Begin by asking the members of your Bible study group to respond to this **statement by William Wilberforce** (1759-1833), who worked tirelessly to abolish slavery in England: "To live our lives and miss that great purpose we were designed to accomplish is truly a sin. It is inconceivable that we could be bored in a world with so much wrong to tackle, so much ignorance to reach and so much misery we could alleviate."
2. Read and discuss **Matthew 5:13-16**. Ask the members of your group to brainstorm and name various qualities of salt and light that illustrate ways Christians are to affect individuals in society and society at large.
3. Read and discuss **Matthew 28:18**. Over what does Jesus not have ultimate authority? Why do Christians pretend there are certain aspects of life, or arenas in life, that are "off limits" to them? What is the impact of this myth?
4. **Briefly talk about what God assigned government to do — and what He did not assign it to do.**
5. Ask what kind of **influence Christians have had on cultures through the centuries**. Use **Item 5.1** to enhance your discussion.
6. Share the story of **Rev. George C. Haddock**. Use the discussion starters provided in the larger teaching plan (also provided in **Item 5.2**) to talk about the lessons his life teaches, or ought to teach, the Christian Community today.
7. **Share the video clip from the 2006 movie *Amazing Grace***, which tells the story of William Wilberforce and his quest to end slavery in Great Britain. He already was a Member of Parliament when he became a Christian, and he struggled for a time over how best to honor God with his life. We can be thankful he stayed in Parliament and honored God there.
8. Divide the members of your class into three groups. Assign the first of them **Moses (Item 5.3)**, the second **Nathan (Item 5.4)**, and the third **John the Baptist (Item 5.5)**. Give 8 to 10 minutes for groups to discuss their assignments, then give a volunteer from each group an opportunity to share his or her group's findings and insights.
9. Take a few minutes to talk about compartmentalization as a reason (and a wrong reason, at that) so many Christians remain silent in the face of evil in society. **Discuss the difference between compartmentalization and integrated Christianity**. Slides to help you illustrate these approaches are on the resource page for this session. Ask: Is there any arena in your life you haven't fully surrendered to God's authority? Discuss how the church can help believers live fully under His authority.
10. Point out that **social justice crusaders in the church claim that being apolitical is a virtue, yet in the very name of being apolitical, they promote leftist political causes** like redistribution of wealth through government force.
11. Talk about the **Black Robed Regiment during the colonial era** and the boldness of preachers during that period to speak out on any issue.
12. Share and discuss the statement **Rev. Jacob Duché** (1737-1798) made about civil liberty and salvation.
13. Conclude by playing and, if time allows, briefly discussing **3-minute video on pietism by Pastor Matt Trewhella**.
14. Encourage the members of your Bible study group to **engage with the material in the debriefing for this session**, as they will learn even more about the dangers of pietism and the mandate all believers have to be salt and light in the culture.