

**Our Vision:** Sharing the Light: From the Promise, to Pentecost, to Points Around the World.

**Our Mission:** To connect people who have a desire to become fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ.

**4-Step Strategy**

*(1) Worship – (2) Study of the Word – (3) Stewardship – (4) Service*

**“MAKING THE CONNECTIONS”**

At First Mount Zion Baptist Church our established mandate is clear as indicated in the headings of this study guidelines. The ability to connect with others demands that we must first be connected to that which we hope to connect with others. The “Church”, especially since the COVID-19 pandemic, has experienced a paradigm shift and the Church as we experienced in the past has changed. As we move into and throughout the New Year our Bible Study sessions will focus on “Making the Connections” using our 4-Step Strategy as the compass. This study guide is by no means exhaustive but is designed to encourage students to explore and engage their Christian journey.

Study sessions will involve a diverse group. On the planned weekly lessons you will notice there is a limited number of scripture references provided. This is by design. As part of the personal growth process, participants are encouraged to “search out” relevant scriptures related to weekly lessons and share your findings during study sessions. This approach contributes to a dynamic study engagement with ACTIVE dialogue.

Finally, critical to the ongoing growth and advancement of the ministry at First Mount Zion Baptist Church, is the ability to make ministry decisions for the greater good. It is my hope that each of you will contribute your time to the study and weekly engagement to these lessons as we grow together to advance the Kingdom of God. Thank you in joining me as we “make the connections.”

Your Servant Leader,

Rev. Sandra K. James, D. Min.

Acting Pastor, First Mount Zion Baptist Church

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**MAKING THE CONNECTIONS**  
*(My personal preparation)*

<b>Strategic Step</b>	<b>Definition</b>	<b>Our Focus</b>	<b>Scripture References</b>
<b>Worship L1</b>	The feeling or expression of reverence for a deity with results being one's actions.	<b><u>Preparation</u></b> <b><i>"God Recognized" Pt.1</i></b>	Gen.1:1 Ex. 19 (Mt Horeb) Joshua 5:14
<b>Study L2</b>	The devotion of time and attention to acquiring knowledge on a subject.	<b><u>Manifestation</u></b> <b><i>"God Recognized" Pt. 2</i></b>	Ex. 20:2 Mt. 11:29 Ps.46:10
<b>Stewardship L3</b>	The responsible management of resources that God has given to people.	<b><u>Explanation</u></b> <b><i>"God Revealed"</i></b>	Gen. 2:15 Gen 1:26-28 Malachi 3:10 Mt. 11:29
<b>Service L4</b>	The act of helping others and carrying out God's will, motivated by love for God and concern for others.	<b><u>Consumation</u></b> <b><i>"God Fulfilled"</i></b>	Mt. 25:31-46 1 Peter 4:8-10 Gal. 5:13

**MAKING THE CONNECTION**  
*Locally and Beyond*

<b>Strategic Approach</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Our goal</b>	<b>Scripture References</b>
<b>Internal L5</b>	At "Home"  <i>Within FMZ</i>	To contribute to fostering an environment of care and compassion as God's people.	Matthew 28:19-20 Acts 1:8
<b>External – P1 L6</b>	"The Community and Beyond"  <i>Locally</i>	To contribute to fostering an environment of care and compassion as God's people	Matthew 28:19-20 Acts 1:8
<b>External – P2 L7</b>	"The Community and Beyond"  <i>Virtual/E-Church</i>	To contribute to fostering an environment of care and compassion as God's people.	Matthew 28:19-20 Acts 1:8