

#My Jubilee Bible

Reflection/Discussion Guide: 1 Samuel 15 - 2 Samuel 7; Psalm 85-91

This guide is broken into three parts:

1. A brief overview of the Scriptures you are reading this week
2. Personal devotion
3. Community group discussion and application

Feel free to answer the questions for personal devotion at your own pace. They are designed to help consider a section of Scripture: How God is revealing himself?, What God is doing?, Who are we in relation to God?, and What are we to do in light of this truth?

Overview of 1 Samuel

For a brief, but great overview of the book of 2 Samuel, please go to <http://www.jubileestl.org/my-jubilee-bible/>

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Personal Devotion

Reading the Scriptures devotionally is such a soul expanding, life enriching way to experience God through His word. There are several challenges that we can face as we read. The biggest one is to approach God and His Word as a critic, or a judge. This approach fills the gaps in our understanding with suspicion rather than trust.

Our goal is not to criticize God and His word, it is to look into the words of life and let them examine us. Our aim is to know God, love Him and respond with obedient faith.

With that in mind we want to approach God and His word with humility, desire and discipline.

Humility

There are four prayers in the Scriptures that can be easily remembered and incredibly helpful when approaching God to hear Him through His word. It's a simple acronym: I.O.U.'S.

"Incline my heart to your testimonies, and not to selfish gain!"—Psalm 119:36 ESB

"Open my eyes, that I may behold wonderful things from Your law."—
Psalm 119:18 ESB

"Unite my heart to fear your name."—Psalm 86:11 ESB

"Sustain me with a willing spirit."—Psalm 51:12 NASB

Desire and Discipline

"Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation— if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.—1 Peter 2:2-3

Desire (longing) needs to lead to diligence (you have tasted) so that we may be satisfied that God really is good. Following are some questions and a format to help us grow in both desire and discipline.

As you read with humble desire and discipline, let these questions help lay some tracks for the train of your thoughts to run on. Start with who God is and what he's doing, then work through who you are and how you can respond.

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Who is God?

- How is he revealing about himself in the text I'm reading?
- What characteristics do I observe?

What is He doing?

- What are God's actions in the text I am reading?
- How do His actions match his revealed character?

Who am I?

- How do I fit into God's story?
- How do I relate to the people in the text I am reading?
- How do I relate to the circumstances they are in?

What do I do?

- How do I respond to God as He reveals Himself in the text I'm reading?
- How do I respond to what God is doing in the text I'm reading?
- How actions or attitudes do I need to change?

The following grid may help you keep track of your observations and applications.

1. Who is God?	3. Who I am?
2. What is God doing?	4. What do I need to do?

It's often helpful to have a way to record your observations and applications as you read. You can get a simple journal or notebook to write your thoughts down, or use the Bible App notes to keep a record of what you sense God is saying to you.

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CG Discussion Guide

Icebreaker: Give a brief description of BLESS and then ask: Who did you BLESS this week?

Read 2 Samuel 7:1-3

- David has experienced blessing and wants to do something to express worship and adoration. Nathan, the prophet, confirms and encourages David's desire.
 - How can you relate to David in this passage?
 - In what ways do people around you encourage you to do great things for God?
 - How do you encourage your friends to do great things for God?

Read 2 Samuel 7:8-16

- David's desire and plan was good and his heart was in the right place, but God has a different plan.
- What does God want to do in this passage?
 - What does this tell you about God?
 - What are some ways that God's plan is better than David's?
 - How do you relate to this experience of God's good will trumping your best intentions?

Read 2 Samuel 7:16-22

- How does David respond to God's will crossing his own will?
- What affect does God's promise have on David's view of himself?
 - What about his view of God?
- How can you relate to David's situation?
 - When God's will crosses your own how does that usually make you view yourself?
 - How does it affect your view of God?
 - In what ways is your response to God's will similar to David's?
 - In what ways is your response different?
- What situation are you currently going through where God's will is different than yours?
 - How are you responding to that?
 - How can we be praying for you?

Pray

- Pray for people who are having a difficult time knowing God's will for their lives.
- Pray for people to have friends and be friends who encourage us to do great things with God.
- Pray for those who are finding it hard to adjust to God's will.

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Notes: