

#My Jubilee Bible

Reflection/Discussion Guide: 2 Samuel 8 - 1 Kings 7; Psalm 92 - 98

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 1 Kings, 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 23:8-12

- David had strong and loyal people around him that he could trust to be with him in his most difficult moments.
 - What was the source of victory for these men?
 - Besides their military prowess, what other characteristics do you notice about these men?
 - How can you relate to this story?

Read 2 Samuel 23:9-10

- Verse 10 describes Eleazar as weary, yet clinging. We all want friends who will stick with us through the long haul.
 - In what ways have you experienced friendship that sticks with you through wearying situations?
 - How did that tenacity lead you to greater faith and faithfulness?
 - How well are you able to stick by your friends?

Read 2 Samuel 23:11-12

- Verse 12 describes Shammah as standing his ground and defending it. We all want friends who will stand with us and defend us.
 - How have you experienced a friend standing up for you and defending you?
 - How did that experience grow your faith and faithfulness in God?
 - How well do you do at standing up for your friends?
- Jesus is the friend who sticks with us and who stands for us when everything else is against us (Proverbs 18:24).
 - How does the nearness of God help you to be a faithful friend to others?
 - How does it help you when your friends have maybe fallen short of being faithful?

Pray

- Pray for those who have not experienced faithful friendship.
- Pray for those who maybe feel they'll let others down.
- Pray that we will know and experience the friendship Jesus offers.

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Notes: