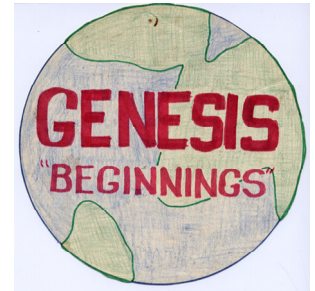


# DAILY DEVOTIONS

## GENESIS 1-11

Monday	Genesis 1-2
Tuesday	Genesis 3-4
Wednesday	Genesis 5-6
Thursday	Genesis 7-8
Friday	Genesis 9-11



### MONDAY

**READ:** Genesis, Beginnings article (Old Testament Articles)

**THINK ABOUT:** Why did God bother giving us a written record of everything?

What can we learn from understanding how things began?

What would be missing in your life if God had never given us the book of Genesis?

**PRAY:** Think of your beginnings – thank God for the good things in your past, give the hurts and pains to Him to heal.

Ask God to bless your study of the Old Testament in a very special and meaningful way.

### TUESDAY

**READ:** Genesis 1:1-19

**THINK ABOUT:** Why doesn't God start with proof about His existence? Why just assume it?

Imagine the power necessary to just speak and have everything happen, the wisdom to get it all right the first time and the love to make everything so lovely.

Why do you think God included color, sounds, smells, tastes in creation? Why not make it bland black and white?

**PRAY:** Thank God for the beauty and wonder of His creation. Thank Him for specific parts that bring you pleasure.

If God loved you that much then you know He'll care and provide for you now. Thank Him.

### WEDNESDAY

**READ:** Genesis 3:1-10

**THINK ABOUT:** What crafty trick did Satan use to mislead Eve?

What lies does Satan use today to lead people into sin? Which lies are you tempted to believe?

What is our only defense against Satan's deceptions?

**PRAY:** Ask God to reveal to you any lies you are believing and to replace them with His truth.

Pray specifically for those you know who are trapped in deception and believing lies. Pray for them to open to God's truth instead.

Ask God to make you aware of the temptations that would defeat you today. See them as traps of Satan and not opportunities to feed your flesh.

Pray for God to be with those at the Bible study tonight so that each one can grow closer to Him and know more about Him.

## **THURSDAY**

**READ:** Genesis 6:1-8

**THINK ABOUT:** If God was going to destroy everyone for sin, why save Noah who also sinned?  
What did Noah do to 'find favor' in the eyes of the Lord (verse 8)?

Do you find favor in God's eyes? How do you know?

**PRAY:** Thank God for His grace and mercy in your life. Be specific.

Thank God that you are not under His judgment (Romans 8:1).

## **FRIDAY**

**READ:** Genesis 9:8-17

**THINK ABOUT:** Why is God promising Noah He will never flood the earth again?

Why did God even give sign (the rainbow) to assure man that will never happen?

What promises has God made to you? Has He kept them? How?

**PRAY:** Thank Him for each promise He has made, knowing He will keep them.

Ask Him to bring to mind specific promises you need to remember for today's issues.

## **SATURDAY**

**READ:** Genesis 11:1-9

**THINK ABOUT:** Why was it wrong for people to want to stay together?

Why do you think God used confusing their languages to make them scatter? Why that method?

Does that mean it is wrong for nations to try to work together today? Why or why not?

**PRAY:** Thank God for the diversity He made among people today. Thank Him for His choice of a country, culture, language, time of birth, etc., for you.

Ask Him to show you any ways in which you depend on others when you should depend on God.

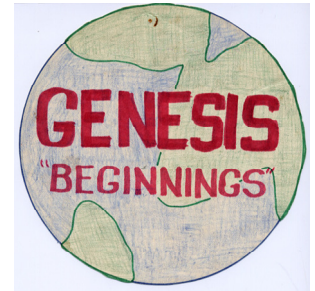
Pray for God to bless the worship service tomorrow with His presence and Spirit.



# DAILY DEVOTIONS

## GENESIS 12-50

Monday	Genesis 12-19
Tuesday	Genesis 20-27
Wednesday	Genesis 28-35
Thursday	Genesis 36-43
Friday	Genesis 44-50



### MONDAY

**READ:** Read the article about the book in Old Testament Articles.

**READ:** Genesis 12:1-9

**THINK ABOUT:** How many acts of obedience can you find in this passage?

What did these cost Abraham? How did he benefit?

What motivated Abraham to leave everything to follow God to an unknown place?

Has there been (or is there now) something God is doing which you don't understand? Do you obey?

**PRAY:** Commit to follow and obey God even if you don't know where He is leading.

Pray for others who are following God through unknown territory.

### TUESDAY

**READ:** Genesis 21:1-7

**THINK ABOUT:** Why does God seem to wait so long to provide what we need? Why wait until Abraham and Sarah were so old?

What have you been waiting for from God for a long time? Are you patiently trusting Him?

Think about life now: what is God now doing in your life that you have been waiting for? Have you thanked Him for it?

**PRAY:** Thank God for all He has done in your life, listing as many specific things as you can.

Ask Him to forgive your impatience and giving up on Him. Recommit your faith.

Pray specifically about that desire which He still has not met. Reaffirm your trust in His timing.

### WEDNESDAY

**READ:** Genesis 22:1-14

**THINK ABOUT:** Why does God test our faith? What is the purpose?

Are there times when you had to give up that which was most important to you for God?

Is God asking you to give up anything for Him now? Are you willing to do so?

**PRAY:** Ask God to help you see tests as opportunities to trust God and obey Him.

Reaffirm to Him that you will put Him before anything else in life, that all you have belongs to Him.

Thank Him for providing the ultimate sacrifice for you like He did for Abraham – Jesus Christ.

## **THURSDAY**

**READ:** Genesis 32:22-30

**THINK ABOUT:** What did Jacob's wrestling with God signify in his life?

When have you 'wrestled' with God? How did it turn out? Who won?

Why did God make Jacob limp the rest of his life? What consequences of past struggles has God left in your life to remind you to keep trusting Him?

**PRAY:** Thank God for the many blessings He has given you as well.

If you are in need of a special touch from God at this time, spend time now 'wrestling' with God (connect to Him and don't let go until you have the pace you need).

## **FRIDAY**

**READ:** Genesis 39:1-20

**THINK ABOUT:** How did Joseph respond to temptation?

Why, even if he did the right thing, did Joseph again have something unfair happen to him? What was God trying to teach him in all this?

What sin(s) do you need to run from (I Corinthians 10:13)? Are you running as soon and hard as you should?

**PRAY:** Ask God to forgive you for not fleeing sin – be specific.

Tell Him you trust Him even with unfair things that have happened to you – ask Him to help you respond as Joseph did.



## **SATURDAY**

**READ:** Genesis 50:15-21

**THINK ABOUT:** When in life do you think Joseph realized God would use their evil for good?

How does this compare to Romans 8:28: "We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him"?

Have you seen God bring about good from painful or unfair things which have happened to you?

Is there anyone you need to forgive like Joseph forgave his brothers?

**PRAY:** Ask God to show you if there is anyone you need to forgive. Forgive them.

Reaffirm your trust in God and thank Him for turning things which others may mean for evil into something good.

Ask God to speak to you and others in a very real way during church tomorrow.

# DAILY DEVOTIONS

## EXODUS

Monday	Exodus 1-8
Tuesday	Exodus 9-16
Wednesday	Exodus 17-24
Thursday	Exodus 25-32
Friday	Exodus 33-40

### MONDAY

**READ:** Read the article in Old Testament Articles and Exodus 2:1-10

**THINK ABOUT:** What a tremendous act of faith this was for them (Heb 11:23) and how hard it must have been. They had absolutely no choice but to trust God or worry instead. What are you worrying about instead of trusting?

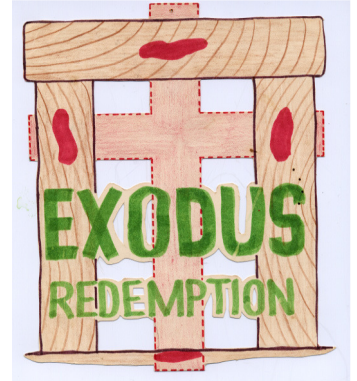
Why did God let the family go through this instead of just preventing it all?

Note the balance between trusting God and doing their part. We must do each 100% as they did.

**PRAY:** Ask God to show you where you are not trusting, where you are not doing your 100% best.

Pray about any impossible situations in your life now, asking God to help you trust more in Him.

Is there anything God wants you to do which you aren't doing? Perhaps you are discouraged, feel it won't help or that it is too hard. Make sure your faith is seen in your works.



### TUESDAY

**READ:** Exodus 12:1-13

**THINK ABOUT:** Why did God give such specific directions about the lamb? Why did the lamb have to die?

What are some of the similarities between the lamb and Jesus?

**PRAY:** Thank God for sending Jesus as your substitute, so you won't spend eternity in hell.

Spend some time worshipping Jesus as the perfect Lamb of God, thanking Him for dying for you.

### WEDNESDAY

**READ:** Exodus 14:1-31

**THINK ABOUT:** How do you think the Jews felt when they realized God had led them into a trap?

How do you respond when you don't understand or like the way God is leading you?

What was God's reason for leading them into the trap?

**PRAY:** Is there anything God is doing in your life which you don't understand, any way you feel trapped? Thank Him for it and put your trust in Him as to how He will use it for His glory.

Think of some times in the past when God has delivered you from impossible circumstances. Spend some time praising and worshipping Him for it, as the Jews did in Exodus 15).

## **THURSDAY**

**READ:** Exodus 15:22-27

**THINK ABOUT:** Why were the people complaining? When are you most guilty of complaining?

How did Moses respond to their complaining and grumbling? How should you respond when others complain to you?

**PRAY:** Ask God to forgive you for your complaining and to remind you of His gracious provision.

Thank Him for all the ways He is now providing for your needs.

## **FRIDAY**

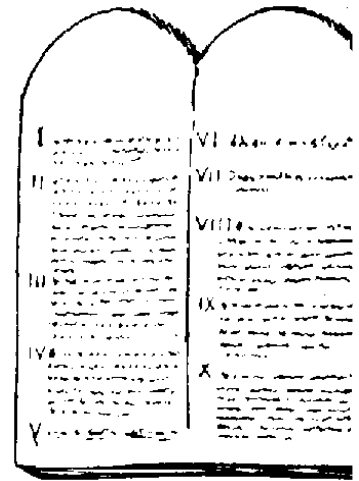
**READ:** Exodus 20:1-17

**THINK ABOUT:** Why did God give these to the people? Why these specific commands?

Which do you think were the hardest ones for them to keep?

Which is the hardest for you to keep? Why?

**PRAY:** Pray through all 10 commandments one by one, asking God to forgive you for each one you have broken. Ask for strength for victory over specific sins that defeat you.



## **SATURDAY**

**READ:** Exodus 33:12-23

**THINK ABOUT:** What did Moses ask of God? How did God answer?

Why did Moses want to see God's glory?

How did God reveal His glory to Moses? How has God revealed His glory to you?

Write down some of the promises God made to Moses in this passage. How does each passage apply to you?

**PRAY:** Thank God for each promise. Pray through them and about how they apply to your life.

Thank God for the many ways He has revealed Himself and His glory to you.

Sit quietly and let Him reveal Himself to you now as you pray. Just focus on Him alone.

Pray for the church service tomorrow. Ask God to bless the music and message and to use them to draw us closer to Him. Ask that His glory be shown to us tomorrow in church.

# DAILY DEVOTIONS

## LEVITICUS

Monday	Leviticus 1-6
Tuesday	Leviticus 7-12
Wednesday	Leviticus 13-17
Thursday	Leviticus 18-23
Friday	Leviticus 24-27

### MONDAY

**READ:** Read the article in Old Testament Articles and Leviticus 1:1-9

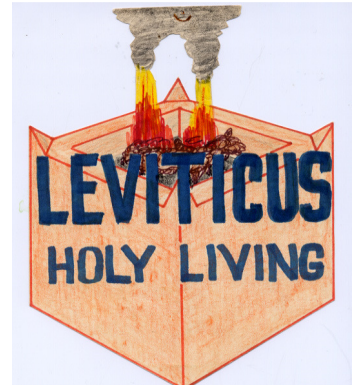
**THINK ABOUT:** Why does God require animals to be killed in order for their sin to be covered?

Why is God so precise, why not let them do this any way they wanted?

What does verse 4 say about why this is important?

**PRAY:** Why don't we have to offer animals for our sin and guilt today? Thank God for the ultimate sacrifice, Jesus, who alone takes away all your sins.

Ask God to search you and show you any sin you might have in your life. Confess it to Him.



### TUESDAY

**READ:** Leviticus 7:11-15

**THINK ABOUT:** Why does God require those who would come to give Him thanks and praise to come with a sacrifice? Why did innocent blood have to be shed then as well?

Why does God want us to show Him thanks and praise?

What are some of the ways you can show God thanks and praise today?

**PRAY:** Take your time in thanking and praising God in prayer. Ask Him to show you how you can do this by your actions all day long.

Write down a list of all the things you are thankful to God for right now. Give the list to Him in any way that seems appropriate and symbolic to you (put it in your Bible, burn it, hand it on the wall, etc.)

### WEDNESDAY

**READ:** Leviticus 10:1-7

**THINK ABOUT:** What did Nadab and Abihu do to cause God to get so angry at them?

Why did God go so far as to take their lives immediately for this? Why is God so demanding of obedience from those who serve Him?

Why doesn't God kill each one today who disobeys? Do you think Christians today take advantage of God's grace? Do you?

**PRAY:** Apologize to God for each time you have taken advantage of His grace. Thank Him for grace. Ask Him to show you where you are not obeying Him as you should. Write down what you need to do in order to give Him complete obedience.

## **THURSDAY**

**READ:** Leviticus 16:1-14

**THINK ABOUT:** Why couldn't even Aaron, the High Priest, come into God's presence any time he wanted to?

What had to happen before even Aaron could approach God? What does that picture for us today?

Suppose every time you entered God's presence to talk to Him an innocent animal had to die. How would that make you better appreciate the privilege of talking to God?

**PRAY:** Ask God to forgive you of being presumptuous and not appreciating the great privilege of being able to come into His presence any time you want to pray, talk, listen, etc.

Spend time quietly sitting and listening, thinking, meditating now. Appreciate the privilege you have of entering His presence any time you want.



## **FRIDAY**

**READ:** Leviticus 24:10-23

**THINK ABOUT:** Why is cursing God considered blasphemy?

Why is God so against this that it is punishable by death?

Do you ever curse God by angry thoughts or using curse words? If so, why are you still alive?

**PRAY:** Ask God to cleanse you of any time you have spoken or thought against Him and His holy righteousness. Thank Him for His mercy in allowing you to live. Thank Jesus for taking that punishment for you.

## **SATURDAY**

**READ:** Leviticus 23:3; 25:1-7

**THINK ABOUT:** Why does God say we are to rest one day in 7 and nature is to rest one year in 7?

What happens if that rest isn't taken?

Do you rest one day in 7? Or do you take from God the one day that is His to use for yourself? Why is that wrong?

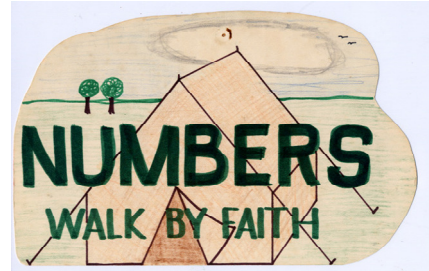
**PRAY:** Ask for forgiveness for taking God's day back from Him and using it for yourself. Commit to honoring this important principle starting tomorrow. Pray that tomorrow would be a special day of rest and fellowship with God and others.



# DAILY DEVOTIONS

## NUMBERS

Monday	Numbers 1-7
Tuesday	Numbers 8-14
Wednesday	Numbers 15-22
Thursday	Numbers 23-30
Friday	Numbers 31-36



### MONDAY

**READ:** Read the article in Old Testament Articles and Numbers 1:1-19, 44-46

**THINK ABOUT:** Why did God have the people counted – didn't He in His sovereignty know how many there were?

Evidently every single person was unique and mattered to God. They were all important to Him and all equal before Him. How does this make you feel about how He sees you?

**PRAY:** Tell God you are sorry for when you think He cares less about you than others.

Thank Him that you personally mean so very much to Him. Worship Him because of this.

### TUESDAY

**READ:** Numbers 3:1-13

**THINK ABOUT:** Why did God call the Levites to special service to them? What was the reason He did this? Why does God call you to special service for Him?

Each one had a special assignment (Leviticus 3 and 4). If they didn't do their job it didn't get done. What job has God given to you to do for His kingdom? Is it getting done?

**PRAY:** Thank God for calling and assigning you to serve Him. Thank Him for the special unique opportunities to minister and serve which He has put in your path.

Ask Him to help you stay faithful to do them, knowing that if you don't do them they won't get done.

### WEDNESDAY

**READ:** Numbers 5:1-4

**THINK ABOUT:** Why does God insist they keep the camp pure by keeping anything impure outside?

Is your home and your life pure? Is there anything that needs to be put outside? Before going any further do that right now.

**PRAY:** Ask for God's forgiveness for the impurity that was in your home, your life or your mind. Ask Him to cleanse it and keep you pure and clean.

## **THURSDAY**

**READ:** Numbers 6:22-27

**THINK ABOUT:** How would you have felt if you were an Israelite and this blessing was pronounced for you?

Write down the 6 things God promises you in this passage.

Give some examples of how God has brought each of these to pass in your life.

**PRAY:** Thank Him for these one by one, applying each one to specific needs in your life now.

Think of people you know who need these things in their life now. Pray for them. Then send them a card or email encouraging them with these verses.

## **FRIDAY**

**READ:** Numbers 11:4-9, 31-34

**THINK ABOUT:** Why did the people want meat? Why weren't they satisfied with manna?

What happened as a result of their greed?

Where are you dissatisfied with God's provision? Think, be honest!

Where will your greed lead if you continue in it?

**PRAY:** Ask God to forgive you for your dissatisfaction and greed. Thank Him for all He has provided.

Pray Philippians 4:10-13 slowly and make that your prayer this day.



## **SATURDAY**

**READ:** Numbers 17:1-13

**THINK ABOUT:** God is validating His authority through Aaron, proving that there is only one way to Him. Aaron didn't have to stand up for himself, God did it for him. Why didn't God expect Aaron to take care of this himself?

When has God validated you in the eyes of another?

Do you let God fight for you when you are attacked because of Him instead of taking things into your hands?

**PRAY:** Commit to God any attacks coming against you because you are following Him.

Ask for His peace and presence in your life.

Pray for tomorrow's services to be a special time of worship and recommitment for each one who comes.

# DAILY DEVOTIONS

## DEUTERONOMY

Monday	Deuteronomy 1-7
Tuesday	Deuteronomy 8-14
Wednesday	Deuteronomy 16-21
Thursday	Deuteronomy 22-28
Friday	Deuteronomy 29-34

### MONDAY

**READ:** Read the article in Old Testament Articles and Deuteronomy 1:19-33

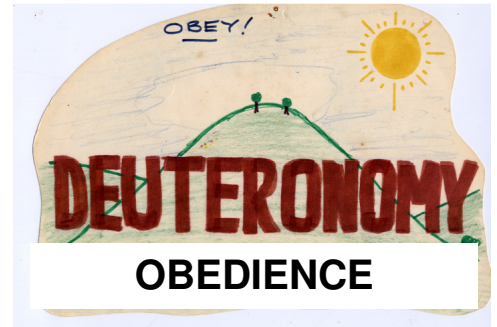
**THINK ABOUT:** Why didn't the Jews follow God and go into the land He promised them?

What are the strongest fears you battle? What happens when you give in to them?

What must you do to have victory over your fears?

**PRAY:** Confess your fears to God as sin because they show lack of faith in Him.

Ask God to help you have victory over your fears by bringing applicable Scripture to mind.



### TUESDAY

**READ:** Deuteronomy 2:14-19

**THINK ABOUT:** Why did the Jews have to wander in the desert until the older generation died?

Can you think of a time you suffered consequences from your fear and disobedience?

What can you do now to keep this from happening again?

**PRAY:** Thank God that He even uses our negative consequences for our growth (Rom 8:28).

Pray for those you know who are now suffering because of poor choices they made. Pray God would use these for their growth and His ultimate glory.

### WEDNESDAY

**READ:** Deuteronomy 19:1-14

**THINK ABOUT:** What would happen to someone who intentionally killed another? What if the murder was accidental, what happened then?

What can we learn about God from the fact that He created these cities of refuge?

Where can we flee when we commit sin? What if we don't?

**PRAY:** Is there any sin in your life now that need to be confessed? Go to God Himself as your city of refuge and find the peace and protection you need there.

Pray for those you know who do not flee to Jesus for refuge. Ask God to show you what you can do today to help them start coming to Him.



## **THURSDAY**

**READ:** Deuteronomy 21:18-21

**THINK ABOUT:** What was to happen to a son who was continually rebellious?

Why do you think God commanded this extreme step? What impact do you think it had on the parents? What impact did it have on the children?

Are you faithfully doing all that is necessary for you yourself and your children to humbly follow God?

**PRAY:** Confess any area(s) of rebellion in your life and ask God to remove them.

Pray for your children and any areas of rebellion you may see in their lives.

## **FRIDAY**

**READ:** Deuteronomy 31:9-13

**THINK ABOUT:** Why did God want them to know His Word, why was that important?

How well do you know God's word? How much time do you spend studying it? What must you do to know it better?

**PRAY:** Thank God for His Word. Ask Him to give you a hunger and thirst to read and learn it.

Ask Him to remind you of it so you can apply it to your life in all circumstances.

Recite several of your favorite Bible passages now in prayer, letting God speak to you as you say the words.

## **SATURDAY**

**READ:** Deuteronomy 34:1-11

**THINK ABOUT:** How do you think Moses felt about dying?

Would you like to know ahead of time when you will die like Moses did? Why or why not?

What concerns you most about dying? What Bible promises can you use against those fears?

**PRAY:** Thank God that He knows the time of your death and it will be His perfect will.

Thank Him for the promise of His peace and comfort when you need it, for His dying grace.

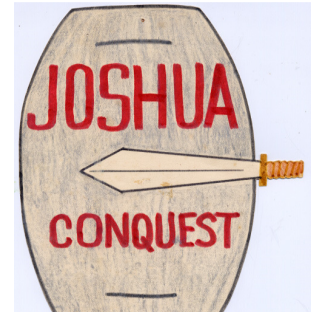
If God has you alive then He has work for you to still do for Him. Ask Him to clearly show you and to help you accomplish what He has for you to do.

Ask God to reveal Himself to all who need a special touch from Him tomorrow in church.

# DAILY DEVOTIONS

## JOSHUA

Monday	Joshua 1-5
Tuesday	Joshua 6-10
Wednesday	Joshua 11-15
Thursday	Joshua 16-20
Friday	Joshua 21-24



### MONDAY

**READ:** Read the article in Old Testament Articles and Joshua 1:1-9

**THINK ABOUT:** Replacing Moses was an impossible assignment, but God gave Joshua several promises so he would be able to do what God wanted. Write down each promise God made to Joshua.

What are some of the favorite promises God has made to you? Why are they important?

What promises do you need to claim right now as you face today's difficulties and challenges?

**PRAY:** Make those promises your prayer to God, thanking Him for them and applying them.

Read the promises in Joshua 1:1-9 as God making them to you. Thank Him for each one.

### TUESDAY

**READ:** Joshua 3:14-17

**THINK ABOUT:** Why did God make them commit by touching the water before He removed it instead of opening up the way first as He did with the Red Sea? What is He teaching them?

When have you had to step out in faith believing God? Was He there to see you through it all?

Is there anything in life now where He is telling you to step out in faith and He will provide?

**PRAY:** Commit whatever circumstances you are now facing to Him and ask Him to show you clearly what you should do.

Thank Him for times in the past when He has come through for you.

### WEDNESDAY

**READ:** Joshua 5:13 – 6:5

**THINK ABOUT:** Why would God give such strange directions, which really didn't make sense, to Joshua? Why not something that seemed more practical and understandable?

Has God ever led to do something that didn't seem to make sense? Did you do it? What was the result?

**PRAY:** If there are circumstances in your life now that seem strange and to make no sense, commit them to God and ask Him to take care of them in His way and time.

Spend some time listening carefully to what God would have you do today. Commit to do it no matter how out of the ordinary it sounds.

## **THURSDAY**

**READ:** Joshua 9:1-15

**THINK ABOUT:** Why did Joshua make a treaty even though God said to destroy everyone?

What did Joshua not do before making the treaty? Why didn't he pray about it first?

Have there been times when the answer seemed so certain you didn't bother asking God? Did they always work out as you assumed they would?

**PRAY:** Take whatever situation you are not going through to God in prayer. Ask for guidance and wisdom. Don't assume anything but go to Him for all of it. Listen carefully to whatever He would say.

Ask God to help you always go to Him first before assuming you can make a good decision without Him. Satan deceives us and we don't know all the facts like God does, so trust in Him always.

## **FRIDAY**

**READ:** Joshua 10:1-15

**THINK ABOUT:** Why did God have the sun stand still?

This was the result of their not seeking God's will before making a treaty with the Gibeonites, so why did God bail them out anyway? Why not make them suffer the consequences of their sin?

List as many times as you can that God didn't make you suffer the consequences of your sin?

**PRAY:** Thank God for His mercy in not making you suffer the cost of your past sins. Thank Him for each specific time you can think of.

Spend some time praising and worshipping Him because of His grace and mercy.

## **SATURDAY**

**READ:** Joshua 24:14-22

**THINK ABOUT:** What choice did Joshua tell the people they would have to make?

What choice did Joshua make? What choice did the people make?  
What choice do you make?

Why do so many NOT make the choice to follow God? What results?

**PRAY:** Think about the time your first made your choice to follow Jesus. Thank God for revealing His truth so you could make such a choice. Think of what difference that decision has made for you.

Reaffirm your commitment out loud to Him now again. Read Joshua 24:14-15 and make these words your prayer.



Joshua obeyed and the walls tumbled down.

# DAILY DEVOTIONS

## JUDGES

Monday	Judges 1-4
Tuesday	Judges 5-8
Wednesday	Judges 9-12
Thursday	Judges 13-18
Friday	Judges 19-21

### MONDAY

**READ:** Read the article on the next page.

**THINK ABOUT:** Why did the Jews continue in these cycles? Why didn't they learn and stay close to God instead of turning from Him each time?

Think of your own life, do you tend to drift from God when things are going well but draw closer to Him in hard times? If so, how different are you from the Jews back then?

What can you learn from them to defeat this pattern?

**PRAY:** Ask God to keep you close to Him at all times and not allow you to drift from Him.

Thank Him for His patience and mercy, and for His love in allowing something to come into your life to draw you back to Him.



### TUESDAY

**READ:** Judges 4:1-9

**THINK ABOUT:** Why wouldn't Barak take the leadership position God assigned him?

Why do you think so many men today abdicate their God-given leadership positions and force women to step in and fill the gap for them? What does God think of this?

**PRAY:** If you are a male, ask God to show you any way in which you fail to be a leader who initiates as God would have you. Confess that and ask for His help to improve.

If you are a female, pray for the males in your life that they will take their God-given roles seriously. Ask God to show you what you can do (or not do) to help them fill that role.

### WEDNESDAY

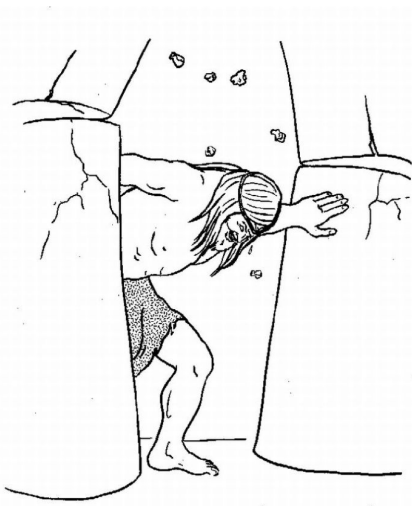
**READ:** Judges 7:1-8

**THINK ABOUT:** Why did God want the Jews to be outnumbered several hundred to one when they went into battle? What was the point in that?

Remember a time when the odds seemed to be completely stacked against you. Where can you now see God's hand in it all?

**PRAY:** .Commit any impossible situation you find yourself in to God.

Pray for others you know who seem to be totally outnumbered by their enemies today as well.



## **THURSDAY**

**READ:** Judges 15:1-8

**THINK ABOUT:** What revenge did Samson get on the Philistines? What revenge did they get on him?

What does Jesus and the New Testament say about revenge? Why does it say that?

**PRAY:** Ask God to show you if you have withheld forgiveness from anyone and if you are guilty in any way of trying to get revenge on others.

Thank God for not taking revenge on you for your sins!

## **FRIDAY**

**READ:** Judges 16:23-30

**THINK ABOUT:** For the first time Samson comes to God for help and prays. What did it take to get him to that place? What does it usually take today to get people to look up to God for help?

How did God answer Samson's prayer?

How would his life and death have been different had he turned to God like that from the start?

**PRAY:** Could there be something in your life now that God is using to get your attention? Ask Him to show you if there is.

Pray Samson's prayer, "O Sovereign Lord, remember me" and make it your prayer all day long.

## **SATURDAY**

**READ:** Judges 21:25

**THINK ABOUT:** Without a final, absolute authority each person can live and act as they want. That leads to chaos and sin, as in the time of Judges. Why do people inevitably put themselves and their own pleasure before anyone and anything else? Do you?

How today does everyone do as they see fit? What will be the result of everyone trying to determine what is right and what is wrong for themselves?

**PRAY:** Reaffirm God's Word as your standard by which to judge all values and principles. Ask Him to show you any way you put your own wisdom over His.

Pray for those who have rejected His truth and are substituting their own 'truth' instead. Pray God would be open to His wisdom and guidance instead of their own.

Pray God would be with those singing and speaking tomorrow, that He would use them to convey His message to each one who attends.



# DAILY DEVOTIONS

## RUTH

Monday	Ruth 1
Tuesday	Ruth 2
Wednesday	Ruth 3
Thursday	Ruth 4
Friday	Ruth 1-4



### MONDAY

**READ:** Read the article on the next page.

**THINK ABOUT:** Why is this little account in the Bible?

What does God want you to learn from this story?

**PRAY:** Thank God for each book and each story in the Bible.

Thank Him that each person, even insignificant outsiders like Ruth, have an importance to Him.

Thank Him for caring about each individual person, loving each person as if they were the only person He had to love.

### TUESDAY

**READ:** Ruth 1:11-18

**THINK ABOUT:** Why didn't Ruth want to leave Naomi and return home?

What would it cost her to do this sacrificial act?

What loyal friends do you have? Who has sacrificed for you in your past? Who is doing so now?

**PRAY:** Thank God for each person who has been a loyal friend and sacrificed for you.

Ask God to show you whom you can be a loyal and sacrificial friend to right now.

### WEDNESDAY

**READ:** Ruth 2:2-3, 17-23

**THINK ABOUT:** What kind of a person was Ruth? List positive characteristics from this passage.

If Ruth were living today, what kind of a person would she be? Would you want to be her friend?

What lessons can you learn from Ruth for your own life?

**PRAY:** Ask God to help you become more like Ruth.

Ask Him to give you opportunities today to serve others.



## **THURSDAY**

**READ:** Ruth 2:1, 3-16

**THINK ABOUT:** What kind of a person was Boaz? List positive characteristics from this passage?

Why would he bother stooping to help a foreign female? Why sacrifice time and money for her?

Who in your life has a need which you could help with? Will you sacrifice for them?

**PRAY:** Ask God to show you someone today whom you can help with sacrificial service.

Thank God for all those who have contributed to your life. Thank for Him for as many of them by name as you can.

Thank God for all He has done to reach down to share His abundance with you, undeserving as you may be.

## **FRIDAY**

**READ:** Ruth 4:1-6

**THINK ABOUT:** Why wouldn't the other nearer relative of Ruth's do his duty and provide for her? What did he lose because of it?

In what ways does greed and self-centeredness keep people from God's choice blessings?

**PRAY:** Confess any greed, self-centeredness, entitlement feelings or jealousy you have. Put it under the blood of Jesus and ask to be cleansed from it,

Ask God to show you when these things start to pop up in your life again.

## **SATURDAY**

**READ:** Ruth 4:13-22

**THINK ABOUT:** What well-known descendants came from Ruth?

Why did God choose a pagan Gentile girl to use for His glory and His kingdom?

Why has God chosen to honor you with salvation, a place in His Kingdom and a special work to do for Him?

**PRAY:** Spend time thanking and praising Him for choosing and using you. Commit yourself to follow like Ruth followed.

Thank God for using your life now to affect future generations, even though at this time you won't see all that will come from it. Ask Him to help you faithfully live for Him.

Ask God to work in the heart of each one He wants in church tomorrow so they will not be distracted but will come ready to worship.

# DAILY DEVOTIONS

## 1 SAMUEL

Monday	1 Samuel 1-6
Tuesday	1 Samuel 7-12
Wednesday	1 Samuel 13-18
Thursday	1 Samuel 19-24
Friday	1 Samuel 25-31



### MONDAY

**READ:** Read the article in Old Testament Articles and 1 Samuel 1

**THINK ABOUT:** Why didn't God answer Hannah's prayers and give her a child when she asked?

How did she respond to God's not answering her prayer? How do you respond?

How did she respond when God did give her a son? How do you respond?

**PRAY:** Thank God for prayers He has recently answered, especially those you have failed to thank Him for.

Think of prayer(s) which God hasn't answered yet. Continue to pray in faith and patience.

### TUESDAY

**READ:** 1 Samuel 21:12-17, 22-25

**THINK ABOUT:** How could Eli have let his sons get so far from God? Why didn't he, as the High Priest, do more to stop and change the situation?

Where do you most lack self-discipline? Why? What can you do about it?

**PRAY:** Ask God to give you the fruit of the spirit of self-control. Thank Him for it.

Pray for others by name who struggle with sin in their lives.

Pray for parents with rebellious children so they would know how to best handle the situation.

### WEDNESDAY

**READ:** 1 Samuel 3:1-10

**THINK ABOUT:** What does God's 'voice' sound like to you? How do you know when He is telling you something?

Think about some of the times He has spoken to you in the past. What can you learn from them?

**PRAY:** Spend time quietly listening to God's voice, asking Him to speak to you and to reveal Himself and His will to you. Write down the things you hear Him saying to you.

Speak to Him words of praise and worship.

## **THURSDAY**

**READ:** 1 Samuel 15:13-23

**THINK ABOUT:** What did Saul do that was wrong?

Why do you think he did it?

Why was God so very upset about it?

What does it mean “to obey is better than sacrifice”?

**PRAY:** If there is any way in which you are not obeying the Lord confess it as sin and ask God to forgive and restore you.

Ask God to help you obey Him in all things today, and to show you if you fail to obey.

## **FRIDAY**

**READ:** 1 Samuel 16:1-13

**THINK ABOUT:** Why did God overlook the tall, handsome sons for the youngest, smallest one?

What does God look for in the hearts of those whom He would choose to serve Him today?

Do you have that in your heart?

**PRAY:** Affirm to God your commitment to follow and serve Him in all things.

Thank God for choosing and using you despite your seeming inability to have anything to offer.

## **SATURDAY**

**READ:** 1 Samuel 17:41-51

**THINK ABOUT:** What was the key to David's victory over Goliath when none of the other Jews would fight him?

What 'giants' do you face in life (impossible, very large, immovable problems)?

What can you learn from David about how to face them?

**PRAY:** Ask God to help you trust Him with everything you have to face in life.

Pray specifically about a giant you face today. Come against it in the name of the Lord and trust God for victory.

Ask God to give you patience and perseverance so you can learn the lessons from this He wants to teach you.

Pray for those who will be speaking and doing the music tomorrow, that God would speak through them to all present.



# DAILY DEVOTIONS

## 2 SAMUEL

Monday	2 Samuel 1-5
Tuesday	2 Samuel 6-10
Wednesday	2 Samuel 11-15
Thursday	2 Samuel 16-20
Friday	2 Samuel 20-24

### MONDAY

**READ:** Read the article in Old Testament Articles and 2 Samuel 6:1-8

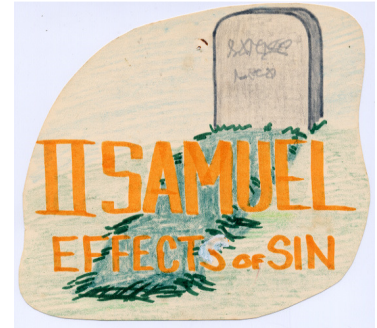
**THINK ABOUT:** Why did Uzzah die? Do you think this was extreme? Why or why not?

Uzzah was 'irreverent' (verse 7). Give some examples of irreverent behavior today.

Suppose God struck down everyone who was irreverent today, what would happen?

**PRAY:** If you have been guilty of any irreverent behavior, confess it now.

Thank God for His mercy in not striking us dead immediately when we sin.



### TUESDAY

**READ:** 2 Samuel 7:18-29

**THINK ABOUT:** How was David feeling when he prayed this prayer?

List all the different names he calls God. Why does he use these names?

Write down your favorite names for God and why they are special.

**PRAY:** Pray this same prayer to God, adapting it to your own needs and situation. Take your time to apply it to your life now.

### WEDNESDAY

**READ:** 2 Samuel 9:1-13

**THINK ABOUT:** What did David do for Mephibosheth? Why did he do it?

Can you think of a time when you were undeserving but someone reached out to help you?

Can you think of someone who could use some assistance from you now? What can you do to help them?

**PRAY:** Thank God individually for all those who reached out to help you in times of need.

Ask Him to show you how to help someone else this day.

Ask Him to provide opportunities to minister to others in need as you go through this day.



## **THURSDAY**

**READ:** 2 Samuel 11:1-17

**THINK ABOUT:** List all the sins David committed in this passage.

What was the very first error, the first domino which opened the way to the rest?

What 'little' sins do you have to watch out for or they will lead to more sin?

**PRAY:** Ask God to show you any little sin(s) you may be unaware of, confess them.

Ask Him to help you see those sins at the very start so you can turn from them.

## **FRIDAY**

**READ:** 2 Samuel 12:1-10

**THINK ABOUT:** Why was God more lenient on David than he was on the man in the story?

Why wasn't David lenient? What role did the fact that his sin separated him from God have on the peace he had in his heart and the mercy he showed to others?

In what ways do you treat others differently when you are close to God compared to when there is unconfessed sin in your life?

**PRAY:** Make sure everything is OK with you and God and ask Him for His peace in your heart.

Ask Him to show you if there is anyone you haven't been treating as well as you should. Ask God and the person for forgiveness.

Then ask God to show you if there is anyone you know who has sin in their lives and whom God wants you to confront about that sin. Do it in love as Nathan did to David.

## **SATURDAY**

**READ:** 2 Samuel 23:1-7

**THINK ABOUT:** In David's final words, where does He give the credit for all the things he accomplished in life?

Summarize what David learned in life as stated in these verses.

How would you summarize in a few sentences what God has taught you this far in life?

What do you want to accomplish for God in the time you have left on earth?

**PRAY:** Thank God for what He has done in your life up to this point (be specific).

Ask Him to help you accomplish what He wants you to do in the years ahead.

Thank Him for using you.

Pray for God to use the music and the message to touch you in some new way tomorrow.

# DAILY DEVOTIONS

## JOB

Monday	Jobs 1-8
Tuesday	Jobs 9-16
Wednesday	Jobs 17-24
Thursday	Jobs 25-34
Friday	Jobs 36-42

### **MONDAY**

**READ:** Read the article in Old Testament Articles and Job 1:1-12

**THINK ABOUT:** Why did Job have to ask God before he could attack Job?

What wrong motives did he accuse Job of having?

Why did God give permission to Satan to attack Job?

**PRAY:** Ask God to help you have faith in Him despite things happening in your life which you don't understand – pray specifically about each situation.

Pray for those you know who are going through difficult times of testing, that they would stay faithful.



### **TUESDAY**

**READ:** Job 1:13-22

**THINK ABOUT:** What happened to Job?

What was his response? What reason did he give for responding in this way?

When are you tempted to 'charge God with wrongdoing'? Why is doing this wrong?

**PRAY:** Ask God to forgive you if you are questioning His wisdom or love in your life.

Request God to give you a strong faith like Job has so you will trust Him no matter what.

### **WEDNESDAY**

**READ:** Job 2:1-10

**THINK ABOUT:** Why did God allow Satan to tempt Job a second time?

How did Job respond this time?

What attacks of the enemy are most successful in getting you to doubt God?

Who, like Job's wife, tends to give you bad advice when things go wrong? Do you listen?



**PRAY:** Thank God for not letting Satan do anything against you that God doesn't have a perfect plan to use for your growth and His glory.

Pray for those going through difficult times, ask God to increase their faith so they trust Him.

## **THURSDAY**

**READ:** Job 4:1-11

**THINK ABOUT:** Elipaz and the others try to convince Job that what is happening to him is his fault because of his sin. Why do people today still think that when something bad happens God is punishing them?

Do you think God is punishing you, or that He love you less, when He allows difficulties into your life?

Do you ever think less of someone who is struggling (not as a consequence of poor choices they have made)? Do you look down on them as someone who must deserve what is happening?

**PRAY:** Ask God to convict you if you ever give poor advice to others who are going through trials.

Thank Him for not condemning you when you suffer, even when it is your own fault..



## **FRIDAY**

**READ:** Job 38:1-7; 40:1-14

**THINK ABOUT:** Job 38 through 41 is God's response to Job and the others who are trying to decide if what God does is right or not. What does He say to them?

How do you think Job and the others felt hearing God speak so heatedly?

Has there been a time you questioned God? What would He have said to you?

**PRAY:** Apply these chapters to your life today. Clearly God is in control of everything. Affirm your trust in Him no matter what.

Pray for those you know who are doubting and criticizing God. Ask God to show you if there is any way you can give them godly advice.

## **SATURDAY**

**READ:** Job 42:7-17

**THINK ABOUT:** What did God do for Job after this time of testing? Why?

Why didn't God tell Job in the beginning He would do this?

Why doesn't He tell us about the good that will result from our struggles and pain?

**PRAY:** Reaffirm your trust in Him no matter what is happening.

Thank Him specifically for all the good things He has already done in your life. Take your time and make sure you cover everything.



Pray that God would be honored by our worship service tomorrow, that it would be about Him and not us.

# DAILY DEVOTIONS

## PSALMS

Monday	Psalms 1-30
Tuesday	Psalms 31-60
Wednesday	Psalms 61-90
Thursday	Psalms 91-120
Friday	Psalms 121-150



### MONDAY

**READ:** Read the article in Old Testament Articles and Psalms 1

**THINK ABOUT:** In order to be blessed what are we to NOT to? What are we TO do?

Specifically what does this mean today? Give some examples of each behavior.

What happens to those who don't follow God? Why?

**PRAY:** Ask God to give you a hunger and thirst for His Word so you have a great desire to learn it and a delight in it.

Take some time now to meditate on it: think about favorite passages and promises. Thank God for them. Pray them. Praise God for them.

### TUESDAY

**READ:** Psalms 8

**THINK ABOUT:** In what ways is God's glory shown? List as many ways as you can find.

How do you feel when you look at the stars on a dark night? What is God teaching about Himself?

Take a moment to write your own psalm of praise to 'god for what He has done in your life.

**PRAY:** Read your psalm poem as a prayer to God, thanking Him for what He has done as well and praising and worshipping Him for Who and what He is.

Read Psalm 8 to God as a prayer of praise.

### WEDNESDAY

**READ:** Psalms 23

**THINK ABOUT:** Why is this Psalm so universally loved and used?

What in this Psalm speaks most loudly and clearly to you? Why?



Write down each promise that this Psalm contains.

**PRAY:** Read this Psalm to God as a prayer as well.

Ask God to show you who you can share this Psalm with today, who would be encouraged by it.

## **THURSDAY**

**READ:** Psalms 24

**THINK ABOUT:** What does it take to enter God's presence?

Why must we be clean to enter His presence?

What does it mean to have clean hands and a pure heart (verse 4)? Do you?

**PRAY:** Ask God to cleanse your actions (hands) and thoughts/motives (heart). Ask Him to show you anything that needs to be confessed and removed.

Read verses 7-10 in praise to Him, then spend time thanking and praising Him.

## **FRIDAY**

**READ:** Psalms 51

**THINK ABOUT:** What does this Psalm reveal about David's heart and repentance?

Why does David say his sin is 'only' against God when it so affected Bathsheba, Uriah and the whole nation?

Who does your sin hurt beside yourself? Why? Be specific.

**PRAY:** If you have sin in your life, use this Psalm as a confessional.

Thank God for forgiving you of sin and for forgetting it as well!

## **SATURDAY**

**READ:** Psalms 103

**THINK ABOUT:** This is one of my personal favorite Bible passages because it talks about God's forgiveness. What all does it say about God's forgiveness?

What does this Psalm teach us about God? Look carefully so you don't miss any truths.

What does it mean to you that God knows how you are formed and that you are just dust (verse 14)?

**PRAY:** Thank God for His forgiveness of your sins.

Thank Him for Who and what He is as revealed in this Psalm.

Worship Him for His love, mercy, grace and forgiveness.

Ask God to be present in a real way in our service tomorrow so we will praise Him as He deserves.

# DAILY DEVOTIONS

## 1 KINGS

Monday	1 Kings 1-4
Tuesday	1 Kings 5-8
Wednesday	1 Kings 9-12
Thursday	1 Kings 13-17
Friday	1 Kings 18-21

### MONDAY

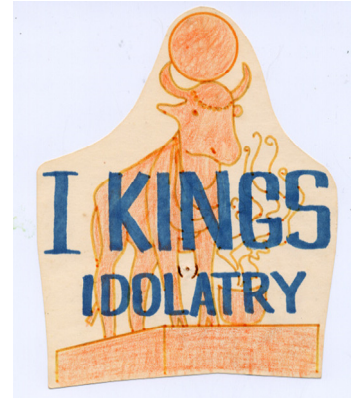
**READ:** Read the article in Old Testament Articles and 1 Kings 1:28-37

**THINK ABOUT:** After his older sons Amnon and Absalom turned from God, David chose Solomon to follow him as king because of his heart for God. How do you think this made Bathsheba, his mother, feel?

Do you think following David as king would have been easy or hard?

**PRAY:** You may not feel like you are able to do what God is asking you to do, so ask Him to help you and lead you like He did Solomon (verse 37).

Pray for the leaders in your church and nation, asking God to lead and direct them.



### TUESDAY

**READ:** 1 Kings 3:7-15; 4:29-34

**THINK ABOUT:** Why did God give Solomon such great wisdom? Why did Solomon ask for it?

Why is it important to have God's wisdom when making decisions?

Do you value wisdom over riches and power? Be honest!

**PRAY:** Ask God to help you make godly decisions.

Pray for leaders in your church and to have wisdom from God.

### WEDNESDAY

**READ:** 1 Kings 3:16-28

**THINK ABOUT:** What was so wise about Solomon's decision in this case?

Where can we get wisdom (read James 1:5-8)? What are the conditions for receiving it?

In what areas of life do you most need wisdom? How can you receive it?

**PRAY:** Ask God for wisdom, following the guidelines in James 1:5-8. Thank Him for the wisdom He has given you.

### THURSDAY

**READ:** 1 Kings 11:1-13

**THINK ABOUT:** Why did Solomon gather so many wives and concubines? If He has such great wisdom, how could this have happened?

What impact did they have on him? Why were they able to influence him and not he influence them?  
How did God feel about this?

Do those closest to you have a godly or ungodly impact on you and your spiritual life?

**PRAY:** Ask God to help you be a good influence on others and not have them be a bad influence on you.

If you struggle with temptation in the areas of sexual sin or relationships ask God to strengthen you.  
Ask God to show you lust of any kind (money, food, things, power, etc) that causes you to sin.

## **FRIDAY**

**READ:** 1 Kings 12:1-16

**THINK ABOUT:** What advice did the elders give to Rehoboam? What about his friends?

Why did he listen to his peers who were inexperienced instead of the experienced advisors?

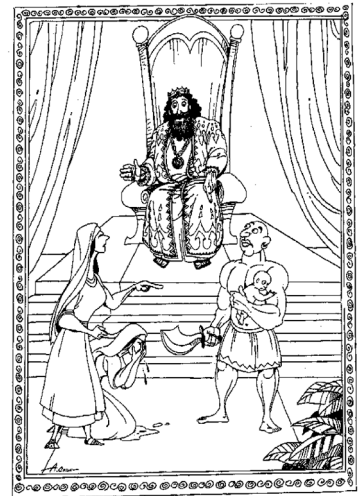
Whose advice do you most often go by? Why?

What kind of advice do you give to others – from the Bible or your own reasoning?

**PRAY:** Ask God to clear you of any advice given by those who aren't godly.

Ask Him to make sure you only and always give godly advice to others.

Tell Him you want Him to alert and convict you if you are influenced by peer pressure.



## **SATURDAY**

**READ:** 1 Kings 18:16-46

**THINK ABOUT:** What kind of a man was Elijah?

What enabled Elijah to stand alone against those who were against God?

What helps you take a stand when in the presence of those who reject God?

**PRAY:** Thank God for men like Elijah. Think of those today who take an unpopular stand for Him and pray for them (women as well as men).

Ask God to help you be alert to opportunities to stand for Him and let Him work through you.

Pray that God would bring those to our service tomorrow whom He wants to be there and that each one would be minister to by His Spirit.

# DAILY DEVOTIONS

## PROVERBS

Monday	Proverbs 1-4
Tuesday	Proverbs 5-8
Wednesday	Proverbs 9-12
Thursday	Proverbs 13-17
Friday	Proverbs 18-21

### MONDAY

**READ:** Read the article in Old Testament Articles and Proverbs 1:1-7

**THINK ABOUT:** Why did Solomon write this book? What good can come from learning and following these principles?

What does Solomon say is the beginning of knowledge/wisdom?

Give some examples of just what it means to 'fear' the Lord? Be specific.

Why does he say that despising wisdom and discipline is foolish?

**PRAY:** Take some time to show God the proper fear/respect He is due. Feel awe in His presence, don't just be in a hurry to finish your praying.

Ask God to help you learn His wisdom this week as you read this book of Proverbs.



### TUESDAY

**READ:** Proverbs 17:9, 17; 25:29; 27:6, 17

**THINK ABOUT:** What are some of the good traits these verses say that friends have?

What analogies or symbols are used to describe friends?

Whom would you consider to be good friends of yours over the years?

Who would consider you a good friend of theirs?

**PRAY:** Thank God for each of these friends by name. Ask Him to help you be a friend to them.

Thank God for being your very best eternal friend.

### WEDNESDAY

**READ:** Proverbs 15:1; 17:14; 20:3; 25:15, 28

**THINK ABOUT:** What traits or characteristics are necessary to get along well with others?

Which of these do you have? Which do you lack?

Which of these verses would you pick to help you in your life right now? Why?

**PRAY:** Ask God to apply that verse to your life starting today.

Pray for those you know who have trouble getting along with others.  
Ask God to help you get along better with those He has put in your life.

## **THURSDAY**

**READ:** Proverbs 6:12-14; 16:30; 17:4; 18:8; 26:23; 29:5; 10:19; 16:24; 17:10; 24:26; 25:11

**THINK ABOUT:** What do these verses say about the mouth and talking? Make a list..

Which of these don't give you much problem? Which do give you a problem?

What advice does the Psalmist give to help you overcome the areas where you struggle?

**PRAY:** Ask God to help you be careful of what you say and to think first.

Pray for those who aren't as careful about what they say as they should be. Remember them throughout the day.

## **FRIDAY**

**READ:** Proverbs 10:4, 15, 22; 13:8; 18:11, 23; 19:4; 21:6; 30:8-9

**THINK ABOUT:** What wisdom do these verses impart about wealth and poverty?

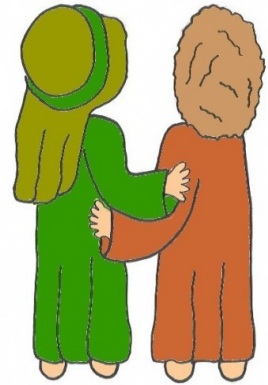
Would you consider yourself wealthy or poor? Why?

Which verses speak especially well to your situation? Why?

**PRAY:** Thank God for all the material blessings He has given you.

Recommit them all to Him, recognizing they are His gift to you.

Ask Him to help you be content with what you have and to use them as He would have you use them.



## **SATURDAY**

**READ:** Proverbs 14:21, 31; 19:6, 17; 21:13

**THINK ABOUT:** Name some people who have helped you financially when you needed help?

Who are some people who have helped you financially when they needed help?

Is there anyone you should be helping now?

**PRAY:** Thank God for each one, by name, who has helped you financially.

Thank Him for the privilege of having enough to share with those you have helped in the past. Pray for God to bless them spiritually right now.

Ask Him to show you if there is someone else you should be helping now.

Pray that each person who comes to church tomorrow would be open and allow God's Spirit to work in their lives and to minister to them in any way needed.

# DAILY DEVOTIONS

## ECCLESIASTES

Monday	Ecclesiastes 1-2
Tuesday	Ecclesiastes 3-4
Wednesday	Ecclesiastes 5-6
Thursday	Ecclesiastes 7-9
Friday	Ecclesiastes 10-12

### MONDAY

**READ:** Read the article in Old Testament Articles and Ecclesiastes 1:1-11

**THINK ABOUT:** Why is life meaningless when one doesn't believe in and follow God?

What examples does Solomon give of life being meaningless?

Is there a time when life seemed meaningless to you? What kept you going? What changed?

How does feeling life is meaningless impact how a person thinks and lives?

**PRAY:** Thank God that He has given your life meaning and purpose.

Pray that those you know who are living meaningless would find fulfillment in Jesus. Ask God to show you what you can do to bring them to Him.



### TUESDAY

**READ:** Ecclesiastes 2:1-11

**THINK ABOUT:** What specifically does Solomon say in meaning less in this passage?

If these things are so meaningless why do people still seek after them today?

Which of these substitutes for meaning have you tried in the past? What have you found?

**PRAY:** Ask God to show you if you are using any of these substitutes to meet needs He should meet

Pray for those you know who are trying to use these things as replacements for God in their life.

### WEDNESDAY

**READ:** Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

**THINK ABOUT:** What is Solomon's purpose in writing these things? What message is conveyed?

How can you tell if you are doing the right thing in the wrong time or not?

**PRAY:** Ask God to show you if you are doing the wrong thing in the wrong time. Ask Him to help make sure you are following His will and guidance.

Ask God to show you just where you are in life now and what you need to do as you move into the next stage of life.

## **THURSDAY**

**READ:** Ecclesiastes 5:1-7

**THINK ABOUT:** God says to go to Him to listen and not just talk – is that what you do in your daily time with Him? What is the advantage to listening more and talking less?

Why is it so wrong to make a vow to God and then not keep it if there is a good reason to break it?

Have you made any commitments or promises to God which you have not kept? What are they?

**PRAY:** If you have made promises you haven't kept make that right with God now. Ask for forgiveness and recommit to keep the promise. If circumstances make that impossible (ie a divorce, death of a person, etc.) He will understand.

Spend some time listening to God, not talking but just listening.

## **FRIDAY**

**READ:** Ecclesiastes 7:1-10

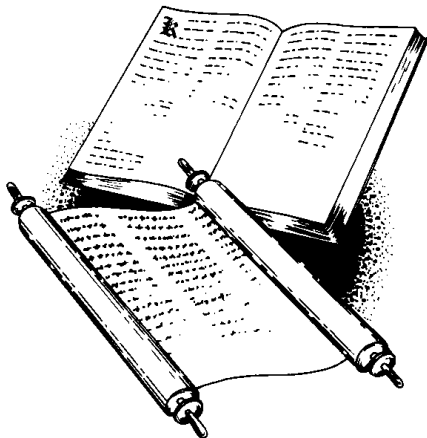
**THINK ABOUT:** What wisdom is conveyed in these proverbs?

Pick one or 2 to meditate on, think about, and apply to life.

From your own experiences in life, write some principles you have found to be true.

**PRAY:** Ask God to help you live in wisdom, continuing to learn His ways and follow them.

Pray again for those around you who lack wisdom, that they would turn to God for truth.



## **SATURDAY**

**READ:** Ecclesiastes 12:1-5

**THINK ABOUT:** Why is it important to start serving God when young?

What if you haven't, is it ever too late to start following Him?

What young people do you know that you can influence to follow God now?

**PRAY:** Pray for those in their youth whom you know and aren't following God.

Ask God to help use every day of the rest of your life to serve Him.

Pray for the music and the message tomorrow to be pleasing to Him.

Pray each one would come to a deeper commitment to Jesus through tomorrow's service.



# DAILY DEVOTIONS

## SONG OF SOLOMON

Monday	Song of Solomon 1
Tuesday	Song of Solomon 2
Wednesday	Song of Solomon 3-4
Thursday	Song of Solomon 5-6
Friday	Song of Solomon 7-8



### MONDAY

**READ:** Read next page and Song of Solomon 1:5-7

**THINK ABOUT:** Shulamith, the bride, feels inferior to the beautiful women in Jerusalem because she is darkly tanned from working outside while they are pampered inside. Who do you feel inferior to when you compare yourself?

Solomon reassures her he loves and accepts her as she is. Who loves and accepts you for yourself? Do you accept others as they are or compare and criticize?

**PRAY:** Thank God for making you as you are. Ask Him to forgive you for the times you have rejected yourself.

Ask Him to help you accept all you come in contact with today – and to show them unconditional love.

### TUESDAY

**READ:** Song of Solomon 2:8-13

**THINK ABOUT:** Shulamith is anxiously waiting Solomon come to her for she misses him and wants to spend time with him. Whom do you enjoy spending time with?

What can you do to be able to spend more quality time with them?

**PRAY:** Thank God for those you enjoy spending time with, and for the time you get to be with them.

Spend quality time with God right now, for who could be better to spend time with?

### WEDNESDAY

**READ:** Song of Solomon 2:14-15

**THINK ABOUT:** 'Little foxes' refer to the baby foxes who could squeeze through small cracks in the stone walls protecting the vineyards and do great damage to the newly forming shoots. Shulamith wants Solomon to stop small problems before they grow into big problems. What small problems are growing into big problems in your special relationships now?

What must be done to keep them from getting bigger?

**PRAY:** Ask God to make you alert to small sins in your life and your relationships.

Confess any 'little' sins God shows you, no matter how little.

Ask Him to show you how to keep them from growing, what steps to take to overcome them.

## **THURSDAY**

**READ:** Song of Solomon 3:6-11

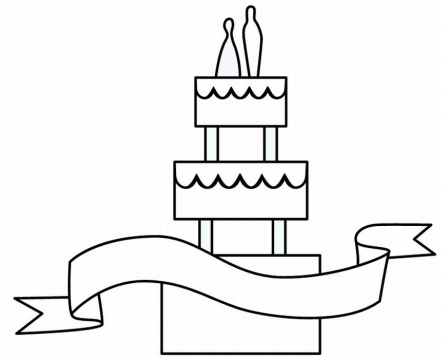
**THINK ABOUT:** Shulamith feels unworthy to have a husband like Solomon. How do you feel about being 'married' to the King of Kings and Lord of Lords?

Why would Jesus choose you to be 'married' to? What does He see in you?

What should your response be because He chose you?

**PRAY:** Thank God for choosing you and loving you.

Spend some time quietly sitting enjoying His love and fellowship. Tell Him how much you love Him.



## **FRIDAY**

**READ:** Song of Solomon 4:1-7; 5:10-16; 6:4-9

**THINK ABOUT:** As lovers do, Solomon and Shulamith praise each other in detail. Why do people in love spend so much time complementing and verbally sharing what they think of each other?

When is the last time you complemented someone on their appearance or character? How do you feel when others say good things about you?

What about those closest to you, do you still tell them how much you appreciate them?

**PRAY:** Thank God for those who build you up by their words and encouragement.

Spend time praising God in detail for Who He is and what He has done in your life.

## **SATURDAY**

**READ:** Song of Solomon 4:8-11

**THINK ABOUT:** What does Solomon mean when he says she has 'stolen his heart'?

Who has stolen your heart in your life? How did it work out?

Have you stolen anyone's heart that you shouldn't have? Pray for God to heal and bless them.

**PRAY:** If you have a husband or wife, or someone you dearly love, thank God for them.

If someone loves you and has given you their heart, pray for them. Pray that you would gently take care of their heart and return the love.

Spend some time preparing your life and heart for church tomorrow. Ask that God would work in others today as well so each one will be ready to worship Him tomorrow.

# DAILY DEVOTIONS

## PROPHETS

Monday	Prophets Joel
Tuesday	Prophets Amos
Wednesday	Prophets Obadiah
Thursday	Prophets Micah, Nahum
Friday	Prophets Habakkuk, Zephaniah



### MONDAY

**READ:** Read the article in Old Testament Articles and Joel 2:12-17

**THINK ABOUT:** Have you drifted from the Lord? Are you as close to Him as you once were?

What does God say needs to happen in order to return to God?

**PRAY:** If you need to do so, confess your sin and return to God now. He will welcome you and accept you with open arms.

If this does not apply to you think of those you know to whom it does apply and pray for them.

### TUESDAY

**READ:** Amos 1:3-15

**THINK ABOUT:** What nations will God judge? Why? Why hasn't He done so already?

Why hasn't God already judged the guilty nations today? What is He waiting for?

What are we to do in the meantime, while waiting for His judgment to come?

**PRAY:** Thank God for His patience and mercy which allowed us to come to Him.

Pray God would use you to do your part to help bring unbelievers to Him.

Praise Him for His justice and holiness which will one day remove all sin and sinners.

### WEDNESDAY

**READ:** Micah 5:1-5

**THINK ABOUT:** God prophecies that Jesus will be born in Bethlehem – and He was right. How does it make you feel to know that God knows the future?

How should it affect your life today knowing that God planned the future, knows it, and is in charge of it? What difference does that make in how you face life?

**PRAY:** Thank God for His perfect sovereign plan of everything in the present and future.

Ask Him to forgive you for your fear and worry about the future.

Trust Him with what you are going through today, knowing He knows all about it and had planned according to His perfect will how it will turn out.



## **THURSDAY**

**READ:** Nahum 1:2-12

**THINK ABOUT:** What will happen to those who reject the Lord? To those who follow Him?

Why must God judge sin? What if He didn't?

What would change if God were not holy but allowed sin to go unpunished?

**PRAY:** Thank God that He is just and holy and will judge all sin.

Thank Him for sending a substitute for your sin, for Jesus Who took God's anger and judgment..

## **FRIDAY**

**READ:** Habakkuk 1:2-4

**THINK ABOUT:** What is Habakkuk bothered about?

Does it bother you that sin and evil prosper while God seemingly lets them go?

Is it OK to tell God that that bothers you as Habakkuk did?

**PRAY:** You can tell God how you feel about sin and injustice in the world today?

You can ask Him to come quickly to end it all, but make sure you don't insist. He knows what He is doing!

Thank God that He is in sovereign control and that He does all things right. Thank Him that one day you will see it all from His perspective and understand better than you do now.

## **SATURDAY**

**READ:** Zephaniah 3:9-20

**THINK ABOUT:** All the prophets contain hope along with judgment. They all speak of the time when God will return, remove sin, restore Israel, and things will return to Garden of Eden conditions. Why does God keep telling this to His people even though they are under judgment?

What do you most look forward to in the future?

How much do you long to be in God's presence and away from this sinful world forever?

**PRAY:** Thank God for His perfect plan and the future blessing He promises us.

Ask God to help you keep your eyes on the future in heaven with Him and not be too caught up in the problems and concerns of this life.

Sit still and take some time thinking about heaven and what it will be like to be in God's presence forever.

Pray that God would bless us in church tomorrow with a taste of His presence – of heaven on earth!

# DAILY DEVOTIONS

## HOSEA

Monday	Hosea 1-3
Tuesday	Hosea 4-6
Wednesday	Hosea 7-9
Thursday	Hosea 10-12
Friday	Hosea 13-14



### MONDAY

**READ:** Read the article on the next pages

**THINK ABOUT:** Why would God want Hosea to go through the misery of having an unfaithful wife? What was He showing?

How do you think Hosea was able to do this? Did He ever think it wasn't fair?

How do you think Gomer responded after being bought back? Think and be realistic, don't just give the story a 'lived happily ever after' ending.

**PRAY:** Would you be willing to let God use you and your life in ANY way He chooses to glorify Himself? It isn't always easy, as we see with Hosea.

Ask God to use what you are going through in life right now to bring glory to Himself.

### TUESDAY

**READ:** Hosea 1:2-11

**THINK ABOUT:** Why would the Jews turn from the Living God who delivered them to worshipping idols?

How does God feel about those who turn from Him and turn to false gods?

Why is God so longsuffering and patient with the people? Why not judge them?

**PRAY:** Ask God for mercy on our country and culture today for we have turned from God to idols.

Ask God to show you any idols you have in your life, anything that takes place God should have.

Thank Him for His patience and longsuffering in your life.

### WEDNESDAY

**READ:** Hosea 3:1-5

**THINK ABOUT:** Why did God want Hosea to restore His sinning wife? What was He teaching?

How do you think Hosea felt about this? How might Gomer have felt?

What is the picture in Hosea buying back his own wife, paying for her a second time?

**PRAY:** Thank God for redeeming you, for paying for you a second time on the cross.

Think of as many times as you can when God restored you, when He brought you back to Him even though you didn't deserve it. Thank Him for each of them.

Pray for those you know who are away from God, that they would let God reach them and bring them back to Himself.

## **THURSDAY**

**READ:** Hosea 4:1-3

**THINK ABOUT:** How does God describe the land of Israel in those days?

How is the United States today similar to Israel then?

Why is there this similarity? What causes it?

**PRAY:** Ask God to open the eyes and hearts of the leaders of this country so they turn back to Him.

Pray that Christians would have the courage to take a stand for God against the evil in this country.

Ask God to show you if there is any way you are guilty of unfaithfulness or not acknowledging God.

## **FRIDAY**

**READ:** Hosea 11:1-11

**THINK ABOUT:** How has God shown His love to Israel?

Why has He loved them? What causes God to love Israel? To love us?

Why does God love them even though they have turned from Him?

**PRAY:** Pray for Israel and Jews everywhere, so they would respond to God's love and repent.

Thank God for His unconditional love for you? List as many ways as you can that He shows love.

Think of times when you turned from God and of ways He continued to show you His love. Thank Him for each of these. Praise Him for His unconditional love.

## **SATURDAY**

**READ:** Hosea 14:1-9

**THINK ABOUT:** Why is God calling the Jews to repentance?

What will happen if they repent?

Will there ever be a time when it is too late to repent or will God always allow people to come to Him?

**PRAY:** If you are not as close to God as you should be, repent and come back to Him now.

Pray for those you know who are in need of repentance. Pray God will open their hearts to truth.

Ask God to use our worship service tomorrow to draw us closer to Himself.



# DAILY DEVOTIONS

## JONAH

Monday	Jonah 1
Tuesday	Jonah 2
Wednesday	Jonah 3
Thursday	Jonah 4

### MONDAY

**READ:** Read the article in Old Testament Articles and Jonah 1:1-3

**THINK ABOUT:** Why did Jonah run away instead of obeying God? Clearly he was a prophet who has followed God for years.

Jonah could have said it was a 'sign from God' that the ship was there going where he wanted. What is the danger of 'putting out a fleece' to determine God's will?

**PRAY:** Have you ever run from God? Are you running from God now?

If there is any area of disobedience in your life confess it as sin and do what is necessary to be right.



### TUESDAY

**READ:** Jonah 1:4-17

**THINK ABOUT:** Why did God let this happen to Jonah, what was He trying to teach him?

Sin has consequences. We reap what we sow (Galatians 6:7). What if there weren't any negative consequences of sin or bad decisions?

What consequences of sin in the past are you living with right now?

**PRAY:** Ask God to turn your consequence into a blessing for He promises that He will bring something good out of everything (Romans 8:28).

Think of those you know who are struggling under the weight of the effects of past sin. Pray for them and ask God to show you what you can do to minister to them.

### WEDNESDAY

**READ:** Jonah 2:1-9

**THINK ABOUT:** Summarize Jonah's prayer before drowning.

Why did he pray this now and not before?

What does it take to get people to turn back to God when running from Him?

**PRAY:** Pray Jonah 2 making it your prayer to God, adapting it to any situations you are going through right now.



Thank God for forgiving you each time you confess sin and taking you back each time you disobey. Spend some time praising Him for His mercy and patience.

## **THURSDAY**

**READ:** Jonah 2:10

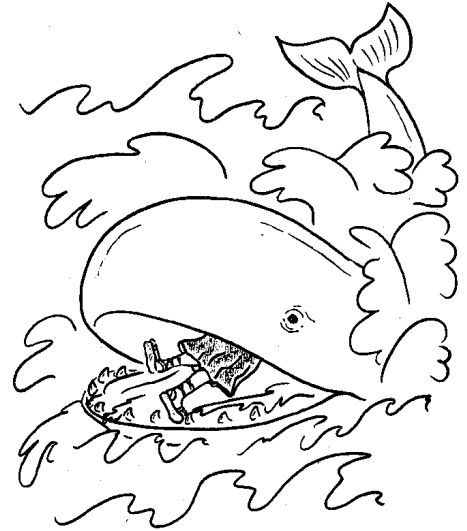
**THINK ABOUT:** What do you think Jonah thought when he came back to life on dry ground?

What change do you think this made in his life? How would it have changed you?

Why did God give him another chance? Why does He give us other chances?

**PRAY:** Thank God for all the new chances He has given you. If you need a new start with Him now ask Him for one and He will give it to you.

Ask for mercy in the lives of those you know who need a new start. Ask God what you can do today to help turn them to God for another chance.



## **FRIDAY**

**READ:** Jonah 3:1-10

**THINK ABOUT:** Why did Jonah obey this time and not before?

Do you think his heart was really in it or he did it out of fear of consequences?

When have you obeyed God just because you were afraid of the results if you didn't?

**PRAY:** If you are following God out of a motive of fear confess that and ask God to give you peace.

Thank God for the salvation of so many undeserving Ninevehites.

Ask Him to bring someone into your life today who you can talk to about Jesus.

## **SATURDAY**

**READ:** Jonah 4:1-11

**THINK ABOUT:** Why was Jonah so upset, even though God used him to bring about the greatest revival ever?

Do you get upset when you don't get your way?

How do you handle it when God shows mercy to those you don't think deserve it?

**PRAY:** Ask God to show you any of those feelings you may have now and to forgive you of them.

Thank God that He is a God of grace and mercy.

Thank Him individually for every time and every way He has shown you mercy.

Ask that God would reveal Himself and His love to us in church tomorrow as well.



# DAILY DEVOTIONS

## 2 KINGS

Monday	2 Kings 1-5
Tuesday	2 Kings 6-10
Wednesday	2 Kings 11-15
Thursday	2 Kings 16-20
Friday	2 Kings 21-25



### MONDAY

**READ:** Read the article in Old Testament Articles and 2 Kings 2:1, 6-14

**THINK ABOUT:** What does Elisha mean when he asks for a 'double portion'?

Why was Elijah taken up to heaven alive without dying?

How would you feel if you were suddenly caught up into heaven without dying? (Those who are alive for the rapture will be!)

**PRAY:** If you choose, ask God to give you a 'double portion' of His Spirit so you can better serve Him. Spend some time thinking about what it will be like when Jesus appears and calls us home to heaven. Are you ready if that would happen now? Spend some time praying making sure you are ready.

### TUESDAY

**READ:** 2 Kings 4:1-7

**THINK ABOUT:** Why did God only fill the jars they gathered, why not make jars for them as well?

What was God trying to teach them by filling all they gave Him but no more?

Are there any parts of your heart or mind you haven't opened totally to the Lord?

**PRAY:** If there is some part you haven't opened to God He won't fill it. Open it to Him now and ask Him to fill it with His Spirit and presence.

Ask God to show you how else this principle of God filling all we give applies to you.

Thank Him for all He so freely and generously has given and continues to give to you.

### WEDNESDAY

**READ:** 2 Kings 5:1-6

**THINK ABOUT:** This girl was taken from her country and family as a slave. Why would she try to help those who did this to her?

Is there anyone you haven't been helping as you could because of what they have done to you?

**PRAY:** Ask God to give you opportunities today to speak to someone in need about Him.

Sit quietly and let God give you the names of some people He wants you to speak to day, in person, by phone, letter or email. Pray for the right words to convey His truth to each of them.



## **THURSDAY**

**READ:** 2 Kings 9:30-37

**THINK ABOUT:** Jezebel had a terrible reputation as one who opposed God but ended up paying for her sin. What do you think she would do differently, if anything, if she could live her life again?

Why did God let her prosper for so many years? Why not kill her sooner?

Why did God do this publically so everyone would see and know?

**PRAY:** If you know someone who seems to be under God's judgment because of sin in their lives ask God what you can do to warn them and help them get things right with God.

Spend time asking God to make sure your life is right with Him and that when you die it would be a good witness and testimony to others.

## **FRIDAY**

**READ:** 2 Kings 17:7-20

**THINK ABOUT:** What sins was Israel guilty of that caused God to remove them as a nation?

Which sins are similar to those our country today commits?

How does God feel about them today?

**PRAY:** Confess the sins of our country and ask God for mercy for us. Ask Him to move with His Spirit so people will turn back to Him.

## **SATURDAY**

**READ:** 2 Kings 22:8-13

**THINK ABOUT:** What was found that made such a difference?

How could it have been lost for so long?

What changes came about since they found it?

How has the Bible changed your life (be specific and detailed)?

**PRAY:** Thank God for His Word and ask Him to give you a hunger and thirst to study and learn it.

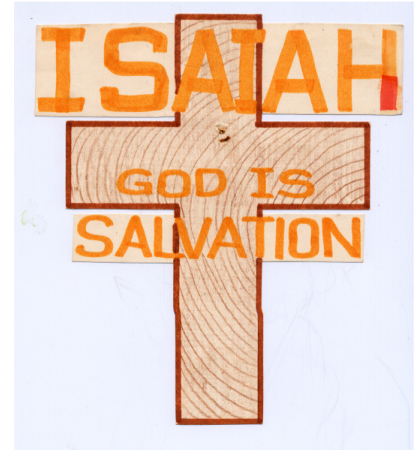
Quote some of your favorite passages to Him as prayer.

Pray that tomorrows worship service would reach many who don't know Him.

# DAILY DEVOTIONS

## ISAIAH

Monday	Isaiah 1-11
Tuesday	Isaiah 12-22
Wednesday	Isaiah 23-33
Thursday	Isaiah 34-44
Friday	Isaiah 45-55
Saturday	Isaiah 56-66



### MONDAY

**READ:** Read the article in Old Testament Articles and Isaiah 1:1-9

**THINK ABOUT:** Why did God's chosen people, the Jews, do such a bad job of following Him?

How do you think it made God feel that His special people rejected Him?

**PRAY:** Thank God for the blessings we receive from Him because He made a place for Gentiles in His plans.

Pray for each Jew you know by hand and for Jews and Israel in general – that they would be open to God and return to Him.

### TUESDAY

**READ:** Isaiah 4:2-6

**THINK ABOUT:** Who is the 'Branch' referred to here?

What will life be like in the Millennial Kingdom described here?

Why does God talk about this when the people are about to go into captivity?

**PRAY:** Think about what it will be like living with Jesus in the Kingdom. Thank Him for that.

Praise and worship Him for the great plans He has in the future for us.

### WEDNESDAY

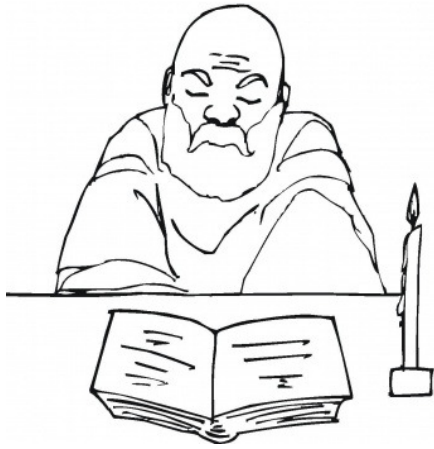
**READ:** Isaiah 6:1-8

**THINK ABOUT:** How do you think Isaiah felt seeing all this?

Why do you think God showed it to Him?

What was Isaiah's response when God wanted someone to serve Him?

**PRAY:** .Can you pray Isaiah's words, "Here I am, send me"? If so, pray them now.



Meditate on this passage, picturing it in your mind with yourself there in heaven. Join the angels in worshipping Jesus.

## **THURSDAY**

**READ:** Isaiah 9:6-7

**THINK ABOUT:** List the names for Jesus in this passage.

Why did God choose these particular titles/descriptions/names?

What does each one mean to you?

**PRAY:** Pray using each name. Thank God for it and praise Him for what this title shows about Jesus

Pick one title you need at present and write it down to carry with you. Pray God would use this to minister to you in a special way today. Ask Him to help you remember it all day long.

## **FRIDAY**

**READ:** Isaiah 36:1-2; 37:14-20, 36-37

**THINK ABOUT:** What was the impossible situation they faced in this passage?

What did they do about it, what was their response? Is that how you respond to danger?

How did God answer their prayers?

**PRAY:** If there is a difficult situation in your life now, pray like Hezekiah did – use his prayer and make it your own.

Reaffirm your faith in God and the importance of prayer by spending time praying for situations in your lives and in the lives of those you know. Trust Him to answer in His time and way.

## **SATURDAY**

**READ:** Isaiah 52:13 – 53:12

**THINK ABOUT:** Who is this 'servant' Isaiah is talking about?

What does it say about Him?

Write down a list of all the similarities between this passage and Jesus. How could Isaiah have known these things?

**PRAY:** Thank God for His eternal plan to come to earth to pay for our sins. Clearly it is something He knew and planned from eternity past.

Go through this passage and pray specifically about each description of Jesus and what He has done for you.

Thank God for the privilege going to church to worship in a free country tomorrow. Ask God to make the service meaningful and worshipful.

# DAILY DEVOTIONS

## JEREMIAH

Monday	Jeremiah 1-10
Tuesday	Jeremiah 11-20
Wednesday	Jeremiah 21-30
Thursday	Jeremiah 31-40
Friday	Jeremiah 41-52

### MONDAY

**READ:** Read the article in Old Testament Articles and Jeremiah 1:4-10

**THINK ABOUT:** Why was Jeremiah reluctant to be a prophet?

What reasons did God give Him to show him he should do it.

What does it mean to you that God knew all about you even before you were conceived and that He chose what He wanted you to do for Him before you were born? Are you doing what God created you to do?

**PRAY:** Thank God for knowing, creating and choosing you before you have anything to do about it.

Thank God for His perfect plan for your life and how He wants you to serve Him.

Ask God to show you if there is anything He wants you to do which you aren't doing.



### TUESDAY

**READ:** Jeremiah 10:1-5

**THINK ABOUT:** How does Jeremiah describe the idols the people worship?

Why would someone worship things of their own making?

If an idol is anything a person puts before God, what are some of the idols people worship today?

Are you guilty of putting any of those things before God?

**PRAY:** If you are, confess that and do what is necessary to make sure God is first.

Pray for those who come to mind who have idols in their lives instead of God. Ask God to convict them of that and for them to find the idols empty so they turn to the only true God.

### WEDNESDAY

**READ:** Jeremiah 18:1-10

**THINK ABOUT:** What does the analogy of the potter show about God?

Is God still in charge of all the countries today? Will anything ever happen that is out of His control?

If He is in control of all countries, is He in control of your life as well? How does that make you feel?

**PRAY:** Thank God for His sovereign control of the world and of your life.

Take anything that you are struggling with today and take to Potter God to remake in His image.

Pray for what is going on in the world today, thanking God it is under His control.

## **THURSDAY**

**READ:** Jeremiah 32:8-15

**THINK ABOUT:** Why did God want Jeremiah to buy property if the nation was soon to go into captivity and lose everything? What was the purpose in that?

Why was God trying to give those who were still faithful to Him hope in the future?

What does God do to give you hope as you face the future?

**PRAY:** Thank Him for the hope He has given you and continues to give you.

Pray specifically, name by name, for those you know who are living without hope, that they would find hope in Jesus.

## **FRIDAY**

**READ:** Jeremiah 38:1-6

**THINK ABOUT:** What happened to Jeremiah for faithfully obeying God? Why did God allow it?

What has happened to you because you faithfully followed God? Why did He allow it?

How do you think Jeremiah reacted to this? How do you react?

**PRAY:** Ask God to help you be faithful no matter what happens because you live for Him.

Pray specifically for those you know who are going through difficulties because of their faith.

Pray for those in other countries who are persecuted for their faith.

## **SATURDAY**

**READ:** Jeremiah 52:4-11

**THINK ABOUT:** What happened to Jerusalem and the territory of Judah?

Why did God allow this to happen to His people?

What about the ones who stayed faithful to Him, why did they have to suffer with the rest?

When have you had to suffer because of someone else's sins? How did you respond?

**PRAY:** Ask God to help you stay faithful even though you, too, suffer for the sins of others in this country, your family or wherever.

Pray tomorrow's church service would strengthen the faith of all who come.



# DAILY DEVOTIONS

## LAMENTATIONS

Monday	Lamentations 1
Tuesday	Lamentations 2
Wednesday	Lamentations 3
Thursday	Lamentations 4
Friday	Lamentations 5

### MONDAY

**READ:** Read the article in Old Testament Articles and Lamentations 1:1-12

**THINK ABOUT:** Why does God let suffering come to His people?

Why not judge those who reject Him first of all?

Why did God bring judgment to them?

**PRAY:** Thank God for His mercy today to you and the USA.

ASK God what you can do to help turn this country back to Him.



### TUESDAY

**READ:** Lamentations 1:16; 2:11

**THINK ABOUT:** Jeremiah cried because of the sin and its consequences. How much does sin and its results today grieve you?

Is our sin today any less than theirs? Is the USA any less accountable than Judah was?

What can we do to counter our becoming hardened to sin and insensitive to its results?

**PRAY:** Ask God to give you His heart of holiness so you will grieve sin around you and in you.

Ask Him to make you sensitive so you will notice the results of sin and be motivated to pray.

### WEDNESDAY

**READ:** Lamentations 1:13-22

**THINK ABOUT:** What was the results of the sin and judgment of the people?

How did their feel? How were they affected?

Why didn't they feel that way before judgment came, that would have prevented all the misery?

**PRAY:** Why does it take pain and suffering to get people to look to God? Why not before that?

### THURSDAY



**READ:** Lamentations 2:17-20

**THINK ABOUT:** Why do the children suffer as well – it isn't their fault is it?

Why does God let the innocent suffer along with the guilty?

How do you handle it today when you see children suffer for others' sins?

Did you as a child suffer because of the sins of a parent or another person?

**PRAY:** Pray for God to have mercy on the innocent.

Ask Him to give you strong faith to not question what He allows but to trust His love & wisdom.

Pray specifically for any children you personally know who are suffering because of the sins of another.

Ask God to forgive anyone who caused you to suffer as a child. Pray for their salvation.



## **FRIDAY**

**READ:** Lamentations 4:11-14

**THINK ABOUT:** Why does God get so angry at sin and hate it so much?

Why don't we get angry at sin and hate it as He does?

Why does God hold His own people more accountable for sin than others?

How much more accountable are you now than you were a few years ago?

**PRAY:** Ask God to give you a righteous indignation at sin, in your life and wherever it is.

Ask God to forgive you for comparing yourself to others who don't know Him but to instead help you live up to the level of awareness He has already given you.

Spend some time contemplating, meditating and listening to God. Ask Him to show you where you are accountable because you aren't living up to what you know as a Christian.

## **SATURDAY**

**READ:** Lamentations 5:1-9

**THINK ABOUT:** Why doesn't Jeremiah get angry at God or the people and blame them?

How does He respond?

How do you respond when things aren't going as you would like?

**PRAY:** Turn over to God control of the thing you are now wrestling with.

Ask God for mercy to help you through your current struggles.

Pray for others going through difficult times, that they would turn to God for mercy and help.

Pray for those who will be leading and speaking tomorrow at church. Ask God to guide them as their minister so the needs of those present will be met.



# DAILY DEVOTIONS

## EZEKIEL

Monday	Ezekiel 1-10
Tuesday	Ezekiel 11-20
Wednesday	Ezekiel 21-30
Thursday	Ezekiel 31-40
Friday	Ezekiel 41-48



### MONDAY

**READ:** Read the article in Old Testament Articles and Ezekiel 1:1-28

**THINK ABOUT:** Take some time to picture in your mind or draw on a piece of paper what you think this will look like in heaven.

Why did God let Ezekiel see a glimpse of what heaven is like?

What difference do you think it would make in your life if you could see God on the throne in heaven?

**PRAY:** Ezekiel fell face down – kneel or lay face down as you pray now.

Spend time picturing God on the throne. How will you respond when you first see Him there?  
Worship and praise Him now like you will then.

### TUESDAY

**READ:** Ezekiel 2:1-10

**THINK ABOUT:** Even though these people are in captivity for their sin, they haven't repented or turned back to God. Why not?

Suffering for sin doesn't mean we have repented of the sin. Are you going through the results of sin in our life but have never really confessed the sin?

**PRAY:** If there is any unconfessed sin in your life put it under the blood now.

Pray for those you know who may not have confessed their sins even though they suffer for them.

Ask God if there is anyone He wants you to speak to about this, like He asked Jeremiah to speak.

### WEDNESDAY

**READ:** Ezekiel 10:1-22

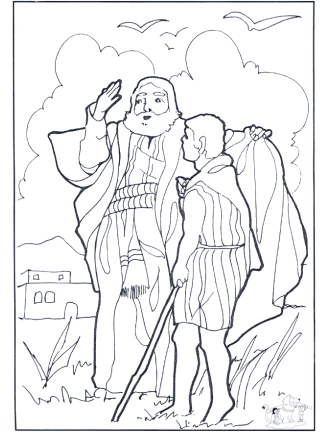
**THINK ABOUT:** How does this description of heaven compare to Ezekiel 1? Is there anything added here that isn't mentioned there?

Why does God again show His glory in heaven to Ezekiel?

Why did His glory/presence leave the temple?

**PRAY:** If God's glory cannot dwell with sin, ask Him to show you if there is any sin in your life that needs to be removed.

Thank God for showing you His glory and ask Him to continue to do so.  
Again spend time contemplating heaven and God's glory there.



## **THURSDAY**

**READ:** Ezekiel 15:1-8

**THINK ABOUT:** What is Jerusalem compared to in these verses?

What is the purpose of a vine? What was the purpose of Israel?

What good is a vine that doesn't produce fruit? What good are people who don't produce fruit for God?

Are you producing fruit for Him?

**PRAY:** Thank Him for producing fruit through you. Be specific in your thanks.

Ask Him to remove anything in the way of your producing more fruit for Him.

## **FRIDAY**

**READ:** Ezekiel 33:1-6

**THINK ABOUT:** Why is Ezekiel compared to a watchman on a wall? What is the similar duty?

What if a watchman doesn't warn the people of coming danger?

What if he does but they don't listen?

How faithful a watchman have you been in warning others of sin and disobedience?

**PRAY:** Ask God to make you very alert today to whom He would have you alert to things in their lives that shouldn't be there.

Pray for those you know who have been warned but don't heed the warning.

## **SATURDAY**

**READ:** Ezekiel 37:1-14

**THINK ABOUT:** What is the analogy here about Israel? What is it teaching?

How does God feel today about those who just go through the motions of religion but have no spiritual life inside?

What does it take to have spiritual life?

**PRAY:** If there are any areas of your life where you are just going through the motions confess them and ask God to forgive you for your sin of hypocrisy.

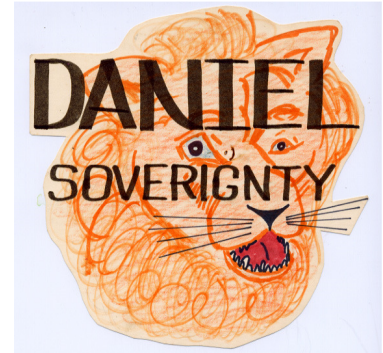
Pray by name for those you know who seem alive on the outside but are dead on the inside.

Pray that our worship service tomorrow would be full of life and not just 'playing church.'

# DAILY DEVOTIONS

## DANIEL

Monday	Daniel 1-2
Tuesday	Daniel 3-4
Wednesday	Daniel 5-6
Thursday	Daniel 7-9
Friday	Daniel 10-12



### MONDAY

**READ:** Read the article in Old Testament Articles and Daniel 1:6-20

**THINK ABOUT:** Why wouldn't Daniel eat the food provided?

How could he be so strong in following God in something so minor even though God has allowed him to be taken from his family and land and put into captivity?

**PRAY:** Is there anything 'little' in your life where you aren't following God?

Tell God you are willing to faithfully serve Him no matter what happens to you or your family.

### TUESDAY

**READ:** Daniel 2:12-19

**THINK ABOUT:** Whom did Daniel have to pray with? Why did God give him these men?

Who do you have that you can go to for prayer when the need arises?

Do you automatically go to God when you have challenges in your life?

**PRAY:** Thank God for those you can go to for prayer. Pray for God to bless them.

Faithfully pray for others who have asked you for prayer. Write these requests down so you don't forget them but remember to pray for them.

Ask God to strengthen your faith in prayer and to spend more quality and quantity time in it.

### WEDNESDAY

**READ:** Daniel 3:1-6, 19-27

**THINK ABOUT:** What was the challenge facing these Jewish men?

Why did God allow them to be in a situation where they needed to take a stand?

How did they respond? What was their attitude toward facing this?

When has God put you in situations where you needed to take a stand? Are you in one now?

**PRAY:** Pray that you would be faithful when you need to take a stand for Him, even in little things among friends.

Pray for those going through great persecution in various parts of the world for taking a stand.

## **THURSDAY**

**READ:** Daniel 4:28-37

**THINK ABOUT:** What happened to Nebuchadnezzar? Why? What was God teaching him?

Why did it take him so many years to repent and humble himself?

When do you most struggle with pride? When is it hardest for you to humble yourself?

Why is pride so awful to God and humility so to be desired?

**PRAY:** Ask God to remove any pride you may have and make you humble.

Pray for those who struggle with pride and aren't humble. What can you do to help them?

## **FRIDAY**

**READ:** Daniel 5:4-6, 25-31

**THINK ABOUT:** What did God do to get the attention of everyone at the banquet?

What did He write? What was He telling them?

What does God do when He wants to get your attention? How does He usually speak to you?

**PRAY:** Thank God for revealing His will to you and communicating with you.

Ask Him to help you always be open and sensitive to His will.

Listen carefully for a few minutes in case God is trying to tell you something now. Be open to Him.

## **SATURDAY**

**READ:** Daniel 6:13-24 Daniel is in his 90's, why does God still allow him to be stretched?

When do we get to the point where we are no longer challenged and our faith is not stretched?

How did Daniel respond?

**THINK ABOUT:** Do you get weary of stretching and having to grow spiritually? Do you want it all to end soon?

Would you be faithful to God even if it meant your death?

How do you think Daniel felt all night in with the lions?

**PRAY:** Thank God for examples like Daniel. Thank Him for those you know today who are good examples for you.

Ask God to help you be faithful no matter what.

Ask God to use tomorrow's service to teach you something new about Him.



# DAILY DEVOTIONS

## CHRONICLES

Monday	1 Chron 1-13
Tuesday	1 Chron 14-26
Wednesday	1 Ch 27-29; 2 Ch 1-10
Thursday	2 Chron 11-23
Friday	2 Chron 24-36



### MONDAY

**READ:** Read the article in Old Testament Articles and 1 Chron 1:1-7

**THINK ABOUT:** The first 9 chapters of 1 Chronicles, as well as chapters 23-27, are names and genealogies. Why does God use so much space just recording names? What does this tell us about what is important to God?

How does it make you feel knowing that God knows your name and cares about you personally?  
What difference does it make knowing God is recording all you do in life?

**PRAY:** Thank God for caring about you personally, knowing all about you and loving you.  
Ask God to help you faithfully live for Him so that your record in heaven will be good.

### TUESDAY

**READ:** 1 Chronicles 11:1-3

**THINK ABOUT:** 1 Chronicles 11-21 and 28-29 (13 chapters) are about David while everyone from Adam to Saul just barely got a mention. Why so much about David? What was so special about him?  
David waited 14 years from when he was anointed king by Samuel until when he sat on the throne. Most of that time he was running for his life. What was God trying to teach him?

On a scale of 1 to 10, how patient are you? Where do you have the hardest time being patient?

**PRAY:** Ask God to fill you with the fruit of the Spirit of patience.  
Ask Him to help you be alert to opportunities to exercise patience today. There will be many.

### WEDNESDAY

**READ:** 1 Chronicles 29:26-30

**THINK ABOUT:** Do you think David was afraid to die? Why or why not?  
Are you afraid to die? Why or why not?

Do you think David wished he could live his life over again? Do you?

**PRAY:** You can't live your life over, but ask God to make the rest of your life count for God.  
If you have a fear of death, ask God to give you peace. Trust Him with it.

Thank God that you don't have to fear death, that Jesus defeated it for you.

## **THURSDAY**

**READ:** 2 Chronicles 1:7-12

**THINK ABOUT:** What was so outstanding about Solomon's choice?

What would those who know you say is more important to you: money, prestige or wisdom?

Why is wisdom so important? Where does wisdom come from?

**PRAY:** God promises wisdom to those who ask (James 1:5-8) so ask Him for wisdom now.

Throughout the day when you have to make a decision, ask God for wisdom.

Thank God for the riches he has given you as well.

## **FRIDAY**

**READ:** 2 Chronicles 24:1-4

**THINK ABOUT:** Joash had a very ungodly father and son. How can it be that an ungodly man has a godly son and then he has an ungodly son? Why is this so common?

Have you had a godly heritage? Are you passing a godly heritage on to your children?

**PRAY:** Thank God for those who influenced you for God when young?

Ask Him to help you be a good influence on those who come into your life.

Think of children you know. Pray for them one by one, that they would have a hunger and thirst for spiritual things and would grow to serve God with their whole hearts.



## **SATURDAY**

**READ:** 2 Chronicles 29:1-11

**THINK ABOUT:** What did Hezekiah do when he became king? Why did he do it?

Leaders have great influence on those follow them. Do you think most are godly or ungodly? Why?

What godly leaders do you know?

**PRAY:** Pray for each godly leader you know, by name, asking God to bless and use them.

Pray for each ungodly leader you know, by name, asking God to bring them to Himself.

Ask God to help you be a godly leader to those who look to you for guidance and leadership.

Ask God to fill those who will be leading the worship service tomorrow.

# DAILY DEVOTIONS

## ESTHER

Monday	Esther 1-2
Tuesday	Esther 3-4
Wednesday	Esther 5-6
Thursday	Esther 7-8
Friday	Esther 9-10

### MONDAY

**READ:** Read the article in Old Testament Articles and Esther 2:8-9, 17-18

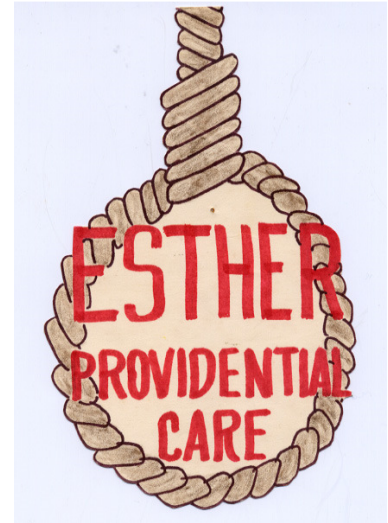
**THINK ABOUT:** Why did God have Esther chosen to be the next queen?

Did He tell her this? Why or why not?

How do you think she felt about leaving family and friends to be part of a harem, and married to a Gentile (forbidden by Jewish law)?

**PRAY:** Thank God for knowing your future even when you don't and for doing what need to be done know for His future work.

If God is doing things in your life which you don't understand or agree with, affirm your trust in Him. Tell God He can do anything He wasn't with you or your life, anything for His plan and glory.



### TUESDAY

**READ:** Esther 3:1-6

**THINK ABOUT:** How does Mordecai feel about Haman? Why?

How does Haman feel about Mordecai? Why?

Is there anyone who dislikes you because you play up to their ego?

Is there anyone you don't like because they don't play up to your ego?

**PRAY:** Ask God to forgive you for anyone you dislike, or haven't forgiven for disliking you.

Pray for those you know that think they are better than others. Ask God to gently humble them.

### WEDNESDAY

**READ:** Esther 4:12-17

**THINK ABOUT:** What does Mordecai mean when he says she is there 'for such a time as this'?

Where can you see God's timing in your life, putting you where you are at the present?



How did Esther respond? What was the worst that could happen to her?

Can you tell God you will do whatever He wants, and 'if I die I die'?

**PRAY:** Thank God for His perfect timing in your life and in the lives of those around you.

Ask Him to help you make sure you fulfill the purpose He has for you.

Recommit to follow Him, even to death.



## **THURSDAY**

**READ:** Esther 2:21-23; 6:1-3

**THINK ABOUT:** This may seem like a little things, but God doesn't forget anything and He uses everything, no matter how small, for His ultimate end. How was He using this event for good?

God doesn't always reward us right away, but there is a time coming when He will do so.

**PRAY:** Thank God that He uses even the 'little' things in your life for His plan and purpose.

Thank Him that He doesn't forget and will reward and bless you for everything you have ever done for Him.

Ask Him to make you alert today for little and big things He would have you do for Him.

## **FRIDAY**

**READ:** Esther 6:4-11

**THINK ABOUT:** God has a sense of humor. How do we that displayed in the event?

How did Haman feel? What was God trying to teach him?

How did Mordecai feel? What was God showing him?

What has God used in the past to humble you?

**PRAY:** Ask God to make sure you are and stay humble so He doesn't have to humble you.

Pray for those you know who are proud so they would be alert to ways God is trying to humble them.

## **SATURDAY**

**READ:** Esther 7:1-10

**THINK ABOUT:** In what ways do we see justice happening in this passage?

Why it is so important to us to have justice? Why does it bother us so much when we don't have justice?

What injustice in life bothers you the most? Why? How do you handle it?

**PRAY:** Thank God that He deals with you in mercy, not justice.

Thank Him that one day justice will come. Ask Him to help you be patient until then.

Pray that tomorrow's church service would be a good time of worship, fellowship and learning.



# DAILY DEVOTIONS

## EZRA

Monday	Ezra 1-2
Tuesday	Ezra 3-4
Wednesday	Ezra 5-6
Thursday	Ezra 7-8
Friday	Ezra 9-10

### MONDAY

**READ:** Read the article in Old Testament Articles and Ezra 1:1-6; 2:1-2

**THINK ABOUT:** What caused Cyrus to allow the Jews to return?

Why did God do this at this time and not before?

**PRAY:** Thank God that He controls the hearts of kings and presidents.

Ask Him to open the heart of our president to His truth and Spirit.



### TUESDAY

**READ:** Ezra 3:1-6

**THINK ABOUT:** What did the people do? Why?

They did this despite their fear – what were they afraid of? Why?

What things are you afraid of? Why?

Why is fear such a good tool of Satan against Christians?

What have you learned about overcoming fear?

**PRAY:** Confess any sin you have in your life.

Ask God to give you courage and peace to replace your fear.

Ask Him to make you alert to any time you feel fear today, and help you trust in Him instead.

### WEDNESDAY

**READ:** Ezra 4:2-5

**THINK ABOUT:** Why wouldn't the Jews let them help build the temple?

What did their enemies do to get back at them?

What do you think they might have done to discourage the Jews?

What discourages you in life? How do you respond?

**PRAY:** Ask God to forgive you of any discouragement you may be feeling and to fill you with courage and peace instead.

Pray for those you know who are discouraged. Ask God what you can do today to reach out to them to help them overcome their discouragement.

## **THURSDAY**

**READ:** Ezra 7:8-10

**THINK ABOUT:** What do these verses say about Ezra?

What did he do with God's word?

He studied the Bible, then applied it to his own life and taught it to others. How much time a week do you spend studying the Bible?

How are you doing at applying what you know about the Bible to your life?

**PRAY:** Thank God for His Word.

Ask Him to give you a deep desire to study and learn it, and then to apply it to your life.

Ask God to show you opportunities today to pass on God's truth to others.

## **FRIDAY**

**READ:** Ezra 8:21-23

**THINK ABOUT:** What did they do to assure safe passage?

Why do you think they fasted? What is the purpose of fasting?

How often do you fast? How does it affect your prayer life?

**PRAY:** Ask God to show you when and why you should fast.

Ask Him for protection for yourself and your loved ones in all you do today.

Thank Him for the privilege of prayer and the assurance of answered prayer.

## **SATURDAY**

**READ:** Ezra 9:1-4, 14

**THINK ABOUT:** What sin is dealt with in this passage?

Why do you think they got into this? Why does God consider it such a bad sin?

Why is it still a sin today when a believer marries an unbeliever?

**PRAY:** Pray for those whose marriage is struggling, especially for marriages between a believer and unbeliever.

Ask God to help things go smoothly in our worship service tomorrow so God is glorified and we grow spiritually.



# DAILY DEVOTIONS

## NEHEMIAH

Monday	Nehemiah 1-3
Tuesday	Nehemiah 4-6
Wednesday	Nehemiah 7-9
Thursday	Nehemiah 10-11
Friday	Nehemiah 12-13



### MONDAY

**READ:** Read the article in Old Testament Articles and Nehemiah 1:1-11

**THINK ABOUT:** Why is Nehemiah praying as if he committed these sins when he didn't?

Should we pray for God to forgive the sins of others? How? When?

Does the sin of others (friends, family, your country, etc.) affect you so deeply you take them to God asking for mercy?

**PRAY:** Intercede for your friends who are in sin. Intercede for your country's sins as well.

Ask God to show you how He feels about sin so you will be motivated to pray against it as well.

### TUESDAY

**READ:** Nehemiah 2:1-8

**THINK ABOUT:** Why did the king ask Nehemiah what was wrong? What did Nehemiah say?

Note how Nehemiah was ready with answers when the king asked. He had been planning ahead 'just in case.' Why is it important to plan ahead? Do you plan ahead as you should?

Nehemiah prayed for God to use someone and God then chose Nehemiah himself. Can you think of a time when God used you to answer one of your prayers?

**PRAY:** Ask God now to use you in any way He can to answer prayer.

Ask Him to make you sensitive today to any way you can be an answer to someone's prayer.

Ask God to help you plan ahead in areas where that is necessary.

### WEDNESDAY

**READ:** Nehemiah 2:11-18

**THINK ABOUT:** Why did Nehemiah do this? Why at night?

Why is it important to gather all the information possible before making a decision?

Can you think of a time when you made a decision without all the facts and it was a mistake?

What decision(s) do you have to make soon? What can you do to gather all the facts first?

**PRAY:** Ask God to help you make good decision by gathering all the facts you need.

Thank Him for helping you make good decisions in the past.

## **THURSDAY**

**READ:** Nehemiah 3:1-5

**THINK ABOUT:** Why are we told what section each person rebuilt?

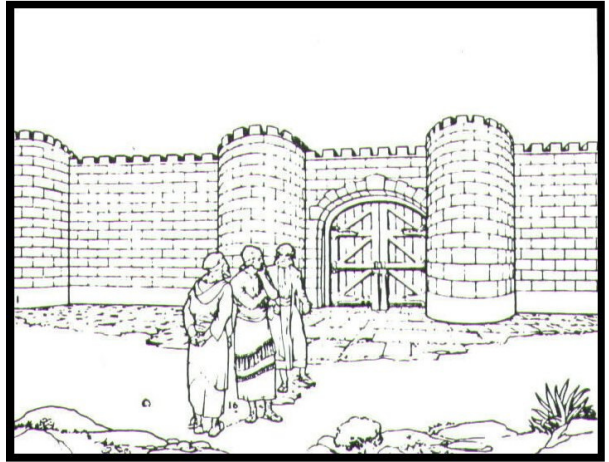
What if one person or group didn't do their job, how would that affect the security of everyone?

What happens when one person doesn't do their part in a family or church?

What part has God given you? Are you accomplishing it?

**PRAY:** Thank God for the assignment(s) He has given you.

Ask Him to help make sure you do a good job in carrying out your God-assigned tasks.



## **FRIDAY**

**READ:** Nehemiah 4:6-9

**THINK ABOUT:** What did they do to protect themselves against the enemies threat.

If they prayed to God for protection, why did they post a guard? Was that lack of faith?

If they posted a guard, why did they even need to pray?

Are you able to balance trusting God 100% while still doing your 100% best?

**PRAY:** Put your total faith in God for what you are going through. Commit it to Him in prayer.

Ask Him to show you what you should be doing to make sure you do everything you can, while still trusting in Him 100% for what happens.

## **SATURDAY**

**READ:** Nehemiah 8:1-6

**THINK ABOUT:** What did the people want Ezra to do? Why do you think they wanted that?

How much time was spent teaching God's Word?

How important is it to you to learn the Bible? What is your plan to learn more of it daily?

**PRAY:** Ask God to help you desire to learn His Word, to take time to do so and to remember and apply what you learn. Thank Him for His Word to us.

Ask God to use His Word to minister to each need of each one in church tomorrow.

# DAILY DEVOTIONS

## FINAL PROPHETS

Monday	Haggai Zechariah Malachi
Tuesday	Haggai Zechariah Malachi
Wednesday	Haggai Zechariah Malachi
Thursday	Haggai Zechariah Malachi
Friday	Haggai Zechariah Malachi

### FINAL PROPHETS



**Get It Right**

### MONDAY

**READ:** Read the article in Old Testament Articles and Haggai 1:1-6

**THINK ABOUT:** What excuse did the people have for neglecting God's house while making sure theirs were as nice as could be?

Why was God so upset about that?

In what ways today do people care for themselves before the things of God? How does He feel?

**PRAY:** Ask God to show you if you are guilty in any way of putting yourself and your needs before God and His needs.

### TUESDAY

**READ:** Haggai 2:1-5

**THINK ABOUT:** The rebuilt temple was nothing like the original in size or grandeur but it was God's presence that made it special, not the size of the building. Are you guilty of judging churches or people by the size and richness of their buildings?

What does it mean to you that God looks at your heart and not the externals you show the world?

**PRAY:** Thank God for caring about you inside, not being impressed with how you dress or live.

Ask Him to help you make sure you don't judge other people or churches by external appearances.

### WEDNESDAY

**READ:** Zechariah 1:1-6

**THINK ABOUT:** What did this generation need to learn from their forefathers? Why?

Each generation must learn for itself, none can coast on a previous one. What can you learn from your family history? Take your time and be specific, think of good as well as not so good things.

**PRAY:** Thanks God for the good principles you have learned from parents and grandparents.

Ask God to help you keep learning from your ancestors so you don't repeat their mistakes.

## **THURSDAY**

**READ:** Zechariah 8:1-8

**THINK ABOUT:** What does God say will happen to the Jews and Jerusalem one day?

What part of that promise is being fulfilled right now?

What part isn't yet fulfilled?

**PRAY:** Pray for Israel and Jerusalem, that they would turn to God for their strength and help.

Pray for individual Jews you know so they, too, would turn to Him for salvation.



## **FRIDAY**

**READ:** Malachi 3:6-12

**THINK ABOUT:** What were the Jews guilty of doing? How were they doing it?

What was so wrong with this that God is so upset?

How do people, especially Christians today, rob God? Do you?

**PRAY:** Thank God all the material blessings He has showered on you in this life.

Thank Him for the privilege He has given you in sharing it with others and with His work.

Ask Him to show you if there is any way you are robbing Him. Confess it.

## **SATURDAY**

**READ:** Malachi 4:5-6

**THINK ABOUT:** When was this prophecy fulfilled? By whom?

Why does God end the Old Testament with a curse? Wouldn't it be better ended with a blessing?

What thought does God want to leave in the minds of His people?

What if the Bible ended there and there was no New Testament, what would be different?

Having gone through the whole Old Testament, what stands out most in your mind?

What new truths have you learned that will help you be more like Jesus?

**PRAY:** Thank God for His Bible, including the Old Testament.

Pray about the truths you have learned, one by one, asking God to help you remember and apply them to your own daily life.

Pray for others who have been going through this study, that they, too, will benefit and grow from it.

Ask God to bless our final Sunday on the Old Testament in a very special way tomorrow. Pray that the music, sermon and all parts will bring glory to Him.