

The Story Devotional Plan 2023

Chapter 5: Kingdom



Welcome to Chapter 5 of “The Story”, our exciting journey through the Bible in 2023.

Below you will see 42 days of Scripture to use in your time alone w/ God AND to prep for the upcoming Sunday.

Here are some tips to get you started:

- For all of these passages, we encourage you to [SOAP](#) the text.
- For each day, we provide a statement or question to help you observe the text in order to apply it to your life.
- For an overview video of each one of the books, click the appropriate [title](#) below.
- Some days have an article hyperlinked to a particular word or phrase.

Let's *begin!*

[SAMUEL & SAUL](#)

READ

05/15: [1 Sam 1, 3](#)
05/16: [1 Sam 8](#)
05/17: [1 Sam 9](#)
05/18: [1 Sam 10](#)
05/19: [1 Sam 12](#)
05/20: [1 Sam 13](#)
05/21: [1 Sam 15](#)

REFLECT

How much communication does God desire with you? What could that look like? Pray using [2:1-10](#). Did God want Israel to have a king? Why would God grant them a king while they rejected Him? Where do you see God working in [ch9](#)? Where is He working out His specific plans for your life? What does this say re: Sam, Saul, Israel, & God? Can you have an earthly king & God be your King? Why can't empty things “profit or deliver”? Answer is in [v21](#). How could Sam sin against God? ([v23](#)) Reread [10:8](#). Have you ever tried to rush or ‘force’ God's will? ([13:12](#)). How did it work out for Saul? Partial obedience is disobedience. Where are you sort of obeying God? Pray for discernment.

[DAVID \(PART 1\)](#)

READ

05/22: [1 Sam 16](#)
05/23: [1 Sam 17](#)
05/24: [2 Sam 1](#)
05/25: [2 Sam 2:1-3:1](#)
05/26: [2 Sam 5](#)
05/27: [2 Sam 6](#)
05/28: [2 Sam 7](#)

REFLECT

If only one phrase in [v18](#) could fit on your tombstone, which one would you want to describe you? While this is an [historical event](#), who/what does [Goliath, David, & Israel](#) represent in your life today? King Saul tried to kill David, but David never fought back. What does this say about David's faith? In [2:1](#), note how precise are David's prayers. What specifics should you pray for today? In [v12](#), David knew God made him king. Why is knowing God's will vital and how can you know it? [Uzzah](#) assumed he was more righteous than dirt. Where do you need to grow in reverence for God? After hearing God's words, note David's response. How should the Bible impact how you pray?

[DAVID \(PART 2\)](#)

READ

05/29: [2 Sam 11](#)
05/30: [2 Sam 12](#)
05/31: [2 Sam 13:1-15:17](#)
06/01: [2 Sam 18:1-19:8](#)
06/02: [2 Sam 22](#)
06/03: [2 Sam 23](#)
06/04: [2 Sam 24](#)

REFLECT

How did this happen? Note who is mentioned in [v27](#), but not mentioned in the previous [26 verses](#). As bad as [ch11](#) was, how was it God's grace to send Nathan? Do you have a Nathan in your life? How do we account for the [dysfunction](#) in David's family? If you were him, how might have you led? David neglected his kids, but each day was a new day. How can you invest in those entrusted to you? Use this song (also in [Psalm 18](#)) to praise God for who He is and thank Him for what He has done. Almost an entire chapter is given to men who surrounded David. Who are your mighty men/women? See [1 Chron. 21:1](#). Why was it wrong for David to call for a [census](#) & what can we learn from this?

[A KINGDOM DIVIDED](#)

READ

06/05: [1 Kings 3](#)
06/06: [1 Kings 8](#)
06/07: [1 Kings 9:1-9](#)
06/08: [1 Kings 10](#)
06/09: [1 Kings 11](#)
06/10: [1 Kings 12](#)
06/11: [1 Kings 14](#)

REFLECT

See also [4:29-34](#). How would you have responded to [3:5](#)? How is understanding better than life or riches? Consider how many times (and why) prayer is mentioned in Solomon's prayer. What does God say He will do? What are Solomon's responsibilities? If you were this brilliant & wealthy, how difficult would it be to trust God? What a sad ending to a man's life. Read [2 Cor. 6:14-18](#). How can we avoid this kind of downfall? Rehoboam didn't like his advisers' counsel, so he chose new advisors. How open are you to input? Jeroboam hoped for healing, but he had lived in disobedience. How important is it to fear God?

[THE RISE OF THE PROPHETS](#)

READ

06/12: [1 Kings 17](#)
06/13: [1 Kings 18](#)
06/14: [1 Kings 19](#)
06/15: [1 Kings 21](#)
06/16: [1 Kings 22](#)
06/17: [2 Kings 1-2](#)
06/18: [2 Kings 4:1-6:23](#)

REFLECT

The [widow](#) provided first for Elijah & then for her family. Consider her faith & how this applies to you. See [James 5:17-18](#). Consider that [Elijah](#) was a man w/ a nature like yours. What was James' point? In pursuing Jesus, have you ever [felt alone](#)? If so, pray God will show that you are in good company. See [Mal. 4:5-6](#) & [Matt. 17:1-13](#). Consider the JTB connection & why [Elijah](#) was at the transfiguration. [Micaiah](#) had a reputation for telling the truth even when it hurts. Do you love the truth that much? Are you an [Elisha](#) to someone and an [Elijah](#) to others? If not, pray you will be both. See [6:17](#). What might be available around you, yet difficult to see? Pray that you may see.

[A FAITHFUL REMNANT](#)

READ

06/19: [Ezra 1](#)
06/20: [Ezra 3](#)
06/21: [Ezra 4](#)
06/22: [Ezra 5-6](#)
06/23: [Ezra 7](#)
06/24: [Ezra 8](#)
06/25: [Ezra 9-10](#)

REFLECT

See [Isaiah 44:28-45:6](#). Consider how our sovereign God can use anyone to accomplish His will. Why do you think they built the altar first? How does this speak to your priorities? How do (and should) you process & handle opposition? Particularly to what seems to be God's will? Where in the text do you see God doing immeasurably more? How can you pray for the same today? What did Ezra set his heart to do ([v10](#)) & why was he sent ([vv14-26](#))? What about your heart & feet? Ezra said it ([v22](#)) & he believed it ([v18](#)). Where do you see the good hand of God in your life? What things did Ezra do first ([ch9](#)). How did they respond ([ch10](#))? Where may you need repentance?