

## Personal weekly Bible readings to go deeper into Scripture.

*Memory Verse: Lamentations 3:21-23*

Day 1 – Chapter 17 of “The Story”

Day 2 – 2 Chronicles 33, 34 & 36

Day 3 – Jeremiah 1, 2, 4 & 4

Day 4 – Ezekiel 6, 7, 36 & 37

Day 5 – Lamentations 1-3

## Questions to consider while reading the Bible:

Is there an example to follow?

Is there a sin to avoid?

Is there a promise to rely on?

Is there a command to obey?

Is there a challenge in which to respond?



## *The Story: The Beginning of the End (of the Kingdom of Israel)*

*January 12-13, 2013*

*“The Story” Chapter 16; 2 Kings 17:1-6, Isaiah 49:8-9*

Please use this space to take notes during the message today.



Scan to go to  
the message blog or go to  
[www.gloriadeionline.wordpress.com](http://www.gloriadeionline.wordpress.com).

This is what the LORD says: “In the time of my favor I will answer you, and in the day of salvation I will help you; I will keep you and will make you to be a covenant for the people, to restore the land and to reassign its desolate inheritances.” Isaiah 49:8

## Adult and teen small group discussion points

Please use these discussion questions in your small group or with your teens.

1. Can you think of a time when you suffered an unjust punishment or consequence? What about a time when you deserved a consequence for your actions but were “let off the hook?” How have you seen people respond when they receive just consequences for sinful actions? How should a Christian respond to the consequences of sin and the discipline of God?
2. God allowed a foreign army to invade and defeat Israel (the Northern Kingdom). Why did God bring this judgment on his own people and what do you learn from God’s response to the behavior of Israel (2 Kings 17:1-14; “The Story,” pp. 219-220)?
3. King Sennacherib of Assyria sent his envoy to Jerusalem to persuade King Hezekiah and the people of Jerusalem to surrender peacefully, claiming he came on the LORD’s orders (p. 221). Isaiah’s message to Hezekiah said otherwise. How do you evaluate people who claim to have a word from the LORD?
4. Hezekiah of Judah was one of the few kings deemed “good” in the eyes of God (2 Kings 18-19; “The Story,” pp. 220-224). What did Hezekiah do that pleased God and how can we learn from his example? How can Hezekiah’s prayer shape the way you pray when times are tough?
5. What about the vision of God in the temple made Isaiah realize that he was a sinner? Compare Isaiah’s response with Peter in Luke 5:8 and John in Rev. 1:17. What are the implications?
6. The final and greatest hope for all of God’s people, including you and me, is the promise of the Messiah who would come to deliver us (Isaiah 52: “The Story,” pp. 228-330). What do you learn about Jesus, the promised Savior, from this prophecy?
7. God frequently reminded Israel of examples of his faithfulness, such as their deliverance from Egypt. What past experiences have you had that remind you of God’s faithfulness (See Rom. 8:31)?
8. When Jerusalem was surrounded by the Assyrian army and the situation looked hopeless, Hezekiah prayed and things changed. What are you facing today that seems too big, overwhelming, or even hopeless and how can your group members join you in prayer?

Close in prayer.



## Family’s with kids discussion points

Please use these discussion questions with your children.

Key verse: When it is time to save you, I will help you. I will keep you safe. — Isaiah 49:8

Israel and Judah followed other gods and ignored the one true God. The sins of the people of Israel caused God to allow them to be taken to Assyria. The prophet Isaiah warned the people of Judah about what would happen if they continued their bad decisions. He told the people the truth, even though the truth was difficult. Have you ever told the truth, even though it was hard?

**Family Activity:** God gave Isaiah great insight to write about the future and the coming of Jesus the Messiah. Test your ability to predict the future by playing this game as a family. All you need is a coin. Have family members pair up. If there’s an odd number of people the person who sits out automatically wins and advances to the next round. Have one person flip and the other person call “heads” or “tails.” The winner is the one who guesses the best three-out-of-five flips correctly. Continue playing until there is one grand champion. When you’re finished, read this: *The book of Isaiah is filled with prophecies about Jesus. Isaiah 7:14 says Jesus will be born of a virgin. Isaiah 35:5–6 says when Jesus comes the blind will see and the deaf will hear. Isaiah 53:12 says Jesus will die with criminals.*

There are more than ten different prophecies recorded in Isaiah. The chances of guessing a flipped coin correctly are 50 percent. That means you have a 1 in 2 chance of being right. Mathematician Peter Stoner figured out the chances of one man in all of history fulfilling just eight prophecies. The probability is 1 in  $10^{17}$ , or a 1 with 17 zeros behind it. Stoner wrote that if you took 100,000,000,000,000,000 silver dollars and put them in Texas, it would cover the state two feet deep. “Now mark one of these silver dollars and stir the whole mass thoroughly,” Stoner says. “Blindfold a man and tell him that he can travel as far as he wishes, but he must pick up one silver dollar and say that this is the right one. What chance would he have of getting the right one? Just the same chance that the prophets would have had of writing eight prophecies and having them all come true in any one man.”

Jesus is truly amazing. He didn’t fulfill just eight prophecies written hundreds of years before his birth—he fulfilled nearly 50! That’s an awesome God. It didn’t happen by chance. It was all part of God’s plan.

**Pray together:** Dear God, you are awesome God! The Story, his Story is an amazing account of your love for your people. You loved them and took care of them even when they disobeyed you. You did this time after time with the people of the Bible, and you do it time after time with me. Thank you for loving me enough to send your Son to be my Savior. Help me to follow you and to make decisions that are pleasing to you. Amen.

