

Personal weekly Bible readings to go deeper into Scripture.

Memory Verse: Daniel 3:17-18

Day 1 – Chapter 18 of “The Story”

Day 2 – Daniel 1-3

Day 3 – Daniel 6

Day 4 – Jeremiah 29

Day 5 – Jeremiah 30-31

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 Kingdoms' Fall

January 19-20

“The Story” Chapter 17; 2 Kings 24:8-14

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



He carried all Jerusalem into exile: all the officers and fighting men, and all the skilled workers and artisans—a total of ten thousand. Only the poorest people of the land were left. 2 Kings 24:14

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Adult and teen small group discussion points

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

1. What is the most memorable destruction or disaster that you have seen firsthand?
2. Who is most culpable for the sins of Judah—the people or their king? How can believers today avoid being led astray?
3. For hundreds of years God waited patiently, warned his people, and gave them chance after chance. Why was God so patient with the people of Israel when they were so rebellious and sinful? How have you experienced God's great patience in your life?
4. In the prophet Ezekiel's amazing and powerful vision from God (Ezekiel 1, 2, 6; "The Story," pp. 235-237), what do we learn about the following: The condition of the people's hearts (the nation of Judah), the reason for the coming judgment; what lies ahead for Judah and Jerusalem?
5. During the exile, God gave Ezekiel the mission of sharing his Word with the Jews living in a foreign land. How does the Christian mission today resemble this situation?
6. Once Jerusalem had fallen and the Babylonians had utterly destroyed the nation of Judah, Jeremiah recorded what he saw and felt (Lamentations 1-5; "The Story," pp. 243-245). What did he write that seemed to have a sense of hope, like God's plan could still be accomplished?
7. After the fall of Jerusalem, Jeremiah grieved for his beloved city (p. 201-203). What did Jeremiah believe about the upper story of God? What specifically can we apply to our own lives from Jeremiah's lament and praise?
8. When God called Jeremiah to serve him, he assured him that his plan had been in place since Jeremiah was in his mother's womb. In the New Testament we learn that God has plan for each of us who follow him. How has God gifted and called you to serve him and how are you following this call? How can your group members pray for you and cheer you on as you seek to follow God with greater faithfulness and passion?
9. Respond to this statement: "In God's employment contract he does not ask us to be successful (by the world's standards) but faithful. Success is based on faithfulness to God...not the results!" What is one way you can be more faithful to God in the coming weeks? How can your group members encourage you in this effort?



Close in prayer.

Family's with kids discussion points

Please use these discussion questions with your children.

Memory Verse: I say to myself, "The Lord is everything I will ever need. So I will put my hope in him."—Lamentations 3:24

1. Have you ever done something that you were told not to? What happened?
2. God told the people in Judah and Israel many times to not worship idols. He sent prophets who warned them about what would happen. So, the people turned from their wicked ways and worshiped God, right? Wrong! What did the people really do?
3. Do you like it when your parents warn you about your behavior?
4. Do you usually change your behavior before you get in trouble?
5. God's people got in big trouble. Do you think that was fair?
6. We've all heard the saying, "Like father, like son." What are some ways that you're like your parents? (Parents, share about similarities with their parents. Be sure to talk about some positive attributes and some negative.)
7. In this chapter of "The Story," it is like the kings tried to be the opposite of their parents. It was "like father, not like son." It was good king, bad king, good king. . . . Why do you think that happened?
8. Are there any things you're doing to be set apart from your parents?
9. Why do some people work hard at not following the positive character qualities of their parents?
10. How can you work to embrace the good and reject the bad from the role models in your life?

Pray together: Dear God, thank you so much for sending Jesus as our Savior. Even though we continue to mess things up, you still love us with an amazing love. Help us as we struggle with sin. Forgive us when we give in to temptation, and remind us that your love never fades. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

