

# **D-GROUP BIBLE READING PLAN**

Spring 2024



## SESSION SNAPSHOT

A SUREFIRE WAY TO WRECK YOUR LIFE

### NARRATIVE PASSAGE:

Judges 16:21-31

### GOSPEL FOCUS:

Hebrews 11:33-34

### TAKEAWAYS:

- God will accomplish His plans in spite of our sin
- We should depend on others to keep us accountable

### LAST WEEK'S READING:

- Judges 6-7
- Judges 13-14
- Judges 15-16
- Ruth 1-2
- Ruth 3-4

## STUDY THE WORD

***When you were growing up, did you feel like your parents put any expectations on you? How did that affect you?***

***Do you think that being born for a specific purpose (like how Samson was born to save Israel from the Philistines) would be easy or hard to deal with?***

***How do you think Samson's actions here demonstrated disrespect toward his vow? Toward his parents?***

***Why do you think that respect, especially for your parents, is so important to God? What does this kind of respect look like?***

***Why is it important to pay attention to the kind of company you keep?***

***When is a time you've been influenced by those around you--either for better or for worse?***

***How has the Lord used people around you to bring you closer to Him?***

***Samson was given amazing tools to accomplish great things for God's glory, regardless of whether he did that or not. What tools have you been given, and how can use them for God's glory?***

## APPLY THE WORD

Even though Samson decided to discard it, God eventually did accomplish what He said He would through Samson--but not before Samson suffered heavily and, eventually, died. Fortunately for us, it is never too late to evaluate what path we are on, where we are headed, and what we can do to use what we have for God's glory.

***Take a look at your friends. What are they like? Are they pursuing God or are they pursuing something else?***

***Take a look at your actions. If you keep doing what you're doing, where do you think you'll end up?***

***Take a look at the gifts God has given you. How are you using them to bring glory to God?***

## PREPARE FOR NEXT WEEK

***Next Week's Reading:***

- ***1 Samuel 1-2***
- ***1 Samuel 3; 8***
- ***1 Samuel 9-10***
- ***1 Samuel 13-14***
- ***1 Samuel 15-16***





## SESSION SNAPSHOT

HOW TO RESPOND WHEN GOD CALLS

### NARRATIVE PASSAGE:

1 Samuel 3:1-21

### GOSPEL FOCUS:

James 1:22

### TAKEAWAYS:

- When God calls, our first response should be to obey immediately
- God is not as interested in your capability as your availability

### LAST WEEK'S READING:

- 1 Samuel 1-2
- 1 Samuel 3; 8
- 1 Samuel 9-10
- 1 Samuel 13-14
- 1 Samuel 15-16

## STUDY THE WORD

***What is something about you that you think is probably unique among the people in the room?***

***Why didn't Samuel know that it was the Lord calling to him at first?***

***How can we identify the Lord's voice today?***

***What was special about the way that Samuel responded to the Lord?***

***How can we adopt the same attitude today?***

***Has there ever been a time in your life when it felt like God was speaking to you constantly?***

***Has there ever been a period that felt like spiritual famine (like at the beginning of 1 Samuel 3)?***

***What were those times like? What was going on in your life during those periods?***

***God made Himself known through repetition and consistency. What are some habits we can create in our lives to create environments to hear Him speak to us?***

***What are some things that you find get in the way of a consistent walk with God?***

***With your group, read through the steps of a HEAR journal and discuss why you think it will help you have a quiet time with the Lord.***

***Highlight*** the passage you are focusing on by writing it down.

***Explain*** what is going on in the passage by providing a summary.

***Apply*** what the passage is saying to you, specifically.

***Respond*** to God's message with a prayer or a specific action you can carry out.

## APPLY THE WORD

Spending time with the Lord is something that won't happen unless you make a plan for it to happen, but it is also the smallest thing you can do to make the biggest difference in your spiritual life.

Once you begin hearing regularly from God, you will find that the desire for more of Him will continue growing, and will overflow and affect every area of your life.

***Make a plan to practice journaling through God's Word at least a few days this week.***

***How do you hope this affects the way you hear from God?***

## PREPARE FOR NEXT WEEK

***Next Week's Reading:***

- ***1 Samuel 17-18***
- ***1 Samuel 19-20***
- ***1 Samuel 21-22***
- ***Psalm 22; 1 Samuel 24-25:1***
- ***1 Samuel 28; 31***





## SESSION SNAPSHOT

BELIEVING IN THE ONE WHO SLAYS GIANTS

### NARRATIVE PASSAGE:

1 Samuel 17:38-51

### GOSPEL FOCUS:

Luke 9:23

### TAKEAWAYS:

- Prepare in private so you're ready in public
- Your identity is in Christ

### LAST WEEK'S READING:

- 1 Samuel 17-18
- 1 Samuel 19-20
- 1 Samuel 21-22
- Psalm 22; 1 Samuel 24-25:1
- 1 Samuel 28; 31



## STUDY THE WORD

***Have you ever trained for something or honed a skill and then gotten to use it? Tell us about it.***

***Is there anything you're preparing for now that you might not need until sometime later?***

***What about David's life had prepared him to face Goliath?***

***Why do you think it was important for him to remember the times the Lord had protected him in the past? When has it helped you to do the same thing?***

***When a large, seemingly impossible obstacle showed up in Israel's path, the first thing they did was tremble. But the first thing David did was step up. When have you encountered an obstacle that seemed impossible to overcome?***

***What do you think David's ultimate goal was when fighting Goliath? What makes you say that?***

***What do you think it looks like to accomplish something with the Lord's strength instead of your own? When have you experienced that in your own life?***

***What are things you can do today that will make "the whole world know" that we have a victorious God?***

***What do you think gets in the way of our focus on the Lord?***

***When do you feel the most easily distracted? What are some of the things that distract you most easily?***

***What is a step you can take today to prepare yourself in private for a spiritual battle that will come your way in the future?***

***Read Luke 9:23. How does this relate to the account we read today of David and Goliath?***

***What can we do to die to self every day? Why do you think this is so important if we want to follow Jesus?***

## APPLY THE WORD

In order to put Goliath to death in our own lives--the spirit that rebels against God and seeks, instead, to glorify ourselves--we need to live like David did. We must focus. We must prepare. We must seek out and destroy that which lives in contradiction to the Lord. And we can only do that with the Lord's help.

***Where does my mind go when it begins to wander?***

***What areas of my life are ones that I need to surrender to the Lord if I want to follow Him?***

***How can I glorify God in both my public and private life?***

## PREPARE FOR NEXT WEEK

***Next Week's Reading:***

- ***2 Samuel 1; 2:1-7***
- ***2 Samuel 3:1; 5; Psalm 23***
- ***2 Samuel 6-7***
- ***Psalm 18; 2 Samuel 9***
- ***2 Samuel 11-12***



## SESSION SNAPSHOT

GOOD WILL HUNTING

### NARRATIVE PASSAGE:

2 Samuel 9:1-13

### GOSPEL FOCUS:

1 Peter 4:10

### TAKEAWAYS:

- Receive grace from God
- Extend grace to others

### LAST WEEK'S READING:

- 2 Samuel 1; 2:1-7
- 2 Samuel 3:1; 5; Psalm 23
- 2 Samuel 6-7
- Psalm 18; 2 Samuel 9
- 2 Samuel 11-12



## STUDY THE WORD

***When have you dreaded something coming up?***

***How did it make you feel to wait for it to get closer? What could you do to prepare for it?***

***What is so remarkable about David's attitude in these verses?***

***Have you ever known someone who went out of their way to find someone to show kindness to? Has anyone ever done this to you?***

***How do you think receiving this kind of kindness would make someone feel about God?***

***Why did David say that he showed Mephibosheth kindness?***

***Do you think Mephibosheth deserved the kindness? Why or why not?***

***Generally speaking, what do you think makes someone "deserving" of kindness?***

***How do you see a picture of the grace and kindness of God in these verses?***

***What does God's grace look like?***

***How did Mephibosheth respond to David's grace?***

***How did the grace David showed Mephibosheth spill over to the rest of the people who also lived with and around him?***

***Briefly explain how God has shown you grace.***

***How can we express our gratitude for the grace God has shown us?***

***Has anyone ever shown you "the kindness of God" the way David showed it to Mephibosheth?***

## APPLY THE WORD

Once we see how God has shown us grace, or given us a gift that we certainly don't deserve, it is only natural to let that spill over to the people around us. It changes our demeanor. It re-aligns our priorities. A life lived in the freedom of Christ will be readily apparent to anybody looking on, and will be a life marked by joy and generosity--especially generosity when it comes to kindness.

***Who is someone I can go out of my way to show "the kindness of God" to this week?***

***How can I pattern my life to show this kind of kindness more regularly?***

## PREPARE FOR NEXT WEEK

***Next Week's Reading:***

- ***Psalm 51***
- ***2 Samuel 24; Psalm 24***
- ***Psalm 1; 19***
- ***Psalm 103; 119:1-48***
- ***Psalm 119:49-128***



THE  
WORD

## SESSION SNAPSHOT

AN UNCHANGING WORD IN A CHANGING WORLD

### NARRATIVE PASSAGE:

Psalm 1:1-6

### GOSPEL FOCUS:

Romans 7:21-24

### TAKEAWAYS:

- Success for a Christian lies in your obedience
- Our obedience looks like reading the Word, listening to Jesus, and following Him

### LAST WEEK'S READING:

- Psalm 51
- 2 Samuel 24; Psalm 24
- Psalm 1; 19
- Psalm 103; 119:1-48
- Psalm 119:49-128



## STUDY THE WORD

***When would you say was the happiest time in your life?***

***The Psalmist says that the godly will be “happy” or “blessed.” What do you think it means to be “blessed”?***

***How does the world promise to make us happy?***

***What should a believer consider to be a happy life?***

***The Psalmist writes that whatever the righteous person does will prosper. Does that mean that believers are always going to be successful? Why or why not?***

***For the believer, what do you think true prosperity looks like?***

***How does the Psalmist contrast the two types of people in this chapter?***

***How do our surroundings (the things and people we surround ourselves with) give us a clue about which of these people we are?***

***What do you think that your surroundings, in particular, say about you?***

***Verse 1 talks about “delight.” What are some of the things that delight you?***

***How can we learn to delight ourselves in God’s Word?***

***How do you think delighting yourself in God’s Word will affect the way you think, act, and speak?***

***How have you seen the struggle Paul communicated in this verse in your own life?***

***How does Psalm 1 address it, even if it is just indirectly?***

## APPLY THE WORD

We are never going to get to the point where we perfectly obey everything that God has commanded. We are incapable of it. But that's okay--Psalm 1 is not about perfect adherence to a list of commands, but rather delighting ourselves in the things of God. We'll all feel like Paul did in Romans 7.

But the first step toward fighting this fight is to understand where we are planted, to address what we delight in, and to discern where it is we get our sense of what we should and shouldn't do. Is it going to be a somewhat fickle worldly standard or is it going to be the unchanging Word of God?

***In what area of your life are you most prone to giving in to wicked counsel?***

***What step do you need to take in order to address where you are planted?***

## PREPARE FOR NEXT WEEK

***Next Week's Reading:***

- ***Psalm 119:129-176; 139***
- ***Psalm 148-150***
- ***1 Kings 2***
- ***1 Kings 3; 6***
- ***1 Kings 8; 9:1-9***



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## SESSION SNAPSHOT

HOW TO BE THE WISEST MAN IN THE WORLD

### NARRATIVE PASSAGE:

1 Kings 3:1-15

### GOSPEL FOCUS:

James 1:5

### TAKEAWAYS:

- A wise person is a praying person
- A praying person depends on the Lord for everything

### LAST WEEK'S READING:

- Psalm 119:129-176; 139
- Psalm 148-150
- 1 Kings 2
- 1 Kings 3; 6
- 1 Kings 8; 9:1-9



## STUDY THE WORD

***If you got three wishes right now, what do you think you would use them for?***

***We see here that Solomon had a pattern of faith that he watched in his father. What kind of faith--if any--did you grow up learning from your parents?***

***How have you seen actions, whether positive or negative, pass from generation to generation?***

***Who taught you how to pray? How have you seen the way you pray change throughout your life?***

***When Solomon had a chance to get anything he asked for, he prayed for an obedient heart and godly discernment. What kinds of things do you pray for?***

***Solomon learned faithfulness, righteousness, and integrity from watching his father. Do you find yourself doing anything the way your parents did it? What is it?***

***What is something you hope you'd be able to pass on to someone after you?***

***What does "discernment" mean to you?***

***Why do you think Solomon desired discernment?***

***How does discernment benefit the people around you?***

## APPLY THE WORD

Whether you had a legacy of faith to follow or if you are beginning one yourself, we can all start from the place where Solomon did: by asking God to grant us discernment.

***Ask God to grant His discernment to you.***

***Ask God to reveal blind spots and darkness in your heart.***

***Ask God to begin making you into the type of person who practices the things you want to pass to someone after you.***

## PREPARE FOR NEXT WEEK

***Next Week's Reading:***

- ***Proverbs 1-2***
- ***Proverbs 3-4***
- ***Proverbs 16-18***
- ***Proverbs 31***
- ***1 Kings 11-12***



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## SESSION SNAPSHOT

WALKING ON THE PATH OF PROSPERITY

### NARRATIVE PASSAGE:

Proverbs 3:1-12

### GOSPEL FOCUS:

Hebrews 13:8

### TAKEAWAYS:

- The real path to prosperity is paved through the practice of giving
- God is worthy to be trusted with our possessions

### LAST WEEK'S READING:

- Proverbs 1-2
- Proverbs 3-4
- Proverbs 16-18
- Proverbs 31
- 1 Kings 11-12



## STUDY THE WORD

***Who is the person in your life you trust the most? Why do you trust them?***

***Why do you think Scripture tells us so often to remember the things that God has said and done?***

***When do you find yourself most likely to forget how you've experienced God in your life before?***

***What does it look like to put your trust in somebody?***

***Why is it so tempting to be impressed with our own wisdom (v.5, 7) instead of leaning on the Lord's?***

***What does it really look like to trust God? How can you know whether you're actually trusting Him or trusting in yourself?***

***What does it look like to honor God with your possessions? How does that affect what you buy and what you want?***

***What outcome does this section tell us comes from honoring God with our possessions and wealth? Have you found that to be true?***

***Refer to verses 11 and 12. What do you think of when you read about "the Lord's discipline"?***

***Share a story about a time you were corrected and how you responded to it, whether good or bad.***

***What should our reaction be to being told, in a godly way, that we are out of line?***

***Would you consider your life abundant and prosperous? Why or why not?***

***How do you define an abundant and prosperous life?***

***What do you need to do to get to that point?***

## APPLY THE WORD

Our entire being is involved in this biblical case study of trusting the Lord. Our minds, our bodies, and even our possessions are absolutely included in this kind of trust: we trust God to direct our minds and our decisionmaking; we trust God to direct the steps we take; we trust God to provide for us as we honor Him with the things He's given us.

***Are any of your "ways" not devoted to the Lord? How can you take steps to change that this week?***

***Do you honor the Lord with the things that you have? What is one thing you can do with something you have this week in order to honor Him with it?***

## PREPARE FOR NEXT WEEK

***Next Week's Reading:***

- ***1 Kings 16:29-34; 17***
- ***1 Kings 18-19***
- ***1 Kings 21-22***
- ***2 Kings 2***
- ***2 Kings 5; 6:1-23***



THE  
WORD

## SESSION SNAPSHOT

ARE YOU A FENCE WALKER OR FIRE CALLER?

### NARRATIVE PASSAGE:

1 Kings 18:20-39

### GOSPEL FOCUS:

Matthew 6:24

### TAKEAWAYS:

- Choose which side you will serve
- We need unity in our community of faith

### LAST WEEK'S READING:

- 1 Kings 16:29-34; 17
- 1 Kings 18-19
- 1 Kings 21-22
- 2 Kings 2
- 2 Kings 5; 6:1-23



## STUDY THE WORD

***What tends to be the most difficult decision of your day?***

***Look at verse 21 again. Where do we see this kind of choice in our lives today?***

***Do you think it is true that you can either follow God or follow something else--but you can't do both? Why do you think so?***

***When does something in our lives become a "baal," or a false god?***

***Why is it impossible to serve two masters?***

***What are ways that the world or your culture promises to fulfill you?***

***How do those things end up being ultimately unfulfilling?***

***What differences do you see between how Elijah conducted himself and how the prophets of Baal did?***

***How have you seen the Lord prove that He is endlessly more powerful than anything the world can offer us?***

***What do you think it looks like to live a life devoted to this God?***

***What was the people's response to what happened after Elijah prayed?***

***How do you think believers' lives could inspire a similar response?***

## APPLY THE WORD

Just like with Elijah's contest on Mount Carmel, there are people watching us as we tackle the question Elijah posed at the beginning: "Which God will you serve?" It may even be that they've never seen somebody sold out and wholly devoted to the Lord. You might be the first and only example of that they've ever seen.

***If the people in your life were polled based on how you live, whom would they say you serve?***

***Are your actions and attitudes those of someone dedicated to serving the Lord or are they those of someone who, like the prophets, wavers between opinions?***

## PREPARE FOR NEXT WEEK

***Next Week's Reading:***

- ***Jonah 1-2***
- ***Jonah 3-4***
- ***Hosea 1-3***
- ***Amos 1:1; 9***
- ***Joel 1-3***



THE  
WORD

## SESSION SNAPSHOT

SECOND CHANCE MINISTRY

### NARRATIVE PASSAGE:

Jonah 1-4

### GOSPEL FOCUS:

Matthew 12:28-31

### TAKEAWAYS:

- Simple obedience is better than great intentions
- Make the most of second chances

### LAST WEEK'S READING:

- Jonah 1-2
- Jonah 3-4
- Hosea 1-3
- Amos 1:1; 9
- Joel 1-3



## STUDY THE WORD

***When is a time that putting something off came back to bite you?***

***What is Jonah's motivation for running from the Lord?***

***Do you sympathize with his reasoning? Why or why not?***

***Jonah had his own ideas about justice, and didn't think the people of Ninevah deserved it. Have you ever seen this mentality before?***

***Why is it encouraging to you that, even though Ninevah had a bad reputation, God was still intentional about seeking them out?***

***What about this prayer makes Jonah's repentance feel real?***

***What does true repentance look like?***

***When is a time you have experienced--or seen--true repentance?***

***Do you think that Ninevah's repentance was real? Why or why not?***

***Salvation comes through putting as much faith as you have in as much of Jesus as you know. Why is it encouraging to know that God's salvation isn't based on how much we know of Him, but only in His power?***

***The Gospel came to us because it was headed to someone else. How does Jonah's story affect the way you see your neighbors?***

***How can we as believers be more effective Gospel-bearers to the people around us?***

## APPLY THE WORD

Jonah's message from God was intended for someone who wasn't him; it was just his task to deliver it. Likewise, we've been given a similar charge by Jesus: to make disciples of all nations. We've been entrusted with a Gospel that was intended to be passed from us to someone else.

***Take stock of your attitudes. Are they you-centered or God-centered?***

***Consider your thoughts about the people around you. Are you harboring grudges or prejudices? Do you see people as enemies or as people in need of the Gospel?***

## PREPARE FOR NEXT WEEK

***Next Week's Reading:***

- ***Isaiah 6; 9***
- ***Isaiah 44-45***
- ***Isaiah 52-53***
- ***Isaiah 65-66***



## SESSION SNAPSHOT

A DIVINE ENCOUNTER

### NARRATIVE PASSAGE:

Isaiah 6:1-13

### GOSPEL FOCUS:

Matthew 13:11-15

### TAKEAWAYS:

- Worship is the posture of the heart, not just the praise of your lips
- When was the last time you marveled over Jesus?

### LAST WEEK'S READING:

- Isaiah 6; 9
- Isaiah 44-45
- Isaiah 52-53
- Isaiah 65-66
- Micah 1; 4:6-13; 5



## STUDY THE WORD

***In your opinion, what does it mean to worship?***

***When have you experienced worship the most strongly before?***

***Most people don't have experiences like the one that Isaiah is describing. But this isn't the only kind of experience with God that someone can have. Tell about a time you feel you experienced the presence of the Lord.***

***What kinds of things were you feeling in that moment?***

***How do moments like that affect the way you see God? The way you see yourself?***

***What stuck out to you about Isaiah's response to seeing the Lord's throne room?***

***How do you think we should approach His throne today? What are some practical ways we can do that?***

***How does the 1 Corinthians passage help illustrate what Isaiah's task was going to be like?***

***How is our mission similar to this?***

***How can the Word of God be "life" to some and "death" to others?***

***When you've shared the Word of God, how has it been received?***

***Look back at Isaiah's "undoing" in verse 5. What was the outcome of that?***

***Share about a time when you, like Isaiah, came to the end of yourself to completely surrender to the Lord.***

## APPLY THE WORD

The moment Isaiah encountered the Lord, his “yes” was on the table. He didn’t know what he was signing up for, he didn’t know what kind of outcome it would produce, he didn’t even know if he’d be successful in whatever it was. All he knew is that he was there, and he would go.

Do you have a similar attitude?

***Is your “yes” on the table like Isaiah’s was? How does that affect how you’ll live tomorrow?***

***Pray about a specific person in your life who needs to know Jesus. Pray for a divine appointment with that person this week.***

## PREPARE FOR NEXT WEEK

***Next Week’s Reading:***

- ***2 Kings 17-18***
- ***2 Kings 19-21***
- ***2 Kings 22-23***
- ***Jeremiah 1-3:5***
- ***Jeremiah 25; 29***



## SESSION SNAPSHOT

WHAT QUENCHES YOUR THIRST?

### NARRATIVE PASSAGE:

Jeremiah 2:1-19

### GOSPEL FOCUS:

John 4:4-26

### TAKEAWAYS:

- Stop drinking from the cracked cisterns of the world
- Live a life that creates thirst for God's Word in others

### LAST WEEK'S READING:

- 2 Kings 17-18
- 2 Kings 19-21
- 2 Kings 22-23
- Jeremiah 1-3:5
- Jeremiah 25; 29



## STUDY THE WORD

***What is the story behind the longest time you've gone without sleep?***

***How does thinking about God with imagery help us understand Him?***

***What is a metaphor either that you've seen in this passage or heard somewhere else that resonates with you the most? Why?***

***If you had to describe your relationship with God with an image or a metaphor, what would it be?***

***How do you think God would describe His relationship with you?***

***Why does the image of the cracked cistern feel so poignant even today?***

***What are some examples of cracked cisterns that the world offers us?***

***How is what Jesus offers different?***

***Verse 19 says that Israel's own evil would discipline her. What do you think that means?***

***How have you seen someone's own sin be punishment enough before?***

***God remains faithful even though we so often are not. How have you experienced God's patience with you in the past?***

***Tell about a time when you had to repent and turn back to the Lord. What prompted you to do that?***

## APPLY THE WORD

Jeremiah's message was one directed toward a people who were prone to wander from the Lord. Though we are not his initial audience, the same can be said of us a lot of the time. It doesn't take any special training to know how to wander from the Lord; we do it all the time.

When we start turning to things that will not ultimately fulfill us, we end up looking a lot like Israel in today's passage. The only way to combat this outcome is to acknowledge when we are wandering and turn around so that we can again start walking with Jesus.

***How are you prone to wander from the Lord?***

***What steps can you take to continually turn from that and focus on Him?***

## PREPARE FOR NEXT WEEK

***Next Week's Reading:***

- ***Jeremiah 31:31-40; 32-33***
- ***Jeremiah 52; 2 Kings 24-25***
- ***Ezekiel 1:1-3; 36:16-38; 37***
- ***Daniel 1-2***
- ***Daniel 3-4***



## SESSION SNAPSHOT

CONVICTION UNDER FIRE

### NARRATIVE PASSAGE:

Daniel 3:3-18

### GOSPEL FOCUS:

James 2:1-2

### TAKEAWAYS:

- Your faith will be tested
- Take time to develop Godly convictions

### LAST WEEK'S READING:

- Jeremiah 31:31-40; 32-33
- Jeremiah 52; 2 Kings 24-25
- Ezekiel 1:1-3; 36:16-38; 37
- Daniel 1-2
- Daniel 3-4



## STUDY THE WORD

***Who would you say you looked up to most while you were growing up?***

***What was it about them that you wanted to emulate?***

***Bowing before a statue probably isn't much of a temptation these days. What do you think a modern-day equivalent to this account might be?***

***When have you found it most difficult to be faithful to the Lord?***

***When is a time you've felt pressured to compromise on something you believed?***

***How did it feel, and how did you respond?***

***What are some of the things that we "bow to" that aren't God?***

***The enemy, like Nebuchadnezzar did, tends to give us second chances to give in to temptation. What can we do to guard against that?***

***Have you ever seen victory over persistent temptation? Can you tell us about it?***

***What sticks out to you most about their response in verses 16-18?***

***How do you think "even if He doesn't" in verse 18 relates to what faith is?***

***James 1:2 tells us to consider it joy when we face trials. How does this verse affect the way you see difficulties that come before you?***

***The best time to prepare for a fight is before it, not in the middle of it. What are steps that you, personally, can take to make sure you're ready when the trials come your way?***

***How has God seen you through a difficult situation in the past?***

## APPLY THE WORD

Learning how to take a stand like Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego did in the face of death is a process, but it is one we can begin now. We already know that things that will test our faith will come our way, so now is the best time to prepare for it.

If you don't know where to start, you could begin by simply reading Scripture on a daily basis. You can set aside five minutes to pray. Everybody has ways that they can constantly grow in spiritual discipline, becoming more prepared for the trials that will be here before we know it.

***What is one step you can take to improve your spiritual discipline?***

***What plan can you put in place now to make progress on that this week?***

## PREPARE FOR NEXT WEEK

***Next Week's Reading:***

- ***Daniel 5-6***
- ***Daniel 9-10***
- ***Ezra 1-2***
- ***Ezra 3-4***
- ***Ezra 5-6***



## SESSION SNAPSHOT

THE ROUTINE THAT WILL CHANGE YOUR LIFE

### NARRATIVE PASSAGE:

Daniel 6:10-24

### GOSPEL FOCUS:

Mark 1:35

### TAKEAWAYS:

- Develop a routine to meet regularly with God
- The rhythms that we establish early will be easier to continue as we practice them.

### LAST WEEK'S READING:

- Daniel 5-6
- Daniel 9-10; 12
- Ezra 1-2
- Ezra 3-4
- Ezra 5-6



## STUDY THE WORD

***Which do you prefer—routine or flexibility? Why?***

***Do you have any patterns, rhythms, or routines in your day that you feel lost without?***

***Have you ever known someone with an “extraordinary spirit”?***

***What kinds of qualities did they have?***

***What was it like being around them?***

***Why do you think Daniel's attitude made him a target for people who were jealous of him?***

***What kind of reaction do people still have toward people who live according to God's commands?***

***Why do you think living a godly life is offensive to some people?***

***Daniel had a specific rhythm that helped him get alone with God. What are some practices and rhythms that help you create space to enjoy God's company?***

***How did Daniel's pattern of life prepare him for what was to come?***

***Have you ever encountered a challenge that you felt prepared for before it arrived?***

***What are some things that hinder us from preparing for obstacles beforehand--whether they are spiritual obstacles, life circumstances, or physical ones?***

***What are some tips you have for building a more disciplined life, whether it is financially, physically, or spiritually?***

***How do you think that being spiritually disciplined will affect the other areas of your life?***

## APPLY THE WORD

Starting to be spiritually disciplined might feel like a big step for you, but that's okay. You don't have to have everything together right away. You can start small: waking up five minutes before you need to and spending time in silence with the Lord. Maybe you need to work on a routine for reading or memorizing Scripture. Whatever place you feel like you can start, even if it is small, is probably the most perfect place for you.

***Think about your own schedule every day. Where do you have some time you can spend getting alone with the Lord?***

***What positive effects do you think this one change will have in your day-to-day life?***

## PREPARE FOR NEXT WEEK

***Next Week's Reading:***

- ***Zechariah 1:1-6; 2; 12***
- ***Ezra 7-8***
- ***Ezra 9-10***
- ***Esther 1-2***
- ***Esther 3-4***

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