



WALK THRU THE BIBLE DeeperWalk

Small Group Discussion Guide for *Daily Walk*

Going Deeper with *Daily Walk*

Deeper Walk is a companion discussion guide that goes with the *Daily Walk* devotional magazine. *Deeper Walk* can be used with *Daily Walk* as a teaching or discussion tool for small groups, and can even be used as a personal devotional guide. The following questions will help you go deeper into a portion of each week's readings, whether individually or in a group.

April 2023

First Kings begins by tracing the life of Solomon and Israel's rise to prominence and ends by outlining Solomon's divided heart and Israel's division into two kingdoms. Second Kings follows Israel's and Judah's decline, capture, and deportation into captivity. Chronicles was written to give the returned remnant a divine perspective on the developments of their past and the importance of the temple. First Chronicles is a spiritual editorial on the reign of David especially as it pertains to preparations for the construction of the temple. Second Chronicles focuses our attention on the building and consecration of the temple as well as the reigns of Judah's temple-restoring kings.

WEEK 1: APRIL 1-6 | 1 KINGS 1 – 19

The nation of Israel rose to the peak of her size and glory under Solomon's leadership. Solomon's greatest accomplishments, including the unsurpassed splendor of the temple, which he constructs in Jerusalem, brought him great fame and respect. Solomon's heart for God diminished and eventually resulted in a divided kingdom. These two kingdoms grew indifferent to God's prophets and laws, thereby setting the stage for the coming exile.

In your readings this week, what was something new that you learned or something that stood out to you?

Focus on 1 Kings 9:4-9; 11:6-11

1. What did God promise Solomon if he walked in faithful obedience to Him and His law? What did God warn would happen if he didn't?
2. According to Deuteronomy 7:1-4, why did God tell the Israelites (including Solomon) not to marry women from the nations He listed?
3. How did Solomon violate the Lord's warnings concerning marriage? What were the consequences?
4. Can you think of a time when you intentionally violated biblical teaching and chose to go your own way? What was your rationale at the time for ignoring God's warnings?
5. Every time God gives a negative command in Scripture, He does so for two positive reasons: to protect us in the present and to provide for us in the future. How have you seen this principle play out in your own experience with the Lord?

Prayer/Application

Solomon began with a heart for the Lord, but he surrounded himself with wives who served other gods. Over time, his heart for the Lord turned toward the false gods of his wives. Ask the Lord to send believers into your life who will encourage your faith in Him rather than erode it. Sometimes we can't choose our company, but we can always choose whether or not we allow those around us to turn our hearts from the Lord. Stay strong in Him!

WEEK 2: APRIL 7-13 | 1 KINGS 20 – 2 KINGS 21

What was once a strong and united nation, Israel is torn into two separate kingdoms—Israel and Judah. Because of continuing disobedience to the Lord, both kingdoms end up being deported by rival nations. Judah was led off to exile in Babylonia while the Assyrians captured Israel. Not even Elisha could bring the nations to their senses and back to the Lord. Both kingdoms experienced the tough love and discipline of God for their stubborn refusal to obey God's law.

In your readings this week, what was something new that you learned or something that stood out to you?

Focus on 2 Kings 4:1-7

1. Oil was a valuable commodity during this time since it was used for cooking and for light. When did the widow ask for help, when she had plenty of oil or just a little? Why do we often learn our greatest lessons about God only after we come to the end of our own resources?
2. What evidence can you point to in this story that shows this miracle would be about trust in God and not confidence in Elisha?
3. Why do you think Elisha told the widow to ask for many empty jars rather than a few? What did Elisha know about the resources of God? When did the oil stop flowing? What does this story teach us about faith in God?
4. How did the widow involve her sons? Why do you think she involved them in this exercise of faith? As a single mother, what could she have been preparing them for in the future?
5. What was the result of her act of faith and how did it bless her family?

Prayer/Application

The woman took all she had and poured it into a borrowed vessel. In full view of her two sons, she completely trusted God with all that she had of value. What an incredible lesson in faith she was able to pass along to her sons! Ask the Lord to help you live out your faith in Him in full view of your family. Remember, children not only need to hear about the Lord, but they also need to see your faith in Him lived out in daily life.

WEEK 3: APRIL 14-20 | 2 KINGS 22 – 1 CHRONICLES 29

First Chronicles provides a divine editorial on David and his righteous reign. This unique spiritual perspective on the historical events during this time traces Israel's lineage back to the beginning of the human race and forward to the end of the Babylonian captivity. Chronicles seeks to teach the returning Remnant that God is still with them and that He has a future for them.

In your readings this week, what was something new that you learned or something that stood out to you?

Focus on 1 Chronicles 17:11-14

1. In Second Samuel 7 and 1 Chronicles 17:11-14, we find what is known as the Davidic Covenant. In this covenant, God promised David that a descendant of his would sit on David's throne over God's people for eternity. How did Solomon partially fulfill the covenant promise (1 Chronicles 17:12)?
2. Who do you think fulfilled the rest of this covenant (1 Chronicles 17:14)? What did the angel Gabriel say about this covenant in Luke 1:32-33?

3. How does Isaiah 9:6-7 help us identify the descendant of David who will reign over God's people forever?
4. In writing to a primarily Jewish audience, why do you think Matthew thinks it is necessary to include the genealogy of Jesus at the beginning of the Gospel of Matthew (1:1-17)? How many times does he mention David in this genealogy?
5. Is waiting on the Lord to answer our prayers or fulfill His promises always easy for us? How can the fulfillment of the Davidic Covenant give you greater patience when waiting on God's timing?

Prayer/Application

God sees far ahead into the future. Because of this, He sees where we are now and where He wants us to be one day. God knows the best way to get us there. Sometimes we aren't so sure, but the promise of the Davidic Covenant can reassure us that God is working all things together for His will and ultimately for our good as we trust in Him. Are you growing impatient toward God concerning a particular delay in your life? Ask the Lord to give you greater patience and faith as you wait on Him to answer your prayers and fulfill His promises.

WEEK 4: APRIL 21-30 | 2 CHRONICLES 1- 36

The Book of 2 Chronicles provides a topical history of the Davidic dynasty. It begins at the end of the united kingdom under Solomon and focuses on the zealous reformers in Judah (southern kingdom) who pattern their life and reign after that of godly King David. More than historical annals, we find a divine editorial on the spiritual characteristics of the Davidic dynasty. Great attention is given to the construction and eventual destruction of the temple.

In your readings this week, what was something new that you learned or something that stood out to you?

Focus on 2 Chronicles 34:1-3, 8, 14-15, 29-33

1. After Josiah began to seek God, what action steps did he take? When you began seeking God, what were you initially led to purge from your life?
2. Why do you think Josiah began to focus his attention on restoring the temple? What message did this send to the people?
3. What was found in temple? What effect did neglecting this book have on the people of Judah? How does neglecting the Bible affect Christians today?
4. What did Josiah commit to do as he read from the Book of the Law in front of all of the people? Why do you think he made this commitment public?
5. What did the people do as long as Josiah lived? Why is living under spiritual leadership so important for believers?

Prayer/Application

Josiah brought God's Word back to the center of worship for Judah. Not only did he commit to obeying it, but he also led the people to do the same. Are you committed to obeying God's Word? Ask the Lord to help you obey what you are reading in the Bible every day.

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