

Going Deeper – Daily

Additional questions that may help guide your daily observations and applications included in *The Whole Story Devotional Guide - Kings and Queens*

Week 10:

- 1 Samuel 8: Observe – Israel rejected the Lord, again. What did they want? Why?
Apply – What should my response be when the Lord wants me to follow Him? Give an example of when I did or did not follow His plan.
- 1 Samuel 9: Observe – Write out what you learned about Saul.
Apply – Hidden in vs 16 – God commits to rescuing Israel again – reflect,
- 1 Samuel 10: Observe – Does Saul seem King-worthy? Why or why not? Make note of verse 27.
Apply – God granted Israel a king – despite it not being in their best interest. Describe a time when God allowed you to pursue your wants over His plan and the consequence, if any.
- 1 Samuel 13: Observe – Saul took things into his own hands. What did he do? What was the consequence?
Apply – Reflect on something in your life now that is tempting you to take things into your own hand.
- 1 Samuel 15: Observe – Saul disobeyed the Lord again. Make a list of what the Lord told him to do and what he did.
Apply – Reflect again on a situation in your life that seems like a small disobedience. If it is current, ask for God's wisdom. If it is past, ask God for forgiveness.
- 1 Samuel 19: Observe – Who will be Israel's next king? Why did Saul want to kill him? Summarize.
Apply – When we feel threatened as Saul did by David – how do we respond? How could I respond differently?

Week 11:

- 1 Samuel 16: Observe – Outline how David came to play the lyre for King Saul.
Apply – What might David's older brothers and father have thought about their youngest brother being anointed by Saul? What question(s) might you have asked had you been there?
- 2 Samuel 1 & 2: Observe – Saul died and David was anointed king over Judah – but not all of Israel, yet. There was fighting going on – who was fighting whom? Why?
Apply – How does David fit into Saul's family line? Do I feel like an outsider in God's family sometimes? Why or why not?
- 2 Samuel 5: Observe – David had defeated a Philistine giant in 1 Sam 17 and now he defeats the Philistine army. What is common to both stories?
Apply – God is clearly directing David's steps – is there a time when he directed yours so clearly?
- 2 Samuel 7: Observe – David realized he was now living in a palace and the ark was still in a tent. Nathan the prophet had a revelation for David – outline what he told David.

Apply – David was told “no” by God yet he praised God for what he was promised. Praise the Lord for something you wanted but did not receive.

2 Samuel 11 & 12: Observe – David displeased the Lord (2 Sam 11:27). What did he do and what was the consequence?
Apply – Our sins are forgiven once we repent and follow Jesus – but they are not without consequence. Pray about a response to a previous consequence. How did David respond?

2 Samuel 22 & 23: Observe – David faced battles both within his family and from outside the borders of Israel for the rest of his life – yet he praised God in song. Write out several of his praises.
Apply – Name a battle or struggle you have faced or are facing – write out a paragraph to God of praise for the battle.

Week 12:

2 Kings 21: Observe – Josiah came to power after Manasseh and his son Amon reigned. What had they done wrong in the eyes of the Lord?
Apply – What do you think was missing in the lives of the Israelites that they kept going back to the evil ways of their neighbors? Do we tend to go backwards?

2 Kings 22: Observe – What did Josiah find? What was his response? What did the Lord say through Huldah?
Apply – Have you ever waited for a consequence that you knew was going to come? Explain.

2 Kings 23: Observe – What did Josiah read? To whom? What else did he do (make a list)? How did he die?
Apply – God is faithful to His word – even when the results are not what we hoped for. How can we respond?

2 Chronicles 34: Observe – Is there anything in this reading of Josiah's life that is different from the list we made for 2 Kings 23? Who followed the Lord during Josiah's lifetime?
Apply – Josiah received a promise from the Lord (verse 28). If I knew that a disaster was coming in advance – would my actions change or would I stay the course, following the Lord? Why?

2 Chronicles 35: Observe – What did Josiah do regarding the celebration of the Passover?
Apply – Josiah took matters into his own hands when the coming disaster seemed to strike – and lost his life. Is there a time when someone Godly spoke to you about a plan/track you were on and you kept going, regardless of what they counselled? Reflect.

Psalms 78: Observe – What was Israel's recurring fault? What was God's response? Make a list.
Apply – How did David restore the relationship between God and Judah? (verses 70-72). Is there anything I can learn from David?

Week 13:

- Esther 1: Observe – How did the proposal of the king's advisors (vs. 20) differ significantly from the actual decree sent out by the king? (vs. 22)
Apply – What specific directions does Paul give for husband/wife relationships in Ephesians 5:22-33. Why is this more effective than Xerxes' model?
- Esther 2: Observe – What was the experience of Esther and the other young women brought into Xerxes harem? How do you imagine this differs from Esther and Mordecai's plans for her?
Apply – What, specifically do you find in this chapter that addresses her response to this difficult turn of events? How does her response compare to your response when circumstances in your life differ greatly from your plans?
- Esther 3 & 4: Observe – What are your impressions of King Xerxes at this point?
Apply – What are your impressions of Esther at this point? Where does God factor into her actions/reactions?
- Esther 5 & 6: Observe – How was Mordecai faithful to God? Where do you see God's hand in his protection?
Apply – When have you seen God intervene for good in your life or in the life of someone close to you?
- Esther 7 & 8: Observe – Why do you think Esther held the second banquet for Haman and the king?
Apply – Where does your courage come from?
- Esther 9 & 10: Observe – How many people died because of the king's thoughtless response to Haman's pride?
Apply – When have you experienced difficult consequences from your own thoughtlessness?