

Not Alone: God's Relentless Pursuit

Weekly Devotionals | May 31

Introduction

As our church walks through the Old Testament together, noticing how God did not leave His people alone then—and does not leave us alone, now—we invite you to spend time digging a little deeper. Each week during this series we will provide Old Testament passages that connect to the focus of the past Sunday's message and allow you to explore the people, places, and events further.

As you read these passages, you will be guided to reflect on four aspects of the text, using the acronym L.I.F.E.

L: Literal – What is actually happening in the text? Who are the people? Where are the places? Who is doing what to whom and why?

I: Incarnational – How does this text point to Jesus? Where do we see our need for Him, a promise of His coming, or a symbol ("type") of His role or function?

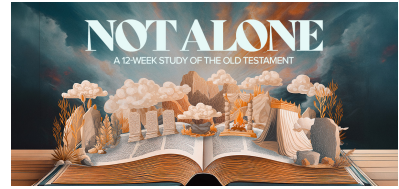
F: Formational – What does this text call us to do? Is there a command to obey? A principle to apply? A way of responding to God?

E: Eternal – How do these passages point us to our ultimate future reality? How does this text gain significance and meaning in light of "the end of the story" that was unknown to the readers at the time, but that we've been given a glimpse of?

Reading: God Rescues His People

Here's the reading for this week. If you read five days this week, you will need to average just 2 ½ chapters a day. Or experience them during three "sessions" and read all the chapters listed next to each section at once. They are designed to be grouped together as listed.

1 Samuel 1-3: Hannah's Prayer and Samuel's Calling



1 Samuel 8-10, 16-17: Israel Demands a King; David Rises to Kingship

2 Samuel 5-7: David's Kingship and God's Covenant

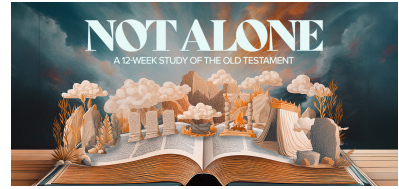
1 Kings 3, 8: Solomon's Wisdom and the Temple's Dedication

As you read, look for examples of answer to any of the L.I.F.E questions and make note of them in this guide or in your Bible.

L.I.F.E Notes on 1 Samuel 1-3:

L.I.F.E Notes on 1 Samuel 8-10, 16-17:

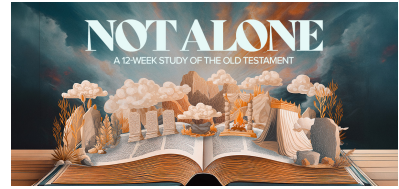
L.I.F.E Notes on 2 Samuel 5-7:



L.I.F.E Notes on 1 Kings 3, 8:

As you complete your reading for this week, look back on the reading as a whole and reflect on the following questions.

- **Literal:** Although some of these stories are familiar to many people, were there any events, interactions, conversations or characters that were new to you? Or that you understood in a different way? Why did that stand out to you?
- **Incarnational:** Where do you see Jesus in the story of Samuel, Saul, David, and Solomon?
- **Formational:** How do these chapters apply to your life? How might they form you into a more Christlike person? Is there something to be learned from Hannah's prayer to God? From David's heart for God? From Solomon's desire to build God's temple?



- **Eternal:** How do these chapters give us a foretaste of the eternal relationship God calls us to in the new heaven and new earth? How do they give us hope?

L.I.F.E. Insight

Prayerfully consider one thing that has stood out to you from this week's reading. Why might God be calling your attention to it? How is He inviting you to respond? Consider praying what you've noticed in the space below.