

Not Alone: God's Relentless Pursuit

Weekly Devotionals | June 21

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 Dwells with His People

Here's the reading for this week. They are designed to be grouped together as listed.

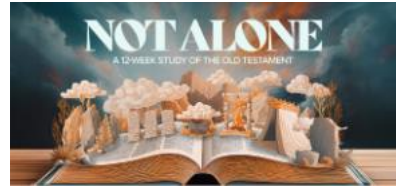
Proverbs 1-3

Ecclesiastes 3

Song of Songs 1-2

Job 1-2 & 38-39

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.

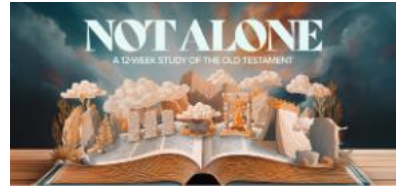


L.I.F.E Notes on Proverbs 1-3:

L.I.F.E. Notes on Ecclesiastes 3:

L.I.F.E. Notes on Song of Songs 1-2:

L.I.F.E. Notes on Job 1-2 & 38-39:



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

- **Literal:** This week's reading contains God's wisdom on everyday life (Proverbs), on purpose in life (Ecclesiastes), on marriage/relationships/intimacy (Song of Songs), and on suffering (Job). What is one thing that either surprised you, challenged you, or resonated with you from your reading?

- **Incarnational:** Read 1 Corinthians 1:24, John 10:10, Mark 2:19, and 1 Peter 2:22-25. How do these New Testament passages point us to Jesus being the true and better fulfillment of these Old Testament themes we've been exploring (of wisdom, of purpose, of intimacy, and of suffering)?

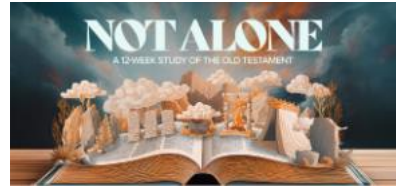
- **Formational:** How might these themes (wisdom, purpose, intimacy, and suffering) apply to your life? In the space next to each word, write a short prayer to God expressing how you're doing and how you would like the Holy Spirit's help to grow in each of these areas.

Wisdom:

Purpose:

Intimacy:

Suffering:



- **Eternal:** How were you pointed to eternity/hope/heaven from these passages?

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.