





# THE BIBLE MEETS LIFE

**FACT:**

AS EARLY AS 900 BC, DIVERS IN ASSYRIA BEGAN USING ANIMAL SKINS FILLED WITH AIR AS AN OXYGEN SUPPLY FOR DIVING.<sup>1</sup>

When I was a senior in high school, I had the privilege of going on a mission trip to Jamaica with my church's student ministry. I'd never seen people so hopeless and desperate, and who needed to know of the hope found in Jesus. As you would expect on a mission trip, we shared the gospel with many people. We also worked with a local missionary to repair his local mission facilities. And of course, if you visit Jamaica, it's essential that you spend some time at the beach, right?

Our last morning on the island, we were dropped off at a popular tourist spot where we had access to the beaches, as well as a number of local shops and restaurants. Our leaders put a map in our hands and gave us clear instructions about where we could go and when we had to meet back at the van. Inevitably, a couple students didn't pay attention and didn't show up at the van on time. One of those students was yours truly. We went snorkeling, lost our maps, lost track of time, and lost our way.

Too often we do the same thing. We receive clear instructions from God, but we don't pay attention, we forget, or we even intentionally refuse to follow His commands. King Asa was no exception to this. Asa had been an exceptional ruler through most of his reign, but he hit a period in his life when he forgot to remember God's faithfulness.

## 2 CHRONICLES 16:1-6

- 1 When have you seen fear or worry lead to an unwise decision?
- 2 What causes us to trust in our own wisdom instead of God's?





*God has taken care of us in the past, and He will continue to take care of us. #BSFLgodlylife*



## 2 CHRONICLES 16:10-13

**6** What makes pride so self-destructive?

## 2 CHRONICLES 16:7-9

**3** What has God done for you in the past that helps you trust Him in the present?

**4** Why do we tend to think we can do everything ourselves instead of trusting in God?

**5** How do Asa's actions serve as a warning for us?

**7** What steps can we take to guard against pride?

**8** How can we humbly seek God's direction for our lives?



# LIVE IT OUT

## ▶ CHRIST

To be a disciple means to be a Christ follower. This involves listening to His guidance and direction, and then walking in the ways He leads.

**9** How are you listening every day to the instruction of Christ to lead you?



HOW IS JESUS CALLING YOU  
TO FOLLOW HIM THIS WEEK?

HOW WILL YOU PRACTICALLY  
LIVE THIS OUT?

## ► COMMUNITY

God gives us guidance and direction in a number of ways. We have His instruction through Scripture, the Holy Spirit works in our lives to lead us, and God has also given us leaders within our churches.

**10** Who in your life can you trust to help you walk in the ways God desires for you?

**11** How specifically do you need guidance right now?

**12** Who will you pursue this week to help you with this?

## ► CULTURE

Our culture often believes that the truth is within us, and we don't need to appeal to anyone or anything to know what's right for us. This couldn't be further from the truth, and to know what's best and right, we need God to reveal Himself to us. Thankfully, He has given us the Scriptures, and He sent Jesus!

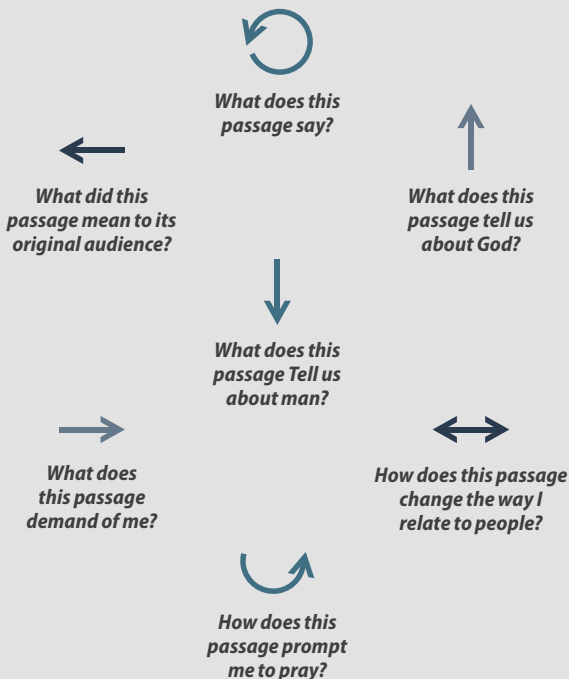
**13** Who do you know that's struggling with direction?

**14** This week, how will you help someone far from God to see that it's Jesus who leads us in the ways that are best?

# DAILY DEVOTIONS



## THE 7 ARROWS OF BIBLE READING



## DAY ONE DEUTERONOMY 7:7

After the Israelites had been delivered from Egyptian slavery, they wandered in the desert for 40 years. When it was finally time for God to bring them into the land He'd promised them, He had some final words of instruction—*When you enter the land, don't mingle with the people. They worship false idols, and they'll draw you away from Me. Instead, totally destroy the idols and the people.* The nations that controlled the land were more powerful and greater in number than Israel. However, God didn't choose His people based on earthly appeal. Instead, God set His love on Israel because, through them, His power and purposes would be revealed. In fact, God says, "my power is perfected in weakness" (2 Cor. 12:9b), and Israel was the perfect group of people through which God would make Himself known to the world.

- **Why do you think, of all the people of the world, God chose Israel?**
- **How is God's strength made known through weakness?**



## DAY FOUR

# DEUTERONOMY 7:10

---

When God commanded Israel to destroy the nations currently occupying the promised land, it may seem harsh to us. However, God had been incredibly patient with these people. When God made His promise to Abraham, He shared that it would be some time before Abraham's descendants would take the land, because "the iniquity of the Amorites has not yet reached its full measure" (Gen. 15:16b). The Amorites were a pagan nation who lived in the land God promised to Abraham, and they were a wicked people. Leviticus 18 describes some of their practices, and let's just say they were absolutely horrible! Nonetheless, God was patient with them. However, because sin can't be ignored and must be punished, at a certain point, God refused to put up with them any longer, and He used Israel to punish the sins of the Amorites. Today, it's important for us to understand that God punishes sin. For those who refuse to surrender to God, trusting Jesus as the answer for sin, the payment is eternity in hell. But as long as we're still breathing, God calls us to turn from sin and receive salvation.

- **What are the consequences of sin?**
- **Why do you think God was so patient with the Amorites? How has He been patient with you?**

## DAY FIVE

# DEUTERONOMY 7:11-12

---



God made a covenant with Abraham, and we can look back through history and see that He's fulfilled His promises. Today, God has made a new covenant with His people through Jesus. At the Passover meal on Jesus' last night before He was betrayed and crucified, He instituted the Lord's Supper. After the disciples had taken the bread, Jesus took the cup and said, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you" (Luke 22:20b). If we trust Jesus as Savior and seek with all our hearts to live as He did, we are recipients of God's new covenant promises.

- **How would you describe God's covenant with Abraham? The new covenant in Christ?**
- **Why is being "careful to keep these ordinances" so important to both covenants?**