

Not Alone: God's Relentless Pursuit

Weekly Devotionals | May 24

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?

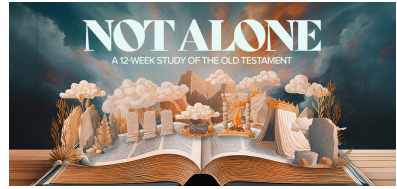
F: Formational – What does this text call us to do? Is there a command to obey? A principle to apply? A way of responding to God?

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 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.

Judges 4-5: God Uses Deborah to Deliver His People



Judges 6-7: God Works Despite Gideon to Save His People

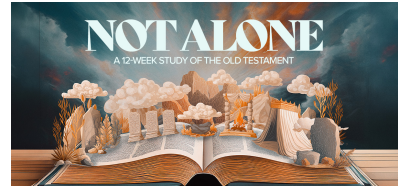
Ruth 1-4: God Continues Abraham's Lineage

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.

You may wish to watch [THIS](#) video on Judges or [THIS](#) video on Ruth to give you more context!

L.I.F.E Notes on Judges 4-5:

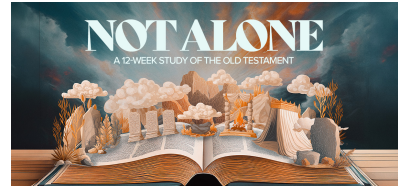
L.I.F.E Notes on Judges 6-7:



L.I.F.E Notes on Ruth 1-4:

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:** The judges of Israel are deliverers. In what ways did you see Jesus pointed to by how they brought salvation to God's people? How did the story of Ruth point you to Christ?
- **Formational:** In the book of Judges, we are confronted over and over with the phrase "the Israelites did evil in the eyes of the Lord" (Judges 4:1). It's a cycle that gets repeated ad nauseum. What recurring sins do you wrestle



with? Where are you needing Jesus' deliverance?

- **Eternal:** How do these chapters point us to the Promised Land of heaven? You might think about the story of Naomi who lived in the Promised Land at one time, but who then had to leave because of famine, and then who eventually returned.

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.