

Bible Study Guide for New Believers



Character of God and Spiritual Lessons In the Old Testament

New Believer Bible Study Guide Resource

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About the Author

A married couple that wishes to remain anonymous has written this guide.

Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ asked us to write this guide together to help new believers understand the Book of Romans. We pray that this guide will be useful to you in understanding God's truth.

Preface

“All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness” (2 Tim 3:16, ESV)

The Bible has promised blessings to believers, who read, meditate upon and apply its timeless truth and wisdom. This is a Bible study guide that is designed to instill daily habits of prayer, meditation on the word and life application. It is our prayer that this guide be used to build up believers everywhere for the work that needs to be done for the kingdom of God.

How to Use this Guide

This bible study guide can be used for your individual study or can be a part of a Bible study group. In either setting, the authors suggest that the believer(s) first pray and seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit in understanding scripture. Then read the passage and consider it carefully. Once that is done, we encourage the believer to read the commentary.

We also want to emphasize that reading and understanding the Word of God requires time, patience and (most importantly) the leading of the Holy Spirit. We do encourage you, however, to be consistent in your Bible reading habits (i.e. daily reading). In time you will begin to see and understand the many spiritual riches the Word of God has to offer. It is our prayer that God will speak to you individually as you spend time reading His word one day at a time.

The Creation

Passage: Genesis 1 – Genesis 2:1-3

Background:

1. The Earth was described as “formless and empty”, meaning that there was nothing that we would recognize as the Earth today.
2. On the first day, God created light and separated it from darkness.
 - a. Note how light originates from God.
 - b. God separates the light and darkness to define “Day” and “Night”
3. On the second day, God created the sky.
4. On the third day, God created the seas and dry land. In addition, God also created vegetation of the earth on the third day.
5. On the fourth day, God created the sun, the moon and the stars.
6. On the fifth day, God created the seas, the fish inside the seas and the birds of the air.
7. On the sixth day, God created the land animals and mankind.
8. On the seventh day, God finished his work of creation and set apart this day as holy.

What spiritual lessons can be learned from this story?

1. God knows us intimately as he has designed and created all of us.
2. God created mankind in his own image and likeness to have fellowship with him.

What does this story reveal about God’s character?

1. The act of creation by God reveals his power and sovereign nature (see Psalms 139:14, Romans 1:20-23).
2. God showed (in creation) that he is a God of order and precision. One only has to observe nature or study the human body to understand this quickly.
3. This is the first Biblical mention of the Trinity (See Genesis 1:26).

Adam

Passage: Genesis 2:7-25

Background:

1. God created Adam out of the dust of the earth.
2. God breathed into Adam the breath of life.
3. God gave Adam dominion over all creation.
4. Adam was able to name all the animals.
5. God created Eve from Adam's rib to be a helper for him.
6. God brought Eve to Adam and essentially conducted the first marriage in all of human history.
7. Adam and Eve set an example of how a married couple should cleave to one another.

What spiritual lessons can be learned from this story?

1. Life is sacred gift that God gave to mankind.
2. God (as an example to all) instituted marriage between a man and woman (see Mark 10:6-12, Hebrews 13:4) as an honorable covenant.
3. God also indicated that marriage did not involve being overly attached to one's parents or in-laws (see Genesis 2:24). Marriage was intended to be between a husband and a wife and without interference from one's respective families.
4. Since God was the one that founded the institution of marriage and has joined a man and a woman together to become husband and wife, God should be the center of marriage (See Ecclesiastes 4:12).

What does this story reveal about God's character?

1. God is aware of our deepest needs (in knowing how Adam was alone) and can fulfill them in a manner that is glorifying to him.
2. God, (despite being powerful and sovereign) cares deeply about us.

The Fall of Man

Passage: Genesis 3

Background:

1. Adam and Eve had everything in the Garden of Eden; it was paradise.
2. Yet in this paradise, evil (Satan in the form of a serpent) was lurking and looking for a chance to tempt Adam and Eve to sin and fall away from God.
3. God had told Adam and Eve that they could partake of the fruit of any plant in the Garden of Eden except the fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Doing so would be an act of disobedience and rebellion;
4. Eve was tempted by Satan (in the form of a serpent) and fell into sin.
5. Adam and Eve fell in their temptation and committed the sin of disobedience.
6. Adam and Eve's sin led to a separation from God.
7. Adam and Eve's sin led to banishment from the Garden of Eden and the presence of God.
8. Adam and Eve's sin led to the pronouncement of the curse of work and labor pain.
9. God covered Adam and Eve's nakedness after they had sinned with the skin of an animal.

What spiritual lessons can be learned from this story?

1. All mankind is tempted to sin. Temptation in and of itself is not sin. However, giving into temptation (in this case disobedience) leads to sin (see James 1:13-15).
2. The destructiveness of sin was demonstrated by the pronouncement of the curse upon both Adam and Eve.
3. Temptation can be overcome when you ask God for grace to resist the enemy (see 1 Corinthians 10: 12-13, James 4:7, 1 Peter 5:9). Here we see that Adam and Eve did not ask God for grace to resist temptation, and so fell into sin.
4. The enemy (Satan) is aware of the commandments of God. Satan often tells us "half truths" (see John 8:44) that makes us doubt that God's instructions are for our own benefit (see Genesis 3:1-6).
5. Satan knows when we are weakest and comes to exploit us at that time (see 1 Peter 5:8-9).
6. Jesus Christ himself was tempted by Satan in this way. Jesus gave us the example of how we can resist the enemy using God's grace and knowledge of the Word of God (see Matthew 4:1-11, Hebrews 4:12).

What does this story reveal about God's character?

1. God demonstrated his holiness and inherent righteousness in judging Adam and Eve for their sin.
2. God revealed that sin was serious and led to death and separation from God (see Romans 6:23).
3. God also demonstrated that sin had to be atoned for by the spilling of blood (See Hebrews 9:22).
4. God also foreshadowed the coming of the ultimate sacrifice (the Lamb of God, Jesus Christ) who would shed his blood on the cross to take away the sins of mankind (see John 1:29). In so doing, he would make unnecessary further animal sacrifice for the atonement of sin (see Hebrews 9:23-28).

Noah and the Ark

Passage: Genesis 6:9 – Genesis 9:17

Background:

1. God was grieved with the evil and wickedness of mankind. Every inclination of mankind was to commit evil from childhood.
2. God wanted to start creation over again with Noah and his family.
3. Noah found favor in the eyes of God and was blameless.
4. God told Noah that he would send a flood on the earth to destroy all mankind and every living creature.
5. He asked Noah to build an ark and bring in it his family and two of each kind of animal on the earth.
6. It rained on the earth for forty days and forty nights, and all creation was destroyed except for those in the ark.
7. Eventually the flood waters receded and the occupants of the Ark walked on dry land.
8. God reaffirmed his covenant (a binding agreement) with Noah that he would make mankind fruitful and multiply on the earth.
9. God promised after the flood he would never destroy mankind again with a flood.
10. A rainbow symbolized God's promise to never destroy the earth by water.

What spiritual lessons can be learned from this story?

1. Mankind is inherently evil.
2. God gave Noah favor as he was blameless in the sight of God.
3. God is aware of us doing the right thing even when we are surrounded by people who do not.
4. The flood of Noah showed that God will judge humanity's sinful behavior.
5. God will judge the sin of the present world (like he did in Noah's time) again. However, this time there will be a fiery judgment instead of a Flood (See 2 Peter 3:3-7).

What does this story reveal about God's character?

1. God was grieved with mankind and regretted that he ever created them because of their sin.
2. God takes sin seriously and he will judge the world for its sin.
3. God looks for those who are willing to follow him despite what everyone else around them is doing.
4. God's favor (grace) has given us salvation from judgment.
5. God's gracious offer of salvation and righteousness will be open to all. However, (like in Noah's time), the world will reject it (see Luke 17:26-27).

Abraham

Passage: Genesis 11:27 - Genesis 25:11

Background:

1. God called Abraham to leave his family, his hometown, and relatives and go to a land that God would show him (see Genesis 12).
2. Abraham obeyed God's call and left (with his wife Sarah).
3. God ordains covenants with Abraham (and his future descendants) regarding the land of Canaan and having numerous descendants. These covenants between God and Abraham were ordained when Abraham (and his wife) were elderly and did not have a biological child.
4. Abraham (despite being old and not having a biological child) believed God's covenant. Abraham's faith in God's promises was credited to him as righteousness (see Hebrew 11:8-12, Romans 4:3).
5. God establishes a covenant of circumcision with Abraham (see Genesis 17:10). It was designated as a physical reminder of the covenant that God had with Abraham and his future descendants.
6. God blesses Abraham and Sarah with a son Isaac (see Genesis 21)
7. God then tests Abraham by asking him to sacrifice Isaac as a burnt offering (see Genesis 22).
8. Abraham was willing to sacrifice Isaac (his only son) but God stopped Abraham from doing so. God then blesses Abraham for his obedience and valuing nothing higher than pleasing God.

What spiritual lessons can be learned from this story?

1. Faith is not faith unless we put it into action; Abraham chose to believe God's promises for his life over the circumstances that he was found in.
2. God wants to be the top priority in our lives. Let nothing separate you from following after God wholeheartedly.

What does this story reveal about God's character?

1. God is faithful to fulfill the promises that he gives to those who follow him.
2. God is pleased by us putting our faith in him (see Hebrews 11:6).
3. God is not limited by the word "impossible". God is able to do all (see Ephesians 3:20)!
4. God has plans for his people that are greater than what we can plan for ourselves (see Jeremiah 29:11).

Joseph

Passage: Genesis 37 - Genesis 50

Background:

1. Joseph was the favorite of the 12 sons of Jacob. Joseph's brothers hated him for being the favorite son of their father Jacob. Joseph also wore a multicolored robe to indicate his favored status.
2. Joseph was hated all the more by his brothers when he told them about the dreams he had. The first dream was that after Joseph and his brothers had gathered grain into sheaves. The sheaves of his brothers stood and bowed to his sheaf. The second dream that Joseph had was that the sun, moon and eleven stars were bowing before him. Collectively interpreted, this meant that both his brothers and his parents would bow before him in the future.
3. Joseph was sent by his father Jacob to check on his brothers who were in the wilderness. Initially when his brothers saw him, they wanted to kill him as they were far away from home.
4. Reuben (one of his oldest brothers) prevents Joseph from being killed by his brothers. He then tells them to throw Joseph in an empty cistern (which was used to catch rainwater) and was intending to take Joseph back to his father Jacob.
5. After Reuben left, Joseph's brothers decided to not kill him. They did, however, sell him into slavery for twenty pieces of silver to the Midianites.
6. Joseph was then sold as a slave to a man named Potiphar, who was in charge of the Pharaoh's (king of Egypt) bodyguards.
7. God prospered the diligent work of Joseph. Potiphar noticed that he was blessed because of Joseph's diligence and gave Joseph favor. Potiphar put Joseph in charge of everything in his house and was blessed because God was with Joseph.
8. Potiphar's wife noticed that Joseph was a handsome young man and desired to sleep with him. Joseph refused to sleep with Potiphar's wife because he feared God. He also understood the intentions of Potiphar's wife and stayed away from her at all times. One day however, Joseph happened to be alone in the house with Potiphar's wife. Potiphar's wife grabbed him by the shirt and wanted him to sleep with her. Joseph refused and ran away from her and left her holding his shirt.
9. Potiphar's wife was angered by Joseph refusal to sleep with her. Potiphar's wife then screamed and claimed that Joseph had tried to rape her.
10. Potiphar was angry and then threw Joseph into prison for a crime he did not commit.
11. Though Joseph was wronged and could have decided to give up following after God, he continued to follow after God and God blessed him in prison.
12. Sometime later, the butler and baker of Pharaoh were imprisoned with Joseph. Both the baker and the butler had dreams. Joseph interpreted both their dreams; the baker would be executed while the butler would be restored. Joseph urged the butler to remember him and how he had interpreted his dream. Three days later the exact interpretation of Joseph's dream happened. The butler was restored and promptly forgot about Joseph interpreting his dream.

13. Sometime later, Pharaoh had nightmares of seven lean cows eating seven fat cows. In addition, he also saw seven shriveled heads of grain eating seven full heads of grain.
14. No one could interpret what Pharaoh had seen in his nightmare. The butler remembered that Joseph had interpreted his dream and Joseph was called out of prison to interpret the dream of Pharaoh.
15. Joseph interpreted Pharaoh's nightmare. The seven fat cows represented seven years of abundance, and seven lean cows represented the next seven years of famine. There was a similar meaning with the heads of grain.
16. Joseph not only interpreted Pharaoh's dream but also had a plan for storing up the abundance of the next seven years so that Egypt could survive the famine. Pharaoh recognized the wisdom of Joseph's plan and placed him in charge of preparing Egypt for the famine.
17. As Joseph's interpretation had foretold, there was seven years of great abundance and seven years of great famine.
18. The famine also was severe in Canaan where Joseph's father and brothers lived. Joseph's fathers and brothers decided to go down to Egypt to buy grain so that they can make food for themselves. When Joseph's brothers went down to Egypt, they had to ask permission from an Egyptian to buy the Egyptian grain.
19. They bowed down before a person who they thought was an Egyptian but was actually Joseph their brother. This was a marvelous fulfillment of Joseph's dream.
20. Joseph eventually reveals himself to his brothers. Joseph notes God had provided for his family in that he has given them a means to survive the famine.
21. Joseph is reunited to his father Jacob, who blesses Joseph.

What spiritual lessons can be learned from this story?

1. Sometimes difficult circumstances are a part of God's plan for our good (See Romans 8:28). Our attitude in those circumstances is a marker of how deep our faith and trust is in God.
2. God can sometimes warn us regarding certain decisions or paths that we take in life.
3. A person's who fears the Lord will always be will be exalted both in this life and in eternity.
4. The favor of God trumps all the evil plans of man.
5. Diligence in our work is something that God requires of us (See Proverbs 10:4).

What does this story reveal about God's character?

1. God will never abandon those who follow him (Deuteronomy 31:8).
2. God values those who trust in him despite hardship.
3. God will give wisdom and grace to us in our time of trouble.
4. God is able to do more than we can ever hope or imagine in any circumstance where we choose to follow him and not leave own understanding (See Ephesians 3:20).

Moses and the Israelites

Passage: Exodus 1 - 40

Background:

1. The story of Moses begins with a new Pharaoh in Egypt that came to power. The new Pharaoh did not know about Joseph. The Pharaoh was afraid of the Israelites as they had prospered and increased in number in Egypt. The Israelites were then enslaved by the Egyptians.
2. The slavery of the Israelites was a fulfillment of an earlier prophecy. The earlier prophecy had foretold of Abraham's descendants being enslaved in Egypt for 400 years (see Genesis 15:13).
3. Despite being enslaved, the Israelites increased in number. The Egyptians were alarmed that the Israelites continued to increase in number despite being enslaved. Pharaoh ordered the midwives to kill all the Israelite boys when they were delivered. The midwives feared God and did not do as they were commanded. The midwives were then blessed by God with their own families.
4. Pharaoh then ordered every Israelite boy to be thrown into Nile River and to be drowned. Moses was born during this time and he was hidden by his parents. However, at one point he could not be hidden any longer and was hidden under all the reeds of the Nile in a water proof basket.
5. Pharaoh daughter found Moses. She felt sorry for him and decided to raise Moses as her own.
6. Years later, Moses went out and watched his own people in their hard labor.
7. He saw an Egyptian cruelly beating an Israelite. He made sure no one was looking and killed the Egyptian and buried him in the sand.
8. The next day he saw two Israelites fighting and he tried to intervene. The Israelite (who was in the wrong to start the fight) did not see Moses as one of their own, but rather as a traitor. The Israelite saw him as a traitor as Moses did not have to bear the same consequences that they would (as Israelites) have for murdering an Egyptian.
9. Moses understood that his murder of the Egyptian was known and he fled to Median and became a shepherd.
10. God one day called Moses and led him to a burning bush and told him about his mission. He would lead his people out of Egypt.
11. Moses started to make excuses as to why he should not lead the Israelites out of Egypt. Moses's first excuse was that the Israelites would not listen to him (perhaps from his prior incident where he intervened between two Israelites who were fighting). His second excuse was that he stuttered. His third excuse was that he was not qualified enough to lead the people of Israel out of Egypt. God became angry at Moses for refusing to lead his people out of Egypt.
12. God then gave Moses two further proofs of his mission: the staff that became a snake and his hand that would be leprous when he placed on his chest.
13. Afterwards, Moses went and spoke with Pharaoh. Moses requested that Pharaoh let the Israelites go into the wilderness to celebrate a festival for God and return.

14. Pharaoh did not let the Israelites go. Pharaoh then proceeded to make their lives more difficult in slavery.
15. Due to the hardness of Pharaoh's heart, God sends 10 plagues in Egypt. The plagues did not touch the Israelites and only the Egyptians.
16. The tenth plague was the worst of them all. The firstborn of all the Egyptians (both man and animal) died.
17. Prior to this tenth plague the Lord instituted among the people of Israel a day of remembrance called Passover. The Passover was significant in that the angel of death which killed the first born of all the Egyptian did not even harm any Israelite household.
18. The angel of death "passed over" the houses that were instructed to be marked with the blood of a lamb sacrifice.
19. The people of Israel were led by Moses on their journey out of Egypt. Moses and his people found themselves trapped at the Red Sea.
20. The Israelites were trapped because the Egyptians wanted the Israelites to come back to slavery and were pursuing them with their army. Initially, the Israelites were afraid and thought that Moses was there to kill them in the dessert. However, Moses after he received instructions from God, raised his arms and God separated the Red Sea.
21. The Israelites went through the Red Sea on dry land. However, when the Egyptians tried to pursue the Israelites they could not get across the Red Sea successfully. The Egyptians drowned when the waters came back together.
22. The people of Israel were then led by Moses and should have entered the land of Canaan. However, because of multiple episodes of disobedience and murmuring in the wilderness, they ended up wandering for forty years.
23. While the Israelites were traveling in the wilderness God provided for their physical needs manna (bread from heaven). God was also with them and directed their path.
24. God led his people Israel by letting them see a cloudy pillar at day and a pillar of fire at night.
25. Moses himself did not enter into Canaan the "Promised Land" as he himself disobeyed God.

What spiritual lessons can be learned from this story?

1. God often uses difficult circumstances for his glory.
2. God's plan is not always immediately apparent in the middle of our circumstances but he has promised to never leave us nor forsake in our darkest times.
3. All of our experiences that we go through often help us in our completion in the plan of God. For example, since Moses was raised as an Egyptian, he learned their governing system, leadership skills, and military tactics.
4. When Moses was a shepherd for forty years in Midian, Moses also learned that he could lead in humble circumstances.
5. God's provision for deliverance from our circumstances sometimes comes from the unlikely places.

What does this story reveal about God's character?

1. God does not abandon us in our circumstances.
2. God sometimes uses unlikely people to do his work.
3. God is a just God, he sees all our injustices and he will punish the guilty party.
4. God's provision as part of his plan is always done as a part of his perfect timing.

David

Passage: 2 Samuel 16-24

Background:

1. Saul was the first king of Israel. He turned out to be a wicked man and lost the favor of the Lord.
2. God then anointed David the son of Jesse to be king over Israel.
3. Samuel went to Jesse's house and anointed the least likely of his sons to become king, David.
4. David stayed in the house of King Saul and would often play the harp. When David played the harp Saul would feel better as an evil spirit that was tormenting him.
5. The Philistines were enemies of Israel. Israel was at war with the Philistines. The Philistine's champion was a man named Goliath.
6. Goliath was a man who was feared for his skill in battle. Goliath obviously had killed many men in battle.
7. Goliath was physically imposing as he was reportedly 9ft tall.
8. He challenged anyone in Israel's army to fight him. However, everyone in the army was afraid to come out and fight him.
9. However, when David heard about Goliath the Spirit of the Lord came upon him and he had the courage to fight Goliath. David was armed only with sling and five stones.
10. Goliath taunted David and threatened to feed his bodies to the vultures.
11. David stood firm in the strength and courage that God gave him at that time.
12. David told Goliath that he would cut off his head.
13. David then put a stone in a sling and he hurled it at Goliath's head. The stone hit Goliath squarely in the forehead and caused him to fall.
14. David quickly ran up and took Goliath's sword and cut off his head.
15. There was a great shout of victory in the camp of Israel. The Israelites then won a victory against the Philistines. However, Saul became jealous of David and sought to kill him as he became famous after his victory.
16. David hid from Saul and Saul was eventually killed in battle. David then became king.
17. Sometime later David instead of being out with his army decided to stay at home.
18. David saw when he was walking on his roof a beautiful woman bathing. Her name was Bathsheba.
19. David called her into his house and slept with her. Bathsheba became pregnant and she told David.
20. David initially tried to hide his adultery by having Uriah the Hittite (her husband) to come and sleep with her.
21. Uriah was a loyal man and refused to come back from being out on the battlefield.
22. David then had his commander put Uriah in the forefront of the battle so that he would have a greater likelihood of getting killed.
23. Uriah died in the battle. Sometime later, Nathan the prophet came to David and told him the story of a rich man who had many flocks and a poor man who had only one lamb.

However, when a guest of a rich man came the rich man took the lamb the poor man owned and ate it with the guests.

24. David was angry at the rich man did such a thing and noted that the rich man had no pity on the poor man. Nathan then said that what David had done was exactly what the rich man had done. David was blessed with many wives, land, and victories in battle.
25. However, David has despised what the Lord has given him and chose to do evil.
26. David's selfish desires led him to be tempted and commit sin. As punishment, Nathan declared one of the members of his household will sleep with all of his wives in public.
27. Nathan also prophesized that the son that he had with Bathsheba would die.
28. True to the word of the prophet Nathan these events did happen.
29. David repented but the consequences of his sin still occurred.
30. However, David had another son with Bathsheba his name was Solomon.

What spiritual lessons can be learned from this story?

1. We all have trials and hurdles that we deal with in life. However, with God's help we can overcome these trials and hurdles in life.
2. God is willing to help us overcome our Goliath's (intimidating challenges) in our lives.
3. Even though we are guilty of sin God always has his ear open for our repentance and is quick to forgive us for our sins. However, the consequences for our sins will have to be addressed.
4. The consequences of sin are often outweighing the benefits of the sin that was committed.
5. Even though he committed sins that were especially heinous God was quick to forgive him and called him a man after my own heart. God did forgive him and allowed the birth of his son Solomon (Solomon became the greatest king in the history of Israel).
6. Heartfelt repentance from David led to God calling him a man after his own heart. Psalm 51 was written by David after he committed this sin. It is a psalm representing his heartfelt repentance.

What does this story reveal about God's character?

1. God sees and judges our sins even the ones that are in secret.
2. God always looks for the heart that is willing to repent from their sins and be forgiven.
3. God picks people for his service not based on physical attributes but on their spiritual ones.
4. God demonstrates that he will judge those who stand against him.
5. God is a God of justice and will not let evil deeds go unpunished.

Job

Passage: Job 1-42

Background:

1. Job was a man who was blameless and upright. Job feared God and shunned evil.
2. God materially blessed Job. Job had 10 children and was very wealthy.
3. Job in his prosperity did not ever forget God. Job always wanted to be perfect in the sight of God. Job also set an example to his family and often made sacrifices on behalf of his children so that they would be right before God.
4. Job was so upright before God that God even bragged to Satan that he was one of a kind and there was no one on earth like him.
5. Satan argued in the presence of God that Job was faithful to God because he was materially blessed and that God was protecting him.
6. Satan further argued that if all of these things were taken away Job would curse God and die.
7. So God agrees to Satan's challenge having full confidence that Job would trust him, but he did not allow Satan to harm his life or his health.
8. Sometime later, Job receives sudden news that he has lost his flocks, and his servants.
9. After that, Job was given the most devastating news, that all his children died and his house collapsed on them.
10. In all of this, Job was obviously sad but Job's response was that everything came from God and he bowed down and worshiped God (See Job 1:21).
11. Then while all of this happened Satan again presents himself before the Lord and God says look Job has not cursed him despite losing his material wealth and his children.
12. Satan then argues that since his life and health is intact he could afford to lose everything and still be faithful.
13. God agrees to Satan's second test, you can do whatever you want to him but you must spare his life.
14. Then Satan went out and did not kill Job but afflicted him with painful sores from the top of his head to the soles of his feet.
15. After Job was afflicted, even his own wife said curse God and die.
16. Job however rebukes his wife and says you can't only accept good from the Lord but also bad.
17. Then his three friends came to try to comfort him but could not recognize him secondary to his physical condition. They initially did not even say one word to him because the depth of his suffering.
18. Job's three friends basically suggested that he is reaping what he has sown.
19. They figured that since he is suffering so much he must have done something against God that only he and God know about.
20. In the end, despite all the misfortunes that happened to Job, he was upright before God.
21. God himself chastens his friends for saying that Job was not upright with him.
22. God restored the fortunes of Job and has given him twice as much as he had before.

What spiritual lessons can be learned from this story?

1. Job sets an example for us to praise God despite our circumstances.
2. Job did not only love God because of his material possessions, but still loved God even after all of it was taken away.
3. Often times while we are enduring a trial, Satan came bring people to discourage and say we are being punished. However, the trials could be the testing of our faith.

What does this story reveal about God's character?

1. God wants us to praise him despite our circumstances.
2. God can give blessings to us and is also within his rights to take it away.
3. God judges Job's friends for discouraging him.
4. God can redeem and restore even the direst circumstances like he did for Job.

Daniel

Passage: Daniell-6

Background:

1. Daniel was a Jewish exile in Babylon. Daniel was noted as well as Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego for their intelligence and special talents that they had.
2. Initially, they were trained in the Babylonian way of life and governance.
3. As part their training, they were housed in the royal palace and were given food that was offered to idols.
4. Daniel and his fellow exiles refused to eat food that was offered to an idol.
5. Daniel and his fellow exiles told their guardian that they would eat lentils and water for the next period of time.
6. He said if they did not appear better in appearance than the other exiles, than they would eat of the food that was offered to the idols.
7. At the end of the ten days, they looked healthier and better nourished then the men who ate the royal food.
8. God blessed them by giving Daniel and his fellow exiles with knowledge and understanding of all kinds of literature and learning.
9. Daniel in particular could understand visions and dreams of all kinds.
10. Daniel proved his wisdom when he interpreted and told the king about his dream.
11. Daniel was given a great position in the kingdom along with his three other friends who were exiles.
12. Daniel's three friends (Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego) soon proved their faithfulness to God when they refused to bow down before a golden statue of King Nebuchadnezzar.
13. They were thrown into a blazing furnace as punishment. They came out of the burning furnace without having the smell of smoke or having their clothes singed.
14. King Nebuchadnezzar himself realized that the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego was the only true God.
15. Daniel had his chance to prove his faithfulness to God during the reign of King Darius.
16. At this time, the other rulers who were jealous of Daniel and his success were looking for a reason to demote him.
17. They could not find a reason as Daniel was diligent in all his work.
18. They did find however that they could trap him. They made a law that the only person that anyone can pray to would be king Darius for the next thirty days.
19. Daniel still prayed to God and not to Darius. Daniel was promptly found guilty and he was thrown into the lion's den even though King Darius did not realize that the law was designed to Daniel.
20. King Darius could not sleep because he knew that Daniel deserved nothing worthy of death.
21. Earlier the next morning, King Darius went over to the mouth of the lion's den and asked if Daniel had survived.

22. Daniel himself answered Darius and said God closed the mouths of the lions and he slept unharmed.
23. Darius immediately pulled out Daniel and promptly and threw in those who plotted against Daniel.
24. Those people and their families met the punishment that was initially planned for Daniel.

What spiritual lessons can be learned from this story?

1. Daniel was willing to be an example in his generation to have no idols in his life.
2. Daniel and his three friends even though they were in a culture that was completely against God, they still remained faithful.
3. Daniel and his friends were not afraid to entrust their lives and everything they had to God. They believed that God would take care of them.
4. Daniel and his friends were willing to give up everything including their lives to be faithful to God.

What does this story reveal about God's character?

1. God will never cause those who put shame who trust in him be put to shame (see Psalm 25:3).
2. God is eternally faithful to never leave us nor forsake us in our times of trouble (see Deuteronomy 31:6).
3. God is present with us even through intense persecution.
4. God desires to be the ultimate object of our affection (see Matthew 22:37).
5. God honors those who make him their ultimate affection (Matthew 6:33).