



This Reading Guide has been designed for use during the “King of Kings” message series at South Ridge Church: December 2019

### A Note from Pastor Justin:

In our former message series, *The Kings of Old*, we looked into the lives of 10+ different kings from the Old Testament. Even though these kings lived in a completely different culture and in a completely different period of time, it was clear from their lives that the decisions they made impacted not only their own lives, but the lives of countless others. It’s a valuable lesson that still speaks to us today: our decisions impact not only our own lives, but the lives of countless others.

But *The Kings of Old* message series also showed that there were other important roles within the people of God in the Old Testament. Yes, there were kings. But there were prophets and priests as well.

We saw that God takes each of these roles *very* seriously. For example, King Saul made a sacrifice before a battle because the *Prophet* Samuel wasn’t there. The consequences for King Saul were both swift, and severe. Similarly, King Uzziah once took the opportunity to burn incense in God’s temple, a role that was designated only for *Priests*. Uzziah also experienced punishment from God.

What this teaches us is that God had a very specific role for *Prophets, Priests, and Kings*. And in His infinite holiness, wisdom, and majesty, God showed that He was very serious about ensuring these roles were fulfilled by the right people and in the right ways.

Several hundred years after *The Kings of Old*, a new man arrives amidst the people of God. And for the first time ever, this *One* man was able to fulfill the roles of *Prophet, Priest, and King*. Not only that, but He also takes on the role of Savior. Join us, as we journey more deeply into the life of Jesus.

As we begin this new message series, we encourage you to:

- Commit to joining us every week of this series.
- Commit to reading through this Reading Guide, reflecting and journaling through the questions provided within each daily reading.
- Use a good Study Bible and/or other resources as you read through this Reading Guide. Refer to <https://southridgeblog.com/study-bible-info> for more information on many excellent Study Bibles available today.
- Write down questions you have about what you’re reading, and take opportunities to seek out answers to those questions.

King of  
Kings

Prophet, Priest,  
King, & Savior

DAILY READING EXAMPLE:

DAY 1: LOOKING FORWARD

The left side of each daily reading will contain a brief devotional.

**READING & JOURNALING:**

The right side of each daily reading will contain a few Scripture verses to read, and additional questions for reflection. You will most benefit from this study by writing out answers to all of the questions in a notebook. This will help you to pause and reflect on the Scriptures and topics for each reading.

**PRAYER:**

The right side of each daily reading will also contain a brief prayer to read and reflect on.

**F260 READING:**

This is an additional Scripture Reading for those who want to read through the foundational passages of Scripture throughout the year. This F260 Reading Plan paired with the “7 Arrows” method for reflection is an excellent way to *Read, Reflect, and Respond* to God’s Word.

MESSAGE SERIES OUTLINE:

DECEMBER 1: JESUS AS PROPHET

DECEMBER 8: JESUS AS PRIEST

DECEMBER 15: JESUS AS KING

DECEMBER 22/24: JESUS AS SAVIOR



# King of Kings

# Prophet

Priest, King, Savior

## DAY 1: The Role of a Prophet

Try to imagine living in the ancient world sometime between 1,000-500 B.C. What are you doing for a living? How do you teach your kids? Where do you go for spiritual advice?

As you can imagine, education was very limited in the ancient world. As such, people would turn to a local prophet for religious insight. These prophets were common in every nation, not just within the nation of Israel. Every religion or belief system had men or women who served the role of a prophet.

What was their role? Primarily, the role of a prophet was to speak on behalf of the people's God (or god). While this sometimes included speaking what was going to happen in the future, it was primarily about speaking their God's (god's) truth. In simpler terms, when a prophet spoke, the people listened! This person was speaking directly on behalf of their God (god) and the people wanted to know what their God (god) had to say.

Hundreds of years later, Jesus arrives and takes on the role of a prophet. Everything Jesus spoke, He did so on behalf of God.

## READING & JOURNALING:

### HEBREWS 1:1-4

How intently ought we study the life of Jesus if He truly did speak on behalf of God?

What questions do you have about the life of Jesus? (Think of as many as you can.) Where will you go or who will you talk with in order to find the answers to these questions?

### PRAYER:

Heavenly Father, I understand that no matter how long I've been a follower of Jesus, there is more that I can learn from Him. As the Christmas Season approaches, my desire is to be connected to Jesus, the Vine (John 15), so that I can grow in my love of You and love of others. I pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

## F260 READING: (A Scripture Reading Plan for Busy Believers)

### Read: Deuteronomy 8 & 9

**Journal:** Write it out. Following the pattern from "7 Arrows", (see back page) what did you learn from today's reading?

## DAY 2: Jesus is the Word of God

As we read yesterday in Hebrews 1:1-4, Jesus spoke directly on behalf of God. This ought to create within us a desire to pause and pay very careful attention to everything He taught.

But Jesus was much more than a prophet who spoke on behalf of God. The Scriptures also indicate that He Himself *was* the Word of God. He didn't just speak the Word of God, He *was* the Word of God!

This would indicate that everything He spoke was from God, every decision He made was from God, and every act of His life was an act of God.

The Life Application Study Bible notes on John 1:1, "This is the truth about Jesus, and the foundation of all truth. If we cannot or do not believe this basic truth, we will not have enough faith to trust our eternal destiny to Him. That is why John wrote this Gospel—to build faith and confidence in Jesus Christ so that we may believe that He truly was and is the Son of God."

## READING & JOURNALING:

### JOHN 1:1-14

Why do you think that some in our culture struggle to believe that Jesus was God?

What are at least 3 reasons you believe Jesus was and is God?

Can you think of anybody you can share one or more of those truths with sometime this week?

If you don't yet believe Jesus was and is God, what do you believe about Jesus? Will you consider the possibility over the next few weeks that Jesus was and is God?

### PRAYER:

Heavenly Father, I recognize that Jesus is the Word, and that *every word* in the Scriptures ultimately all points to Him. Today, I simply pray that I would know Him better. Amen.

## F260 READING: (A Scripture Reading Plan for Busy Believers)

### Read: Deuteronomy 30 & 31

**Journal:** Write it out. Following the pattern from "7 Arrows", (see back page) what did you learn from today's reading?



### DAY 3: Jesus Fulfills Old Testament Prophecies

On Day 1, we read that the primary role of a prophet was to speak on behalf of God. Sometimes this meant that a prophet would talk about the future. This isn't to be confused with a modern-day fortune teller. Instead, it was a message about real events which - according to God - would take place.

The Old Testament mentions dozens of these prophets who spoke on behalf of God to His people. And many of these prophets spoke a message from God about a Savior, or a Messiah, who would come to save His people.

One statistician has noted that the odds of having one person fulfill just 8 of the 300 prophecies in the Old Testament would be 1 in  $10^{17}$ . That's 1 in 100, 000, 000, 000, 000, 000. To put this in perspective, it would be enough to cover the state of Texas two feet deep in silver dollars. The odds of walking through this mess of coins and picking up the *one* that was marked differently than all others, would be inconceivable. Yet Jesus fulfilled not just 8 of these Old Testament Prophecies. He fulfilled them all.

### READING & JOURNALING:

#### ISAIAH 53, LUKE 23:44-56

How regularly do you pause to consider how remarkable it is that Jesus fulfilled so many Old Testament prophecies?

Which verse or verses in Isaiah 53 stands out to you most?

#### PRAYER:

Heavenly Father, it's not often that I truly reflect on Old Testament prophecies and consider that Jesus fulfilled them all. Today, it's simply my desire to reflect on the awe of wonder of Jesus. May I continue to know Him more and more each and every day. I pray in His holy name. Amen.

#### F260 READING: (A Scripture Reading Plan for Busy Believers)

##### Read: Deuteronomy 32:48-52 & 34

**Journal:** Write it out. Following the pattern from "7 Arrows", (see back page) what did you learn from today's reading?

### DAY 4: Jesus was a Prophet to the People

Throughout the week we've seen that a prophet spoke on behalf of God, how Jesus fulfilled Old Testament prophecies, and the truth that Jesus Himself was and is God in the flesh. One additional interesting aspect of Jesus' life and ministry is that others referred to Him as a prophet.

Here are a few examples:

- When Jesus entered into the city of Jerusalem, many asked who HE was and the crowd responded, "This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth (Matthew 21:11)."
- After bringing back to life a man who was dead, the crowd responded, "A great prophet has appeared among us! (Luke 7:16)."
- When meeting a Samaritan woman, she responds to Him to say, "Sir, I can see that you are a prophet (John 4:19)."

In short, the people Jesus Himself interacted with recognized Him not only as a great teacher, but as somebody who spoke directly on behalf of God.

### READING & JOURNALING:

#### MATTHEW 5:1-7:29

Today's reading is commonly referred to as the Sermon on the Mount. Which three of these verses or teachings stick out to you most?

What do these passages teach you about God?

What steps can you put into place today (this week, month, or year) to live out these passages?

#### PRAYER:

Heavenly Father, sometimes I find it hard to read my Bible, and today I'm struck by an even greater challenge — living out my faith well! As such, today I simply hold onto You. I trust that You will never leave me nor forsake me, no matter how difficult the circumstances I face. Thank You for that! I pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

#### F260 READING: (A Scripture Reading Plan for Busy Believers)

##### Read: Joshua 1 & 2

**Journal:** Write it out. Following the pattern from "7 Arrows", (see back page) what did you learn from today's reading?

### DAY 5: REVIEW

What did the Scripture readings this week reveal to you about the nature and character of God? What have you learned about yourself throughout the week?

#### F260 READING: (A Scripture Reading Plan for Busy Believers)

##### Read: Joshua 3 & 4

**Journal:** Write it out. Following the pattern from "7 Arrows", (see back page) what did you learn from today's reading?





King of  
Kings

Prophet,  
Priest, King, Savior

#### DAY 1: The Role of a Priest

Throughout the Scriptures, the role of a Priest was to be a mediator between people and God (1 Timothy 2:5).

The Life Application Study Bible notes, "Though some people think there are many ways to God, in practice, each person must choose a single way. We can stand on one side of a gorge and discuss the possibility of many bridges across the abyss, but if we are determined to cross, we will have to realize that only one bridge is connected to the other side. Those who insist that there are many bridges to God usually fit in one of the following categories: (1) They have not personally committed to any "bridge." They are surprised that their belief in multiple ways does not exempt them from having to choose one. (2) Their belief in "many ways to God" hides their true belief that finding God doesn't really matter at all. (3) They are convinced that arguing for "many ways to God" will insure that they won't be wrong. If there is only one way, their generalized belief will presumably have included it. (4) They have decided that believing in "many ways to God" requires less work than going to the trouble of actually considering the claims of various religious systems.

#### READING & JOURNALING:

##### 1 TIMOTHY 2:5

Which of the four categories in today's devotional reading do you think *most* people fall into?

Be honest: Do you find yourself in any of these categories yourself?

How significant is it that Jesus Himself claims that He is the *only* bridge (see John 14:6)?

##### PRAYER:

Heavenly Father, I confess that there are times when I have doubts and question whether there is only one "bridge" to You, but the life of Jesus reveals that He and He alone is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Today, I humbly thank You for offering Jesus as a bridge. May my life continue to reflect the thankfulness I have. In Jesus' name. Amen.

**F260 READING:** (A Scripture Reading Plan for Busy Believers)

**Read:** Joshua 5:10-15 & 6

**Journal:** Write it out. Following the pattern from "7 Arrows", (see back page) what did you learn from today's reading?

#### DAY 2: Approach God in Boldness - Part I

If you were currently standing on the equator, you would be experiencing the Earth spinning on its axis at 1,037mph. That's pretty fast. But think about this: the Earth is currently traveling around the Sun at approximately 66,000mph. Even more quickly than that, the light from our Sun is traveling 93,000,000 miles in about 8 minutes to get here. Despite these insane speeds, Earth is absolutely perfect for harboring life.

But our planet is only one of billions within the Milky Way Galaxy. There are billions of Galaxies throughout the known universe, and billions and billions of solar systems, and billions and billions and billions of planets. And somehow, it's all working in perfect order.

While we may not understand every aspect of creation, it's clear that God must be extremely powerful to create such a vast universe. How do we even approach such a God?

The author of Hebrews tells us that because of Jesus, we can not only approach God, but we can do so in boldness and in confidence. We don't need to be afraid, but can be near our all-powerful God all because of Jesus.

#### READING & JOURNALING:

##### HEBREWS 4:14-16, HEBREWS 10:19-23

The Greek word translated *boldness* or *confidence* in Hebrews 4:16 literally means, "Freedom in speaking all that one thinks or pleases." How regularly do you have thoughts or feelings you would be uncomfortable sharing with God in prayer? Why do you think that is?

How would your prayer life be different if you really felt free to speak with God about anything and everything?

##### PRAYER:

Heavenly Father, my hope today is to enter into your presence and be completely free. May I be free from trying to please You, and instead be enlightened and enlivened by just being with You. I pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

**F260 READING:** (A Scripture Reading Plan for Busy Believers)

**Read:** Joshua 7 & 8

**Journal:** Write it out. Following the pattern from "7 Arrows", (see back page) what did you learn from today's reading?

### DAY 3: Approach God in Boldness - Part II

We can only imagine how great and powerful God must be for Him to create and hold together everything in the universe. With so much majesty, how do we even approach such a God? It seems almost inconceivable that anybody would want to be in His presence, let alone come to Him in prayer and make requests. But as we saw yesterday, we can not only be in His presence, we can enter into His presence in boldness - all because of Jesus.

There's still one lingering question: How should we pray?

This question has been asked by countless people for hundreds of years. Jesus taught His disciples how to pray (Matthew 5:5-15), and also demonstrated more elaborate prayers (John 17). An examination of these, as well as other prayers through the Bible, shows that *any* prayer in which a person approaches God with a desire to know Him, know and see themselves in the same way He does, and know and see others in the same way He sees them, is a prayer worth offering. Today, take the opportunity to pray in such a way. Approach God in boldness. Pray to sincerely know Him, to see yourself as He does, and to see others as He sees them.

#### READING & JOURNALING:

**JOHN 17, EPHESIANS 1:18, ROMANS 12:12, EXODUS 14:14**

What are your prayers usually like? (For example, do you generally pray to know and understand God,? Do you pray for His will to be done, or do you usually pray for God to help your own will be done?)

Do you think your prayers would be any different if you took the opportunity to write them down?

#### PRAYER:

Today, take the opportunity to write out your own prayer to God.

**F260 READING:** (A Scripture Reading Plan for Busy Believers)

**Read: Joshua 23 & 24**

**Journal:** Write it out. Following the pattern from "7 Arrows", (see back page) what did you learn from today's reading?

### DAY 4: Jesus...a Priest Forever

If you were to do a Bible Study on Priests, you would likely learn that the first priest in the Old Testament was Moses's brother Aaron. You would read all about the role of a Priest, which ones fulfilled their role well, which ones did not, and that some were [wrongly] focused on politics.

But one of the most interesting priests in the Bible came hundreds of years before Moses was even born. In the book of Genesis, Abraham found himself in an unfortunate position of needing to rescue his nephew. After a significant battle, an unknown priest by the name of Melchizedek approached Abraham and said, "Blessed be Abram by God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth. And praise be to God Most High, who delivered your enemies into your hand (Genesis 14:19)."

This Priest, Melchizedek, is otherwise unknown. The author of Hebrews writes He was, "Without father or mother, without genealogy, without beginning of days or end of life, resembling the Son of God, He remains a priest forever (Hebrews 7:3)."

Jesus is similar to this priest. He has no beginning of days. He has not end of life. Jesus is eternal. A priest forever.

#### READING & JOURNALING:

**HEBREWS 7**

The Scriptures teach that our bodies are a *temple* of God. This means He doesn't just live and exist around us, but within us.

What are some ways you pause to consider that God is always within you?

#### PRAYER:

Heavenly Father, I confess that many times it's easy for me to get caught up in the hustle and bustle of daily life, and as a result I neglect to consider the implications of what it means that You are living within me. Today, I commit to being spiritually alert so that I may acknowledge Your presence, and walk in step with the Holy Spirit. Wherever You may lead me, Lord, I will follow. I pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

**F260 READING:** (A Scripture Reading Plan for Busy Believers)

**Read: Judges 2 & 3**

**Journal:** Write it out. Following the pattern from "7 Arrows", (see back page) what did you learn from today's reading?

### DAY 5: REVIEW

What did the Scripture readings this week reveal to you about the nature and character of God? What have you learned about yourself throughout the week?

**F260 READING:** (A Scripture Reading Plan for Busy Believers)

**Read: Judges 4**

**Journal:** Write it out. Following the pattern from "7 Arrows", (see back page) what did you learn from today's reading?





King of  
Kings

Prophet,  
Priest, **King**, Savior

### DAY 1: The Role of a King

Living in a democracy, it's difficult to think about what life may be like under the rule of a king. In the ancient world, it made complete sense for people to live under the rule of a king. The problem, however, is that every nation had their own style of government. While they each had a king, they all fulfilled this role in their own unique ways.

For the people of Israel, God had given them some specific instructions for how a king ought to live and rule (Deuteronomy 17:14-20). God was most interested in a king not being rich, as well as reading and following God's Word. The New Bible Dictionary notes, "The main responsibility of the king was the maintenance of righteousness...to preserve justice and proclaim [God's Word]."

In other words, a **prophet** had the role of speaking on behalf of God, a **priest** had the role of being a mediator between people and God, and a **king** had the role of upholding the Word of God by righteous rule. Each role was unique. In the Old Testament, God created each of these roles to ensure He was understood, and to show that He could be trusted. And until Jesus, nobody was able to fulfill all three roles.

### READING & JOURNALING:

#### DEUTERONOMY 17:14-20

Why do you think God outlined the role of a king hundreds of years before the people of Israel asked for a king?

In the Old Testament, the kings that most strayed from God were the ones who did not proclaim His Word. What are 2-3 barriers that get in the way of you proclaiming God's Word to your family? Friends? Others? What steps can you take to overcome these barriers?

#### PRAYER:

Heavenly Father, my desire is to follow You so closely that the idea of not proclaiming Your Word would be a completely foreign concept to me. Help me to know Your Word, live it, and proclaim it by my words and deeds. In Jesus' name. Amen.

**F260 READING:** (A Scripture Reading Plan for Busy Believers)

**Read:** Judges 6 & 7

**Journal:** Write it out. Following the pattern from "7 Arrows", (see back page) what did you learn from today's reading?

### DAY 2: King Over Sin & Death

The story of the Bible reveals how God's people in the Old Testament were enslaved in Egypt, led out of slavery by Moses, settled in what became known as the nation of Israel, were later overthrown by the Assyrian Empire, the Babylonian Empire, and later, the Roman Empire. While under Roman rule, the people of Israel were still expecting a king to rise up and free them. They were expecting a king to lead the people in such a way that there would be an uprising against the Roman Empire, and they would once again become their own nation. When Jesus arrived on the scene, He was *not* the king they expected Him to be.

Jesus did not begin any kind of uprising. (In fact, there was a time when He loudly declared a Roman military commander had more faith than anybody else He had met!) Nor did He take any role within the political system. His fight was not against the Romans.

Instead, Jesus came to reveal that He was more powerful than any politician, military commander, or king. He came to show that He ruled over humankind's greatest enemy - sin and death.

### READING & JOURNALING:

#### MATTHEW 8:5-13, 1 CORINTHIANS 15:54-58, ROMANS 6:9

Jesus said about the Roman Centurion, "I have not found anyone in Israel with such faith!" What do you think the people of Israel would've thought about Jesus' statement?

The idea of death is something that brings fear to many. How would your life be different if you didn't fear death, but fully rested in the hope of eternal life with Jesus?

#### PRAYER:

Heavenly Father, I confess that I don't like to think about death. I like being in control of things, and the idea of death is something completely outside of my control. Today, I'm grateful for the reminder that You are ultimately in control, and because of that I have nothing to fear, even in death. I pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

**F260 READING:** (A Scripture Reading Plan for Busy Believers)

**Read:** Judges 13 & 14

**Journal:** Write it out. Following the pattern from "7 Arrows", (see back page) what did you learn from today's reading?



### DAY 3: All Authority

After Jesus' death and resurrection He appeared to His disciples and shared the Great Commission. Matthew 28:18-20 reads, *Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."*

The words *all authority* reveal that Jesus is very much in charge. He has the ability, power, strength, authority, capability - and because of what He had accomplished - the right to rule over the hearts and minds of others. As such, He commanded His disciples to go out in His name, making disciples of others.

The apostle Paul, who was not one of Jesus' original disciples, came to recognize the authority of Jesus, and even wrote, "... that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord (Philippians 2:10-11)."

### READING & JOURNALING:

#### MATTHEW 28:18-20, PHILIPPIANS 2:1-11

In what ways did Jesus show Himself to be a King who was worth following?

What do you think His followers decided to give up in order to fully follow Him?

Is there anything you may need to give up in order to more fully follow Him? What's preventing you from doing so?

#### PRAYER:

Heavenly Father, I'm very grateful for the life of Christ and the example He set on how to live and how to love. Today, I recognize there are many things I ought to "give up" in order to follow You more fully. As I do so, I pray that You awaken my life and my soul so that I may see myself and others in the same way You do. I pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

**F260 READING:** (A Scripture Reading Plan for Busy Believers)

**Read:** Judges 15 & 16

**Journal:** Write it out. Following the pattern from "7 Arrows", (see back page) what did you learn from today's reading?

### DAY 4: My King

Take a few minutes to think about the past three weeks of your life. How have you spent your time? (If you look at the screen time hours on your phone, what would it say?) Similarly, how have you spent your money?

Generally speaking, how we spend our time and our money reveals something about us. It reveals whether we like being with other people, or if we prefer to be by ourselves. It reveals if we spend time numbing or escaping from the hassles of life, or if we spend time engaging and enjoying the wonders of life. It reveals if we spend our money on mindless entertainment, or if we spend our money trying to make our family, community, and church stronger.

Similarly, how we think about Jesus and spend time with Him reveals things about us. It reveals whether we truly see Him as a significant part of our lives, or if He's somebody we occasionally talk about or pray to. It reveals whether He is the ultimate joy in our lives, or if we seek ultimate joy elsewhere. In the end, it reveals if we really, truly desire Him as our King. It reveals whether or not He and He alone is the mark of righteousness and rule in our lives.

### READING & JOURNALING:

#### MATTHEW 6:19-24, MATTHEW 12:34

Think about how you have spent your time and money over the past three weeks. In your own words, what does this reveal about you?

What, if anything, is getting in the way of Jesus being the ultimate ruler (king) in your life?

#### PRAYER:

Heavenly Father, I acknowledge that I have not spent all of my time or all of my money in ways that may be honorable to You. I recognize that it's impossible for me to be perfect this side of heaven, but my desire is for You to be at the center of all things in my life. May You continue to work in and through me in remarkable ways. I pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

**F260 READING:** (A Scripture Reading Plan for Busy Believers)

**Read:** Ruth 1 & 2

**Journal:** Write it out. Following the pattern from "7 Arrows", (see back page) what did you learn from today's reading?

### DAY 5: REVIEW

What did the Scripture readings this week reveal to you about the nature and character of God? What have you learned about yourself throughout the week?

**F260 READING:** (A Scripture Reading Plan for Busy Believers)

**Read:** Ruth 3 & 4

**Journal:** Write it out. Following the pattern from "7 Arrows", (see back page) what did you learn from today's reading?





# King of Kings

Prophet,  
Priest, King, Savior

## DAY 1: The Role of a Savior

Over the previous three weeks we've taken the opportunity to see how Jesus fulfilled the roles of a prophet, priest, and king. One person having the wisdom, character, and authority to fulfill all of these roles was completely unheard of. Jesus' ability to fulfill all three indicated that He was much more than a prophet, much more than a priest, and much more than a king. He was and continues to be, a savior for people.

The word *savior* isn't a term used often in the English language. As odd as it may sound, some lists of the most commonly used English words indicate that terms such *manure* and *damage* are used more frequently in published writings than *savior*.

There are many possible reasons as to why the term *savior* is used so infrequently. One possibility is that the term itself indicates that someone or something is in need of being rescued, and some may object to the idea that they are in need of being rescued.

But this was the primary role of Jesus - to rescue us. Our own safety and protection mattered more to Him than anything.

## READING & JOURNALING:

**PSALM 82:3-4, EZEKIEL 34:11-12, COLOSSIANS 1:13**

Do you know anybody who objects to the idea that they are in need of being rescued?

In your own words, how would you express to others that you have been *rescued* or *saved* by Jesus?

## PRAYER:

Heavenly Father, I confess that I don't often think about *how* to share my faith with others. I would say I believe it's important to do, but that doesn't mean I actually go out and do it. This week, provide me opportunities to not just *say* I believe it's important to share my faith, but instead, give me opportunities to actually share it. I pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

**F260 READING:** (A Scripture Reading Plan for Busy Believers)

**Read:** 1 Samuel 1 & 2

**Journal:** Write it out. Following the pattern from "7 Arrows", (see back page) what did you learn from today's reading?

## DAY 2: Born a Savior

When Mary was pregnant with baby Jesus, an angel appeared to her and said, "You are to give Him the name Jesus, because He will save His people from their sins (Matthew 1:21)." After Jesus' birth, an angel appeared to a group of shepherds and said, "Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; He is the Messiah, the Lord (Luke 2:11)."

These two passages, as well as many others, reveal that all people (1) need saved (or rescued) from our sins, and (2) Jesus is the One who can rescue us.

After Jesus' life, death, and resurrection, many others continued to recognize Him as a Savior. If you were to read through the entire New Testament you would see that Jesus was born a Savior, lived a life in which He regularly *rescued* people who would have been seen as "outsiders" to the religious elite, and continued to be identified as a Savior for years after His life and ministry. Nearly 2,000 years later, billions of people around the world recognize Jesus as Lord and *Savior*.

## READING & JOURNALING:

**MATTHEW 1:21, LUKE 2:11, ACTS 13:23, PHILIPPIANS 3:20, MARK 2:13-17**

Re-read Mark 2:13-17. Imagine you were living in ancient Israel around 30 AD. Would you be more likely to (1) find yourself at dinner with Jesus, (2) be one of Jesus' disciples but not have an answer as to why He was eating with "sinners", or (3) frustrated with Jesus for spending time with thieves and prostitutes?

What sticks out most to you from this passage? How can you demonstrate the love of Christ in a significant way this week?

## PRAYER:

Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting. I pray in Jesus' name. Amen. (See Psalm 139: 23-24)

**F260 READING:** (A Scripture Reading Plan for Busy Believers)

**Read:** 1 Samuel 3 & 8

**Journal:** Write it out. Following the pattern from "7 Arrows", (see back page) what did you learn from today's reading?

### DAY 3: A Savior Brings Life

If you were to talk with 1,000, even 10,000 complete strangers, you would almost certainly discover that each and every one of them have experienced hurt, pain, loss, grief, and other forms of heartache. This is because nobody escapes hurt and pain in this life. Nobody. And even though we may question why we all experience pain and loss, we must acknowledge that the Scriptures don't teach that life will be without challenges.

But despite the challenges of life, the Scriptures do teach that we can experience a life filled with love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Similarly, the Scriptures teach that we are no longer condemned to death, and that we can experience a *new life* in Christ.

While some of the pain and hurts we experience in life cannot be avoided, there are still decisions we can make in order to feel fully alive. Not *my team just won an important game* kind of feeling, but a feeling of real joy, peace, and contentment that comes from nothing else but God.

### READING & JOURNALING:

#### ROMANS 8:1, 2 CORINTHIANS 5:17

What is something you regularly do to feel fully alive?

Have you considered the possibility that you sometimes forfeit the right to experience love, joy, (or other things that make you feel fully alive) because you spend too much time *numbing* the pain in your life?

#### PRAYER:

Heavenly Father, I recognize that I sometimes do mindless activities in order to numb or disengage from the pain in my life. But I'm beginning to see this doesn't lead joy, because when I escape the pain, I end up escaping from real joy as well. Today, reveal to me some of the ways I'm escaping life, and help me to replace these poor habits with behaviors that are more life giving. I pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

**F260 READING:** (A Scripture Reading Plan for Busy Believers)

**Read: 1 Samuel 9 & 10**

**Journal:** Write it out. Following the pattern from "7 Arrows", (see back page) what did you learn from today's reading?

### DAY 4: A Savior Brings Love

If you were to summarize the entire life of Jesus in just one word, it wouldn't be *prophet*, or *priest*, or *king*, or even *savior*. The absolute best word to describe Jesus is *Love*.

When a young man asked Jesus which of the Old Testament commandments was *most* important, Jesus responded by saying that the entire Word of God can be summarized with just two commands - love God and love others. He Himself lived this out by loving God so much and loving *you* so much that He gave up His life so that you may experience life, and live it to the full. This and this alone ought to make us pause to consider how we can best love God and others ourselves.

The greatest challenge of our lives isn't to have a job that can support ourselves and our family. It isn't to be successful. It isn't to own the nicest car, house, or other 'stuff'. It's not about our looks, or what others may or may not think about us. The greatest challenge of our lives is simply determining to love God and others to the best of our ability.

As 2019 draws to a close, may we enter 2020 with a sincere desire to love God and be loved by God, to love others and be loved by others, and to be the people He has made us to be.

### READING & JOURNALING:

#### 1 JOHN 2:3-11

Which verse in this passage sticks out to you the most?

What is one way you will live out this passage this week?

#### PRAYER:

Heavenly Father, I recognize that your command to love You and love others is such a strong command that I will spend my entire life figuring out how to live it out well. Nevertheless, I *want* to live it out well, because I know that in living out my faith in love, is the best way to live. Help me to live in love. In Jesus' name. Amen.

**F260 READING:** (A Scripture Reading Plan for Busy Believers)

**Read: 1 Samuel 13 & 14**

**Journal:** Write it out. Following the pattern from "7 Arrows", (see back page) what did you learn from today's reading?

### DAY 5: REVIEW

What did the Scripture readings this week reveal to you about the nature and character of God? What have you learned about yourself throughout the week?

**F260 READING:** (A Scripture Reading Plan for Busy Believers)

**Read: 1 Samuel 15 & 16**

**Journal:** Write it out. Following the pattern from "7 Arrows", (see back page) what did you learn from today's reading?



**Note:** There will not be a Reading Guide available for the week of December 30 - January 4.  
The F260 Reading Plan for this week is below for your convenience.

**F260 Reading for Week of December 30 - January 4.**

Day 1: 1 Samuel 17 & 18

Day 2: 1 Samuel 19 & 20

Day 3: 1 Samuel 21 & 22

Day 4: Psalm 22, 1 Samuel 24:1 - 25:1

Day 5: 1 Samuel 28 & 31



King of  
Kings

Journal: Dig deeper into  
God's Word.

Read the passage for the day, and then Reflect and Respond to the passage by answering the questions provided below.

## 7 **ARROWS** of BIBLE READING

What does this passage say?



What did this passage mean to its  
original audience?



What does this passage tell  
us about God?



What does this passage tell  
us about man?



What does this passage  
demand of me?



How does this passage change  
the way I relate to people?



What does this passage  
prompt me to pray to God?

