

Through the Bible in 24 Months



WEEK 41 OF 104

What You Will Not Give Up

Week 41 of 104 • 39% of the way through the Bible

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

General Old Testament	1 Kings 6–10
Wisdom Literature	Psalms 31
Gospels	Mark 10:1–31
General New Testament	1 Corinthians 9:1–10:22

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

Everything in this week's reading turns on grip. Solomon builds God a house of cedar and gold and then spends nearly twice as long building his own. A young man with everything runs to Jesus asking about eternal life, hears one sentence he cannot bear, and walks away sad, and the hardest line in the account is that Jesus loved him and still let him go. Paul, who could have claimed support, a traveling wife, and every honor due an apostle, lists his rights in careful detail and then says he has never once used them. And David, hunted and half forgotten, opens his hand and gives away the only thing he has left: into Your hand I commit my spirit. What you will not release will eventually decide everything.

How to use this guide: Read all four passages during the week. Your teacher will take up two of them in class, one in each session. For the other two, work through the "Extended Class Discussion or Self-Study" questions on your own and write your answers in the space provided.

GENERAL OLD TESTAMENT 1 Kings 6–10

A House for God's Name

WHAT YOU WILL FIND HERE

For seven years the stone is dressed at the quarry so no hammer is heard on the temple site, and cedar from Lebanon rises over a floor of gold. Solomon builds his own palace in thirteen. Then the ark is carried in, a cloud fills the house so the priests cannot stand to minister, and Solomon prays one of the longest prayers in Scripture. God answers with a promise and a warning, and then the gold begins arriving.

FOR CLASS DISCUSSION

1. Standing inside the building he spent seven years on, Solomon prays, "Will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold, the heaven and heaven of heavens cannot contain Thee" (8:27). How does a man hold those two realities together without losing either one?
2. Read God's second appearance to Solomon in 9:3–9. Lay the promise and the warning side by side, and talk about how that warning reads differently now that you know how Solomon's story ends.

3. Solomon deliberately includes the foreigner who comes from a far country because of God's name (8:41–43). Measure this congregation against that prayer. What would a visitor who knows nothing about us actually experience on a Sunday morning?

EXTENDED CLASS DISCUSSION OR SELF-STUDY

1. List the situations Solomon names in 8:31–53 in which he expects people to pray toward this house. What runs through nearly all of them?
2. Read 1 Kings 8:10–11 beside Exodus 40:34–35. Note what happens each time God takes possession of a place, and what the priests were unable to do.
3. Stephen quotes Solomon's insight in Acts 7:47–50 and Paul makes the same argument in Acts 17:24. Trace both, then read 1 Corinthians 3:16 and Ephesians 2:19–22 and state where God dwells now.
4. Trace the amounts of gold, horses, and wives mentioned in chapters 9 and 10, then read Deuteronomy 17:16–17. Which of the three warnings given to Israel's kings is Solomon already ignoring?
5. Solomon gave seven years to God's house and thirteen to his own. Add up the hours you gave last week to your house and to the Lord's work. Name the one change to next week's calendar that would move the ratio, and put it in writing.

WISDOM LITERATURE Psalm 31

Into Thy Hand I Commit

WHAT YOU WILL FIND HERE

This psalm was written by a hunted man who has been dropped by most of the people he counted on. He begins with trust, asks God to be a rock and a fortress, and then says the words Jesus would say with His last breath. Halfway through, the confidence gives way and David admits what the trouble has done to his eye, his soul, his body, even his bones. Then the psalm turns and ends in praise.

FOR CLASS DISCUSSION

1. Jesus quoted Psalm 31:5 as He died (Luke 23:46). Read the verse first in David's own setting, then discuss what it means that the Lord chose a line from this psalm to die with.

2. David says in verse 12, “I am forgotten as a dead man out of mind; I am like a broken vessel.” Why would God preserve language that raw in a hymnbook, and what does it offer to someone in this room who feels exactly that today?
3. Verse 15 says, “My times are in Thy hand.” Name the part of your future you are most tempted to keep hold of yourself, and talk about what handing it to God would look like on an ordinary Monday.

EXTENDED CLASS DISCUSSION OR SELF-STUDY

1. Trace the words rock, fortress, and strength through Psalm 31. Then read Psalm 18:2 and note how consistently David reached for the same handful of images.
2. Psalm 31:5 is quoted in Luke 23:46 and echoed in Acts 7:59 and 1 Peter 4:19. List the three settings, and name what all three have in common.
3. List the physical effects David describes in verses 9 and 10. Consider what the psalm is willing to admit about the relationship between grief and the body.
4. The psalm swings repeatedly between complaint and confidence. Mark each place it turns, and count how many times David changes direction before the end.
5. Verse 24 commands courage to everyone who hopes in the Lord. Name one thing you have been avoiding because you are afraid of it, and set the day this week you will do it anyway.

GOSPELS Mark 10:1–31

Marriage, Children, and Riches

WHAT YOU WILL FIND HERE

The Pharisees open with a test about divorce, and Jesus answers by going back past Moses to the garden. Then people bring children to Him, the disciples try to clear them out, and Jesus is angry about it. He takes the children in His arms and blesses them. Finally a man with money and manners runs up, kneels, and asks what he must do to inherit eternal life. Jesus loves him, names the one thing, and watches him walk away.

FOR CLASS DISCUSSION

1. The Pharisees ask whether it is lawful for a man to divorce his wife. Rather than arguing about the certificate Moses allowed, Jesus goes back to Genesis. Why does He start there, and what does that say about where every question about marriage has to begin?
2. Jesus was indignant when the disciples turned the children away (10:14). What provoked a reaction that strong, and what did He mean by telling grown men to receive the kingdom like a little child?
3. The rich man went away grieving because he had great possessions, and Jesus, who loved him, let him go. What does that tell us about the terms of following Him, and what is the thing He might name if He looked at you?

EXTENDED CLASS DISCUSSION OR SELF-STUDY

1. Write Mark 10:6–9 out in your own words, then read Matthew 19:9 and note the single exception Jesus states there.
2. Trace everything Jesus does with the children in 10:13–16. List each separate action, and consider what it cost Him in a day already crowded with teaching.
3. The man asks what he must do to inherit eternal life. List the commandments Jesus names, notice which one of the ten He leaves out, and read Exodus 20:17 before you decide why.
4. Read Mark 10:23–27 alongside 1 Timothy 6:6–10 and 17–19. Where exactly does Paul locate the danger, and what does he tell wealthy Christians to do rather than simply divest?
5. Jesus put His finger on the one thing that man could not surrender. Write down what yours is. Then name one step this week that loosens your grip on it, and take that step before Sunday.

GENERAL NEW TESTAMENT 1 Corinthians 9:1–10:22

Lest I Be Disqualified

WHAT YOU WILL FIND HERE

Paul builds a careful case that he has every right a preacher could claim: to eat and drink at the church's expense, to take a believing wife along, to be supported by those he teaches. He argues it from the army, the

vineyard, the flock, the Law, and a command of the Lord Himself. Then he says he has used none of it. Chapter 10 adds the proof: Israel had every advantage and most of them fell.

FOR CLASS DISCUSSION

1. Paul spends most of chapter 9 proving he has rights and then says he has never used them (9:15). Why take the trouble to establish a right you intend to waive, and where might that pattern apply to us?
2. In 9:27 Paul says he disciplines his body so that after preaching to others he himself is not disqualified. If Paul could seriously entertain that possibility, how should that shape what we believe about whether a Christian can fall away?
3. First Corinthians 10:1–12 says Israel had the cloud, the sea, the bread, and the water, and most of them still fell in the wilderness. What is Paul warning the Corinthians about, and which verse in that paragraph is aimed straight at confident church members?

EXTENDED CLASS DISCUSSION OR SELF-STUDY

1. List the rights Paul names in 9:4–14 and the six or seven arguments he uses to prove them, from the soldier and the farmer through the Law and the command of the Lord.
2. Paul says he became all things to all men (9:19–23). Trace exactly what he adapted, then read Galatians 2:11–14 and note what he flatly refused to adapt.
3. Compare 1 Corinthians 10:1–5 with Exodus 14 and Numbers 14:26–35. List Israel's privileges, and then state what happened to the generation that enjoyed them.
4. Write out 1 Corinthians 10:13 and mark its three separate promises. Name a temptation you have been treating as unique to you, and test it against that verse.
5. Paul ran like a man who intended to win and trained his body to that end. Name one specific discipline you will take up this week, and name what you will give up to make room for it.

NEXT WEEK'S READING: 1 Kings 11–17 • Psalm 32–33 • Mark 10:32–11:14 • 1 Corinthians 10:23–11:34

More studies available on ChurchOfChristBibleStudies.com