



SOUTHLAND CHURCH

FIRST & SECOND
CHRONICLES

10 Day Devotional



foundations
daily devotional

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Versions of scripture quotations are noted.

INTRODUCTION

Our approach as we journey through the book of Chronicles is going to be unorthodox. We will not neatly turn pages to make our way through. Our topics will not flow from day to day but rather jump around, teasing and toying, stimulating our hearts and minds in a way that is not-so traditional.

Even within each day's challenge the method may be wonky and inconsistent, but God speaks to the wonky, He breathes truth in the winding inconsistencies, and He uses His people and His Word to get the job done.

The goal is to see, hear, taste, and experience God's Word in a new and fresh way. We want to hear His message in a way that penetrates deeply, stirring a desire to understand and know Him more deeply; this is what He created us to do, to be, and to grow into. Simply stated, we are to seek Him so we can love Him more.

DAY 1

FAMILY TREE



READ: 1 Chronicles 1-8

The first nine chapters of 1 Chronicles is made up of lists; oodles of names, neatly organized into categories, families, or people groups. Most are tongue-twisting, some unpronounceable, others are common, but all are names of real people. If you are like me you might have a tendency to skip these recorded names, but these lists are here for a purpose.

The first heading for chapter one is *Historical Records From Adam to Abraham*. These lists are made up of God's people. God included these lists, family lines, their assigned tasks and the territories they inhabited, whether or not they fell into captivity or were exiled, in His Word for a purpose.

He has a reason. Not had, has.

All Israel was listed in the genealogies recorded in the book of the kings of Israel. 1Ch 9:1 (NIV)

He kept track of His children. He knew where they were, what they were doing, how they got there and why. He loves His chosen ones of Israel both individually and as a group. It was through this special line Jesus was born.

The whole Old Testament is focused on the Israelites. From Adam to Abraham, to the line of David, the line of people Jesus was born of; this is the story of His chosen ones, the people of His heart, and ultimately, God's story.

We know this story. We're highly familiar with these people. We know they are flawed, we know they struggled, we know they did their best, but bottom line, they were still highly flawed people.

Yet, God, the God of Israel, extended copious amounts of grace, and loved His people while reigning with Righteous Sovereignty.

He still does.

As we journey through Chronicles we will see these people who did their best, who had

their flaws. We will watch their stories slowly and sometimes painfully unfold before our eyes, and hope for a happy ending and an obedient, diligent, good and loving people.

As we do, let's learn about this Author, about His people, and about why the things that may not seem important to us (like a list of names) matter deeply to Him. Let's learn, and apply these truths to our lives.



JOURNALING AND PRAYER

1. Spend some time thanking God for His deep and abiding love for His children; it's one of those miraculous qualities that make Him God.
2. Something amazing to note about this genealogy is that it is all part of God's ultimate plan of salvation. From the moment mankind fell into sin in Genesis, God had a plan to save His people through Jesus. The ground work was immediately laid through a people, the Israelites, to carry out this plan. This family line is documented from the start, full of stories that testify to God's love.
Thank God for all we can learn from the stark difference between a flawed people, who nonetheless love God and seek His communion, and a Son, who took on flesh to give us life and to teach us a better way to live.
3. As we go through these books of the Bible, ask God to give you fresh eyes, a willing and open heart that is eager to learn and grow, and a spirit that is hungry for more of the Father.

DAY 2

THE FAITHFUL AND THE UNFAITHFUL



READ: 1 Chronicles 9-10

We see a pattern begin to take shape in 1 Chronicles 9. Chronicles as a whole is condensed for us; the story within these two books takes place over many years, and if read chronologically you would read sprinklings of Chronicles alongside 1 & 2 Samuel, Psalms, 1 & 2 Kings as well as Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Obadiah, Joel, Amos, Hosea, Jonah, Isaiah, Micah, Nahum, Jeremiah, Zephaniah, Habakkuk, Daniel, Esther, Ezekiel, Lamentations and Nehemiah.

That's a good chunk of scripture and quite a story to condense. So what's the point here? When reading Chronicles from start to finish, the first mention of unfaithfulness comes in 1 Chronicles 9:1b (NIV), "*The people of Judah were taken captive to Babylon because of their unfaithfulness.*"

The second mention of unfaithfulness comes in 1Chronicles 10:13-14a (NIV), "*Saul died because he was unfaithful to the Lord; he did not keep the word of the Lord and even consulted a medium for guidance, and did not inquire of the Lord.*"

Saul's life was filled with many lessons, events, and memorable stories. Some were good, some bad, and as the saying goes, some ugly. But the writer of Chronicles drives his point home with one word to sum it up; our purpose as children of the Lord Most High is to remain faithful.

Faithfulness

Faithfulness means keeping the word of the Lord in our hearts, on our minds, and saturating our spirits. Daily. Weekly. Monthly. Yearly. Over decades. Each day our lungs carry breath we are to be faithful. Faithfulness is a state of being, of living, and of becoming.

The kings mentioned in Chronicles and throughout the Old Testament are summed up by the writer of Chronicles as either faithful or unfaithful. We are not shown the details of their lives in this book, but we do see what God viewed as the true state of their hearts. We can learn much from this.

If you are discouraged by reading of a line of unfaithful kings, remember that Jesus came from this family line.

Even when we struggle, even when we fail, all is not lost, for out of the mess of a life we make for ourselves, we can still find Jesus. He is faithful, even when we are not. And only He can test our hearts and find us worthy of the prize after we've finished the race.

Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever. Therefore I do not run like a man running aimlessly; I do not fight like a man beating the air. No, I beat my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize. 1 Co 9:24-27 (NIV)

Run the race. Make Jesus your focus. Set your heart on Him.

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints. Eph 6:10-18 (NIV)



JOURNALING AND PRAYER

1. What's your race looking like today? Are you running with gusto or do you run "like a man running aimlessly; I do not fight like a man beating the air." 1Co 9:26 (NIV)? Likely we've all been both. The road of a faithful servant isn't always an easy one. We run out of breath, stumble, and fall. We struggle. But a faithful servant always seeks his Master in the midst of trial and celebration.
2. Spend some time with God, and ask Him for a word, a thought, or picture that will reveal how He feels about you and your faithfulness to Him.

- On a piece of paper write down the pieces of armor listed in Ephesians 6:14-17. Put this paper where you will see it often. Memorize them, reciting them throughout your day for the next week. Examine yourself, reviewing each piece of armor until they become ingrained.

Your heart was made to worship Jesus, to follow Him faithfully, and putting on the armor of God is another step which will enable your heart to be pleasing to Him.

DAY 3

CONSEQUENCES



READ: 2 Chronicles 12

Just when we think we've had some success, we've worked hard and grown in Christ, so perhaps we can take a break, simply rest for a while, it happens. We relax, taking our eyes off Jesus, and before we know it a crack appears in the surface of our faith.

We see this happen throughout 2 Chronicles. Our first example occurs only two short steps from David, from Solomon to his son Rehoboam.

"After Rehoboam's position as king was established and he had become strong, he and Israel with him abandoned the law of the Lord." 2 Chronicles 12:1 (NIV)

How can this be? With a heritage of David, a man whose passionate love for God is widely known, and Solomon, his son, on whom God bestowed wisdom like never again in history. How could Rehoboam, the son and grandson of these great men, be branded unfaithful, leading a nation to abandon the law of the Lord?

The story does not end there, however, for God is slow to anger and generous towards His repentant children.

"Then the prophet Shemaiah came to Rehoboam and to the leaders of Judah who had assembled in Jerusalem for fear of Shishak, and he said to them, "This is what the Lord says, 'You have abandoned me; therefore, I now abandon you to Shishak.'"

The leaders of Israel and the king humbled themselves and said, "The Lord is just."

When the Lord saw that they humbled themselves, this word of the Lord came to Shemaiah: "Since they have humbled themselves, I will not destroy them but will soon give them deliverance. My wrath will not be poured out on Jerusalem through Shishak. They will, however, become subject to him, so that they may learn the difference between serving me and serving the kings of other lands." 2 Chronicles 12:5-8 (NIV)

This Shishak, king from another land, then swiftly proceeded to clean out the temple of the Lord and the king's palace, forcing Rehoboam to forge and come up with secondary protective provisions (2 Ch 12:9-11 NIV) for the remainder of his seventeen year reign as king in Jerusalem. *Because Rehoboam humbled himself, the Lord's anger turned from him, and he was not totally destroyed. Indeed, there was some good in Judah.* 2 Ch 12:12 (NIV).

Rehoboam did wrong, yet repented and humbled himself before the Lord on behalf of himself and his people. The Lord heard his cry and extended mercy and grace, but even in God's mercy there are consequences for actions. These consequences reveal themselves further as, in verses 15-16, we see that Rehoboam's life continued to be riddled with friction and warfare.

Towards the end of this chapter we discover what caused Rehoboam to stray from David and Solomon's godly examples. *"He did evil because he had not set his heart on seeking the Lord."* 2 Chronicles 12:14 (NIV)

We all take our eyes off of Jesus at times, and we all have ample opportunity to practice repentance. The key difference and most important component of our journey is the state of our hearts. God examines our hearts. He knows our comings and goings, our thoughts, dreams, desires and actions before they are planted or take root. **He knows us.** It is the state of our hearts as we stumble, mess up, and close our eyes each night that sets us apart for Him.

We can dream dreams and pursue goals, but if our hearts are not set on seeking and following the Lord and His intent for our lives, our faith will develop cracks. If we don't repent and seek the Lord, the damage will continue to erode our faith.

There are always consequences when we hide our eyes from the Lord. So let's not find out how painful and permanent those consequences might be. Let's turn our eyes to God. Let's lay out our hearts in pursuit of the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.



JOURNALING AND PRAYER

1. Spend some time confessing the areas of your life you haven't surrendered to God. Example: do you hold anything as an idol above Him? Is there any area you struggle and try to hide from Him for whatever reason? Confess it, remembering He is faithful and just to forgive.
2. Like we've just learned there are always consequences, but praise God, we are a redeemable people. **Thank Him.**
 - Thank Him for His goodness in teaching us through His Word.
 - Thank Him for the biblical examples we can learn from.
 - Thank Him for His correction when we stumble.
 - Thank Him that he repairs the cracks in our faith when we earnestly and humbly seek Him as Lord of our hearts and lives.

DAY 4

THE COST OF SELFISHNESS



READ: 2 Chronicles 10-11:4 & 1 Kings 11:26-12:24

Entitlement isn't new. Selfishness and pride have been present in every generation since Adam. In these passages, we see this arrogance lived out by Rehoboam and his friends as he takes over the throne.

"The young men who had grown up with him replied, 'Tell the people who have said to you, 'Your father put a heavy yoke on us, but make our yoke lighter' - tell them, 'My little finger is thicker than my father's waist. My father laid on you a heavy yoke; I will make it even heavier. My father scourged you with whips; I will scourge you with scorpions.'"

2 Chronicles 10:10-11 (NIV)

Perhaps it was a moment of weakness, but Rehoboam took their advice, setting aside the needs of a nation in favor of his own. The cost of that decision for the Israelites and to the House of David, was great. And, sadly, that unwise decision seemed to carry over into a

series of selfish choices.

Whenever we get caught up in ourselves and our own desires we tend to forget or neglect the needs of others. But the truth is, we are not our own – everything we do, our actions and inactions, impact other people. Even something quite permissible may be selfish, and therefore, unloving. Paul illustrates this in 1 Corinthians 10:23-24, *“Everything is permissible” – but not everything is beneficial. “Everything is permissible” – but not everything is constructive. Nobody should seek his own good, but the good of others.*” (NIV)

King Rehoboam quickly dismissed the advice of Solomon’s elders to forge his own path causing uproar among the people. In the brief summary of the life of King Rehoboam, we see how important it is to build a life not of self-seeking, but of seeking God. It’s His kingdom we must labor to build, not our own.

*“King Rehoboam established himself firmly in Jerusalem and continued as king. He was forty-one years old when he became king, and he reigned seventeen years in Jerusalem, the city the Lord had chosen out of all the tribes of Israel in which to put his Name. His mother’s name was Naamah; she was an Ammonite. **He did evil because he had not set his heart on seeking the Lord.***” 2 Ch12:13-14

 **JOURNALING AND PRAYER**

1. Pride can be a slippery slope and it doesn’t always show its danger from the start. Like Rehoboam, we want to make our own way. Confess any ways in which you’ve been stubborn or resistant to the Lord and ask God to reveal to you strategies to overcome them.
2. We don’t always have the right answers. We don’t know what’s wise. But good news! The Lord does! Colossians 3:16-17 says, **“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in our hearts to God. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.”**
Living through Christ is a daily exercise. It doesn’t just happen. We have to work at it. Set aside your Bible and journal and spend some time praising God. Praise Him for who He is and how He loves you. Thank Him for how He is transforming you daily, weekly, and even by the minute.
3. What does it mean to set your heart on seeking the Lord? Perfection? Certainly not. Obedience? Definitely. It means when we stumble, rather than covering it up, seek the wisdom the Lord offers. His arms are always open.
If you’re wrestling with issues of the heart, perhaps it’s time you tried to stop doing it your way. Seek prayer and wise counsel, perhaps by making an appointment for personal ministry or contacting your cell leader.

DAY 5

DAVID’S MIGHTY WARRIORS

 **READ:** 1 Chronicles 11&12

Tales of violence are prevalent throughout the scriptures, and David’s adventures are no exception. In fact, throughout his life David likely was a part of and saw more bloodshed

than any other featured child within God's great book. Even before he was anointed king, David led King Saul's army, Israel, on their military campaigns (1Ch 11:2NIV).

The writer of Chronicles gives us a topical overview of David's story, yet a significant length is given to David among these pages. We can learn a lot from his story.

We already know how God felt about David, as we clearly see in Acts 13:22 (NIV), *"he made David their king. He testified concerning him: 'I have found David son of Jesse a man after my own heart; he will do everything I want him to do.'*

It's interesting to see God unfold his story through David. Verse after verse is dedicated to David's mighty men and the warriors who joined him from other tribes. God turned the hearts of those tribe warriors to follow David's camp, which was ultimately God's camp. He turned a small boy into a strong man whom many followed.

"Day after day men came to help David, until he had a great army, like the army of God. 1 Chronicles 12:22 (NIV)

And David became more and more powerful, because the Lord Almighty was with him. 1 Chronicles 11:9 (NIV)

David loved God and is praised for his unyielding, expressive love for the Lord throughout the Psalms and other sections of scripture. God used David to draw all of Israel together, a feat in itself that has won't be seen again until Jesus returns.

*All these were fighting men who volunteered to serve in the ranks. They came to Hebron fully determined to make David king over all Israel. **All the rest of the Israelites were also of one mind to make David king.....**There were plentiful supplies of flour, fig cakes, raisin cakes, wine, oil, cattle and sheep, **for there was joy in Israel.** 1 Ch 12:38-40 (NIV)*

If God is for us, who can be against?

Just like David, when we have a heart after God, He is for us.

Of course, that can look different for everyone. For David it looked BIG. God supplied him with big, mighty warrior men, and gave him his own city; the City of David. David's story was epic.

For most of us, God being for us doesn't look that grand or even obvious. Our story can begin with a nudge, a whisper, a glimpse. That day you received Him into your heart, He spoke, perhaps in a whisper. When you needed a bigger push, you may have heard Him in a roar. The point is, when God is for us, and He is when our hearts seek His will, **who can be against?**

We are conquerors because Christ lives in us. It must be our greatest desire to align our hearts and minds with His.

He has a plan for us.

He will build us up to accomplish His purposes.

All we need is a spirit committed to His will and heart like *David son of Jesse a man after my own heart; he will do everything I want him to do.'* Acts 13:22 (NIV)



JOURNALING AND PRAYER

1. God's word is a miracle unto itself, and there is so much we can learn if we just dig a little deeper. This story, or Chronicle, could have been passed over as another list. But there is much to be learned through the lists of names written alongside David's in the story. They were strategically aligned with David to accomplish the will of God. We all have a story that is unfolding in the eyes of the Lord. Spend some time praying, asking God to whisper to you how he is moving in your life.
2. God's plans are BIG, and we're all part of His puzzle. Some of us are corner pieces, like David, who anchor and hold the story together, but most of us are the pieces on the inside that make everything fit together. The middle pieces are no less important as they shape the bigger picture and lend detail for the eye to behold. As you're talking with God, ask Him to reveal to you any area in your life where you've missed His moving and working in your life, your family, or your workplace. Then ask God to reveal to you how you can be a warrior who makes a difference for His Kingdom.
3. Finish your time today by thanking God that you are part of His story and that, regardless of how large or small a role you have, you were created to love Him and to make a difference in His Kingdom.

DAY 6

DAVID'S PRAYER: PART 1

 **READ:** Chronicles 16

Tremble before him, all the earth! The world is firmly established; it cannot be moved. Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad; let them say among the nations, "The Lord reigns!" 1 Chronicles 16:30-31 (NIV)

The Lord reigns, indeed! What a proclamation David made before and with the people of Israel. They had seen hard times. They had lived through the chaos of the previous years, they knew the history of their people, and in this moment they were reminded of how good and faithful their Lord was.

He remembers his covenant forever, the word he commanded, for a thousand generations, the covenant he made with Abraham, the oath he swore to Isaac. He confirmed it to Jacob as a decree, to Israel as an everlasting covenant: "To you I will give the land of Canaan as the portion you will inherit." 1 Chronicles 16:15-18 (NIV)

God's promises are real, they are alive. He will remain faithful until the end of time regardless of circumstance, world leadership, persecution, and uncertainty. He is the Lord! And, like David, we must give thanks, sing to God, glory in His holy name, look to the Lord for His strength, and remember the wonders He has done.

Sing to the Lord, all the earth; proclaim his salvation day after day. Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous deeds among the peoples. For great is the Lord and most worthy of praise; he is to be feared above all gods. 1 Chronicles 16:23-25 (NIV)

David remained faithful regardless of his circumstance, and his circumstance was frequently dire, but his commitment and love for God was greater. So many psalms are

written by David in varied circumstances, and in each instance, whether he is crying out in anguish, joy, uncertainty, or persecution, he always come back to praising The Lord because of who God is.



JOURNALING AND PRAYER

1. The Lord reigns! Thank Him for being in control of all the earth! *Tremble before him, all the earth! The world is firmly established; it cannot be moved. Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad; let them say among the nations, "The Lord reigns!"* 1 Ch 16:30-31 (NIV)
Praise Him for this and take comfort in knowing that He Is God!
2. Read through David's Psalm of Thanks (verses 8-36). Can you put yourself in his shoes? Can you remember the life he's led; being on the run, chased by Saul, living in the wilderness, being plucked from shepherding, anointed and placed in the midst of war? What an extraordinary life filled with extraordinary circumstance. David had much to be thankful for, but even when he was at his lowest his cry was to God. Can you say the same? In all circumstances is your first breath and thought to cry out to God?
As you read through this prayer of thanks, ask the Lord to bring to mind your own circumstance and how He was present with you each step of the way.
3. It takes practice to make our first thought about Jesus, what He would do, and how our response could be pleasing to Him. Today, ask Him to change your heart, to see things the way He does, and ask Him to guide your responses, your actions, your thoughts, and each step you take throughout the day.
This will take practice. It isn't just a one day sort of prayer. Make this your prayer each day of your life! At the end of the day, and then later in the week, take some time to reflect on the differences this made inside of you. Jesus you are so worthy of our praise! So worth it all!

DAY 7

DAVID'S PRAYER: PART 2



READ: 1 Chronicles 16:8-36 (NIV)

Prayer doesn't change. Regardless of where you come from and what your gifts are, prayer is something we are all called to. He created each of us to be different and to contribute in different ways. What's similar in all of us though, is our call to be with the King.

If we look at David's psalm of thanks it's not all that different from the way we are intended to raise our voices to our King. Check out these highlights from 1 Chronicles 6:8-12 (NIV).

Give thanks: make known among the nations what he has done.

Sing to him: tell of all his wonderful acts.

Glory in his holy name: let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.

Look to the Lord: see His face always.

Remember the wonders he has done: his miracles, the judgements he pronounced.

See anything familiar here with the way, or format, with which David went about his prayer?

Based on such biblical prayers as this, we've used the acronym ACTS as a method of prayer:

Adoration: esteem, respect, admiration, worship, love.

Confession: admission, acknowledgement, declaration of guilt.

Thanksgiving: blessing prayer, thanks.

Supplication: request, plea, petition.

Prayer doesn't change! It doesn't matter where you come from, how your brain orders things or the way you think and feel. When your heart is seeking God's our prayers are a sweet aroma to His spirit.

O Lord, I call to you; come quickly to me. Hear my voice when I call to you. May my prayer be set before you like incense; may the lifting up of my hands be like the evening sacrifice.
Psalm 141:1-2 (NIV).



JOURNALING AND PRAYER

1. Write out your own psalm or prayer of thanks, and remember, it doesn't matter so much that your words have an acceptable flow. What matters are the words themselves and the heart they came from; a heart after God's own!

DAY 8

A LITTLE CONVERSATION: PART 1



READ: 1 Chronicles 17:1-15

In this portion of 1 Chronicles, we read of David's conclusion that it must have been wrong, an injustice of sorts, that he lived a lavish lifestyle while the Ark of the Covenant was in a tent.

Finally, after years of flight, David was in a stable position and wanted to give the Lord and the Ark of stationary place to be worshipped. He wanted more for God, to revere His name far above David's own. (Why should a lowly man have more than the one true King?)

While David's intentions were great and to honor God, it wasn't God's plan for David to change the circumstances of the Ark.

God, through the prophet Nathan, revealed to David His goodness, love, and sovereignty.

"Wherever I have moved with all the Israelites, did I ever say to any of their leaders whom I commanded to shepherd my people, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" 1 Chronicles 17:6 (NIV)

But God did so much more for David than simply release him of the guilt his newfound circumstances and the Ark's apparent lack of honor. God also gave David a promise while reiterating His plans and promises are good, are currently being fulfilled, and will continue to be fulfilled through David's family line just as planned.

I have been with you wherever you have gone, and I have cut off all your enemies from before you. Now I will make your name like the names of the greatest men of the earth. And I will provide a place for my people Israel and will plant them so that they can have a home of their own and no longer be disturbed. Wicked people will not oppress them anymore, as they did at the beginning and have done ever since the time I appointed leaders over my people Israel. I will also subdue all your enemies. 1 Chronicles 17:8-10 (NIV)

What a promise! God sets David's concerns to rest even adds in verses 11-14 His promise to not forget His people Israel by confirming that He will establish His Kingdom through one who sits on the throne (Jesus) and that **His kingdom shall forever reign.**

*"When your days are over and you go to be with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, one of your own sons, and I will establish his kingdom. He is the one who will build a house for me, and I will establish his throne forever. **I will be his father, and he will be my son.** I will never take my love away from him, as I took it away from your predecessor. **I will set him over my house and my kingdom forever; his throne will be established forever.**" 1 Chronicles 17:11-14 (NIV)*

When we seek God He shows us the way - His way. Our intentions may be honorable, but that doesn't necessarily equal His plan.

Seek Him with your whole heart, mind, and spirit. Being committed to prayer, to seeking His will in your life will empower you, lift you up, and teach you what it means to truly thrive regardless of your circumstances.



JOURNALING AND PRAYER

1. Thank God for giving us yet another glimpse of a conversation He's had with his beloved children.
2. God is such a good Father. The way He spoke with David revealed His heart; He affirmed David with His love, and declared what was yet to come. God does this for us too when we spend time in communion with Him.

3. Gratitude Exercise

Think of a memory. (I.e: watching the snow fall, singing praise.)

Recall how you felt at the time. (I.e: peaceful, joyful, warm, what did you see, what stood out.)

Ask Jesus where He was in this memory. (Was He sitting with you, rejoicing with you, comforting you, pushing you out of your comfort zone.)

Ask what He wants you to understand about yourself or what was happening in that moment. (I.e: He is always with you, has provided you with many gifts, that He loves you, that He is pleased with you.)

Ask Him for a few final words regarding this memory and thank Him for being a good Father.

DAY 9

A LITTLE CONVERSATION: PART 2

“WHO AM I, O LORD GOD.”

 **READ:** 1 Chronicles 17:16-27, 1 Chronicles 19

It seems entitlement was the furthest thing from David’s mind.

“Who am I, O Lord God, and what is my family, that you have brought me this far?” 1 Chronicles 17:16b (NIV)

In all that David had received he always turns his good fortune into a reason for giving the absolute glory to God.

*“There is no one like you, O Lord, and there is no God but you, as we have heard with our own ears... And now, Lord, let the promise you have made concerning your servant and his house be established forever. **Do as you promised, so that it will be established and that your name will be great forever.**”* 1 Chronicles 17:20, 23-24 (NIV)

David doesn’t just throw out words when speaking to God. He is committed. His heart is aligned with the Father, and he is thankful, submissive to His will, exultant in the promises God has made.

David also doesn’t take the glory for the position God placed him in. He doesn’t become boastful over his victories. He gives everything to God. He is humble, forthcoming, unashamed in public worship for the God who provides every good thing.

“But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this? Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand.....O Lord our God, as for all this abundance that we have provided for building you a temple for your Holy Name, it comes from your hand, and all of it belongs to you. **I know, my God, that you test the heart and are pleased with integrity. All these things have I given willingly and with honest intent. And now I have seen with joy how willingly your people who are here have given to you. O Lord, God of our fathers Abraham, Isaac and Israel, **keep this desire in the hearts of your people forever, and keep their hearts loyal to you.**”** 1 Chronicles 29:14-19

(On a side note, it is interesting to note other men and women throughout the Bible who approached the Lord with the same, *who am I, Lord*, attitude/posture and to see how their lives demonstrate the characteristics of heart that God wants to build within us.)

Ever wonder why God does what he does, or what His purposes in all His mysterious ways could be? Perhaps this book, an overview of many other books of the Bible, serves well as a reminder of the importance of seeking God, and also that there is always hope, even in the bleakest of circumstance.

 **JOURNALING AND PRAYER**

1. Spend some time thanking God (Adoration) for how far He has led you since the moment your journey with Him began.
Thank Him for calling your name. Thank Him for drawing you closer. Thank Him for Who He Is. And humble yourself by asking *who am I, Lord*, that you could love me so much?
Prayer, simply put, is vital for life.

2. Thank God for His mysterious, yet often, simple lessons. Thank Him for repeating His point in His Word. Thank Him for repeating Himself in so many different ways, for readying us and preparing our hearts to hear His message.
3. Ask God to increase your desire to know Him more, to dig deeper into His word and to enable your heart to model the humble *who am I* attitude David had.

DAY 10

THE FALL OF JERUSALEM: FAITHFUL/UNFAITHFUL



READ: 1 Chronicles 28:2-21, 29 / 2 Chronicles 7:11-22 / 2 Chronicles 36:15-23

Chronicles ends with a bleakness shrouding Israel as they witness and fight to survive the fall of Jerusalem. The book ends as it foretold in the lists from the start in 1 Chronicles 9:1 (NIV) *The people of Judah were taken captive to Babylon because of their unfaithfulness.*

Years have gone by since the reigns of David and Solomon and those years are only broken by short periods where the king set his heart on God. Most importantly, through those years God did not turn His back on his chosen sons and daughters. God's love is so deep, wide, and far reaching and His patience so abundant that He is slow to anger and slower still in carrying out His wrath.

*"The Lord, the God of their fathers, sent word to them through his messengers again and again, because he had pity on his people and on his dwelling place. **But they mocked God's messengers, despised his words and scoffed at his prophets until the wrath of the Lord was aroused against his people and there was no remedy. He brought up against them the king of the Babylonians, who killed their young men with the sword in the sanctuary, and spared neither young man nor young woman, old man or aged. God handed all of them over to Nebuchadnezzar."***

So we see two sides here; life lived faithfully and life lived opposed to God. It's tough truth to face, to know God's patience has a limit. We like to think of Him as the fountain of grace and mercy, and to revel in the nicer characteristics of God. But He has a limit. And, though His wrath evokes sorrow after sorrow, He is justified, good, and faithful in his rendering and fulfillment of wrath.

God loves His children. This is evident through each chapter of Chronicles. He loves us so much He repeatedly shows us through His children's stories what this love looks like and how He desires for us to love Him in return.

He gives us the blueprint over and over that we may condition our hearts and minds by reading, pouring over, and devouring His Word, that we might store His word in our hearts.

*And you, my son Solomon, **acknowledge the God of your father, and serve him with whole hearted devotion and with a willing mind, for the Lord searches every heart and understands every motive behind the thoughts. If you seek him, he will be found by you; but if you forsake him, he will reject you forever.*** 1 Chronicles 28:9 (NIV)

He is waiting for us to lay our hearts down before Him. He is waiting for us to kneel before Him at the foot of His throne. He is patient, yet eagerly, waiting for us to surrender ourselves over to His transforming love.

His desire for us is that our hearts, through receiving the Holy Spirit, be the temple we carry within, always. We need to seek, obey, follow, and be purposefully mindful of Him in all we

do. The Lord's promises are faithful and when He speaks to His children His Word is that promise:

*"I have heard your prayers and have chosen this place for myself as a temple for sacrifices. When I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or command locusts to devour the land or send a plague among my people, **if my people who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sins and will heal their land.** Now my eyes will be open and my ears attentive to the prayers offered in this place. I have chosen and consecrated this temple so that my Name may be there forever. My eyes and my heart will always be there." 2 Chronicles 7:12b-16 (NIV)*

So take heart, even in the bleakest of circumstance, the Lord, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, always has your best in mind. He longs to be connected to you, for you to commit your heart, mind, and spirit to seeking and following Him, and He will Never let you down!

***"Be strong and courageous, and do the work.** Do not be afraid or discouraged, for the Lord God, my God, is with you. He will not fail you or forsake you until all the work for the service of the temple of the Lord is finished". 1 Chronicles 28:20 (NIV)*



JOURNALING AND PRAYER

1. Thank the Lord for His faithfulness and spend some time confessing anything that is keeping you from wholeheartedly seeking Him and laying yourself out before Him at the foot of His cross.
2. You are a temple to the Lord and He is with you in all you do, morning and night! David advises us to **"Be strong and courageous, and do the work"** but what does "do the work" mean?
A good place to start is to pick up your Bible and spend time learning about who God is by reading His story. Then talk to Him. Ask Him about Himself, what pleases Him, what His desires are for you and how He wants to love you!
Read the verses assigned to today's reading and ask God to give you fresh eyes and a renewed heart to hear His message in these pages.
3. Be encouraged. He says in 2 Chronicles 7:16, **"My eyes and my heart will always be there."** He is speaking of His temple, and we are His temple through the new covenant that is Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit. His eyes and heart are always on you. That is a beautiful promise!

Turn your eyes to the Lord and thank Him for creating you specifically to have communion with Him so that He may delight in you!



First & Second Chronicles

You are invited to join a winding journey through the books of 1 & 2 Chronicles. The goal is to see, hear, taste, and experience God's Word in a new and fresh way. We want to hear His message in a way that penetrates deeply, stirring a desire to understand and know Him more deeply; this is what He created us to do, to be, and to grow into. Simply stated, you are invited to go on a journey to seek Him so we can love Him more.

1 Chronicles 29:17a (ESV)

"I know, my God, that you test the heart and have pleasure in uprightness. In the uprightness of my heart I have freely offered all these things..."

