

## Not Alone: God's Relentless Pursuit

Weekly Devotionals | July 5

### Introduction

As our church walks through the Old Testament together, noticing how God did not leave His people alone then—and does not leave us alone now—we invite you to spend time digging a little deeper. Each week during this series we will provide Old Testament passages that connect to the focus of the past Sunday's message and allow you to explore the people, places, and events further.

As you read these passages, you will be guided to reflect on four aspects of the text, using the acronym L.I.F.E.

- L: Literal** – What is actually happening in the text? Who are the people? Where are the places? Who is doing what to whom and why?
- I: Incarnational** – How does this text point to Jesus? Where do we see our need for Him, a promise of His coming, or a symbol (“type”) of His role or function?
- F: Formational** – What does this text call us to do? Is there a command to obey? A principle to apply? A way of responding to God?
- E: Eternal** – How do these passages point us to our ultimate future reality? How does this text gain significance and meaning in light of “the end of the story” that was unknown to the readers at the time, but that we’ve been given a glimpse of?

### Reading: God Speaks to His People

Here's the reading for this week. They are designed to be grouped together as listed.

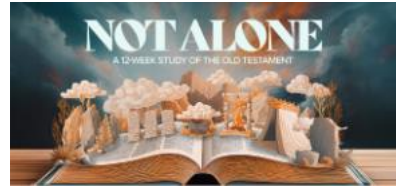
Daniel 1-3

Daniel 6

Esther 2:1-5:8, 7

As you read, look for answers to any of the L.I.F.E questions and make note of them in this guide or in your Bible.

L.I.F.E Notes on Daniel 1-3:

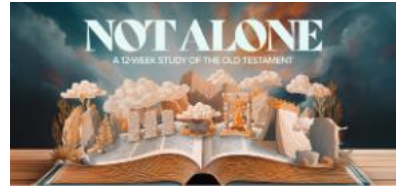


L.I.F.E. Notes on Daniel 6:

L.I.F.E. Notes on Esther 2:1-5:8, 7:

As you complete your reading for this week, look back on the reading as a whole and reflect on the following questions.

- **Literal:** This week's reading contains Scripture from Daniel and Esther. Two people. Two examples of faithfulness in exile. What is one thing that either surprised you, challenged you, or resonated with you from your reading?



- **Incarnational:** Are there any ways in which either Daniel or Esther reminded you of Jesus? What?
- **Formational:** Read 1 Peter 2:11. How are believers described here? What lessons about living in exile well do you think we can gain from Daniel and Esther? Which lesson is most applicable for you right now?
- **Eternal:** How were you pointed to eternity/hope/heaven from these passages?

### **L.I.F.E. Insight**

Prayerfully consider one thing that has stood out to you from this week's reading. Why might God be calling your attention to it? How is He inviting you to respond? Consider praying what you've noticed in the space below.

