

Not Alone: God's Relentless Pursuit

Weekly Devotionals | May 10

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.

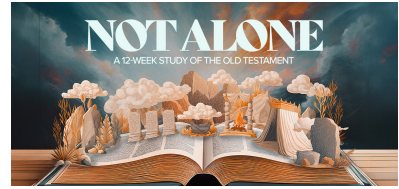
As you read these passages, you will be guided to reflect on four aspects of the text, using the acronym L.I.F.E.

- 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 Fights for His People

Here's the reading for this week. If you read five days this week, you will need to average just under 1 ½ chapters a day. Or experience them during three "sessions" and read all the chapters listed next to each section at once. They are designed to be grouped together as listed.

Joshua 1–4: God's people prepare to enter the land



Joshua 6: God's power on display

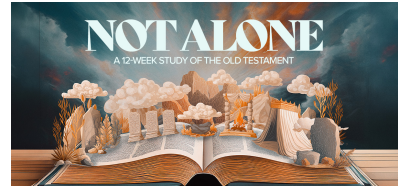
Joshua 23–24: God's leader says farewell

As you read, look for examples of answer 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 Joshua 1–4:

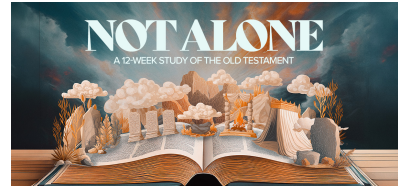
L.I.F.E Notes on Joshua 6:

L.I.F.E Notes on Joshua 23–24:



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 the story of the beginning of Joshua's leadership (chapters 1–4, 6) and his farewell message (23–24) over 20 years later. God continues to show His power, and demonstrates that those outside of the Israelite community who put their trust in God (like Rahab) are welcomed in. What moment in the story speaks to you the most and why?
- **Incarnational:** The names Joshua and Jesus come from the same Hebrew name and have the same meaning: "The Lord saves." In what ways do the actions and choices of Joshua point toward Jesus?
- **Formational:** Just as in the books of Moses, the book of Joshua places enormous emphasis on the way studying, memorizing, meditating on, and obeying God's Word shapes us. Compare God's words to Joshua in Joshua 1 to Joshua's words to the people in Joshua 23–24. What patterns and



similarities do you notice. As we know, “if it’s repeated, it’s important.” Reflect on what the Holy Spirit is inviting you to be attentive to in your own life from these passages.

- **Eternal:** The people have finally arrived in the Promised Land. After all their wanderings, they’ve come home. How does this arrival point to our final, eternal home? How does it remind us that no home here will be quite what that one will be?

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.