

LIVING STONES BIBLE STUDY



Creation

Noah

Abraham

David

Jesus

Early Church

You



INTRODUCTION TO THIS STUDY GUIDE

So put away all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander. Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation — if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

1 Peter 2:1–5 (ESV)

Peter says we are being *built up* as a spiritual house. We are to be a holy priesthood to offer spiritual sacrifices to God through Christ. But how are we to be built up? How is a newly forgiven Christian built up? How does a person who was once dead in sin and completely unconcerned about living for Christ become the kind of person whom God uses to serve and love those who don't know Jesus? Do you see yourself as the kind of person God wants to use as a living stone in his spiritual house? And if you do, how does it happen? Being built up occurs as we digest the pure spiritual milk of the word of God. We begin to understand his promises to sinners who've been transformed by redemption into saints through the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus. But this isn't a feast – we don't grow by gorging ourselves occasionally on God's word, but instead, our minds begin to be transformed through a steady pattern of daily intake.

This study guide is designed to help you develop the daily practice of encountering Jesus through the scriptures. Through daily reading, prayer, and thoughtful meditation you will learn to exercise spiritual muscles that will help you grow strong in your faith. Each week you will see various questions repeated – this is an intentional process meant to train you in how to approach God’s Word. Our hope is this repetition will condition you to respond to God’s word as a personal letter to you from one who loves you and longs for you to experience his love.

Each section is devoted to particular Old Testament saints. Adam and Eve, Noah, Abraham and Sarah, etc... These saints are not the heroes of the story. God is the hero, and each story helps us know and love him more. These accounts were written for us that we might learn from them (1 Corinthians 10:6-13 and Hebrews 11). Sometimes we see these men and women – these living stones – acting in heroic faith. But they also act out of selfishness, fear, and faithlessness. But God in every instance pursues them with unrelenting love. It is our prayer and hope that you will come to trust this unrelenting pursuer of souls and likewise be built up as a living stone.

Schedule a time and location that will work for you each day to spend time in God’s word. It may be helpful to have a spiral notebook or journal you can use to take notes, jot down questions, or even write your own prayers to God in response to what he shows you in his word. Each week you will repeat the same pattern as you engage and are engaged by the word of God.

Old Testament Reading

You will read passages from the Old Testament in order to see God's unchanging love and commitment in establishing a people for his own possession (1 Peter 2:9) through his interaction with Adam through Joshua . Sometimes the objects of his love are faithful and sometimes they are not.

New Testament

You will also read related New Testament passages which will demonstrate how the Father's interaction with each Old Testament saint is made perfect and available to us through Jesus.

Prayer and Meditation

You will ask the Lord to search your heart to lead you in application (Psalm 139:23-24). You will be asked to consider who you most identify with in the stories and why. Sometimes you will identify with a victim, a villain, or possibly the hero.

Response

After your reading, prayer, and meditation you are ready to ask the Lord what you should do in response to the truths he has shown you. Ask and listen. What would the Lord have you do? Perhaps you will be led to begin trusting God for things you have not, begin a practice you have never done, serve someone specific, share something you have (faith, possessions, a meal). Or maybe the Spirit will prompt you to repent of some attitude or

action. Perhaps your response is to simply bow in humble adoration and gratitude for having encountered the living God through his word.

Share

God is creating a people (plural) for his own possession. God wants us to celebrate what he is doing in and through us, or our spiritual family. Each week you will be asked to share what God has been teaching you and or is leading you to do. This could be a friend, a spouse, or a group of Christians you are in regular fellowship with.

ADAM AND EVE
week 1 | *Genesis 1-2*
Creation

OLD TESTAMENT TEXT

1. What did God do, say, command, or promise in Genesis 1-2? What does this tell you about God's character and nature?
2. What does Genesis 1-2 tell you about man and his relationship to his creator?

JESUS AND THE TEXT

1. Read John 1:1-3 and Colossians 1:16-17. What was Jesus' role in creation?
2. In what ways does your life demonstrate you are made in God's image?

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

1. How do you relate to each person in these passages?
Why?
2. What promise(s) does God want you to believe from reading Genesis 1-2, John 1:1-3, and Colossians 1:16-17?
3. What practice(s) does God want you to begin or stop in light of these verses?

TAKE ACTION

1. Whatever God has led you to do or believe, share that with someone for your mutual encouragement.

ADAM AND EVE

week 2 | *Genesis 3*

Fall

OLD TESTAMENT TEXT

1. What did God do, say, command, or promise in Genesis 3? What does this tell you about God's character and nature?
2. What did Adam and Eve do and or say in Chapter 3? What does that tell you about how they viewed God?

JESUS AND THE TEXT

1. Read Romans 5 and 1 Corinthians 15. How is Jesus a "second Adam?" What does this teach you about the nature and character of Jesus?
2. Are there ways you identify or understand Eve's act of rebellion? How about Adam's? Why or why not? How does knowing Jesus is the second Adam give you hope?

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

1. How do you relate to each person in these passages? Why?
2. What promise(s) does God want you to believe from reading Genesis 3, Romans 5, and 1 Corinthians 15?
3. What practice(s) does God want you to begin or stop in light of these verses?

TAKE ACTION

1. Whatever God has led you to do or believe, share that with someone for your mutual encouragement.

NOAH

week 3 | *Genesis 5-8*

The Flood

OLD TESTAMENT TEXT

1. What did God do, say, command, or promise in Genesis 5-8? What does it tell you about God's character and nature?
2. What does Genesis 5-8 tell you about man and his relationship to his creator?

JESUS AND THE TEXT

1. Read Matthew 24:37-44. How does this passage interpret the significance of Noah and the flood? What can we know about the character of God from the New Testament references to Noah?
2. What do Noah's actions inform you regarding his view of God?

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

1. How do you relate to each person in these passages? Why?
2. What promise(s) does God want you to believe from reading Genesis 5-8 and Matthew 24:37-44?
3. What practice(s) does God want you to begin or stop in light of these verses?

TAKE ACTION

1. Whatever God has led you to do or believe, share that with someone for your mutual encouragement.

NOAH

week 4 | *Genesis 8-9*

Deliverance and Covenant

OLD TESTAMENT TEXT

1. What did God do, say, command, or promise in Genesis 8-9? What does it tell you about God's character and nature?
2. How did Noah's actions demonstrate both his faithfulness and faithlessness to God's promises?

JESUS AND THE TEXT

1. Read 1 Peter 3:8-22 and Hebrews 11:7.
2. How do these passages interpret the significance of Noah and the flood?
3. What can we know about the character of God from the New Testament references to Noah?

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

1. How do you relate to each person in these passages? Why?
2. What promise(s) does God want you to believe from reading Genesis 8-9, 1 Peter 3:8-22, and Hebrews 11:7?
3. What practice(s) does God want you to begin or stop in light of these verses?

TAKE ACTION

1. Whatever God has led you to do or believe, share that with someone for your mutual encouragement.

ABRAHAM

week 5 | *Genesis 12*

The Call

OLD TESTAMENT TEXT

1. What did God do, say, command, or promise in Genesis 12? What does it tell you about God's character and nature?
2. How did Abram's actions demonstrate both his faithfulness and faithlessness to God's promises?

JESUS AND THE TEXT

1. Read Acts 7:3, Hebrews 11:8, and Galatians 3:7-8. How has Jesus made the promise made to Abraham available to all of us?

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

1. How do you relate to each person in these passages? Why?
2. What promise(s) does God want you to believe from reading Genesis 12, Acts 7:3, Hebrews 11:8, and Galatians 3:7-8?
3. What practice(s) does God want you to begin or stop in light of these verses?

TAKE ACTION

1. Whatever God has led you to do or believe, share that with someone for your mutual encouragement.

ABRAHAM

week 6 | *Genesis 15*

The Covenant

OLD TESTAMENT TEXT

1. What did God do, say, command, or promise to Abram in Genesis 15? What does it tell you about God's character and nature?
2. How did Abram's actions demonstrate both his faithfulness and faithlessness to God's promises?

JESUS AND THE TEXT

1. Read Romans 4. How does Paul use Abraham's faith as an example and model for Christians?

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

1. How do you relate to each person in these passages?
Why?
2. What promise(s) does God want you to believe from reading Genesis 15 and Romans 4?
3. What practice(s) does God want you to begin or stop in light of these verses?

TAKE ACTION

1. Whatever God has led you to do or believe, share that with someone for your mutual encouragement.

ABRAHAM

week 7 | *Genesis 16-17*

Failure and Renewal

OLD TESTAMENT TEXT

1. What did God do, say, command, or promise to Abraham in Genesis 16-17? What does it tell you about God's character and nature?
2. How did Abraham's actions demonstrate both his faithfulness and faithlessness to God's promises?

JESUS AND THE TEXT

1. Read Galatians 4. How does Paul use the example of Sarah, Hagar, Ishmael, and Isaac to demonstrate that faith in Jesus is superior to works of the flesh?

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

1. How do you relate to each person in these passages?
Why?
2. What promise(s) does God want you to believe from reading Genesis 16-17 and Galatians 4?
3. What practice(s) does God want you to begin or stop in light of these verses?

TAKE ACTION

1. Whatever God has led you to do or believe, share that with someone for your mutual encouragement.

ABRAHAM

week 8 | *Genesis 21-22*

Faithfulness and Trust

OLD TESTAMENT TEXT

1. What did God do, say, command, or promise to Abraham in Genesis 21-22? What does it tell you about God's character and nature?
2. How did Abraham's actions demonstrate both his faithfulness and faithlessness to God's promises?

JESUS AND THE TEXT

1. Read Hebrews 11:17-19 and James 2:14-26. How do James and the author of Hebrews use Abraham's example to demonstrate how faith leads to action?
2. In what ways does Abraham's offering of Isaac foreshadow God's giving of his only Son as a sacrifice?

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

1. How do you relate to each person in these passages? Why?
2. What promise(s) does God want you to believe from reading Genesis 21-22, Hebrews 11:17-19, and James 2:14-26?
3. What practice(s) does God want you to begin or stop in light of these verses?

TAKE ACTION

1. Whatever God has led you to do or believe, share that with someone for your mutual encouragement.

ISAAC

week 9 | *Genesis 24 & 26*

Isaac and His Bride

OLD TESTAMENT TEXT

1. What did God do, say, command, or promise in Genesis 24-26? What does it tell you about God's character and nature?
2. How did Abraham, Abimelech, Isaac, and Rebekah's actions demonstrate faithfulness or faithlessness to God's promises?

JESUS AND THE TEXT

1. Read Ephesians 5:22-32 and Revelation 21:2. How do Isaac and Rebekah foreshadow Jesus and his bride? What about the church?

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

1. How do you relate to each person in these passages? Why?
2. What promise(s) does God want you to believe from reading Genesis 24-26, Ephesians 5:22-32, and Revelation 21:2?
3. What practice(s) does God want you to begin or stop in light of these verses?

TAKE ACTION

1. Whatever God has led you to do or believe, share that with someone for your mutual encouragement.

JACOB

week 10 | *Genesis 25 & 27*

Jacob the Cheat

OLD TESTAMENT TEXT

1. What did God do, say, command, or promise in Genesis 25 and 27? What does it tell you about God's character and nature?
2. How did Jacob and Esau's actions demonstrate both faithfulness or faithlessness to God's promises?

JESUS AND THE TEXT

1. Read Romans 9. How does Paul use the account of Jacob and Esau to demonstrate the certainty of God's promise?

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

1. How do you relate to each person in these passages? Why?
2. What promise(s) does God want you to believe from reading Genesis 25 and 27, and Romans 9?
3. What practice(s) does God want you to begin or stop in light of these verses?

TAKE ACTION

1. Whatever God has led you to do or believe, share that with someone for your mutual encouragement.

JACOB

week 11 | *Genesis 28-30*

Jacob the Cheated

OLD TESTAMENT TEXT

1. What did God do, say, command, or promise in Genesis 28-30 and what does it tell you about God's character and nature?
2. How did Jacob's actions demonstrate faithfulness or faithlessness to God's promises?

JESUS AND THE TEXT

1. Read John 1:43-51 . How does Jesus use the account of Jacob's dream of a ladder from heaven to teach Nathanael?

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

1. How do you relate to each person in these passages? Why?
2. What promise(s) does God want you to believe from reading Genesis 28-30 and John 1:43-51?
3. What practice(s) does God want you to begin or stop in light of these verses?

TAKE ACTION

1. Whatever God has led you to do or believe, share that with someone for your mutual encouragement.

JACOB

week 12 | *Genesis 31-35*

Jacob to Israel

OLD TESTAMENT TEXT

1. What did God do, say, command, or promise in Genesis 31-35 and what does it tell you about God's character and nature?
2. How did Jacob's actions demonstrate faithfulness or faithlessness to God's promises?

JESUS AND THE TEXT

1. Jacob's wrestling match with God left him with a broken hip and a new identity (Genesis 32:22-32). Read Matthew 16:13-20 and John 21:15-19. How does Peter's encounter with Jesus lead to a new identity, and eventually a broken, renewed spirit?

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

1. How do you relate to each person in these passages? Why?
2. What promise(s) does God want you to believe from reading Genesis 31-35 & Matthew 16:13-20 and John 21:15-19?
3. What practice(s) does God want you to begin or stop in light of these verses?

TAKE ACTION

1. Whatever God has led you to do or believe, share that with someone for your mutual encouragement.

JOSEPH

week 13 | *Genesis 37-38*

Sovereign God and a Dysfunctional Family

OLD TESTAMENT TEXT

1. What did God do, say, command, or promise in Genesis 37-38 and what does it tell you about God's character and nature?
2. How did Joseph and or his family's actions demonstrate faithfulness or faithlessness to God's promises?

JESUS AND THE TEXT

1. Read Matthew 13:53-58 and John 7:1-9. How does Joseph's early interaction with his family foreshadow Jesus?
2. Read Jesus' genealogy in Matthew 1:1-17. How does looking at Genesis 38 through the lens of Matthew 1:3 demonstrate God's grace to dysfunctional families?

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

1. How do you relate to each person in these passages? Why?
2. What promise(s) does God want you to believe from reading Genesis 37-38, Matthew 1:1-17, 13:53-58, and John 7:1-9?
3. What practice(s) does God want you to begin or stop in light of these verses?

TAKE ACTION

1. Whatever God has led you to do or believe, share that with someone for your mutual encouragement.

JOSEPH

week 14 | *Genesis 39-41*

Suffering and God's Presence

OLD TESTAMENT TEXT

1. What did God do, say, command, or promise in Genesis 39-41 and what does it tell you about God's character and nature?
2. How did Joseph's actions and attitudes demonstrate faithfulness or faithlessness to God's promises?

JESUS AND THE TEXT

1. Read Psalm 23. How does Joseph's time in the valley demonstrate the reality of the presence of God during suffering?
2. Suffering is often seen by the sufferer as a sign of God's displeasure. How does Hebrews 2:10-18 and Genesis 39-41 teach otherwise?

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

1. How do you relate to each person in these passages? Why?
2. What promise(s) does God want you to believe from reading Genesis 39-41, Psalm 23, and Hebrews 2:10-18?
3. What practice(s) does God want you to begin or stop in light of these verses?

TAKE ACTION

1. Whatever God has led you to do or believe, share that with someone for your mutual encouragement.

JOSEPH

week 15 | *Genesis 42-50*

Living in Light of God's Sovereignty

OLD TESTAMENT TEXT

1. What did God do, say, command, or promise in Genesis 42-50 and what does it tell you about God's character and nature?
2. How did Joseph and or his family's actions demonstrate faithfulness or faithlessness to God's promises?

JESUS AND THE TEXT

1. Read Romans 8:28-39 in light of Genesis 45:5 and 50:19-20. How does Joseph's response to injustice and years of suffering demonstrate his understanding and experience of God?

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

1. How do you relate to each person in these passages? Why?
2. What promise(s) does God want you to believe from reading Genesis 42-50 and Romans 8:28-39?
3. What practice(s) does God want you to begin or stop in light of these verses?

TAKE ACTION

1. Whatever God has led you to do or believe, share that with someone for your mutual encouragement.

MOSES

week 16 | *Exodus 1-3 & 12*

Preparation and Calling

OLD TESTAMENT TEXT

1. What did God do, say, command, or promise in Exodus 1-3, and 12, and what does it tell you about God's character and nature?
2. How did Moses' actions and attitudes demonstrate faithfulness or faithlessness to God's promises?

JESUS AND THE TEXT

1. Read John 1:29-34 and Luke 22:7-23. What do these passages tell you about Jesus in light of Exodus?

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

1. How do you relate to each person in these passages? Why?
2. What promise(s) does God want you to believe from reading Exodus 1-3, and 12, John 1:29-34, and Luke 22:7-23?
3. What practice(s) does God want you to begin or stop in light of these verses?

TAKE ACTION

1. Whatever God has led you to do or believe, share that with someone for your mutual encouragement.

MOSES

week 17 | *Exodus 20 & 32-34*

The Covenant

OLD TESTAMENT TEXT

1. What did God do, say, command, or promise in Exodus 20, and 32-34 and what does it tell you about God's character and nature?
2. How did Moses' actions demonstrate faithfulness or faithlessness to God's promises?

JESUS AND THE TEXT

1. Read Luke 9:28-36. What parallels do you see from Moses' first encounter with the glory of God in Exodus 34 and the transfiguration of Jesus in Luke 9?

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

1. How do you relate to each person in these passages? Why?
2. What promise(s) does God want you to believe from reading Exodus, 20, 32-34, and Luke 9:28-36?
3. What practice(s) does God want you to begin or stop in light of these verses?

TAKE ACTION

1. Whatever God has led you to do or believe, share that with someone for your mutual encouragement.

MOSES

week 18 | *Numbers 12*

Humility

OLD TESTAMENT TEXT

1. What did God do, say, command, or promise in Numbers 12 and what does it tell you about God's character and nature?
2. How did Moses, Miriam, and or Aaron's actions demonstrate faithfulness or faithlessness to God's promises?

JESUS AND THE TEXT

1. Read Matthew 5:5, 11:28-29, in light of Numbers 12. How might Moses' continual encounter with God's presence contribute to his meekness?

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

1. How do you relate to each person in these passages? Why?
2. What promise(s) does God want you to believe from reading Numbers 12, Matthew 5:5, and 11:28-29?
3. What practice(s) does God want you to begin or stop in light of these verses?

TAKE ACTION

1. Whatever God has led you to do or believe, share that with someone for your mutual encouragement.

JOSHUA AND MOSES

week 19 | *Deuteronomy 31, 34 & Joshua 1:1-8*

Apprentice

OLD TESTAMENT TEXT

1. What did God do, say, command, or promise in Deuteronomy 31, 34, and Joshua 1 and what does it tell you about God's character and nature?
2. How did Joshua's actions demonstrate faithfulness or faithlessness to God's promises?

JESUS AND THE TEXT

1. Read Hebrews 3 in light of Israel's refusal to enter into the promise land (Numbers 14).

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

1. How do you relate to each person in these passages? Why?
2. What promise(s) does God want you to believe from reading Deuteronomy 31, 34, Joshua 1:1-8, and Hebrews 3?
3. What practice(s) does God want you to begin or stop in light of these verses?

TAKE ACTION

1. Whatever God has led you to do or believe, share that with someone for your mutual encouragement.

JOSHUA AND CALEB

week 20 | *Numbers 13-14*

Rebellion

OLD TESTAMENT TEXT

1. What did God do, say, command, or promise in Numbers 13-14 and what does it tell you about God's character and nature?
2. How do Joshua's and Caleb's actions demonstrate faithfulness or faithlessness to God's promises?

JESUS AND THE TEXT

1. Read Hebrews 3:7-19 in light of Numbers 13-14. How do Joshua and Caleb stand in stark contrast to those who rebelled in the wilderness? How does the author of Hebrews relate this story to the person and work of Jesus?

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

1. How do you relate to each person in these passages? Why?
2. What promise(s) does God want you to believe from reading Numbers 13-14 and Hebrews 3:7-19?
3. What practice(s) does God want you to begin or stop in light of these verses?

TAKE ACTION

1. Whatever God has led you to do or believe, share that with someone for your mutual encouragement.

JOSHUA AND JESUS

week 21 | *Joshua 3-5*

Receiving the Promise

OLD TESTAMENT TEXT

1. What did God do, say, command, or promise to Joshua 3-5 and what does it tell you about God's character and nature?
2. How did Joshua's actions demonstrate faithfulness or faithlessness to God's promises?

JESUS AND THE TEXT

1. Read Hebrews 4 in light of Joshua 3-5. How does the author of Hebrews relate Joshua's entering the Promise Land with Jesus' ultimate fulfillment?

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

1. How do you relate to each person in these passages? Why?
2. What promise(s) does God want you to believe from reading Joshua 3 -5 and Hebrews 4?
3. What practice(s) does God want you to begin or stop in light of these verses?

TAKE ACTION

1. Whatever God has led you to do or believe, share that with someone for your mutual encouragement.

