



BRING IT HOME

Reading the Great Stories of the Bible

WEEK 22-23 | READINGS 64-69

June 2-15

64. ESTHER AND THE KING—Esther 1 & 2

WEEK 22 | June 2-8

Completed

Optional things to talk/think about after your reading:

- ◆ Haman was mad, because Mordecai wouldn't bow down to him. What did Haman's anger lead him to do?
- ◆ Read Ephesians 4:26-27. What does this teach us about "anger"?

Prayer: Lord God, heavenly Father, keep me from the consequences of anger that goes unchecked. Teach me to love others like You love us. In Jesus' name. Amen.

65. GOD SAVES HIS PEOPLE—Esther 3-8 (This is more than usual, but important for context)

Completed

Optional things to talk/think about after your reading:

- ◆ Have you ever wanted to help someone but were afraid you would get in trouble if you tried?
- ◆ What opportunity to show God's mercy to someone else could you pray for, right now? What opportunity is God giving you to show His mercy and grace to someone?

Prayer: Lord, give us opportunity to show Your mercy and love to someone in our community, and strength to act upon it. Amen.

66. REBUILDING JERUSALEM AND THE TEMPLE—Ezra 3:8-11; 6:14-18; Nehemiah 1; 12:27-43

Completed

Optional things to talk/think about after your reading:

- ◆ Ezra and Nehemiah show the importance of professional church workers and lay leaders. How might God be calling you to serve?
- ◆ How can we band together as the Body of Christ to let God's love and forgiveness shine in our community?

Prayer: Heavenly Father, build us up as a family of believers in our local church, so we might band together and let the power of Your mercy shine to our community. In Jesus' name. Amen.

67. WHEN PROPHETS FELL SILENT—Malachi

WEEK 23 | June 9-15

Completed

Optional things to talk/think about after your reading:

- ◆ Malachi's words call us to examine how we're living. It's a call to repentance (which literally means turn 180 degrees). Where is God calling you to repent—to turn 180 degrees and go the other way?
- ◆ Jesus offers us forgiveness for our sins. Where can His power and grace help us live in a way that is repentant?

Prayer: Dear Father, lead me to repentance and faith. Guide me in Your paths, and keep my eyes fixed on Your mercy. In Jesus' name. Amen.

68. THE BIRTH OF JOHN FORETOLD—Luke 1:5-25

Completed

Optional things to talk/think about after your reading:

- ◆ Have you ever prayed and asked God to do something for you but then given up when nothing happened?
- ◆ How would John be a blessing to everyone around him? How has your family been a blessing to you and others?

Prayer: Lord, we are thankful for children and families. Keep us ever mindful of Your blessings upon our lives each and every day. Give me faith to trust in You and to believe Your promise to answer all my prayers. In Jesus' name. Amen.

69. GABRIEL VISITS MARY—Luke 1:26-38

Completed

Optional things to talk/think about after your reading:

- ◆ When you look at a manger scene at Christmastime, what do you think about little baby Jesus?
- ◆ Try to put yourself in Mary's "shoes". How would you react to this news (remembering you're an unwed, teen)?

Prayer: Lord God, thank You for the wonderful words the angel Gabriel brought to Mary. Thank You for sending Your only Son to be her Son, who saved us from our sins. In Jesus' name. Amen.



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Reading the Great Stories of the Bible

WEEK 24-25 | READINGS 70-75

June 16-29

70. MARY VISITS ELIZABETH—Luke 1:39-56

WEEK 24 | June 16-22

Completed

Optional things to talk/think about after your reading:

- ◆ Do you ever wish you could trade places with someone who is more popular or has more possessions than you?
- ◆ We sing these words of Mary still today. What do we call it? (Hint: It begins with an “M”)

Prayer: Lord God, thank You for choosing me to be Your child and for saving me through Your Son, Jesus Christ. Give me Your Holy Spirit that I may be filled with joy to tell others about Jesus’ great love. Amen.

71. THE BIRTH OF JOHN—Luke 1:57-80

Completed

Optional things to talk/think about after your reading:

- ◆ John was going to prepare the way for the Lord (Jesus). How will he do that? (Hint: Look at verse 77)
- ◆ After not being able to speak for months, Zechariah sang a song. Why do you think he did that?

Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank You for send John to prepare the way of the Lord. Prepare our hearts by faith to receive our Savior and King, Jesus Christ. Amen.

72. AN ANGEL VISITS JOSEPH—Matthew 1:18-25

Completed

Optional things to talk/think about after your reading:

- ◆ What does the name “Jesus” mean? (Hint: Look at verse 21)
- ◆ Think of the worst sin you have thought, said or done. Now read about the meaning of Jesus’ name again. What does this promise mean to you? How does this give you hope today?

Prayer: Lord God, thank You for making sure Joseph was there to be a father to Jesus. Thank You for choosing me as Your own child for Jesus’ sake through baptism and faith. Help me to serve You and my neighbors well. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

73. THE BIRTH OF JESUS—Luke 2:1-21

WEEK 25 | June 23-29

Completed

Optional things to talk/think about after your reading:

- ◆ What are some things you do to celebrate Jesus’ birth at Christmas?
- ◆ What did the shepherds do after the angel told them about the birth of Jesus? Is there someone you can tell?

Prayer: Lord Jesus Christ, You came into the world as a baby to save us. Thank You for this most precious gift. Help me be excited to tell the Good News to everyone I meet. Amen.

74. THE PRESENTATION OF JESUS—Luke 2:22-40

Completed

Optional things to talk/think about after your reading:

- ◆ What do you think it would have been like to hold baby Jesus, knowing He was God’s Son?
- ◆ Luke records another song, this time of Simeon. We sometimes still sing it today after Holy Communion. Why do you think we sing it then? (Hint: Think about who we have just held and seen in Holy Communion)

Prayer: God, thank You for these two believers who got to see and hold Jesus. Give me such faith and joy all through my life. Amen.

75. THE VISIT OF THE MAGI—Matthew 2

Completed

Optional things to talk/think about after your reading:

- ◆ The Magi (or wise men) brought gifts to Jesus. What were they?
- ◆ Myrrh was a perfume used in preparing bodies for burial. How might this be a sign of what is coming for Jesus?

Prayer: Lord God, Magi came to visit and bring you gifts. Everyday You bring us gifts of Your mercy, grace, peace, and forgiveness, and we thank You for them. Guide us through the Bible as You once guided the Magi so we can always be close to Jesus. Amen.