

Not Alone: God's Relentless Pursuit

Weekly Devotionals | June 7

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.

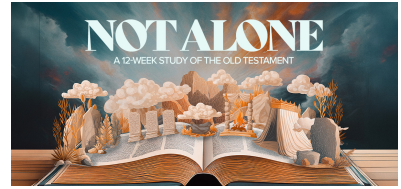
As you read these passages, you will be guided to reflect on four aspects of the text, using the acronym L.I.F.E.

- 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 does 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 Reigns Over His People

Here's the reading for this week. If you read five days this week, you will need to average just over 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.

1 Kings 12, 17–19: God demonstrates his power



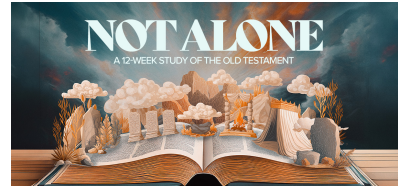
2 Kings 2, 4: God works through a prophet

2 Kings 5, 17: God brings healing and judgement

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 1 Kings 12, 17–19:

L.I.F.E Notes on 2 Kings 2, 4:

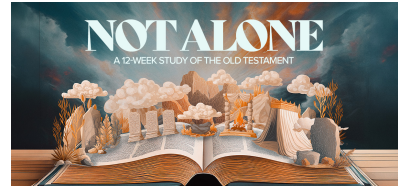


L.I.F.E Notes on 2 Kings 5, 17:

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 kings such as Rehoboam and Ahab who turned to themselves and false gods for power, but also prophets such as Elijah and Elisha who displayed God's power. We see God's compassion for outsiders such as the widow and Naaman. And we see God bring consequences for Israel's sin and rebellion in the form of the kingdom of Assyria. What themes or patterns do you see in these stories? What stands out to you?

- **Incarnational:** In 1 and 2 Kings we see repeatedly the inadequacy of human kings and the ways in which people who wield power apart from God become corrupt and dangerous. All of this highlights our need for the King of kings. How does Jesus demonstrate a different way to use power and authority?



- **Formational:** Reflect on a lesson you can draw from your reading. Perhaps you're feeling prompted to seek good counsel (unlike Rehoboam) or to receive rest and refreshment from God (like Elijah). What story speaks to your life right now? How is God inviting you to respond?

- **Eternal:** Read Revelation 4-5 for a picture of the King of kings who will reign forever!

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.