

Not Alone: God's Relentless Pursuit

Group Discussion Guide | May 31

### **Series overview and leader instructions (5-15 minutes)**

"Not Alone" is an 11-week journey through the Old Testament, tracing God's desire to dwell with His people and His faithful work to bring redemption. Through every season—deliverance, provision, rebellion, exile, and restoration—we see one unified story of grace, pointing to Jesus and the promise of God dwelling with His people forever.

The sermons in this series will take a fly-over, covering multiple chapters—and sometimes multiple *books*—in a single sermon. You may find that some people in your group may be unfamiliar with these stories and benefit from some additional context. We recommend incorporating videos from The Bible Project books of the Bible overview videos as needed. As the leader, you can decide whether to watch the videos as a group or send them out in your group chat or via email for people to watch on their own, or some combination of the two. Recommended videos will be linked in each week's group guide.

Here are the overview videos for 1 and 2 Samuel:

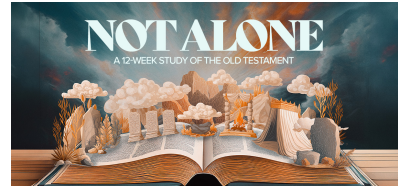
**1 Samuel Overview Video:** <https://bibleproject.com/videos/1-samuel/>

**2 Samuel Overview Video:** <https://bibleproject.com/videos/2-samuel/>

As always, use the group discussion guide below in the way that works best for *your* group. Prayerfully review the material and note the questions you sense the Spirit leading you to focus on. Linger on questions that yield fruitful discussion. Break into pairs or smaller groups for conversation or keep the discussion in the larger group. You know your group! Use this guide as a template but make it your own.

### **Opening prayer and reflection questions (10 minutes).**

Begin your group time with prayer. Ask for God's help in your discussion time!



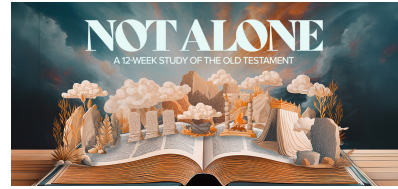
After the time of Judges, God's people begin clamoring for a king to lead them and guide them. They had the Lord over them, but jealous of the nations around them, that wasn't enough. So, God condescends to His People. He uses the prophet Samuel to give them a King: Saul. Following Saul, Israel gets David. Following David, Israel gets Solomon. Each of these men had virtues as well as vices. But each had a vocation given to them by the call of God.

Ask this question: What is the difference between a job and a vocation? Would you say you have a vocation in life? What is it?

**Split your group into four mini-groups to each focus on a different character from this week's reading and sermon (30 minutes).**

Answer the following questions as a group. There will be space for you to share again your thoughts when you come back together as a large group.

- Group 1: Samuel
  - Read 1 Samuel 3:8-11 & 19-21; 1 Samuel 8:3-6
  - What was Samuel's vocation?
  - What virtues do you see in Samuel?
  - What vices do you see?
  
- Group 2: Saul
  - Read 1 Samuel 9-10, 15
  - What was Saul's vocation?
  - What virtues do you see in Saul?
  - What vices do you see?
  
- Group 3: David
  - Read 1 Samuel 16-17; 2 Samuel 11
  - What was David's vocation?
  - What virtues do you see in David?
  - What vices do you see?
  
- Group 4: Solomon



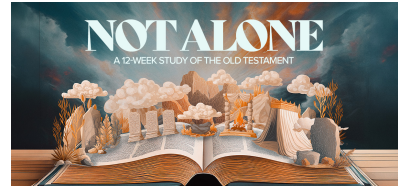
- Read 1 Kings 3 and 1 Kings 5
- What was Solomon's vocation?
- What virtues do you see in Solomon?
- What vices do you see?

Once finished, come back together as a large group.

### **Discuss the sermon and the book of Judges (30 minutes).**

*As always, these questions are a list for you to choose from as the group facilitator. Use whichever ones you think your group needs most! And feel freedom to add questions you think may be more relevant to where your group is currently at.*

- Have each group elect a spokesperson to share what each group saw as their figure's vocation, virtues, and vices.
- Based on everything that has just been shared, was there anything from the list of vices from these men that resonates or challenges you specifically? What? Explain.
- Are there any specific virtues that you're interested in growing more in? What? Why are you interested in that one specifically?
- In general, what stood out to you from Jeff's sermon?
- What questions or points of confusion do you have about the sermon or Samuel, Saul, David, or Solomon? (*Note: as the leader, you do not have to answer all the questions!*)
- More than the basic answer of "sin," why do you think it's so easy for people to fall into vice, even people who are prophets of the Lord (Samuel), "after God's own heart" (David), and wiser than anyone (Solomon)? In other words, how would you explain what sin does to a person to make even seemingly good people trip up?
- Going back to the conversation about vocation, are there any ways that your vices prohibit you from leaning into your vocation?
- How do these figures of Samuel, Saul, David, and Solomon point us to Jesus?
- In what sense does Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection help us with our vices and virtues?



- Is there any sort of call you feel like God has been leading you into as of late? Explain. How can this group help you towards that?

**Conclude with prayer (10 minutes).**

If you want to take prayer requests, you may do so here. End your time together in prayer.