



the**GOSPEL**PROJECT
FOR STUDENTS

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THE GOSPEL PROJECT FOR STUDENTS
DAILY DISCIPLESHIP GUIDE

VOLUME 5

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DAILY DEVOTIONS

In addition to the group portions of this study, the **Daily Discipleship Guide** also includes five days of devotions following each session. As we journey through the storyline of Scripture over the course of three years, we won't have time to cover some sections of the Bible. These devotions will help with that, filling in the gaps in the biblical storyline and allowing more opportunities to cover biblical themes and insights not discussed during group time. These devotions help you know how to read and interpret the Bible for yourself. Symbols for the Seven Arrows reading method are provided at the beginning of each week's devotions as a reminder of common questions to ask about Scripture as you read each day. The devotion pages are perforated so that you can take them home with you.

SEVEN ARROWS

OF BIBLE READING



What does this passage say?



What did this passage mean to its original audience?



What does this passage tell us about God?



What does this passage tell us about man?



What does this passage demand of me?



How does this passage change the way I relate to people?



How does this passage prompt me to pray?

DAY ONE

1 SAMUEL 8:10-22

This week, we studied about the importance of listening to the right voices. When Bechamun became king, he ignored voices of wisdom. Instead, he listened to voices that lived up with his own selfish desires. From there, things started to crumble. As a result, Israel split into two separate kingdoms: Israel and Judah. But let's be honest a little. God was supposed to be Israel's King, but the people looked at the pagan nations surrounding them and desired what they had—an earthly king. They were persistent in begging for one. Through the prophet Samuel, God warned Israel that their desire for an earthly king wouldn't benefit them. In this passage, Samuel shared that an earthly king would take so much from them—their land, their sons and daughters, their flock, their freedom. Despite Samuel's warning, Israel insisted he make someone their king. So, God selected and gave them what they asked for, and with it came trouble, as we saw played out in our passage this week. Godly people would now serve kings who would take from them rather than serving only Yahweh, a King who gave to them and who wanted relationship with them.

All of this points us to a few truths. First, we're prone to deciding what the people around us desire, and when this conflicts with God's intention for us, we should lay down those desires. Second, God's plans for us are better than our own selfish plans. Many of us would say we agree with this, but when we're in a position to choose the way or the way we often choose the latter. This is why the voices we rely on and listen to matter greatly. Listening to godly wisdom, even when it goes against what we want, helps us live according to the Lord's will.

• WHEN HAVE YOU IGNORED WISE ADVICE BECAUSE IT DIDN'T LINE UP WITH WHAT YOU WANTED TO HEAR?

• WISE ADVICE DO YOU NEED TO STOP LISTENING TO BECAUSE IT LEADS YOU AWAY FROM GOD?

PRAY

LORD, HELP ME TO TRUST THAT WHAT YOU WANT FOR ME IS BETTER THAN WHAT I WANT FOR MYSELF. HELP ME TO LISTEN TO GODLY ADVICE OVER ADVICE THAT JUSTIFIES MY OWN DESIRES.

DAY THREE

JAMES 3:13-18

Do you ever struggle with knowing who to turn to when you need advice? We can say we struggle with this, but in reality, we might be battling the desire to listen to the wrong voices. We're asked to choose wisdom this week, but sometimes, being able to tell who is truly wise is difficult. Sometimes, even distinguishing between "good" and "godly" advice is tough. So, how can we tell the difference?

Scripture is our guide. This passage describes how godly wisdom looks in our daily lives. We should be able to observe the way others live and see their "good conduct." According to these verses, wise people make godliness their goal. They aren't hostile, bitter, or jealous, and they don't make selfish choices to get what they want. In fact, James says this type of wisdom is "worldly, ungodly, demonic" (vs. 15). Instead, wisdom from above prompts them to seek purity and peace. They show mercy to others and submit the fruit of the Spirit (vs. 16-18). If we want to seek people who will give us godly, wise advice, then we simply need to look for people who live out God's Word in their daily lives. We need to look for people who listen to Jesus and encourage us to do the same. We need advice that lines up with Scripture—wisdom which stands apart from worldly advice that sounds good to our ears.

• IN WHAT AREAS OF YOUR LIFE ARE YOU LEANING TOWARD "WORLDY" ADVICE INSTEAD OF GODLY WISDOM?

• DOES YOUR OWN LIFE EXHIBIT GODLY WISDOM CAN PEOPLE TRUST YOUR ADVICE TO POINT THEM TOWARD THE LORD?

PRAY

GOD, I WANT WISDOM FROM ABOVE INSTEAD OF WHAT THIS WORLD OFFERS. SHOW YOUR WORD IS TRUTH, GIVING ME THE GUIDANCE I NEED TO WALK IN WISDOM.

VOLUME 5 | CSB

DIVISION AND DEFIANCE



13.1 THE KING DID NOT LISTEN

13.2 EVIL IN THE LORD'S SIGHT

13.3 HOW LONG WILL YOU WAVER?

13.4 HE HAS HUMBLLED HIMSELF

14.1 TWO SHARES OF YOUR SPIRIT

14.2 SO GOD RELENTE

14.3 COME, LET'S RETURN TO THE LORD

14.4 WORTHLESS IDOLS

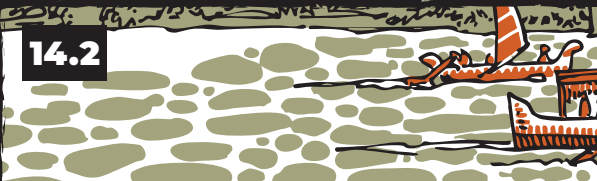
15.1 FAITHFUL TO THE LORD

15.2 THE DEPTHS OF THE SEA

15.3 WRITE IT ON THEIR HEARTS

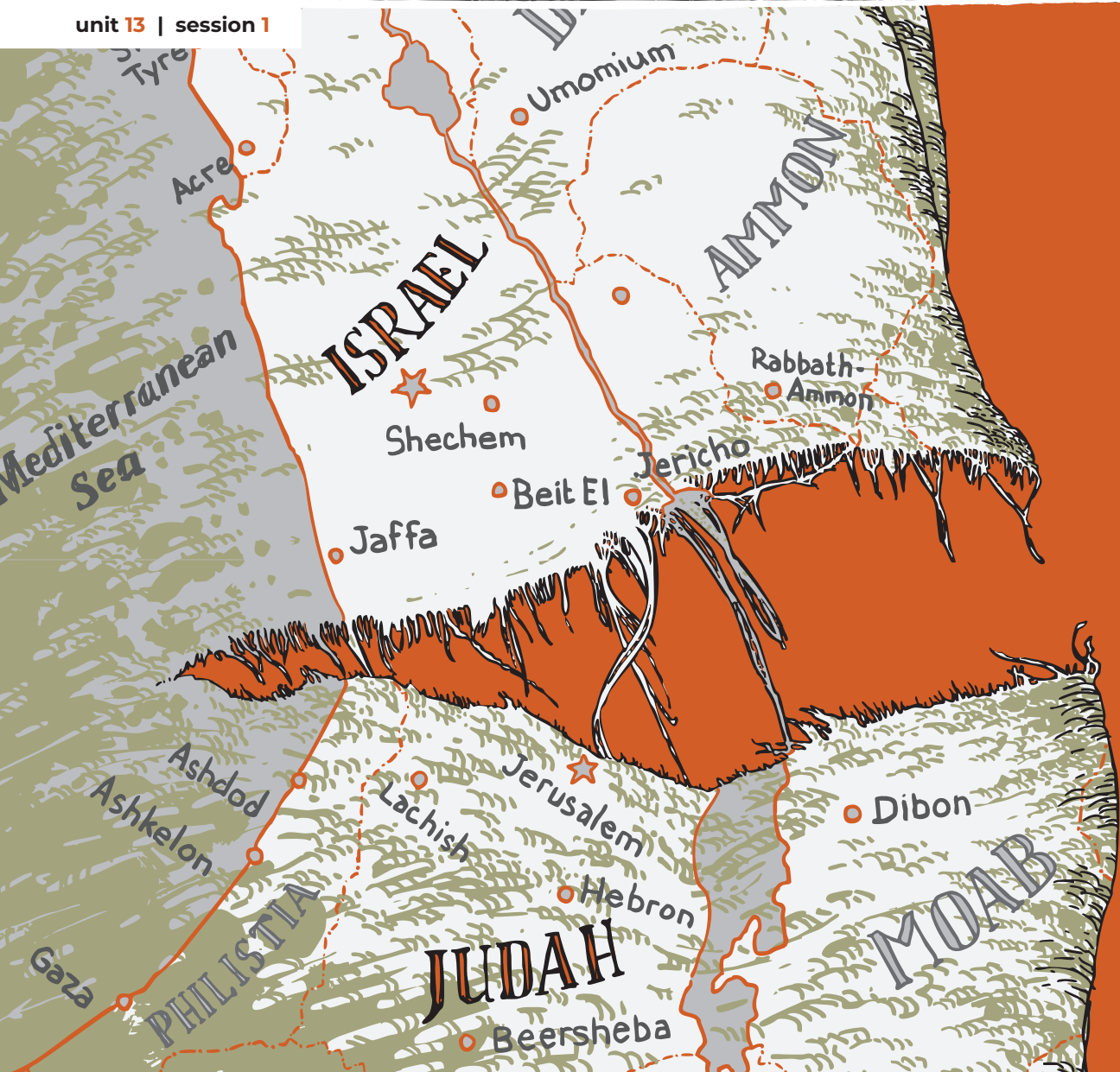
15.4 TO BABYLON

15.5 CAN THESE BONES LIVE?



THE KING DID *NOT LISTEN*

unit 13 | session 1



CHRIST CONNECTION

While God's people became divided because of selfishness and sin, Christ came to restore God's kingdom. Through His death and resurrection, Jesus united people from every tribe and nation into one family.

TO THE RIGHT VOICES

This week, we're covering the passages and main points below. But we encourage you to dig in and read all of the content on this timeline.

1 Kings 12

PRIDE LEADS US TO REJECT WISDOM

1 KINGS 12:1-9

1 Rehoboam went to Shechem, for all Israel had come to Shechem to make him king. 2 And as soon as Jeroboam the son of Nebat heard of it (for he was still in Egypt, where he had fled from King Solomon), then Jeroboam returned from Egypt. 3 And they sent and called him, and Jeroboam and all the assembly of Israel came and said to Rehoboam, 4 “Your father made our yoke heavy. Now therefore lighten the hard service of your father and his heavy yoke on us, and we will serve you.” 5 He said to them, “Go away for three days, then come again to me.” So the people went away. 6 Then King Rehoboam took counsel with the old men, who had stood before Solomon his father while he was yet alive, saying, “How do you advise me to answer this people?” 7 And they said to him, “If you will be a servant to this people today and serve them, and speak good words to them when you answer them, then they will be your servants forever.” 8 But he abandoned the counsel that the old men gave him and took counsel with the young men who had grown up with him and stood before him. 9 And he said to them, “What do you advise that we answer this people who have said to me, ‘Lighten the yoke that your father put on us’?”

REJECTING WISDOM LEADS TO DIVISION

1 KINGS 12:10-19

10 And the young men who had grown up with him said to him, “Thus shall you speak to this people who said to you, ‘Your father made our yoke heavy, but you lighten it for us,’ thus shall you say to them, ‘My little finger is thicker than my father’s thighs. 11 And now, whereas my father laid on you a heavy yoke, I will add to your yoke. My father disciplined you with whips, but I will discipline you with scorpions.’” 12 So Jeroboam and all the people came to Rehoboam the third day, as the king said, “Come to me again the third day.” 13 And the king answered the people harshly, and forsaking the counsel that the old men had given him, 14 he spoke to them according to the counsel of the young men, saying, “My father made your yoke heavy, but I will add to your yoke. My father disciplined you with whips, but I will discipline you with scorpions.” 15 So the king did not listen to the people, for it was a turn of affairs brought about by the LORD that he might fulfill his word, which the LORD spoke by Ahijah the Shilonite to Jeroboam the son of Nebat. 16 And when all Israel saw that the king did not listen to them, the people answered the king, “What portion do we have in David? We have no inheritance in the son of Jesse. To your tents, O Israel! Look now to your own house, David.” So Israel went to their tents. 17 But Rehoboam reigned over the people of Israel who lived in the cities of Judah. 18 Then King Rehoboam sent Adoram, who was taskmaster over the forced labor, and all Israel stoned him to death with stones. And King Rehoboam hurried to mount his chariot to flee to Jerusalem. 19 So Israel has been in rebellion against the house of David to this day.

MAIN POINT.

The advice we choose to follow can make a lasting impact on us and on those around us.



THEOLOGY CONNECTION

DISCIPLESHIP

Discipleship is a process that takes place both formally and informally to affect spiritual maturity as people follow Jesus. Informal discipleship, as passages like Deuteronomy 6:4-9 suggest, happens everywhere, in every arena of life. Growing in our faith and deepening our walk with Christ is something that requires our whole life, not just the mind. Formal discipleship refers to periods of instruction. We make disciples through our words and actions, providing verbal instruction from God's Word and non-verbal examples through our lives (Acts 20:17-24).

DISCUSSION

PRIDE LEADS US TO REJECT WISDOM

1 KINGS 12:1-9



- Why does it matter who we go to for advice?
- ♥ • What happens when you get advice that doesn't support what you want to do?
- Why do you think Rehoboam rejected the elders' advice?

REJECTING WISDOM LEADS TO DIVISION

1 KINGS 12:10-19



- Read 1 Kings 11:9-13. Did Rehoboam have a choice in today's passage? What do these verses help you understand about God's sovereignty?
- What happened as a result of Rehoboam's rejecting wise advice?



- Do we see division caused by leaders today? How is Jesus a different type of leader?



WHEN HAVE YOU BEEN NEGATIVELY AFFECTED BY SOMEONE'S UNWISE CHOICES? WHAT CAN YOU DO TO MAKE SURE YOUR CHOICES ARE WISE?

CULTURAL CONNECTION

Have you ever needed advice but didn't know where to turn to get it? Or maybe several people gave you conflicting advice, and you wrestled with which opinion to follow? The truth is that on our own, it can be really difficult to wade through all the advice that comes our way. We're constantly hit with opinions about what's right and wrong from social media, friends, family members, and entertainment. Whether we realize it or not in the moment, the opinions we listen to help mold us into the people we're becoming. We must make sure we're surrounding ourselves with people who will push us toward God's will and not away from it. God hasn't left you on your own to sift through all the advice you're given. He has given you everything you need to live a godly lifestyle (2 Pet. 1:3). You have His Word and the Holy Spirit to guide you in all things.



DAY ONE

1 SAMUEL 8:10-22

This week, we studied about the importance of listening to the right voices. When Rehoboam became king, he ignored voices of wisdom. Instead, he listened to voices that lined up with his own selfish desires. From there, things started to crumble. As a result, Israel split into two separate kingdoms: Israel and Judah. But let's backtrack a little. God was supposed to be Israel's King, but the people looked at the pagan nations surrounding them and desired what they had—an earthly king. They were persistent in begging for one. Through the prophet Samuel, God warned Israel that their desire for an earthly king wouldn't benefit them. In this passage, Samuel shared that an earthly king would take so much from them—their land, their sons and daughters, their food, their freedom. Despite Samuel's warning, Israel insisted he make someone their king. So, God relented and gave them what they asked for, and with it came trouble, as we saw played out in our passage this week. God's people would now serve kings who would take from them rather than serving only Yahweh, a King who gave to them and who wanted relationship with them.

All of this points us to a few truths. First, we're prone to desiring what the people around us desire, and when this conflicts with God's intentions for us, we should lay down those desires. Second, God's plans for us are better than our own selfish plans. Many of us would say we agree with this, but when we're in a position to choose His way or our way, we often choose the latter. This is why the voices we rely on and listen to matter greatly. Listening to godly wisdom, even when it goes against what we want, helps us live according to the Lord's will.

- **WHEN HAVE YOU IGNORED WISE ADVICE BECAUSE IT DIDN'T LINE UP WITH WHAT YOU WANTED TO HEAR?**
- **WHOSE ADVICE DO YOU NEED TO STOP LISTENING TO BECAUSE IT LEADS YOU AWAY FROM GOD?**

PRAY

LORD, HELP ME TO TRUST THAT WHAT YOU WANT FOR ME IS BETTER THAN WHAT I MAY WANT FOR MYSELF. HELP ME TO LISTEN TO GODLY ADVICE OVER ADVICE THAT JUSTIFIES MY OWN DESIRES.



DAY TWO

2 TIMOTHY 4:3-5

Think of something you want to buy with your own money. Maybe you'd want a pair of shoes, a skateboard, a guitar, or a car. Would you shop around for the best price or purchase the first one you find? When we're spending our own money, we usually want to make sure we're getting the best deal. So, we check websites and stores to make sure we aren't wasting our money, right?

Sometimes, we do the same thing with advice. We talk to different people to get several opinions; in a sense, we shop around for the opinion which agrees most with what we've already decided. We're simply looking for someone else to agree with us because it makes us feel better about our decision. This is a harmful habit that spills over into our relationship with the Lord. For example, maybe you're struggling with a sinful desire. You "shop around" and choose advice that encourages you to act on that desire, and it softens the guilt. You doubt the Holy Spirit's warnings because everyone you talked to saw nothing wrong with the decision. Here's the truth though: The people you should listen to are the ones pointing you to God's Word. They'll help you make godly choices, and they won't agree with your sin just to appease you. Instead of searching for approval in someone's advice, we must seek wisdom from God's Word. Rather than looking for advice that justifies your sin, search for truth, even when it opposes what you want to do.

- **WHO DO YOU GO TO FOR ADVICE WHEN YOU WANT APPROVAL FOR SINFUL CHOICES? HOW IS THIS UNWISE?**
- **WHAT STEPS CAN YOU TAKE TO MAKE SURE YOU'RE LISTENING TO "SOUND DOCTRINE" AND TRUTH?**

PRAY

GOD, I CONFESS THAT SOMETIMES I SHOP AROUND FOR ADVICE THAT AGREES WITH MY SIN. HELP ME TO SEEK ADVICE FROM PEOPLE WHO WILL POINT ME TO YOU.



DAY THREE

JAMES 3:13-18

Do you ever struggle with knowing who to turn to when you need advice? We may say we struggle with this, but in reality, we might be battling the desire to listen to the wrong voices. We've talked a lot about wisdom this week, but sometimes, being able to tell who is truly wise is difficult. Sometimes, even distinguishing between "good" and godly advice is tough. So, how can we tell the difference?

Scripture is our guide. This passage describes how godly wisdom looks in our daily lives. We should be able to observe the way others live and see their "good conduct." According to these verses, wise people exude gentleness. They aren't boastful, bitter, or jealous, and they don't make selfish choices to get what they want. In fact, James says this type of wisdom is "earthly, unspiritual, demonic" (v. 15). Instead, wisdom from above prompts them to seek purity and peace. They show mercy to others and exhibit the fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22-23). If we want to seek people who will give us godly, wise advice, then we simply need to look for people who live out God's Word in their daily lives. We need to look for people who imitate Jesus and encourage us to do the same. We need advice that lines up with Scripture—wisdom which stands apart from worldly advice that sounds good to our ears.

- **IN WHAT AREAS OF YOUR LIFE ARE YOU LEANING TOWARD "GOOD" ADVICE INSTEAD OF GODLY WISDOM?**
- **DOES YOUR OWN LIFE EXHIBIT GODLY WISDOM? CAN PEOPLE TRUST YOUR ADVICE TO POINT THEM TOWARD THE LORD?**

PRAY

GOD, I WANT WISDOM FROM ABOVE INSTEAD OF WHAT THIS WORLD OFFERS. I KNOW YOUR WORD IS TRUTH, GIVING ME THE GUIDANCE I NEED TO WALK IN WISDOM.



DAY FOUR

EPHESIANS 5:6-10

Have you ever fallen for a false advertisement? Maybe you saw an ad on TV or on social media, but when the product came in, it was nothing like you imagined. The advertisement turned out to be full of lies. It made the item seem way more appealing than it was in reality.

Sin works a lot like this. We fall for it because it's appealing. Sinful desires are dressed in lies, full of empty promises. Satan lies to us and tries to convince us that giving in to our sinful desires will make us happy. We fall for the lie that we'll finally have worth once we're popular or once we have a boyfriend or girlfriend. We buy in to believing that substances like drugs or alcohol will help us deal with anxiety or depression. We are deceived into chasing the world's impossible standards for beauty. We think using profane language like everyone else in the locker room will make us tough. But if we test these thoughts against God's Word, we'll see that none of them are true. Sin is deceptive. It makes promises it can never keep. It appeals to desires God has given us, desires which are designed to be filled by Him. This passage encourages us to "walk as children of the light" and not to be fooled by "empty words." But we can't do that—we can't recognize and battle lies—if we aren't armed with the truth of God's Word. God's Word is like a lamp, shining light on truth and exposing lies.

- **WHAT IS A SIN YOU'VE BEEN STRUGGLING WITH? WHAT EMPTY PROMISE DOES THIS SIN MAKE?**
- **HOW CAN YOU LOOK TO GOD TO MEET YOUR NEED INSTEAD?**

PRAY

GOD, I CONFESS THAT I'VE ALLOWED MYSELF TO BE DECEIVED BY SIN'S EMPTY PROMISES. HELP ME TO KNOW YOUR TRUTH SO THAT I CAN RECOGNIZE SATAN'S LIES.



DAY FIVE

COLOSSIANS 1:15-17

This week, we studied about Israel splitting into two separate kingdoms. Because of their leaders' selfish desires over the years, the entire nation suffered. Everyone was affected by Rehoboam's choice to reject the elders' advice. We can look back in history and see how nations paid dearly for their leaders' choices. We've even seen it on a smaller scale—in our cities, our towns, our schools, our churches, our families. We've felt the effects in our own lives, some of us very deeply, when decisions were made for us that only led to chaos, uncertainty, or pain. And it can sometimes feel like God isn't in control. In the wake of other people's bad decisions, it can feel like God is absent.

An internal war is happening between our sinful desires and God's desires for us. But this passage reminds us that the war has already been won. God is sovereign. He isn't absent or unaware. He hasn't lost control. In fact, everything was created through Christ, and He holds everything together. Everything. The news tells us that things are falling apart, that the state of our world is in jeopardy. Now, sin's impact on our world is very real, just like its impact on Israel was very real. But our God is still sovereign over it all. He still has a good plan for us, a plan which is held together perfectly by Him. This week, be reminded that while sin's effects are real and painful, they're temporary for believers. Be reminded that the Lord is completely aware and that He has complete authority. God will bring about His good and perfect will for His glory and for our good.

- **RIGHT NOW, WHAT ABOUT YOUR LIFE OR THIS WORLD FEELS CHAOTIC OR UNCERTAIN?**
- **HOW CAN REMEMBERING GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY GIVE YOU HOPE?**

PRAY

GOD, SITUATIONS IN MY LIFE AND IN THIS WORLD SOMETIMES MAKE ME FEEL UNSTEADY, LIKE YOU DON'T SEE WHAT'S HAPPENING. THANK YOU FOR THE TRUTH THAT YOU'RE SOVEREIGN. HELP ME TO TRUST THAT YOU HOLD EVERYTHING TOGETHER.