

Day 1
October 16



Pray | For your faith in God to be strengthened.

GOD'S GLORY is personally beneficial to those who follow him. Understanding God's glory reveals the certainty with which we can receive his promises.

This week's reading takes place in a time of great dread for Judah. Their king, Hezekiah, remained strong in his belief in God despite being enticed into submission by Judah's enemy. Hundreds of years later, Jesus would be tempted into submission by Satan, providing a parallel story with that of his ancestor, King Hezekiah.



Read | 2 Kings 19:8-13



Reflect | Spend some time reflecting on the following questions.

In times of despair or difficulty, it might be easier or more immediately gratifying to turn your back on Jesus, or seek a way out apart from God. It must have been very enticing for Hezekiah to relent to the Assyrian ruler. If you have ever been tempted or enticed in this way, reflect on the circumstances.

It should be very clear that Satan has a lot of influence on today's society such as persecutions of Christians around the world, or high divorce rate. How do you think Christians should respond to his influence?

It is important to remember your trials are not about you, they are more about Satan working through others telling Christians they cannot trust God—just as the serpent suggested to Adam and Eve, or the messengers did to Hezekiah. What is your reaction when others suggest that God cannot be trusted?

Day 2

October 17



Pray | For the strength to exalt God's name

WHEN LIFE'S PURPOSE is centered on God rather than ourselves, our focus is free to make his name known to others.

Reflect again for a moment on yesterday's passages. Imagine the immense amount of pressure King Hezekiah was under...an entire nation depending on his leadership, and a powerful enemy seeking to conquer Judah. Today's reading includes King Hezekiah's prayer to God, but it is really more of a reflection of his heart for God and a leading example on where our hearts should be for God.



Read | 2 Kings 19:14-19



Reflect | Spend some time reflecting on the following questions.

The first thing Hezekiah did after reading the dreadful letter was pray and call on God for help. How can you learn from Hezekiah's example?

Notice the emphasis Hezekiah places on making God's name known to all nations in verse 19. He began his prayer by praising God. When you pray, are you more apt to focus on your own needs, or your desire for others to bring themselves before the Lord? Why might this be?

It is possible to glorify God's name by actions, deeds, or words. Do your actions, deeds, or words align with God's desire for you and others?

Day 3

October 18



Pray | Ask God for eternal salvation.

GOD'S RESPONSE to King Hezekiah's prayer, through the prophet Isaiah, shows God is eager to hear prayer when it involves an agenda centered on God's kingdom.

Not only is God willing to hear us when we cry out to him, he is also willing to intervene on our behalf for the sake of his name. God always keeps his promises.



Read | 2 Kings 19:20-28



Reflect | Spend some time reflecting on the following questions.

It pleasing to God when you have your heart set on his kingdom, instead of immediate, earthly gratification. How does this manifest itself in your life?

A great example of a mind-set centered in God's kingdom takes place in the crucifixion story in the New Testament where one of the criminals being crucified with Jesus said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." The other criminal simply asked Jesus to help him escape the immediate situation. Which criminal compares best to your tendencies when communing with God?

Focus on verses 27 and 28. It seems God is making his omnipresence very apparent. God knows everything. Does this fact invoke any desire to make any changes in your faith journey?

Day 4

October 19



Pray | Ask God to show you his glory.

THE GLORY of God is not only a reflection of his power, but also a reflection of his character and trustworthiness.

There are several occasions in the Bible where God reminds his people of his past glory and past promises. God must remind his people of his existence, accomplishments, and promises because he loves us so much. If it were not for God's love and compassion, our human nature would take over and we might forget about him.



Read | 2 Kings 19:29-37



Reflect | Spend some time reflecting on the following questions.

In verse 34, God reminds his people of a promise of protection he made a few hundred years earlier to King David. How has God reminded you of his promises?

God commands us to remind others of his promises and glory. Jesus would tell his followers, just before he ascended into heaven, “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations...” How have you obeyed this command?

If you are not yet a follower of Jesus Christ, take some additional time to reflect on all of this week's passages. Take into account that this particular story in Israel's history is not about just one battle, but truly a reflection of God's eternal protection and salvation for all those that accept a personal relationship with his son, Jesus Christ.

Day 5

October 20



Pray | Praise God for your triumphs and your trials.

GOD'S PEOPLE should live to make God's name known, rather than for the advancement of personal desires or agendas.

God allows us to exist to further his mission. When we accept that we exist for God instead of God existing for us, our lives provide a reflection of Jesus Christ for those who do not yet believe in him.



Read | Isaiah 43:7-12, Matthew 5:14-16



Reflect | Spend some time reflecting on the following questions.

If you are a committed Christian; what is it about you that sheds light on God's glory for others?

Reflect on the people with whom you have close relationships. With today's passages in mind, what draws you to those individuals and is God prompting you to make any changes?

What are some ways in which you can live out Jesus' words in Matthew 5:14-16 to be a light for God to others?

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