

S.O.S. Scriptures

Why are we reading this?

Winter seems like a good time to reflect on life and there is a wealth of material to help the believer do that in the prayerbook of the Bible, the Psalms. We'll be reading book 1 of the Psalms this quarter, which are Psalms 3-41, for which Psalms 1 and 2 provide a sort of introduction. They highlight the value of meditating on the Torah and the hope found in the Messianic king, specifically 1 Samuel 7. This is important framing as the second half of this group of psalms leans heavily on the idea of a future deliverance.

After spending a good deal of time in the psalms we will land in Esther. This book challenges the reader to engage with God through what they already know of Him, as He is not mentioned. Even without God's direct reference, the story is one ironic reversal after another and points to His interventions on behalf of His people. It's a sticky, real world depiction of God's behavior toward His people.

Last, we land on the letters to the church at Thessalonica. The conversions and persecutions are a contrast to the story in Esther, and harkens back to the hope expressed in book one of the Psalms.

read

think

pray

live

	read	think	pray	live
January	2 Psalm 1	1 Psalm 23	1 Esther 2	
	3 Psalm 2	2 Psalm 24	2 Esther 3	
	4 Psalm 3	3 Psalm 25	3 Esther 4	
	5 Psalm 4	6 Psalm 26	6 Esther 5	
	6 Psalm 5	7 Psalm 27	7 Esther 6	
	9 Psalm 6	8 Psalm 28	8 Esther 7	
	10 Psalm 7	9 Psalm 29	9 Esther 8	
	11 Psalm 8	10 Psalm 30	10 Esther 9	
	12 Psalm 9	13 Psalm 31	13 Esther 10	
	13 Psalm 10	14 Psalm 32	14 1 Thess 1	
	16 Psalm 11	15 Psalm 33	15 1 Thess 2	
	17 Psalm 12	16 Psalm 34	16 1 Thess 3	
	18 Psalm 13	17 Psalm 35	17 1 Thess 4	
19 Psalm 14	20 Psalm 36	20 1 Thess 5		
20 Psalm 15	21 Psalm 37	21 2 Thess 1		
23 Psalm 16	22 Psalm 38	22 2 Thess 2		
24 Psalm 17	23 Psalm 39	23 2 Thess 3		
25 Psalm 18	24 Psalm 40	24 1 Sam 1		
26 Psalm 19	27 Psalm 41	27 1 Sam 2		
27 Psalm 20	28 Esther 1	28 1 Sam 3		
30 Psalm 21		29 1 Sam 4		
31 Psalm 22		30 1 Sam 5		
		31 1 Sam 6		

the Sword of the Spirit

devotional journey

Pray: Recognize that the Word of God is more than just a book, but the Word of God and the Spirit uses it to speak to us. Consider thoughtfully praying the Lord's prayer.

SOMA

Scripture: Read the passage for the day and write out a verse or two that seem important to you.

Observe: Write down some things that you observe in the text. What happens? What does it say?

Meaning: Think carefully about the text. Ask questions to help yourself understand it and jot those things down.

Apply: Write a heart response. Ask the Spirit to apply this truth to your heart. Let the scriptures guide your prayers. Walk in the Spirit to apply the Word to your life.

Live: Respond by praying through the passage, asking the Spirit to make this true in your heart and life. As you live your everyday life, when the Spirit brings to mind the things you encountered in the Word, you have a chance to reorient your life, your heart, your thinking, in alignment with the truth of God.

Family Devotions

Take a few minutes each day to talk about the Word together. Choose a portion of the passage to talk about. Ask what it means and how you each might apply it, as well as how to walk in the Spirit in light of it. Pray together offering praise, confession, requests or whatever is appropriate from your discussions.

Videos

www.thebibleproject.com

Books:

Psalms <https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/psalms/>

Esther <https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/esther/>

1 Thessalonians <https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/1-thessalonians>

2 Thessalonians <https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/2-thessalonians>

Poetry <https://bibleproject.com/explore/category/how-to-read-biblical-poetry/>

Themes:

The way of the exile <https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/the-way-of-the-exile/>

The gospel of the kingdom <https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/gospel-kingdom/>

The covenants <https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/covenants/>

Holiness <https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/holiness/>