



kids

K-3RD

EZEKIEL + MARK

A BIBLE READING WORKBOOK

WEEKS 5-8

HEARING FROM GOD TOGETHER THROUGH SCRIPTURE

USING THIS WORKBOOK

This guide will take you through 12 weeks of Bible reading. There are five readings each week. Each time you read, ask the Holy Spirit to talk to you. The Holy Spirit can help you know God better by reading the Bible.

READING THE BOOK OF MARK

The book of Mark is about Jesus. When you read, think about what kind of person Jesus is. What does he like? What makes him angry? What would it be like to spend time with him?

READING THE BOOK OF EZEKIEL

The book of Ezekiel is about a prophet. Prophets tell people what God is thinking and feeling and doing. Ezekiel tells God's people that God is unhappy because they are not loving God very well. Instead, they are sinning and hurting themselves and other people. Pay attention - because even though they are doing bad things, God never leaves them!

READING EZEKIEL 10:1-22

Then I looked and saw the sky above the heads of the living creatures. I saw something like a sapphire gem. It looked like a throne. The Lord said to the man dressed in linen, "Go in between the wheels under the living creatures. And fill your hands with coals of fire from between the living creatures. Scatter the coals over the city."

As I watched, the man with linen clothes went in. Now the living creatures were standing on the south side of the Temple when the man went in. And the cloud from the Lord filled the inner courtyard. Then the glory of the Lord went up from the living creatures. And it stood over the door of the Temple. The Temple was filled with the cloud. And the courtyard was full of the brightness from the glory of the Lord. The sound of the wings of the living creatures was heard all the way to the outer courtyard. It was like the voice of God All-Powerful when he speaks.

Then the glory of the Lord left the door of the Temple and stood over the living creatures. The living creatures spread their wings. And they flew up from the ground while I watched. As they went up, the wheels stayed by their sides. They stood where the east gate of the Temple of the Lord opened. The glory of the God of Israel was over them.

These are the living creatures I had seen under the God of Israel by the Kebar River.

REFLECTION

This time, Ezekiel sees a vision of the temple in Jerusalem. If you remember, this is where he used to live and where he would have started working as a priest before he was taken captive by the Babylonians. He sees God's presence leave the Temple. The amazing part is that Ezekiel has also seen God's presence come to him by the river. God is with him wherever he goes!

Can you draw some of the places that God goes with you?

READING MARK 6:30-44

The apostles that Jesus had sent out to preach returned. They gathered around him and told him about all the things they had done and taught. Crowds of people were coming and going. Jesus and his followers did not even have time to eat. He said to them, "Come with me. We will go to a quiet place to be alone. There we will get some rest."

So they went in a boat alone to a place where there were no people. But many people saw them leave and recognized them. So people from all the towns ran to the place where Jesus was going. They got there before Jesus arrived. When he landed, he saw a great crowd waiting. Jesus felt sorry for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. So he taught them many things.

It was now late in the day. Jesus' followers came to him and said, "No one lives in this place. And it is already very late. Send the people away. They need to go to the farms and towns around here to buy some food to eat."

But Jesus answered, "You give them food to eat."

They said to him, "We can't buy enough bread to feed all these people! We would all have to work a month to earn enough money to buy that much bread!"

Jesus asked them, "How many loaves of bread do you have now? Go and see."

When they found out, they came to him and said, "We have five loaves and two fish."

Then Jesus said to the followers, "Tell all the people to sit in groups on the green grass." So all the people sat in groups. They sat in groups of 50 or groups of 100. Jesus took the five loaves and two fish. He looked up to heaven and thanked God for the bread. He divided the bread and gave it to his followers for them to give to the people. Then

he divided the two fish among them all. All the people ate and were satisfied. The followers filled 12 baskets with the pieces of bread and fish that were not eaten. There were about 5,000 men there who ate.

REFLECTION

Right at the beginning of this passage, Jesus and his disciples take a break together. They go to a quiet place to be alone and rest. Do you like quiet places? How do you like to rest? You can try right now - find a quiet place to be alone, and try asking the Holy Spirit to rest with you.

Horizontal lines for reflection writing.

READING MARK 7:1-13

The Pharisees and the teachers of the law said to Jesus, “Your followers don’t follow the rules given to us by our great people who lived before us. Why do they do this?”

Jesus answered, “You are all hypocrites! Isaiah was right when he spoke about you. Isaiah wrote,

‘These people show honor to me with words.
But their hearts are far from me.
Their worship of me is worthless.
The things they teach are nothing
but human rules they have memorized.’

You have stopped following the commands of God. Now you only follow the teachings of men.”

Then Jesus said to them: “You think you are clever! You ignore the commands of God so that you can follow your own teachings! Moses said, ‘Honor your father and mother.’ Then Moses also said, ‘Anyone who says cruel things to his father or mother must be put to death.’ But you teach that a person can say to his father or mother, ‘I have something I could use to help you. But I will not use it for you. I will give it to God.’ You are telling that person that he does not have to do anything for his father or mother. So you are teaching that it is not important to do what God said. You think that it is more important to follow your own rules, which you teach people. And you do many things like that.”

REFLECTION

It seems like Jesus is angry! He calls the Pharisees and teachers “hypocrites.” These teachers were trying to bend what the Bible said to benefit themselves - even if it meant hurting other people. Jesus reminded them that following God means also loving other people. What are some ways that you love or take care of other people?

Horizontal lines for reflection writing.

READING MARK 7:14-23

Another time there was a great crowd with Jesus. They had nothing to eat. So Jesus called his followers to him. He said, "I feel sorry for these people. They have been with me for three days, and now they have nothing to eat. I cannot send them home hungry. If they leave without eating, they will faint on the way home. Some of them live a long way from here."

Jesus' followers answered, "But we are far away from any towns. Where can we get enough bread to feed all these people?"

Jesus asked, "How many loaves of bread do you have?"

They answered, "We have seven loaves."

Jesus told the people to sit on the ground. Then he took the seven loaves and gave thanks to God. Jesus divided the bread and gave the pieces to his followers. He told them to pass out the bread to the people, and they did so. The followers also had a few small fish. Jesus gave thanks for the fish and told his followers to give the fish to the people. All the people ate and were satisfied. Then the followers filled seven baskets with the pieces of food that were not eaten. There were about 4,000 men who ate. After they had eaten, Jesus told them to go home. Then he went in a boat with his followers to the area of Dalmanutha.

The Pharisees came to Jesus and asked him questions. They wanted to trap him. So they asked Jesus to do a miracle to show that he was from God. Jesus sighed deeply. He said, "Why do you people ask for a miracle as proof? I tell you the truth. No miracle will be given to you." Then Jesus left the Pharisees. He went in the boat to the other side of the lake.

The followers had only one loaf of bread with them in the boat. They had forgotten to bring more bread. Jesus warned them, "Be careful! Guard against the yeast of the Pharisees and the yeast of Herod."

Among themselves, his disciples discussed the meaning of this. They said, "He said this because we have no bread."

Jesus knew what his followers were talking about. So he asked them, "Why are you talking about having no bread? You still don't see or understand? Are your minds closed? You have eyes, but you don't really see. You have ears, but you don't really listen. Remember what I did before, when we did not have enough bread? I divided five loaves of bread for 5,000 people. Remember how many baskets you filled with pieces of food that were not eaten?"

They answered, "We filled 12 baskets."

"And remember that I divided seven loaves of bread for 4,000 people. Remember how many baskets you filled with pieces of food that were not eaten?"

They answered, "We filled 7 baskets."

Then Jesus said to them, "You remember these things I did, but you still don't understand?"

REFLECTION

Sometimes, Jesus would tell stories with his actions. The trouble is that the disciples didn't always know what the point of the story was...can you think of any of the stories Jesus told that are confusing? What do you think he was trying to say with the bread in this story?

READING EZEKIEL 30:1-19

The Lord spoke his word to me. He said, “Human being, prophesy and say, “This is what the Lord God says:

“I will destroy the idols.

And I will take away the statues of false gods from the city of Memphis.

There will no longer be a leader in Egypt.

And I will spread fear through the land of Egypt.

I will make southern Egypt empty.

I will start a fire in Zoan.

I will punish Thebes.

And I will pour out my anger against Pelusium, the strong place of Egypt.

I will destroy great numbers of people in Thebes.

I will set fire to Egypt.

Pelusium will be in great pain.

The walls of Thebes will be broken open.

And Memphis will have troubles every day.

The young men of Heliopolis and Bubastis will fall dead in war.

And the people will be taken away as captives.

In Tahpanhes the day will be dark when I break Egypt’s power.

A cloud will cover Egypt.

And her villages will be captured and taken away.

So I will punish Egypt.

And they will know I am the Lord.”

REFLECTION

A lot of things are happening here - some good (Egypt will know I am the Lord), and some bad (people will be taken away as captives). Have you ever done something that made you feel mixed emotions? What happened?

Horizontal lines for reflection writing.

READING MARK 9:1-13

Then Jesus said to the people, "I tell you the truth. Some of you standing here will see the kingdom of God come with power before you die."

Six days later Jesus took Peter, James, and John and went up on a high mountain. They were all alone there. While these followers watched, Jesus was changed. His clothes became shining white, whiter than any person could make them. Then two men appeared, talking with Jesus. The men were Moses and Elijah.

Peter said to Jesus, "Teacher, it is good that we are here. We will put three tents here—one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." Peter did not know what to say, because he and the others were so frightened.

Then a cloud came and covered them. A voice came from the cloud. The voice said, "This is my Son, and I love him. Obey him!"

Then Peter, James, and John looked around, but they saw only Jesus there alone with them.

As Jesus and his followers were walking back down the mountain, he commanded them, "Don't tell anyone about the things you saw on the mountain. Wait till the Son of Man rises from death. Then you may tell."

So the followers obeyed Jesus and said nothing about what they had seen. But they discussed what Jesus meant about rising from death.

REFLECTION

Moses and Elijah lived a long time before Jesus did. But, like Jesus, they pointed people to God. Even in this passage, the voice that Peter, James, and John hear says, "Listen to him." It seems like God uses people to connect other people to Himself. Have you ever done this - helped someone connect to God? How? Has anyone done it for you?

Horizontal lines for reflection writing.

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