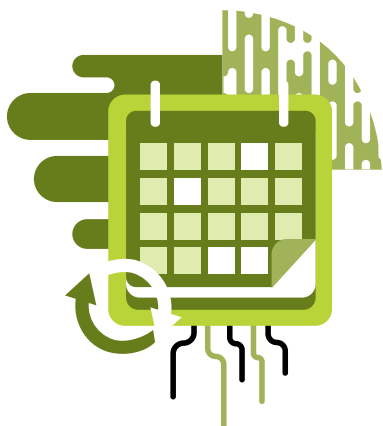


# Daily Devotions



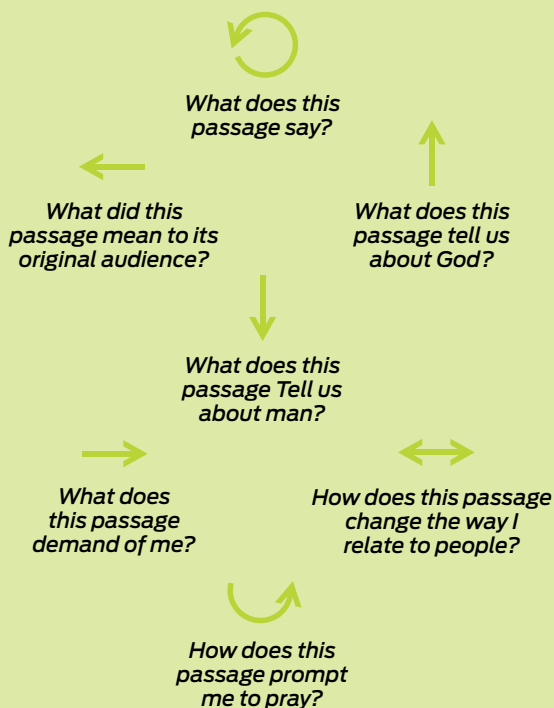
Day 1

## Joshua 10:1-8

Just as Joshua and the Israelites did not turn their backs on the Gibeonites—they had given them their word and whether they liked it or not, they were going to maintain their relationship even if it was difficult. We have been called to do the same. Consider this:

- You may be your Gibeon's only friend. The Gibeonites were destined to destruction without Israel's help. Israel felt that they didn't need Gibeon, but Gibeon sure needed Israel.
- God put you in the path of your Gibeon. In this account, we see that God was providentially working through Israel's strained alliance with Gibeon. The same is true with your Gibeon. God has placed you in relationship for a purpose—don't forget that.
- You need your Gibeon. God knows your shortfalls, and though you think you have it all together, you don't. None of us do. And one of our greatest failings is loving others. This is where our Gibeons are so helpful. We likely don't need them for friendship or protection, but to keep us humble. To teach us how to love sacrificially and selflessly.

### The 7 Arrows of Bible Reading



**Who is your Gibeon? What can you do this week to reflect the love of Christ to him or her?**

# Joshua 10:9-15

“But God.” Pause right there and think about that phrase. How many stories in Scripture turn on a dime because of these two words? How many Old Testament passages heap hopelessness upon us until we read these two beautiful words? And how many testimonies in your life could be told that hinge on the words, “but God”?

Though the words “but God” don’t appear in this passage, these verses whisper its truth. The Israelites faced a formidable foe, “but God” would be the key to their victory. He was the One who cast the enemy into confusion. He was the One who threw hailstones at the enemy. He was the One who halted the sun in its place.

Likewise, “but God” is the key to our victories, both internal and external. “But God” is what takes hold of our sour attitude and gives us love in its place. “But God” is what gives us the courage to stand on the gospel when the culture around us pushes back. “But God” is what enables us to cling to our faith even in the darkest nights of pain and suffering. “But God” is the power of God working the gospel in us and through us. (See Eph. 2:1-10.)

**What is your “but God” testimony?  
Who have you shared it with  
recently?**

# Joshua 10:16-43

Once the alliance of five kings was routed, the other cities in the southern half of the promised land fell in rapid sequence, like dominoes. It might be tempting to read through this passage rapidly, with eyes glazed over. It’s challenging to find meaning in such an abstract, sterile account of the southern campaign. But don’t do it! Appreciate the rapid pace of this part of the conquest because it will help you understand the importance of verse 43—after the southern cities were defeated, Joshua and the Israelites returned to their camp at Gilgal, presumably to rest.

Yes, God had been the One delivering victory after victory. And yes, there was still work to be done—the northern cities had to be defeated so that all of the land would be Israel’s possession. But God’s people needed rest. Just as God established Sabbath rest in the creation account and just as Israel abstained from collecting manna on the Sabbath, we see here a reminder of our limits as people. Even while doing the Lord’s work, we need to find time to rest.

**How do you guard time to rest as a  
rhythm of life? Do you tend to fall  
more toward working too much or  
resting too much? Why?**

# Joshua 11:1-23

Forty years before the Israelites entered into the promised land their parents had been given the same opportunity, but their faithlessness resulted in them missing out. As we know, that generation refused to enter into the land and was instead forced to wander in the wilderness until they all died off.

In verse 15, we see how Joshua and the next generation were wise not to repeat the same mistake of faithlessness. At the conclusion of the conquest, we read that Joshua was faithful to obey all God had commanded which led to the successful conquest of the land. God was not just after a portion of faithful obedience, He was after full faithful obedience. Each battle and each step in each battle was a step of faith for Joshua and the Israelites. They could not have picked and chosen which steps to take and which not to take. They had to walk fully in faith, and when they did, they were successful. God was not after their obedience in isolation—just as He is not after ours. Instead, He is after our faith, which is made known through our obedience.

**In what areas of your life are you struggling to walk fully in faith? Why? What steps can you take toward more faithfulness?**

# Joshua 12:1-24

Thirty-one kings. Each one listed and counted as “one” in Joshua 12:9-24. It might be helpful to read these verses aloud to appreciate the repetition and the cadence. That is what we need to feel as we read these verses; we need to appreciate the scope of the victory God had given His people. A nation of the children of slaves had entered into the promised land—a choice land with many cities defended by mighty armies—and defeated each enemy that was before them. Thirty-one of them to be precise. But, also to be precise, Israel did not win any of these victories: God had won each one of them through Israel and for Israel. This is what God wanted the people to remember. He wanted them to be able to look back on the conquest and not remember one convoluted victory. He wanted them to remember precisely what He had done to give them the victory—what He had done thirty-one times. Each fallen king was a testament to God’s power and a reminder of His provision for His people. That is what they would need to remember.

**What have you done to record and remember the many victories God has won for you?**