



THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURES

1 Kings 18:21-39, Hebrews 13:7; Deuteronomy 31:8, Isaiah 43:1-2, Galatians 1:10, Romans 8:28, 35-39

REFLECTION AND STUDY

DAY 1: Read 1 Kings 18:21-39

As we grow older, our heroes change, but we don't stop having them. We need models. We need leaders who inspire us, real people of flesh and blood who embody character traits we admire. In that admiration and inspiration comes emulation. We all know that we cannot be John Wesley or Steve Jobs or Babe Ruth or Elijah. But we can try to be like them. We can imitate their courage as we face life's challenges. We can be strengthened by their examples. No matter how much we grow, we can always look up.

- Who are your heroes?
- What positive examples do they provide for your spiritual life?

Praise God for the excitement that His Word brings. Thank Him for your blessings and let him know your concerns and requests. Pray for your needs and the needs of your brothers and sisters in Christ. Be in prayer for each other this week.

DAY 2: Hebrews 13:7

In our current culture people are more obsessed with celebrities and tend to have fewer heroes. We even have people who are famous just for being famous. In the midst of this celebrity driven culture, there are many unsung heroes who simply do the right thing, or stand up for what they believe in, and don't get much or any recognition. Can you think of anyone like that, an unsung hero you've experienced in your life? The Bible tells us to have spiritual heroes. **Read Hebrews 13:7.** Of course, we shouldn't be foolish enough to think that any of our heroes is right about everything. The best of men are men at best. Only one hero is perfect and unchangeable, and He's mentioned in the very next verse: "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever" (Hebrews 13:8). The right heroes will point us to Him.

- Do you have a few trusted Christians that you invite to speak into your life?
- You can be a hero to someone too. Who can you point towards Christ?

Thank God for the leaders in your life. Lift them up in prayer. Pray for opportunities to speak life into others.

DAY 3: Read Deuteronomy 31:8

Elijah was one of the boldest and bravest prophets of the Old Testament, who had the courage to stand alone for God. Our greatest trials and tests usually come upon each of us suddenly. Oftentimes, it seems we are all by ourselves. The reality is that we are never alone because God is with us. Even though Elijah said, "I am all alone," he knew that God was very much involved in his confrontation with the priests of Baal. From our physical standpoint and from our human standpoint, we do have to step up to the plate; but we are not alone. Our loving Father does not abandon His children. The plan of God will come to pass in His Peo-

ple. There is no safety in numbers or in befriending the powerful. Living as a Christian is not always easy, but we must stand strong. We have to walk in faith, bold and courageous and be willing to stand “alone.”

- Have you ever been in a situation where you knew for sure God was with you and you were not afraid?

Ask God to give you the courage to stand alone. Thank Him for never leaving you or forsaking you and for always going before you to pave the way for His plans. Pray that you will would be brave enough to stand alone.

DAY 4: Read Isaiah 43:1-2

While Elijah was bold and brave there was a time he was also afraid. When Queen Jezebel sent her messenger with the threat of death, Elijah ran away and cried out to the Lord. The key was that he intentionally drew closer to the Lord in that fear and allowed himself to be encouraged and comforted. If we don't draw near to God when we are afraid, we are left disconnected and powerless in fear. We can become paralyzed, confused and unable to move ahead. Fear loses its power when we actively put trust in God's promises. Give God a chance to come through for you as you courageously walk through your fears, holding God's hand and trusting Him to lead, protect, and preserve you each step of the way. When you are afraid draw near to Him. **Read Isaiah 43:1-2.**

- What are you afraid of?
- What do you do when you are afraid?

If you are dealing with your fears right now, draw near to God. Cry out to Him. Picture yourself taking God's hand and walking through your fears instead of being paralyzed by them. Put your trust in Him and remember His promises. Pray for the courage today to take the first step in overcoming your fear. Thank God that you are not alone.

DAY 5: Read Galatians 1:10

Pastor Bob posed the question, “If your life was a movie and we were the audience watching, would it be hard for us to figure out the plot? Could we identify with your life's ambition? Would we know what you stood for?” **Read Galatians 1:10** and spend some time thinking about the answers to those questions. After you have identified some answers read and meditate on **Romans 8:28, 35-39.**

Pray and ask God to lead you toward His purpose and strengthen your resolve. Thank Him for the undying truth that nothing can separate you from His love.

DAY 6

Today is your "Sabbath" and a time for reflection. How has God been speaking to you over the week? Use what the Lord has said to you to remold and reshape your life. If you are having trouble hearing God's voice, slow down or even stop what you are doing so that the busyness of life's demands do not squelch the whispers of God's language of love upon your heart.