



THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURES

2 Timothy 3:12, Genesis 6:9-21 ; Ecclesiastes 3:1, Isaiah 43:1-2, Genesis 6:22, Romans 15:13

REFLECTION AND STUDY

DAY 1: Read 2 Timothy 3:12

What faith Noah must have had! Even though Noah knew what he was to do everyone around him called him crazy. Some scholars believe that people living in his day had never seen water fall from the sky, but still Noah warned, "It is going to rain, and the whole world will be flooded!" He began building an ark to save his family from something he could hardly describe. The people laughed and mocked him. It may cost you your reputation if you follow hard after God. People may mock you like they mocked Noah. They may call you crazy or weak for following "religion." **Read 2 Timothy 3:12.**

- Have you been persecuted or mocked for your faith?
- Do you think you could be obedient if God asked you to do something huge that had never been done?

Thank God for His Word. Pray for our brothers and sisters in Christ. Pray for those who are boldly blazing the trail for the Kingdom of God worldwide despite persecution.

DAY 2: Read Genesis 6:9-21

Read Genesis 6:9-21. Every hero in the Bible is an ordinary person like you and me that has obediently stepped out in faith to answer God's call or accept His mission in their life. There is a key difference in hearing from God and obeying what He asks us to do. It is the obedience that separates the heroes from the rest. Many of us are willing to be obedient to a point, but are not fully submitted to His authority like Noah was. Most of us want to obey God until it affects a certain part of our life we'd rather He leave alone, until He asks us to give up something we don't want to give up, or do something we are uncomfortable with.

- To what lengths are you willing to follow God?
- What kinds of things has God asked you to do? Have you always been obedient?

Praise God for His unfailing love and grace. Thank Him for His loving direction. Pray for His leading in your life to be clear. Pray that you would grow to become more obedient in every area of your life.

DAY 3: Read Ecclesiastes 3:1

When we are obedient our lives will change. Don't be afraid of change because change brings growth. Welcome and embrace it. Never think you are through with change; life is a process of constant change. We must remain in a state where we are willing to let go of everything that lies behind us and that includes our old ways and routines. We must allow the Holy Spirit to shake us up and open our eyes to what lies ahead so that we can take hold of God's plans for us. As we are changed greater and greater things emerge through us and around us. **Read Ecclesiastes 3:1.**

- What changes have you been through lately? How have you grown?

Thank God that in times of change, He remains the same. Ask Him to help you to let go of the old ways that hinder the changes He wants to bring into your life.

DAY 4: Read Isaiah 43:1-2

When our relationship with God is strong, we don't have to worry where we will get whatever it takes to do what God asks of us, nor will we worry about what others might think or say. Maintaining a close relationship with God will keep us in the know about what God is doing and how we are to be involved. Don't follow your own agenda. The voice of God leads his people to do extraordinary things for the benefit of His Kingdom's purpose. **Read Isaiah 43:1-2.**

- How can you become closer with God?

Remember that you can do all things with God by your side. Meditate on that life-giving truth.

DAY 5: Read Genesis 6:22

Read Genesis 6:22. Noah is a hero because he obeyed God's instructions blindly. One step at a time, instruction by instruction, Noah followed God's specific outline. Think about others throughout the bible who took God's instruction step by step. How about Abraham or Moses? These heroes had no idea what would come next, instead they stepped out in blind faith. Faith is not something we believe in - it is something we act on! Noah built an ark, obeying God in every detail. God gives us commands and specific instructions as well. Our response to these ought to be like Noah's was. We should prepare by obeying God in everything. To do that we need a faith like Noah had and an obedient trust in God.

- Does your own faith have the characteristics of the faith that saved Noah?

Pray that God would strengthen you to act out your faith. Commit your needs to Him and share the desires of your heart boldly.

DAY 6: Romans 15:13

It can be very difficult, but we must be willing to let go of the old to make room for the new. When unexpected life circumstances and roadblocks arise we must pause first. Take some time to get quiet before the Lord. Look for God in the midst of the situation so we can begin to grow again and follow Him wherever He is leading. Remember as you submit to His will that God is loving, gracious, and merciful. That His way is the right way. When trouble arises we must seek His peace and follow God's direction through the storms of life. **Read Romans 15:13.**

- What is it time for you to let go of?

Commit Romans 15:13 to memory. Put your trust in the Lord so that you can obey His commands. Thank God for the freedom and peace He offers us. Pray that you would have faith like Noah.

DAY 7

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.