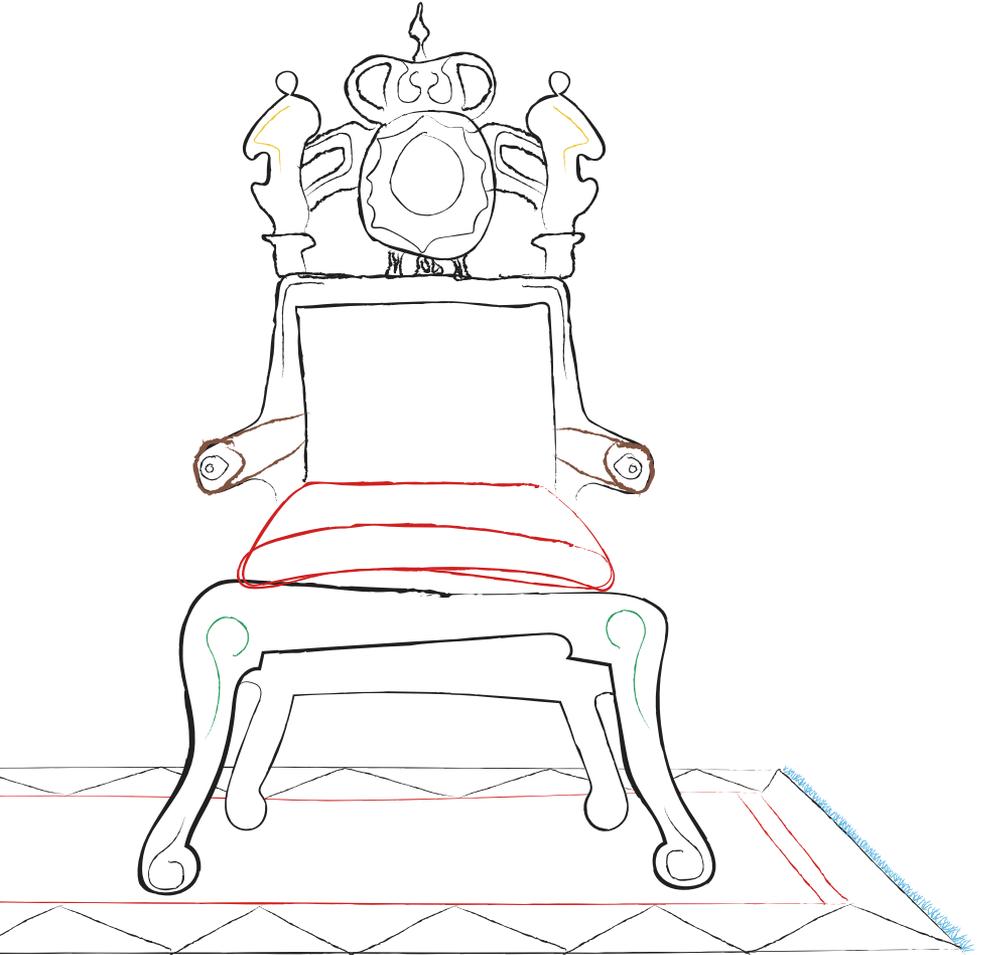


Digging Deeper



Sept/Oct 2021

Students,

It is my sincere desire that you (and I) would love God and love his Word. These two are inseparable. You cannot love God while ignoring his special revelation to us. I pray that as you flip through the following pages with a heart to learn, God's Word opened, and a pen in hand, a love for God and other people will be cultivated in your life as his transforming grace daily evidences itself. The Digging Deeper guide placed before you is just that – a guide. There is nothing inherently special or even powerful about the layout and questions which follow.

On the other hand, the Scripture texts provided for reading each week are, in fact, fundamentally life-altering. If we believe Hebrews 4:12 when its author states,

“ For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart, ”

then we must be prepared for our lives to be laid open and bare as the Holy Spirit transforms through the power of God's Word.

Digging Deeper allows you to focus intently on one chapter of the Bible (plus a Psalm/Proverb) each week. The guide is set up in such a way to provide five readings every seven days. This affords extra space to catch up or a day off to concentrate on other spiritual disciplines.

As we humbly open the text, ask questions of the text, and prayerfully consider what the text means and how the text applies to our lives, my prayer is that God's overwhelming glory and beauty would be on full display as the Holy Spirit works through the power of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joel Felten', with a large, stylized flourish underneath.

Joel Felten

Sept/Oct 2021

September 5-11
Week 36

1 John 3
Psalm 103

September 12-18
Week 37

1 John 4
Psalm 111

September 19-25
Week 38

1 John 5
Psalm 117

Sept 26 - Oct 2
Week 39

2 Samuel 7
Proverbs 27

October 3-9
Week 40

2 Samuel 9
Proverbs 28

October 10-16
Week 41

Philippians 1
Psalm 118

October 17-23
Week 42

Philippians 2
Psalm 119:1-48

October 24-30
Week 43

Philippians 3
Psalm 119:49-96

Week 36

1 John 3 & Psalm 103

Is 1 John 3 a narrative, an epistle, poetry, or prophesy?
↖(story) (letter)↗

How does John explain “the practice of sinning” in verses 4-10?

What questions come to mind as I read 1 John 3?

What can I thank God for from this passage?



DAY TWO

(read chapter again, then answer)

What are some key words or themes in 1 John 3?

***look for repeated words or ideas**

Are these ideas connected in any way? How so?

What verses in 1 John 3 are an encouragement?

What verses in 1 John 3 challenge my thinking?

DAY THREE: read 1 John 3 today before answering these

What do I learn about God's character in 1 John 3?

*My God is ...

What do I learn about God's actions in 1 John 3?

*My God does ...

How does 1 John 3 help to address areas of sin in my life?
How do my actions reveal my heart?

Looking at verse 18, how do the claims I make about my love for God align with my actions?

DAY 5

Psalm 103: read ×3

What are some repeated or important words in this Psalm? How do these help me better understand the Psalm?

DAY FOUR



How does this text help to explain any part of the gospel?

*Gospel = God, Man,
Jesus, Response

What's the unifying "big idea" for this section?

*try in 8 words or less

How does 1 John 3 impact my life today?
Why does it matter to me?

What are three or four practical "next steps" I can take
because of 1 John 3?

What action should I take based on Psalm 103?

What comfort does Psalm 103 provide?

Week 37

1 John 4 + Psalm 111

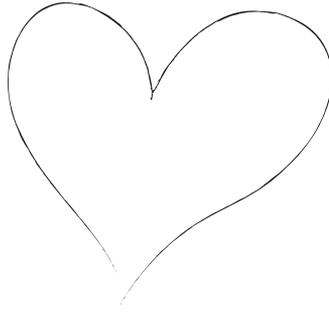
DAY ONE

What's the big deal about love?! Summarize your understanding of "love" based on 1 John 4.

Where does love originate? How is love displayed?
What should we expect love to do for us?

What questions come to mind as I read 1 John 4?

What can I thank God for from this passage?



DAY TWO

What are some key words or themes in 1 John 4?

***look for repeated
words or ideas**

Are these ideas connected in any way? How so?

What does John's repeated use of "Beloved" and "Little Children" communicate about his intended audience?

What verses in 1 John 4 challenge my thinking?

DAY 3: read 1 John 4

What do I learn about God's character in 1 John 4?

*My God is ...

What do I learn about God's actions in 1 John 4?

*My God does ...

What fears, doubts, or struggles does 1 John 4 help to address? How can I ask God for help here?

What does 1 John 4 teach me about myself?

Psalm 111: read ×3

List five observations

- ① The Lord is gracious and merciful (v 4)
- ②
- ③
- ④
- ⑤

DAY 5 ↘

DAY 4

* 1 John 4 *

How does this text help to explain any part of the gospel?

*Gospel = God, Man,
Jesus, Response

What's the unifying "big idea" for this section?

*try in 8 words or less

How does this text impact my life today?
Why does it matter to me?

What are three or four practical "next steps" I can take
because of 1 John 4?

What action should I take based on Psalm 111?

What comfort does Psalm 111 provide?

Week 38

1 John 5 & Psalm 117

Is any part of 1 John 5 familiar to you? If yes, what do these verses tell us about God? What do they tell you about yourself?

Verses 13-15 act as a sort of thesis/summary statement for the entire book. Try to summarize these three verses in one sentence.

What questions come to mind as I read 1 John 5?

What can I thank God for from this passage?



DAY TWO

(read chapter again, then answer)

What are some key words or themes in 1 John 5?

***look for repeated words or ideas**

Are these ideas connected in any way? How so?

What verses in 1 John 5 are an encouragement?

What verses in 1 John 5 challenge my thinking?

DAY THREE: read 1 John 5 today before answering ?s

What do I learn about God's character in 1 John 5?

*My God is ...

What do I learn about God's actions in 1 John 5?

*My God does ...

Why does John end with "keep yourselves from idols" in verse 21? What does that mean for us in 2021?

How does 1 John 5 move me to action?

DAY 5

Psalm 117: read x3

What are some repeated or important words in this Psalm? How do these help me better understand the Psalm?

DAY FOUR



How does this text help to explain any part of the gospel?

*Gospel = God, Man,
Jesus, Response

What's the unifying "big idea" for this section?

*try in 8 words or less

How does 1 John 5 impact my life today?
Why does it matter to me?

What are three or four practical "next steps" I can take
because of 1 John 5?

What action should I take based on Psalm 117?

What comfort does Psalm 117 provide?

Week 39

2 Samuel 7 + Proverbs 27

DAY ONE

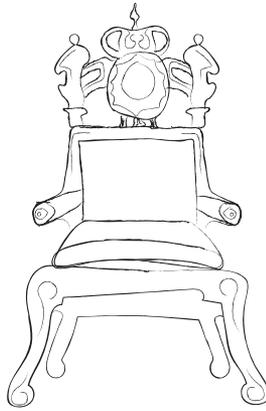
Before reading 2 Samuel 7, what comes to mind when you think of the word “covenant” or “promise”?

Now after reading 2 Samuel 7, why does this covenant with David seem to be such a big deal?

What questions come to mind as I read 2 Samuel 7?

What can I thank God for from this passage?

DAY TWO



What are some key words or themes in 2 Samuel 7?

***look for repeated words or ideas**

Are these ideas connected in any way? How so?

Reading verses 9-15, list all of God's "I will" statements to David.

How should verse 22 impact my life today?

DAY 3: read 2 Sam 7

What do I learn about God's character in 2 Samuel 7?

*My God is ...

What do I learn about God's actions in 2 Samuel 7?

*My God does ...

How does 2 Samuel 7 show me that God is worthy of worship? Why is God worthy of dedicating my life to him?

What can 2 Samuel 7, especially verses 18-29, teach me about thankfulness and gratitude?

Proverbs 27: read x3

List five observations

- ① Do not boast in yourself (v 2)
- ②
- ③
- ④
- ⑤

DAY 5 ↗

DAY 4

* 2 Samuel 7 *

How does this text help to explain any part of the gospel?

*Gospel = God, Man,
Jesus, Response

What's the unifying "big idea" for this section?

*try in 8 words or less

How does this text impact my life today?
Why does it matter to me?

What are three or four practical "next steps" I can take
because of 2 Samuel 7?

What action should I take based on Proverbs 27?

What comfort does Proverbs 27 provide?

Week 40

2 Samuel 9 & Proverbs 28

Who are the three primary actors/participants in this narrative?

What role do each of these three play?
What words/actions do they say/take?

What questions come to mind as I read 2 Samuel 9?

What can I thank God for from this passage?



DAY TWO

(read chapter again, then answer)

What are some key words or themes in 2 Samuel 9?

***look for repeated words or ideas**

Are these ideas connected in any way? How so?

What do we learn about “loving-kindness” from David’s example?

How does David’s loving-kindness give us a glimpse of God’s loving-kindness to us?

DAY THREE: read 1 Sam 9 today before answering ?s

What do I learn about God's character in 2 Samuel 9?

*My God is ...

What do I learn about God's actions in 2 Samuel 9?

*My God does ...

How does 2 Samuel 9 show God's care, comfort,
and provision for outcasts/outsideers?

What strikes you as the most significant detail of
this narrative?

DAY 5

Proverbs 28: read x3

List five observations

- ① Integrity is more important than riches for a Christian's life (v 6)
- ②
- ③
- ④
- ⑤

DAY FOUR



How does this text help to explain any part of the gospel?

*Gospel = God, Man,
Jesus, Response

What's the unifying "big idea" for this section?

*try in 8 words or less

How does 2 Samuel 9 impact my life today?
Why does it matter to me?

What are three or four practical "next steps" I can take
because of 2 Samuel 9?

What action should I take based on Proverbs 28?

What comfort does Proverbs 28 provide?

Week 41

Philippians 1 + Psalm 118

DAY ONE

What do you know about the author, Paul the apostle?

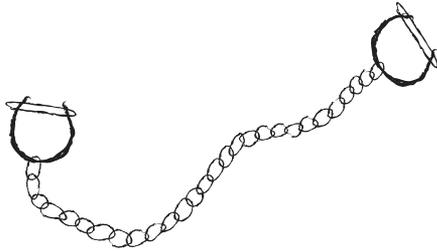
* if needed, use an online
Bible commentary

How does the book of Philippians fit into the whole
storyline of the Bible?

* if needed, use an online
Bible commentary

What questions come to mind as I read Philippians 1?

What can I thank God for from this passage?



DAY TWO

What are some key words or themes in Philippians 1?

***look for repeated words or ideas**

Are these ideas connected in any way? How so?

Verse 27 is pretty familiar – what does it mean for your “manner of life” to be “worthy of the gospel of Christ?”

What verses in Philippians 1 are an encouragement?

DAY 3: read Phil 1

What do I learn about God's character in Philippians 1?

*My God is ...

What do I learn about God's actions in Philippians 1?

*My God does ...

How does Paul's prayer in verses 3-11 model prayer for me?
What are some important topics/areas that Paul includes that I should pray for too?

What does Philippians 1 teach me about having other Christians help me in my walk with God?

Psalm 118: read ×3

What are some repeated or important words in this Psalm? How do these help me better understand the Psalm?

DAY 5 ↗

DAY 4

★ **Philippians 1** ★

How does this text help to explain any part of the gospel?

*Gospel = God, Man,
Jesus, Response

What's the unifying "big idea" for this section?

*try in 8 words or less

How does this text impact my life today?
Why does it matter to me?

What are three or four practical "next steps" I can take
because of Philippians 1?

What action should I take based on Psalm 118?

What comfort does Psalm 118 provide?

Week 42

Philippians 2 & Psalm 119:1-48

After reading Philippians 2, what verse is most intriguing?
Why?

Is Philippians 2 a narrative, an epistle, poetry, or prophesy?
⤴(story) (letter)⤵

What questions come to mind as I read Philippians 2?

What can I thank God for from this passage?



DAY TWO

(read chapter again, then answer)

What are some key words or themes in Philippians 2?

***look for repeated words or ideas**

Are these ideas connected in any way? How so?

What verses in Philippians 2 are an encouragement?

What verses in Philippians 2 challenge my thinking?

DAY THREE: read [Phil 2](#) today before answering ?s

What do I learn about God's character in Philippians 2?

*My God is ...

What do I learn about God's actions in Philippians 2?

*My God does ...

Verses 1-11 are some of the richest words in all of Scripture. What does this section teach us about Christ's humility? How should his humility affect our humility?

How does Philippians 2 help to strengthen my resolve to "hold fast to the word of life?"

*see verse 16

DAY 5

Psalm 119:1-48: read x3

List five observations

- 1 The commands and Word of God should be a delight for me (v 14)
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5

DAY FOUR



How does this text help to explain any part of the gospel?

*Gospel = God, Man,
Jesus, Response

What's the unifying "big idea" for this section?

*try in 8 words or less

How does Philippians 2 impact my life today?
Why does it matter to me?

What are three or four practical "next steps" I can take
because of Philippians 2?

**What action should I take based on
Psalm 119:1-48?**

What comfort does Psalm 119:1-48 provide?

Week 43

Philippians 3 + Psalm 119
verses 49-96

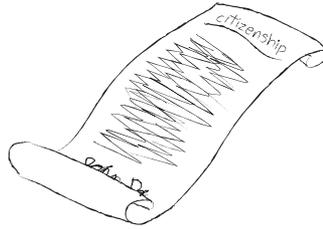
DAY ONE

Verses 5-6 are Paul's "resume" for superiority over others. What are some areas that you're tempted to feel proud or look down at others concerning?

Read verses 7-8, according to Paul, how should your strengths be submitted to "the sake of Christ?"

What questions come to mind as I read Philippians 3?

What can I thank God for from this passage?



DAY TWO

What are some key words or themes in Philippians 3?

***look for repeated words or ideas**

Are these ideas connected in any way? How so?

Read verse 17, could I encourage others to “imitate me” because I’m pointing others to Christ? Why or why not?

What verses in Philippians 3 are an encouragement?

DAY 3: read Phil 3

What do I learn about God's character in Philippians 3?

*My God is ...

What do I learn about God's actions in Philippians 3?

*My God does ...

What does Philippians 3 teach me about my priorities?
Should my priorities change when my life is given to Christ?
How?

How can I "press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus" as a middle or high school student? What does that look like for me?

Psalm 119:49-96: read ×3

What are some repeated or important words in this Psalm? How do these help me better understand the Psalm?

DAY 5 ↘

DAY 4

Philippians 3

How does this text help to explain any part of the gospel?

*Gospel = God, Man,
Jesus, Response

What's the unifying "big idea" for this section?

*try in 8 words or less

How does this text impact my life today?
Why does it matter to me?

What are three or four practical "next steps" I can take
because of Philippians 3?

**What action should I take based on
Psalm 119:49-96?**

What comfort does Psalm 119:49-96 provide?

