



ontrack devotions

JUDGES & RUTH

AUGUST 2024

MONTHLY PRAYER SHEET

"...The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective." James 5:16

Who I Will Reach

How I Will Do It

How It Went

Other Requests

Date Answered

How It Was Answered

MONTHLY COMMITMENT SHEET

Name: _____

This sheet is designed to help you make personal commitments each month that will **help you grow in your walk with God**. Fill it out by determining

1. What will push you
2. What you think you can achieve

If you need help filling out your commitments, seek out someone you trust who can help you. Share your commitments with those who will help keep you accountable.

Personal Devotions:

How did I do with my commitment last month? _____

I will commit to read the OnTrack Bible passage and devotional thought _____ day(s) each week this month.

Church Attendance:

How did I do last month with my attendance? _____

I will attend church _____ time(s) this month.

I will attend small group _____ time(s) this month.

I will attend _____ time(s) this month.

(List any other activities you will participate in this month—Bible study, church events, etc.)

Bible Memory:

How did I do with Bible memory last month? _____

I will memorize _____ verse(s) this month.

Outreach:

How did I do last month with sharing Jesus? _____

I will share Jesus with _____ this month.

I will serve my local church this month by _____

Have you ever noticed how easy it is for people to disobey God? Have you paid attention to the many excuses we give for refusing to do what God has asked us to do? In today's chapter, we read that the nation of Israel did just that. God told them to go into the land and occupy it. Judah did not because the residents of the land had iron chariots. Manasseh did not because the people that occupied their land were determined to stay. These were not the only two tribes who did not drive out their enemy completely—Ephraim, Zebulun, Asher, and Naphtali did not either. At the end of the chapter, we see that Dan did not drive out the enemy because the Amorites did not want to go. These tribes probably felt that this task was too difficult and that God would understand their disobedience. But, before we become critical, think of the excuses we use today for our disobedience. We have too much work to spend time with God. We don't have time to reach out to others. We don't invite others to church because we think they wouldn't come anyway. It's just too hard. What excuses do you make? Evaluate them and then commit to stop making excuses.

SAY WHAT?

What areas of disobedience do you commonly see in the people around you?

SO WHAT?

What excuses do they give for their disobedience?

NOW WHAT?

In what areas of your life do you find yourself making excuses for disobedience?

THEN WHAT?

In light of this passage, what personal commitment can you make?

EXTRA READING

JUDGES 1

Today begins a pattern we will observe throughout this book. This group of people will go from spiritual revival to spiritual apathy over and over again. They lived wicked lives and then God punished them. They sought restoration in their relationship to God and then He brought a judge to counsel them. Revival swept through the nation. When the judge died, those who did not know God or what He had done began to influence the people towards evil. Soon, many were living in sin and apathy again. In fact, each time they went through this cycle, their wickedness got worse. This same cycle can be observed all over the world. Spiritual revival breaks out and, before long, those whom God used to bring the revival leave. Before long, spiritual apathy becomes the predominant attitude again. As you read through Judges, ask God to help you see where in the cycle you and your church are and what you can do about it.

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

EXTRA READING
JUDGES 2

When you graduate from school, leave your job, or move, how do you want to be remembered? In ten years, what would you want people to say about you when they look back and think of you? Today, we read about three men whom God used to bring revival to the nation of Israel. While we learn some interesting things about each of their lives, we see they have one thing in common. Did you notice it? Of the three, Shamgar gets the least amount of space for his time as a Judge. What we do know is that he did what God wanted him to do. "He too saved Israel." Israel had peace in the land for forty years after Othniel's service. After Ehud, the nation had peace for 80 years. Each did what God asked and, because of their commitment, God brought revival. The influence of these men was felt for many years. What role does God want you to play in your school, youth group, workplace, or church this coming year? Will God be able to say of you that you did what He asked and that you were used to bring about revival that had a lasting impact? Nothing is greater than being used by God to influence people towards godliness. Are you ready for the task?

SAY WHAT?

What would you like to see changed in something you are part of?

SO WHAT?

What role might God want you to play in bringing about change in that area?

NOW WHAT?

What can you do to begin the process?

THEN WHAT?

In light of this passage, what personal commitment should you make?

EXTRA READING
JUDGES 3



PROVERBS 14

The book of Proverbs was designed to help us in "attaining wisdom and discipline; in understanding words of insight; in acquiring a disciplined and prudent life, doing what is right and just and fair; in giving prudence to the simple, knowledge and discretion to the young." As you read through this chapter, write down the verses that are most significant to you in your present circumstances.

VERSE | WHAT TRUTH IT COMMUNICATES | HOW IT IMPACTS MY LIFE

What similarities do you see between this chapter and the world you live in? What about the condition of the men? Think about it for a minute. The nation of Israel found itself in the midst of oppression because of their sin again. They cried out to God and He raised up a woman to deliver them. She went to the nation and told them that God wanted to deliver them and gave them the plan to make it happen. The men, however, did not have enough guts to do it. They agreed to fight the enemy, but only if Deborah went with them. She told them she would, but that the honor of the victory would be hers, not Barak's. It is shameful for the men who should have been leading to wait for someone else to take a stand and lead. Unfortunately, it seems to be the same way today. Look at the groups you are apart of. How many guys are there who are taking a stand for Jesus and being true leaders? How many guys at your school or workplace are willing to stand alone if necessary? God's desire is for men to be leaders in their homes, schools, workplaces, and churches. Could you be one who needs to step up?

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

EXTRA READING
JUDGES 4



As you read through this tribute to God's mighty deeds, what thoughts came to your mind? Did anything grab your attention? What about the courage of Jael? She was a woman who was willing to risk her life to save the nation of Israel. Think about how scared she must have been to carry out her role. What about the courage of Deborah? Even though she had to lead alone, she still trusted God and did all He asked of her. What about the absence of any men? Again, we see how few men, none to be exact, were mentioned in this song about courage. Two women played the lead role in this victory. What does God desire to do in your church and community this next year? What role does He want you to play? When your peers look back and review all that God has done, how will you be remembered? Were you a leader who, with great courage, spoke up and took a stand? God wants to bring about great victories. He wants men and women who are willing to stand for what is right and be used in the way He desires. He can accomplish it through you.

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

EXTRA READING
JUDGES 5

How does God prepare someone to accomplish great things for Him? We often go to the end of the story found here to see how God used Gideon to deliver the Israelites. What we sometimes miss is how God moved Gideon from a fearful man to someone who could lead a nation to a great victory. God led him along one step at a time. First, God used the miracle with the meat and unleavened bread (20-22). Second, God used the Asherah pole that He asked Gideon to tear down (25-27). The third step of Gideon's preparation was the miracle of the fleece being wet while the ground was dry (36-38). Fourth, the fleece was dry while the ground was wet (39-40). We see that God asked Gideon to trust Him a bit more each step of the way. He led Gideon along and continually demonstrated that He was a God who could be trusted. God will also do the same for you. He wants to use you and will begin by asking you to take small steps of faith. Each time you do, it will build your faith and prepare you for the next step. The key is to keep taking steps. Are you ready for the next one?

SAY WHAT?

List some of the ways God has proved Himself to be faithful in your life.

SO WHAT?

What can you learn from each of those examples?

NOW WHAT?

How can you use those examples to give you courage for what He is asking of you today?

THEN WHAT?

In light of this passage, what personal commitment can you make?

EXTRA READING

JUDGES 6

Today, we read about more of the journey God led Gideon on. Gideon was not yet ready for the major battle. There was more preparation necessary. God continued to prepare him and today we read about steps 5-7. Fifth, God removed all of the men who were afraid, which left 10,000 to fight (1-3). Sixth, God removed all the men who watched for the enemy while taking a drink (4-6). Gideon was left with only 300 men. Finally, we read the amazing account of the dream one of the enemy soldiers had (13-14). After hearing this conversation, Gideon was ready to lead the nation to defeat the Midianites. His training for this important task was complete. This fearful man was now ready to lead the nation into battle. He stood before the people and rallied them to victory. How might God be preparing you? What steps has He led you to take up to this point? We need to realize that God will always prepare us to take the next step in our lives. Our responsibility is to take that step. Is there a step He wants you to take now? Are you willing to take it?

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

EXTRA READING
JUDGES 7

You have just been used of God to bring about a great victory for the nation. You have led the people to defeat the nation that has held you in bondage for seven years. What would you expect from these grateful people? A party to honor you? A parade on your behalf? How about criticism and lack of support? It happens all the time!! Gideon defeated the Midianites and arrived back home only to face criticism from the Ephraimites. One would think they would have been overjoyed at what he had done for them. It seems that when God uses someone, there will always be those who are unhappy about it and criticism is bound to follow. There will also be those who refuse to join in the battle. Just like the officials of Succoth, they will not stand with you and help. Satan is never happy when God is working. He will be sure to send along people to discourage you to the point of giving up. You must not allow yourself to become sidetracked. Like Gideon, address the criticism and keep moving on. Like Gideon, if others will not stand with you, then go alone. Don't lose your focus on the job God has given you.

SAY WHAT?

In what ways are your circumstances similar to Gideon's?

SO WHAT?

How can you prepare yourself for criticism?

NOW WHAT?

How can you use Gideon's response in this chapter to help you?

THEN WHAT?

In light of this passage, what personal commitment can you make?

EXTRA READING

JUDGES 8

Have you ever observed a situation in which someone who was in sin not only appeared to get away with it, but seemed to profit from it? If so, take heart. This has been going on for all of time. In this chapter, Abimelech used sinful means to take over leadership of the nation of Israel. He killed the sons of Gideon in order to be able to assume control. For three years it must have seemed to people as though he had gotten away with his crime. However, he underestimated God's eye of watchfulness. No one ever gets away with sin. After three years, God sent an evil spirit between Abimelech and the people of Shechem. By the end of the chapter, God had repaid Abimelech and the men of Shechem for their evil deeds toward Gideon's family. God always gets His man. It may seem as though some get away with sin but, in reality, time is ticking away. Don't get discouraged when you see this happening, and do not take matters into your own hands to resolve it. It is God's responsibility to take care of other people. Trust God and His timing. And remember, your sins will find you out.

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

EXTRA READING
JUDGES 9

The book of Proverbs was designed to help us in "attaining wisdom and discipline; in understanding words of insight; in acquiring a disciplined and prudent life, doing what is right and just and fair; in giving prudence to the simple, knowledge and discretion to the young." As you read through this chapter, write down the verses that are most significant to you in your present circumstances.

VERSE | WHAT TRUTH IT COMMUNICATES | HOW IT IMPACTS MY LIFE

As you read today's passage, what thoughts came to your mind? Did you feel after reading the accomplishments of Tola and Jair that their lives were insignificant? First we have the account of Tola. He ruled in Israel for 23 years. When his days were over, the only thing God said about him was the names of his father and grandfather. Then there is the account of Jair. He ruled in Israel for 22 years. When he was gone, the only thing that God recorded about his life is that he had 30 sons and that they rode 30 donkeys. What kind of tribute was that? They had every opportunity to be successful and have an impact for God. God had even given them a position of leadership to be able to influence people. However, it seems as though they used their position to accomplish nothing of significance in the eyes of God. What about your life? What would be said of you? You have opportunities to influence people. Do you? How can you ensure that your life will not end having accomplished nothing of real significance?

SAY WHAT?

What roles do you play in your church, work, and/or school that allow you to influence people?

SO WHAT?

How can you use those roles to influence those around you?

NOW WHAT?

How can you avoid ending up like Tola or Jair?

THEN WHAT?

In light of this passage, what personal commitment should you make?

EXTRA READING
JUDGES 10

Do you believe in destiny? Does a person's past always determine how his future unfolds? You might think so if you listen to what the world says today. However, the Bible makes it clear that someone's past does not determine what happens in his future. This passage is a classic example. We read in the very beginning of the chapter that Jephthah had what would be considered a rough start in life. His past would not seem to set him up for being able to accomplish something significant for God. His father was a mighty warrior, but his mother was a prostitute. He was born, not as a result of love between a husband and wife, but because his father had cheated on his wife. Imagine what the kids in his town must have said to him. Imagine what his home life must have been like? God, however, had big plans for this man. His past was not an obstacle he had to overcome, but something allowed by God to prepare him for the task ahead. Likewise, don't allow your past, no matter how difficult or embarrassing, to keep you from serving God. God wants to use you no matter what your past has been. What might He want of you?

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

EXTRA READING

JUDGES 11

Have you ever noticed that when victory is certain, there are usually some who become upset that they haven't been part of it? The truth is that they have had every opportunity to be included, but instead of playing a role, they chose to not be involved. When the battle is over or victory is sure, they seem to come out of the woodwork. The same thing that happened to Gideon in our reading a few days ago, happened to Jephthah in today's reading. The men of Ephraim had the opportunity to be part of the battle, but chose not to. Then, when victory was imminent, they became angry. It escalated into a dispute in which 42,000 people died. As God begins to work and the results become obvious, some people may not be supportive or encouraging. There will most likely be criticism. You must not allow that to discourage or sidetrack you. Be prepared for it and be ready to respond when it comes. It is a tragedy that disputes of this kind are allowed to divide God's people. People, who ought to be fighting a common enemy side by side, are fighting against each other. Make sure you don't become part of the problem.

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

EXTRA READING
JUDGES 12

Today we begin reading through the life of one of the most famous people of the Bible—Samson. Be careful not to read through these next few chapters as though you know everything they contain if you are familiar with the story. Take your time and read slowly in order to gain a greater understanding of who this man was. Today, we read about the unusual events of his birth. Israel had found itself once again under oppression because of their sin. God came to a woman to let her know that she and her husband were going to give birth to a child whom God had chosen to deliver Israel from its bondage. Does this story sound familiar? A couple who was childless and yet chosen by God to bear a son with a specific purpose for his life? Samson's parents believed God and obeyed His words. Because of their obedience, Manoah and his wife were given a son. God chose two people He knew would follow His plan. If God asks you to follow Him in an area that seems beyond your comfort zone, will you obey Him? Could He count on you to be obedient? Are you doing what He has asked of you now? Are you ready to be the next Manoah?

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

EXTRA READING

JUDGES 13

Samson is an example of a man who had great potential for God. He accomplished great things, yet failed to gain victory over certain areas of his life. He fell into sin, but later was again used by God. There is so much to learn from his life. As you read these next few chapters, use the questions to record what you are learning and to help you remember. When you are finished recording what you have learned, the questions that follow will help you apply the things you wrote down.

SAY WHAT?

What strengths in Samson's life did you observe in today's reading?

SO WHAT?

What weaknesses in his life did you observe?

NOW WHAT?

What poor decisions did he make?

THEN WHAT?

What good decisions did he make?

EXTRA READING
JUDGES 14

Use today's page to continue to record your observations about Samson. Keep in mind that you are trying to learn lessons from his life to help you avoid the same mistakes he made. Don't be guilty of reading passages of Scripture and not stopping to reflect on them. What you learn could change your life!

SAY WHAT?

What strengths in Samson's life did you observe in today's reading?

SO WHAT?

What weaknesses in his life did you observe?

NOW WHAT?

What poor decisions did he make?

THEN WHAT?

What good decisions did he make?

EXTRA READING
JUDGES 15

PROVERBS 16

The book of Proverbs was designed to help us in “attaining wisdom and discipline; in understanding words of insight; in acquiring a disciplined and prudent life, doing what is right and just and fair; in giving prudence to the simple, knowledge and discretion to the young.” As you read through this chapter, write down the verses that are most significant to you in your present circumstances.

VERSE | WHAT TRUTH IT COMMUNICATES | HOW IT IMPACTS MY LIFE

Again today, use the questions to continue to record your observations about Samson. Remember to keep in mind that you are trying to learn lessons from his life to help you avoid the same mistakes he makes.

SAY WHAT?

What strengths in Samson's life did you observe in today's reading?

SO WHAT?

What weaknesses in his life did you observe?

NOW WHAT?

What poor decisions did he make?

THEN WHAT?

What good decisions did he make?

EXTRA READING
JUDGES 16

We have just completed reading through the life of Samson. What did you learn? One of the obvious lessons we saw was that he was never able to control his human desires. That problem ultimately cost him his life and ministry. Today, think through what you have read and apply what you have observed in the life of Samson. Take the time to answer the questions and apply these lessons to your own life.

SAY WHAT?

What did you learn about Samson?

SO WHAT?

How can someone today avoid making the same mistakes he made?

NOW WHAT?

In what way is your life similar to the life of Samson?

THEN WHAT?

In light of your observations, what personal commitment do you need to make?

EXTRA READING
JUDGES 16

Do you ever wonder how some people can do what they know is clearly wrong, yet feel as though it is okay? They even justify what they have done and talk about it as if it is a good thing when, in reality, God is not pleased. Today, we see an example of this kind of attitude. It also gives us an idea of just how bad times were during the period of the Judges. Verse 6 tells us that everyone did as they saw fit. God shows us the results in the lives of people who live like this. A mother takes stolen silver and consecrates it unto the Lord to make an idol. How could she even think that God would be pleased? Micah built the idol and convinced a Levite to serve as the priest. He actually believed that God would overlook the blatant sin and bless him. The incredible corruption was not only among the people, but involved priests also. This sin was tolerated and even condoned by the nation. Tragically, many followers of Jesus today are not as different as they may think from those we read about. The Bible addresses issues clearly, yet some feel they can justify sin and still please God. Do you tolerate sin in any area of your life?

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

EXTRA READING

JUDGES 17

What begins as a seemingly small matter can grow into something much larger before you know it. Has that ever happened to you? We must always acknowledge and confess our sin no matter how small or how insignificant it might seem. As we see here, a problem that involved just one man had become an issue for the entire tribe of Dan. The nation had moved so far away from God that the tribe of Dan wanted Micah's idol as the god for their tribe. They took the Levite and the idol from the house of Micah. He followed them and asked for his idol back. They responded by threatening him and his family with death. They forgot or ignored what God had done and ended up worshiping an idol. That may seem far-fetched to us, but that is exactly what happens when we do not deal with what we might think is insignificant sin. Before long, we justify it and end up defending our evil behavior. Could sin have clouded your judgment and caused you to pursue something God never intended? Examine your life for small areas of sin that can put down deep roots and continue to grow. No sin is too small or insignificant to ignore.

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

EXTRA READING
JUDGES 18

Have you ever heard the phrase, "Sin will take you further than you ever intended to go?" Today's reading is a perfect example of what that phrase is attempting to communicate. The statement reminds us that we cannot control the degree or depth of sin in our lives. We may think that a small lie will not grow into a serious problem. But our deceit, left alone, will lead us down a path we would never believe we could travel. You may think that issues in your life can be easily controlled, but left unchecked, you may soon find yourself involved in sin far beyond the place of safety. Israel never thought they would become so vile as to allow gang rape. That is the level they reached by not dealing with the practice and promotion of sin. Sin took them further than they ever intended to go. God will always reveal to you the areas of sin that you need to address before it goes too far. When He does, deal with it. Ask Him to show those areas to you.

SAY WHAT?

What kinds of sins do people seem to tolerate in their own lives?

SO WHAT?

What can that kind of behavior lead to down the road?

NOW WHAT?

What can you do to protect yourself from sin taking you to places you do not want to go?

THEN WHAT?

In light of this passage, what personal commitment should you make?

EXTRA READING
JUDGES 19

Have you ever seen a story on TV or read about someone's behavior and wondered how anyone could be so stupid? You may have thought that very thing as you read today's passage of Scripture. The Levite actually cut up his concubine and sent her body parts to each of the tribes. How could he do something like that? When the tribes found out what had happened, they were outraged. Their outrage, however, concerned this one sin and not their own sin. They had no concept of their part in the event. Instead of using this situation to evaluate where the nation was and the depth of their sin, they just wanted to punish the wrongdoer. They gathered all the tribes and agreed to purge the evil from the Benjamites. More amazing is the fact that the Benjamites were willing to go to battle to protect the men who had committed this awful crime. How could they be so stupid? Simply put, sin does that to people. Sin takes away our common sense. Sin deprives us of any ability to make wise decisions. Sin makes us fools. We are continually being reminded that sin has to be dealt with. Are you dealing with yours?

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

EXTRA READING
JUDGES 20

The book of Proverbs was designed to help us in "gaining wisdom and instruction; for understanding words of insight; for receiving instruction in prudent behavior, doing what is right and just and fair; for giving prudence to those who are simple, knowledge and discretion to the young." As you read through this chapter, write down the verses that are most significant to you in your present circumstances.

VERSE | WHAT TRUTH IT COMMUNICATES | HOW IT IMPACTS MY LIFE

We have come to the end of a book that should have shaken our apathy. A nation that had entered the Promised Land with God leading them, found itself in shambles. Their sin had led them to kill each other, almost wipe out the entire tribe of Benjamin, and kidnap innocent girls. All this was the result of their rejection of God and doing what seemed right in their own eyes. This book clearly shows us that life without God and rebelling against Him leads to destruction. We want to run our own lives and do what we feel is right. Israel experiences the consequences of what happens when we make that choice. We cannot avoid the consequences. Use today's questions to help you apply what you've learned to your life.

SAY WHAT?

What lessons have you learned from reading this book?

SO WHAT?

How can you avoid such tragic consequences from occurring in your own life?

NOW WHAT?

What can you do to prevent this from happening in your family or church?

THEN WHAT?

In light of this passage, what personal commitment can you make?

EXTRA READING
JUDGES 21

Have you ever been faced with a choice and were afraid of what might happen if you did what was right. Doing the right thing just didn't seem to make any sense. Ruth faced that dilemma. She was married to a man she loved and then he died. She was facing an uncertain future alone. An important decision confronted her—should she leave her country and family and follow Naomi or return to her parents and begin life all over again? After thinking about what her options were, she chose to do the right thing. It would have been easier to go home and it seemed like a good decision. However, it was not the right one. She was more concerned about her mother-in-law's needs than her own. She had no idea what circumstances she would face as a result of the choice she made. But God knew and blessed her because of what she did. The easiest and most logical choices are not always the ones God wants. Although the future may seem uncertain, doing right is always best.

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

EXTRA READING

RUTH 1

As you continue reading through this book, what are you learning about Ruth? What words would you use to describe her? We see that she was not a woman who whined about the condition of her life, but was busy trying to do something about it. She faced many difficult circumstances. Think about what she had endured to this point. Her husband had died and now she lived in a foreign land and found herself with no food or money. Instead of complaining, becoming bitter, or lashing out at God, she encouraged Naomi by going to the fields to find food for the two of them. God rewards her for her faithfulness and led her to work in the field of Boaz. Had she sat home, complained, and attempted to do nothing to resolve her situation, she would not have made contact with the man God was bringing into her life to take care of her. Often, when faced with difficult circumstances, we tend to complain and then expect God to send a solution with no effort required on our part. Sometimes God delays help, sometimes He helps us right away, or sometimes He wants us to help ourselves. We can be sure He always has a plan for our lives.

SAY WHAT?

What difficult circumstances do you currently find yourself in?

SO WHAT?

What steps can you take to keep moving forward?

NOW WHAT?

In what areas of your life do you need to be more like Ruth?

THEN WHAT?

In light of this passage, what personal commitment can you make?

EXTRA READING
RUTH 2

Have you ever had someone give you some advice that you thought was stupid, only to find out later they knew exactly what they were talking about? Consider how Ruth must have felt, not being familiar with the customs of this new land, when Naomi gave her the advice found in this chapter. She must have wondered if Naomi was thinking straight. She may have wondered how she was ever going to be able to do what Naomi requested of her. Naomi's suggestion was not a seductive act, but an act in accordance with Jewish custom and law. As odd as it may have seemed to Ruth, she listened and obeyed the instructions Naomi gave her. As a result, Boaz agreed to be her kinsman-redeemer. Had she been unwilling to listen, or assumed she knew better, the events that followed would never have taken place. Often, we are unwilling to listen or consider the input of the people God has placed in our world. We pass it off and conclude that we know better or ignore it all together. God brings people into our lives who give to us the insight and perspective we need to make good decisions. Are you missing or ignoring it?

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

EXTRA READING

RUTH 3

Have you ever had the opportunity to look back on your life and clearly see how the plan of God was unfolding? Imagine how Ruth must have felt as she reflected back over her life. She had made a decision to faithfully care for her mother-in-law by staying with her and putting Naomi's needs above her own. Having made that decision, she didn't mope or feel sorry for herself, but got busy finding solutions for her problems. She listened to the input people gave her and responded to it. God then worked to put together the circumstances so that Boaz would not only find her attractive, but ultimately marry her. Who could have guessed God's plan in the beginning? Ruth was faithful and her faithfulness was rewarded by God. What an example for us to follow. We are faced every day with decisions. Some may seem small and unimportant. But, if we are faithful and seek to please God in all we do, He will work on our behalf. We may never know what God is doing at that moment, but we must be faithful. He is organizing events to lead you where He wants you to be.

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

EXTRA READING

RUTH 4

Who could ever have imagined that a young Moabite widow would become the great-grandmother of King David? And even more amazing is that this young widow would find herself an ancestor of Jesus Christ? No one but God could have created such an awesome plan. God shows us again that He continues to choose those who are faithful and make godly decisions. The book of Ruth demonstrates how God's plan unfolded in the life of a young girl. She was unaware of the bigger purpose for her life. All she did was try her best to be faithful each day. When we look back from our vantage point, we marvel at God's amazing plans. Just as Ruth was unaware of the bigger picture, we too may not know the full purpose and importance of our own lives in God's bigger picture. Taking shortcuts or living for short-term happiness can cause you to miss out on what God would have for your life. We need to live in faithfulness to God, realizing that the significance of our lives extends beyond what we may ever know. Commit to live faithfully before your God.

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

EXTRA READING

RUTH 4



Get out of the rut next Summer.

The longest-standing tool in our toolbox, the **Wilderness Outfitting** program presents an opportunity for the intentional leader to gain accelerated access to **real connection** with those they lead.

The wilderness can be leveraged into significant access to **real relationships** and **real conversations** that defy other environments... and it transfers

A black and white photograph of a young woman with blonde hair, smiling broadly while sitting in a canoe. She is wearing a dark tank top and patterned shorts. She is holding a white paddle across her lap. The background is a blurred natural setting, likely a lake or river.

LEARN MORE AT
WILDERNESSOUTFITTING.COM

LISTEN, YOU KINGS!
PAY ATTENTION, YOU MIGHTY RULERS!
FOR **I WILL SING TO THE LORD.**
I WILL MAKE MUSIC TO THE LORD, THE
GOD OF ISRAEL.
JUDGES 5:3

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