

**been
delivered?**

2007

Camp Ray Bird

Summer Staff

Devotional

Staff Training

Websters defines “deliver” as : to transport free to an address as instructed, to rescue, to set free, to aim or strike to yield something up.

The Old Testament is a magnificent drama of God’s drawing and deliverance of His people, His beloved Israelites. Just as we will read of God’s relentless deliverance of Israel, this summer we will witness His pursuit of our campers’ hearts, of our hearts. We, as His bride to be, are daily being delivered from the stronghold of sin, from inaccurate impressions of ourselves and others as well as wrong thinking about who God is and how He works. Many of our campers will be delivered from the weight of sin and death in their lives in the coming weeks and the Lord will use us to help in the delivery.

Let’s start off the summer by reading some of God’s promises first to Abraham, then to Moses, then to the Israelites. We’ll finish this week by examining some of His promises to us as we head into the summer and pose the question to many campers :

“Been Delivered?”.

Staff Training
Day 1

Stop and pray that God will speak to you through His Spirit as you read the word. We need his help and understanding daily to grow and take in His words.

Read Genesis 12:1-4

One interesting thing to note is in Genesis 11:31. Abraham's father set out from Ur of the Chaldeans to head to Canaan. For you OT scholars, Ur of the Chaldeans is also another name for Ur of the Babylonians.

Interesting isn't it...

What does God ask of Abraham?

Who/what is represented by the different things Abraham is asked to leave? (relate this to your own circle/sphere of life)

His country-

His people-

His father's household-

What is he promised?

What is Abraham's response?

From the little we know about Abraham at this point, why do you think God chose him to begin the line of His people?

What have you had to leave this summer in order to follow God here?

We are praying for you this summer that you will be blessed here, that you will be a blessing here and that God will make you great at what He has called you to do....spend some time praying for yourself right now.

God, I hear you saying to me today...

Staff Training
Day 2

Stop and pray that God will speak to you this morning as you read.
Initial once you have done this _____

Read Genesis 15: 1-21

What does God promise Abraham in this chapter?

Why do you think God begins by telling Abraham that He will be his shield and his reward?

Why does God credit Abraham with righteousness?

Why is it encouraging that God began His work with Abraham prior to his having been made righteous?

What is God foretelling in vs. 13-16?

Read Romans 4:18-22

How is this re-explained in Romans? (what additional light is shed?)

Is there something you are believing God for that only He can accomplish?

Remember that He is able to do what He says He can do. And when you are afraid (as surely Abraham was, remember that He promises to be our shield and reward as well)

God, I hear you saying to me today...

Staff Training
Day 3

Why did God choose the Israelites?

Read Exodus 33:1-2

What does God promise Moses here?

How can you relate this to yourself?

What promise has the Lord fulfilled that can encourage Moses?

It is amazing to think of all that God promises us, because He loves us.
We are His sons/daughters,
we have been sealed by His Spirit,
we have an inheritance kept for us,
we will live eternally with Him.

Read Deuteronomy 4:5-8 & Deuteronomy 7:1-9

From 4:7, why is God great among the Israelites?

Spend some time thanking Him for choosing you to be His own.

What does He promise will happen as they obey His laws once they enter the land?

God, I hear you saying to me today...

Staff Training
Day 4

Just as God used Abraham, Moses & Joshua to lead, teach and deliver His chosen people to their physical promise land, He is going to use you this summer to lead His children to a spiritual promise land. And He has some promises for us to cling to as we begin the task. No matter what your task this summer, counselor or support staff you will be used in touching campers lives. He promises us that there is inherent power in the words we will share because they are His words.

Read Isaiah 55:6-12

What does he promise us about the message we will share?

Who determines the response to the message?

Read 2 Corinthians 2:14-17

Explain the word picture Paul uses here?

How is He leading us according to these verses?

What determines the smell of our aroma?

What is our responsibility in the sharing?

God, I hear you saying to me today...

Staff Training
Day 5

As you read the following verses, write out what is promised to you and any conditions you must meet:

John 14:12-14

Promised:

Conditions:

What is Jesus' aim/goal?

John 15:7

Promised:

Conditions:

Mark 11:22-24

Promised:

Conditions:

Luke 18:1-8

Promised:

Conditions:

Why do you think Jesus poses the question in vs. 8?

John 15:16

Promise:

Conditions:

James 5:16

Promise:

Conditions:

Amazing isn't it? We have been given so many promises to lay hold of as we pray and work this summer.

What is hard for you to believe in these?

God, I hear you saying to me today...

Week 1
Day 1

How can he be successful?

Pray and ask God to help you understand His word.

Read Joshua 1

Re-read vs. 1

How do you think Joshua was feeling?

What kinds of promises does God make to Joshua?

What promises of God to you have stood out to you?

Why do you think the Lord tells Joshua at least 3x to be strong and courageous?

What is remarkable about the people's response in vs. 16?

What does Joshua have to fear?

Pray now for this wiling Spirit, strength and courage as you set out to take hold of the spiritual land the Lord has before you this summer.

What are some of your fears?

God, I hear you saying to me today...

Week 1
Day 2

How does the Lord show Himself awesome in this chapter to both Rahab and the spies?

Pray and ask God to allow the HS to help you grow and understand His word...

Initial once you have done this _____ (are you developing this habit?)

Read Joshua 2

What was remarkable about Rahab?

Rahab, not an Israelite, now a warrior, not even respected, was greatly used here and for eternity (see Matthew 1:5).

Perhaps you are feeling apprehensive in your position, you've never counseled, never led archery, never been on leadership, etc.

What are your fears right now? Where do you feel inadequate?

In vs. 9-11, what does Rahab share with the spies?

How do you think this will impact them?

Pray and ask God to work through you for His glory this summer.

Skim Numbers 13/14 for some history in this.

Write out your observations:

God, I hear you saying to me today...

Week 1
Day 3

Pray and ask God to allow the HS to help you grow and understand His word...

Read Joshua 3

Describe how the people would cross the Jordan River:

Read Exodus 19:10, 14-15

How would this outer cleansing & consecration affect the Israelites internally?

Consecrate: to dedicate to the worship/service of God

How do we consecrate ourselves today?

When have you had to 'set foot' in the waters before they stopped flowing to obey the Lord?

Why do you think the Lord often has us step out before we see Him move?

Describe the amazing things the Lord did:

Have you seen the Lord do any amazing things in your life? Share...

God, I hear you saying to me today...

Week 1
Day 4

How is vs. 24 a demonstration of God's mercy?

Pray and ask God to allow the HS to help you grow and understand His word...

Read Joshua 4

Why do you think God tells them to get stones from the middle of the river?

"Gilgal" means circle. How had the Israelites come full circle?

Why does God tell them to set up these 'standing stones'? (cite verses)

Knowing that God desires to bring us 'full circle'...how does this give you hope for you as well as the campers here this week?

Joshua implies that their children and descendants would ask about these stones, ask about their lives-

what about your life might cause someone to ask you questions that could glorify the Lord?

What do you want to be said about you?

God, I hear you saying to me today...

Week 1
Day 5

Read Colossians 2:11, Ephesians 4:22-23

How are we to be circumcised today?

Pray and ask God to allow the HS to help you grow and understand His word...

Read Hebrews 3:18-19 & Joshua 5:1-12

How were the parents of these Israelites disobedient through unbelief?

What reproach do you need rolled away from you?

What does this tell us about God's desire for belief?

Re-read vs. 11-12 and ponder the Lord special care taking through the manna. How has He cared for you?

Read Mark 9:23-24

How can you identify with this man who though he believes, needs to believe....

Spend some time praying and thanking the Lord for His provisions for you....

Why do the Israelites need circumcised?

God, I hear you saying to me today...

Week 2
Day 1

Pray and ask the Father to teach you through His word today. Initial when you have done this _____ :)

Read Joshua 5:13-chapter 6

As you picture the amazing scene in vs. 5:13-14, consider what battle you need the Holy Spirit to take charge of in your life...

I love vs. 6:2

How could Joshua possibly “see” the delivery that had not yet happened?

Speculate on why the Lord has them march so many times/days without result:

Consider vs. 16- where do you think Joshua gets the faith to speak in past tense?

Think thru a recent ‘victory’ in your life whether physical or spiritual- how can you devote the “winnings” to the Lord?

Imagine you are Rahab watching all around you destroyed- what are you thinking and feeling?

How do we ‘get more’ faith? Why would we want to get more?

God, I hear you saying to me today...

Week 2
Day 2

How does owning our sin and responding honestly bring glory to the Lord?

Read Joshua 7

Pray and ask the Lord to show you through His Holy Spirit the truth in His word.

According to 6:18, how does Joshua warn them to keep out of sin?

Ask the Lord now to search your heart and show you if there is anything that you need to confess and repent of.

What is an area in your life where the Holy Spirit warned you but you went ahead into sin anyways?

Being thankful that we are not stoned for sin today~ what sin has the Lord shown you that you need to take seriously?

How does “sin in our own camp” (or our lives/bodies) make us unable to stand against our enemy(ies)?

Consider sharing this area with someone who can pray with you and hold you accountable.

God, I hear you saying to me today...

Week 2
Day 3

Think through your life- what are some of the 'memorial' times you have?

Read Joshua 8

As Joshua builds an altar to renew the covenant, we can remember other visual reminders that the Israelites had erected to memorialize God's conquest of the land: Joshua 4:8-9 (stones from the river Jordan), Joshua 6:26 (Jericho), Joshua 7:26 (stones over Achan's body), Joshua 8:29 (covering the bodies of the King of Ai), and finally our passage today 8:30-31. Whew! A lot of memorial stones!

If you could assign a name for God in each of these situations/events what would it be?

Joshua 4:8-9

Joshua 6:26

Joshua 7:26

Joshua 8:29

Joshua 8:30-31

What type of commitment does it take to stand and listen to "all the words"?

Where do you need to focus/spend more time when you evaluate reading the word/prayer/listening to God...

Ask the Lord to give you a passion for reading "all the words" He has to say to you.

God, I hear you saying to me today...

Week 2
Day 4

Relate a time in your own life when you should have prayed about a decision and you charged ahead without asking:

Read Joshua 9

Oh sadness...

What was the root of why the Gibeonites resorted to this deception?

So what had Joshua and the Israelites been doing right?

What should they have done? (site the verse that shortly explains their trouble)

God, I hear you saying to me today...

Week 2
Day 5

Where have you seen the Lord at work this week with His unmistakable signature?

Read Joshua 10:1-15

These kings were no doubt very concerned as they had watch Israel destroy Jericho & Ai, then make an alliance with Gibeon. This bisected the Promised Land and took a huge chunk out of the middle of their territory.

How might vs. 8 be more believable to Joshua now than before he had taken Jericho?

Pause, sit still and ponder vs.13-14. What kind of God relates like this? What does this tell us about His character?

When has there been a time that the Lord gave you a life lesson that you were able to draw on later to increase your faith:

Thank the Lord for His power to save.

What things does God do specifically to win the battle so that the Israelites would know He did it?

God, I hear you saying to me today...

Week 3
Day 1

Pray and ask the Lord to teach you through His word.

Read Joshua 10:16-43

Which area are the Israelites focusing on?

Why do you think the Lord gave Israel so many visual object lessons?
(vs. 25)

Do you think He still gives us object lessons?

What does this say about His character?

The word “destroyed” in vs. 1, 28, 35, 37, 39, 40 is a Hebrew term that refers to the irrevocable giving over of things or persons to the Lord, often by totally destroying them. (NIV text note)

What is hard for you in these verses?

Why do you think that the Lord had them totally destroy?

Has there been anything in your life that the Lord has asked you to totally destroy?

As they return to camp at Gilgal (see 5:9), how do you think they see themselves differently than in chapter 5?

How have you come to see yourself differently than you did before the summer began?

God, I hear you saying to me today...

Week 3
Day 2

What do you like about Joshua?

Read Joshua 11

The destruction continues to the North...

Read Exodus 23:20-33

What does the Lord promise the Israelites?

What would you like written about your life if the Lord were to have a written description of you?

Why does He want the nations totally destroyed?

What 'seed' of ungodliness (in thoughts, behavior or words) has been left in your life that needs totally destroyed?

Ask the Holy Spirit to show you what needs to change to accomplish this? Share this with someone close that can help hold you accountable. Ask someone close what they put :)

Is it in your heart to 'leave nothing undone' (vs. 15) as Joshua did?

God, I hear you saying to me today...

Week 3
Day 3

What are some things He has promised you this week?

Read Joshua 23

So there was finally some rest in the land. They still had not taken all of it (13:1) but they had divided up their allotments and Joshua was ready to die.

Why do you think they need these continual warnings to not associate with the remaining nations?

Pray and ask the Lord to give you a heart to fully follow Him all your life.

Who are you associating with that the Lord would warn you about? (perhaps a girlfriend/boyfriend, close friend?)

Why is it valuable for us to remember that none of His promises fail?

God, I hear you saying to me today...

Week 3
Day 4

Go out alone and stand before the Lord and promise anew to serve Him only. Find a stone and set it up near your bed as a memorial.

Read Joshua 24

The Israelites gather again to renew the covenant at Shechem (see chapter 8).

What are some blessings the Lord has given you that you did not toil for? (vs.13)

If you have believing parents, have you reached the place where you, yourself, have stood before the Lord and purposed who you would serve?

What did this decision look like?

If you do not have believing parents- write out how the Lord drew you to Himself:

God, I hear you saying to me today...

Week 3
Day 5

Read Judges 1

Explain what happens in this chapter:

What does it seem that the Israelites have lost track of?

What is hard for you serving now, midsummer?

List the tribes that did not drive out the native people:

Israel failed to comply with God's commands (Deuteronomy 7:1-5, 20:16-18) to drive the Canaanites out of the land. Five factors were involved in this failure:

- 1) The Canaanites possessed superior weapons
- 2) Israel disobeyed God by making treaties with the Canaanites (2:1-3)
- 3) Israel took up the worship of other gods and so violated the covenant God had made with their ancestors (2:20-21)

4) God was testing Israel's faithfulness to obey His commands (2:23-24; 3:4)

5) God was giving Israel, as His army, the opportunity to develop their skills in warfare (3:1-2)

From NIV text note

How are you feeling after reading this chapter?

Have there been situations in your life that have caused you regret that you still carry?

According to 2 Corinthians 7:10, how can this change?

How can you know if you are struggling with a worldly sorrow that will not lead you to repentance and back to the Lord

God, I hear you saying to me today...

Week 4
Day 1

Read Judges 2-3:6

What explanation does the Lord give for why they had been unable to drive out some of the inhabitants?

How quickly do the Israelites depart from following the Lord?

Chapter 2 is a Reader's Digest version of the entire book of Judges. From vs. 16-19 explain their sinful cycle:

Can you identify any cycles of sin in your own life?

The Lord states that He is leaving the nations to
(1) teach the younger generation to wage war (vs. 3:2) and
(2) test the Israelites devotion to the Lord (vs. 22).
How could they have responded positively to the test?

Have you (your faith) ever been tested in this way?

God, I hear you saying to me today...

Week 4
Day 2

Read Judges 5:1-3, 31

What do we learn about Deborah?

Read Judges 4

Based on the Lord's reasons for leaving the inhabitants of the land:

When is the last time you sang to the Lord all alone?

In what way were the Israelites tested during this chapter?

Take some time now and sing a love song to the Lord. If you want, take time to write out some words, or sing a song that you already know.

Describe His deliverance of them:

What opportunity does the Lord give the Israelites to leave their sinful cycle?

God, I hear you saying to me today...

Week 4
Day 3

What is funny in vs. 30-32?

Read Judges 6

Which peoples bring the test to the Israelites this time?

Describe life for the Israelites during this time:

Why do you think God is so patient with Gideon?

Is this the Promise Land they had dreamed of?

How is He patient with us (you) today– describe a specific incident?

How does the Lord offer mercy despite the facts in vs. 7-10?

The angel describes Gideon as a “mighty warrior” – describe the Gideon that you see?

God, I hear you saying to me today...

Week 4
Day 4

How has He met you when you have been afraid?

Read Judges chapters 7; 8:22-35

Here goes the Lord again- trying to give the Israelites a visual object lesson.

Explain the object lesson and what the Lord is trying to teach them (us):

How is the Gideon of 8:23 different from the man we met in chapter 6?

How many men did they start out with?

How have you seen the Lord change and grow you these past weeks? (be specific)

How many men did they end with?

How many warriors did the Midianites have along with their allies?

Are you weary of the cycle yet?

The Lord meets Gideon tenderly in the place of his fear (vs. 10-11).
When is the last time you were fearful? Describe the time and how you responded:

God, I hear you saying to me today...

Week 4
Day 5

See vs. 30- Does the Lord desire or require such a thing?

Read Judges 10:6-11

Describe the test that is brought to the Israelites this time?

Read 1 Samuel 15:22-23

Where do you need to put your actions where your mouth is and
“obey & heed”?

Where can you see the evidence of increasing decline in the Israelite
morals and behavior as influenced by the surrounding peoples?

Describe how the Lord feels here?

God, I hear you saying to me today...

Week 5
Day 1

Read Numbers 6:1-4

Describe the Nazirite Vow:

Pray and ask the Lord to teach you through His word.

Read Judges 13

What peoples bring the test this time?

Why do you think Israel seems like a slow learner? (a mirror for us often unfortunately)

From both of these sections, why would a person want to take a Nazirite Vow?

Why do you think God purposes to raise up a deliverer for them?

How does Sampson's father demonstrate faith?

What does this tell us about God's character?

God, I hear you saying to me today...

Week 5
Day 2

Do you think Sampson could have actually attracted a Godly Israelite young woman?

Read Judges 14

How does Sampson himself resemble the Israelite nation?

What is the warning in this for you?

Describe his character from this chapter?

If your intention is to marry/date someone who passionately loves the Lord, how are you making yourself an attractive person for that person?

When have you seen the Lord use someone that confused you?

As Sampson did not seek to honor the Lord in his choice of a wife, how is the wife that he got a good compliment for his character?

God, I hear you saying to me today...

Week 5
Day 3

Who have been the Godly leaders you have followed in the past years?

Read Judges 15

Sampson continues to be an unlikely deliverer.
How is the Lord using even Sampson to accomplish His purposes?

Why do you think the Lord responds to Sampson whining? (vs. 18)

What qualities have you seen in your leaders that you want to work into your life?

Is it any wonder that the Israelites continue in sin with Sampson as their leader for 20 years?

Without making excuses, has there been a time when you were inadvertently led into sin by someone you looked up to?

God, I hear you saying to me today...

Week 5
Day 4

Why do you think Sampson does not realize that the Lord has left him?

Read Judges 16:1-22

Who needs Soap Operas when we have the book of Judges?
Can Israel's leader sink any lower?
He finds a prostitute?!?

With Delilah's constant nagging and her obvious lack of loyalty why do you think he stays with her?

How can you know when you are genuinely walking in the Spirit and when you are not?

How does she wear him down?

What is the danger in not being able to discern if we are walking in the Spirit?

So you have a friend that can help you see more clearly in this area?

Is there someone or something in your life that prods you to sin or to abandon the Lord?

God, I hear you saying to me today...

Week 5
Day 5

Read Psalm 86:8-10 & Psalm 115:1-8

What stands out to you from these Psalms?

Read Judges 16:23-31

Why would vs. 24 prompt the Lord to use Sampson to display His glory one last time?

Does it seem that Sampson ever repented of his sinful behavior?

Why are there no gods like our God?

Read Hebrew 11:32-38

What light does this shed on Sampson?

I love vs. 4-7 of Psalm 115, speaking of the futility of worshipping gods who cannot act or move.

How do you see yourself or the world around you turning to gods who cannot deliver?

God, I hear you saying to me today...

Week 6
Day 1

Is there anything special to you that God has given you that he would want you to present back to Him?

Pray and ask the Father to give you wisdom and insight as you read.

Read 1 Samuel 1

What is your impression of Elkanah- what do you like about him?

What is your prayer life like? Do you ever weep and cry out to the Lord with your bitterness?

Have you ever been in a miserable situation and someone close to you twisted the knife instead of being a friend?

Spend a few moments worshipping the Lord in private.

What is good about Hannah's response to Peninnah?

What evidence is there of a Godly heritage for Samuel in his parents?

God, I hear you saying to me today...

Week 6
Day 2

Read 1 Samuel chapter 2

Write out some of the things that Hannah rejoices about the Lord in?

Do any of the descriptions of the Lord's actions stand out to you in this song?

Eli's sons treated something that was holy (the offering) as common.
How do you see this happen today?

Read 1 Corinthians 3:16

We are holy vessels, indwelt by the Holy Spirit, set apart for his work and praise...how do you treat your holy vessel (your body) as common?

How does the Lord see the sins of the sons?

What should have been Eli's response?

How is he also viewing what should be holy as common?

What is Samuel up to during this time?

God, I hear you saying to me today...

Week 6
Day 3

Why do you think Samuel is the one the Lord is speaking to and not Eli?

Read 1 Samuel chapter 3

Why is it sometimes hard to hear the Lord?

Relate the last time you 'heard' the Lord's voice ask you to do something?

How can this be a warning to each of us?

Rate your response time? Are you quick to obey His promptings?

Explain vs. 19:

Do you need some time to ponder?

How can you let none of the words that the Lord gives you fall to the ground?

Is there something He has asked you to do that you have yet to do?

God, I hear you saying to me today...

Week 6
Day 4

Read 1 Samuel 5-6

Eli has died along with his sons as was prophesied and the Philistines have taken the Ark of the Covenant to their land.

Describe what happens in chapter 5:

What is funny about the scene in Dagon's temple?

Why do you think the Lord makes this point?

What is amazing about 6:6?

How does the Lord show even the Israelites that no one will steal the glory that is rightfully His?

The Philistines test the Lord and He is proved faithful as He leads the cart straight back to the Israelites...how has He been proved faithful to you this summer?

What are you asking Him for right now that requires His faithfulness?

God, I hear you saying to me today...

Week 6
Day 5

Read 1 Samuel chapter 8

Earlier, we saw Hannah ask for a son so that she could give him back and dedicate him to the Lord. Why do the Israelites ask for a king?

How were they rejecting the Lord as their King?

How would the Kings rule be far less favorable than the Lord's?

Why would a tangible, able to see and hear kind of king be more attractive to the Israelites?

Would you say that the Lord is currently King in your life?

How can you tell/assess this?

In what ways do you long for Him to be more tangible/touchable?

Pray and ask the Father to show you areas that you need to allow Him to rule.

Spend some time reflecting on the truth that He uses us to be His 'tangibleness'...

God, I hear you saying to me today...

Week 7
Day 1

Have you ever felt God's calling to an unfamiliar area?

Read 1 Samuel chapters 9-10

From these chapters, how is Saul a likely king?

How were you assured of His calling?

How is he unlikely?

Why do you think God chooses Saul as the first king? (what are the evident qualities in him?)

In 10:6. Samuel tells Saul that the Holy Spirit will turn him into "another man".

How has the Spirit transformed you- what specific changes can you see that have His handprints on them?

What can we learn/admire in Samuel's obedience? (he had to be sad to be involved in picking the people's replacement of God as their King)

Explain why you think Saul hides in the baggage?

God, I hear you saying to me today...

Week 7
Day 2

Has there been an area of sin or a specific sin that you have received forgiveness for and need to walk on in His grace?

Read 1 Samuel chapters 11-12

How does the Lord confirm Saul before the people?

How is this picture of Saul different from the previous chapter- what has the Lord done in him?

How has it been hard to accept His grace and move on following Him?

What “empty things” (12:21) are you prone to wander after?

Samuel does a brave thing by asking the people to name any offense in him.

How is your walk matching your talk lately?

Pray and ask the Lord for an undivided heart to follow Him.

Do you have someone in your life that you can have all your ‘stuff’ laid bare and receive honest feedback and exhortation?

God, I hear you saying to me today...

Week 7
Day 3

Read 1 Samuel chapters 13 & 15

Does the judgment on Saul in chapter 13 seem harsh?

What is lacking in Saul's character that is evident in his actions?

Do you think Saul knew clearly he was sinning in his actions?
Why/Why not?

Does he seem repentant?

How do the actions in chapter 15 confirm the judgment on Saul?

What is specifically commanded in 15:3?

Ponder for a minute- the Lord asked them to devote everything to destruction- and yet they devoted only the "despised and worthless (weak)"?

What sort of respect/reverence for the Lord is reflected in this?

How do you (we) often save the 'best' for ourselves while offering things we consider 'less than best' and expect the Lord to be pleased with us?

In 15:13, whom do you think Saul is trying to convince?

How can you determine in your own life if you are quick to listen and obey to the Lord's voice?

How is rebellion similar to the sin of divination?

And arrogance like the sin of idolatry?

Ask the Lord to show you areas of this in your life- pray for a willing and teachable spirit.

God, I hear you saying to me today...

Week 7
Day 4

Since we have seen that the Holy Spirit has just come upon David after his anointing, explain how they knew that God was with him?

Read 1 Samuel chapter 16

How is it comforting that the Lord sees what is in your heart?

How is it disconcerting?

How is David described in vs. 18?

Why do you think the Lord puts David in this position serving Saul?

Have you ever known a job was going to be yours but had to wait to actually claim it? How is that hard?

Let's through each of these characteristics and ponder how they will be fitted to be a king that will follow the Lord...

Write out a list of qualities you hope to have describe yourself as the Lord grows you:

Skillful in playing (instruments):

I am a.....

Man of bravery (man of valor in the ESV):

A warrior:

Speaks well (prudent in speech in the ESV):

Fine looking (man of good presence in the ESV):

The Lord is with him:

God, I hear you saying to me today...

Week 7
Day 5

How had David's previous experiences with God's deliverances provided him with the courage to face Goliath?

Read 1 Samuel 17

How is David starkly different from those around him?

For 40 days the Israelite men stood afraid, how do you think this impacted their negative response to David's challenge?

Where have you seen the Lord deliver you and give you victory?

What in the situation had David assessed accurately? (about Goliath, about the army's response, about himself, etc...)

Where do you need victory?

Are there areas that you are fearful and held back by this fear?

God, I hear you saying to me today...

Week 8
Day 1

Pray and ask the Father to teach you today and give you understanding and a soft heart.

Read 1 Samuel chapters 18-19 and 31:1-6

Who initiates the relationship and covenant between Jonathan and David?

Why is verse 18:4 significant?

How would you describe Jonathan- site specific qualities along with verses that support your thoughts:

What would cause you to pursue a friendship the way the Jonathan pursued David?

Where does Saul's fear come from? How do you see it develop?

How does the Lord continually protect David?

David knew he was the anointed next king of Israel. How do you think this impacts him during this time?

When has it been hard for you to wait, and wait and wait on something?

Many moons pass between chapter 19 and 31. David endures a life on the run, always wondering if Saul is going to catch him, struggling to see how it would work out in the end, but continuing to respect Saul's position as King in Israel. I can't help but be amazed at how David waiting on the Lord's perfect timing for him to assume the throne.

What are some things that right now you need to put on hold and wait for the Lord's moving?

Pray and ask Him to develop this patience in you.

God, I hear you saying to me today...

Week 8
Day 2

Read 2 Samuel chapters 2 & 3

What happens to the house of Saul as the battles gets long?

What happens to the house of David?

How do we endure times of long battles and grow actually stronger?

What had helped David develop endurance to continue on in this battle?

Are you working on developing endurance?

What grows this quality?

What are some of the good qualities you see in David? (cite verse and qualities)

God, I hear you saying to me today...

Week 8
Day 3

Write a prayer to the Lord thanking Him for all He has done.

Read 2 Samuel chapter 5

David had finally seen the Lord's promise in his anointing to be fulfilled. He had waited long and well.

You have seen the Lord move also this summer. Use this time to reflect some of the ways that you have seen the Lord fulfill His promises.

What are some specific things you can praise Him for?

God, I hear you saying to me today...

Week 8
Day 4

Have you felt the sense of relief that David seemed to feel as he danced before the Lord?

Read 2 Samuel chapter 6

The beginning of this chapter gives us a sobering lesson on the absolute holiness of God. You can read about how the ark was supposed to be transported in Deuteronomy.

Why did especially David need a sense of reverence in relationship to God that would cause him to obey fully the Lord's commands?

OK, this is a stretch for many of you, but stand and sing a song of praise to the Lord (and perhaps give a whirl about in your desire to express your praise to Him).

Has there ever been a time when you were disobedient, disciplined by the Lord and restored?

God, I hear you saying to me today...

Week 8
Day 5

When has a blessing/promise from the Lord overwhelmed you with thankfulness?

Read 2 Samuel chapter 7

Finally there is rest all around and David wants to give a gift back to the Lord.

Nathan gives David some bad counsel and then has to go back and tell David what the Lord really wants from him. Amazingly, though David wants to give back to the Lord, the Lord has plans to bless David.

How is the Lord at work today building your 'house'?

What does the Lord promise David?

What things are you looking forward to as the Lord gives you 'rest' from your labor this summer?

How does David respond?

Write out some of the phrases that stand out to you from David's prayer:

God, I hear you saying to me today...