

Eat This Book

Prayer Guide: Month 8 [Aug 2–Aug 27]

This year, the prayer guides are following along with the Eat This Book reading plan and will give you weekly themes, based on the reading selection for that week, to pray through as you read.

Week 1 [8/2-6] – God as Great King– Zechariah 5-1 Chronicles 10

In Malachi 1:13-14 we see the people complaining about serving the Lord and even trying to get away with cheating God out of the sacrifices due Him. God rebukes them by correcting their too-small opinion of Him “I am a great King, says the Lord of hosts, and my name will be feared among the nations.”

Are there any areas in your life that you have withheld your best from God or have grumbled about serving Him? How have you fallen short of seeing Him as the great King He is? Take some time this week to ask the Lord to search your heart. Confess these areas to Him and then proclaim who He is in worship.

Week 2 [8/9-13] – A House of Prayer – 1 Chronicles 18-2 Chronicles 8

This week in 2 Chronicles 6, we see Solomon dedicating the newly built temple with a prayer that God would listen to the prayers of His people in this place. In 2 Chronicles 6:39-40, he prays that God would “hear from heaven Your dwelling place their prayer and their pleas, and maintain their cause and forgive your people who have sinned against you. Now, O my God, let your eyes be open and your ears attentive to the prayer of this place.”

This week, ask God to do the same for our future church building! Pray that Two Rivers would be a church known as a place where the Lord is attentive to the prayers of His people!

Week 3 [8/16-20] – Hearts that Seek God– 2 Chronicles 18-34

In 2 Chronicles 30:16-20 we see Hezekiah leading the people to observe the Passover for the first time in years...except it wasn't on the right day (vv. 2-3) nor did they follow the regulations perfectly (vv. 18-19). But Hezekiah prayed, “May the good Lord pardon

everyone who sets his heart to seek God, the Lord, the God of his fathers, even though not according to the sanctuary's rules of cleanness."- 2 Chronicles 30:18-19.

It wasn't perfect, but vv. 26-27 tells us that "there was great joy in Jerusalem, for since the time of Solomon the son of David king of Israel there had been nothing like this in Jerusalem. Then the priests and the Levites arose and blessed the people, and their voice was heard, and their prayer came to his holy habitation in heaven."

Have you felt like it's too late to 'get it right' with God? How is perfectionism hindering you from setting your heart to seek God? How does knowing from 2 Chronicles 30:9 that the Lord is "gracious and merciful and will not turn away his face from you, if you return to him" give you confidence? This week, ask God to help you stop focusing on your own imperfections and, instead, to focus on Him and His grace.

Week 4 [8/23-27] – Surviving the Storm – Matthew 3-12

In the closing to his *Sermon on the Mount*, Jesus encouraged everyone who heard His words in the sermon to go and live them out. He compared people who act on His words to those who built their houses on a rock solid foundation. When the storms come, their houses will not fall. In contrast, he compared people who did not act on His words to those who built their houses on the sand. Houses built on a shifting foundation like this will not be able to withstand a bad storm (Matthew 7:24-27).

What foundation would you say your "house" is built on right now? Are you living out what you are reading? As you walk through the reading plan for this week, ask God to give you the grace and strength to apply His word to your life so that you can build your life on a solid foundation and survive the "storms" life throws at you. Are you going through a "storm" right now in your life? Pray that the Spirit would give you the faith to trust in the only One who is able to calm the storm just by speaking (Matthew 8:23-27).