

# YOBL

## Year of Biblical Literacy

### Week 33: The Story so Far, Part 1

#### Daily Reading for Week

- 1 Chronicles 18-21, Psalm 68
- 1 Chronicles 22-24, Psalm 69
- 1 Chronicles 25-28, Psalm 70
- 2 Chronicles 1-4, Psalm 71
- 2 Chronicles 5-8, Psalm 72
- 2 Chronicles 9-12, Psalm 73
- 2 Chronicles 13-17, Psalm 74
- Read Scripture Video: [1-2 Chronicles](#)

#### Focus of time together

To debrief and reflect on our journey through the Old Testament together.

#### Connecting Exercise

What one word best describes your experience of reading through the Old Testament and why?

#### Opening Prayer

Read Psalm 107 aloud together. Then offer short testimonial prayers for any “wonderful deeds” God has done in your life and community over the course of the year.

#### Intro to Discussion

After 8 months of YOBL, we are finally reaching the end of the Old Testament. The Book of Chronicles marks the end of the Hebrew Scriptures. It is a look back on the story thus far, chronicling Israel’s journey from the vantage point of those Jewish survivors involved in the mostly unsuccessful “return from exile” we observed in Ezra-Nehemiah. It records mostly the same period of history as the Book of Kings, but offers a sort of revamped interpretation in light of the exile. In other words, it is not just a dry and redundant documentation of Israel’s history but a deep reflection and reinterpretation of Israel’s past. Similarly, we will now take a break from our race through the Old Testament to stop and reflect on our journey thus far.

For some of us, YOBL has been a rich and enlightening journey. For others, it has been a tedious, exhausting, and seemingly fruitless task. Many of us gave up reading quite a while ago. The next two weeks in home group will give us an opportunity to synthesise

and digest some of the most important ideas from the Old Testament and give us a framework for beginning a fresh journey through the New Testament. This week though, we'll simply debrief and process our experiences thus far. Regardless of where you're at with the reading plan, use this 3-week transition from the OT to NT to catch your breath and commit afresh to diving into the New Testament. Also, use this time to reflect on what worked and what didn't work over the past 8 months and help one another discern any opportunities to try a new approach to reading the Bible together.

## **Whole Group Discussion (75 minutes)**

### **Questions for Self Examination (25mins)**

*These questions are to help us look at ourselves, be aware of who we are in the light of of our interaction with Scripture and consider any appropriate action.*

1. What have been the most life-giving or draining parts of YOBL so far?
2. Spiritual practices—such as fasting, prayer, or, in this case, reading the Bible daily—reveal the heart. Sometimes, it reveals lovely things and other times hard things. What has your attempt at reading the Bible daily revealed about your heart?

### **Questions for Interacting with Scripture (25mins)**

*These questions are to help us slow down, to taste and notice Scripture, savour its richness and meditate on its complexity of meaning.*

1. What have you learned from the Old Testament?
2. Are there any specific books or passages that you've found rich and meaningful?
3. How has this journey affected how you think and feel about the Bible and your faith in Jesus? Has trying to read the Old Testament bolstered your faith, left you feeling disillusioned about God, made you even more overwhelmed at understanding the Bible, etc.?

### **Questions for Practicing Community (25mins)**

*These exercises/questions are to help us reflect thoughtfully on our felt experiences together as community and provides opportunities to build on it further.*

1. What aspects of our approach to YOBL have worked for you and what haven't? Consider the rhythm of daily reading, CG format, the group's discussion habits, and anything else that comes to mind. Don't be afraid to be critical and direct but rather be brutally honest about your experience with one another.
2. In light of this reflection, are there any ideas you feel you or someone else in the group or the group as a whole should consider for approaching the final months of YOBL and the NT differently?
  1. critical and direct but rather be brutally honest about your experience with one another.
  2. In light of this reflection, are there any ideas you feel you or someone else in the group or the group as a whole should consider for approaching the final months of YOBL and the NT differently?

## Closing Prayer