



SATURDAY 08.13.11 1 Samuel 16:1-7

In this passage of scripture, God has instructed Samuel to find the one He has chosen to be king. He told him to go to Bethlehem, to the home of Jesse, where God had spotted His choice among Jesse's sons. Upon arriving, Samuel took one look at Eliab and thought, "This is it. I've found him!" But God gave Samuel a new perspective.

- God told Samuel to look at the situation differently; to look with God's eyes. How did this effect the outcome of the situation?
- Are you able to look through God's eyes? How could this act change your perspective about people, situations, suffering, money, time, inconveniences?



SUNDAY 08.14.11 Psalm 25

Read this psalm. The writer of this passage knows his weaknesses, he knows that he is imperfect; he sees with imperfect eyes. So he asks God for help by saying, "Show me your ways, Lord, teach me your paths. Guide me in your truth and teach me." And he asks for God's forgiveness.

- This is a prayer that we all need to be praying. Read the psalm again...aloud. As you pray, consider yourself to be the "I" in the prayer, as if YOU wrote it. How did this passage of scripture change for you?
- Pay particular attention to verse 15. In The Message translation, Peterson words this verse in this way: "If I keep my eyes on God, I won't trip over my own feet." What does this verse mean?



GROW. PRAY. STUDY.

Top Ten: The Stories Behind the Songs - Weekly Guide 8/8/11

Title: "Children Of God"

Artist: Third Day

Album: MOVE

Song #4

1 John 3:1-3

¹ See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. ² Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. ³ All who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

Title: "This Is The Stuff"

Singer/Songwriter: Francesca Battistelli

Album: Hundred More Years

Song #3

James 1:2-4

² Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, ³ because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. ⁴ Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

Psalm 25:15

"If I keep my eyes on God, I won't trip over my own feet." - The Message



TUESDAY 08.9.11 Isaiah 41:10

Read Isaiah 41:10. As you reflect on these words, do so knowing that you are indeed a child of God. He claimed you as His child, gave you a new name, a new start, an inheritance and a purpose.

- What a comfort it is to know that God is truly with us! Look back over the difficult times in your life. During those times, how did God reveal His presence to you? Was it in big ways or small ways?
- We know that He is always with us, but could it be said that WE are always with HIM? Look back over those times in your life when you distanced yourself from God because of busy-ness, bitterness, or doubt. What can be learned from those times?



WENESDAY 08.10.11 Psalm 73

This psalm is the story of an individual who is looking back over their life, seeing a time when he was struggling with his faith. He looks at others and how they have prospered, and he feels resentment over the fact that his life doesn't compare.

- Can you see yourself in this passage of scripture? Do you ever find yourself comparing your trials and tribulations to those of others, thinking that they have it so much easier? Where did those feelings get you?
- What reassurances do you find in Psalm 73? In light of where you find yourself right now in your life, what does "my flesh and heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever" mean to you?



THURSDAY 08.11.11 Romans 8

This is one of the most beautiful and most profound chapters of all the Bible - a passage focused on the Spirit-filled, Spirit-led life.

- Read Romans 8 listening for how God works in us, what the Spirit does in us, and the benefits of living lives that are open to the work of the Holy Spirit.
- Practice living life "with open eyes" today. Invite God to lead you, instruct you, and to work in and through you.



FRIDAY 08.12.11 John 14:15-27

Jesus taught his disciples at length about the coming of the Holy Spirit. He encouraged and comforted them with these words: "I will ask the Father, and He will give you another advocate to help you, and be with you forever - the Spirit of truth."

- Jesus says that some will see the Holy Spirit and know him, while others will not. What characteristics differentiate the two?
- What exactly does Jesus say that the Spirit, the Advocate, will do to help us? Is there something we must do in order for the Spirit to be able to accomplish these tasks?
