

Day One: Exodus 1

1. Describe the family of Israel (1-7). What did the new king of Egypt think of the Israelites (9-10)? What helped drive him to this opinion (8)? Describe the Israelites' oppression (11, 13-14). How did they fare under it (12)? What specific tactic did the king try to employ regarding the Hebrew midwives (15-16)? Describe the midwives' act of civil disobedience (17-19). What was God's response to all of this (20-21)? What order did Pharaoh then issue (22)?
2. The Hebrew midwives knew that doing God's will – preserving the lives of newborns – was worthwhile at any cost. As you read their tale of heroism, how do you feel? Inspired? Or insecure and incapable of drawing the line as fiercely as they did? Talk to God about these feelings. Ask him to reveal one area where he wants you to do his will no matter what. What do you sense him speaking, and how will you respond?

Day Two: 2 Chronicles 18

1. Set the scene of this text (1-2). What did Ahab and Jehoshaphat talk about (3-4)? Describe the initial prophesying (5, 9-11). How did Micaiah enter into this story (6-8)? What did the messenger urge him to do (12)? How did he respond (13)? Summarize Micaiah's prophecy (14-22). How did some react (23-24)? What were the king's orders (25-26)? What were Micaiah's final words to the king (27)? Describe Ahab's death (28-34).
2. Why do people bend the truth? Sometimes people are like the prophets; it's a matter of self-protection. Other times people are like King Ahab; they mold the truth around their own agenda. When are you tempted to bend the truth? Say sorry to God for times you've succumbed to the temptation. Also ask him to grow your commitment to the truth. What is one "left foot, right foot" way to mature in this area? This week, incorporate it into your life.

Day Three: Romans 13:1-7

1. To what should everyone be subject (1)? Why (1)? What is the consequence of rebelling against authority (2)? Who should fear rulers (3-4)? What advice does Paul offer (3)? How does he describe "the one in authority" (4)? How does Paul sum up his assertion that we must submit to governing authorities (5)? What specific examples does he offer as ways to walk this out (6-7)?
2. Do you think there are limits to what Paul is admonishing us to do here in Romans 13? Explain. Read Daniel 3:16. How does it compare to this text, especially verse 3? Doing right in God's eyes means that no human's terror, even the most threatening, is of ultimate consequence. What does this truth embolden you to do? Perhaps you need to stand up to an authority at work or at school. Whatever it is, ask God's grace and power to go ahead of you.

Day Four: Ephesians 5:21-33

1. What is Paul telling everyone to do (21)? Why (21)? What does he tell wives to do (22)? Why (23-24)? What does he tell husbands to do (25)? In loving their wives, what should husbands emulate (25-27)? How else does Paul expect husbands to love their wives (28-31)? Why do you think he uses body imagery? Why do you think he calls these assertions a "profound mystery" (32)? How does he conclude these commands to spouses (33)?
2. What framework does this text offer for the "non-negotiables" believers should have in choosing a spouse? Focus especially on verses 21 and 28-30. If you aspire to be married someday, things like gainful employment and physical attraction are probably on your list of must-haves. But what about these qualities Paul describes here? Ask God to increase your commitment to these "non-negotiables" in your own marriage. Pray the same for others.

Day Five: Hebrews 11:32-40

1. How does the author begin this conclusion of the many examples of "faith in action" (32)? What are some of the things these final individuals on the list did and experienced (33-38)? Jot down two lists of these outcomes: one positive, one negative. How do the two lists compare? For what were *all* these "hall of faith" members commended (39)? Despite what hardship (39)? Why did they not yet receive the promise (40)?
2. Doing God's will no matter what takes great faith because we don't know if the "what" will be wonderful or disastrous; it's out of our control. Re-read your two lists and consider them alongside the miraculous outcome in Daniel 3. Talk to God about the way he does not always victoriously deliver those who make a stand for Christ. Now, read verse 40 from this Hebrews text. Does it shift your perspective in a more hopeful direction? Explain.