

SEASON 05

JANUARY 2025

BECOMING
HEARTSTRONG

Judges - Second Chronicles



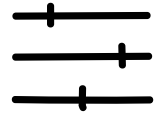


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Gather Grow Go



We invite you to honestly reflect on how you are following Jesus alongside others in this season of life. To do so, we hope you honestly answer our More Like Jesus questions. Share your results with someone you trust or your Heartstrong Group. The heart isn't to overthink but to pause and reflect upon how you are actively following Jesus.

One being non-existent, and ten wholeheartedly engaged; where do you believe you are actively following Jesus using our Gather, Grow, and Go self-assessment questions?

In Each Season, Become More Like Jesus.

GATHER for weekly worship. How often did I attend church? While present, was I engaged? Listening to the Holy Spirit and others to live more like Jesus?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

GROW by investing in my lifelong spiritual formation with others. Do I belong to a Group? Bible School? Am I being confessional? Encouraging? I trust that I can foster emotionally healthy and Christlike relationships with others.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

GO make a Jesus-sized difference in the world. How am I actively serving the church and city?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Share your assessment with someone you trust.





Becoming **HEARTSTRONG**

Our 2024-25 Ministry Year shared adventure will take us from Numbers to Psalms. In addition, our partnership with Practicing the Way will see us dive deeply into the spiritual practices of solitude, Scripture, and community.

Becoming Heartstrong is both daily online and weekly in our LifeGroups. We desire to see an increase in the number of LifeGroups, period. Each group will also use our Becoming Heartstrong material.



SEASON FOUR

Bible Reading: Numbers - Joshua
Spiritual Practice: Solitude



JAN - APR

SEASON FIVE

Bible Reading: Judges - 2 Chronicles
Spiritual Practice: Generosity



APR-JUN

SEASON SIX

Bible Reading: Ezra - Psalms
Spiritual Practice: Scripture

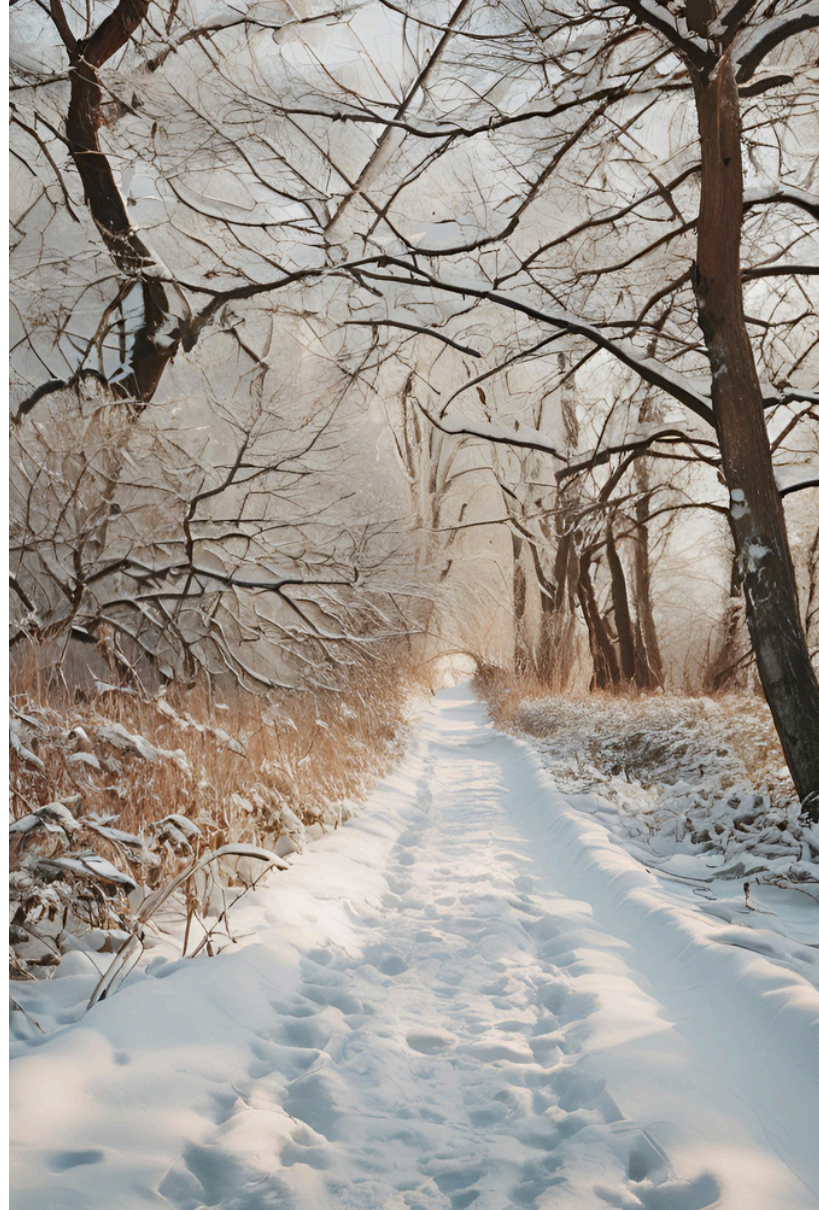


Worship: The Call To Be

As followers of Jesus, our doing flows from our being. For the health of our souls, it is best not to reverse this order. Life will often pull you to reverse it, but the power of the Holy Spirit, coupled with your spiritual disciplines, is essential to holding your heart in Jesus.

A simple analogy to hold, which we learned from Terry Walling, is as follows: Think of yourself as a railcar running along two tracks. Track A is called Being; this is our inner life. It is the track where God works in you, creating your inner Christ-like character. It is the place where Jesus is actively forming you. It is a contested space with many other influences that seek to begin or keep you deformed or formed to something other than Christ.

Track B is called Doing: This is where we serve using our spiritual gifts, acquired skills, knowledge, and natural abilities. This is what others see us doing (or not doing). In the track where God works through you, evident by how you serve and minister to others; the temptation is to live exclusively from this track. For a railcar to run effectively, it requires contact on both tracks to reach its desired destination. At the end of our lives, we each wish to hear Jesus say, "Well done, good and faithful servant": this is our desired destination. To run well requires both being and doing.



This season, in our partnership with Practicing the Way, we invite you into a deeper Call to Be through developing the spiritual practice of Generosity.

Should you choose to engage, what can you expect? Generosity has videos, weekly exercises and readings, and additional resources to help your LifeGroup create life-changing daily rhythms as you apprentice under Jesus. Transformation happens in community. Running the practice of Generosity together looks like setting a time each week to gather with a LifeGroup and share a meal, watch the session video, and then discuss, reflect, and pray.

Start small. Using the [Generosity Companion Guide](#), you'll practice Generosity through the weekly exercises and have a chance to dive deeper through the assigned readings and podcast episodes. The following week, you'll reflect on how it went. The goal is growth, not perfection.



Way

Each season, we select a specific Spiritual Practice. Season Five is Generosity which, from a distance, can sound like a “hard” practice, and it is, at first. But it quickly becomes one of the most joyful of all the practices of Jesus.

Access the [Generosity Companion Guide](#), to help your group create life-changing daily rhythms as you apprentice under Jesus.



Worship

You were made for worship.

We believe a lifelong adventure in following Jesus is precisely how your heart is formed to be consistently made strong in Christ.

This season, we will lead you through The Call To Engage, a Spiritual Discipline of Scripture, and teach Judges - 2 Chronicles from God's Word.

Finally, we hope you answer our More Like Jesus questions honestly. Share your results with someone you trust or your Group.

Word

This season, we will lead you through Judges - 2 Chronicles. We typically use the ESV as a Bible translation but feel free to use what you wish.

Below are links for excellent Bible apps we utilize/recommend. Some do come at a personal cost, so be aware.



[Download](#)
[Generosity](#)
[Companion](#)
[Guide](#)

Own/Others

HEARTSTRONG

To assist you in growing in Christ-like maturity, building upon examples from Christian history, we have curated a structure for you to utilize on your own and with others.

Daily you can use the STRONG system to spend time with God. In Groups, you can use the HEART questions to go deeper together.



STRONG (Own)

See...Your day with God's eyes, not merely your own.

Thank...God for the forthcoming day: each day is a gift.

Review...Your completed day with the Holy Spirit.

Own...Your sin/shortcomings: Repent and Confess.

Necessary...God's presence to be in your day. Invite Him.

Give...Grace to yourself and others to be more like Jesus.



HEART (Others)

Honest: What known sins have I committed?

Express: Where am I currently being tempted?

Ask: God's grace to cover and truth to set you free.

Realize: Where is God at work setting you free?

Truth: Is there anywhere I have lied tonight?



Heartstrong Group

OVERVIEW:
BOOKS OF THE BIBLE



Becoming Heartstrong

Judges

Summary, Message, and Purpose

The book chronicles Israel's moral and spiritual descent from the relative high point at the beginning of the book through a series of downward spirals to the depths of degradation in chapters 17-21.

Though God raised up a sequence of deliverers/judges—they were unable to reverse this trend and some even became part of the problem. By the end of the book, Israel had become as pagan and defiled as the Canaanites they had displaced. If this trend continued, it would be only a matter of time before the land would vomit them out, as it had the Canaanites before them (Lev 18:28). The book of Judges is the second of the Historical Books in the Old Testament (Joshua-Esther). In the Hebrew Bible, these books are called the Former Prophets; the theological and spiritual concerns found in the Pentateuch and the Prophets take precedence over the mere records of historical facts. The Lord is both the central character and the hero of Judges.

Author

No Definitive Author

Genre, Structure

Historical Narrative | The book falls into three parts. The prologue (1:1-3:6) deals with the failure of the second generation to press on with the conquest of Canaan. This is followed by a sixfold cycle of sin and salvation (3:7-16:31), which forms the core of the book, structured around the six major judges with six minor judges interspersed. Finally, there is an appendix (chaps. 17-21) that shows the full effects of total depravity. This structure demonstrates not only the repetition of patterns of sin and judgment but also regression.



Becoming Heartstrong

Ruth

Summary, Message, and Purpose

The book of Ruth gets its name from one of its principal characters, a Moabite woman named Ruth who was the ancestor of David and Jesus.

After reading the book of Judges, which paints a dark and depressing picture of Israel, the reader is relieved to encounter Ruth. Although the book is relatively short, it is rich in examples of kindness, faith, and patience. It is one of the five scrolls that was to be read during the Jewish festivals, in particular the Festival of Weeks.

The family records of David at the end of the book show that the Lord worked through this story to provide for his people's need of a king. The book of Ruth demonstrates how the Lord shows his covenant faithfulness to his undeserving people, often in surprising ways. In the course of the narrative, each of the main characters proved to be a person of extraordinary courage and covenant love. The key word in the book is "kindness" (1:8; 2:20; 3:10).

Author

No Definitive Author

Genre, Structure

Historical Narrative. The book of Ruth is a delightful short story with a classical plot that moves from crisis to complication to resolution. The narrator draws the reader into the minds of the characters (successively Naomi, Ruth, and Boaz), inviting us to identify with their personal anxieties and joys and in the end to celebrate the movement from emptiness and frustration to fulfillment and joy.



Becoming Heartstrong

1&2 Samuel

Summary, Message, and Purpose

In books 1 and 2, Samuel describes God's relationship with his covenant people and his faithful response to the terms of that covenant. The Lord also established a special covenant with David, a covenant that ultimately found its fulfillment in the Lord Jesus Christ. The books of 1 and 2 Samuel describe Israel's transition from a loosely organized tribal league under God (a theocracy) to a centralized leadership under a king who answered to God (a monarchy). Samuel's life and ministry greatly shaped this period of restructuring as he consistently pointed people back to God. The books also describe God's relationship with his covenant people and his faithful response to the terms of that covenant. The Lord also established special covenant with David, a covenant that ultimately found its fulfillment in the Lord Jesus Christ. The books of 1 and 2 Samuel describe Israel's transition from a loosely organized tribal league under God (a theocracy) to a centralized leadership under a king who answered to God (a monarchy). Samuel's life and ministry greatly shaped this period of restructuring as he consistently pointed people back to God.

Author

No Definitive Author

Genre, Structure

Historical Narrative. The first seven chapters of 1 Samuel describe Samuel's birth, call, and initial ministry among the Israelites. Chapter 8 is a major turning point as the people ask for a king to rule them "the same as all the other nations have" (1 Sam 8:5). Chapters 9-12 then describe Saul's selection-at God's direction, yet not his perfect will for the time (1 Sam 12:16-18). First Samuel 13-31 describes Saul's victories and failures.

2 Samuel 1-4 describes the struggle for Israel's throne that began with Saul's death. Second Samuel 5-24 presents highlights of David's reign, most notably God's promise to establish the throne of David's kingdom forever (2 Sam 7:1-29).



Becoming Heartstrong

1&2 Kings

Summary, Message, and Purpose

The history recorded in 1 and 2 Kings covers approximately 410 years. First Kings begins around 970 BC with the death of King David, & 2 Kings ends around 60 BC with the release of King Jehoiachin from prison. During this time, the nation of Israel split into two kingdoms (930 BC), & both kingdoms went into exile (Israel in 722 BC & Judah in 586 BC).

The theological perspective of 1&2 Kings is expressed in a number of themes: (1) the sinfulness of the kings and the nation, (2) the conflict between the demands of practical politics/the demands of faith, (3) the glory that God gave to the obedient covenant kings, (4) God's harshness in judgment on some occasions and leniency on others, & (5) the conflict between the worship of the Lord and the worship of other gods.

Author

No Definitive Author

Genre, Structure

Historical Narrative. The organizing principle of 1 and 2 Kings is not story or narrative. Kings is unique because its basic structural units are the formulaic royal records. Formal openers (1 Kgs 15:9-10) and closers (1 Kgs 15:23-24) usually identify the boundaries of these records. Then the writer could insert other types of literature before, between, and after the openers and closers: narratives, prayers, descriptions, and so on. But the most important element was the evaluation of the ruler's faithfulness to the covenant (1 Kgs 15:11-15). All these materials made up a history of covenant obedience or disobedience.



Becoming Heartstrong

1&2 Chronicles

Summary, Message, and Purpose

Chronicles belongs to the Writings. This classification may be partially due to the fact that Chronicles repeats information, such as the genealogies of Genesis and the histories of the kings of Judah, from the books of Samuel and Kings. Still the Chronicler uses this repeated content to support his own point, and he also adds a lot of information that we find in Chronicles alone. He limits his discussion of the various kings almost entirely to those of Judah, the southern kingdom.

Having resettled in Jerusalem after the exile, the people needed to reconnect with their identity as the people of God. Chronicles met this purpose by reminding them of their heritage and by directing them back to God's presence in their midst as symbolized by the temple. The important ideas that 1 and 2 Chronicles emphasize are (1) a direct connection to God's people in the past, (2) the continuity of the line of David on the throne of Judah, (3) the centrality of the temple and its rituals in focusing on God, (4) the importance of music in worshipping God, (5) the invincibility of God's people when they obey him, and (6) the inevitability of punishment when God's people disobey him.

Author

Ezra

Genre, Structure

Historical Narrative. The Hebrew Bible divides its books into three categories: the Law, the Prophets, and the Writings. In this arrangement, the books of Samuel and Kings are counted among the Prophets, whereas Chronicles belongs to the Writings.



Heartstrong Group

WEEKLY
BIBLE READING PLAN





Word: January

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6 Jdg 1-3	7 Jdg 4-5	8 Jdg 6-8	9 Jdg 9-10	10 Jdg 11-13	11
12 Sabbath	13 Jdg 14-16	14 Jdg 17-18	15 Jdg 19-20	16 Jdg 21; Rut 1-3	17 Rut 4; 1 Sa 1-2	18
19 Sabbath	20 1 Sa 3-6	21 1 Sa 7-9	22 1 Sa 10-12	23 1 Sa 13-14	24 1 Sa 15-16	25
26 Sabbath	27 1 Sa 17-19	28 1 Sa 20-22	29 1 Sa 23-24	30 1 Sa 25-27	31 1 Sa 28-31	

Memorize: Bible Passage

But Ruth said, "Do not urge me to leave you or to return from following you. For where you go I will go, and where you lodge I will lodge. Your people shall be my people, and your God my God." Ruth 1:16



Word: February

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Sabbath	3 2 Sa 1-2	4 2 Sa 3-6	5 2 Sa 7-10	6 2 Sa 11-12	7 2 Sa 13-14	8
9 Sabbath	10 2 Sa 15-17	11 2 Sa 18-19	12 2 Sa 20-21	13 2 Sa 22-24	14 1 Kgs 1-2	15
16 Sabbath	17 Family Day 1 Kgs 3-4	18 1 Kgs 5-7	19 1 Kgs 8	20 1 Kgs 9-10	21 1 Kgs 11-12	22
23 Sabbath	24 1 Kgs 13-14	25 1 Kgs 15-17	26 1 Kgs 18-19	27 1 Kgs 20-21	28 1 Kgs 22; 2 Kgs 1	



Memorize: Bible Passage

And Samuel said, "Has the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to listen than the fat of rams."

1 Samuel 15:22 (ESV)



Word: March

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Sabbath	3 2 Kgs 2-4	4 2 Kgs 5-6	5 2 Kgs 7-8	6 2 Kgs 9-11	7 2 Kgs 12-14	8
9 Sabbath	10 2 Kgs 15-16	11 2 Kgs 17-18	12 2 Kgs 19-21	13 2 Kgs 22-23	14 2 Kgs 24-25; 1 Chr 1	15
16 Sabbath	17 1 Chr 2-4	18 1 Chr 5-6	19 1 Chr 7-10	20 1 Chr 11-13	21 1 Chr 14-16	22
23 Sabbath	24 1 Chr 17-21	25 1 Chr 22-24	26 1 Chr 25-27	27 1 Chr 28-29; 2 Chr 1	28 2 Chr 2-5	29



Memorize: Bible Passage

"Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, that I may discern between good and evil, for who is able to govern this your great people?" 1 Kings 3:9 (ESV)



Word: April

Sun	Mo	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
30 Sabbath	31 2 Chr 6-8	1 2 Chr 9-12	2 2 Chr 13-16	3 2 Chr 17-19	4 2 Chr 20-23	5
6 Sabbath	7 2 Chr 24-25	8 2 Chr 26-29	9 2 Chr 30-31	10 2 Chr 32-33	11 2 Chr 34-36	12
13 Palm Sunday	14	15	16	17	18 Good Friday	19
20 Easter Sunday	21 Easter Monday	22	23	24	25	26
27 Sabbath	28	29	30			

Memorize: Bible Passage

"...For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to give strong support to those whose heart is blameless toward him. You have done foolishly in this, for from now on you will have wars." 2 Chronicles 16:9 (ESV)

Heartstrong Group

WEEKLY
DISCUSSION GUIDE



Becoming Heartstrong

WEEK ONE: DISCUSSION GUIDE

You were made for worship. We believe a lifelong adventure in following Jesus is precisely how your heart is formed, to be consistently made strong in Christ. This season, we will lead you through The Call To Be, a Spiritual Discipline of Generosity, and teach Judges - 2 Chronicles from God's Word.

Bible Reading

Read: Judges 1-13

Spiritual Practice: Generosity

"Few of Jesus' teachings are more radical, counterintuitive, and disorienting to our cultural assumptions than what Jesus says about money and generosity. We constantly hear the Western formula of "more money = more happiness." But Jesus boldly claims that happiness is found not in the accumulation of wealth but in a deeply relational life of giving and love. Our prayer for the coming weeks is this: that you begin to discover the great joy Jesus is referring to — not just the good feelings that come from practicing generosity, but ultimately, the joy that comes from participating in the inner life of God himself - the most generous being in all the universe."

Download: [Generosity Guide](#)

One Crucial Conversation

During Season Five, we invite all LifeGroups to have one crucial conversation based on our Sunday teachings, the Spiritual Practice of Generosity and shared Bible Readings from Judges - 2 Chronicles.

In the ancient world, people typically believed in a pantheon (hierarchical community of deities). Think powers and principalities. In Judges, the Canaanite had three tiers of gods. So, when reading there is not only earthly, but spiritual warfare.

Crucial Conversation: What do you believe about spiritual warfare? Real? Any effect on day to day life? Be honest.

Or...

Whether in our Bible readings, Sunday Teaching, or Spiritual Practice, what is something the Holy Spirit is speaking to you about this week?

In Groups, there are those starting to follow Jesus. Take time weekly to Start an essential conversation about some of the questions people have about all things following Jesus.



Becoming Heartstrong

WEEK TWO: DISCUSSION GUIDE

You were made for worship. We believe a lifelong adventure in following Jesus is precisely how your heart is formed, to be consistently made strong in Christ. This season, we will lead you through The Call To Be, a Spiritual Discipline of Generosity, and teach Judges - 2 Chronicles from God's Word.

Bible Reading

Read: Judges 14-1 Samuel 2

Spiritual Practice: Generosity

"Few of Jesus' teachings are more radical, counterintuitive, and disorienting to our cultural assumptions than what Jesus says about money and generosity. We constantly hear the Western formula of "more money = more happiness." But Jesus boldly claims that happiness is found not in the accumulation of wealth but in a deeply relational life of giving and love. Our prayer for the coming weeks is this: that you begin to discover the great joy Jesus is referring to — not just the good feelings that come from practicing generosity, but ultimately, the joy that comes from participating in the inner life of God himself - the most generous being in all the universe."

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One Crucial Conversation

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Judges is also a book about good and bad leadership. When good, the people do well. When bad, the people struggle. Author John Maxwell is known to say, "Everything rises and falls on leadership."

Crucial Conversation: What role do leaders play in the lives of others? How would you characterize good from bad or healthy from unhealthy leadership? Do you currently see yourself as a leader?

Or...

Whether in our Bible readings, Sunday Teaching, or Spiritual Practice, what is something the Holy Spirit is speaking to you about this week?

In Groups, there are those starting to follow Jesus. Take time weekly to Start an essential conversation about some of the questions people have about all things following Jesus.



Becoming Heartstrong

WEEK THREE: DISCUSSION GUIDE

You were made for worship. We believe a lifelong adventure in following Jesus is precisely how your heart is formed, to be consistently made strong in Christ. This season, we will lead you through The Call To Be, a Spiritual Discipline of Generosity, and teach Judges - 2 Chronicles from God's Word.

Bible Reading

Read: 1 Samuel 3-16

Spiritual Practice: Generosity

"Few of Jesus' teachings are more radical, counterintuitive, and disorienting to our cultural assumptions than what Jesus says about money and generosity. We constantly hear the Western formula of "more money = more happiness." But Jesus boldly claims that happiness is found not in the accumulation of wealth but in a deeply relational life of giving and love. Our prayer for the coming weeks is this: that you begin to discover the great joy Jesus is referring to — not just the good feelings that come from practicing generosity, but ultimately, the joy that comes from participating in the inner life of God himself - the most generous being in all the universe."

Download: [Generosity Guide](#)

One Crucial Conversation

During Season Five, we invite all LifeGroups to have one crucial conversation based on our Sunday teachings, the Spiritual Practice of Generosity and shared Bible Readings from Judges - 2 Chronicles.

Last week we zipped through the book of Ruth, a book recounting the unexpected way that God extended the family line of a widow named Naomi through Ruth, who was as an ancestor to David and Jesus.

Crucial Conversation: Does God still use unexpected people, events or circumstances in our world today? Share a story where God did or used someone or something unexpected in your life.

Or...

Whether in our Bible readings, Sunday Teaching, or Spiritual Practice, what is something the Holy Spirit is speaking to you about this week?

In Groups, there are those starting to follow Jesus. Take time weekly to Start an essential conversation about some of the questions people have about all things following Jesus.



Becoming Heartstrong

WEEK FOUR: DISCUSSION GUIDE

You were made for worship. We believe a lifelong adventure in following Jesus is precisely how your heart is formed, to be consistently made strong in Christ. This season, we will lead you through The Call To Be, a Spiritual Discipline of Generosity, and teach Judges - 2 Chronicles from God's Word.

Bible Reading

Read: 1 Samuel 17-31

Spiritual Practice: Generosity

"Few of Jesus' teachings are more radical, counterintuitive, and disorienting to our cultural assumptions than what Jesus says about money and generosity. We constantly hear the Western formula of "more money = more happiness." But Jesus boldly claims that happiness is found not in the accumulation of wealth but in a deeply relational life of giving and love. Our prayer for the coming weeks is this: that you begin to discover the great joy Jesus is referring to — not just the good feelings that come from practicing generosity, but ultimately, the joy that comes from participating in the inner life of God himself - the most generous being in all the universe."

Download: [Generosity Guide](#)

One Crucial Conversation

During Season Five, we invite all LifeGroups to have one crucial conversation based on our Sunday teachings, the Spiritual Practice of Generosity, and shared Bible Readings from Judges - 2 Chronicles.

1 Samuel 17 recounts the famous story of David and Goliath. As you read it, consider this crucial conversation.

Crucial Conversation: Courage, or the lack of it, is a theme in the story of David and Goliath, but it is not its main takeaway. Read and discuss this chapter as a group, asking what you think is the main takeaway from this story that also applies today. (Hint: Key in on what God, not only David, did).

Or...

Whether in our Bible readings, Sunday Teaching, or Spiritual Practice, what is something the Holy Spirit is speaking to you about this week?

In Groups, there are those starting to follow Jesus. Take time weekly to Start an essential conversation about some of the questions people have about all things following Jesus.



Becoming Heartstrong

WEEK FIVE: DISCUSSION GUIDE

You were made for worship. We believe a lifelong adventure in following Jesus is precisely how your heart is formed, to be consistently made strong in Christ. This season, we will lead you through The Call To Be, a Spiritual Discipline of Generosity, and teach Judges - 2 Chronicles from God's Word.

Bible Reading

Read: 2 Samuel 1-14

Spiritual Practice: Generosity

"Few of Jesus' teachings are more radical, counterintuitive, and disorienting to our cultural assumptions than what Jesus says about money and generosity. We constantly hear the Western formula of "more money = more happiness." But Jesus boldly claims that happiness is found not in the accumulation of wealth but in a deeply relational life of giving and love. Our prayer for the coming weeks is this: that you begin to discover the great joy Jesus is referring to — not just the good feelings that come from practicing generosity, but ultimately, the joy that comes from participating in the inner life of God himself - the most generous being in all the universe."

Download: [Generosity Guide](#)

One Crucial Conversation

During Season Five, we invite all LifeGroups to have one crucial conversation based on our Sunday teachings, the Spiritual Practice of Generosity, and shared Bible Readings from Judges - 2 Chronicles.

While we are reading through the historical narrative section of the Bible, conflicts are a plenty.

Crucial Conversation: Embracing how there are differing convictions regarding war/conflict, what is your personal belief about war/conflict? Have you struggled reading these sections of the Bible? Have an open and honest conversation about God, Bible, War/Conflict.

Or...

Whether in our Bible readings, Sunday Teaching, or Spiritual Practice, what is something the Holy Spirit is speaking to you about this week?

In Groups, there are those starting to follow Jesus. Take time weekly to Start an essential conversation about some of the questions people have about all things following Jesus.



Becoming Heartstrong

WEEK SIX: DISCUSSION GUIDE

You were made for worship. We believe a lifelong adventure in following Jesus is precisely how your heart is formed, to be consistently made strong in Christ. This season, we will lead you through The Call To Be, a Spiritual Discipline of Generosity, and teach Judges - 2 Chronicles from God's Word.

Bible Reading

Read: 2 Samuel 15-1 Kings 2

Spiritual Practice: Generosity

"Few of Jesus' teachings are more radical, counterintuitive, and disorienting to our cultural assumptions than what Jesus says about money and generosity. We constantly hear the Western formula of "more money = more happiness." But Jesus boldly claims that happiness is found not in the accumulation of wealth but in a deeply relational life of giving and love. Our prayer for the coming weeks is this: that you begin to discover the great joy Jesus is referring to — not just the good feelings that come from practicing generosity, but ultimately, the joy that comes from participating in the inner life of God himself - the most generous being in all the universe."

Download: [Generosity Guide](#)

One Crucial Conversation

During Season Five, we invite all LifeGroups to have one crucial conversation based on our Sunday teachings, the Spiritual Practice of Generosity, and shared Bible Readings from Judges - 2 Chronicles.

This week we rewind our Bible readings for another crucial conversation.

Crucial Conversation: Reading 1 Samuel 3 we see how before the prophet Samuel can speak for the Lord, he needs to learn how to hear from the Lord. Here is our conversation. How do you hear God's voice? In the midst of all the other "voices" in your life, can you discern the difference when God speaks to you? Share how you do or struggle to hear God's voice by discussing the different ways God still speaks to us today.

Or...

Whether in our Bible readings, Sunday Teaching, or Spiritual Practice, what is something the Holy Spirit is speaking to you about this week?

In Groups, there are those starting to follow Jesus. Take time weekly to Start an essential conversation about some of the questions people have about all things following Jesus.



Becoming Heartstrong

WEEK SEVEN: DISCUSSION GUIDE

You were made for worship. We believe a lifelong adventure in following Jesus is precisely how your heart is formed, to be consistently made strong in Christ. This season, we will lead you through The Call To Be, a Spiritual Discipline of Generosity, and teach Judges - 2 Chronicles from God's Word.

Bible Reading

Read: 1 Kings 3-12

Spiritual Practice: Generosity

"Few of Jesus' teachings are more radical, counterintuitive, and disorienting to our cultural assumptions than what Jesus says about money and generosity. We constantly hear the Western formula of "more money = more happiness." But Jesus boldly claims that happiness is found not in the accumulation of wealth but in a deeply relational life of giving and love. Our prayer for the coming weeks is this: that you begin to discover the great joy Jesus is referring to — not just the good feelings that come from practicing generosity, but ultimately, the joy that comes from participating in the inner life of God himself - the most generous being in all the universe."

Download: [Generosity Guide](#)

One Crucial Conversation

During Season Five, we invite all LifeGroups to have one crucial conversation based on our Sunday teachings, the Spiritual Practice of Generosity, and shared Bible Readings from Judges - 2 Chronicles.

This week, we will journey to 1 Kings to engage in an exciting/crucial conversation.

Crucial Conversation: One of the four central messages or purposes of 1 & 2 Kings is the conflict between the demands of practical politics and the demands of faith. What should be the role of politics in our lives and where can a life of faith intersect with the political demands of our day?

Or...

Whether in our Bible readings, Sunday Teaching, or Spiritual Practice, what is something the Holy Spirit is speaking to you about this week?

In Groups, there are those starting to follow Jesus. Take time weekly to Start an essential conversation about some of the questions people have about all things following Jesus.



Becoming Heartstrong

WEEK EIGHT: DISCUSSION GUIDE

You were made for worship. We believe a lifelong adventure in following Jesus is precisely how your heart is formed, to be consistently made strong in Christ. This season, we will lead you through The Call To Be, a Spiritual Discipline of Generosity, and teach Judges - 2 Chronicles from God's Word.

Bible Reading

Read: 1 Kings 13 - 2 Kings 1

Spiritual Practice: Generosity

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Download: [Generosity Guide](#)

One Crucial Conversation

During Season Five, we invite all LifeGroups to have one crucial conversation based on our Sunday teachings, the Spiritual Practice of Generosity, and shared Bible Readings from Judges - 2 Chronicles.

This week, we continue in our journey reading 1 Kings while we will land in 2 Kings Chapter 1. This week also opens the door to another crucial conversation.

Crucial Conversation: Another central message in Kings is battle for our worship, namely do our lives bring glory to God or are there areas of our lives that bring glory to something else. The worship of something else in the Old Testament is called idolatry. Does idolatry still exist? Is there a past or current area where you have struggled to fully trust God? Share.

Or...

Whether in our Bible readings, Sunday Teaching, or Spiritual Practice, what is something the Holy Spirit is speaking to you about this week?

In Groups, there are those starting to follow Jesus. Take time weekly to Start an essential conversation about some of the questions people have about all things following Jesus.



Becoming Heartstrong

WEEK NINE: DISCUSSION GUIDE

You were made for worship. We believe a lifelong adventure in following Jesus is precisely how your heart is formed, to be consistently made strong in Christ. This season, we will lead you through The Call To Be, a Spiritual Discipline of Generosity, and teach Judges - 2 Chronicles from God's Word.

Bible Reading

Read: 2 Kings 2- 14

Spiritual Practice: Generosity

"Few of Jesus' teachings are more radical, counterintuitive, and disorienting to our cultural assumptions than what Jesus says about money and generosity. We constantly hear the Western formula of "more money = more happiness." But Jesus boldly claims that happiness is found not in the accumulation of wealth but in a deeply relational life of giving and love. Our prayer for the coming weeks is this: that you begin to discover the great joy Jesus is referring to — not just the good feelings that come from practicing generosity, but ultimately, the joy that comes from participating in the inner life of God himself - the most generous being in all the universe."

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One Crucial Conversation

During Season Five, we invite all LifeGroups to have one crucial conversation based on our Sunday teachings, the Spiritual Practice of Generosity, and shared Bible Readings from Judges - 2 Chronicles.

This week, we continue reading from 2 Kings. Together, we are reading about division and exile, which sets up another crucial conversation.

Crucial Conversation: In your own words, describe what division is and any experiences in you, in relationships, at work, or even church where you have experienced division. In Matthew 12:25, why do you think Jesus says a kingdom divided against itself always falls? Do we believe this is true?

Or...

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Becoming Heartstrong

WEEK TEN: DISCUSSION GUIDE

You were made for worship. We believe a lifelong adventure in following Jesus is precisely how your heart is formed, to be consistently made strong in Christ. This season, we will lead you through The Call To Be, a Spiritual Discipline of Generosity, and teach Judges - 2 Chronicles from God's Word.

Bible Reading

Read: 2 Kings 15 - 1 Chronicles 1

Spiritual Practice: Generosity

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One Crucial Conversation

During Season Five, we invite all LifeGroups to have one crucial conversation based on our Sunday teachings, the Spiritual Practice of Generosity, and shared Bible Readings from Judges - 2 Chronicles.

Last week, our crucial conversation was about division. As we conclude Kings, we see Israel conquered by Assyria in 722BC and Judah conquered by Babylon in 586BC. See division, conquered, and now exiled as a pattern.

Crucial Conversation: What does being exiled mean? As you discuss what it may have been like to experience exile, reading Matthew 18:12, what does Jesus say He does when we become lost, conquered in exile? Share your story of becoming found from lost. If it is not yet your story, what makes you hesitant or resistant to following Jesus?

Or...

Whether in our Bible readings, Sunday Teaching, or Spiritual Practice, what is something the Holy Spirit is speaking to you about this week?

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Becoming Heartstrong

WEEK ELEVEN: DISCUSSION GUIDE

You were made for worship. We believe a lifelong adventure in following Jesus is precisely how your heart is formed, to be consistently made strong in Christ. This season, we will lead you through The Call To Be, a Spiritual Discipline of Generosity, and teach Judges - 2 Chronicles from God's Word.

Bible Reading

Read: 1 Chronicles 2-16

Spiritual Practice: Generosity

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One Crucial Conversation

During Season Five, we invite all LifeGroups to have one crucial conversation based on our Sunday teachings, the Spiritual Practice of Generosity, and shared Bible Readings from Judges - 2 Chronicles.

King David had what the Bible calls "mighty men" around him. For us to accomplish what God entrusts us to steward properly, why are the people we surround ourselves with important.

Crucial Conversation: Read 1 Chronicles 12 - a chapter about the mighty men that join David. In reading, call to mind the famous expression, "Show me your friends and I'll show you your future." Why is it important to examine who we choose to surround us in life? How do we balance this with the relationships we have with others where we don't have the choice? Discuss.

Or...

Whether in our Bible readings, Sunday Teaching, or Spiritual Practice, what is something the Holy Spirit is speaking to you about this week?

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Becoming Heartstrong

WEEK TWELVE: DISCUSSION GUIDE

You were made for worship. We believe a lifelong adventure in following Jesus is precisely how your heart is formed, to be consistently made strong in Christ. This season, we will lead you through The Call To Be, a Spiritual Discipline of Generosity, and teach Judges - 2 Chronicles from God's Word.

Bible Reading

Read: 1 Chronicles 17-2 Chronicles 5

Spiritual Practice: Generosity

"Few of Jesus' teachings are more radical, counterintuitive, and disorienting to our cultural assumptions than what Jesus says about money and generosity. We constantly hear the Western formula of "more money = more happiness." But Jesus boldly claims that happiness is found not in the accumulation of wealth but in a deeply relational life of giving and love. Our prayer for the coming weeks is this: that you begin to discover the great joy Jesus is referring to — not just the good feelings that come from practicing generosity, but ultimately, the joy that comes from participating in the inner life of God himself - the most generous being in all the universe."

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One Crucial Conversation

During Season Five, we invite all LifeGroups to have one crucial conversation based on our Sunday teachings, the Spiritual Practice of Generosity, and shared Bible Readings from Judges - 2 Chronicles.

The Bible has two types of covenants: a) unconditional and b) conditional. Unconditional covenants are held by God, regardless of what we do. Conditional covenants are God saying He will do X, providing we do Y.

Crucial Conversation: Read 1 Chronicles 17, the story of the Lord's Covenant with David. Discern whether it was an unconditional or conditional covenant then take turns sharing why you are personally thankful God is a covenant-keeping God.

Or...

Whether in our Bible readings, Sunday Teaching, or Spiritual Practice, what is something the Holy Spirit is speaking to you about this week?

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Becoming Heartstrong

WEEK THIRTEEN: DISCUSSION GUIDE

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Bible Reading

Read: 2 Chronicles 6-23

Spiritual Practice: Generosity

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One Crucial Conversation

During Season Five, we invite all LifeGroups to have one crucial conversation based on our Sunday teachings, the Spiritual Practice of Generosity, and shared Bible Readings from Judges - 2 Chronicles.

We have made our way to our final book of the Bible in Season Five, Second Chronicles. One of its central messages is regarding the importance of music in worshipping God.

Crucial Conversation: How do you engage musical worship on Sundays? Are you expressive in your worship? Or is worship more internal for you? Share how, in musical worship, you direct your thoughts, emotions, or affections towards God in worship.

Or...

Whether in our Bible readings, Sunday Teaching, or Spiritual Practice, what is something the Holy Spirit is speaking to you about this week?

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Becoming Heartstrong

WEEK FOURTEEN: DISCUSSION GUIDE

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Bible Reading

Read: 2 Chronicles 24-36

Spiritual Practice: Generosity

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One Crucial Conversation

During Season Five, we invite all LifeGroups to have one crucial conversation based on our Sunday teachings, the Spiritual Practice of Generosity, and shared Bible Readings from Judges - 2 Chronicles.

Congratulations. We have made it to the end of Season Five and both books of the Chronicles - not an easy feat. This sets us up for our final crucial conversation this season.

Crucial Conversation: If you didn't notice, another central theme of this book is the strength from God that follows obedience and conversely the damaging consequences in life that come from disobedience. Share a time in your life where walking in obedience you experienced God's blessing. Then share another time where walking in disobedience you experienced a consequence you'd rather not repeat. Finally, is there a specific area where you are currently struggling to obey? Pray for one another.

Or...

Whether in our Bible readings, Sunday Teaching, or Spiritual Practice, what is something the Holy Spirit is speaking to you about this week?

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SEASON SIX

Coming Up In Season Six

Word

This season, we will lead you through [Ezra - Psalm](#). We typically use the ESV as a Bible translation but feel free to use what you wish.

Way

Each season, we select a specific Spiritual Practice. Season Six is [Scripture](#), aiming for a strong, deep, joyful, vibrant life with God's Word.

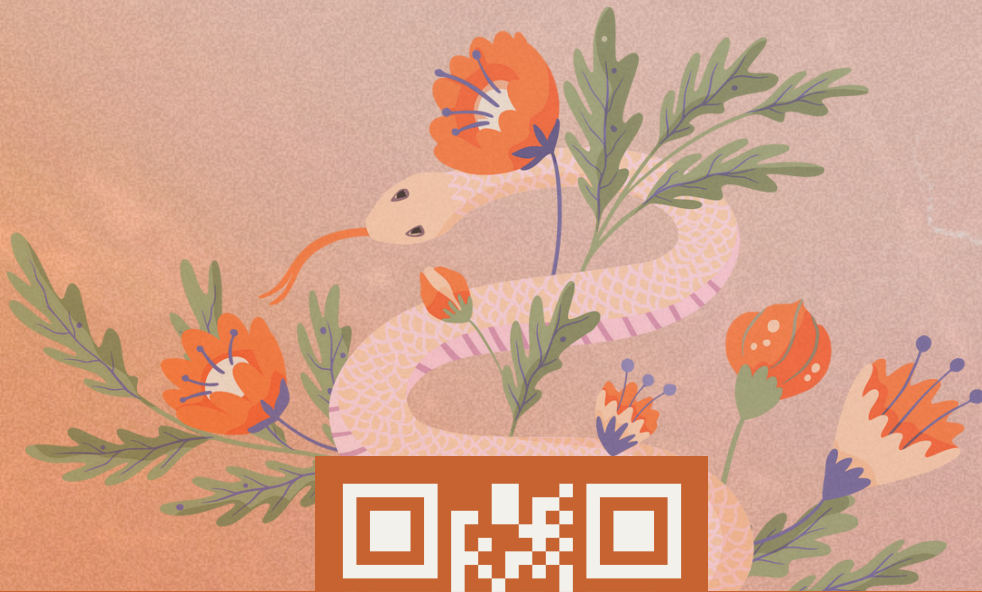




HEART CONFERENCE

TWO CONFERENCES, ONE HEART.


February 27 - 28
February 28 - March 1



heartconference.ca


BECOMING
HEARTSTRONG

ZOOM/REGISTER

 Adults: Monday - Thursday at 6:00 am & 8:00 pm

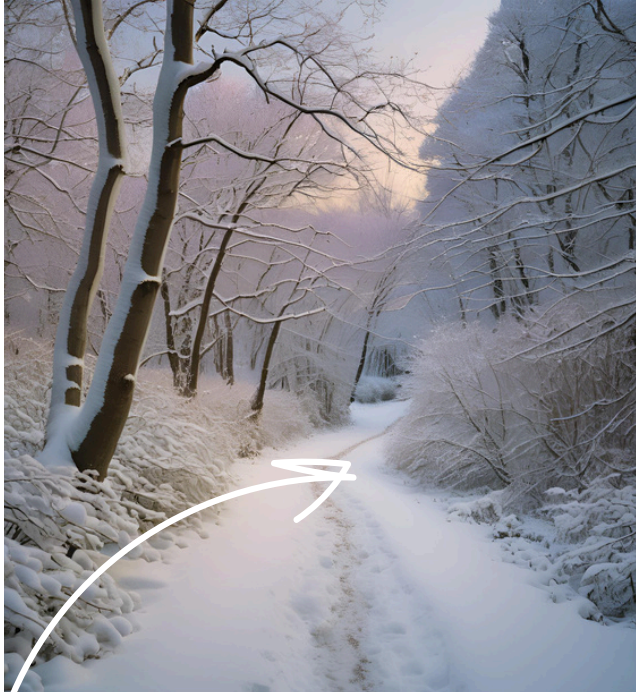
 Students: Wednesdays Bi-Weekly at 7:00 pm

PODCAST/REPLAYS

 Heartstrong Discipleship Podcast

 Watch Replays on Vimeo





 LIFECENTRE