

4. (Week of December 17, 2017)

The Christmas Story (2)

Matthew 1-2

Memory Verse: *"She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins"* (Matt. 1:21 ESV).

Sun: Matthew 1:1-17 – Skim down through this genealogy. What is its significance?

Mon: Matthew 1:18-25 – What do you learn in these verses about who Jesus is and why he was born? Has he save you from your sins?

Tue: Matthew 2:1-6 – How are the wise men an example to us?

Wed: Matthew 2:7-12 – Repeat yesterday's question. What gifts could you bring to Christ?

Thu: Matthew 2:13-15 – Look back over the last four days of readings (including today's). What prophecies has Jesus fulfilled? What does fulfilled prophecy say about his identity?

Fri: Matthew 2:16-18 – Another fulfilled prophecy. Pray for mothers you know who have lost their children.

Sat: Matthew 2:19-23 – Another fulfilled prophecy. What do all these fulfilled prophecies say about Jesus' identity?

5. (Week of December 24, 2017)

Elijah (3)

1 Kings 19; 21; Romans 11:1-6

Memory Verse: *Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you in turmoil within me? Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my salvation and my God* (Psalm 42:5 NIV).

Sun: 1 Kings 19:1-8 – How does this passage show that "Elijah was a man with a nature like ours" (James 5:17)? How did God encourage him?

Mon: 1 Kings 19:9-14 – Why do you think Elijah repeated himself in verses 10 and 14? What is the significance of Elijah's encounter with the LORD on Mount Horeb (Sinai)?

Tue: 1 Kings 19:15-21; Romans 11:1-6 – What new assignments does God give Elijah? How is God's statement in verse 18 an answer to Elijah's statement in verses 10 and 14?

Wed: 1 Kings 21:1-7 – Evaluate the character of each person in the story: King Ahab, Naboth, and Jezebel.

Thu: 1 Kings 21:8-16 – Evaluate the actions of Jezebel, the people of Jezreel, and King Ahab.

Fri: 1 Kings 21:17-24 – What assignment did God give Elijah, and how did he carry it out?

Sat: 1 Kings 21:25-29 – Evaluate the marriage of Ahab and Jezebel. Also, what do these verses teach us about the nature of God?

6. (Week of December 31, 2017)

Elijah (4)

2 Chronicles 21:1-6, 11-20; 1 Kings 22:51-53; 2 Kings 1:2-18

Memory Verse: *"For the LORD your God is a consuming fire, a jealous God"* (Deut. 4:24 ESV).

Sun: 2 Chronicles 21:1-6 – Evaluate the character and conduct of Jehoram, king of Judah. Why was he so evil?

Mon: 2 Chronicles 21:11-15 – What did the prophet Elijah announce would be the LORD's judgment on King Jehoram for his evil?

Tue: 2 Chronicles 21:16-20 – How did God carry out the judgment on King Jehoram that Elijah had prophesied?

Wed: 1 Kings 22:51-53 – How was Ahaziah, king of Israel, like his father Ahab?

Thu: 2 Kings 1:2-8 – Who did Ahaziah want to consult in his sickness? Summarize Elijah's rebuke. Who do you consult when you are sick?

Fri: 2 Kings 1:9-12 – Why did Elijah pronounce such harsh judgment on these two captains and their men?

Sat: 2 Kings 1:13-18 – Contrast the attitude of this captain with the previous two captains (vv. 9-12), and what was the LORD's response?

7. (Week of January 7, 2017)

Elijah and Elisha

2 Kings 2-3

Memory Verse: *And what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also* (2 Tim. 2:2 ESV).

Sun: 2 Kings 2:1-5 – What do you learn about Elisha's character in these two scenes?

Mon: 2 Kings 2:6-12a – What was Elisha's request and what did it mean? What is the significance of Elijah's being swept up into heaven?

Tue: 2 Kings 2:12b-18 – How was it evident that the "mantle" had been passed from Elijah to Elisha? Have you ever received a "mantle" from another person? Or passed on the "mantle" to someone else?

Wed: 2 Kings 2:19-25 – Contrast these two miracles and the reason for each.

Thu: 2 Kings 3:1-8 – Evaluate the alliance of these three kings (Israel, Judah, and Edom). Have you ever become involved in an unholy alliance?

Fri: 2 Kings 3:9-19 – What was Elisha's response to this request for help and why?

Sat: 2 Kings 3:20-27 – What was the result of Elisha's prophecy (see previous verses)? Are you confident that the LORD keeps his word?