

# Guided By God

Did you know that God wants you to trust Him with every detail of your life? This quarter you will discover how closely God walked with Elijah and Elisha, and how they depended on God in various situations. You will also learn how closely God desires to walk with you. He will guide you through every circumstance as you depend on Him.



## **The Living My Faith Devotional Bible Study**

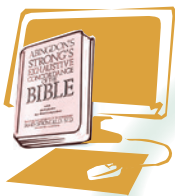
is designed to help you dig into God's Word. Each lesson offers devotions for Monday through

Saturday, along with worksheet to be completed during your group study and articles that will help you better understand and apply God's Word.



**Journal:** Purchase a journal or notebook to record your personal thoughts and prayers. Bring your journal and student book to class

each week so that you can take notes during the lesson or write any special insights you gain from a particular activity. You may also use the journal for sermon notes or for prayer requests.



**Bible study tools:** In order for you to dig into God's Word, consider using a Bible dictionary and a concordance. If you are not familiar with these helpful guides, ask your pastor or youth leader for a recommendation. Or visit an online Bible tools Web site, such as [www.blueletterbible.org](http://www.blueletterbible.org). This site offers commentaries, maps, and many other tools to help you in your Bible study.

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# A Heart for God

## Monday

When you say, “I love you with all my heart,” you don’t mean the muscle that pumps blood. You mean the “real you” deep down inside—your inner spirit. So, what do you love deep down inside? This week, take a look at King David’s heart.

Read 1 Samuel 16:1–5 and complete this sentence: Samuel didn’t want to anoint a new king because . . .

## Tuesday

Read 1 Samuel 16:6–13 and complete the sentences below.

1. Several of Jesse's sons stood before Samuel. He liked their . . .
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. But the Lord had chosen David because . . .

David didn't wait until he became an adult to follow God. As a teen, he trusted in the Lord.

## Wednesday

Read 1 Samuel 17 and answer the questions below.

1. Why didn't David's brothers or King Saul think David should fight Goliath?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Give two reasons why David felt confident he could defeat Goliath.

As David grew up, he also grew in his faith.

# Thursday

Saul became insanely jealous of David, even to the point of trying to murder him. Read 1 Samuel 26:1–11.

1. How did David treat Saul in return? Why?
2. Identify a situation in the last week when you found it hard to follow God.
3. Why does it sometimes seem that following God isn't the best thing to do?

Because David wanted with all his heart to do God's will, God blessed him and eventually made him king of Israel.

# Friday

Because David wanted to follow God, God showed David special favor. Read 2 Samuel 7:1–17 and finish the sentences below.

1. Once David became king, he wanted to . . .
2. God wouldn't allow that, but He promised David that Israel would get . . .
3. God also promised that David's heirs would . . .
4. Why would it be worth it for you to follow God with your whole heart?

# Saturday

1. How do you express to God that you want to follow Him? Look at this week's memory verse, Psalm 119:10.
2. Name one thing you can trust God for this week that will help you follow Him more consistently.

**WEEK 1**

## Memory Verse

**“With my whole heart have I sought thee: O let me not wander from thy commandments”  
(Psalm 119:10).**

# It's Him, Not Me

*I bowed my* head and closed my eyes, just as the speaker had asked. My heart was racing and my hands were sweaty. What if he asked, "Is anyone not sure of his salvation?" Would I raise my hand? Or would I just sit there and hope for the invitation to end?

This scene took place over and over again—in church, at camp, even during an evangelistic roller-skating party! Why couldn't I feel sure that I was a Christian?

When I was four, I asked my mom and dad if they'd show me how to be saved. I had listened to many Bible stories, and had even asked about salvation before. But this time, my parents thought I really understood.

They explained what it means to be saved, and I knelt beside their bed and prayed.

As early as second grade, however, I started to have doubts. I sometimes had bad thoughts. When I did, I'd wonder, *Can I be a Christian if I'm thinking these things?*

If someone asked me to give my testimony or asked how I'd become a Christian, I really struggled. I'd think, *Am I really saved? Did I truly repent? Was I sincere when I prayed? Would God ever take eternal life away from me?*

It's not that I didn't try. I did devotions faithfully. I was active in my youth group and went on missions trips. I attended

camp almost every summer. I really wanted to serve God and do what was right. At times I felt sure of my standing before God, yet at others, I felt like I was drowning in doubts.

I went to people for counseling. My mom, my dad, even camp counselors and evangelists tried to help me or give me verses to cling to.

I thought I could get victory over my doubts by praying another "salvation prayer" and making sure I had repented. So I did—several times. I'd feel better, for a while. But then I'd start struggling with sin or analyzing my salvation experience—and the doubts would return.

Finally, one Sunday as I sat listening to the pastor's sermon, I remember thinking that I just needed to tell God that I am trusting Him for my salvation. I didn't need to try to become righteous; I just needed to trust God to be true to what He had said.

Later in my room, I thought about God's plan of salvation. Then I knelt by my bed and told God I believed that Jesus had died for me and my sin and that I was trusting Him to save me. I was so happy and peaceful! I wrote the date on a 3 x 5 card followed by these words: "Tonight, prompted by Pastor's message and based on John 6:37, 44, and 65, I put my



complete trust in Christ and stopped trying to gain my own righteousness. I believe His promises.”

That prayer became a milestone in my experience as a Christian. Now when doubts come, I go back to the time when I know I put my trust in what Jesus did for me by dying for my sin.

And do you know what I’m learning? I’m learning that my salvation does not depend on me. Romans 6:23 says that “the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.” If my eternal destiny depended on something I had done to earn it or keep it, then it wouldn’t be a true gift.

I did not seek God on my own. Romans 3:11 states that “there is none that seeketh after God.” He drew me to Himself. Jesus said, “No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him” (John 6:44). He promised, “Him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out” (John 6:37).

Salvation was as simple as realizing my need for a Savior and accepting that Jesus died in my place, for my sin, for me.

Jesus said, “Verily, verily [truly, truly], I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life” (John 6:47). That’s a trustworthy promise!

I find that if I dwell on myself and my own sinfulness, doubts begin to close in around me. But when I focus on God’s loving promises and His power to save, those doubts flee.

—Anonymous

## How about You?

If you are struggling with doubts about your salvation, you need to settle that question in your mind. If you need to talk to an older person about it, please do. Most importantly, put your faith in Christ alone for salvation from sin. Leave your eternal destiny in His hands. Jesus said, “My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father’s hand” (John 10:27–29).

### Saved:

When a person becomes a Christian, God delivers (or saves) him or her from sin’s guilt, penalty, and control. He also delivers him or her from eternal punishment in Hell (Romans 3:19–26; 6:17, 18, 23; 8:1).

**Instructions:** Design a Web page for each of these aspects of David's life.

1 Samuel 16:1–13

**Personal Information**

1 Samuel 17

**Fighting Goliath**

1 Samuel 26:1–11

**Dealing with Saul**

David was a great spiritual leader.  
He obeyed God from the heart.

**“With my whole heart have I sought thee:  
O let me not wander from thy commandments”  
(Psalm 119:10).**