

Eat This Book

Prayer Guide: Month 4 [April 5–April 30]

This year, the prayer guides are following along with the Eat This Book reading plan and will give you weekly themes, based on the reading selection for that week, to pray through as you read.

Week 1 [4/5–9] – Praising God and Hating Evil – 2 Samuel 22–1 Kings 13; Psalm 96–100

In 1 Kings 1:47, when David heard that his son Solomon had been anointed as king to succeed him, he immediately bowed in worship and blessed God for keeping His promise to him and allowing him to witness their fulfillment. What is your normal reaction when good things happen? How has God proved His faithfulness to you lately? Spend some time “bowing down” and praising Him for what He is doing in your life.

Psalm 97:10-11 states that the Lord loves those who hate evil and guards those who are faithful to him. Sometimes it is easy to treat the sin and evil in the world, and in our own hearts, lightly. Ask that God would give you a heart that runs from evil and pursues godliness so that you can experience true joy.

Week 2 [4/12–16] – Making No Exceptions and Living in God’s Mercy – 1 Kings 20–2 Kings 14; Psalm 103–107

In 2 Kings 5:17-19, Naaman claims that he will no longer worship any other gods besides the Lord. But, he asks for one exception: that he would be pardoned for going to the temple of his king’s god, Rimmon, and bowing down to him. If he had refused to worship Rimmon with his king, Naaman likely would have lost his high position and he let this get in the way of worshipping God wholeheartedly. What is your exception? Is there an idol in your life that is keeping you from being totally devoted to God? Ask God to reveal this to you and then give it to Him.

In Psalm 103:8-12, the Psalmist extols God for his mercy and steadfast love. God does not “repay” us according to our sins, rather he removes our sins “as far as the east is from the west.” Are you struggling with sin right now? Remember that our God is a merciful God who loves you more than you can know. Praise God for his compassion and confess your sin to him! Experience the amazing freedom of knowing that your sins have been forgiven and removed.

Week 3 [4/19–23] – Loving God’s Word and Serving the Poor – 2 Kings 20–Ezra 10; Psalm 110–114

Ezra 7:9-10 states that God’s “gracious hand” was upon Ezra because he had set his heart to study God’s law and teach it to Israel. As you continue on the Eat This Book reading plan, pray that God would give you a heart that loves to study his word and share what you have learned with others. Ask that His gracious hand would be on you, giving you favor as you follow Him.

In Psalm 113:5-9, the Psalmist praises God because He “raises the poor from the dust and lifts the needy from the ash heap.” Pray that God would do this in our community and ask Him how he could use you to accomplish it.

Week 4 [3/26–30] – Seeing the Bigger Picture and Asking for Help – Nehemiah 7–Esther 10; Psalm 117–121

In Esther 4:14, Mordecai tells Esther that she should take the risk and go before the king because she may have become royalty “for such a time as this” to save her people, God’s people, from certain death. While it may not be as dramatic as Esther’s, what situation has God placed you in to make a difference for iHm? Ask Him to help you see how he may be orchestrating events in your life for his larger purposes. Ask Him to help you be courageous like Esther and walk in obedience.

In Psalm 121, the Psalmist recognizes that his help comes from “the Lord who made heaven and earth” (v. 2). How do you need God’s help this week? What evil do you need to be kept from? Go before the Lord and ask Him for these things. Also intercede for others who need to experience God’s help.

* Ideas for this prayer guide were inspired by study notes in the *Renovare Spiritual Formation Bible* (HarperCollins, 2005).