

# THE JOURNEY

## Bible Guide 6

This year we are reading a selection of Bible books *in order to know and experience God by seeing His presence and work in different human experiences.*

During this year, we remember that God *wants us to know and experience Him.* So, we read the Bible and connect with what it reveals about: 1) who God is, 2) who we are, and 3) how God invites us to live in His kingdom ways.

To aid you in this, we've provided The Journey readings on the Sunday bulletin and bookmarks, reading tips, and these Bible Guides.

The Holy Spirit is at work to build up His body through the sharing of our thoughts, gifts, and weaknesses. Go from "Me to We," and share what you are learning with others.

### The book of Esther and Job

In the next month we will be reading through the Old Testament books of Esther and Job. To help you engage in these two books of the Bible, one in which God is not mentioned (Esther) and the other in which God's actions might push your justice buttons (Job), we've provided information below.

The book of Esther is set in the Persian capital of Susa, about 100 years after the Babylonian exile. Though God is not mentioned, this book is an invitation to look for God's activity. The story of Esther is

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The book of Esther is set in the Persian capital of Susa, about 100 years after the Babylonian exile. Though God is not mentioned, this book is an invitation to look for God's activity. The story of Esther is

intended to reveal that God is faithful to his promises - even when His people are experiencing the consequences of their disobedience (they are in exile in a foreign land), even when His activity is hidden (He's not mentioned in the book), and even when Israel is not fully following the commands in the Law. Despite all these things, God is faithful, He remains to be their provider and protector, because of who He is - not who they are.

The book of Job is a story that invites the readers to trust God's wisdom. In the various struggles and difficulties that Job experiences there are assumptions raised about how life should work, and how God should work with humans. The first assumption is that if humans are wise and good, God's justice will be at work in such a way that they will experience only success and reward. The second assumption is that if humans are evil and unwise, God's justice will be at work in such a way that they will experience only disaster and punishment. Job is brought to a place where He realizes God's wisdom is beyond what His own thoughts are, and he is invited to trust God.

Discover more about these books at [www.thebibleproject.com](http://www.thebibleproject.com).

Questions to be considering with God before reading these books:

Where in your life is God at work but hidden, if you are not looking for Him?

What difficulty in your life needs the message of Job to unearth your questions about God, remind you of who God is, and invite you to trust this God that is beyond comprehension?

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