

# — THE — DEFINING VERSE

Find Your Life's Sentence  
Through the Lives  
— of —  
63 Bible Characters



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A PDF COMPANION TO THE AUDIOBOOK

# REFLECTION QUESTIONS

## REFLECT ON YOUR READING EXPERIENCE

1. Take a look back on the defining verses of the biblical characters you read about. As you reflect, or as you work through the nine-week study in the appendix, consider: whose defining verses inspired you? Whose sobered you?
2. Do any of the characters you've read about display qualities you have and/or want to grow? What can you learn from their defining verses to help you on your way?
3. In whom do you see your particular faults reflected? What do you learn from their defining verses about what to avoid?
4. Most of these figures were a mixture of good and bad, victory and defeat. Working through the entries, where do you see the balance shift toward a positive legacy and a negative legacy? What are the key differences between these people in the way they relate to God and to others?
5. What do you perceive as the differences between the Old Testament lives you've read about and the New Testament lives? How do Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit make a difference to those under the New Covenant?
6. Review the defining verses of the only two characters in this book living and active on earth today: the Lord God and Jesus Christ. What do you believe about them? How has that grown or changed either through the process of reading this book or in the course of your own life?

## DISCOVER YOUR STORY

1. No doubt you've been thinking about what your own defining verse might be. Before you choose, take some time to reflect on your story. In a notebook or journal, start from the beginning and try telling your life's story; divide it into periods of five or ten years and give each section a title. Go up until last year.
2. Now reflect. What were your hopes during these times? Your challenges or tragedies? Your goals? Your failures and blows? Your blessings and

victories? How was your relationship with God growing or waning through these times?

3. Now, with the benefit of hindsight, how do you perceive God acting during those periods? What characteristics of God do those actions and events reveal? What does the Bible say about those characteristics?
4. Determine a few key words from each period that describe that time of your life, and use them to do a search in a concordance and/or Bible dictionary. What series of life verses might you assign for each period?
5. Does your name have a meaning? Do some research and find the origin of your name (first and/or last). Does that meaning show itself in any of the periods of your history?
6. Have you experienced a calling from God? In your personal history, did you feel at any point that you were “made to do” something in particular?
7. How have you experienced deliverance, guidance, miracles, or blessings in the passage of your story? What does Scripture say about the kind of guidance you have received and the God who provides it?
8. Search out what the Bible has to say about spiritual gifts, and consider taking an assessment online. What are your spiritual gifts? How do those correspond with the callings you’ve felt throughout your life?
9. As you’ve gotten older, how have your priorities changed? What do you find doesn’t matter as much as you thought it did, and what matters more than you thought it did?
10. What words of wisdom would you give to the younger versions of yourself? What verses from the Bible would you advise them with?
11. How are you different now from who you were during the past periods of your life? How are you the same?

## ASSESS WHERE YOU ARE NOW

1. Informed by the past, explore your present. Where have most of your time, effort, and resources gone in the last year or so? What have been your main motivations and drives?
2. What are your biggest hopes for the future? For this year?
3. What have you found that gives you energy recently? What gets you going and inspires you?
4. Do you believe you were created for a special purpose? When have you felt the most in line with that purpose?
5. What are your biggest blessings of the past year? What are you grateful for?
6. What have been your biggest challenges of the past year? When have you realized you were wasting time? What do you want to avoid in the coming year?
7. How do you feel you have most helped others this year? How would you like to contribute in the future?
8. How has your relationship with God and God’s Word grown recently? How do you plan to know Him better and seek His wisdom?

9. What do you want to do for God in the world?
10. If you were on your deathbed and you got to choose your last words, what would they be? To your loved ones? To God? To the world?
11. Going back through your answers in this section, highlight or underline key words and do a concordance search. What Scriptures do you find that speak to where you are now?

## FIND YOUR DEFINING VERSE

1. Looking back on your responses, what have been the major themes of your life? How do you see them growing and evolving? How can you celebrate them and thank God for His direction in your life?
2. For what are you most thankful to God? What do you plead for most? What does a key word search about these things reveal to you from the Word of God?
3. Pray earnestly to God that he would reveal your defining verse to you for this time in your life — the verse that sums up who you are and what you do for the world. From the verses you've sought out, which one shines out to you?
4. Once you've selected a verse, how do you intend to believe it and act upon it in the coming days? How do you hope it will enrich your life, bless others, and bring glory to God?

# APPENDIX 1:

## CHART OF SUGGESTED DAILY READING PATTERNS

Day	Chapter	Biblical Reading
<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<b>Week One</b> . . . The Lord God. . . . .	Psalm 104
<input type="checkbox"/> 2.	Lucifer. . . . .	Isaiah 14:12–17
<input type="checkbox"/> 3.	Adam. . . . .	Genesis 2:15–25
<input type="checkbox"/> 4.	Eve. . . . .	Genesis 3:1–20
<input type="checkbox"/> 5.	Cain. . . . .	Genesis 4:1–16
<input type="checkbox"/> 6.	Abel. . . . .	Hebrews 11:1–4
<input type="checkbox"/> 7.	Noah . . . . .	Genesis 6:9–22
<input type="checkbox"/> 8	<b>Week Two</b> . . . Abraham. . . . .	Hebrews 11:8–19
<input type="checkbox"/> 9.	Sarah. . . . .	Genesis 21:2–21
<input type="checkbox"/> 10.	Isaac . . . . .	Genesis 22:1–19
<input type="checkbox"/> 11.	Rebekah . . . . .	Genesis 27:1–40
<input type="checkbox"/> 12.	Esau. . . . .	Hebrews 12:14–17
<input type="checkbox"/> 13.	Jacob . . . . .	Genesis 32:22–32
<input type="checkbox"/> 14.	Rachel. . . . .	Genesis 30:1–24
<input type="checkbox"/> 15	<b>Week Three</b> . . Joseph . . . . .	Genesis 50:15–26
<input type="checkbox"/> 16.	Job. . . . .	Job 1:1–22
<input type="checkbox"/> 17.	Moses . . . . .	Exodus 33:12–23
<input type="checkbox"/> 18.	Aaron . . . . .	Exodus 32:1–35
<input type="checkbox"/> 19.	Miriam . . . . .	Exodus 15:1–21
<input type="checkbox"/> 20.	Joshua . . . . .	Joshua 1:1–18
<input type="checkbox"/> 21.	Rahab . . . . .	Joshua 2:1–24
<input type="checkbox"/> 22	<b>Week Four</b> . . Deborah . . . . .	Judges 5:1–31
<input type="checkbox"/> 23.	Gideon . . . . .	Judges 6:1–40
<input type="checkbox"/> 24.	Samson. . . . .	Judges 16:23–31
<input type="checkbox"/> 25.	Ruth . . . . .	Ruth 1:1–22
<input type="checkbox"/> 26.	Eli . . . . .	1 Samuel 4:12–22
<input type="checkbox"/> 27.	Hannah. . . . .	1 Samuel 2:1–11
<input type="checkbox"/> 28.	Samuel . . . . .	1 Samuel 12:1–25

Day	Chapter	Biblical Reading
<input type="checkbox"/> 29	<b>Week Five</b> . . . Saul . . . . .	2 Samuel 1:1–27
<input type="checkbox"/> 30.	. . . . . David . . . . .	Psalms 78:65–72
<input type="checkbox"/> 31.	. . . . . Jonathan . . . . .	1 Samuel 18:1–9
<input type="checkbox"/> 32.	. . . . . Solomon . . . . .	2 Samuel 1:1–18
<input type="checkbox"/> 33.	. . . . . Rehoboam . . . . .	2 Chronicles 12:1–16
<input type="checkbox"/> 34.	. . . . . Elijah . . . . .	1 Kings 19:1–18
<input type="checkbox"/> 35.	. . . . . Elisha . . . . .	1 Kings 19:19–21
<input type="checkbox"/> 36	<b>Week Six</b> . . . . Jezebel . . . . .	1 Kings 21:17–26
<input type="checkbox"/> 37.	. . . . . Jonah . . . . .	Jonah 4:1–11
<input type="checkbox"/> 38.	. . . . . Isaiah . . . . .	Isaiah 6:1–13
<input type="checkbox"/> 39.	. . . . . Jeremiah . . . . .	Jeremiah 1:4–19
<input type="checkbox"/> 40.	. . . . . Ezekiel . . . . .	Ezekiel 2:1–3:15
<input type="checkbox"/> 41.	. . . . . Daniel . . . . .	Daniel 1:1–21
<input type="checkbox"/> 42.	. . . . . Esther . . . . .	Esther 2:1–23
<input type="checkbox"/> 43	<b>Week Seven</b> . . Ezra . . . . .	Ezra 7:1–10
<input type="checkbox"/> 44.	. . . . . Nehemiah . . . . .	Nehemiah 1–13
<input type="checkbox"/> 45.	. . . . . Jesus Christ . . . . .	Luke 3:15–23
<input type="checkbox"/> 46.	. . . . . Zechariah and Elizabeth . . . . .	Luke 1:5–25
<input type="checkbox"/> 47.	. . . . . Mary, the Mother of Jesus . . . . .	Luke 1:26–56
<input type="checkbox"/> 48.	. . . . . Herod the Great . . . . .	Matthew 2:1–12
<input type="checkbox"/> 49.	. . . . . Simeon and Anna . . . . .	Luke 2:21–40
<input type="checkbox"/> 50	<b>Week Eight</b> . . John the Baptist . . . . .	John 1:19–34
<input type="checkbox"/> 51.	. . . . . Andrew . . . . .	John 1:40–42
<input type="checkbox"/> 52.	. . . . . Simon Peter . . . . .	Luke 22:54–62
<input type="checkbox"/> 53.	. . . . . The Apostle John . . . . .	John 21:1–14
<input type="checkbox"/> 54.	. . . . . Judas Iscariot . . . . .	Matthew 26:6–16
<input type="checkbox"/> 55.	. . . . . Salome, the Wife of Zebedee . . . . .	Matthew 20:20–28
<input type="checkbox"/> 56.	. . . . . The Samaritan Woman . . . . .	John 4:1–42
<input type="checkbox"/> 57	<b>Week Nine</b> . . The Woman Taken in Adultery . . . . .	John 1:1–11
<input type="checkbox"/> 58.	. . . . . Mary and Martha of Bethany . . . . .	Luke 10:38–42
<input type="checkbox"/> 59.	. . . . . Joseph, Called Barnabas . . . . .	Acts 4:35–5:11
<input type="checkbox"/> 60.	. . . . . Stephen . . . . .	Acts 6:8–15
<input type="checkbox"/> 61.	. . . . . Paul the Apostle . . . . .	Acts 16:16–40
<input type="checkbox"/> 62.	. . . . . Lydia . . . . .	Acts 16:11–15
<input type="checkbox"/> 63.	. . . . . Phoebe . . . . .	Romans 16:1–20



## APPENDIX 2:

### LIST OF RECOMMENDED RESOURCES ON BIBLE CHARACTERS

- Barclay, William. *The Master's Men*. New York: Abingdon, 1959.
- Blaiklock, E. M. *Professor Blaiklock's Handbook of Bible People*. London: Scripture Union, 1979.
- Buechner, Frederick. *Peculiar Treasures: A Biblical Who's Who*. San Francisco: Harper & Row, 1979.
- Chappell, Clovis. *Meet These Men*. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker, 1974.
- . *Sermons on New Testament Characters*. New York: George H. Doran, 1924.
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- Havner, Vance. *Moments of Decision*. Old Tappan, N.J.: Revell, 1979.
- Hiebert, D. Edmund. *Personalities around Paul*. Chicago: Moody, 1973.
- LaSor, William S. *Great Personalities of the New Testament*. Westwood, N.J.: Revell, 1961.
- . *Great Personalities of the Old Testament*. Westwood, N.J.: Revell, 1959.
- Matheson, George. *The Representative Men of the Bible*. 2 vols. London: Hodder & Stoughton, 1902–1903.
- . *The Representative Men of the New Testament*. London: Hodder & Stoughton, 1910.
- . *The Representative Women of the Bible*. London: Hodder & Stoughton, 1907.
- McCartney, Clarence E. *Peter and His Lord*. New York: Abingdon, 1937.
- . *The Wisest Fool and Other Men of the Bible*. New York: Abingdon-Cokesbury, 1949.
- Meyer, F. B. *David: Shepherd, Psalmist, King*. New York: Revell, 1895.
- . *Israel: A Prince with God*. New York: Revell, n.d.
- . *Joseph: Beloved, Hated, Exalted*. New York: Revell, n.d.
- . *Joshua and the Land of Promise*. London: Morgan & Scott, n.d.
- . *Moses: The Servant of God*. New York: Revell, n.d.
- . *Samuel the Prophet*. London: Morgan & Scott, n.d.
- Morgan, G. Campbell. *The Great Physician*. New York: Revell, 1937.
- Pink, Arthur W. *The Life of David*. 2 vols. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Zondervan, 1958.
- Redpath, Alan. *The Making of a Man of God*. Westwood, N.J.: Revell, 1962.
- Sanders, J. Oswald. *The Cultivation of Christian Character*. Chicago: Moody, 1965.
- Whyte, Alexander. *Bible Characters from the Old and New Testaments*. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Kregel, 1990.
- Wiersbe, Warren W., ed. *Bible Personalities: A Treasury of Insights for Personal Growth and Ministry*. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker, 2005.