

day 1

# ISAIAH 30:1-3

## DWELL

God expresses His dissatisfaction at the stubbornness of His people. Instead of looking to Him for protection against the Assyrians and asking for His guidance, the people of Judah allied themselves with the Egyptians. From a human point of view this alliance makes sense—Egypt was a powerful nation. But this alliance was not God’s plan. God promised to protect his people, and they doubted His trustworthiness. As such, Egypt will prove to be a useless ally.

↻ What will be the result of the people trusting in Egypt instead of the Lord, according to these verses?

➔ What are some ways you can turn to God for guidance when you need to make plans or solve a problem? Do you always do this?

## MEMORIZE

Ask a friend or family member to memorize Isaiah 30:18 with you this week. Quiz each other several times this week.

## PRAY

Ask God to forgive you for creating your own plans or turning to the world’s answers when you need help, instead of asking Him for guidance..

day 2

# ISAIAH 31:4-5

## DWELL

The people of Judah incorrectly assumed that only the strength of chariots and horses would win this war against Assyria. But horses, chariots, and military might are no match for the incomparable power of God. The Egyptian army, for all its impressive size and strength, was still made up of mortal men and animals. God, on the other hand, only needs to stretch out His hand to defeat an army. He cannot be intimidated, and He can be trusted to protect Jerusalem.

↑ What are some ways that the Egyptians and their army are contrasted with God in these verses?

↻ How could you pray when you are overwhelmed by life and tempted to turn to people or things other than God for answers?

## MEMORIZE

Break Isaiah 30:18 down into several parts, and work on reciting each part one at a time from memory before trying to recite the whole verse.

## PRAY

Pray that God would remind you of his faithfulness and power when you are afraid or uncertain about what to do.

day 3

# ISAIAH 31:6-9

## DWELL

← What is an idol and why is creating them sinful? Why will the people reject their idols when they turn back to Him?

➔ Think of a time you chose to trust God and His Word instead of something or someone you idolized. What was the result?

Isaiah urged the people of Israel to return to the Lord, and assured them that despite their lack of faith and trust in Him, He would deliver them and defeat the Assyrian army. God’s grace and mercy are on full display here as He promised to protect His people. Paul reflects on this same characteristic of God when he says, “But God proves his own love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us” (Rom 5:8).

## MEMORIZE

Use a dry erase marker to write Isaiah 30:18 on a mirror you use every day or write it on a notebook card and tape it to the mirror. Erase or mark out a few words each day until you’ve memorized the whole verse.

## PRAY

Say a prayer of thanks to God that He is trustworthy and faithful, even when we are not.

day 4

# 2 KINGS 18:28-33; 19:5-7

## DWELL

The King of Assyria sent his messengers to Judah, where they mocked the Lord as well as Hezekiah for trusting in Him. They attempted to create fear and doubt amongst Hezekiah and his people by claiming that no god had ever been able to stand against Assyria. According to them, Judah would be better off simply accepting the better life that the Assyrian king can provide for them. The Assyrians underestimated the God of Israel, assuming He is just like the other gods who had been worshipped before Him. However, the Lord has the power to not only drive back the Assyrians but also to defeat Sennacherib completely.

↻ What was Isaiah’s response to the King of Assyria when the servants of Hezekiah went to him (19:5-7)?

↔ We will all face times where we are mocked for trusting in God. How could you respond in these moments?

## MEMORIZE

Go somewhere quiet and read Isaiah 30:18 aloud several times. Note key words and think of images or hand motions to help you memorize the verse.

## PRAY

Pray that God would give you wisdom to hold on to your trust in Him when you are faced with people who doubt or question His strength or trustworthiness.

day 5

# 2 CORINTHIANS 4:7-12

## DWELL

Paul compared himself to an ordinary, breakable jar of clay that houses an extraordinary treasure—the message of the Gospel. Even though in his fragile body he faced persecution, imprisonment, beatings, and even death, he was able to endure it because of the power of Christ in him. In fact, his human weakness made the power of Christ even more evident in his life, because such hardship would be difficult to bear by any human standards. His weakness pointed towards God’s incomparable strength. God does not always take away our hardships, but we can have faith that He is with us and will give us the strength we need to face whatever comes.

↓ How does Paul describe his experiences in verses 8-9? Have you—or has someone you know—ever felt this way?

↑ How does your relationship with God give you strength to face your challenges? Do you believe He has the power to do this?

## MEMORIZE

Check in with your friend or family member from Day 1 and continue to challenge each other to commit Isaiah 30:18 to memory.

## PRAY

Pray that God would help you turn to Him when you need strength in the midst of life’s difficulties.