

God can do INCREDIBLE things! And we find many examples of just how incredible God is by reading his Word. God doesn't do incredible things in a vacuum – it always includes his creation – us. So with that in mind, let's look at some remarkable people and see how God worked in their lives and used them to be a witness for God's love and grace that is available for us all.

Monday, July 23 – Read Acts 9:1-19. Our first example this week is Saul/Paul. He was at the stoning of Stephen (the first Christian Martyr) and had made it his mission to eradicate the followers of Jesus. This is one of the greatest examples of God doing something incredible. Our passage today tells the story of how Paul came to believe in Jesus. But it is in reading all of the New Testament that we discover to the extent that God used him. Paul wrote over half of the New Testament and was personally responsible for starting, teaching and encouraging most of the churches in the early days of Christianity. Paul wasn't perfect, he was flawed. Yet God chose him to do something that literally changed history.

Tuesday, July 24 – Read Genesis 12:1-9. God decided to launch his great rescue plan through a man named Abram. He told Abram and his wife Sarah to leave their home, Ur. God made three big promises to Abram – He told Abram that he would be the father of a great nation, that through Abram all the families in the whole world would be blessed, and that God would give Abram and his children their own land, the Promised Land. It was also called Canaan. God also gave Abram a new name – Abraham, which means – “Father of Many.” Even though Abraham and his wife Sarah would face many challenges, they trust God and followed Him. And hundreds of years later, Jesus was born out of Abraham's family. God had an incredible rescue plan and He used Abraham to put it into motion.

Wednesday, July 25 – Read Genesis 41:37-44. How can entire family be saved during one of the worst famines to strike a region? Well it all starts and ends with an incredible God. Because Joseph was in Egypt he was able to prepare for the famine that eventually saved the nation of Israel. No one, not even Joseph, would have thought this story would end like this. A young boy thrown into a pit, sold into slavery, then falsely accused and placed in prison only to be “blessed” in prison and to be used to save the country of Egypt but many others when the famine hit. Joseph realized that throughout his life he was never alone, but always had an incredible presence with him. **Read Genesis 50:20.**

Thursday, July 26 – Read Exodus 3. This chapter introduces us to Moses the leader. Think about Moses' life. He had 80 years of preparation before he spent his last 40 years in ministry. Moses spent the first 40 years thinking he was a "somebody," the next 40 years thinking he was a "nobody" and the last 40 years learning that God can take a "nobody" and make him a "somebody." God did an incredible thing with Moses. He used Moses as an instrument of salvation for an entire nation. Moses had to trust God every step of the way. When he didn't, it cost him. God will and can do incredible things through us, but only as we trust Him.

Friday, July 27 – Read Numbers 11:28; Joshua 1:1-3; Joshua 3:1-5. For many years Joshua was Moses's "sidekick." People didn't know him as just Joshua. He was Joshua, Moses's aide. His identity was wrapped up in the power and position of Moses. Joshua eventually became a great leader, but he spent the majority of his life as Moses' personal attendant. He followed Moses's lead. He lived in Moses's shadow. And he didn't mind at all. Joshua had learned something that is easy for us to forget: leading starts with serving. The best leaders first learn to follow. And what did God do through Joshua? He led the Israelites into the Promised Land. They took possession of the land that God had given them. Only God could orchestrate leading a vast number of people through the wilderness for 40 years. And incredible story about our incredible God!