

STUDY GUIDE

Monday, November 2 Read **2 Corinthians 5:7; Romans 8:31; Psalms 23:4**; **“So he answered, ‘Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them.’ And Elisha prayed, and said, ‘Lord, I pray, open his eyes that he may see.’ Then the Lord opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw. And behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha”** (2 Kings 6:16–17). The prophet Elisha had been warning the king of Israel where the Syrians were hiding, and the king of Syria thought there was a spy in their midst, only to be told a man of God kept warning the Israelites. The Syrian king sent his army to bring Elisha back, and they surrounded the city of Dothan where Elisha was staying. Elisha’s servant went outside and saw they were surrounded, and Elisha told his servant, “Do not fear.” Then he prayed for God to open the spiritual eyes of his servant, and when He did, the servant could see that there were even more angels surrounding them than the Syrians. When we live our lives by what we see and what we hear, chances are we will live in fear because the world is full of negative reports. Just watch the evening news; see how many positive stories they run each night compared to the negative ones. When we walk by faith, however, we do not have to live in fear. 2 Corinthians 5:7 tells us we are to walk confidently, and to do this we must “walk by faith, and not by sight.” Do you feel trapped by your circumstances? Has the enemy surrounded you and your house? “Do not fear, for those who are with (you) are more than those who are with them” (2 Kings 6:16). God’s angels outnumber Satan’s by a 2:1 ratio according to Revelation 12:4. Most importantly, regardless of the ratio, God versus Satan is no contest. There is a best-selling “how to”-book out there that tells you how to walk by faith. It also gives you all kinds of promises that are guaranteed by the author. The best part: the Author put it in writing, and the Guarantor covered it with blood. So next time you feel outnumbered and overwhelmed, pick up the book, and you’ll see the good guys win in the end.

Tuesday, November 3 – **“And God heard the voice of the lad. Then the angel of God called to Hagar out of heaven, and said to her, ‘What ails you, Hagar? Fear not, for God has heard the voice of the lad where he is’”** (Gen. 21:17). Hagar was Sarah’s Egyptian maidservant who bore Abraham’s first child, Ishmael. Sarah got ahead of God and asked Abraham to try to have a child through Hagar since she was barren. Once Hagar conceived, Sarah immediately became jealous and mean-spirited towards her. Then, when Sarah bore Isaac, she told Abraham to send both Hagar and Ishmael away. Reluctantly, Abraham agreed and sent them off on their own in the wilderness with only water and bread. Hagar ran out of water, set Ishmael down under a shrub and fully expected them both to die there. God heard Hagar and Ishmael cry out and sent an angel to tell her to fear not. **“Then God opened her eyes, and she saw a well of water. And she went and filled the skin with water, and gave the lad a drink. So God was with the lad; and he grew and dwelt in the wilderness, and became an archer”** (Gen. 21:19–20). Hagar was an Egyptian, a foreigner, yet God heard her cries just as he heard the cries of His Israelite children. The good news for us Gentiles is that God does not show partiality. Romans 2:11 says, **“For there is no partiality with God.”** Where are you today? Are you dry and thirsty physically? Emotionally? Spiritually? Cry out to the Lord, and He will meet you where you are. Ask Him to open your eyes and show you where the well is so you can drink and nourish your body, soul, mind, and spirit. Sometimes we just need to cry out to the Lord. I can assure you He is fine with this. God heard Hagar and Ishmael’s voices in their despair and immediately met their needs. Peter says in Acts 10:34 (KJV), **“that God is no respecter of persons,”** which means what He did for Hagar He will do for you. “What ails you, [insert your name here]? Fear not!”

Wednesday, November 4 – Read **Psalms 51:12** **“For the seed shall be prosperous, the vine shall give its fruit, the ground shall give her increase, and the heavens shall give their dew—I will cause the remnant of this people to possess all these. And it shall come to pass that just as you were a curse among the nations, O house of Judah and house of Israel, so I will save you, and you shall be a blessing. Do not fear, let your hands be strong”** (Zech. 8:12–13). Israel and Judah had been punished for their sin, being sent into captivity for seventy years in Babylon. The prophet Zechariah was actually born in Babylon, so he had lived through the worst of times in Israel’s history, but now God is promising restoration to the remnant that has returned. Do you feel like you have messed up so badly that there appears to be no way out? God said David was a man after His own heart, yet David committed adultery and murder. So you need to know that no matter how deep a pit you are in, God is ready and willing to lift you out. When you find yourself in a hole, the first thing you need to do is look up. God has given us a fail-proof recipe for restoration. **“If My people, who are called by My name, will humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked**

ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land” (2 Chron. 7:14, NIV). Your part is to humble yourself, pray, and repent; then God will hear, forgive, and heal. David said, **“I would have lost heart, unless I had believed that I would see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living. Wait on the Lord; be of good courage, and He shall strengthen your heart; wait, I say, on the Lord!”** (Ps. 27:13–14). David did not lose heart, and you should not either. Wait on the Lord. The apostle Paul tells us, “neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Rom. 8:39, NIV). Do not fear; there is nothing that can separate [insert your name here] from God’s love. I repeat: nothing can separate you from God’s love!

Thursday, November 5 – “Those who contended with you, those who war against you shall be as nothing, as a nonexistent thing. For I, the Lord your God, will hold your right hand, saying to you, ‘Fear not, I will help you’” (Isa. 41:12–13). Back in the days of the Hatfields and McCoys, when you messed with one member of the family, you basically picked a fight with the whole clan. Right or wrong, your family was behind you. I believe that is God’s message here; anyone who messes with you has Me to contend with. Don’t underestimate the value of the Lord holding your hand either. Sometimes we just need the encouragement of someone standing along beside us to give us the strength to fight the battle. **“Though one may be overpowered by another, two can withstand him. And a threefold cord is not quickly broken”** (Eccles. 4:12). When God is part of your cord, there is certainly no reason to fear. So what are you anxious about today? What is weighing you down? Or maybe something is weighing down your friend, your spouse, or perhaps your child. If you are a believer, then you are part of the body of Christ. You may need to be Jesus to someone today, His arms or His hands. Maybe today you will need to be the one who comes alongside someone and hold their right hand or wrap your arms around them. Remember when you were a child and had a bad dream, and you needed someone to hold your hand or hug you and reassure you that everything would be okay? Maybe they told you, Don’t be afraid, mommy and daddy are here to protect you. Well, your Heavenly Father wants you to know the same thing: “Fear not, I will help you.” If fear is venom, the anti-venom would be Psalm 91. On any day you’re feeling particularly fearful or worrisome, read this entire Psalm. **“He will call upon me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble, I will deliver him and honor him”** (Ps. 91:15, NIV). You can call upon God any time of any day, and you’ll never reach a busy signal. Plus, you have unlimited minutes on His calling plan. **“Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you”** (1 Pet. 5:7, NIV).

Friday, November 6 – “Then the Lord said to Moses, ‘Do not fear him, for I have delivered him into your hand, with all his people and his land; and you shall do to him as you did to Sihon king of the Amorites, who dwelt at Heshbon.’ So they defeated him, his sons, and all his people, until there was no survivor left him; and they took possession of his land” (Num. 21:34–35). In Numbers, chapter one, the Lord tells Moses to take a census of all the men of Israel by tribe who are twenty years and above who were able to go to war. Excluding the Levites, the count was 603,550. This would have only been men and would have excluded the elderly. This was the army Moses had. Were these men trained for battle? All of them grew up in captivity in Egypt, so probably not. Did they have any weapons? God took care of the Egyptian army for them, but all their weapons ended up at the bottom of the Red Sea. Quite possibly, the Israelites had accumulated some weapons from their prior victories, but they were neither well-trained nor equipped for battle. Their success was totally dependent upon the Lord to show up and defend them. Here in the United States, we celebrate the Fourth of July as our nation’s independence from Great Britain. Celebrations are good and fun, and we need them to remember, but I believe that we should celebrate our dependence even more than we celebrate our independence. Our nation, in its infancy, was certainly dependent upon the Lord; but as our nation has matured we’ve lost our spiritual direction. We need to return to 2 Chronicles 7:14 (NIV): **“If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.”** The horse is made ready for the day of battle, but victory rests with the Lord” (Prov. 21:31, NIV). Victory in our personal lives as well as our country’s future battles will be determined by our dependence upon God. It’s not too late; we can right this ship, but only if we return to the Lord and become God-fearing people.