

New Song Learning Communities, July 23-26, 2026

WHY LEARNING COMMUNITIES? *Circle Two Opportunity...*

To become better and better disciples of Christ TOGETHER so we can face **anything** through...

1. Deeper learning of Biblical truth and 2. Stronger “iron sharpening iron” relationships

Ephesians 4:12–16 (ESV)

4 Weeks of Bible Recap, June 25-July 23, Days 176-204, pages 931-1123, circa 913-735 B.C.

HISTORY COVERED – Israel, (northern kingdom/Samaria), most of it’s existence, 930-722 B.C.

Judah, (southern kingdom), 6 of 8 of the good kings during this period

BIBLE RECAP COVERED – 1 Kings 15-22, 2 Kings 1-18, 2 Chronicles 13-31, Obadiah, Jonah, Isaiah 1-30, Amos, Micah, selected Psalms

Prophet study resources for readings through Sept. 30

➔ Be sure to watch the Bible Project intro video for each book by the prophets – *“context is everything”*

† Definition of “Prophet” – a person chosen by God to speak for Him

† Dual purpose: **forth-tell** and **foretell**, speak truth into the present and announce future events, especially pointing to Messiah

† Difficult job – represent God, rebuking rebellious people

† Consistent, Unchanging message: Love (obey) God, Love people in response to the love and work of God for them

Gems from fasting week... Do you have any to share?

ASSIGNMENT: each person bring 1 or 2 scriptures to share that caught your attention, inspired, convicted, stirred questions, made you think, etc.

June 28 –Life’s battles are not ours, God’s ways are outside of the box and don’t make sense, We must trust and obey God especially in those times and even though it causes angst and aloneness (Elijah)

“whenever tradition trumps Truth you are a Pharisee” – Brad Stine

Elijah – battle on Mt Carmel, bad king Ahab and bad queen Jezebel, **1 Kings 16:29–33**

Jehoshaphat – facing destruction, God worked OOTB/DMS as he trusted and obeyed, **2 Chronicles 20**

“We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you.” 2 Chronicles 20:12

July 5 - learn to SEE and LIVE for the Unseen

Elisha and his servant – surrounded by armies, God’s chariots and horses all around them, **2 Kings 6:8–17**

Jonah – a picture and a mirror.

↑ A picture of God – BIG, HR, All-Powerful and All-Loving; Full of mercy and full of grace for all people

↓ A mirror of ourselves – ugly, hateful, vindictive, angry, bitter & desperate need of God’s transformation

➔ God’s character; Jonah’s character, chapter 1, (pew Bible page 774 / Bible recap page 188)

➔ Jonah swings from anger to praise, chapter 2

➔ Jonah obeys begrudgingly, chapter 3

➔ Jonah rails at God; God reveals His character even more, chapter 4

July 12 - Greater alignment with God through the prophets

➔ Watch Bible Project intro videos, Bible Recap app Devotional the 1st day of each prophet book.

➔ Use the resource pages for context – timeline and themes

➔ Keep in mind the CORE of “His-Story”: Love God, Love people

Love God = loyal and obedient. Love people = add value as Bible says, emphasis on who needs most

Micah 6:8 He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to **do justice**, and to **love kindness**, and to **walk humbly with your God**?

James 1:27 (ESV) Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to **visit orphans and widows in their affliction**, and to **keep oneself unstained from the world**.

July 19 – **Isaiah 6**, Coming face to face with God; increased partnership with God

Sometimes God’s gifts don’t feel like gifts, but we can trust God’s character and promises

PROBLEM: when USD we want the gifts more than the giver, the creation more than the Creator

1. God shows up; we “See”/ Experience Him. Isaiah 6:1-7 (ESV) (pew Bible page 566/ Bible recap page 1015)

An experience that causes us to understand God more fully; “see God”, get a glimpse of Who He

- Sovereignty – God is in charge of all; initiates the encounter, vs 1-4
Overwhelmed by God’s holiness, bigness, earthquake and smoke (reps God’s anger)
- Mercy – doesn’t give us the punishment we deserve, v. 5
- Grace – gives us the good we do not deserve, vs. 6-7
Such experiences are rare in American Christianity, thus the superficiality

2. God invites us to partner with Him; we unconditionally commit.

- God’s invitation is to deeper relationship and partnership, **Isaiah 6:8**
- We must choose – it is life changing either way
Pastor Herb: *If we refuse or hesitate, I question whether we have actually “seen” God. That doesn’t mean we won’t wrestle with it. The key is to STAY WITH IT!*

3. God supplies; we Surrender, Listen, Obey. Isaiah 6:9-13

- God provides direction and all resources, vs. 9-10
Isaiah’s assignment *appeared* to be a meaningless, futile assignment. Rather than repenting, God tells him that people will harden their hearts even more and get angry with Isaiah.
- We do the hard work of obeying as soldiers at war, vs. 11-13
Christ-followers join Jesus to allow Him to turn us RSU and then help others do the same
God’s assignments are hard because they are about representing God in an USD world... doing the opposite of the norm... challenging the status quo – look at the Sermon on the Mount

NOTE: *it is hard not to question God’s plan when it is hard* and people are... people... BUT it helps to remember how God pursued us and endured our rejection, objections, procrastination and OUR rebellion.

4. God provides resources for Kingdom purposes.

Because we are born USD, God’s gifts often don’t feel like gifts because God’s thoughts and ways are to accomplish RSU perspective and purposes

- to accomplish His work in big and small ways
- to enjoy life as we obey

1 Timothy 6:17 (ESV) ¹⁷As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy.

John 10:10 (ESV) ¹⁰The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

- CAUTION: When resources become our focus they are an idol and do not satisfy.
When God is our focus He delights to provide

Philippians 4:12–14 (ESV) ¹²I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. ¹³I can do all things through him who strengthens me. ¹⁴Yet it was kind of you to share my trouble.

Chronological Guide: pages p 79, 81, 84-85

Takeaways:

