



Read It for Yourself

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

We interpret biblical stories by discovering why they were written the way they were. Are we to learn a theological truth about God, ourselves, or our world? Does the story portray behavior we are to imitate or to avoid? Are we carefully note what an author included in terms of description, dialogue, and editorial explanation, we can discover why a story was written and how we should apply it to our lives.

DESCRIPTION

- How does the author portray David's situation? David's reaction to his situation?
- What are we to learn from Saul's negative behavior? David's positive behavior?

DIALOGUE

- How are Abishai's (verse 8) and David's (verse 23) reactions similar? Different?
- What ethical principle does the author teach by contrasting David with Abishai?

EXPLANATION

- What does the report of verse 12 add to our understanding of what happened?
- What does this explanation teach about God's activity? About our awareness of it?

Apply-It-To-Life *This Week!*

Compelling Stories

God is active in our world in various ways.

1 Samuel 26:1-25 and

2 Chronicles 20:1-30

Reflecting on God's Word

Each day this week, read one of the following Scriptures and examine what it teaches about different ways God is active in our world. Then consider how you can recognize and respond to God's activity in your life. List your discoveries in the space under each passage.

Day 1: Ruth 1:1-22. Ruth and Naomi return to Judah.

Day 2: Ruth 2:1-23. Ruth gleanes in the field of Boaz.

Day 3: Ruth 3:1-18. Boaz promises to marry Ruth.

Day 4: Ruth 4:1-22. Ruth and Boaz wed and have a son.

Day 5: 2 Daniel 1:1-21. Daniel refuses the king's food.

Day 6: Daniel 6:1-28. God saves Daniel from the lions.

Beyond Reflection

Create a journal in which you record God's active presence in your life. At the end of each day, list one way God was visibly active in your work, home, or relationships with others and one way God may have been secretly active in the same areas. Then think about how you responded to God's activity and how you might have acted even better. Finally, thank God for his active presence in your life, and ask God to help you respond to his activity in appropriate ways.

Coming Next Study : Honest Prayers
(Psalms 13:1-6; 16:1-11; 63:1-11; and 103:1-22)