

Study Guide



COVER: The three archangels with Tobias, by Francesco Botticini. Art Archive, The / Art Archive, The



LifeLight

LifeLight Expands

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The Bible: An Overview
Genesis, Pt. 1
Genesis, Pt. 2
Exodus, Pt. 1
Exodus, Pt. 2
Wilderness Wanderings
Joshua
Judges
Ruth/Esther
1 & 2 Samuel
Life of David
1 & 2 Kings
1 & 2 Chronicles

Ezra/Nehemiah
Job
Selected Psalms
Proverbs
Ecclesiastes/
Song of Solomon
Isaiah, Pt. 1
Isaiah, Pt. 2
Jeremiah/Lamentations
Ezekiel
Daniel
Hosea/Joel/Amos
Obadiah/Jonah/Micah
Minor Prophets

Nahum/Habakkuk/
Zephaniah
Haggai/Zechariah/
Malachi
Matthew, Pt. 1
Matthew, Pt. 2
Mark
Luke, Pt. 1
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Acts, Pt. 1
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Romans, Pt. 1
Romans, Pt. 2
1 Corinthians
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Galatians/Philippians/
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Ephesians/
1 & 2 Thessalonians
Timothy/Titus/Philemon
Hebrews
James/Jude
1 & 2 Peter
1, 2, 3 John
Revelation

LifeLight Foundations

Baptism
Bible Feasts
Creation, New Creation
The Christian's Mission

End Times
Heaven & Hell
Law & Gospel
Ministry

Miracles
Parables
Prayer
Prophecy

Time between the
Testaments
Triune God
Worship

Righteousness and Shame

Baruch; Letter of Jeremiah; Susanna

*Distribute before session 1 for use in session 1.
Use enrichment magazine pp. 2–7.*

Resources for Worship

Use these resources for your daily study at home and at the week's assembly.

Hymn

Entrust your days and burdens
To God's most loving hand;
He cares for you while ruling
The sky, the sea, the land.
For He who guides the tempests
Along their thund'rous ways
Will find for you a pathway
And guide you all your days.

Rely on God your Savior
And find your life secure.
Make His work your foundation
That your work may endure.
No anxious thought, no worry,
No self-tormenting care
Can win your Father's favor;
His heart is moved by prayer.

Take heart, have hope, my spirit,
And do not be dismayed;
God helps in ev'ry trial
And makes you unafraid.
Await His time with patience
Through darkest hours of night
Until the sun you hoped for
Delights your eager sight.

Leave all to His direction;
His wisdom rules for you
In ways to rouse your wonder
At all His love can do.
Soon He, His promise keeping,
With wonder-working pow'rs
Will banish from your spirit
What gave you troubled hours.

LSB 754:1–4

Prayer

Father, forgive us for our sins, washing us thoroughly in the blood of Your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. Lead us today and always by Your Holy Spirit to live wisely, according to Your Word. Keep us faithful in

all trial and temptation, wiping away the deception of the world and the darkness of sin. Lift up our eyes from the present troubles to the day when You call us home, filling us with the sure and certain hope of our resurrection to eternal life through our Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Digging Deep

My Personal Study for Week 1

Day 1 • Read Baruch 1:1–2:26

Since the Old Testament ends with the writings of prophets, it is fitting to begin with a book written in the style of the prophets and attributed to that time. The book could be among the earliest ones written during the Time between the Testaments. It continues the Old Testament themes of exile and repentance.

1. According to Jeremiah 36:4 and Baruch 1:1–2, who was Baruch?

The writer of the Book of Baruch is not the same person identified above but someone writing in his name and in a similar style.

2. Based on the assigned reading, what is the writer of Baruch trying to accomplish by writing his book?

3. We do not know precisely when the Book of Baruch was written. Its message fits broadly into the troubles the Israelites experienced following the Babylonian exile. According to Baruch 2:11–26, what needs did Baruch's readers have?

4. What can Baruch's prayer in 2:11–26 teach you about praying for your own circumstances?

8. What Old Testament examples inspired the author of Baruch as he wrote 3:9–4:4?

5. *For personal reflection. Sharing optional.* List things for which you would ask God's forgiveness. Then write a prayer seeking His mercy and favor.

9. a. What was the author of Baruch seeking?

b. How did he describe what he sought?

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Day 2 • Read Baruch 2:27–4:4

6. Baruch 2:27–35 quotes God's promises to Moses. What message from the Sacred Scriptures did the writer cling to in his time of need? (Cf. Jeremiah 31:31–34 for help.)

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Day 3 • Read Baruch 4:5–5:9

10. What titles for God's people did the author of Baruch use in today's reading?

7. What noticeable change do you see in the Book of Baruch at 3:9?

11. What can these titles teach us about his readers?

Gloriously Reveal the Works of God

Tobit; Ecclesiasticus 1:1–6:17

*Distribute before session 2 for use in session 2.
Use enrichment magazine pp. 8–10.*

Resources for Worship

Use these resources for your daily study at home and at the week’s assembly.

Hymn

Your hand, O Lord, in days of old
Was strong to heal and save;
It triumphed over ills and death,
O’er darkness and the grave.
To You they came, the blind, the mute,
The palsied and the lame,
The lepers in their misery,
The sick with fevered frame.

O be our great deliv’er still,
The Lord of life and death;
Restore and quicken, soothe and bless,
With Your life-giving breath.
To hands that work and eyes that see
Give wisdom’s healing pow’r
That whole and sick and weak and strong
May praise You evermore.

LSB 846:1, 3

Prayer

Father, grant us wisdom to know and do Your will. Help us to do this out of gratitude and love for You, not for selfish gain. By the gift of Your Spirit, enable us to deny ourselves daily and follow Your Son, our Savior and Lord, so that Your love for others shines brightly through us. Rescue us from every trial, strengthen us against every temptation, and deliver us from all evil. In Jesus’ holy name. Amen.

Digging Deep

My Personal Study for Week 2

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Day 1 • Read Tobit 1–3

The Book of Tobit uniquely describes experiences of people exiled from the Northern Kingdom of Israel who wished to remain faithful to the Lord and His Word. However, the book also shows the effect of pagan beliefs and practices upon the Israelites living in exile during the Time between the Testaments.

1. Tobit is rich with drama and humor (be prepared to laugh out loud!). Although the story is fictional, the author places it in a historical setting, like works of historical fiction today. According to Tobit 1:1–4, 10–15, what setting does the author provide for his story?

Time

Place

Events

2. Read 2 Chronicles 30:1–12 and compare it with Tobit 1:3–9. What memory of the relationship between Judah (Southern Kingdom) and Israel (Northern Kingdom) does the writer of Tobit preserve?

3. According to Tobit 1:16–2:6; 3:1–3, how does Tobit describe his life and his motives/faith?

Life

Motives/Faith

4. Tobit's wife asks a key question for the book, one that was likely on the minds of Israelites in the years following the exile. How does her question (2:14) reveal the Israelites' concerns?

b. How does it conflict with the biblical teaching described in Hebrews?

8. Tobit 5 introduces a new character.

a. Who is it?

b. What does he do?

5. In chapter 3, the writer introduces a new element for his story; he connects the accounts of Tobit and Sarah by their prayers that their lives may end. However, read Philippians 1:18c–26. How does the apostle Paul offer a similar yet very different thought about death?

c. How does he fulfill the faith and prayers of Tobit?

..... **Day 2 • Read Tobit 4–8**

6. Question 4 above points to a key question or concern of the Israelites in exile. How does Tobit's counsel to his son, Tobias, reveal Tobit's faith with respect to that question or concern? For help, read Tobit 4:5–11, 21.

9. Summarize the remarkable plan that is proposed in Tobit 6:10–18.

10. **Challenge question.** Tobit 6–8 contains details of a Jewish custom and rite as practiced in the Time between the Testaments. Write an outline of the events for this custom and rite.

7. Read Hebrews 10:32–39, which describes Christians also facing challenges.

a. By comparison, how does Tobit's faith speak the truth about the Lord?