

# YEAR OF GROWTH

## VIRTUE WEEK 2

### EXAMPLES

#### Old Testament:

There are numerous examples from the Old Testament of those who demonstrated virtue in their lives. We will focus on several that will help us to understand the nature and actions of virtue.

#### Day One – Sunday

Reflect on the definitions of the words that God used to describe virtue. Think back over the previous lessons. Read again the passages that you have written. Recall the verses you have memorized. Focus on the meaning of virtue and prepare to explore Bible examples of virtue.

#### Day Two – Monday

##### The Book of Ruth

Read the four chapters of the book of Ruth. Pay close attention to the following passages: 1:14-18; 2:2; 2:10-12; 2:17-18; 2:23; 3:5-6; 3:10-11; and 4:13-15. What do these verses reveal about the character of Ruth. How do they help us to understand virtue – the strength of one's convictions in doing that which is right?

#### Day Three – Tuesday

##### Genesis 39:1-23; 45:1-5

The life of Joseph was one of virtue – evidenced by these two events. How does Joseph's rejection of Potiphar's wife demonstrate virtue? This story also reveals another aspect of true virtue. Joseph remained faithful to the Lord even while in prison, suffering for doing right and acting virtuously. How does Joseph's willingness to forgive and then to provide for his brothers exemplify virtue? What other events in his life show that Joseph was a man of virtue?

#### Day Four – Wednesday

##### Proverbs 31:10-31

The person described in this passage is usually referred to as "the virtuous woman." What attitudes and actions described in this passage demonstrate virtue? She shows that living virtuously requires work, devotion, and sacrifice.

Day Five – Thursday**The Book of Jonah**

This is another short, four-chapter book that can be read easily. Yet, it teaches about virtue by demonstrating its opposite. Pay close attention to the following passages: 1:1-3; 1:9-10; 2:9; 3:1-3; and 4:1-4. Jonah knew and understood the will of God. However, he chose to disobey. Even after his repentance and obedience Jonah still did not have the attitude God desired. Virtue will cause one to do what is right even if it is not pleasant. Furthermore, it will cause one to change his heart to think, see, and love in the same way that God does.

Day Six – Friday**Daniel 6**

Throughout his life, Daniel proved himself to be a man of virtue. He obeyed the Lord and did what was right no matter the cost or threat to himself. A great example of this is Daniel's determination to continue his prayers to God even though they had been outlawed by King Darius. As a result of his defiance of the laws of the land, Daniel was thrown into a den of lions. Yet, God protected him and brought him out safely. Virtue brings the blessings of God.

Day Seven – Saturday**Malachi 1**

Often, the prophets of God wrote of His Word as a burden. This carries with it the idea that the message would not be popular, but unwanted and rejected by many of the hearers. Yet, the true prophets demonstrated virtue and spoke exactly as God had commanded. Malachi is a great example of this. In chapter 1, the struggle between God and His people can be seen clearly. As they argued with God, so would they argue with Malachi. Still, he told them the truth and was ready to bear whatever burden was necessary. This is what it means to be virtuous.

*{If time permits, it would be good to read the entire book of Malachi.}*