



# “The Royal: Making Sense of the Bible”

“But you are a chosen generation, a **royal** priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.” 1 Pet. 2:9 (NKJV)

**Week 1**

The Royal is a story about a boy born into a royal family but was orphaned soon after birth. A sage commits his life to mentor the young Royal, in order to prepare him to take his rightful place as a ruler of his father’s kingdom. The sage will train the Royal in the principles found in 7 books left by his deceased father. Each book provides specialized instructions and preparations for the Royal.

The series is called “The Royal” simply because **YOU** are The Royal. Based on the lessons taught by the sage, we will learn the basic rules of studying and interpreting the 7 biblical genres of the Holy Scriptures.

Why would we want to study literary styles of the Scriptures? Simply stated, it allows us to experience a Holy and Awesome God in many ways that we would normally not be able to understand without guidance. Every one of the 66 books in the Bible fall underneath a category of biblical genre. Each genre is designed to prepare us in its own unique way about the nature, provision, and attributes of God. It also allows us to navigate through writings that were produced in some cases up to almost 6,000 years ago. As the ages have progressed, so have many different literary styles, which can sometimes get lost in our understanding of our own modern day literary styles. This is precisely why the Royal needs a wise sage to help him navigate these ancient Scriptures properly, so that he will have the complete understanding of the principles so that he can rightfully possess his father’s kingdom.

In small groups every week throughout “The Royal” series, we will examine every one of the biblical genres, plus there will be daily devotional studies, in-depth study tools introduced to you to help further your studies, and so much more. The goal is to be able to train and encourage everybody in the church to feel confident in the study and understanding of the Holy Word of God.

Ok Royal, let us begin our navigation with the sage and discover the deep meanings of these 7 books...

**Part 1 (30 min):**

- Open in Prayer
- Optional Worship
- Weekly Recap of Sunday Sermon:

(This portion will be providing a recap with bullet points of the Sunday sermon every week.)

**Small Group Discussion:**

1. Because this week is just an overview of all the (7) different genres Miles will be covering, spend some time discussing all of them (**See #2**).
2. As an option **ONLY**, see these select books with selected chapters, corresponding to each genre and discuss to the group how they tie together:
  - ▶ Warriors (OT Narrative): 1 Samuel 17
  - ▶ Character (OT Law): Exodus 20
  - ▶ Soul Food (Poetic Literature): Psalm 23
  - ▶ Law Enforcement (Prophetic Literature): Amos 7
  - ▶ Twist and Turn (Kingdom of God/Parables): John 10
  - ▶ Letters (Epistles): 2 Timothy 3
  - ▶ Vision (Apocalyptic): Revelation 21

**Part 2 (30 min):** This is further study in coordination with the weekly devotional guide. We will read and respond to the Monday devotional as a group, it will consist of the following (Week 1 Exercise):

- **Read** Genesis 39, we will provide you with background content, also known as pre-observation. This is providing proper context of what it meant to the reader of that time period. We will also give you a great free online resource to navigate through for personal study.
- **Reflect** on the text and original intent, then discuss what this means to you for today.

**Genesis 39 Reading (Pre-observation):**

Joseph is the 11th son of Jacob (Gen. 30:24). Joseph was sold into slavery and later rose to an important position in the Egyptian government. He was the first child of Rachel (Gen. 30:24) and his father's favorite son (Gen. 37:31). This favoritism eventually brought serious trouble for the whole family. Joseph's ten older brothers hated him because he was Jacob's favorite and because Joseph had dreams that he interpreted to his brothers that he would one day rule over them (Gen. 37:5-8). It is no surprise that Joseph's brothers hated him enough to kill him (Gen. 37:4). Joseph's brother's attempted to murder him then cover it up, but then decided to sell him into slavery instead and then told their father he was eaten by a wild animal (Gen. 37:29-33). Joseph was taken to Egypt, where he was sold to Potiphar, an officer of the ruling Pharaoh of the nation. His good conduct soon earned him the highest position in the household.

Check out this great free online Bible study resource: [www.biblegateway.com](http://www.biblegateway.com)

**Genesis 39 Reflection (Meaning for today):**

The story of Joseph's rise as the prized child of Jacob to his fall into the false accusation of immorality of Potiphar's wife sounds almost like a reality T.V. show. But the relevance of how some of us feel in our daily lives in relation to this story is quite applicable to our culture today. Spend a few minutes reflecting and tying this story to your life, or the lives of others. And discuss amongst yourselves the following:

- ▶ Who is someone in your life that has been a person of integrity? Explain why!
- ▶ What are some areas of growth needed in your life to be a person of integrity?

**Part 3 (15 min):** This is where the group will respond to the reading and reflection in session two. Based on the listed text we will examine some questions we need to ask ourselves in relation to what the text is actually saying. This is where proper application comes in. Understand that application will look different for people depending on their situation. Some things are obvious to apply, others are not.

**Genesis 39 Response (Biblical application):**

- ▶ Have you ever been in situations like Joseph where your integrity was challenged? Why?
- ▶ What is the most effective way to defend our integrity? Explain!

**Part 4 (5 min):** The homework section will simply be to provide a guide into a discipline of reading and studying the Word at the individual's own level. It is not required to do all of it, it is all completely optional. However, doing all the homework will challenge the individual in great depth to discover the depths of His character. The following will be available for every week:

- ▶ **Scripture Reading Guide:** Go through the devotions that correspond with each day (ex. Tuesday, May 4<sup>th</sup> is 1 Samuel 1). These are given to everyone in their lesson plan every week.
- ▶ **Scripture Memory:** Will be to highlight an attribute (nature, promise, or character) of God. It may not necessarily be related to any of the devotions or topics used during the sermon. Week 1 memory verse is **Colossians 1:16**.
- ▶ **Bible Study Tool:** Navigate through [www.biblegateway.com](http://www.biblegateway.com) and discover the great resources available for free for your personal gain.
- ▶ **Spiritual Formational Practice:** Each week we will introduce a "spiritual discipline" that each person can try to adapt to their personal devotion. This week's is the **Discipline of Study**.

The Discipline of Study stresses the importance of knowing and understanding the Word of God. Study can be manifested through other great disciplines, but only by "Study" of His Word do we fully come to a finite understanding of the character of God. It is not only the study of Scripture, but also the study of nature. Romans 1:19-20 tells us that He reveals Himself by His invisible attribute. We study nature, creation, etc. and see the greatness of our God. We can also study Him by using extra-biblical commentaries and topical books that give us insight into certain topics of Scripture.

Your practice of study will simply be to get acquainted with Scripture. Reading the devotionals and getting familiar with certain verses is a great place to start. Also try to take time and study nature by observing things that you usually overlook such as the ocean, animals, the stars, etc. You will see God moving in ways that you may have overlooked before. Then pray and thank God for His glory and holiness and understand that in the midst of it all He loves **YOU ROYAL** so very much.