



Note: For those using the included PowerPoint presentation files, the manuscript progression to each slide is denoted with [Slide #].

Leader tip: “The Never Ending Story” resource on DYM is a fun icebreaker and ties to the theme of the lesson:

<https://www.downloadyouthministry.com/p/the-never-ending-story/games/pop-culture-6466.html>

[Slide 1] How many of you know the theme song from the movie, [Slide 2, [NeverEnding Story poster](#)] The NeverEnding Story? How many of you had heard of, or had seen, that movie BEFORE Stranger Things had Dusty Bun and Suzie Poo deliver one of the most glorious duets ever performed?

Here’s the deal, The NeverEnding Story came out in 1984, one of the greatest years for movies ever: Ghostbusters, Indiana Jones and Temple of Doom, the Karate Kid, Star Trek III: The Search for Spock, Gremlins, The Terminator, The Last Starfighter, Sixteen Candles, The Adventures of Buckaroo Banzai Across the 8th Dimension, A Christmas Story – people didn’t know how good they had it.

[Slide 3] Over the next three weeks, we’re going to take a look at 1-2 Chronicles, which is a book that a lot of people forget about. It recaps a lot of what has already been written in the Bible up to that point; half of it retells stories and events that have already been told.¹ It was originally one book that was written around 2400-2500 years ago, probably by a temple scribe.² Here’s how dismissive people can be of Chronicles; when it was translated from the ancient Hebrew into Greek 2100 years ago, they renamed it “Left Overs.”³ Which seems a bit rude, right?

Here’s the thing: I think Chronicles is fascinating. It was written centuries, or even as much as a thousand years, after the Old Testament books that

¹ La Sor William Sanford, David Allan Hubbard, and Frederic William Bush, *Old Testament Survey: The Message, Form, and Background of The Old Testament* (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1982), 542.

² Carol A. Newsom, Sharon H. Ringe, and Jacqueline E. Lapsley, *Women’s Bible Commentary* (Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2012), 185.

³ Steven Shawn Tuell, *First and Second Chronicles: Interpretation: A Bible Commentary for Teaching and Preaching* (Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2012) 1.

precede it. We don't know who wrote it, but every commentator to the author as "The Chronicler." Which just sounds awesome to me.

The author wrote with perspective, and weighed in on the highlights of Israel's history, and unlike books like 1-2 Kings, The Chronicler did not focus on failure – but focused on the hope in God's plan.⁴

I see a lot of connections between it and The NeverEnding Story. There's a moment towards the beginning that describes Chronicles perfectly. Bastian is hiding from some bullies and runs into an old bookstore to hide where he began talking to Coreander, the store owner:

[Slide 4] "This Book is not for you" (3:44) <https://youtu.be/1-EwAIRhVgg>

[Leader tip: an option instead of showing the clip is reading from the script of it below. The key here is that he says this book is not safe like other books.]

Bastian: What's that book about?

Coreander: Oh, this is something special.

Bastian: Well, what is it?

Coreander: Look, your books are safe. By reading them you get to become Tarzan or Robinson Crusoe.

Bastian: But that's what I like about them.

Coreander: Ah, but afterwards you get to be a little boy again.

Bastian: What... what do you mean?

Coreander: Listen ... have you ever been Captain Nemo, trapped inside your submarine while the giant squid is attacking you?

Bastian: Yes.

Coreander: Weren't you afraid you couldn't escape?

Bastian: But it's only a story.

Coreander: That's what I'm talking about. The ones you read are safe.

Bastians: And that one isn't?

Coreander: Don't worry about it.

Bastian: But... but you just said it was...

Coreander: Forget about it.⁵

⁴ John H. Walton, Mark L. Strauss, and Ted Cooper, *The Essential Bible Companion* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2006), Kindle location 967.

⁵ <https://imsdb.com/scripts/Neverending-Story,-The.html>

[Slide 5] **This book is not safe.** I love that. The Bible is NOT safe. **It calls us to action; it demands a response, and it impacts our lives dramatically.** Chronicles is not “Left Overs” that we can throw out or ignore. The Chronicler wanted the people to know that even though they’ had been defeated, there was no longer a king, they had done awful things as a nation and suffered severe consequences, there was hope for the future! There was hope for restoration with God. Let’s dive into one of the key passages in the Chronicler’s book:

[Slide 6] *1 Chronicles 17:1-6 (NLT) ¹ When David was settled in his palace, he summoned Nathan the prophet. “Look,” David said, “I am living in a beautiful cedar palace, but the Ark of the Lord’s Covenant is out there under a tent!” ² Nathan replied to David, “Do whatever you have in mind, for God is with you.”*

The Chronicler began the book with Adam and Eve and flew through ancient Jewish history until the stories of King David and King Solomon; the two of them fill most of Chronicles pages. In the passage we just read, this was a particular moment that was well into David’s reign. David had fought the wars. He had built up the nation. He had spent years overseeing the construction of a massive palace. But then he had this realization; he had made sure he had all the status symbols a king would expect to have, but he had done nothing for God. During that time, it was expected that a king victorious in war would build a temple for the god who gave them victory, which is why the prophet Nathan responded the way he did – “of course you should!”⁶

[Slide 7] *³ But that same night God said to Nathan, ⁴ “Go and tell my servant David, ‘This is what the Lord has declared: You are not the one to build a house for me to live in. ⁵ I have never lived in a house, from the day I brought the Israelites out of Egypt until this very day. My home has always been a tent, moving from one place to another in a Tabernacle.*

[Slide 8] *⁶ Yet no matter where I have gone with the Israelites, I have never once complained to Israel’s leaders, the shepherds of my people. I have never asked them, “Why haven’t you built me a beautiful cedar house?”*

⁶ Peter J. Leithart, *1 & 2 Chronicles (Brazos Theological Commentary on the Bible)* (Grand Rapids, MI: Brazos Press, 2019), Kindle location 1523.



- If you became king, what would you do first? Why?
- What do you think it was like for Josiah taking a stand for God in a nation that wanted to follow false gods? How was he able to continue year after year?
- How was Josiah able to pursue God before they found the Scriptures in the temple? What does that tell you about Josiah?
- Why was finding the Scriptures such a big deal? How did it help Josiah and the people? How has the Bible helped you?
- Read 1 Timothy 4:12. Has there ever been a time when you felt like you were too young to do something? Why or why not?
- Is there a young person that has done great things for God that you know or that comes to mind?
- Why is the lie “I can’t make a difference” so easy to fall for? Why do we believe it?
- In what ways have you been able to make a difference, big or small?
- Read Psalm 86:5. Do you believe it’s never too late to turn back to God? Why or why not?
- What should someone do if they think it’s too late? What would you say to them?



2 Chronicles 7:14-16 (NLT)

¹⁴ “Then if my people who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sins and restore their land. ¹⁵ My eyes will be open and my ears attentive to every prayer made in this place. ¹⁶ For I have chosen this Temple and set it apart to be holy—a place where my name will be honored forever. I will always watch over it, for it is dear to my heart.

1 Corinthians 3:16 (NIV)

Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in your midst?

1 John 1:9 (NLT)

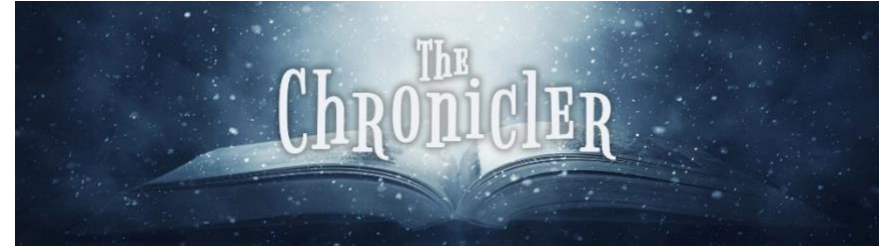
If we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness.

STEP ONE: HUMBLE YOURSELF

STEP TWO: PRAY

STEP THREE: SEEK GOD'S FACE

STEP FOUR: TURN TO GOD'S WAYS



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