

THE NEXT GENERATION: STRENGTH, VISION & LEGACY

6-13 JULY 2025



BIBLE STUDY

DISCUSSION GUIDE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

 40-45 minutes

INTRODUCTION

This year's NAIDOC theme, 'Strength, Vision and Legacy', reminds us to ensure our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander legacy is passed on. We honour our Ancestors and Elders who have carried the vision, and our young people who take it forward, from strength to strength. Our vision of living in relationship with our country and our God continues on, with the understanding and strength of our young people. For our children and our children's children.

SCRIPTURE

⁵¹ Remember that they are your special people who belong to you. You brought them out of Egypt where they were like prisoners in a very hot oven.

⁵² I pray that you will carefully watch over me, your servant. Please answer my prayers and the prayers of your people, the Israelites. Whenever we pray to you, please listen to us. ⁵³ From all the nations of the world you chose Israel to belong to you as your special people. Almighty Lord, this is what you promised to your servant Moses when you brought our ancestors out of Egypt.'

⁵⁴ So Solomon finished all his prayers and everything that he wanted to ask the Lord for. He had been down on his knees with his hands lifted up towards the sky in front of the Lord's altar. Now he stood up. ⁵⁵ When he stood up, he asked God to bless all the people in Israel. He said with a loud voice, ⁵⁶ 'Praise the Lord as he deserves! He has given his people, the Israelites, a safe place to live, as he has promised to do. Every great promise that the Lord gave to his servant Moses has now happened! ⁵⁷ I pray that the Lord our God will be with us, as he was with our ancestors. I pray that he will never leave us or turn away from us. (1 Kings 8:51-57, EASY).

"Be strong and brave, and don't tremble in fear of them, because the Eternal your God is going with you. He'll never fail you or abandon you!" (Deuteronomy 31:6, The Voice).



DISCUSSION

The story of the Israelites began with one man called Abraham. He made a covenant with God that promised his descendants would inherit the land of Canaan, the Promised Land.

Abraham's grandson was Jacob (Israel). Jacob had 12 sons who became the ancestors of the 12 tribes of Israel. One of these sons was Joseph, who was sold into slavery by the other brothers and ended up in Egypt. Joseph eventually rose to a high position in Egypt and was able to forgive his brothers and move them all to Egypt during a famine so they could survive.

Over time the Israelites became enslaved in Egypt, yet their numbers still grew. Moses, who was an Israelite and grew up in the Pharaoh's house, led his people out of slavery in Egypt and moved them towards the Promised Land of Canaan.

After the exodus from Egypt, Moses was given the Ten Commandments on Mount Sinai, which were to help lead God's chosen people. The Israelites were disobedient and lacked faith in God, so they wandered the wilderness for 40 years. Joshua was chosen by Moses, before his death at 120 years of age, to lead the people out of the wilderness and into the Promised Land.

There were many years from entering the Promised Land to when Solomon became King of Israel in 1 Kings where God's chosen people chose to worship other gods. Yet God provides for his people time and time again and appoints leaders to help guide the Israelites. In 1 Kings 8 we read King Solomon praying to God that he would provide for his people once again.

Facilitate a discussion with the people in your group using these questions:

- How would you summarise the story of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples over the past few hundred years?
- Where do you see elements of strength in the story of the Israelites?
- Where do you see elements of strength in the story of Indigenous Australians?
- What vision did Solomon have for the Israelites?
- What vision do you see for Indigenous Australians?

How would you summarise your own story?

- What elements of strength do you see in your own story?
- What vision do you think God has for your future?
- What legacy would you like to leave for the next generation?



PRAYER ACTIVITY AT HOME

Read Isaiah 43:15–21:

- ¹⁵ I am the Lord, your Holy One,
Israel's Creator, your King.”
- ¹⁶ This is what the Lord says—
he who made a way through the sea,
a path through the mighty waters,
- ¹⁷ who drew out the chariots and horses,
the army and reinforcements together,
and they lay there, never to rise again,
extinguished, snuffed out like a wick:
- ¹⁸ “Forget the former things;
do not dwell on the past.
- ¹⁹ See, I am doing a new thing!
Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?
I am making a way in the wilderness
and streams in the wasteland.
- ²⁰ The wild animals honor me,
the jackals and the owls,
because I provide water in the wilderness
and streams in the wasteland,
to give drink to my people, my chosen,
- ²¹ the people I formed for myself
that they may proclaim my praise.

Use the **P.R.A.Y** acronym below
to pray for Australia and the new
thing God is doing. Pray for the
strength we have, a vision for our
future and for the legacy that we
leave the next generations.

P is for pause: Stop what you're
doing to be still and invite God's
presence where you are.

R is for rejoice: Praise and
thank God for what he has
already done in our nation.

A is for ask: Pray for the future
of Australia and its people.

Y is for yield: Spend a few moments
giving everything back to God;
your worries, fears, uncertainty
and ask for his will to be done
on earth as it is in heaven.

PRAYER

Lord, we echo the words of King Solomon and ask that you listen to our prayers for our people and the people of this nation. We thank you that you are Lord of all, and you are our strength. We thank you for a vision for the future, that you are doing a new thing, and we pray that we leave a legacy of loving you and loving others.

We give all our worries and concerns to you, and we pray that your
kingdom come here on our country as it is in heaven.

In your loving name,

Amen.



