

Week by Week Bible Conversations: The Psalms and Proverbs

*Discussion Guide with Questions for Sunday
School Classes, Small Groups, and Journaling*

Plus 5-30 Minute Bible Reading Plans,
Bible Study Helps & Resources

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Downloadable resources and helpful study &
Bible reading videos freely available at:
www.TrustworthyWord.com and www.Bible.video

I am so thankful to God for His free gift of salvation in Jesus
as revealed in the Bible!

“Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of
Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching.” - 1 Timothy 4:13

I love and am so grateful for my amazing wife Brittney and
her loving, tireless support. Together we are blessed with
some amazing daughters in Sophia, Lydia, Alia, and Mia! Our
church family at South Fork has been incredible in their
encouragement :) *Thank you all for putting up with my many
hours of studying & writing for this work!*

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Cover Photo by Author

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www.esv.org

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How to Use this Book

This book is the formulation of years of guiding myself and my church family through Bible reading. It is a simple but helpful tool to help with the discipline of drawing near to God through regular Bible reading and listening. While this version goes through the Psalms and Proverbs alone, I have completed a conversation for the New Testament and am finishing one for the Old Testament. Be sure to check out and share www.Bible.video and www.TrustworthyWord.com for our latest, free downloadable resources.

Sunday School & Small Group Discussion Questions

This book is full of questions, both specific and generic, to help you and your group in studying God's Word together. These questions are coupled with a Bible reading plan to help you understand and apply God's truth to your life. These questions can also be helpful personally for journaling or prayer. ***You'll find yourself asking more questions as you journey through the Psalms and Proverbs, so write them down or type them up for future discussions and learning!***

Good questions help us to learn and apply what God is wanting to say to us each day. Each week has several questions available that you might find helpful for your personal devotional time or to use for discussion in a Sunday School class or small group. Some of these questions are generic towards helping our Bible

understanding while others are more specific and applicational. May we not simply be hearers of the Word, but lovers and doers of God's voice as well!

One of the best resources to consult for short, biblical answers to the most common questions of life is www.GotQuestions.org – check it out sometime, you'll be glad that you did!

The Bible Project (www.bibleproject.com) is another incredible resource with video summaries of Bible books and Bible themes.

If you are looking for some additional resources for questions for your small group, Sunday School class, or for personal use, here are some suggestions:

Serendipity Bible: For Personal and Small Group Study – edited by Lyman Coleman

The One Year Bible Companion – by Tyndale House Publishers

The Complete Bible Discussion Guide: Group Discussion Questions for Every Chapter in the Bible – by Mack Thomas

3 Questions on Every Chapter in the Bible – by Ed Roop

If you are a group leader you may want to use the margins of this book to write some of your own questions to expand on the provided questions. You may

want to raise your own questions to encourage discussion within your group gatherings. As you encounter God in the Psalms and Proverbs, ask Him to show you new and deeper truths about His goodness and greatness!

If you are a group participant you will likewise want to prepare for your gathering ahead of time. Your involvement and time in the Word will impact others in your class. As you read the Psalms and Proverbs chapters each week, you may have your own questions so don't be shy about writing them down and asking them in class. The group conversations that follow your questions will help you all to think through and together may you find God's answers! Ask God to grow you through this study and to use you in the lives of your small group friends. What a blessing it is to be a disciple who makes disciples!

2 Timothy 2:2 “what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also.” (ESV)

General Discussion Questions

These generalized questions will help you to think through, pray through, and apply the truths that you are reading. As you begin this journey, consider how these questions might help you grow closer to Jesus through journaling, prayer, and Sunday school class or small group discussions.

- *Context Questions:* Who is writing this? Who is it being written to? When? Why? What type of writing is this? How does this matter to my understanding of the meaning of these chapters?
- What was something new you noticed this week? What impacted you the most? Why?
- What can you learn about God from these passages? His work? His character? How can this help you grow in your trust of Him?
- What did you learn about humanity or yourself in the readings this week? About your identity, character or purpose as a Christ-follower?
- What do these passages teach us about our enemies' attacks (deceptions, distractions, discouragement, and temptations)? How can we better resist these attacks?
- *Application Questions:* How do you need to respond to and apply these truths to your life? (Is there a sin to avoid? A command to obey? An example to follow? A prayer to offer? A truth to remember or memorize? An attitude to change? A teaching to share?)

5-30 Minute Plans

Although this study is coupled with a Psalms and Proverbs reading plan, some additional plans for the New Testament as well as the Old Testament are also included. Should you choose to go beyond the Psalms and Proverbs reading you will certainly find that your readings in the Old Testament will compliment and enlighten your time in the New Testament.

How much time would you like to spend reading or listening to the Bible each day? Whether you would like to read Psalms/Proverbs, the New Testament, the Old Testament, or the whole Bible there is a plan to carry you through the year.

This could be a 1, 2, or 3 year plan for you to read the Bible. You might want to start off with a 5 minute-per-day commitment one year (Psalms & Proverbs), before progressing to a 10 (New Testament) or 15 (Old Testament) minute-per-day goal. Or maybe you have always wanted to read through the entire Bible in 52 weeks, you could start this any time of year, but will want to prepare for at least 30 minutes of Bible reading or listening each day.

Since this reading plan is outlined as a “weekly” plan instead of a “daily” plan, you might find that you spend more time on the weekends reading and then use the past readings for journaling, reflecting, and praying on the weekdays. Or you may prefer to do your reading on

weekdays and keep the weekends as a “catch up” time for anything you missed.

Regardless of the specific plans you make, I am proud of you for taking this significant step. May you enjoy your weekly encounters with your Lord through His Word.

Free, downloadable PDF versions of this book and all of the reading plans are available at www.Bible.video and www.TrustworthyWord.com

Verse of the Week

The Good News of Jesus is important for Christians to daily remember about our identity in Christ and for our gratitude towards God. Through these verses we can more fully enjoy the goodness of God & prepare ourselves for Gospel-sharing opportunities! We've included some of the most important verses for evangelism and for finding daily victory in the most common struggles of life. You can find the complete listing of verses here:

“What Bible Verses Are Good to Memorize for Evangelism?” - www.trustworthyword.com/what-bible-verses-are-good-to-memorize-for-evangelism

“What Bible Verses Are Good for Christians to Memorize? The 40 Most Important Verses Every Christian Should Know” - www.trustworthyword.com/what-bible-verses-are-good-for-christians-to-memorize

“in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect”
1 Peter 3:15 (ESV)

Resources

In the back of the book (and linked below) are resources you might find helpful for yourself or to help others. In it you'll find Bible study tips as well as some of the best digital and print resources available today.

“Top Children’s Bibles” –

www.trustworthyword.com/childrens-bibles

“Top One Year Bibles” –

www.trustworthyword.com/one-year-bibles

“How Can I Be Sure I’m a Christian?” -

www.trustworthyword.com/how-can-i-be-sure-im-a-christian

“How Can I Become a Christian?” -

www.trustworthyword.com/how-can-i-become-a-christian

“Evidence for Jesus” -

www.trustworthyword.com/evidence-for-jesus

“How to Study Your Bible” -

www.trustworthyword.com/how-to-study-the-bible

“10 Bible Study Tips” –

www.trustworthyword.com/bible-study-tips

www.Bible.video - “The Video Bible”

“Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching.”

1 Timothy 4:13

Did someone read to you growing up? Did that time impact you? Help you? Grow you? Comfort you?

We feel that reading the Bible visually and audibly to one another is important and helpful too! What a joy it is to see print Bibles reaching the ends of the earth (through amazing groups like the [Gideons](#) and [The International Bible Society](#) and especially www.NetBible.com). How incredible it is that translations are made ([Wycliffe](#)) and digitally distributed ([Bible.com](#) and [BibleStudyTools.com](#)) all over the world! In the past few decades, audio Bibles have also become numerous and more accessible through wonderful ministries like [Faith Comes By Hearing](#).

Unfortunately there isn't much of a presence currently of someone visually reading the Bible to another. We hope to help provide this through the “The Video Bible”!

We feel this is a needed resource for evangelism and discipleship and we pray that it will be extremely effective! The biblical origins of both visually watching someone read and listening simultaneously is important to how we process and respond to the Word. We hope to have the opportunity to help get complete bible

translations free into the ears, eyes, minds, and souls of millions more over the years ahead via video.

www.TrustworthyWord.com

“He must hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to rebuke those who contradict it.”

Titus 1:9 (ESV)

Trustworthy Word was born out of a desire to equip churches with free, downloadable handouts as a resource for biblical teaching on various topics. We wanted to see the people of God think deeply about the Word of God and realize the implications that come about as a result.

One of the great things that we have seen happen though is that members of our church (South Fork Baptist Church in Hodgenville, KY) have begun to use the site as a mobile resource when they are sharing the gospel or having bible-centered conversations. Trustworthy Word has become a digital filing cabinet where with a few taps of the finger, we can quickly locate helpful resources both for our own spiritual growth and to engage those with whom we are having Christ focused conversations.

Our hope is that you too will find Trustworthy Word as a digital discipleship and evangelism resource you can utilize in moments when you have your phone, tablet, or computer with you. You may enjoy using some of the free handouts to help guide your small group into a deeper walk with Jesus in Bible study. With just a few clicks we hope you begin to think deeply about the Word of God and see how that impacts your life.

*“The Bible was not given for our information
but for our transformation.*

... Read the Bible, read the Bible!

Let no religious book take its place.

Through all my perplexities and distresses,

I seldom read any other book,

and I as rarely felt the want of any other.”

~ **Dwight Lyman Moody**

“Come back to the Bible. Begin to read it.

Study it and God will speak to you

and change you.” ~ **Billy Graham**

“It takes a whole Bible to make a whole
Christian.” ~ **Alistair Begg**

“The vigor of our spiritual life will be in exact
proportion to the place held by the Bible in
our life and thoughts.” ~ **George Mueller**

“Half our fears arise from neglect of the Bible.”
~ **Charles H. Spurgeon**

Week 0 – Questions to Consider

Before you begin this journey of Bible reading, it might be helpful to consider some of these questions:

- Why are you using this Bible reading plan? What is your hope for this journey ahead?
- Where have you failed or struggled before in Bible reading or Bible listening? What did you learn from those experiences?
- How have you experienced the most success in your time in the Word? How do you hope to continue and build on those successes?
- Who might be a helpful encourager or someone to hold you accountable during this season of study? Who might you help in their discipline of Bible reading/listening?
- What tools have been helpful to you?
- When is the best time of day for you to study the Bible and pray? When do you encounter the most distractions or obstacles? How can you best prepare and plan now to overcome the challenges ahead?
- What is a practical step you might take to better remember to not miss your daily time with Jesus?
- How might you better help lead and encourage your children and family into more time in the Word? Where have you struggled with this before? When have you had success in this before?

Week 1

Pick a plan for this week and check off your progress as you read or listen.

5 Minutes Per Day - Psalms & Proverbs

Psalm 1 ~ Psalm 2 ~ Psalm 3 ~ Proverbs 1:1-16

10 Minutes Per Day - New Testament

Matthew 1 ~ Matthew 2 ~ Luke 1 ~ Luke 2 ~ John 1

15 Minutes Per Day - Old Testament

Genesis 1 ~ Genesis 2 ~ Genesis 3 ~ Genesis 4 ~

Genesis 5 ~ Genesis 6 ~ Genesis 7 ~ Genesis 8 ~

Genesis 9 ~ Genesis 10 ~ Genesis 11 ~ Genesis 12 ~

Genesis 13 ~ Genesis 14 ~ Genesis 15

30 Minutes - The Whole Bible (read all above)

Verse of the Week:

“The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.” Psalms 19:1 (ESV)

Week 1 – Questions to Consider

Christian Life - Small Group Warm Up Question:

What is a way you hope to grow spiritually in the year ahead?

Psalms & Proverbs

Psalm 1 ~ Psalm 2 ~ Psalm 3 ~ Proverbs 1:1-16

1. Why do you think the book of Psalms starts a warning about avoiding the “wicked”, “sinners”, and scoffers”? What would it look like today to not “walk”, “stand”, and “sit” in their “counsel”, “way”, and “seat”? Why is it “blessed” to avoid their influence?
2. How has God blessed you by delighting in and spending time in God’s Word? What does “meditate” on God’s Word mean?
3. What descriptive comparison does God make in Psalm 1 between the wicked/sinners and the righteous/blessed man? How is this both an encouraging reminder and a warning?
4. When you see the craziness in world, national, and local news, how does it affect you? What kind of questions does it make you ask? In Psalm 2:4, how does God describe His response to the evil plots of mankind?
5. Why do you think God offers so many descriptions of His wrath across the Bible, like in Psalm 2:5?
6. Who is the “Anointed,” the “King,” and the “Son” referenced in Psalm 2:2,6,7?

7. What does it mean to “serve the Lord with fear, and rejoice with trembling”? (Psalm 2:11) How can we do that better each day?
8. Can you relate to Psalm 3? How does it help you considering past attacks you faced? How does it help you prepare for what might be ahead?
9. King David sees every day as a gift (Psalm 3:5), why do we need this reminder?
10. How does David’s courage in not being afraid of “many thousands” (Psalm 3:6) give you courage? What is the source of His confidence?
11. What is significant about the start to Proverbs? How has God used the Proverbs in your life before? Do you have a favorite Proverbs? How have you struggled in studying Proverbs before?

General Discussion Questions

- What was something new you noticed this week? What impacted you the most? Why?
- *Application Questions:* How do you need to respond to and apply these truths to your life? (Is there a sin to avoid? A command to obey? An example to follow? A prayer to offer? A truth to remember or memorize? An attitude to change? A teaching to share?)

Week 2

Pick a plan for this week and check off your progress as you read or listen.

5 Minutes Per Day - Psalms & Proverbs

Psalm 4 ~ Psalm 5 ~ Psalm 6 ~ Proverbs 1:17-33

10 Minutes Per Day - New Testament

Matthew 3 ~ Matthew 4 ~ Mark 1 ~ Luke 3 ~ Luke 4

15 Minutes Per Day - Old Testament

Genesis 16 ~ Genesis 17 ~ Genesis 18 ~ Genesis 19 ~
Genesis 20 ~ Genesis 21 ~ Genesis 22 ~ Genesis 23
~ Genesis 24 ~ Genesis 25 ~ Genesis 26 ~ Genesis
27 ~ Genesis 28 ~ Genesis 29 ~ Genesis 30

30 Minutes - The Whole Bible (read all above)

Verse of the Week:

“You shall be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy.”
Leviticus 19:2 (ESV)

Week 2 – Questions to Consider

Christian Life – Small Group Warm Up

Question:

When and how did God save you?

Psalms & Proverbs

Psalm 4 ~ Psalm 5 ~ Psalm 6 ~ Proverbs 1:17-33

1. Does it ever feel like God isn't listening to your prayers? Why or why not? Do we sometimes presume that God has to listen to us? Who does God listen to? Why doesn't He always answer the way we pray? At the time of our prayers? (Psalm 4:1-3, Psalm 5:1-3)
2. Think about when God has delivered you, provided for you, or comforted you in the past. Why is it important to remember His past faithfulness? (Psalm 4:1)
3. What should you do while you wait for God's answer to your prayers? How does Psalm 4:4-5 help us think through some aspects of waiting? What is trust based upon? How is it grown?
4. How can a Christian's joy be greater than an earthly "high"? (Psalm 4:6)
5. How might Psalm 4:8 connect with Psalm 3, especially in verse 5?
6. Why is Psalm 5:4-6 so important? Tough? Comforting? Motivating?
7. How does Psalm 5:7-8 give us confidence? How might we pray in a similar manner?

8. When you see or experience evil, what goes through your mind? How is Psalm 5:9-10 a warning to them? A way for believers to pray? Does this contradict or compliment the command to “love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you” (Matthew 5:44)?
9. How might you pray Psalm 5:11-12 over your brothers and sisters in Christ?
10. How does God grow us to see the seriousness of our past sins? What should we do when we are convicted anew over a past failure? What is the difference between the Holy Spirit’s conviction and Satan’s condemnation?
11. How is Psalm 6 a helpful prayer when you are convicted about a past or present sin? Why are enemies referenced within it?
12. How do you feel when someone ignores you? Does not listen to you? What about a child or employee thinking they know more than you?
13. What is knowledge? Understanding? Wisdom? How do the descriptions of Proverbs 1:17-32 explain why unbelief is so serious? How does Proverbs 1:33 shift us into Proverbs 2?

General Discussion Questions

- *Context Questions:* Who is writing this? Who is it being written to? When? Why? What type of writing is this? How does this matter to my understanding of the meaning of these chapters?
- *Application Questions:* How do you need to respond to and apply these truths to your life? (Is there a sin to avoid? A command to obey? An example to follow?)

A prayer to offer? A truth to remember or memorize?
An attitude to change? A teaching to share?)

Week 3

Pick a plan for this week and check off your progress as you read or listen.

5 Minutes Per Day - Psalms & Proverbs

Psalm 7 ~ Psalm 8 ~ Psalm 9 ~ Proverbs 2

10 Minutes Per Day - New Testament

Mark 2 ~ John 2 ~ John 3 ~ John 4 ~ John 5

15 Minutes Per Day - Old Testament

Genesis 31 ~ Genesis 32 ~ Genesis 33 ~ Genesis 34 ~
Genesis 35 ~ Genesis 36 ~ Genesis 37 ~ Genesis 38
~ Genesis 39 ~ Genesis 40 ~ Genesis 41 ~ Genesis
42 ~ Genesis 43 ~ Genesis 44 ~ Genesis 45

30 Minutes - The Whole Bible (read all above)

Verse of the Week:

“Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created.” Revelation 4:11 (ESV)

Week 3 – Questions to Consider

Christian Life - Small Group Warm Up Question:

What is one of your favorite parts of your church family?

Psalms & Proverbs

Psalm 7 ~ Psalm 8 ~ Psalm 9 ~ Proverbs 2

1. When someone encounters an enemy's attack what are the two typical responses we resort to? How does David respond the slander he is encountering (Psalm 7:1-2)?
2. Is David's prayer of Psalm 7:3-5 dangerous? Why or why not?
3. When we suffer unjust accusations, how does the prayer of Psalm 7:6-9 encourage you? Does living a righteous life guarantee that you will not be slandered or attacked? How does living a righteous life give you confidence whenever you might be attacked?
4. If you were sued and taken to court, but were innocent, would you be concerned? Why or why not? How does the Lord's perfect knowledge, understanding, wisdom, justice, and judgment encourage you?
5. Why would God feel "indignation every day"? (Psalm 7:11)
6. Have you ever seen Psalm 7:15-16 play out?

7. David's request for relief and justice has not yet been answered, but yet he finishes his prayer with verse 17. How can he finish this way?
8. Out of all of God's names (www.trustworthyword.com/names-of-god), which is your favorite? Why? What is associated with a name?
9. Out of all of God's miracles and works (www.trustworthyword.com/miracles) which is your favorite? Why? What do works show?
10. Why is humble gratitude and praise such a key evidence of salvation (Romans 1:21 "For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened.")
11. Based on what you see in Psalms 8 & 9, how might you change up your prayer life? The songs you sing? The way you think & process life?
12. How does Psalm 8:3-4 impact you?
13. In the midst of so much negative global news, how does Psalm 9:15-20 remind you of God's sovereign hand?
14. How might someone define "success" today? What approach might they suggest to achieve "success" today? How is that similar or different to Proverbs 2?
15. How do we seek the wisdom of the Lord? What does Proverbs 2 say are the advantages to diligently seeking God's wisdom?
16. What ways have you seen people wreck their lives? Why do you think Proverbs has such serious warnings so early in the book?

General Discussion Questions

- What do these passages teach us about our enemies' attacks (deceptions, distractions, discouragement, and temptations)? How can we better resist these attacks?
- *Application Questions*: How do you need to respond to and apply these truths to your life? (Is there a sin to avoid? A command to obey? An example to follow? A prayer to offer? A truth to remember or memorize? An attitude to change? A teaching to share?)

Week 4

Pick a plan for this week and check off your progress as you read or listen.

5 Minutes Per Day - Psalms & Proverbs

Psalm 10 ~ Psalm 11 ~ Psalm 12 ~ Proverbs 3:1-18

10 Minutes Per Day - New Testament

Mark 3 ~ Luke 5 ~ Luke 6 ~ Matthew 5 ~ Matthew 6

15 Minutes Per Day - Old Testament

Genesis 46 ~ Genesis 47 ~ Genesis 48 ~ Genesis 49 ~
Genesis 50 ~ Job 1 ~ Job 2 ~ Job 3 ~ Job 4 ~ Job 5 ~
Job 6 ~ Job 7 ~ Job 8 ~ Job 9 ~ Job 10

30 Minutes - The Whole Bible (read all above)

Verse of the Week:

“And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.” Mark 12:30 (ESV)

Week 4 – Questions to Consider

Christian Life - Small Group Warm Up Question:

What is a spiritual milestone in your life?

Psalms & Proverbs

Psalm 10 ~ Psalm 11 ~ Psalm 12 ~ Proverbs 3:1-18

1. When do you feel like God is far away? Why? How does it feel to know that the writer of Psalm 10 felt the same way? When have you felt like Psalm 10:10-11?
2. How would you describe the characteristics, behaviors, actions, attitudes, and words of modern day “enemies” of Christians? How is this similar or different to the description of Psalm 10:2-9?
3. Where does the Psalmist find comfort in his distress? (Psalm 10:12-18). How do we similarly need to think and pray in our rough seasons?
4. What does it practically mean to “take refuge in the Lord”? (Psalm 11:1). How might that show up in our prayers, actions, and thoughts more specifically?
5. What do you think it means that “the Lord tests the righteous” (Psalm 11:5)?
6. Have you ever heard, “hate the sin, but love the sinner”? What Scripture supports that? What do you make of Psalm 11:5b-6?
7. Who is “righteous” in the Bible? How do they become “righteous”? (See Romans 5:15-21) How is Psalm 11:7 an encouragement to live closely to Jesus?

8. Do you think Christianity is growing stronger or weakening? In numbers? In faith? Why? What does it feel like when someone you once saw walking faithfully with Jesus no longer seems as passionate or involved? How do you try to make sense of it? How is this similar to Psalm 12?
9. How does David pray in such a discouraging situation? How does the lord ultimately “place” us in “safety” and “keep” us? (Psalm 12:5-8). How does this Psalm end differently than most of the others? How is that like our lives/days?
10. What is easy to remember in life? What things are more memorable? What sorts of things do you want your kids and grandkids to never forget? Why? Why does Proverbs 3:1-2 start off this way?
11. Why do we have “trust issues”? How do we grow to trust in someone? When is trust good? When is trust dangerous? How can we tell if we truly trust the Lord “with all your heart”? (Proverbs 3:5-8)
12. When do you spend money on people? How can money be a measure of what we love or hate? Why is money and giving hard to talk about? What does Solomon say about it in Proverbs 3:9-10?
13. Why would Solomon say “do not despise the Lord’s discipline”? (Proverbs 3:11-12) What does discipline feel like when it is happening? What does discipline feel like years later? What struggles do parents have when giving out discipline?
14. How is “wisdom” described? Why? (Proverbs 3:13-18)

General Discussion Questions

- What did you learn about humanity or yourself in the readings this week? About your identity, character or purpose as a Christ-follower?
- *Application Questions:* How do you need to respond to and apply these truths to your life? (Is there a sin to avoid? A command to obey? An example to follow? A prayer to offer? A truth to remember or memorize? An attitude to change? A teaching to share?)

Week 5

Pick a plan for this week and check off your progress as you read or listen.

5 Minutes Per Day - Psalms & Proverbs

Psalm 13 ~ Psalm 14 ~ Psalm 15 ~ Proverbs 3:19-35

10 Minutes Per Day - New Testament

Matthew 7 ~ Matthew 8 ~ Luke 7 ~ Luke 8 ~ Matthew
11

15 Minutes Per Day - Old Testament

Job 11 ~ Job 12 ~ Job 13 ~ Job 14 ~ Job 15 ~ Job 16 ~
Job 17 ~ Job 18 ~ Job 19 ~ Job 20 ~ Job 21
~ Job 22 ~ Job 23 ~ Job 24 ~ Job 25

30 Minutes - The Whole Bible (read all above)

Verse of the Week:

“Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.” Psalm 51:5 (ESV)

Week 5 – Questions to Consider

Christian Life - Small Group Warm Up Question:

What is one of the biggest challenges facing Christians today?

Psalms & Proverbs

Psalm 13 ~ Psalm 14 ~ Psalm 15 ~ Proverbs 3:19-35

1. Do you struggle with patience? Why is patience so hard? What sorts of things are the hardest to wait for? Who are you the most patient with? Who are you the least patient with?
2. Have you ever heard someone say “not to pray for patience”? What do they mean by that? How does God grow our patience through His Spirit?
3. How many times does the Psalmist say “how long” in Psalm 13? Read 2 Peter 3:8. What does that mean? How is it helpful to you in being more patient for God’s answers to your requests (Psalm 13:1)?
4. What do you think the Psalmist means by “I take counsel in my soul”? (Psalm 13:2)
5. What is the key to being patient with God’s timing? (Psalm 13:5-6)
6. Do you know any atheists or agnostics? How have they interacted with you? What sort of claims have they made?
7. What does God say about atheists and agnostics in Psalm 14:1? How is Romans 1:18-23 helpful to consider?

8. How would you summarize Psalm 14 in your own words?
9. Why is Romans 3:10-12 and Romans 3:23 important? Why do you think the Psalmist goes to salvation for the ending of Psalm 14?
10. How do you think the average church, pastor, or Christian would describe those who are “saved”? Why is that such an important question?
11. What is helpful to you in Psalm 15 in answering the question of who is truly saved? What do we learn about the Lord through it? How does this connect
12. If you could ask anything of God, what would you ask for? Why? What guides our requests and priorities in our prayers?
13. Read Psalm 27:4. What does the Psalmist want? Why do you think the Psalmist prioritizes this request in both prayer and pursuit?
14. Read Proverbs 3:19-35. Was Earth “intelligently designed”? How can we see this in the world around us? What might be an easy way to explain to an atheist that God created the earth? How does atheism ultimately rest on “faith”? Read Hebrews 11:3. How does Christianity ultimately rest on “faith”? Is there more evidence for atheism or Christianity? Does it take more “faith” to be an atheist or a Christian?
15. Which piece of wisdom stands out to you in the second half of Proverbs 3? Why? Why does God provide so much advice to us as His children?

General Discussion Questions

- What can you learn about God from these passages? His work? His character? How can this help you grow in your trust of Him?
- *Application Questions*: How do you need to respond to and apply these truths to your life? (Is there a sin to avoid? A command to obey? An example to follow? A prayer to offer? A truth to remember or memorize? An attitude to change? A teaching to share?)

Week 6

Pick a plan for this week and check off your progress as you read or listen.

5 Minutes Per Day - Psalms & Proverbs

Psalm 16 ~ Psalm 17 ~ Psalm 18 ~ Proverbs 4

10 Minutes Per Day - New Testament

Matthew 9 ~ Matthew 12 ~ Matthew 13 ~ Mark 4 ~
Mark 5

15 Minutes Per Day - Old Testament

Job 26 ~ Job 27 ~ Job 28 ~ Job 29 ~ Job 30 ~ Job 31 ~
Job 32 ~ Job 33 ~ Job 34 ~ Job 35 ~ Job 36
~ Job 37 ~ Job 38 ~ Job 39 ~ Job 40

30 Minutes - The Whole Bible (read all above)

Verse of the Week:

“Your iniquities have made a separation between you
and your God, and your sins have hidden his face
from you so that he does not hear.”

Isaiah 59:2 (ESV)

Week 6 – Questions to Consider

Christian Life - Small Group Warm Up Question:

What is your favorite Bible verse and why?

Psalms & Proverbs

Psalm 16 ~ Psalm 17 ~ Psalm 18 ~ Proverbs 4

1. When you were scared as a child, who or where would you run to? Why? How do adults handle scary or intimidating situations? How does God want us to respond when we are overwhelmed?
2. What do you think David meant by “You are my Lord, I have no good apart from you” (Psalm 16:2)? How this connect with James 1:17? How does James 1:17 describe God? Why is it important to remember God’s blessing and character when you are in the midst of a difficult season?
3. When you think of God’s deliverance of you from Hell (Sheol), how is that the ultimate deliverance? Death is the #1 fear of mankind. How should Christians think and feel about their own future death?
4. What does Psalm 16:11 mean? How does God do that?
5. Why do we often try to take care of situations on our own and only seek God in prayer later on or when we’re more desperate for help?
6. In what was do Christians suffer today? What sort of enemies do we face in life? How might Psalm 17 teach us to pray about our enemies? Does that conflict or compliment what Jesus teaches us in

- Matthew 5:44, “Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you”?
7. How does focusing on our future in Heaven (Psalm 17:15) help us endure and persevere in the midst of suffering or persecution?
 8. What is your favorite verse of Psalm 18? Why?
 9. Why should verse 6 amaze us?
 10. What natural phenomenon does Psalm 18:7-8 seem to describe? Why does that feel like an appropriate description of God’s wrath?
 11. What does it mean that the Lord “dealt with me according to my righteousness” (Ps 18:20,24) when we know we are saved by faith and not by works? (Galatians 2:16) How might this all connect with Revelation 20:12 when God tells us “the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done”?
 12. Who poured godly wisdom into your life? What sayings or advice still stick with you today?
 13. How have you sought to pass wisdom on to others? To whom? Why is the passing on of wisdom such an act of love?
 14. Do you have a favorite verse from Proverbs 4? What makes it stand out to you?
 15. In general, how would wisdom lengthen “the years of your life” (Proverbs 4:10)? Conversely, how would folly shorten your lifespan?
 16. What does it look like practically to “not enter the path of the wicked” nor “walk in the way of the evil” (Proverbs 4:14)? In regard to technology and entertainment what steps should we take to protect ourselves? To protect our children?

17. What does “keep your heart with all vigilance” (Proverbs 4:23) mean? Why is the “heart” so important to protect?
18. Have you ever struggled with the words that come out of your mouth? (Proverbs 4:24) How have you found success in cleaning up your language?
19. Have you ever struggled with controlling what your eyes are looking at? (Proverbs 4:25-26) How have you found success in guarding your eyes?
20. How does Proverbs 4 summarize many of the daily battles we face?

General Discussion Questions

- What was something new you noticed this week? What impacted you the most? Why?
- *Application Questions*: How do you need to respond to and apply these truths to your life? (Is there a sin to avoid? A command to obey? An example to follow? A prayer to offer? A truth to remember or memorize? An attitude to change? A teaching to share?)

Week 7

Pick a plan for this week and check off your progress as you read or listen.

5 Minutes Per Day - Psalms & Proverbs

Psalm 19 ~ Psalm 20 ~ Psalm 21 ~ Proverbs 5

10 Minutes Per Day - New Testament

Matthew 10 ~ Matthew 14 ~ Mark 6 ~ Luke 9 ~ John 6

15 Minutes Per Day - Old Testament

Job 41 ~ Job 42 ~ Exodus 1 ~ Exodus 2 ~ Exodus 3 ~
Exodus 4 ~ Exodus 5 ~ Exodus 6 ~ Exodus 7 ~
Exodus 8 ~ Exodus 9 ~ Exodus 10 ~ Exodus 11 ~
Exodus 12 ~ Exodus 13

30 Minutes - The Whole Bible (read all above)

Verse of the Week:

“None is righteous, no, not one; no one understands; no one seeks for God. All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one.” Romans 3:10-12 (ESV)

Week 7 – Questions to Consider

Christian Life - Small Group Warm Up Question:

What is a memorable time that God answered your prayers?

Psalms & Proverbs

Psalm 19 ~ Psalm 20 ~ Psalm 21 ~ Proverbs 5

1. What amazes you about the sky? Have you ever enjoyed “star gazing”? Why? Why is Psalm 19:1 such a great reminder for us all?
2. Why do you think God starts out Psalm 19 with descriptions of His “general revelation” in Creation before explaining His “specific revelation” through the Bible?
3. When have you received a special letter that touched your heart? Why was it so significant? How has the Bible been like a personal letter from God to you?
4. Which of the descriptions of the Bible in Psalm 19:7-11 particularly impacts you? Why?
5. How might we avoid “hidden faults”? “Presumptuous sins”? Can we sin in our “heart” even if we don’t say anything or do anything wrong? (Psalm 19:12-14)
6. Do you always grant every “desire” of your child? When do you tend to grant the requests of your child? How is that helpful for our prayer life with God? (Psalm 20:4)

7. How might you rephrase Psalm 20:7 in modern military terms? What does it look like to fully “trust in the name of the Lord our God”? (Psalm 20:7)
8. Why is it so important to pray for the leaders of your local area, state/region, and nation? What are some of the descriptions by David in Psalm 21 that show the characteristics of godly leaders? What are some practical ways we can encourage and exhort our leaders?
9. Psalm 21 is a prayer of gratitude to God for His answers to the prayers of Psalm 20. Why is it so important to thank God for answered prayer?
10. Why do you think God uses the father/son language/analogy through the Proverbs? Were your parents a good source of godly wisdom? What do you learn to do, or not to do, from their example? (Proverbs 5:1)
11. Why do you think there are so many warnings about the “forbidden woman” in Proverbs? (Proverbs 5:3). What are ways Satan attacks people today with lust? What are some wise steps we can take and safeguards we can implement to protect ourselves and our families?
12. Why do kids often ignore and rebel against authorities like their parents and teachers? Do you have any regrets in how you paid attention to the teaching of your parents and teachers? (Proverbs 5:12-14)
13. What does God mean by “drink water from your own cistern”? In what ways can we be more proactive in strengthening our marriage? (Proverbs 5:15)

14. In reading Proverbs 5:15-22, how might this connect to modesty in what we wear? How does it connect to images we share online? Why do marriages often go through seasons of struggle with sexual intimacy? What are some biblical solutions to rekindling romance in one's marriage? How can we better meet the needs of our spouse?
15. Why does God say "a man's ways are before the eyes of the Lord" (Proverbs 5:21)? Do we act different if someone else is watching us?

General Discussion Questions

- *Context Questions:* Who is writing this? Who is it being written to? When? Why? What type of writing is this? How does this matter to my understanding of the meaning of these chapters?
- *Application Questions:* How do you need to respond to and apply these truths to your life? (Is there a sin to avoid? A command to obey? An example to follow? A prayer to offer? A truth to remember or memorize? An attitude to change? A teaching to share?)

Week 8

Pick a plan for this week and check off your progress as you read or listen.

5 Minutes Per Day - Psalms & Proverbs

Psalm 22 ~ Psalm 23 ~ Psalm 24 ~ Proverbs 6:1-19

10 Minutes Per Day - New Testament

Matthew 15 ~ Matthew 16 ~ Matthew 17 ~ Mark 7 ~
Mark 8

15 Minutes Per Day - Old Testament

Exodus 14 ~ Exodus 15 ~ Exodus 16 ~ Exodus 17 ~
Exodus 18 ~ Exodus 19 ~ Exodus 20 ~ Exodus 21 ~
Exodus 22 ~ Exodus 23 ~ Exodus 24 ~ Exodus 25 ~
Exodus 26 ~ Exodus 27 ~ Exodus 28

30 Minutes - The Whole Bible (read all above)

Verse of the Week:

“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”

Romans 3:23 (ESV)

Week 8 – Questions to Consider

Christian Life - Small Group Warm Up Question:
How are you seeing God grow you this year?

Psalms & Proverbs

Psalm 22 ~ Psalm 23 ~ Psalm 24 ~ Proverbs 6:1-19

1. When was a particularly difficult season in your life? Did you ever find yourself doubting God or questioning why He wasn't answering your prayers the way you hoped? What did that feel like? Does it sound similar to the way David starts Psalm 22?
2. Despite David's struggles, he says "yet you are holy, enthroned" (Psalm 22:3)? Why is that an important reminder in the midst of our own suffering?
3. Have you ever experienced people mocking you for your beliefs? What did that feel like? How did God grow you through those trials?
4. Why is so helpful to know with confidence that God has cared for you from the moment of your conception in your "mother's womb"? (Psalm 22:9-10)
5. What prophecies of Jesus' death do you find in Psalm 22? How does Jesus' loving sacrifice on the cross encourage your soul and strengthen your spirit?
6. Do you struggle with being in church or find it to be a comfort each week? (Psalm 22:22, 25)
7. What does it look like to "seek" the Lord? (Psalm 22:26)

8. In what ways are you seeking to show the Gospel into the “coming generation” through your church, workplace, and family? (Psalm. 22:30-31)
9. Why do you think Psalm 23 is one of the best-known Psalms? Why do you think people often use it with their funeral services? What is your favorite verse from Psalm 23? Why?
10. How does the imagery of God as shepherd help you to better understand His love? When is a time that you experienced His “shepherding” of your soul?
11. Why is it so important to remember that the Lord is with us wherever we go? Why is focusing into our future “in the house of the Lord forever” so helpful for endurance? How is that similar to a runner focusing on the finish line of a race?
12. If it takes “clean hands” and a “pure heart” to be in God’s “holy place”, how is it possible for sinful humans to be in Heaven? (Psalm 24:3-4) How does this make you more grateful for Jesus’ death on the cross?
13. How does focusing on the “King of glory” help encourage your faith? (Psalm 24:7-10) Do you have a particular Christian song or hymn that helps you refocus in times of trouble?
14. Why should we be careful before we make promises or commitments? Why is our reputation integrally connected to our Gospel witness? (Proverbs 6:1-5)
15. Read Proverbs 6:6-11. How is an ant a good example for our work ethic? What does the warning about laziness mean? Do you feel like you have a good balance in your work ethic? In what ways might you

be able to improve your work ethic or heed the warnings from this passage?

16. Look at the list of things God hates in Proverbs 6:16-19. How does this connect to your own experiences in life? What are some modern-day examples of these things the Lord hates?

General Discussion Questions

- What do these passages teach us about our enemies' attacks (deceptions, distractions, discouragement, and temptations)? How can we better resist these attacks?
- *Application Questions*: How do you need to respond to and apply these truths to your life? (Is there a sin to avoid? A command to obey? An example to follow? A prayer to offer? A truth to remember or memorize? An attitude to change? A teaching to share?)

Week 9

Pick a plan for this week and check off your progress as you read or listen.

5 Minutes Per Day - Psalms & Proverbs

Psalm 25 ~ Psalm 26 ~ Psalm 27 ~ Proverbs 6:1:20-35

10 Minutes Per Day - New Testament

Matthew 18 ~ Mark 9 ~ John 7 ~ John 8 ~ John 9

15 Minutes Per Day - Old Testament

Exodus 29 ~ Exodus 30 ~ Exodus 31 ~ Exodus 32 ~
Exodus 33 ~ Exodus 34 ~ Exodus 35 ~ Exodus 36 ~
Exodus 37 ~ Exodus 38 ~ Exodus 39 ~ Exodus 40 ~
Leviticus 1 ~ Leviticus 2 ~ Leviticus 3

30 Minutes - The Whole Bible (read all above)

Verse of the Week:

“Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God.” Romans 3:19 (ESV)

Week 9 – Questions to Consider

Christian Life - Small Group Warm Up Question:

Who has been a spiritual mentor to you?

Psalms & Proverbs

Psalm 25 ~ Psalm 26 ~ Psalm 27 ~ Proverbs 6:1:20-35

1. How would you define or describe “trust”? Do you find it hard to trust others? Why or why not?
2. What does it look like to say, like David, “O my God, in you I trust” (Psalm 25:1)? In what areas or seasons of life can it be harder to fully trust God and His plan?
3. What does “distrust” of God look like? Why is “distrust” of God so serious?
4. David says “remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions” (Psalm 25:7). Have you ever prayed that way, asking God specifically for His forgiveness over long-past sins in your youth? How does it feel when you think about your past sins of your youth? How does it feel knowing that God forgives us even for those long-past sins?
5. David writes that “The friendship of the LORD is for those who fear him” (Psalm 25:14). How is our relationship with God like a friendship? In what ways is our relationship with God different than a friendship? What does it look like to “fear” or respect God?

6. Why is walking/living in “integrity” so important? So freeing? (Psalm 26:1,11).
7. What do you think of David’s request to have his heart and mind tested by God (Psalm 26:2)? Would you make the same request? Why or why not?
8. Read Psalm 26:4-5. Why is caution needed for our decisions of who we surround ourselves with? How does the music, media, and entertainment we choose affect us for better or worse?
9. What does Jesus mean when He prays for us like this: “I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one.” (John 17:15)? How do we remain in the world, but not “not love the world or the things in the world” (1 John 2:15)? How does 1 John 2:16 help us to understand how the world comes against us?
10. Read Psalm 27:1. What stands out to you in this verse? Why?
11. When people talk about Heaven, what do you think they look forward to the most? How does this compare
12. Why would David’s most important prayer request be: “One thing have I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to inquire in his temple.” (Psalm 27:4). Why is this such an important way for us to pray as well? How do we practically “seek after” this sort of goal?
13. Why do you think Psalm 27 finishes the way that it does?

14. Proverbs 6:20 says “My son, keep your father’s commandment, and forsake not your mother’s teaching.” What were some of the most valuable teachings from your parents? What teaching or command do you wish you had obeyed sooner?
15. Why do you think Proverbs has so many warnings about adultery? (Proverbs 6:24-29, 32-33) What do you think about the descriptive warnings used? How do you see the youth of today tempted similarly or differently with lust?

General Discussion Questions

- What did you learn about humanity or yourself in the readings this week? About your identity, character or purpose as a Christ-follower?
- *Application Questions*: How do you need to respond to and apply these truths to your life? (Is there a sin to avoid? A command to obey? An example to follow? A prayer to offer? A truth to remember or memorize? An attitude to change? A teaching to share?)

Week 10

Pick a plan for this week and check off your progress as you read or listen.

5 Minutes Per Day - Psalms & Proverbs

Psalm 28 ~ Psalm 29 ~ Psalm 30 ~ Proverbs 7

10 Minutes Per Day - New Testament

Luke 10 ~ Luke 11 ~ Luke 12 ~ Luke 13 ~ John 10

15 Minutes Per Day - Old Testament

Leviticus 4 ~ Leviticus 5 ~ Leviticus 6 ~ Leviticus 7 ~

Leviticus 8 ~ Leviticus 9 ~ Leviticus 10 ~ Leviticus

11 ~ Leviticus 12 ~ Leviticus 13 ~ Leviticus 14 ~

Leviticus 15 ~ Leviticus 16 ~ Leviticus 17 ~

Leviticus 18

30 Minutes - The Whole Bible (read all above)

Verse of the Week:

“everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart.”

Matthew 5:28 (ESV)

Week 10 – Questions to Consider

Christian Life - Small Group Warm Up Question:

What is your favorite mission or ministry experience?

Psalms & Proverbs

Psalm 28 ~ Psalm 29 ~ Psalm 30 ~ Proverbs 7

1. If you need help, how do you decide who to call? Why do you think David starts Psalm 28 the way he does? What is your favorite verse in Psalm 28?
2. Have you ever known someone like this: “who speak peace with their neighbors while evil is in their hearts” (Psalm 28:3)? Why do people act this way? How can you recognize them? Set up protective boundaries in your life against them? Pray for them? Show them God’s love? When do you think it might be ok to pray like David for God’s vengeance upon your enemies?
3. What do you think of this description of non-believers? Psalm 28:5 “they do not regard the works of the LORD or the work of his hands”. How did you live this way before you were saved by God?
4. How has God grown your trust in Him through hard seasons of life? (Proverbs 28:7)
5. What did you think of the descriptions of the voice of the Lord in Proverbs 29? Why do you think we need these teachings and reminders of God’s greatness?
6. How have you experienced God’s rescue and healing in your life? (Psalm 30:1-2)

7. What is the importance of a King sitting on a throne? Why do you think we are told in Psalm 29:10 that “The LORD sits enthroned over the flood; the LORD sits enthroned as king forever.”? How does this reality impact you?
8. Psalm 29 finishes by saying: “May the LORD give strength to his people! May the LORD bless his people with peace!” (Psalm 29:11). How do you want the Lord to strengthen you? In what area of your life do you need His peace?
9. When was a time you “cried to the Lord for help” (Psalm 30:2) and he granted your request? How did you feel in that moment? How does such experiences make us want to shout like David, “I will give thanks to you forever” (Psalm 30:12) ?
10. Look at Psalm 30:5. How have you seen this true in your life? When have you experienced God’s loving discipline? How has God shown us favor and given us joy?
11. Psalm 30 is ultimately a song and prayer of gratitude to God for His many blessings. What are some of His blessings that you are most thankful for?
12. Why do you think Proverbs 7 encourages (metaphorically) keeping God’s commandments on your eye, heart, and fingers?
13. Biblically, who is a “forbidden woman”? In what ways do we see men tempted to pass “near” the “corner” of the house of the “forbidden woman” today? (Proverbs 7:5ff).
14. How much pain would be spared if we avoided sexual immorality our entire lives? How are the appeals of the “forbidden woman” in Proverbs 7

similar to the appeals of pornography and sexual immorality today? How is the warning of the final verse of Proverbs 7 perhaps one of the most important warnings against sexual immorality?

General Discussion Questions

- What can you learn about God from these passages? His work? His character? How can this help you grow in your trust of Him?
- *Application Questions*: How do you need to respond to and apply these truths to your life? (Is there a sin to avoid? A command to obey? An example to follow? A prayer to offer? A truth to remember or memorize? An attitude to change? A teaching to share?)

Week 11

Pick a plan for this week and check off your progress as you read or listen.

5 Minutes Per Day - Psalms & Proverbs

Psalm 31 ~ Psalm 32 ~ Psalm 33 ~ Proverbs 8:1-21

10 Minutes Per Day - New Testament

Luke 14 ~ Luke 15 ~ Luke 16 ~ Luke 17 ~ John 11

15 Minutes Per Day - Old Testament

Leviticus 19 ~ Leviticus 20 ~ Leviticus 21 ~ Leviticus
22 ~ Leviticus 23 ~ Leviticus 24 ~ Leviticus 25 ~
Leviticus 26 ~ Leviticus 27 ~ Numbers 1 ~ Numbers
2 ~ Numbers 3 ~ Numbers 4 ~ Numbers 5 ~
Numbers 6

30 Minutes - The Whole Bible (read all above)

Verse of the Week:

“Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.” 1 John 3:15 (ESV)

Week 11 – Questions to Consider

Christian Life - Small Group Warm Up Question:

Which Bible character or story is your favorite?

Psalms & Proverbs

Psalm 31 ~ Psalm 32 ~ Psalm 33 ~ Proverbs 8:1-21

1. Have you ever been inside a castle, military bunker, or armored vehicle? What do you think it would feel like to be inside such a strong defense when the enemy attacks? How would that compare with being on open ground, undefended, when your enemy was advancing towards you? How might you apply a prayer of “Be a rock of refuge for me, a strong fortress to save me!” (Psalm 31:2) to your life right now?
2. Read Psalm 31:5. Where does this verse get repeated in the New Testament? What did He mean when He said this (Luke 23:46)? How is this such a great prayer of trust and gratitude for us as well?
3. Is it Biblically possible to both hate and love evil-doers? (Psalm 31:6). How has God grown your trust in Him over your life?
4. What have been some of the most challenging seasons in your life? (Psalm 31:9-13). How did God grow you in those seasons? Rescue you?
5. How do we know if our sins are forgiven? (1 John 1:9, Romans 10:9). What does it mean to be “blessed”? (Psalm 32:1-2)

6. How does the world seem to be like an unbridled “horse or mule, without understanding”? What are some of the many “sorrows of the wicked” that you see today? (Psalm 32:9-10) When we see the chaos and calamity of the world around us, how should we feel? Pray?
7. Psalm 33:3 says to “sing to Him a new song” and Revelation 5:9 & 14:3 describes the singing of new songs in Heaven. At some point, every song we know was a “new song” to us. What is your favorite Christian song or hymn? Why? When was it “new” to you? What is a more recent song that you enjoy? Why?
8. What are some amazing parts of God’s creation that you have enjoyed? How does the reminder of God as Creator (Psalm 33:6-9) encourage our faith? Deepen our trust in Him? Overwhelm us with awe at who He is?
9. Read Psalm 33:12. When Israel prioritized God, how did it go for them? When Israel prioritized false worship, how did it go for them? What does our nation prioritize? How is it going for us as a nation? How should we be praying for our nation?
10. When we hear that God “sees all the children of man” and “observes all their deeds” (Psalm 33:13-15) should that make us nervous? Why or why not?
11. Why is waiting so hard? What does it mean to “wait for the Lord”? (Psalm 33:20-22)
12. What is wisdom? Understanding? Why are they so valuable, or “better than gold”? What does wisdom and understanding look like? (Proverbs 8:1-21)

13. Who taught you the most wisdom growing up? In what ways do you want to be like them? Why do you want to be like them?
14. In what situations or settings do you have the hardest time controlling your tongue? Why? How has God changed your words over the years?
15. What is one area of or relationship in your life that you want to grow in wisdom or words?

General Discussion Questions

- What was something new you noticed this week? What impacted you the most? Why?
- *Application Questions*: How do you need to respond to and apply these truths to your life? (Is there a sin to avoid? A command to obey? An example to follow? A prayer to offer? A truth to remember or memorize? An attitude to change? A teaching to share?)

Week 12

Pick a plan for this week and check off your progress as you read or listen.

5 Minutes Per Day - Psalms & Proverbs

Psalm 34 ~ Psalm 35 ~ Psalm 36 ~ Proverbs 8:22-36

10 Minutes Per Day - New Testament

Matthew 19 ~ Matthew 20 ~ Mark 10 ~ Luke 18 ~ Luke
19

15 Minutes Per Day - Old Testament

Numbers 7 ~ Numbers 8 ~ Numbers 9 ~ Numbers 10 ~
Numbers 11 ~ Numbers 12 ~ Numbers 13 ~
Numbers 14 ~ Numbers 15 ~ Numbers 16 ~
Numbers 17 ~ Numbers 18 ~ Numbers 19 ~
Numbers 20 ~ Numbers 21

30 Minutes - The Whole Bible (read all above)

Verse of the Week:

“For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it.” James 2:10
(ESV)

Week 12 – Questions to Consider

Christian Life - Small Group Warm Up Question:

If you could change something in your past, what would it be?

Psalms & Proverbs

Psalm 34 ~ Psalm 35 ~ Psalm 36 ~ Proverbs 8:22-36

1. When is it easy to praise God? When is it hard to bless God? How can we learn to “bless the Lord at all times” so that “his praise shall continually be in my mouth”? (Psalm 34:1). Why is such a God-ward focus so transforming in our day-to-day lives?
2. What is your habit of “seeking” the Lord? What distractions get in your way? What methods or techniques have helped you to be more consistent or focused in your time with Him? (Psalm 34:4). Why is time with the Lord the key to being “delivered...from all my fears”?
3. Can you think of a Bible story when someone’s face glows or radiates from an encounter with God? (Exodus 34, Matthew 17:2). In what ways are our faces “radiant” and will “never be ashamed” (Psalm 34:5) when we look to Jesus in saving faith? Who is someone you know who radiates the love of Jesus? How do you want to better radiate the love of Jesus?
4. Read Psalm 34:6. How does the Lord save the “poor man” from “all his troubles”? How are we all ultimately “poor”?

5. In Psalm 35 we read a lot of military language. Even if we never physically fight against a military enemy, how is this imagery helpful for us spiritually?
6. What do you think it feels like to have someone constantly pursuing you with malicious intent? What would it feel like to experience God's salvation from such an enemy? How do you feel when you think about what Jesus has done to deliver you from Satan and his demons? (Psalm 35:4-10)
7. When people repay us "evil for good", what does that feel like? (Psalm 35:12) Why is loving our enemies such a powerful witness? Why is it so tempting to take vengeance instead of trusting the Lord's justice?
8. What are some practical ways we can intentionally honor God "all the day long"? (Psalm 35:28)
9. Read Psalm 36:1-4. Did you experience this when you were lost? How did the Lord change you when He saved you?
10. Read Psalm 36:5-6. Why are these comparisons of God's love, faithfulness, righteousness, and judgments being made? Why are they compared specifically to the heavens, clouds, mountains, and great deep? How do these verses encourage your faith?
11. How have you experienced the "steadfast love" of God? (Psalm 36:7-10) Who is someone who has been an example of "steadfast love" to you? How do you seek to be a source of "steadfast love" to others?
12. Why do you think God describes the personified wisdom as existing "before the beginning of the earth"? (Proverbs 8:23).
13. In what ways does this description of personified wisdom sound a whole lot like Jesus? Read Colossians 1:16-17, John 1:1-3, & Hebrews 1:3.
14. How have you experienced God's blessing by listening to His commands (Proverbs 8:32-34)?

15. How have you injured yourself when you didn't seek the Lord (Proverbs 8:36)?
16. Why is unbelief ultimately a hatred of God? Why is it so serious as to result in Hell? (Proverbs 8:36)
17. What do you like about the Proverbs so far? Are you struggling with the Proverbs any? If so, how?

General Discussion Questions

- *Context Questions:* Who is writing this? Who is it being written to? When? Why? What type of writing is this? How does this matter to my understanding of the meaning of these chapters?
- *Application Questions:* How do you need to respond to and apply these truths to your life? (Is there a sin to avoid? A command to obey? An example to follow? A prayer to offer? A truth to remember or memorize? An attitude to change? A teaching to share?)

Week 13

Pick a plan for this week and check off your progress as you read or listen.

5 Minutes Per Day - Psalms & Proverbs

Psalm 37 ~ Psalm 38 ~ Psalm 39 ~ Proverbs 9

10 Minutes Per Day - New Testament

Matthew 21 ~ Matthew 22 ~ Mark 11 ~ Mark 12 ~ Luke
20

15 Minutes Per Day - Old Testament

Numbers 22 ~ Numbers 23 ~ Numbers 24 ~ Numbers 25
~ Numbers 26 ~ Numbers 27 ~ Numbers 28 ~
Numbers 29 ~ Numbers 30 ~ Numbers 31 ~
Numbers 32 ~ Numbers 33 ~ Numbers 34 ~
Numbers 35 ~ Numbers 36

30 Minutes - The Whole Bible (read all above)

Verse of the Week:

“For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Romans 6:23
(ESV)

Week 13 – Questions to Consider

Christian Life - Small Group Warm Up Question:

What Easter traditions help you remember and celebrate the true meaning of Resurrection Sunday?

Psalms & Proverbs

Psalm 37 ~ Psalm 38 ~ Psalm 39 ~ Proverbs 9

1. Read Psalm 37:1. What sorts of things do you “fret” or worry about? Why do we worry? Does worrying do any good?
 - a. See also: <https://www.trustworthyword.com/what-does-the-bible-say-about-worry>
2. What do you think about these quotes?
 - a. "Half our fears arise from neglect of the Bible."
Charles H. Spurgeon
 - b. “When anxiety strikes and blurs our vision of God’s glory and the greatness of the future that he plans for us, this does not mean that we are faithless, or that we will not make it to heaven. It means our faith is being attacked.” John Piper
3. Consider what Jesus says: “And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? If then you are not able to do as small a thing as that, why are you anxious about the rest?” (Luke 12:25-26) How is this helpful to you?
4. Consider the second part of Psalm 37:1. How would you describe “envy”? Why might we be tempted to be “envious of wrongdoers”? Why does God refer to

- covetousness as “idolatry” in Colossians 3:5? Why does Psalm 37:8 say that worry leads to evil?
5. Read Psalm 37:4. Why is the second half often quoted out of context by false teachers? If our delight is in the Lord (Psalm 37:4a), what are the “desires of your heart (Psalm 37:4b) that the Lord will give you?
 6. Have you every seen Psalm 37:13 as describing God’s laughter? What is He laughing at? Why? How does this give you comfort? How does this give you greater concern for the lost?
 7. Is there a particular verse in Psalm 37 that impacted you?
 8. When you were a child, how would you be disciplined for your disobedience? What did that discipline feel like? How can human discipline fail by being too permissive or too excessive? What is the goal of discipline? How is God’s discipline perfect? (Psalm 38:1)
 9. The Psalmist (David) is obviously at a low point in his life and confesses his own sinfulness. “I confess my iniquity; I am sorry for my sin. (Psalm 38:18) How can we learn from Psalm 38 when we sin and suffer as a result?
 10. Sometimes we do not know the source of our suffering, but we realize the shortness of life when we suffering. What lessons has God taught you in seasons of suffering? (Psalm 39)
 11. Skim over Proverbs 9. Do you have a favorite verse? Why? Which verse was hardest for you to make sense of?
 12. What are some of the differences between Wisdom and Folly in Proverbs 9 that stand out to you?

13. Read Proverbs 9:7-9. Have you ever experienced this personally? What was that like? How do you handle correction? What are some good tips for handling correction better?
14. How does “Folly” sound a whole lot like Satan? (Proverbs 9:13-18)

General Discussion Questions

- What do these passages teach us about our enemies’ attacks (deceptions, distractions, discouragement, and temptations)? How can we better resist these attacks?
- *Application Questions*: How do you need to respond to and apply these truths to your life? (Is there a sin to avoid? A command to obey? An example to follow? A prayer to offer? A truth to remember or memorize? An attitude to change? A teaching to share?)

Week 14

Pick a plan for this week and check off your progress as you read or listen.

5 Minutes Per Day - Psalms & Proverbs

Psalm 40 ~ Psalm 41 ~ Psalm 42 ~ Proverbs 10:1-16

10 Minutes Per Day - New Testament

Matthew 23 ~ Matthew 24 ~ Mark 13 ~ Luke 21 ~ John
12

15 Minutes Per Day - Old Testament

Deuteronomy 1 ~ Deuteronomy 2 ~ Deuteronomy 3 ~
Deuteronomy 4 ~ Deuteronomy 5 ~ Deuteronomy 6
~ Deuteronomy 7 ~ Deuteronomy 8 ~ Deuteronomy
9 ~ Deuteronomy 10 ~ Deuteronomy 11 ~
Deuteronomy 12 ~ Deuteronomy 13 ~ Deuteronomy
14 ~ Deuteronomy 15

30 Minutes - The Whole Bible (read all above)

Verse of the Week:

“And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment.” Hebrews 9:27 (ESV)

Week 14 – Questions to Consider

Christian Life - Small Group Warm Up Question:
How do you want to be remembered after you die?

Psalms & Proverbs

Psalm 40 ~ Psalm 41 ~ Psalm 42 ~ Proverbs 10:1-16

1. Why is waiting so difficult? What does it mean to wait patiently for the Lord (Psalm 40:1)?
2. Who is someone you know that is a good listener? Do you consider yourself a good listener? How does it affect you to know that God listens to our prayers (Psalm 40:1)?
3. What is your favorite “new song”? What is it like when you hear a new song that connects to you? How does it make you feel? What is your favorite song of “praise” to God? Why? (Psalm 40:3). How can our joy, praise, & obedience be a witness to others?
4. Look at Psalm 41:4. Why is our confession of sin so important? Even while David is admitting his sinfulness, he is also declaring himself a man of “integrity” (Psalm 41:12). Can both be true simultaneously?
5. David repeatedly writes Psalms about people attacking him, accusing him, mocking him, and plotting against him yet he stays faithful to God. How does this example encourage your faith?
6. Although David does not yet know how his life will end, he remains confident that the Lord delights in

- him, will uphold him, and will “set me in your presence forever” (Psalm 41:11-12). Why is this perspective so important for endurance in suffering?
7. Why do you think Psalm 42:1 is so popularly known (and sung)?
 8. In what ways do we see Satan and the world appeal to our spiritual “thirst” with sinful desires and temptations? Why is it particularly important to remember the danger of sin when we are going through a tough time?
 9. When was a season that your soul was “cast down” and “in turmoil” (Psalm 42:5)? What does Psalm 42:5 show as the solution we can find in such seasons of sadness or depression?
 10. Why does it feel like God has forgotten us when we are suffering? Why are we tempted to doubt and question God when we are hurting? (Psalm 42:9) Look at the final verses that end Psalm 40, 41, & 42. Why is the ending so important? How can we practically apply this example in our own lives and seasons of difficulty?
 11. Read 2 Chronicles 1:6-13. How did Solomon become so wise? How is this helpful to understanding the “Proverbs of Solomon” (Proverbs 10:1-22:16)? How might we imitate Solomon to gain wisdom for ourselves and our families?
 12. The sayings of Proverbs 10:1-16 cover a wide area of subjects. Which one is your favorite? Why?
 13. Why does a parent want to pass down wisdom to their children and grandchildren? Do you have a favorite “wise saying” that was passed to you? What

is a particular piece of wisdom that you are passing down to your family now?

General Discussion Questions

- What did you learn about humanity or yourself in the readings this week? About your identity, character or purpose as a Christ-follower?
- *Application Questions:* How do you need to respond to and apply these truths to your life? (Is there a sin to avoid? A command to obey? An example to follow? A prayer to offer? A truth to remember or memorize? An attitude to change? A teaching to share?)

Week 15

Pick a plan for this week and check off your progress as you read or listen.

5 Minutes Per Day - Psalms & Proverbs

Psalm 43 ~ Psalm 44 ~ Psalm 45 ~ Proverbs 10:17-32

10 Minutes Per Day - New Testament

Matthew 25 ~ Matthew 26 ~ Mark 14 ~ Luke 22 ~ John
13

15 Minutes Per Day - Old Testament

Deuteronomy 16 ~ Deuteronomy 17 ~ Deuteronomy 18
~ Deuteronomy 19 ~ Deuteronomy 20 ~
Deuteronomy 21 ~ Deuteronomy 22 ~ Deuteronomy
23 ~ Deuteronomy 24 ~ Deuteronomy 25 ~
Deuteronomy 26 ~ Deuteronomy 27 ~ Deuteronomy
28 ~ Deuteronomy 29 ~ Deuteronomy 30

30 Minutes - The Whole Bible (read all above)

Verse of the Week:

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son,
that whoever believes in him should not perish but
have eternal life.” John 3:16 (ESV)

Week 15 – Questions to Consider

Christian Life - Small Group Warm Up Question:

If you could go on a mission trip today, where would you go?

Psalms & Proverbs

Psalm 43 ~ Psalm 44 ~ Psalm 45 ~ Proverbs 10:17-32

1. When you see the ungodliness around our world, what kind of thoughts and feelings do you have? (Psalm 43:1)
2. When God doesn't answer our prayers the way we hope or when we hope, why does it feel like we have been "rejected"? (Psalm 43:2)
3. Have you ever been lost in the dark outside or in the woods? What was it like to see the light of a house, camp, or friend and then find your way back? In a similar way, how can we easily become overwhelmed and disoriented in the craziness of our world today? How does God's "light and truth" bring us into His presence and peace? (Psalm 43:3)
4. Read Psalm 43:5. Why does the Psalmist "self-talk" to his soul? In a similar way, how might we self-correct our souls when we feel overwhelmed or sad? What is a favorite "go-to" verse, story, or truth that helps you in such times of need?
5. Read Psalm 44:1-3. What is your favorite Old Testament Bible story?
 - a. Here is a helpful list of miracles with over 70 from the OT:

<https://www.spiritualwarfare.blog/miracles-of-god>

6. When have you seen God miraculously work in your life? Do you have a relative or friend who told you of a way God worked in their life? How does remembering such events encourage our faith moving forward?
7. If you could ask God for help in just one situation right now, what would you prioritize?
8. What does it look like today to have “boasted continually” in God? (Psalm 44:8)
9. What are some reasons parents allow their children to suffer? How does a parent determine the appropriate timing to intervene? Why might God be allowing Israel to suffer so much? (Psalm 44:9-16) How might this correspond to our own seasons of suffering?
10. Look at Psalm 45:6-7 (quoted by Hebrews 1:8-9 about Jesus). Why would this Messianic prophecy (i.e. a foretelling of Jesus coming as the Messiah/Christ) be in the midst of a “love song/poem”? How is Jesus far superior than all of Creation, including the angels?
11. In what ways should our singing be “love songs” to the King of Kings? As Christians are the “bride of Christ” what can we learn from the descriptions of the bride of the king (“daughter”, “princess” Psalm 45:10,13)?
12. Look at Proverbs 10:17-32. Do you have a favorite proverb within this diverse section? What is your favorite? Which one do you struggle to understand or want to understand better?

13. How would you describe a modern-day “sluggard” (Proverbs 10:26)? Why would they be irritating like “vinegar” and “smoke”? What are the dangers of being a “sluggard”?
14. Why does Proverbs speak so much about our words? (Proverbs 10:18-21, 31-33)

General Discussion Questions

- What can you learn about God from these passages? His work? His character? How can this help you grow in your trust of Him?
- *Application Questions*: How do you need to respond to and apply these truths to your life? (Is there a sin to avoid? A command to obey? An example to follow? A prayer to offer? A truth to remember or memorize? An attitude to change? A teaching to share?)

Week 16

Pick a plan for this week and check off your progress as you read or listen.

5 Minutes Per Day - Psalms & Proverbs

Psalm 46 ~ Psalm 47 ~ Psalm 48 ~ Proverbs 11:1-15

10 Minutes Per Day - New Testament

John 14 ~ John 15 ~ John 16 ~ John 17 ~ John 18

15 Minutes Per Day - Old Testament

Deuteronomy 31 ~ Deuteronomy 32 ~ Deuteronomy 33
~ Deuteronomy 34 ~ Joshua 1 ~ Joshua 2 ~ Joshua 3
~ Joshua 4 ~ Joshua 5 ~ Joshua 6 ~ Joshua 7 ~
Joshua 8 ~ Joshua 9 ~ Joshua 10 ~ Joshua 11

30 Minutes - The Whole Bible (read all above)

Verse of the Week:

“Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.” John 3:36 (ESV)

Week 16 – Questions to Consider

Christian Life - Small Group Warm Up Question:

What Bible book do you want to study and understand better?

Psalms & Proverbs

Psalm 46 ~ Psalm 47 ~ Psalm 48 ~ Proverbs 11:1-15

1. What are some scary storms you've been caught in before? Where do you go when you expect danger from a storm? Why? What is it like to be caught in "the open" in a storm?
2. What are some "spiritual storms" we can get caught in during life? In what ways is God "our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble" (Psalm 46:1) during those times?
3. What sort of situations are described in Psalm 46:2-3? Why would these scenarios naturally provoke fear? What situations in life tempt you towards fear? How can a follower of God have confidence even in such frightening situations?
4. How is sitting by a river so refreshing, peaceful, and comforting? In what ways does God's grace bring us gladness and rest? (Psalm 46:4-7)
5. When does world news trouble and concern you? How does Psalm 46:6-7 instruct us when we think about the world situations around us?
6. What does it look like to "be still" and "know that I am God"? In what ways do you think God is teaching you to be more "still" before Him? What

- needs to change in your life to experience His fortress-like peace? (Psalm 46:10-11)
7. When was the last time you clapped your hands? Why? When was the last time you shouted out loud with joy? Why? Who does Psalm 47 call to clap and shout with joy? Why?
 8. What is your favorite praise song? Psalm? Why? How is God growing you through your time in the Psalms this year? (Psalm 47:6-7)
 9. Why is Psalm 47:8-9 an important reminder when life feels so out-of-control?
 10. What do you think it would have been like to walk up into the fortress of Jerusalem (Zion)? What do you think it would have been like to enter into the mighty temple of Solomon's day? In what ways does Psalm 48 help us look forward to Heaven?
 11. Why is it so important to "tell the next generation" about the one, true God? (Psalm 48:13). What are some effective ways to communicate faith to the next generation?
 12. Looking over Proverbs 11:1-15, what verse is most helpful to you, why? What are some of your favorite contrasts between the "righteous" and the "wicked"?
 13. How would you define "pride"? Why is pride so dangerous? (Proverbs 11:2). When was a time that God gave you the gift of humility?
 14. What does it mean that "when the wicked dies, his hope will perish"? (Proverbs 11:7) How is that different for the believer (the "righteous")?
 15. How would you define "gossip"? In what ways does it put down others? Why is gossip so hard to stop?

How is Proverbs 11:12-13 helpful in confronting the temptation to gossip?

General Discussion Questions

- What was something new you noticed this week?
What impacted you the most? Why?
- *Application Questions*: How do you need to respond to and apply these truths to your life? (Is there a sin to avoid? A command to obey? An example to follow? A prayer to offer? A truth to remember or memorize? An attitude to change? A teaching to share?)

Week 17

Pick a plan for this week and check off your progress as you read or listen.

5 Minutes Per Day - Psalms & Proverbs

Psalm 49 ~ Psalm 50 ~ Psalm 51 ~ Proverbs 11:16-31

10 Minutes Per Day - New Testament

Matthew 27 ~ Matthew 28 ~ Mark 15 ~ Luke 23 ~ John
19

15 Minutes Per Day - Old Testament

Joshua 12 ~ Joshua 13 ~ Joshua 14 ~ Joshua 15 ~ Joshua
16 ~ Joshua 17 ~ Joshua 18 ~ Joshua 19 ~ Joshua 20
~ Joshua 21 ~ Joshua 22 ~ Joshua 23 ~ Joshua 24 ~
Judges 1 ~ Judges 2

30 Minutes - The Whole Bible (read all above)

Verse of the Week:

“In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.” 1 John 4:10 (ESV)

Week 17 – Questions to Consider

Christian Life - Small Group Warm Up Question:

How do you feel God has gifted you?

Psalms & Proverbs

Psalm 49 ~ Psalm 50 ~ Psalm 51 ~ Proverbs 11:16-

31

1. What does it take to get your attention? Why is it so hard to get the attention of people to think about God? What are some of the most effective ways you've found to get people to open up to God's Word? (Psalm 49:1)
2. Read Psalm 49:5. Why do we fear in times of trouble? Why shouldn't we? Why do we keep needing these reminders?
3. Why is Psalm 49:7-9 so powerful when you think about what Jesus did on the cross for us?
4. How can conversations about the reality of death be a great gateway to talking about Jesus? (Psalm 49:10-12)
5. Do you feel like you watch too much news? Spend too much time on social media? What are the dangers of too much time watching others? (Psalm 49:16-20) What basic Scriptural truths will keep us grounded in the midst of the world's chaos and injustice?
6. Read Psalm 50:3. Is this a description that typically comes to mind when we think of God? How is it a helpful corrective?

7. Why would God emphasize a “sacrifice of thanksgiving” in Psalm 50:14? Are we grateful enough to God? How can we more regularly practice gratitude towards God?
8. Why does God describe the wicked as those who “hate discipline” and “cast my words behind you” (Psalm 50:17)? Why does a follower of God ultimately love discipline even when it is hard? Why does a follower of God have God’s words before them?
9. How would you summarize the story of David and Bathsheba (2 Samuel 11-12)? Knowing that background, how does Psalm 51 impact you? Did God grant David’s requests in Psalm 51?
10. When you think of your most serious sins in life, what emotions do you experience? How does Psalm 51 become more beautiful in light of God’s amazing mercy and forgiveness?
11. What does David mean when he says “against you, you only, have I sinned”? (Psalm 51:4) Does it mean that he didn’t sin against Bathsheba, Uriah, or his nation? Why is our sin ultimately most against God?
12. Why was Nathan’s rebuke of David so challenging and difficult? Why is it so hard for us to confront people we love about their sin? How might Psalm 51 encourage us to have more courage and loving boldness to confront people in their sin?
13. Who is someone you would describe as a “gracious woman”? How have you seen her get honored in life? Why is it true that “a man who is kind benefits himself”? (Proverbs 11:16)
14. Read Proverbs 11:21. Why is this truth often repeated across the Bible? How does it help you?

15. What do you think when you read Proverbs 11:22?
16. Why do you think there are so many of these proverbs about money, greed, and generosity?
17. What does Proverbs 11:30 mean? How do you want to be better at “capturing souls” for Jesus?

General Discussion Questions

- *Context Questions:* Who is writing this? Who is it being written to? When? Why? What type of writing is this? How does this matter to my understanding of the meaning of these chapters?
- *Application Questions:* How do you need to respond to and apply these truths to your life? (Is there a sin to avoid? A command to obey? An example to follow? A prayer to offer? A truth to remember or memorize? An attitude to change? A teaching to share?)

Week 18

Pick a plan for this week and check off your progress as you read or listen.

5 Minutes Per Day - Psalms & Proverbs

Psalm 52 ~ Psalm 53 ~ Psalm 54 ~ Proverbs 12:1-14

10 Minutes Per Day - New Testament

Mark 16 ~ Luke 24 ~ John 20 ~ John 21 ~ Acts 1

15 Minutes Per Day - Old Testament

Judges 3 ~ Judges 4 ~ Judges 5 ~ Judges 6 ~ Judges 7 ~
Judges 8 ~ Judges 9 ~ Judges 10 ~ Judges 11 ~
Judges 12 ~ Judges 13 ~ Judges 14 ~ Judges 15 ~
Judges 16 ~ Judges 17

30 Minutes - The Whole Bible (read all above)

Verse of the Week:

“but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” Romans 5:8 (ESV)

Week 18 – Questions to Consider

Christian Life - Small Group Warm Up Question:
How has your study of the Bible improved over the years?

Psalms & Proverbs

Psalm 52 ~ Psalm 53 ~ Psalm 54 ~ Proverbs 12:1-14

1. Psalm 52 is written in response to David hearing the news of 85 priests (plus women, children, infants, and animals) being slaughtered (1 Samuel 22:6-23). Ahimelech the priest had helped David with bread and returning to him the sword of Goliath (1 Samuel 21:1-9), only to have an evil servant of Saul's, Doeg the Edomite, report the news and then ruthlessly kill the priests, women, and children. In light of that background, how does Psalm 52 impact you?
2. How is Psalm 52 a helpful reminder to us in our own struggles with living in an evil world?
3. How does David contrast himself with Doeg in Psalm 52:8? What does that mean?
4. Why does David finish the Psalm the way he does? How can we grow a similar faith, confidence, and trust in God's justice and timing? Read Romans 12:17-21. What stands out to you from this passage?
5. Read Psalm 53:1. What do you think the majority of people actually believe about God? Even if someone calls themselves a Christ, why is one's behavior a good evidence of one's actual beliefs?
6. Why do some people act different in public places than they do at home? What kind of warnings might

- parents give their children before going out in public, to a family gathering, to church, etc.? Why?
7. How is it helpful to remember that nothing escapes God's sight? (Psalm 53:2) What does God see when He looks at humanity across the world? In a similar way to how the Israelites were mistreated by the nations surrounding them, how are Christians often mistreated by the lost world surrounding them? How can persecuted Christians "rejoice" and "be glad" in the midst of such persecution (Psalm 53:6)?
 8. When might be a time that you would be so overcome with grief, sadness, or despair that you just poured out your soul to God? In Psalm 54 David is referring to how his hiding spot from Saul was revealed by the Ziphites (1 Samuel 23:19-29). Although David was almost caught by Saul on this occasion, the Lord protected him and the place was named "the Rock of Escape" (1 Samuel 23:28). When has the Lord delivered you from a seemingly inescapable challenge?
 9. Why is this description so fitting in describing lostness: "they do not set God before themselves" (Psalm 54:3)? How did you see this description manifest in your own life before becoming a Christian? In what ways do Christians continue to face this temptation?
 10. David's faithful response to God is both a praise, an expression of gratitude, and a "freewill offering" (Psalm 54:6). Why is our giving to God such an expression of where our hearts are? Why is withholding our offerings to God so serious? If we

struggle with tithes and offerings to God, what steps can we take to be more faithful in our giving?

11. Do you love being disciplined at home? At work? Why is the love of discipline compared with a love of knowledge? (Proverbs 12:1)
12. Why is being a great wife like being a “crown” to your husband? (Proverbs 12:4) Why would being a poor spouse be described as “rottenness in his bones”?
13. What are some of the other comparisons you found helpful in Proverbs 12 between the wicked/
14. What does it mean that “the work of a man’s hand comes back to him”? (Proverbs 12:14) How can this both be a warning and an encouragement? What other ways have you heard this truth expressed?

General Discussion Questions

- What do these passages teach us about our enemies’ attacks (deceptions, distractions, discouragement, and temptations)? How can we better resist these attacks?
- *Application Questions*: How do you need to respond to and apply these truths to your life? (Is there a sin to avoid? A command to obey? An example to follow? A prayer to offer? A truth to remember or memorize? An attitude to change? A teaching to share?)

Week 19

Pick a plan for this week and check off your progress as you read or listen.

5 Minutes Per Day - Psalms & Proverbs

Psalm 55 ~ Psalm 56 ~ Psalm 57 ~ Proverbs 12:15-28

10 Minutes Per Day - New Testament

Acts 2 ~ Acts 3 ~ Acts 4 ~ Acts 5 ~ Acts 6

15 Minutes Per Day - Old Testament

Judges 18 ~ Judges 19 ~ Judges 20 ~ Judges 21 ~ Ruth 1
~ Ruth 2 ~ Ruth 3 ~ Ruth 4 ~ 1 Samuel 1 ~ 1 Samuel
2 ~ 1 Samuel 3 ~ 1 Samuel 4 ~ 1 Samuel 5 ~ 1
Samuel 6 ~ 1 Samuel 7

30 Minutes - The Whole Bible (read all above)

Verse of the Week:

“But he was wounded for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his stripes we are healed.” Isaiah 53:5 (ESV)

Week 19 – Questions to Consider

Christian Life - Small Group Warm Up Question:
How can you free up more time in your day? Where are you wasting time?

Psalms & Proverbs

Psalm 55 ~ Psalm 56 ~ Psalm 57 ~ Proverbs 12:15-28

1. Have you ever been betrayed by a close friend? What did that feel like? What does it feel like now? Why was it so difficult? How did God get you through it?
2. Read David's description in Psalm 55:12-15 & 20-21. Can you relate with David's prayer? What sort of scenarios would make you want to pray this way? Although we do not know a specific person that David is praying against, we do know that he was betrayed by his son Absalom and his counselor Ahithophel in horrendous ways (2 Samuel 15:1-12, 16:15-23).
3. How would you describe your prayer life? What time of day do you find best to pray? David describes praying "evening and morning and at noon" (Psalm 55:17). What are some advantages and disadvantages you've found to a prayer time at morning, mid-day, and evening? What are some ways we can be more intentional to pray throughout the day?
4. David obviously was dealing with a significant burden in this Psalm. What burdens you most? How

- can you better “cast your burden on the Lord” and “trust” in Him while you wait? (Psalm 55:22-23)
5. Read 1 Samuel 21:10-15 as a background to Psalm 56. What do you think of David’s behavior in 1 Samuel 21? If someone was trying to kill you, to what ends would you go to survive?
 6. Read Psalm 56:3-4/10-11. How does this encourage you? What does David mean by “what can flesh do to me?”
 7. How does it encourage you to know that the Lord knows of all of our struggles? (Psalms 56:8)
 8. How can we know that “God is for me”? (Psalm 56:9) Why is this enough?
 9. With what does David connect his obedience and offerings? (Psalm 56:12-13) How is this a good reminder for us as well?
 10. David is found hiding in a cave in 1 Samuel 22:1 & 24:3. What kind of situations would prompt you to hide in a cave? While David took practical steps to hide in safety, he simultaneously called out to the Lord for safety in Psalm 57. What is your favorite verse in Psalm 57? Why?
 11. What dangers might you face in the future? How does David’s faith in the face of danger encourage and inspire your faith?
 12. When you start talking with someone, what are ways you may be able to distinguish someone who is wise versus foolish? How do you respond when someone you consider foolish approaches and engages you in conversation? How do you respond when someone you consider wise approaches and engages you in conversation?

13. What stands out to you from Proverbs 12:15-19?
How has God changed your speech since you became a Christian? How do you hope to mature with your speech in the future?
14. What are some signs and symptoms of laziness/sloth in someone? What are some signs and symptoms you might observe in someone who is diligent or hard-working? (Proverbs 12:24, 27)
15. Do you agree or disagree that “anxiety in a man’s heart weighs him down” (Proverbs 12:25)? What sort of situations and scenarios stress you out? What techniques have helped you to deal with stress?

General Discussion Questions

- What did you learn about humanity or yourself in the readings this week? About your identity, character or purpose as a Christ-follower?
- *Application Questions*: How do you need to respond to and apply these truths to your life? (Is there a sin to avoid? A command to obey? An example to follow? A prayer to offer? A truth to remember or memorize? An attitude to change? A teaching to share?)

Week 20

Pick a plan for this week and check off your progress as you read or listen.

5 Minutes Per Day - Psalms & Proverbs

Psalm 58 ~ Psalm 59 ~ Psalm 60 ~ Proverbs 13

10 Minutes Per Day - New Testament

Acts 7 ~ Acts 8 ~ Acts 9 ~ Acts 10 ~ Acts 11

15 Minutes Per Day - Old Testament

1 Samuel 8 ~ 1 Samuel 9 ~ 1 Samuel 10 ~ 1 Samuel 11 ~
1 Samuel 12 ~ 1 Samuel 13 ~ 1 Samuel 14 ~ 1
Samuel 15 ~ 1 Samuel 16 ~ 1 Samuel 17 ~ 1 Samuel
18 ~ 1 Samuel 19 ~ 1 Samuel 20 ~ 1 Samuel 21 ~ 1
Samuel 22

30 Minutes - The Whole Bible (read all above)

Verse of the Week:

“For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.” 2 Corinthians 5:21 (ESV)

Week 20 – Questions to Consider

Christian Life - Small Group Warm Up Question:
When did God take a difficult season or situation and use it as a blessing?

Psalms & Proverbs

Psalm 58 ~ Psalm 59 ~ Psalm 60 ~ Proverbs 13

1. Why can politics be such a touchy issue to discuss? Why is it such an important topic?
2. What are some of the characteristics of bad leaders described in Psalm 58:2-5? What are forms of injustice that we can see in our government and other governments today?
3. Would you struggle with praying Psalm 58? Why or why not?
4. How can Psalm 58 guide us in praying for our government leaders today? What are some specific ways we could apply such prayers? How is a prayer ultimately trusting in the Lord's justice and vengeance in such situations?
5. If you were in the midst of a military battlefield, how would you pray for yourself? How would you pray for your enemies? How does the military battle perspective help us to better understand the vivid descriptions of Psalm 58:6-9?
6. How does life often feel like a military battle? In what ways do you feel Satan attacks you most often? If you were in a military battle and found victory, could you see yourself celebrating a victory similar

- to what is described in Psalm 58:10-11? Why or why not?
7. In what ways have you asked God to “deliver” you in your life? In what ways have you found yourself pursued and attacked? How has God answered you in your times of need? (Psalm 59:1-2)
 8. Read Psalm 59:3-4. How does this remind you of Job being attacked by Satan in Job 1-2? Have you ever been harassed and attacked by someone who is just seeking to “stir up strife”? What did that feel like? What did it feel like when you found relief from the harassment?
 9. When we suffer in ways we don’t deserve, how do we want to respond? How should we respond?
 - a. Skim over the resource at: www.trustworthyword.com/enemies What is a truth, strategy, or solution that stands out to you about our enemies and how to respond to them? What is your favorite verse about enemies?
 - b. Matthew 5:44 “But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you”
 - c. Luke 6:27–28 “But I say to you who hear, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, [28] bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you.”
 - d. How is it possible to simultaneously love our enemies and pray against them?
 10. What does it mean that the Lord laughs at His enemies and holds them in “derision”? (Psalm 59:8) How does this reality give us greater confidence as children of God? How does Psalm 59:9-10 encourage your faith? What do you think of the finish of Psalm 59?

11. Read Psalm 60:1-3,10 and 1 Samuel 12:14–15.
When a nation is suffering, why is it important to self-evaluate and see if your nation is under God’s judgment? Is your nation suffering? If so, how? Why?
12. When can you remember a time of war? What feelings and thoughts did you experience? What would it be like to live in the midst of an actual military battlefield? What did/would it feel like when the war was over? When there was victory and peace? What is helpful in the finish of Psalm 60 (verses 11-12)?
13. What is your favorite verse from Proverbs 13? Why?
14. Read Proverbs 13:24. Why is parenting so tough? Why is parental discipline so important? What are some parenting lessons or tips that you’d share to other parents?

General Discussion Questions

- What can you learn about God from these passages? His work? His character? How can this help you grow in your trust of Him?
- *Application Questions:* How do you need to respond to and apply these truths to your life? (Is there a sin to avoid? A command to obey? An example to follow? A prayer to offer? A truth to remember or memorize? An attitude to change? A teaching to share?)

Week 21

Pick a plan for this week and check off your progress as you read or listen.

5 Minutes Per Day - Psalms & Proverbs

Psalm 61 ~ Psalm 62 ~ Psalm 63 ~ Proverbs 14:1-17

10 Minutes Per Day - New Testament

Acts 12 ~ Acts 13 ~ Acts 14 ~ Acts 15 ~ Acts 16

15 Minutes Per Day - Old Testament

1 Samuel 23 ~ 1 Samuel 24 ~ 1 Samuel 25 ~ 1 Samuel
26 ~ 1 Samuel 27 ~ 1 Samuel 28 ~ 1 Samuel 29 ~ 1
Samuel 30 ~ 1 Samuel 31 ~ 1 Chronicles 10 ~ 2
Samuel 1 ~ 2 Samuel 2 ~ 2 Samuel 3 ~ 2 Samuel 4 ~
1 Chronicles 1

30 Minutes - The Whole Bible (read all above)

Verse of the Week:

“Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.” John 3:3 (ESV)

Week 21 – Questions to Consider

Christian Life - Small Group Warm Up Question:

What is an effective way you've found to share the Gospel with others?

Psalms & Proverbs

Psalm 61 ~ Psalm 62 ~ Psalm 63 ~ Proverbs 14:1-17

1. If you were to write a Psalm or prayer to God in the season of life you are in right now, what would it be like? Praise? Sorrow? Asking for deliverance? Asking for justice and wrath upon an enemy?
2. What sorts of things do you find yourself praying to God most often for? Why? (Psalm 61:1)
3. Why is it so amazing that we can call to God from anywhere? (“ends of the earth”, Psalm 61:2)
4. What kind of situations make our hearts feel “faint”? Why? (Psalm 61:2)
5. Do you have a favorite historical leader or President? What would it have been like for them live and to be “enthroned forever”? (Psalm 62:6-7) How do you think your country would be different if that leader continued to live to this day? How does remembering God is forever King of Kings give you hope for the future?
6. What is your favorite song? What do you like about the lyrics? Why do you think Psalm 61 finishes with the statement, “So will I ever sing praises to your name, as I perform my vows day after day”?

7. What has been one of your biggest struggles in life? How have you seen God consistently be a “rock” and a “fortress” in your times of need? (Psalm 62:2)
8. Why is Psalm 62:8 such a powerful encouragement?
9. What is your favorite “go to” daily beverage? How often do you think about it? Crave it if you don’t have it? How does its presence or absence change you? In a similar way, do you find yourself regularly “drinking” of and “thirsting” for Jesus and the Bible? How is your day different with or without a quiet time with Jesus and in His Word? (Psalm 63:1)
10. What does it mean that God’s “steadfast love is better than life”? (Psalm 63:3)
11. What is your favorite meal of “fat and rich food”? What does it feel like after such a great meal? (Psalm 63:5) Similarly, when do you find your soul most content and “satisfied”?
12. Do you find yourself thinking about or talking to God in bed? (Psalm 63:6) Why is nighttime a time when we might find ourselves more reflective?
13. Why does the reality of God’s justice (“those who seek to destroy my life shall go down into the depths of the earth...” Psalm 63:9-11) an important and helpful way to finish a Psalm?
14. Was there a certain section of this week’s readings that you found difficult? What do you do when you get “stuck” on a Bible passage? What Bible study tools do you find most helpful?
15. What does Proverbs 14:1 mean about building up and tearing down a house? What have you seen as some of the best ways to build up homes? What have you seen tear down homes?

16. How does behavior connect to respect of the authorities? How might you see that in a school classroom? A sports team? A workplace? A home? According to Proverbs 14:2 how does our behavior connect to our respect (fear)
17. How do the Proverbs motivate you to want to be wise and not a fool?
18. Why is Proverbs 14:12 a good warning about the philosophies of “follow your feelings” or “you be you”?

General Discussion Questions

- What was something new you noticed this week? What impacted you the most? Why?
- *Application Questions:* How do you need to respond to and apply these truths to your life? (Is there a sin to avoid? A command to obey? An example to follow? A prayer to offer? A truth to remember or memorize? An attitude to change? A teaching to share?)

Week 22

Pick a plan for this week and check off your progress as you read or listen.

5 Minutes Per Day - Psalms & Proverbs

Psalm 64 ~ Psalm 65 ~ Psalm 66 ~ Proverbs 14:18-35

10 Minutes Per Day - New Testament

Acts 17 ~ Acts 18 ~ Acts 19 ~ Acts 20 ~ Acts 21

15 Minutes Per Day - Old Testament

1 Chronicles 2 ~ 1 Chronicles 3 ~ 1 Chronicles 4 ~ 1
Chronicles 5 ~ 1 Chronicles 6 ~ 1 Chronicles 7 ~ 1
Chronicles 8 ~ 1 Chronicles 9 ~ 2 Samuel 5 ~ 2
Samuel 6 ~ 1 Chronicles 11 ~ 1 Chronicles 12 ~ 1
Chronicles 13 ~ 1 Chronicles 14 ~ 1 Chronicles 15

30 Minutes - The Whole Bible (read all above)

Verse of the Week:

“But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.”

John 1:12 (ESV)

Week 22 – Questions to Consider

Christian Life - Small Group Warm Up Question:

How has your faith impacted your marriage or parenting?

Psalms & Proverbs

Psalm 64 ~ Psalm 65 ~ Psalm 66 ~ Proverbs 14:18-35

1. Have you ever played a hiding game like “hide and go seek”? What did it feel like when someone was searching for you? What was it like when they were close to finding your hiding place? In what ways does it feel like Christians have to “hide” today? Like people are “seeking” out to mock, isolate, and persecute Christians around the world? (Psalm 64:1-6)
2. When you think of Christians living “underground” in hidden/secret churches in persecuted nations, how can we best pray for them now? How would you want to be prayed for in a similar situation? Take the time to pray for persecuted Christians now.
3. Why do you think Psalm 65:1 connects both “praise” and “shall vows be performed” as ways to honor God?
4. How would you define “blessed”? How does Psalm 65:4 describe our most amazing blessing as Christians? How does this excite you for eternity with Jesus?
5. How are the miracles of God (Psalm 66:6) and the creation of God (mountains, seas, people, sunrise, &

sunset) designed to make us “in awe” of our Lord? (Psalm 65:5-8). Which is your favorite biblical miracle & why? What is your favorite aspect of creation & why?

6. Why is it so important to stay grateful to God for His provisions? (Psalm 65:9-13). What are some ways He has provided for you this year?
7. How does it comfort you to remember that God “rules by his might forever” (Psalm 66:7)?
8. What is the danger of being “simple” according to Proverbs 14:18? What does it mean to be “prudent”? What kind of knowledge is to be our “crown”? Why do you think it is described as a “crown”?
9. How do you think Proverbs 14:21 connects with the parable of the “Good Samaritan” in Luke 10:25-37? What are some practical ways we can show love to our neighbors today? What are some practical ways to be generous to the poor?
10. Do you think there is a good work where you work? Why or why not? Why do you think God puts an emphasis on a good work ethic in Proverbs 14:23?
11. What does it mean to “fear the Lord”? (Proverbs 14:26-27) Why is it so important? What is the opposite of “fear the Lord”?
12. What are some reasons we get angry? When can anger be “righteous”? When is anger sinful? What are some helpful tips to be “slow to anger” & to avoid a “hasty temper” (Proverbs 14:29)?
13. What are some examples of “righteousness” exalting our nation? What are some examples of “sin” bringing “reproach” (or disapproval) from God? (Proverbs 14:34)

General Discussion Questions

- *Context Questions*: Who is writing this? Who is it being written to? When? Why? What type of writing is this? How does this matter to my understanding of the meaning of these chapters?
- *Application Questions*: How do you need to respond to and apply these truths to your life? (Is there a sin to avoid? A command to obey? An example to follow? A prayer to offer? A truth to remember or memorize? An attitude to change? A teaching to share?)

Week 23

Pick a plan for this week and check off your progress as you read or listen.

5 Minutes Per Day - Psalms & Proverbs

Psalm 67 ~ Psalm 68 ~ Psalm 69 ~ Proverbs 15:1-15

10 Minutes Per Day - New Testament

Acts 22 ~ Acts 23 ~ Acts 24 ~ Acts 25 ~ Acts 26

15 Minutes Per Day - Old Testament

1 Chronicles 16 ~ 1 Chronicles 17 ~ 1 Chronicles 18 ~ 1
Chronicles 19 ~ 1 Chronicles 20 ~ 2 Samuel 7 ~ 2
Samuel 8 ~ 2 Samuel 9 ~ 2 Samuel 10 ~ 2 Samuel 11
~ 2 Samuel 12 ~ 2 Samuel 13 ~ 2 Samuel 14 ~ 2
Samuel 15 ~ 2 Samuel 16

30 Minutes - The Whole Bible (read all above)

Verse of the Week:

“if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.” Romans 10:9 (ESV)

Week 23 – Questions to Consider

Christian Life - Small Group Warm Up Question:

How has your faith impacted you at work or school life?

Psalms & Proverbs

Psalm 67 ~ Psalm 68 ~ Psalm 69 ~ Proverbs 15:1-15

1. What are some of the ways God has been “gracious” to you? Blessed you? Made “his face to shine upon” you? (Psalm 67:1)
2. What is the purpose of God blessing us according to Psalm 67:2-3? How are you using God’s blessings to make His “way” and “saving power” to be “known on earth”?
3. When should a nation be “glad” according to Psalm 67:4? Should your nation be glad? What are some specific ways we can pray for change in our nation?
4. Why do you think the Psalms distinguishes between the “wicked” and the “righteous” so often? Who are the “wicked” and the “righteous” according to the Bible? Why are there no “in-between” categories? (Psalm 68:1-3)
5. What does it mean that God’s name is “the Lord”? (Psalm 68:4-6) How is God “Father of the fatherless”? How is He “protector of widows”? What does “his holy habitation” mean? Why does God have so many names? Why are the names of God so important to remember?

- Do you think absent fathers are a big source of problems today? If so, why is God’s name as “Father of the fatherless” even more meaningful here and now? How does this connect to Proverbs 15:5?
 - Check out “What are the names of God?” @ <https://www.spiritualwarfare.blog/names-of-god> Do you have a favorite?
6. Why do you think of God’s presence was preceded by earthquakes and downpours of rain? (Psalm 68:7-10) What about the procession of God described in Psalm 68:24-27? How is this a good reminder for us today?
 7. Read Psalm 69:1-3. Have you ever been stuck in mud or found yourself drowning and struggling for safety? What did that feel like? What kind of situations in life can give us similar feelings of anxiety, panic or despair? How could Psalm 69:14-15 be a helpful way to pray in similar situations?
 8. When Jesus cleanses out the temple of people trying to make money (John 2:13-17), his disciples remember Psalm 69:9, “zeal for your house has consumed me”. What would biblical zeal for the holiness of God look like in our churches today?
 9. Why would a praise song and thanksgiving “please the Lord more than an ox or a bull”? (Psalm 69:30) How does this convict or inspire you about your praise and prayer life?
 10. Do you know someone who is good at using a “soft answer” to turn away wrath? (Proverbs 15:1) What

do you think are some key characteristics and techniques to being a peace maker?

11. Do you know someone who “stirs up anger”? (Proverbs 15:1) What are some ways we can avoid triggering anger in others?
12. How do children act different when a parent or authority is watching? Why do they do this? Why is Proverbs 15:3 a helpful reminder for us with regard to the lost? With regard to ourselves?
13. The income/hearts/sacrifice/way of the wicked/fools is contrasted against the house/lips/prayer/pursuit of the righteous/wise/upright in Proverbs 15:6-9. Why are these helpful areas to self-evaluate where we are at spiritually?

General Discussion Questions

- What do these passages teach us about our enemies’ attacks (deceptions, distractions, discouragement, and temptations)? How can we better resist these attacks?
- *Application Questions:* How do you need to respond to and apply these truths to your life? (Is there a sin to avoid? A command to obey? An example to follow? A prayer to offer? A truth to remember or memorize? An attitude to change? A teaching to share?)

Week 24

Pick a plan for this week and check off your progress as you read or listen.

5 Minutes Per Day - Psalms & Proverbs

Psalm 70 ~ Psalm 71 ~ Psalm 72 ~ Proverbs 15:16-33

10 Minutes Per Day - New Testament

Acts 27 ~ Acts 28 ~ Romans 1 ~ Romans 2 ~ Romans 3

15 Minutes Per Day - Old Testament

2 Samuel 17 ~ 2 Samuel 18 ~ 2 Samuel 19 ~ 2 Samuel 20 ~ 2 Samuel 21 ~ 2 Samuel 22 ~ 2 Samuel 23 ~ 2 Samuel 24 ~ 1 Chronicles 21 ~ 1 Chronicles 22 ~ 1 Chronicles 23 ~ 1 Chronicles 24 ~ 1 Chronicles 25 ~ 1 Chronicles 26 ~ 1 Chronicles 27

30 Minutes - The Whole Bible (read all above)

Verse of the Week:

“everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” Romans 10:13 (ESV)

Week 24 – Questions to Consider

Christian Life - Small Group Warm Up Question:

If you could permanently change one part of yourself instantly, what would it be? Why?

Psalms & Proverbs

Psalm 70 ~ Psalm 71 ~ Psalm 72 ~ Proverbs 15:16-33

1. What sort of things have you prayed for where you've been in "haste", or a hurry, to receive a speedy answer from God? (Psalm 70:1)
2. In Psalm 70, David is wanting relief from an enemy that is bragging and boasting against him. What does it feel like to have an "enemy" who is cheering for your downfall?
3. How is Psalm 70:4 a good summary of what it means to be a Christian? When do you find yourself enjoying God more? What sort of situations and decisions steal your Christian joy?
4. What sorts of "enemies" do you struggle with? What sort of situations do you need "refuge" from? When might people feel hopeless? How have you seen God deliver you (or someone else) from those "enemies" and in those difficult situations? (Psalm 71:1-3)
5. In many ways God's grace can flow from before our birth through our family (Psalm 76:6). How have you experienced God's blessings through faithful Christian family members? In what ways might God

- be blessing future generations in your family through your faithfulness?
6. In what ways do the mistakes and sins of your family members become a “portent” or warning to you? How have you tried to warn your loved ones with the lessons of your past sinful choices? (Psalm 71:7)
 7. Read Psalm 71:14-18. What choices is the Psalm-writer making about the direction of his life? What are some similar ways you want to continue and finish in your life?
 8. Who are some “senior adults” who have inspired your faith? How did you see them “even to old age and gray hairs...proclaim your might to another generation”? (Psalm 71:18)
 9. Compare Psalm 71:20-21 with Romans 8:18. What similarities do you see? How does this encourage you?
 10. What do you like about singing in church? What struggles or challenges do you face with singing in church? How does God encourage your faith through music? (Psalm 71:22-23)
 11. Psalm 72 is described as a royal psalm as it is a prayer for David’s descendants through Solomon. How do you pray for your children and grandchildren? What hopes do you have for the generations of your family beyond your own lifespan?
 12. What parts of the prayer of Psalm 72 stand out to you? What are some desirable characteristics for a King? Why? What are some characteristics you want to see in your descendants?

13. If suddenly you found yourself with \$100 million (“great treasure” Proverbs 15:16), what sort of challenges and temptations do you think you would encounter? Why is being financially poor “better” if you have the “fear of the Lord”, then having just lots of money? Why does it sometimes feel like having lots of money would solve problems rather than bringing “trouble”?
14. Who was a good example to you of a great work ethic? Why is “the way of a sluggard like a hedge of thorns”? (Proverbs 15:19) How can we teach the next generation the importance of a good work ethic?
15. In what sort of decisions do you seek out “counsel”? Why? (Proverbs 15:22)
16. Why is it hard to receive advice? Why is it harder to be corrected? When was a time you didn’t want advice or correction, but you needed it and it protected or helped you? (Prov 15:31-33)

General Discussion Questions

- What did you learn about humanity or yourself in the readings this week? About your identity, character or purpose as a Christ-follower?
- *Application Questions:* How do you need to respond to and apply these truths to your life? (Is there a sin to avoid? A command to obey? An example to follow? A prayer to offer? A truth to remember or memorize? An attitude to change? A teaching to share?)

Week 25

Pick a plan for this week and check off your progress as you read or listen.

5 Minutes Per Day - Psalms & Proverbs

Psalm 73 ~ Psalm 74 ~ Psalm 75 ~ Proverbs 16:1-16

10 Minutes Per Day - New Testament

Romans 4 ~ Romans 5 ~ Romans 6 ~ Romans 7 ~
Romans 8

15 Minutes Per Day - Old Testament

1 Chronicles 28 ~ 1 Chronicles 29 ~ 1 Kings 1 ~ 1 Kings
2 ~ 1 Kings 3 ~ 1 Kings 4 ~ 2 Chronicles 1 ~ Song of
Solomon 1 ~ Song of Solomon 2 ~ Song of Solomon
3 ~ Song of Solomon 4 ~ Song of Solomon 5 ~ Song
of Solomon 6 ~ Song of Solomon 7 ~ Song of
Solomon 8

30 Minutes - The Whole Bible (read all above)

Verse of the Week:

“Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I
will give you rest.” Matthew 11:28 (ESV)

Week 25 – Questions to Consider

Christian Life - Small Group Warm Up Question:

If you could ask God one question to answer, what would it be and why?

Psalms & Proverbs

Psalm 73 ~ Psalm 74 ~ Psalm 75 ~ Proverbs 16:1-16

1. When was time that you “almost stumbled” in your faith? What led to those spiritual missteps? How did God bring your back into His way and path? (Psalm 73:2)
2. If you are honest, is there something from Psalm 73:3-12 that you can relate to about the lives of unbelievers and how you might be tempted to envy them at times? In what way do they seem “always at ease” (Psalm 73:12)?
3. Why might following Jesus feel “vain” at times when you see the suffering it can bring? (Psalm 73:12-14) What correctives and reminders stand out to you in Psalm 73:18-28?
4. Why is going to church (“into the sanctuary of God” Psalm 73:17) so important for reorienting our perspective? What are some of your favorite parts about your church family?
5. What kind of questions go through our minds when we witness or experience a natural disaster (hurricane, tornado, earthquake, drought, floods, etc.) that causes extraordinary destruction and loss of life? How might people feel in relation to God in such

- times? What are some ways that Psalm 74 guides us to pray in those seasons?
6. Psalm 74 seems to be describing the destruction of the temple in Jerusalem by the Babylonians (~586 BC). Today, when we see news of churches being attacked and destroyed by vandalism, religious violence, or governmental action, how do Christians feel? What temptations might they face? (Psalm 74:3- 11)
 7. What sort of reminders do believers need in times of persecution or suffering? (Psalm 74: 12-17) Why are these reminders so important and helpful?
 8. How do you see “foolish people” reviling God’s name today? How does that make us feel? How should we pray for such people? How should we engage and speak with such people? (Psalm 74:18, 22-23)
 9. What does it mean that God will “judge with equity”? (Psalm 75:2) What is the opposite of equity? What do we see in human governments and courts today?
 10. Why does God give the warnings of Psalm 75:4-5 to the “boastful” and “wicked”? What are some ways we can lovingly warn the lost? How have you tried to share the Gospel with the lost? What sorts of responses have you received?
 11. God’s judgment is described as “putting down one” and “lifting up another” (Psalm 75:7). How should that reality guide our prayers over government leaders in our own nation?
 12. How have you seen this truth played out: “All the ways of a man are pure in his own eyes” (Proverbs

- 16:2)? Why does it matter that “the Lord weighs the spirit”?
13. In what ways have you sought to “commit your work to the Lord” (Proverb 16:3)? How has the Lord provided, guided, and strengthen you with those commitments?
 14. How would you define arrogance? How can you recognize it? When might we struggle with arrogance? Why is it so dangerous in relation to God? To others? (Proverbs 16:5)
 15. Read Psalm 16:9. How have you seen this play out in your life? How does this help relieve our temptation towards anxiety with the future?
 16. How does Proverbs 16:16 inspire and direct you?

General Discussion Questions

- What can you learn about God from these passages? His work? His character? How can this help you grow in your trust of Him?
- *Application Questions:* How do you need to respond to and apply these truths to your life? (Is there a sin to avoid? A command to obey? An example to follow? A prayer to offer? A truth to remember or memorize? An attitude to change? A teaching to share?)

Week 26

Pick a plan for this week and check off your progress as you read or listen.

5 Minutes Per Day - Psalms & Proverbs

Psalm 76 ~ Psalm 77 ~ Proverbs 16:17-33

10 Minutes Per Day - New Testament

Romans 9 ~ Romans 10 ~ Romans 11 ~ Romans 12 ~
Romans 13

15 Minutes Per Day - Old Testament

2 Chronicles 2 ~ 2 Chronicles 3 ~ 2 Chronicles 4 ~ 2
Chronicles 5 ~ 2 Chronicles 6 ~ 2 Chronicles 7 ~ 2
Chronicles 8 ~ 1 Kings 5 ~ 1 Kings 6 ~ 1 Kings 7 ~ 1
Kings 8 ~ 1 Kings 9 ~ Ecclesiastes 1 ~ Ecclesiastes 2
~ Ecclesiastes 3

30 Minutes - The Whole Bible (read all above)

Verse of the Week:

“I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” John 14:6 (ESV)

Week 26 – Questions to Consider

Christian Life - Small Group Warm Up Question:

What could we learn from how other denominations or cultures worship?

Psalms & Proverbs

Psalm 76 ~ Psalm 77 ~ Proverbs 16:17-33

1. Psalm 76 starts out with “In Judah God is known; his name is great in Israel. His abode has been established in Salem and his dwelling place in Zion.” Is God “known”, regarded as “great”, and “dwelling” within your home? Your workplace? Your neighborhood? Your community? How do we make someone “known” and regarded as “great”? What are some effective ways you have found for sharing the Jesus where you live and work? What are some witnessing methods you have found to be ineffective?
2. What are some of the most beautiful places/sights that you have seen in God’s creation? Why do you think the Psalmist brings the image of a mountain in describing God? (Psalm 76:4)
3. When we look at many of the biblical victory stories, we often think of God’s protection, strength, and deliverance. Why do you think God describes the side of the enemy’s loss and destruction so vividly? What can we learn from those verses? (Psalm 76:5-10)

4. Why do you think Psalm 76 finishes with an emphasis (v.11-12) on making and keeping vows to God? Giving gifts to God? How does our gratitude and generosity to God reflect our heart?
5. When we find ourselves in “trouble”, what might be some of our first reactions and responses to difficulty? If we forget or fail to go to God in prayer when we are in trouble, what might that teach us about how we might need to grow spiritually? Why is prayer such a healthy first response to times of trouble (whether small or big situations)? (Psalm 77:1-3)
6. Read Psalm 77:13. Why do we need this faithful reminder in times of trouble?
7. How do you think a shepherd leads his flock of sheep? Why? How does a shepherd speak to his flock? How has God been faithful to lead, care, and speak to us (his flock)? Why? (Psalm 77:20)
8. How would you define “pride”? In what ways is pride the root of all sin? How can we discern pride within us? Why does God give us so many warnings about “pride” and a “haughty spirit” leading to “destruction” and “a fall”? (Proverbs 16:18)
9. What are some keys to having a “lowly spirit”? Why is it better to be poor with a “lowly spirit” than to be rich among the “proud”? (Proverbs 16:19)
10. How do the words of others impact us? Who is someone you know whose speech is always full of “sweetness” and “gracious words”? (Proverbs 16:21,23-24) How have they impacted you?
11. Read Proverbs 16:25. What does this mean? What should we do with this warning?

12. How would you define “gossip” (“whisperer” Proverbs 16:28)? Why is gossip so harmful? How can we protect ourselves from the temptation to receive or share gossip?
13. What do you think about the process of aging? How might Proverbs 16:31 change our perspective on aging?
14. What does Proverbs 16:33 teach us?

General Discussion Questions

- What was something new you noticed this week? What impacted you the most? Why?
- *Application Questions*: How do you need to respond to and apply these truths to your life? (Is there a sin to avoid? A command to obey? An example to follow? A prayer to offer? A truth to remember or memorize? An attitude to change? A teaching to share?)

Week 27

Pick a plan for this week and check off your progress as you read or listen.

5 Minutes Per Day - Psalms & Proverbs

Psalm 78 ~ Psalm 79 ~ Psalm 80 ~ Proverbs 17:1-14

10 Minutes Per Day - New Testament

Romans 14 ~ Romans 15 ~ Romans 16 ~ 1 Corinthians 1
~ 1 Corinthians 2

15 Minutes Per Day - Old Testament

Ecclesiastes 4 ~ Ecclesiastes 5 ~ Ecclesiastes 6 ~
Ecclesiastes 7 ~ Ecclesiastes 8 ~ Ecclesiastes 9 ~
Ecclesiastes 10 ~ Ecclesiastes 11 ~ Ecclesiastes 12 ~
2 Chronicles 9 ~ 2 Chronicles 10 ~ 2 Chronicles 11 ~
1 Kings 10 ~ 1 Kings 11 ~ 1 Kings 12

30 Minutes - The Whole Bible (read all above)

Verse of the Week:

“And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.” Acts 4:12 (ESV)

Week 27 – Questions to Consider

Christian Life - Small Group Warm Up Question:

How do you think church will change over the next 10 years? 50 years?

Psalms & Proverbs

Psalm 78 ~ Psalm 79 ~ Psalm 80 ~ Proverbs 17:1-14

1. How does it encourage you to know that God never abandoned His love of you, even when you were living in sin as a lost soul? In what ways did you see God’s faithfulness in spite of your rebellious heart during those seasons? Why did Israel need a similar reminder in Psalm 78?
2. Why would you want the “coming generation” in your family to learn from your mistakes rather than to repeat your mistakes? What are ways we can effectively warn and guide our children and grandchildren? (Psalm 78:4)
3. What are some ways we can effectively reach and teach the “next generation” about Jesus? Why is it important and motivating to have your Christian faith reach the “children yet unborn” and “their children”? (Psalms 78:6)
4. Why are setting one’s “hope in God”, not forgetting “the work of God”, and keeping “his commandments” evidences of saving faith? (Psalm 78:7) Why are not keeping “God’s covenant”, refusing to “walk according to the law”, and forgetting “his works” evidences of lostness and rebellion? (Psalm 78:10-11, 22)

5. Why is the description of the Exodus such an example of what it looks like to follow or rebel against God? (Psalm 78:12-55)? What descriptions of Israel's sins parallel ways we sin today?
6. Psalm 79 is a Psalm of lament over Israel's suffering from their disobedience, with grief and repentance. What areas of our community, state, or nation grieve you today? Where do we need to see repentance, confessing our sin and responding in obedience?
7. When was a prolonged season of suffering in your life? How did you speak to God in prayer in that season? What parts of Psalm 79 & 80 sound similar to ways you may have prayed?
8. Why is the name of God as "shepherd" and the people of God as "flock" always a good reminder? (Psalm 80:1)
9. Why is asking God to "let your face shine" such an important way to pray? (Psalm 80:3)
10. When was a time your recommitted to your relationship with God? What were your prayers like? What were your hopes and goals? How did you mature, grow, and take steps closer to God in that season? (Psalm 80:18)
11. Why might we find it so easy to put others down and to judge people by their appearances or differences? If we make fun of others, how is it disrespectful to God? (Proverbs 17:5) How can this verse renew our mind to protect us from an arrogant spirit?
12. Read Proverbs 17:6. How have you experienced or seen this truth play out?
13. Why is forgiveness so powerful? Why is bitterness so damaging? (Proverbs 17:9)

14. What can we learn from Proverbs 17:14? What are some good techniques you have learned to stop a conflict as soon as possible?

General Discussion Questions

- *Context Questions*: Who is writing this? Who is it being written to? When? Why? What type of writing is this? How does this matter to my understanding of the meaning of these chapters?
- *Application Questions*: How do you need to respond to and apply these truths to your life? (Is there a sin to avoid? A command to obey? An example to follow? A prayer to offer? A truth to remember or memorize? An attitude to change? A teaching to share?)

Week 28

Pick a plan for this week and check off your progress as you read or listen.

5 Minutes Per Day - Psalms & Proverbs

Psalm 81 ~ Psalm 82 ~ Psalm 83 ~ Proverbs 17:15-28

10 Minutes Per Day - New Testament

1 Corinthians 3 ~ 1 Corinthians 4 ~ 1 Corinthians 5 ~ 1
Corinthians 6 ~ 1 Corinthians 7

15 Minutes Per Day - Old Testament

2 Chronicles 12 ~ 2 Chronicles 13 ~ 2 Chronicles 14 ~ 2
Chronicles 15 ~ 2 Chronicles 16 ~ 2 Chronicles 17 ~
1 Kings 13 ~ 1 Kings 14 ~ 1 Kings 15 ~ 1 Kings 16
~ 1 Kings 17 ~ 1 Kings 18 ~ 1 Kings 19 ~ 1 Kings
20 ~ 1 Kings 21

30 Minutes - The Whole Bible (read all above)

Verse of the Week:

“No one who denies the Son has the Father. Whoever
confesses the Son has the Father also.” 1 John 2:23
(ESV)

Week 28 – Questions to Consider

Christian Life - Small Group Warm Up Question:

What is something you are excited about in the next 12 months?

Psalms & Proverbs

Psalm 81 ~ Psalm 82 ~ Psalm 83 ~ Proverbs 17:15-28

1. Psalm 81 challenges God's people to faithfulness. Who is someone that has challenged your faith to mature? How did they set an example for you? What sort of important questions did they ask or tough statements did they make to help you grow?
2. What is our initial response when an authority (parent, coach, teacher, boss, law enforcement) corrects us? Why? Do we usually listen well when we are confronted? Why should we listen well? If God was to correct you now, what sort of corrections do you think He would give you? (Psalm 81:8)
3. What sorts of "strange god[s]" and "foreign god[s]" do you see worshipped in your community and nation? (Psalm 81:9)
4. What are the dangers to not listening to God and following false gods? (Psalm 81:11-12)
5. Why is abundant "wheat" and "honey" a description of the blessings of listening to and following God faithfully? (Psalm 81:16)
6. Why is it important to remember that God has more power and authority than all human kings and fallen

- angels? (Psalm 82:1,8) Why is it so easy to lose sight of God's sovereignty?
7. What are practical ways we can "give justice to the weak and the fatherless"? "Maintain the right of the afflicted and the destitute"? "Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked"? (Psalm 82:3-4)
 8. What is some evil you observe in the world that you would love to see the Lord end immediately? (Psalm 83)
 9. Why do you think the Lord mention the examples of Midian, Sisera, Jabin, Oreb, Zeeb, Zebah, and Zalmunna? (Psalm 83:9-12) Who are some examples of God's justice over sinful rebellion that He has given you in your lifetime as a warning?
 10. Read Psalm 83:18. How is this a good description of the "fear of the Lord"?
 11. Who have been some of your best friends over your lifetime? What are characteristics of a good friend? In what ways are you seeking to be a good friend? What does God mean by "a brother is born for adversity"? (Proverbs 17:17)
 12. Why does the foolishness of a child hurt a parent so deeply? (Proverbs 17:21)
 13. What sorts of things "crush" our spirits? Why does a "crushed spirit" feel so draining? What sorts of things bring us "joy"? How does a "joyful heart" serve as "good medicine"? (Proverbs 17:22)
 14. What sort of sinful underhanded or hidden behaviors have you noticed in life? Why does Proverbs describe so many of these behaviors?
 - a. "a house full of feasting with strife" (Proverbs 17:1)

- b. “an evildoer listens to wicked lips” (Proverbs 17:4)
 - c. “a bribe is like a magic stone in the eyes of the one who gives it” (Proverbs 17:8)
 - d. “He who justifies the wicked and he who condemns the righteous” (Proverbs 17:15)
 - e. “a crooked heart...a dishonest tongue” (Proverbs 17:20)
 - f. “wicked accepts a bribe in secret to pervert the ways of justice” (Proverbs 17:23)
15. Read Proverbs 17:27-28. What is God teaching you through this? How do you want to change?

General Discussion Questions

- What do these passages teach us about our enemies’ attacks (deceptions, distractions, discouragement, and temptations)? How can we better resist these attacks?
- *Application Questions:* How do you need to respond to and apply these truths to your life? (Is there a sin to avoid? A command to obey? An example to follow? A prayer to offer? A truth to remember or memorize? An attitude to change? A teaching to share?)

Week 29

Pick a plan for this week and check off your progress as you read or listen.

5 Minutes Per Day - Psalms & Proverbs

Psalm 84 ~ Psalm 85 ~ Psalm 86 ~ Proverbs 18

10 Minutes Per Day - New Testament

1 Corinthians 8 ~ 1 Corinthians 9 ~ 1 Corinthians 10 ~ 1
Corinthians 11 ~ 1 Corinthians 12

15 Minutes Per Day - Old Testament

2 Chronicles 18 ~ 2 Chronicles 19 ~ 2 Chronicles 20 ~ 2
Chronicles 21 ~ 2 Chronicles 22 ~ 2 Chronicles 23 ~
1 Kings 22 ~ 2 Kings 1 ~ 2 Kings 2 ~ 2 Kings 3 ~ 2
Kings 4 ~ 2 Kings 5 ~ 2 Kings 6 ~ 2 Kings 7 ~ 2
Kings 8

30 Minutes - The Whole Bible (read all above)

Verse of the Week:

“No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.” Luke 13:3 (ESV)

Week 29 – Questions to Consider

Christian Life - Small Group Warm Up Question:

What is your favorite part about church? Why?

Psalms & Proverbs

Psalm 84 ~ Psalm 85 ~ Psalm 86 ~ Proverbs 18

1. What sort of places do you hope to travel to in the future? What is one of your favorite vacation spots in the past? Why? Read how Psalm 84 starts with the first four verses. How does this perspective and future hope help Christian saints to endure in the midst of so much earthly suffering? What are some of your favorite Bible verses about Heaven?
2. Read Psalm 84:10. If you chose to memorize this, when do you think the Lord would bring it back to mind to help you? Why is Scripture memorization such an effective spiritual discipline?
3. What are some of your favorite verses that you have memorized? Why did you memorize them? Have you found any helpful techniques to help you memorize Scripture?
4. When is a time that you think you endured the discipline of the Lord? What did the Lord teach you in that season of discipline? How did He “revive” you “again” after that difficult season? (Psalm 85)
5. What are some of God’s blessings you are grateful for? Why is gratitude to God evidence of Christian faith? (Psalm 85:10-13)

6. Why do little children seek out their parents when they are hurt, frustrated, or afraid? In a similar way, why should Christians diligently and desperately seek out Jesus in prayer when they have a situation that overwhelms them? (Psalm 86:1-7)
7. What are some of your favorite parts of Psalm 86 that describe who God is? Why do you think David included these descriptions?
8. Do you think much about Hell? Should you? Why is God's deliverance of you from Hell such an important truth to remember? (Psalm 86:13)
9. What are some ways the Lord has shaped and grown your prayer life? How have you found the Psalms a helpful guide in prayer? How have the Proverbs helped you in prayer?
10. How does someone "isolate themselves" in order to seek "his own desire"? (Proverbs 18:1) Why do such isolating choices not end well?
11. How have you seen Proverbs 18:2 in life? Proverbs 18:6-7? How do these verses encourage you in watching the words you use?
12. How does a bad work ethic harm others? Harm oneself? (Proverbs 18:9)
13. What is some advice you would give on how to be a good listener? Why is being a good listener so important? (Proverbs 18:13, 15)
14. Why is a godly spouse such "a good thing"? (Proverbs 18:22) Why is a close friend more valuable than "many companions"? (Proverbs 18:24) How do these passages make you want to be a better spouse and friend?

General Discussion Questions

- What did you learn about humanity or yourself in the readings this week? About your identity, character or purpose as a Christ-follower?
- *Application Questions:* How do you need to respond to and apply these truths to your life? (Is there a sin to avoid? A command to obey? An example to follow? A prayer to offer? A truth to remember or memorize? An attitude to change? A teaching to share?)

Week 30

Pick a plan for this week and check off your progress as you read or listen.

5 Minutes Per Day - Psalms & Proverbs

Psalm 87 ~ Psalm 88 ~ Psalm 89 ~ Proverbs 19:1-13

10 Minutes Per Day - New Testament

1 Corinthians 13 ~ 1 Corinthians 14 ~ 1 Corinthians 15 ~
1 Corinthians 16 ~ 2 Corinthians 1

15 Minutes Per Day - Old Testament

2 Chronicles 24 ~ 2 Chronicles 25 ~ 2 Chronicles 26 ~ 2
Chronicles 27 ~ 2 Kings 9 ~ 2 Kings 10 ~ 2 Kings 11
~ 2 Kings 12 ~ 2 Kings 13 ~ 2 Kings 14 ~ 2 Kings
15 ~ Jonah 1 ~ Jonah 2 ~ Jonah 3 ~ Jonah 4

30 Minutes - The Whole Bible (read all above)

Verse of the Week:

“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” 1 John 1:9 (ESV)

Week 30 – Questions to Consider

Christian Life - Small Group Warm Up Question:

What is your favorite Christian song? Why?

Psalms & Proverbs

Psalm 87 ~ Psalm 88 ~ Psalm 89 ~ Proverbs 19:1-13

1. Where were you born? Are you proud of where you were born? Why or why not?
2. If someone asked you about the “city of God” (Zion, Jerusalem) in the Bible, how would you describe it? What do you know about it? (Psalm 87:1-3)
3. Why was it a privilege to be born in the city of God? (Psalm 87:4-7) Why is the spiritual state of your upbringing (family, community, culture, nation) the most important characteristic?
4. If someone asked you about the eternal “city of God” (new Jerusalem) in Revelation (Revelation 3:12, 21), how would you describe it? What gets you excited about the descriptions of Heaven in Revelation 21?
5. When was a time in your life when you were overwhelmed and anxious about future? How did you experience God during that season? Did you ever feel He was far away or ignoring you? Like He was punishing you? (Psalm 88:3-7, 14) How did God end up rescuing you from or strengthening you through that season of suffering?
6. Did you ever have friends abandon you in hard times? What did that look and feel like? How did you have other friends stick with you and reveal their

- genuineness in rough days? (Psalm 88:8, 18; Proverbs 17:7)
7. Why is important to keep coming to God daily and throughout our day (“day and night” Psalm 88:1, “every day” Psalm 88:9, and “in the morning” Psalm 88:13)? How does it help you to have regular and continuous conversation with God in prayer? What are some practices that help you be more consistent in prayer and Bible reading/listening?
 8. Read Psalm 89:5-12. What parts of God’s creation make you more in awe of God? Why? How could you be more intentional to enjoy God through His creation?
 9. What does it mean to “walk” or live in “the light of” God’s “face” (Psalm 89:15) and “exult in your name all the day”? Why is such a person described as “blessed”? (Psalm 89:15-18)
 10. Psalm 89 focuses a lot on Israel’s hope through King David and his descendants. How did God show His “steadfast love” and “faithfulness” to Israel through King David and his descendants? (Psalm 89:1) Although King David and many of his descendants failed significantly and were dethroned (Psalm 89:38), his descendent in Jesus never failed and is enthroned forever. How is Jesus the ultimate King of Kings? What does that mean for us? How should that impact our prayers?
 11. How would you define “integrity”? How do you seek to be a man or woman of integrity? Why is being a person of integrity so important to our Christian witness? What earthly benefits come with being a person of integrity? (Proverbs 19:1)

12. How can you tell a true friend from a fake friend?
What are some good characteristics of friends?
(Proverbs 19:4,6,7)
13. Why is the pursuit of “sense” and “understanding” so important to your soul and life? Why does ignorance not lead to bliss or happiness? How do we teach our children in a way that they desire knowledge, understanding, and wisdom? (Proverbs 19:9)

General Discussion Questions

- What can you learn about God from these passages? His work? His character? How can this help you grow in your trust of Him?
- *Application Questions:* How do you need to respond to and apply these truths to your life? (Is there a sin to avoid? A command to obey? An example to follow? A prayer to offer? A truth to remember or memorize? An attitude to change? A teaching to share?)

Week 31

Pick a plan for this week and check off your progress as you read or listen.

5 Minutes Per Day - Psalms & Proverbs

Psalm 90 ~ Psalm 91 ~ Psalm 92 ~ Proverbs 19:14-29

10 Minutes Per Day - New Testament

2 Corinthians 2 ~ 2 Corinthians 3 ~ 2 Corinthians 4 ~ 2
Corinthians 5 ~ 2 Corinthians 6

15 Minutes Per Day - Old Testament

Amos 1 ~ Amos 2 ~ Amos 3 ~ Amos 4 ~ Amos 5 ~
Amos 6 ~ Amos 7 ~ Amos 8 ~ Amos 9 ~ Hosea 1 ~
Hosea 2 ~ Hosea 3 ~ Hosea 4 ~ Hosea 5 ~ Hosea 6

30 Minutes - The Whole Bible (read all above)

Verse of the Week:

“Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me.” Revelation 3:20
(ESV)

Week 31 – Questions to Consider

Christian Life - Small Group Warm Up Question:

If you could see one person in your life be saved,
who would it be?

Psalms & Proverbs

Psalm 90 ~ Psalm 91 ~ Psalm 92 ~ Proverbs 19:14-29

1. What are the purposes of a “dwelling place”? What does it mean to say that God is your “dwelling place”? How have you experienced God as your “dwelling place”? (Psalm 90:1)
2. What does Psalm 90:2 mean? Why is it such a significant truth? How does it connect with John 1:3?
3. How do our lives measure up against God’s longevity? (Psalm 90:3-6) Why do you think God used Moses to write this Psalm to the people of Israel before crossing over into the Promised Land?
4. Why do we prefer to avoid the topic of God’s wrath, anger, and justice? Why is it important for us to hear passages like Psalm 90:9-11? What does it mean for God to “teach us to number our days”? (Psalm 90:12) How has God taught you these sorts of lessons of the years?
5. In what situations might it feel that God is disciplining you or far from you? What does it feel like when God shows favor to you? (Psalm 90:13-17) How might this Psalm guide our prayers in hardship?
6. How might a shadow be a safe place? How can we “abide in the shadow of the Almighty” according to

- Psalm 91:1-2? Why is this a helpful way to describe salvation?
7. What stands out to you in the description of God's protection in Psalm 91:3-6?
 8. How does Psalm 91:9-10 sound like God's protection over His people during the plagues of Egypt?
 9. Who tried to twist Psalm 91:11-13 against Jesus? (Matthew 4:6; Luke 4:10-11) Does this Psalm encourage Christians to put themselves in danger? What was Jesus' response to Satan? Why do you think Satan so often uses the twisting of Scripture as one of his warfare tactics against believers? How do believers best prepare for such attacks?
 10. Why is it "good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises" to His name? (Psalm 92:1) How does a spirit of gratitude and joy change our perspective in life? Why do we like being around people who are grateful and joyous? Who is someone you would describe as grateful and joyous? Would people describe you as grateful and joyous? If not, how can you be more intentional to change your reputation?
 11. How does it feel to know God's justice will certainly occur against His "enemies" and "all evildoers" (Psalm 92:9,11)
 12. What does God mean that "the righteous flourish...in the house of the Lord"? (Psalm 92:12-15) How does this passage describe the purpose of Christians?
 13. Do you have a favorite Proverb from this week's reading (Proverbs 19:14-29)? If so, why is it your favorite? Is there a Proverb you had a hard time understanding?

14. What does Proverbs 19:16 mean? How does it connect to Ephesians 6:1-3 and the 5th commandment?
15. When should we lend to the poor (Proverbs 19:17)? When should we not help the poor (2 Thessalonians 3:10)?
16. Do you find it hard “to listen to advice and accept instruction”? (Proverbs 19:20) What helps you to be a better listener and learner?
17. What do you find helpful about Proverbs 19:21?

General Discussion Questions

- What was something new you noticed this week? What impacted you the most? Why?
- *Application Questions*: How do you need to respond to and apply these truths to your life? (Is there a sin to avoid? A command to obey? An example to follow? A prayer to offer? A truth to remember or memorize? An attitude to change? A teaching to share?)

Week 32

Pick a plan for this week and check off your progress as you read or listen.

5 Minutes Per Day - Psalms & Proverbs

Psalm 93 ~ Psalm 94 ~ Psalm 95 ~ Proverbs 20:1-15

10 Minutes Per Day - New Testament

2 Corinthians 7 ~ 2 Corinthians 8 ~ 2 Corinthians 9 ~ 2
Corinthians 10 ~ 2 Corinthians 11

15 Minutes Per Day - Old Testament

Hosea 7 ~ Hosea 8 ~ Hosea 9 ~ Hosea 10 ~ Hosea 11 ~
Hosea 12 ~ Hosea 13 ~ Hosea 14 ~ Isaiah 1 ~ Isaiah
2 ~ Isaiah 3 ~ Isaiah 4 ~ Isaiah 5 ~ Isaiah 6 ~ Isaiah 7

30 Minutes - The Whole Bible (read all above)

Verse of the Week:

“For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.” Ephesians 2:8-9 (ESV)

Week 32 – Questions to Consider

Christian Life - Small Group Warm Up Question:
What do you think about miracles continuing today?

Psalms & Proverbs

Psalm 93 ~ Psalm 94 ~ Psalm 95 ~ Proverbs 20:1-15

1. What comes to mind when you think of a King, Queen or royalty? What comes to mind when you read Psalm 93:1-2? How does it help us to remember that our God is King of Kings and Lord of Lords?
2. Why are floods, rivers, and oceans such demonstrations of chaos? What sort of chaos do you observe in the world today? What sort of chaos is in your life currently? How does it help to remember that our God is “mightier” than all of our personal and global chaos? (Psalm 93:3-4)
3. Do you trust your government? Judicial system? Why or why not? How does Psalm 93:5 give you confidence in God’s Word and God’s reign?
4. What kind of wickedness and evil in our community and world alarms you the most? Why? Do you see any overlap with the specific evils mentioned to God in Psalm 94:1-7? How might this Psalm guide your prayers to God against the current day evils that disturb and concern you?
5. Why do you think the Psalm writer uses the questions and statements of Psalm 94:8-11 to address the foolish ones and evil doers? What kind of questions might you ask, or statements would you

- make, in addressing the lost today for the sake of their salvation?
6. How does Psalm 94:12-15 encourage you to “not grow weary in doing good” (Galatians 6:9, 2 Thessalonians 3:13)?
 7. When are some times that God “held” you up, encouraged your soul, and strengthened you? (Psalm 94:16-23)? How does it comfort you to know that God will ultimately “wipe out” all who continue in wickedness and sin?
 8. What is your favorite verse from Psalm 95? Why?
 9. How does God change and move in us when we sing worshipfully to Him? (Psalm 95:1-7)
 10. Have you ever tried kneeling when you pray? Does it help? What postures help you in prayer? What postures are less helpful to you in prayer? (Psalm 95:6)
 11. How has God shown Himself as a faithful shepherd to you over your life? (Psalm 95:7)
 12. Look at Exodus 17:7 & Numbers 20:13. What is God specifically warning us about in Psalm 95:8-11? When are we prone to complain against God’s plan and provision?
 13. Why do you think Proverbs 20:1 is such a good warning about drunkenness? What lessons have you learned the hard way about the dangers of addictions? What practices do you have that protect you from the dangers of addictive substances?
 - a. See also: “What does the Bible really say about alcohol?” www.trustworthyword.com/alcohol
 14. What are some good practices to “keep aloof from strife”? (Proverbs 20:3)

15. What does Proverbs 20:4 & 20:13 mean? Why do you think God includes so many warnings about laziness in Proverbs?
16. In what ways might a parent's righteousness and integrity bless their children? (Proverbs 20:7)

General Discussion Questions

- *Context Questions:* Who is writing this? Who is it being written to? When? Why? What type of writing is this? How does this matter to my understanding of the meaning of these chapters?
- *Application Questions:* How do you need to respond to and apply these truths to your life? (Is there a sin to avoid? A command to obey? An example to follow? A prayer to offer? A truth to remember or memorize? An attitude to change? A teaching to share?)

Week 33

Pick a plan for this week and check off your progress as you read or listen.

5 Minutes Per Day - Psalms & Proverbs

Psalm 96 ~ Psalm 97 ~ Psalm 98 ~ Proverbs 20:16-30

10 Minutes Per Day - New Testament

2 Corinthians 12 ~ 2 Corinthians 13 ~ Galatians 1 ~ Galatians 2 ~ Galatians 3

15 Minutes Per Day - Old Testament

2 Chronicles 28 ~ 2 Kings 16 ~ 2 Kings 17 ~ Isaiah 8 ~ Isaiah 9 ~ Isaiah 10 ~ Isaiah 11 ~ Isaiah 12 ~ Micah 1 ~ Micah 2 ~ Micah 3 ~ Micah 4 ~ Micah 5 ~ Micah 6 ~ Micah 7

30 Minutes - The Whole Bible (read all above)

Verse of the Week:

“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.” John 10:10 (ESV)

Week 33 – Questions to Consider

Christian Life - Small Group Warm Up Question:

Do you have a favorite Christian app or website?
How does it help you?

Psalms & Proverbs

Psalm 96 ~ Psalm 97 ~ Psalm 98 ~ Proverbs 20:16-30

1. When do we sing songs outside of church? For what reasons do we sing? How do songs affect us? How does our singing affect those around us? Why do you think God gave us a book full of songs (Psalms)?
2. What is your favorite verse from Psalm 96? Why? How would you summarize Psalm 96 in a sentence or phrase? In one word?
3. When might it be hard to sing a song like Psalm 96? When might it be extra important to sing a song like Psalm 96?
4. What are some of the other world religions you are aware of? What are some cults or other false belief systems that you have heard of? Why are all other world religions, cults, and beliefs systems a form of idolatry? Why is it true that “all the gods of the peoples are worthless idols”? (Psalm 96:5) Is that hard for you to believe? To say? Is that important for you to hear?
 - a. See also: “What does the Bible say about idols?” www.trustworthyword.com/idols
5. Given that so many are not worshipping the one, true living God who “made the heavens” (Psalm 96:5),

how should that motivate us towards evangelism and missions?

6. Read Psalm 97:2-5. Is this usually how you think of God? Why or why not? Why is this description of God important? How does it affect you?
7. Do you think we have become “tolerant” of evil? If so, how does that come to happen? Why does God say to His followers that that should “hate evil” (Psalm 97:10)? How can we protect ourselves from becoming “numb” to the evil around us? How can we better see the seriousness of sin so that we “hate evil”?
8. What is your favorite musical instrument? Why? Why do you think the Lord describes so many types of instruments being used to worship Him? (Psalm 98:5-6)
9. How does the Lord describe the world as worshiping Him in Psalm 98:7-8? How have you seen the natural world glorify God? How are humans different in our ability and responsibility to worship our Creator? Why is not worshiping God a serious sin?
10. What are some examples of “deceit” that you have seen in the workplace? Government? Community? Why might deceitful gain taste “sweet” initially? What does it mean that eventually it tastes like “gravel”? (Proverbs 20:17)
11. Why is it wise to seek “counsel” before making big decisions? (Proverbs 20:18) When is a time you should’ve gotten advice and didn’t? When was a time you received advice and it paid off?
12. Why is it so tempting to “repay evil” by taking vengeance into our hands? Why is waiting for the

- Lord's vengeance so hard to do? Why is trusting Jesus' justice the right thing to do? (Proverbs 20:22)
13. Do you think people take their wedding vows too lightly? (Proverbs 20:25) Did you fully appreciate the seriousness of your wedding vows when you took them?
 14. What is the significance of Proverbs 20:27? Why do we need this truth?
 15. How have you experienced Proverbs 20:29?

General Discussion Questions

- What do these passages teach us about our enemies' attacks (deceptions, distractions, discouragement, and temptations)? How can we better resist these attacks?
- *Application Questions*: How do you need to respond to and apply these truths to your life? (Is there a sin to avoid? A command to obey? An example to follow? A prayer to offer? A truth to remember or memorize? An attitude to change? A teaching to share?)

Week 34

Pick a plan for this week and check off your progress as you read or listen.

5 Minutes Per Day - Psalms & Proverbs

Psalm 99 ~ Psalm 100 ~ Psalm 101 ~ Proverbs 21:1-15

10 Minutes Per Day - New Testament

Galatians 4 ~ Galatians 5 ~ Galatians 6 ~ Ephesians 1 ~
Ephesians 2

15 Minutes Per Day - Old Testament

2 Chronicles 29 ~ 2 Chronicles 30 ~ 2 Chronicles 31 ~ 2
Kings 18 ~ Isaiah 13 ~ Isaiah 14 ~ Isaiah 15 ~ Isaiah
16 ~ Isaiah 17 ~ Isaiah 18 ~ Isaiah 19 ~ Isaiah 20 ~
Isaiah 21 ~ Isaiah 22 ~ Isaiah 23

30 Minutes - The Whole Bible (read all above)

Verse of the Week:

“All that the Father gives me will come to me, and
whoever comes to me I will never cast out.” John
6:37 (ESV)

Week 34 – Questions to Consider

Christian Life - Small Group Warm Up Question:
Who is your favorite Christian podcast or preacher?

Psalms & Proverbs

Psalm 99 ~ Psalm 100 ~ Psalm 101 ~ Proverbs 21:1-15

1. What does it take to make you “tremble” in fear? Why do you think Psalm 99 starts out the way it does?
2. What does it mean to be “holy”? Why do you think the phrase “Holy is He!” is repeated twice in Psalm 99?
3. Look at Psalm 99:6-7. How does it make you feel to know that God cared enough to speak to Moses, Aaron, and Samuel? How does it comfort you to hear that God is “a forgiving God” (Psalm 99:8)? How does it impact you to hear that God is “an avenger of their wrongdoings”?
4. How can you tell if someone enjoys their job? Do you enjoy your job? Does it show? In a similar way, we are called to “serve the Lord with gladness!” (Psalm 100:1). Do you serve the Lord? How? With gladness? Can others tell? How is God convicting, challenging, or encouraging you?
5. Carefully read the 5 verses of Psalm 100. What stands out to you? Impacts you? Why?
6. When you meet with God (“come into His presence”), how often do you combine it “with singing”? (Psalm 100:1) How might you better integrate worshipful singing into your day-to-day and

- devotional life? How do you think an increased practice of singing to God will affect you?
7. What does it mean to “ponder the way that is blameless”? (Psalm 101:2) Why is that important and helpful?
 8. Do you think it is easier to “walk with integrity of heart” (Psalm 101:2) within your house or your workplace? What sorts of particular temptations do we face in specific settings? Around certain people?
 9. Read Psalm 101:3-4. What are some examples of things that we put in front our eyes that are “worthless”? What does it mean that we should “hate the work” of the lost? Why would it be helpful to be ignorant of evil and far away from perversity? What practical steps have you found helpful to take these steps in your own life?
 10. How does it comfort you to know that the Lord can control the way of a king? (Proverbs 21:1)
 11. What do you think about Proverbs 21:2? How have you seen that play out in your own life?
 12. How might we define pride? Do you think pride is the root of all sin? Why or why not? Why is considering the motives behind our sinful choices and sinful inactions important? (Proverbs 21:4)
 13. Why can marriage be so challenging? What sorts of things do spouses argue about? What are some characteristics of someone who is quarrelsome? What sorts of techniques and truths have helped you resolve conflict in your marriage? (Proverbs 21:9)
 14. How does it encourage and comfort you to know that nothing escapes the knowledge of “The Righteous

One” who will bring justice? (Proverb 21:12, 15)

General Discussion Questions

- What did you learn about humanity or yourself in the readings this week? About your identity, character or purpose as a Christ-follower?
- *Application Questions*: How do you need to respond to and apply these truths to your life? (Is there a sin to avoid? A command to obey? An example to follow? A prayer to offer? A truth to remember or memorize? An attitude to change? A teaching to share?)

Week 35

Pick a plan for this week and check off your progress as you read or listen.

5 Minutes Per Day - Psalms & Proverbs

Psalm 102 ~ Psalm 103 ~ Psalm 104 ~ Proverbs 21:16-31

10 Minutes Per Day - New Testament

Ephesians 3 ~ Ephesians 4 ~ Ephesians 5 ~ Ephesians 6
~ Philippians 1

15 Minutes Per Day - Old Testament

Isaiah 24 ~ Isaiah 25 ~ Isaiah 26 ~ Isaiah 27 ~ Isaiah 28
~ Isaiah 29 ~ Isaiah 30 ~ Isaiah 31 ~ Isaiah 32 ~
Isaiah 33 ~ Isaiah 34 ~ Isaiah 35 ~ Isaiah 36 ~ Isaiah
37 ~ Isaiah 38

30 Minutes - The Whole Bible (read all above)

Verse of the Week:

“Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life. I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God that you may know that you have eternal life.” 1

John 5:12-13 (ESV)

Week 35 – Questions to Consider

Christian Life - Small Group Warm Up Question:
What is your favorite Christian book or study?

Psalms & Proverbs

Psalm 102 ~ Psalm 103 ~ Psalm 104 ~ Proverbs 21:16-31

1. How do you feel when you are trying to share something important and the person you are speaking to does not seem to be paying attention? Why do you think so many Psalms start like Psalm 102, with the request for God to listen to the requests ahead? Do we always speak humbly to God in prayer? What are ways in which we shouldn't start our prayers?
2. Which of all the sorrowful descriptions in Psalm 102:3-11 have you ever been able to relate to? What were those experiences like? In such seasons of difficulty, why is important that we refocus our eyes on our Lord just as the psalmist does in Psalm 102:12-17?
3. What are some of your hopes and prayers for the "next generation"? What is one of the reasons given for the existence of the Psalms? (Psalm 102:18)
4. Do you think Psalm 102:20 is a good description of lostness? Why or why not? How does this description make you more grateful for what Jesus accomplished on the cross?
5. Have you ever had a "near death" experience where you felt like your life would be much shorter than

- you expected? (Psalm 102:23-24) How did God change you through that experience?
6. How have you seen that God is “the same” in the Psalms and Old Testament as He is in the New Testament? (Psalm 102:27)
 7. What does it mean to “bless the Lord”? How does our “soul” do that? What does it look like to bless the Lord with “all that is within me”? (Psalm 103:1)
 8. Does it make sense that God “heals all your diseases”? (Psalm 103:3) How can we say this is true with the ongoing existence of so many diseases here on earth? When we think of diseases, do we primarily think of physical/medical disease or the disease of sin? Do you think eternity in Heaven might be the way in which God ultimately heals us from “all your diseases”?
 9. Which is your favorite description of God in Psalm 103? Why?
 10. Psalm 104 describes God as Creator. Why do you think this is helpful to us? What are some of your favorite descriptions of God as Creator in Psalm 104? John 1:1-13 is one passage that helps us see Jesus’ role as Creator. What are some other connections to and prophecies about Jesus that you have seen in the Psalms?
 11. Psalm 104 finishes a bit differently from other Psalms with the prayer that “Let sinners be consumed from the earth, and let the wicked be no more” (v.35). While that seems hard initially, how is this a good way to pray? What will earth be like when there is no more sin on its surface?

12. What sorts of “pleasure” does our culture advertise?
How is Proverbs 21:17 a helpful response?
13. How can conflict, worry, and complaining damage or destroy a marriage? What are ways to intentionally counteract those temptations? (Proverbs 21:19)
14. Do you feel our society have a good work ethic?
Why or why not? How does Proverbs 21:25-26 warn us about laziness? What is the joy of the diligent (Proverbs 21:26, Acts 20:35)? Why does God warn us so much about laziness in Proverbs? (Proverbs 6:6, 6:9, 10:4, 13:4 15:19, 19:24, 20:4, 24:30, 26:13-16)
15. Why is the end of Proverbs 21 (Proverbs 21:30-31) such an important truth?

General Discussion Questions

- What can you learn about God from these passages?
His work? His character? How can this help you grow in your trust of Him?
- *Application Questions:* How do you need to respond to and apply these truths to your life? (Is there a sin to avoid? A command to obey? An example to follow? A prayer to offer? A truth to remember or memorize? An attitude to change? A teaching to share?)

Week 36

Pick a plan for this week and check off your progress as you read or listen.

5 Minutes Per Day - Psalms & Proverbs

Psalm 105 ~ Psalm 106 ~ Psalm 107 ~ Proverbs 22:1-16

10 Minutes Per Day - New Testament

Philippians 2 ~ Philippians 3 ~ Philippians 4 ~
Colossians 1 ~ Colossians 2

15 Minutes Per Day - Old Testament

2 Chronicles 32 ~ 2 Chronicles 33 ~ 2 Kings 19 ~ 2
Kings 20 ~ Isaiah 39 ~ Isaiah 40 ~ Isaiah 41 ~ Isaiah
42 ~ Isaiah 43 ~ Isaiah 44 ~ Isaiah 45 ~ Isaiah 46 ~
Isaiah 47 ~ Isaiah 48 ~ Isaiah 49

30 Minutes - The Whole Bible (read all above)

Verse of the Week:

“The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God.” Romans 8:16 (ESV)

Week 36 – Questions to Consider

Christian Life - Small Group Warm Up Question:

What are some tips you would share with a new Christian about studying the Bible?

Psalms & Proverbs

Psalms 105 ~ Psalm 106 ~ Psalm 107 ~ Proverbs 22:1-16

1. What does it mean to “seek” after the Lord’s presence and strength? How can we practically do that? What obstacles will we face when we “seek the Lord”? (Psalm 105:4)
2. What is one of your favorite Bible stories, miracles, or truths? Why? (Psalm 105:5) Why do you think God highlights some of the specific Bible stories that He does in Psalm 105 (Abraham, Joseph, Moses, the Exodus)? How do you use these reminders to correct or encourage you?
3. Psalm 106 contains a lengthy confession of their ancestors’ “corporate” sins (v.6-7, 13-40). How is the remembrance and confession of group/corporate sin (sins of a nation, people, or family) important? Why do we not usually practice such confession? When should we confess “corporate” sins alongside our usual confession of individual sin?
4. What are some of the descriptions in Psalm 106 of the Lord’s responses to sin? (Psalm 106:8-11,15,17-18, 23, 26-27, 44-46) How do these responses of the Lord instruct us? What reasons are given for the times the Lord was merciful to Israel? When have you experienced the Lord’s discipline in a life-

- altering way? When did the Lord show you undeserved mercy?
5. Psalm 107 begins with a focus on gratitude. Why is it so easy for us to forget to be grateful? What habits have you developed to cultivate a more regular attitude of gratitude in your life?
 6. How have you experienced contentment and satisfaction of your soul since you were born again as a Christian? What was your life like spiritually before your salvation? (Psalm 107:9)
 7. Why is sin ultimately a spurning of “the counsel of the Most High” (Psalm 107:11)? How does that description of sin help reveal to us the seriousness of sin?
 8. If you could go back in time to change a past sinful choice, what might you change? What pain and suffering came out of those choices? (Psalm 107:17) How did the Lord rescue or grow you in that season? (Psalm 107:19-20)
 9. How would you define wisdom? Why do you think Psalm 107 finishes by telling us, “Whoever is wise, let him attend to these things; let them consider the steadfast love of the LORD” (Psalm 107:43)?
 10. What do you think about Proverbs 22:1? Would that be your choice?
 11. How might Proverbs 22:2 be a helpful corrective?
 12. Proverbs are general truths, not predictive promises. How might that reality apply to Proverbs 22:6? How should this verse inspire our parenting efforts? How could this verse encourage us even if our children

stray away from the Lord and the way we instructed them?

13. What discipline techniques do you think are effective? Ineffective? (Proverbs 22:15)
14. Is debt an issue in our society today? How do we see the truth of Proverbs 21:7 play out?

General Discussion Questions

- What was something new you noticed this week?
What impacted you the most? Why?
- *Application Questions:* How do you need to respond to and apply these truths to your life? (Is there a sin to avoid? A command to obey? An example to follow? A prayer to offer? A truth to remember or memorize? An attitude to change? A teaching to share?)

Week 37

Pick a plan for this week and check off your progress as you read or listen.

5 Minutes Per Day - Psalms & Proverbs

Psalm 108 ~ Psalm 109 ~ Psalm 110 ~ Proverbs 22:17-29

10 Minutes Per Day - New Testament

Colossians 3 ~ Colossians 4 ~ 1 Thessalonians 1 ~ 1 Thessalonians 2 ~ 1 Thessalonians 3

15 Minutes Per Day - Old Testament

Isaiah 50 ~ Isaiah 51 ~ Isaiah 52 ~ Isaiah 53 ~ Isaiah 54
~ Isaiah 55 ~ Isaiah 56 ~ Isaiah 57 ~ Isaiah 58 ~
Isaiah 59 ~ Isaiah 60 ~ Isaiah 61 ~ Isaiah 62 ~ Isaiah
63 ~ Isaiah 64

30 Minutes - The Whole Bible (read all above)

Verse of the Week:

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.
The old has passed away; behold, the new has
come.” 2 Corinthians 5:17 (ESV)

Week 37 – Questions to Consider

Christian Life - Small Group Warm Up Question:

What are some tips you would share with a new Christian about prayer?

Psalms & Proverbs

Psalm 108 ~ Psalm 109 ~ Psalm 110 ~ Proverbs 22:17-29

1. Why do you think the Psalmist references God as “among the peoples” in Psalm 108:3? In your toughest seasons of life, why is it so important to know that God is with you?
2. In the midst of difficult, Psalm 108 focuses our gaze on God “above the heavens.” How does looking up, both spiritually and physically, help us? What have been some of your favorite things God has shown or taught you by looking up into the “clouds” or “heavens”?
3. After speaking of God’s presence and transcendence, Psalm continues with a focus on reminds God’s ownership and conquering power in Psalm 108:7-9,13. How do these truths build confidence in you?
4. Imprecatory Psalms (examples = 5, 10, 17, 35, 58, 59, 69, 70, 79, 83, 109, 129, 137, and 140) call out to God for a curse on one’s enemies. What do you think about these kinds of Psalms? Have they been easy or difficult for you to relate with them? Should you pray similarly against your own enemies? Or should we pray differently than Psalm 109?

5. What are some of the ways David is describing his enemies' attacks and behaviors (Psalm 109:1-5, 16-18)? How have you similarly experienced attacks from human enemies? Why do people act these ways?
6. What are some of the ways that David prays against his enemies? (Psalm 109:6-15) Why does David pray this way? Is he just wanting vengeance or does he have other motives? If we ever pray similarly against our enemies, what are ways we should evaluate our own heart motives?
7. What is your favorite verse from the finale of Psalm 109 (verses 26-31)? Why?
8. Who does Psalm 110 make you think about? Why? Who sits at the right hand of God? (v.1) Is King of Zion (v.2)? Who is a priest "after the order of Melchizedek" (v.4)? What does that mean and signify? (<https://www.gotquestions.org/order-of-Melchizedek.html>)
9. Who is someone you could listen endlessly to? Why? Who does Proverbs 22:17 encourage us particularly to listen to? Why? (v.18-21) How has God been using the Proverbs in your life this year as a voice of wisdom?
10. What are some modern-day examples of how you see the poor "robbed"? (Proverbs 22:22) What is God's response to those who "rob the poor"? (Proverbs 22:23) What are some ways we might better be able to protect the poor?
11. How do we gain, seek, or lose friends as we grow up? What are some seasons of life in which your circle of friends changed? For better or worse? Why

are friends such a big influence on our lives (Proverbs 22:24-25)?

12. Why is it so easy to get into insurmountable debt in many places of the world today? What do you think is particularly helpful about Proverbs 22:26-27 in regard to loans? If a younger person was asking you for financial advice in regards to a credit card, “payday loan”, car loan, business loan, or home loan what would you say?
13. How does Proverbs 22:29 encourage you with the vocational/work giftings and opportunities that God has given you?

General Discussion Questions

- *Context Questions:* Who is writing this? Who is it being written to? When? Why? What type of writing is this? How does this matter to my understanding of the meaning of these chapters?
- *Application Questions:* How do you need to respond to and apply these truths to your life? (Is there a sin to avoid? A command to obey? An example to follow? A prayer to offer? A truth to remember or memorize? An attitude to change? A teaching to share?)

Week 38

Pick a plan for this week and check off your progress as you read or listen.

5 Minutes Per Day - Psalms & Proverbs

Psalms 111 ~ Psalm 112 ~ Psalm 113 ~ Proverbs 23:1-18

10 Minutes Per Day - New Testament

1 Thessalonians 4 ~ 1 Thessalonians 5 ~ 2 Thessalonians 1 ~ 2 Thessalonians 2 ~ 2 Thessalonians 3

15 Minutes Per Day - Old Testament

Isaiah 65 ~ Isaiah 66 ~ 2 Chronicles 33 ~ 2 Chronicles 34 ~ 2 Chronicles 35 ~ 2 Kings 21 ~ 2 Kings 22 ~ 2 Kings 23 ~ Nahum 1 ~ Nahum 2 ~ Nahum 3 ~ Zephaniah 1 ~ Zephaniah 2 ~ Zephaniah 3

30 Minutes - The Whole Bible (read all above)

Verse of the Week:

“There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.” Romans 8:1 (ESV)

Week 38 – Questions to Consider

Christian Life - Small Group Warm Up Question:

What are some tips you would share with a new Christian about church?

Psalms & Proverbs

Psalm 111 ~ Psalm 112 ~ Psalm 113 ~ Proverbs 23:1-18

1. How has God used your church “congregation” to encourage, mentor, and grow you in your Christian walk? Name some specific examples. (Psalm 111:1) What sort of long-term legacy do you hope to leave within your local church family?
2. What is the difference between knowing something and studying something? Why would those who love the Lord’s works “study” them rather than just “knowing” them? What might that look like? (Psalm 111:2)
3. How would you describe the characteristics of someone who is “trustworthy”? Why do we want to have trustworthy friends, family, neighbors, and coworkers? How does it impact you to hear about God, that “all his precepts are trustworthy”? (Psalm 111:7) Do you think we give the Bible the time, attention, and love that it deserves? How can we do better?
4. How would you explain or summarize Psalm 111:10 in an easy-to-understand way?
5. What does it mean that “the righteous will never be moved”? (Psalm 112:6) What does it not mean? Who are the “righteous”?

6. Read Psalm 112:5-9. Do you agree or disagree with verse 5? How do you make sense of this passage?
7. Psalm 113 is summarized as “Who is like the Lord our God” based on verse 5. What stands out to you from Psalm 113 & why?
8. What is your favorite name of God? Characteristic of God? Miracle of God? Why? (for ideas see www.spiritualwarfare.blog/names-of-god , www.spiritualwarfare.blog/miracles-of-god , www.spiritualwarfare.blog/character-of-god). Why should we brag about God? What are some ways we can boast in the name of the Lord? In daily conversation? Through digital means?
9. Who is the most famous or richest person you have met? What was that like? Did you act differently when you were in their presence? Why? Why do we sometimes think that fame or riches would make our life better? What does the Bible say about fame and riches? (Proverbs 23:1-5)
10. Have you ever encountered someone who was manipulating or using you? Did you get hurt in that situation? What are characteristics we might be able to spot in someone with bad motives? (Proverbs 23:6-8)
11. The warnings of Proverbs 23:1-18 sound like loving advice from a parent to a child. What is some of the best advice you received from your parents? What sort of advice might you prioritize to pass down to the next generation?

General Discussion Questions

- What do these passages teach us about our enemies' attacks (deceptions, distractions, discouragement, and temptations)? How can we better resist these attacks?
- *Application Questions*: How do you need to respond to and apply these truths to your life? (Is there a sin to avoid? A command to obey? An example to follow? A prayer to offer? A truth to remember or memorize? An attitude to change? A teaching to share?)

Week 39

Pick a plan for this week and check off your progress as you read or listen.

5 Minutes Per Day - Psalms & Proverbs

Psalm 114 ~ Psalm 115 ~ Psalm 116 ~ Proverbs 23:19-35

10 Minutes Per Day - New Testament

1 Timothy 1 ~ 1 Timothy 2 ~ 1 Timothy 3 ~ 1 Timothy 4 ~ 1 Timothy 5

15 Minutes Per Day - Old Testament

Habakkuk 1 ~ Habakkuk 2 ~ Habakkuk 3 ~ Joel 1 ~ Joel 2 ~ Joel 3 ~ Jeremiah 1 ~ Jeremiah 2 ~ Jeremiah 3 ~ Jeremiah 4 ~ Jeremiah 5 ~ Jeremiah 6 ~ Jeremiah 7 ~ Jeremiah 8 ~ Jeremiah 9

30 Minutes - The Whole Bible (read all above)

Verse of the Week:

“‘All things are lawful for me,’ but not all things are helpful. ‘All things are lawful for me,’ but I will not be dominated by anything.” 1 Corinthians 6:12 (ESV)

Week 39 – Questions to Consider

Christian Life - Small Group Warm Up Question:

What are some tips you would share with a new Christian about marriage?

Psalms & Proverbs

Psalm 114 ~ Psalm 115 ~ Psalm 116 ~ Proverbs 23:19-35

1. What is one of your favorite miracles or part of God's deliverance of His people, Israel, from captivity in Egypt, through 40 years in the desert, into the Promised Land? Why?
2. Why do you think God describes the sea, mountains, and hills the way he does in Psalm 114?
3. If you had to be famous/well-known, what would you want to be famous/known for? What temptations would you face in being famous? What advantages would you have in being famous? Why do you think Psalm 115 starts the way it does?
4. Why do people make and worship idols in the Bible? How is verse 3 "Our God is in the heavens; he does all that he pleases" contrast the reasons people turn to idols?
5. What are some modern-day man-made "idols" people pursue and worship? How have you been tempted by these idols? How does Psalm 115:4-8 provide important reminders about "idols"?
 - a. See also: "What does the Bible say about idols?"
www.trustworthyword.com/idols

6. Why do you think “trust the Lord” is repeated three times in Psalm 115:9-11? What sort of situations can make us turn away from trusting in the Lord? When we aren’t trusting in the Lord, who or what do we trust in?
7. Why do you think “he will bless” is repeated three times in Psalm 115:12-13? How is this a contrast to those who worship idols? What should be our response to God’s blessings? (v.18)
8. How can you tell if someone is a good listener? Why is being a good listener evidence of love? How does it make you feel to know that you can call on the Lord in prayer as long as you live? (Psalm 116:1)
9. What is your favorite verse in Psalm 116? Why?
10. What does God mean when He says “Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints.” (Psalm 116:15)? Which sort of funerals and visitations do you care the most about attending? Why? How does it make you feel to know that God deeply cares about the deaths of his followers?
 - a. See also: www.gotquestions.org/precious-sight-Lord-death-saints.html
11. Did you listen well to your parents/guardians when you were a teenager? Why or why not? Why do you think God emphasizes listening to your father and mother (Proverbs 23:22)?
12. Why is lust so dangerous and destructive? (Proverbs 23:26-28) What advice or encouragement would you give a young man or woman to help them resist sexual temptations?

- a. “What does the Bible say about Sexual Sin?”
www.trustworthyword.com/what-does-the-bible-say-about-sexual-sin
- b. “How to Protect Yourself and Your Family from Porn” www.trustworthyword.com/protect-from-porn
- 13. Proverbs 23 finishes with warnings about the love of alcohol leading to drunkenness. (Proverbs 23:29-35). Why do you think so much attention is given to this subject? How has alcohol or substance abuse affected your life or family? What has God taught you on this subject?
 - a. See also: “What does the Bible really say about Alcohol?” www.trustworthyword.com/alcohol
 - b. See also: “What does the Bible say about Addictions?” www.trustworthyword.com/what-does-the-bible-say-about-addictions

General Discussion Questions

- What did you learn about humanity or yourself in the readings this week? About your identity, character or purpose as a Christ-follower?
- *Application Questions*: How do you need to respond to and apply these truths to your life? (Is there a sin to avoid? A command to obey? An example to follow? A prayer to offer? A truth to remember or memorize? An attitude to change? A teaching to share?)

Week 40

Pick a plan for this week and check off your progress as you read or listen.

5 Minutes Per Day - Psalms & Proverbs

Psalm 117 ~ Psalm 118 ~ Proverbs 24:1-18

10 Minutes Per Day - New Testament

1 Timothy 6 ~ 2 Timothy 1 ~ 2 Timothy 2 ~ 2 Timothy 3
~ 2 Timothy 4

15 Minutes Per Day - Old Testament

Jeremiah 10 ~ Jeremiah 11 ~ Jeremiah 12 ~ Jeremiah 13
~ Jeremiah 14 ~ Jeremiah 15 ~ Jeremiah 16 ~
Jeremiah 17 ~ Jeremiah 18 ~ Jeremiah 19 ~ Jeremiah
20 ~ Jeremiah 21 ~ Jeremiah 22 ~ Jeremiah 23 ~
Jeremiah 24

30 Minutes - The Whole Bible (read all above)

Verse of the Week:

“Abba, Father, all things are possible for you. Remove this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will.” Mark 14:35-36 (ESV)

Week 40 – Questions to Consider

Christian Life - Small Group Warm Up Question:

What are some tips you would share with a new Christian about parenting and family?

Psalms & Proverbs

Psalm 117 ~ Psalm 118 ~ Proverbs 24:1-18

1. Psalm 117 is super short (two verses) but focus on two key aspects of God’s character: love and faithfulness. How would you define love and faithfulness? Why are they such important characteristics in a relationship? Other world religions, sects, and cults portray God as distant, uninvolved, or impersonal. How does it impact you to focus on God’s love and faithfulness?
2. Psalm 118 continues the theme of “steadfast love” in its first four verses. If your family/house were to describe ways in which God has loved you consistently, what might you mention?
3. When were you in a situation in which you felt entrapped, surrounded or captive to someone else’s will or a tough situation? How did the Lord set you “free” in that circumstance or from that person?
4. Look at Psalm 118:6. If people can cause lots of harm to us, how can the Psalmist write “What can man do to me?” What are some of your biggest fears in life about what people might do to you or your family? How can you similarly reorient your mind about those fears in such a way that you can find peace in the midst of stressful scenarios?

5. What is a “refuge”? Why do we “take refuge” in others? What some ways in which we might try to “take refuge” in someone other than God? How can we shift our mindset and heart towards a trust in God? What steps can we take to daily trust more deeply in God?
6. Have you ever had a “near death” experience? What was that like? What did you learn from it? In Psalm 118:17, what is the purpose of life that the Psalmist gives himself to after a “near death” experience? If you knew you only had one year to live, what changes would you make in your life?
7. What is the purpose of parental discipline? How would your parents discipline you growing up? What was effective and what was ineffective? When was a time that you think you experienced the Lord’s “severe discipline” (Psalm 118:18)? What was that like?
8. Do you have any gates at your house? What is the purpose of a gate? Do you keep them locked or unlocked? Why? How might you pray similarly to Psalm 118:19-21?
9. Psalm 118:22 is quoted at least 7 times in the Bible (Matthew 21:42; Mark 12:10–11; Luke 20:17; Isaiah 28:16; Acts 4:11; Ephesians 2:20; 1 Peter 2:4-7). Why is this such an important prophecy about who the Messiah?
10. Did you ever sing Psalm 118:24 as a child? What is so powerful about this verse?
11. How does the world define “success”? If you were to pray to be successful in life, what might you mean by

that sort of prayer? How would you define success in God's eyes?

12. Skim over Proverbs 24:1-18. What stands out to you? Why?
13. What do you think about Proverbs 24:17-18? In all honesty, is this easy or hard to follow?

General Discussion Questions

- What can you learn about God from these passages? His work? His character? How can this help you grow in your trust of Him?
- *Application Questions*: How do you need to respond to and apply these truths to your life? (Is there a sin to avoid? A command to obey? An example to follow? A prayer to offer? A truth to remember or memorize? An attitude to change? A teaching to share?)

Week 41

Pick a plan for this week and check off your progress as you read or listen.

5 Minutes Per Day - Psalms & Proverbs

Psalms 119:1-88 ~ Proverbs 24:19-34

10 Minutes Per Day - New Testament

Titus 1 ~ Titus 2 ~ Titus 3 ~ Philemon ~ Hebrews 1

15 Minutes Per Day - Old Testament

Jeremiah 25 ~ Jeremiah 26 ~ Jeremiah 27 ~ Jeremiah 28
~ Jeremiah 29 ~ Jeremiah 30 ~ Jeremiah 31 ~
Jeremiah 32 ~ Jeremiah 33 ~ Jeremiah 34 ~ Jeremiah
35 ~ Jeremiah 36 ~ Jeremiah 37 ~ Jeremiah 38 ~
Jeremiah 39

30 Minutes - The Whole Bible (read all above)

Verse of the Week:

“So we can confidently say, ‘The Lord is my helper;
I will not fear; what can man do to me?’”

Hebrews 13:6 (ESV)

Week 41 – Questions to Consider

Christian Life - Small Group Warm Up Question:

What are some times or ways you have seen God's greatness and power through nature?

Psalms & Proverbs

Psalm 119:1-88 ~ Proverbs 24:19-34

1. Psalm 119 is the longest Psalm in the Bible (and longer than some Bible books). It follows a pattern called an “acrostic” where it is organized by the 22 letters of the Hebrew alphabet. If you were to summarize Psalm 119 in one word, or one sentence, how would you summarize it?
2. What is your favorite verse from Psalm 119? Why?
3. What are some of the various words used to describe the Bible in Psalm 119? How do those words emphasize the important and significance of the Bible to us?
4. Why do you think Psalm 119 starts out by talking about who is “blessed” (Psalm 119:1-3)? How does that differ with the world’s version of “blessed”?
5. If you make a new rule with your child, what sort of responses might you get? Why do children struggle against rules? Why do parents implement and enforce rules?
6. How would you define “purity”? (Psalm 118:9) What is the opposite of purity? Why is purity a worthy pursuit? What does God say is key to pursuing purity in this life? Why does Satan oppose purity so passionately?

7. What challenges in life have you faced in regard to prioritizing the Bible each day? What have you found to be a helpful approach to the discipline of Bible reading and study? How has God blessed you in seasons when you've been more diligent to be in the Word consistently?
8. What does it mean to be a "sojourner" (Psalm 119:19)? Why is our temporary state here in life so important to consider in light of our eternal residence?
9. Psalm 119 is full of personal statements... "I will", "I cling", "I have chosen", "I delight", "I am", "I have kept", "I told", "My soul", etc. How has the Bible become personal to you since you were born again?
10. What is one of your favorite gifts you've received in life? Why was it so special? How did you use it? Why is seeing the Bible as a "gift" an important perspective?
11. Psalm 119:37 asks God to help "turn my eyes from worthless things." What are some "worthless things" your eyes spend too much time looking at?
12. Psalm 119:67 says "Before I was afflicted, I went astray, but now I keep your word." How does your personal testimony of salvation connect with this description? What does it mean that "in faithfulness you have afflicted me"? (Psalm 119:75)
13. What sort of things tempt you to "fret" or worry? What sort of things tempt you to "envy"? How can worry and covetousness been a concerning symptom about our relationship with God (Proverbs 24:19)?

- How does zooming out to our eternal blessings in Jesus help us regain perspective (Proverbs 24:20)?
14. Why the Bible often commands us to “fear the Lord”, what does it mean to “fear...the king” (Proverbs 24:21-22)? Is it acceptable to be anti-government and anti-authority today? Why can an anti-authoritarian attitude be dangers? Is an anti-government bias a bad Christian witness?
 15. Proverbs 24:27,30-34 speaks a lot about work ethic. Which is your favorite piece of advice about work ethic? Where did you learn your work ethic from? What wisdom would you pass on to the next generation about a good work ethic?

General Discussion Questions

- What was something new you noticed this week? What impacted you the most? Why?
- *Application Questions*: How do you need to respond to and apply these truths to your life? (Is there a sin to avoid? A command to obey? An example to follow? A prayer to offer? A truth to remember or memorize? An attitude to change? A teaching to share?)

Week 42

Pick a plan for this week and check off your progress as you read or listen.

5 Minutes Per Day - Psalms & Proverbs

Psalm 119:89-176 ~ Proverbs 25:1-14

10 Minutes Per Day - New Testament

Hebrews 2 ~ Hebrews 3 ~ Hebrews 4 ~ Hebrews 5 ~
Hebrews 6

15 Minutes Per Day - Old Testament

2 Chronicles 36 ~ 2 Kings 24 ~ 2 Kings 25 ~ Jeremiah
40 ~ Jeremiah 41 ~ Jeremiah 42 ~ Jeremiah 43 ~
Jeremiah 44 ~ Jeremiah 45 ~ Jeremiah 46 ~ Jeremiah
47 ~ Jeremiah 48 ~ Jeremiah 49 ~ Jeremiah 50 ~
Obadiah

30 Minutes - The Whole Bible (read all above)

Verse of the Week:

“bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.”

Colossians 3:13 (ESV)

Week 42 – Questions to Consider

Christian Life - Small Group Warm Up Question:
How are you seeing God work among the next generation?

Psalms & Proverbs

Psalm 119:89-176 ~ Proverbs 25:1-14

1. When someone makes you a promise, what sort of thoughts go through your mind? In comparison, what amazes you about God’s promises? (Psalm 119:89-90)
2. What is your favorite Bible verse? Why? How has God used that verse in your life?
3. “I am yours; save me” is such a short, simple statement, yet is so powerful (Psalm 119:94). How would you explain the power and comfort of this verse to a non-Christian?
4. What are some techniques you have found helpful to “meditate” on God’s Word “all the day”? (Psalm 119:97)
5. What is your favorite sweet or dessert? When did you first acquire a taste for it? What do you like so much about it? How does it affect you to think of it even now? In what ways is the Bible “sweeter” than your favorite candy or dessert? (Psalm 119:103)
6. What is a food that you “hate”? How could someone else know that you hate that food? Similarly, what should it look like to “hate every false way”? (Psalm 119:104)

7. Have you ever been stuck in a dark or scary situation when a light was needed, helpful, or comforting? What was that like? How much did you value your light in that circumstance? Psalm 119:105 says “your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.” How has God used the Bible to help you navigate or find comfort in this dark and dangerous world?
8. What is your favorite sport to watch or participate in? Why are rules important in that sport? What happens if coaches don’t teach their players the rules? In a similar way, why does our God emphasize his “rules” to us? Is that “oppressive” or “restricting”? Why should we want to learn and live by His “rules”? (Psalm 119:108)
9. Psalm 119:113-120 contrasts the faithful to the unrighteous. What comparisons stand out to you in this section?
10. Read 119:136. How can you relate to this? Should we feel this sort of pity and compassion towards the lost? Why?
11. Why would our “persecutors” and “adversaries” try to get us to swerve from God’s law? (Psalm 119:57) What tactics might our enemies use to pull us away from God’s law?
12. What is your favorite proverb from Proverbs 25? Why?
13. How would you define gossip? Why is gossip so easy in many circumstances? Why is gossip so destructive? (Proverbs 25:9)
14. If you could give away valuable jewelry for free to others, how do you think people would respond? How would it make you feel to give away such

valuable gifts? Why do you think “a word fitly spoken” is compared to a fine piece of jewelry (Proverbs 25:11-12)? How does it impact you to know that we can both acquire and share God’s infinitely valuable wisdom?

General Discussion Questions

- *Context Questions:* Who is writing this? Who is it being written to? When? Why? What type of writing is this? How does this matter to my understanding of the meaning of these chapters?
- *Application Questions:* How do you need to respond to and apply these truths to your life? (Is there a sin to avoid? A command to obey? An example to follow? A prayer to offer? A truth to remember or memorize? An attitude to change? A teaching to share?)

Week 43

Pick a plan for this week and check off your progress as you read or listen.

5 Minutes Per Day - Psalms & Proverbs

Psalm 120 ~ Psalm 121 ~ Psalm 122 ~ Proverbs 25:15-28

10 Minutes Per Day - New Testament

Hebrews 7 ~ Hebrews 8 ~ Hebrews 9 ~ Hebrews 10 ~ Hebrews 11

15 Minutes Per Day - Old Testament

Jeremiah 51 ~ Jeremiah 52 ~ Lamentations 1 ~ Lamentations 2 ~ Lamentations 3 ~ Lamentations 4 ~ Lamentations 5 ~ Ezekiel 1 ~ Ezekiel 2 ~ Ezekiel 3 ~ Ezekiel 4 ~ Ezekiel 5 ~ Ezekiel 6 ~ Ezekiel 7 ~ Ezekiel 8

30 Minutes - The Whole Bible (read all above)

Verse of the Week:

“I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.” John 14:3 (ESV)

Week 43 – Questions to Consider

Christian Life - Small Group Warm Up Question:

How are you trying to share God's truth and love with the next generation?

Psalms & Proverbs

Psalm 120 ~ Psalm 121 ~ Psalm 122 ~ Proverbs 25:15-28

1. If you call the police, fire department, or ambulance in an emergency and they did not answer your call, how would you feel? Why would you feel that way? Does God have to answer our "calls" for help when we pray? How does it make you feel to know that the Creator of the Universe chooses to answer your prayers for help when you are in "distress"? (Psalm 120:1) What do we learn about God's character by the fact that He answers personal prayer?
2. Do "lying lips" bother you? Why? Why do some people thrive off of conflict? How have you learned to navigate, avoid, or restrain those who gossip, lie, or love to provoke conflict? (Psalms 120) What is it like when you finally encounter peace?
3. Read Psalm 121:1-2. This is a Psalm that would be recited when climbing up to the temple to worship God in Jerusalem. Why do you think the Psalmist begins this way? When we walk, how does the focus of our eyes affect us? What does it look like to set the "eyes" of our heart on God? When we go to God in prayer for help, why is remembering Him as Creator so powerful?

4. How does the rest of Psalm 121 comfort you about who God is and how he works?
5. How would you explain to a non-Christian the purpose of church? How would you encourage a new Christian about the importance of going to church? What gets you excited about going to church? What can steal our joy in going to church? (Psalm 122)
6. In Psalm 122:4, what is the purpose of the city of Jerusalem? How can we best accomplish that purpose today?
7. How would you define “peace”? What is the purpose of Jerusalem having peace? How are the residents of Jerusalem described? Is that true of the population of Jerusalem today? In what ways should we be praying for the “peace of Jerusalem” today? (Psalm 122:6)
8. What does God mean by “peace be within you”? How is that possible? What does that experience feel like?
9. What does it mean that a “soft tongue will break a bone”? (Proverbs 25:15) Why is speaking softly so challenging at times? Why is it often so effective?
10. Read Proverbs 25:21-22. What are some practical ways you have sought to love on your “enemy”? Why would such love be like “burning coals on his head”? Even if our enemy does not respond well to such love, how does receiving the Lord’s “reward” encourage you? Read Romans 5:8-10. When did God love us?
11. Middle eastern roofs were often flat, uncomfortable (with exposure to the sun and elements), with dirty corners (where dust and debris accumulates). Similarly, why is marital conflict so hard? (Proverbs

25:24) What are some good techniques you have learn to better love and communicate with your spouse?

12. In what parts of your life do you desire more self-control? How does the imagery of a city with walls help you to visualize the importance of self-control? (Proverbs 25:28)

General Discussion Questions

- What do these passages teach us about our enemies' attacks (deceptions, distractions, discouragement, and temptations)? How can we better resist these attacks?
- *Application Questions:* How do you need to respond to and apply these truths to your life? (Is there a sin to avoid? A command to obey? An example to follow? A prayer to offer? A truth to remember or memorize? An attitude to change? A teaching to share?)

Week 44

Pick a plan for this week and check off your progress as you read or listen.

5 Minutes Per Day - Psalms & Proverbs

Psalms 123 ~ Psalm 124 ~ Psalm 125 ~ Proverbs 26:1-16

10 Minutes Per Day - New Testament

Hebrews 12 ~ Hebrews 13 ~ James 1 ~ James 2 ~ James 3

15 Minutes Per Day - Old Testament

Ezekiel 9 ~ Ezekiel 10 ~ Ezekiel 11 ~ Ezekiel 12 ~
Ezekiel 13 ~ Ezekiel 14 ~ Ezekiel 15 ~ Ezekiel 16 ~
Ezekiel 17 ~ Ezekiel 18 ~ Ezekiel 19 ~ Ezekiel 20 ~
Ezekiel 21 ~ Ezekiel 22 ~ Ezekiel 23

30 Minutes - The Whole Bible (read all above)

Verse of the Week:

“And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.”

Revelation 20:15 (ESV)

Week 44 – Questions to Consider

Christian Life - Small Group Warm Up Question:
Who is on the top of your prayer list? Why?

Psalms & Proverbs

Psalm 123 ~ Psalm 124 ~ Psalm 125 ~ Proverbs 26:1-16

1. Why do you think Psalm 123 focuses on our eyes so much? What can we make of the comparisons giving in Psalm 123:2? What are some similar reasons why we should “look to the Lord our God”? How are our physical eyes and spiritual “heart” connected? How can we practically ensure the “eyes of our heart” stay focused on God daily?
2. What is “mercy”? Why does the Psalmist keep looking upon the Lord “till he has mercy upon us”? (Psalm 123:2-4) What are some specific ways we need and want God’s mercy?
3. What are some ways you’ve seen the Lord be “on our side”? (Psalm 124:1-2) Why is it so easy to forget the past ways God has delivered us? Why is it so easy to become self-dependent and not desperate enough for God’s “help”? Why do you think the Psalmist, when asking God for “help”, refers to God as the One “who made heaven and earth”? (Psalm 124:8)
4. When you look at all the evil opposition in the world today, how do you feel? Why? How do you think the Psalmist felt at times? Why is Psalm 125 such a good corrective to temptations towards depression and prolonged sadness or hopelessness?

5. How does Psalm 125:1-2 encourage your faith? What circumstances in life have made you feel like you were surrounded by enemies rather than surrounded by God? Read 2 Kings 6:15-18. How is this situation with Elisha and his servant similar to Psalm 125? How should Elisha's example instruct us?
6. Why do you think Psalm 125:4 asks the Lord to do good those who "are good" rather than those who "do good"? How does "upright in their hearts" describe a true believer? Conversely, how does Psalm 125:5 describe a non-believer or a false convert? Why should we pray similarly?
7. Why is snow in summer not appropriate? Why is rain not good during the harvest? Why is honor not fitting for a fool? What are the consequences of honoring fools? How do you see fools being honored today? Share some specific examples. How can we personally avoid honoring fools? (Proverbs 26:1)
8. Read Proverbs 26:4-5. Do these verses contradict each other? Why are both of these reminders so helpful? How can we practically apply such wisdom in person? On social media?
9. Why do you think Proverbs speaks so much about fools? Which is your favorite verse from Proverbs 26 about foolishness? Why?
10. How would you define a "sluggard"? What are some "sluggish" habits and temptations we face today? What are some ways you would advise the next generation to resist becoming a "sluggard"?

General Discussion Questions

- What did you learn about humanity or yourself in the readings this week? About your identity, character or purpose as a Christ-follower?
- *Application Questions:* How do you need to respond to and apply these truths to your life? (Is there a sin to avoid? A command to obey? An example to follow? A prayer to offer? A truth to remember or memorize? An attitude to change? A teaching to share?)

Week 45

Pick a plan for this week and check off your progress as you read or listen.

5 Minutes Per Day - Psalms & Proverbs

Psalm 126 ~ Psalm 127 ~ Psalm 128 ~ Proverbs 26:17-28

10 Minutes Per Day - New Testament

James 4 ~ James 5 ~ 1 Peter 1 ~ 1 Peter 2 ~ 1 Peter 3

15 Minutes Per Day - Old Testament

Ezekiel 24 ~ Ezekiel 25 ~ Ezekiel 26 ~ Ezekiel 27 ~
Ezekiel 28 ~ Ezekiel 29 ~ Ezekiel 30 ~ Ezekiel 31 ~
Ezekiel 32 ~ Ezekiel 33 ~ Ezekiel 34 ~ Ezekiel 35 ~
Ezekiel 36 ~ Ezekiel 37 ~ Ezekiel 38

30 Minutes - The Whole Bible (read all above)

Verse of the Week:

“As I have loved you, so you must love one another.”
John 13:34 (ESV)

Week 45 – Questions to Consider

Christian Life - Small Group Warm Up Question:
What is a favorite memory of yours from growing up in church?

Psalms & Proverbs

Psalm 126 ~ Psalm 127 ~ Psalm 128 ~ Proverbs 26:17-28

1. What does the word “restore” mean? What does it imply about the previous situation? What does it describe about the current situation?
2. While we don’t know the details of what specific events are being described by Psalm 126, we can see their descriptions of their feelings. What are some of their responses to God’s mercy and blessing that stand out to you in Psalm 126?
3. When was a time in your life when you believe the Lord “restored” you by showing you mercy and blessing? How did that make you feel? What are some of the “great things” the Lord has done for you? (Psalm 126:3)
4. The Negeb is a very dry section of southern Israel. What is the significance of asking God for a blessing “like streams in the Negeb”? (Psalm 126:4)
5. Grain seed is the edible harvest that is used to make food such as bread. The same seed is used for planting the next year’s crops. What is the significant investment/risk a farmer takes at the time of planting? Why would a farmer be “weeping” when he goes out to plant the “seed for sowing”?

- Why would a farmer “come home with shouts of joy” at harvest time? (Psalm 126:5-6)
6. How did Jesus “sow” Himself on the cross? As a dead “seed” into the ground? How did He “sow in tears”? How did Christ “reap”? How did Jesus “come home with shouts of joy”? Who are the “his sheaves” that He brings with Him?
 7. What can Christians “sow” with their lives and labors? How might such efforts result in “tears” and “weeping”? What do Christians “reap with shouts of joy”?
 8. Why do you think Psalm 127:1 is such a popular verse? How would you summarize and explain this verse to a child? How would you summarize and explain the rest of Psalm 127? What do you think God is trying to teach you through Psalm 127?
 9. How can you tell if a child respects their parents? How can you tell if a student respects their teacher? How can you tell if a patient respects their doctor? How can you tell if someone “fears the Lord”? (Psalm 128:1)
 10. How does our spiritual faithfulness bless our work, marriage, and parenting? (Psalm 128:2-3)
Conversely, how does spiritual unfaithfulness curse one’s work, marriage, and parenting?
 11. How would Israel’s faithfulness to God spiritually bless the nations around them? Does your country spiritually bless or curse the nations around it? How does your life spiritually benefit your family? Neighbors? Co-workers? Classmates?

General Discussion Questions

- What can you learn about God from these passages? His work? His character? How can this help you grow in your trust of Him?
- *Application Questions*: How do you need to respond to and apply these truths to your life? (Is there a sin to avoid? A command to obey? An example to follow? A prayer to offer? A truth to remember or memorize? An attitude to change? A teaching to share?)

Week 46

Pick a plan for this week and check off your progress as you read or listen.

5 Minutes Per Day - Psalms & Proverbs

Psalm 129 ~ Psalm 130 ~ Psalm 131 ~ Proverbs 27

10 Minutes Per Day - New Testament

1 Peter 4 ~ 1 Peter 5 ~ 2 Peter 1 ~ 2 Peter 2 ~ 2 Peter 3

15 Minutes Per Day - Old Testament

Ezekiel 39 ~ Ezekiel 40 ~ Ezekiel 41 ~ Ezekiel 42 ~
Ezekiel 43 ~ Ezekiel 44 ~ Ezekiel 45 ~ Ezekiel 46 ~
Ezekiel 47 ~ Ezekiel 48 ~ Daniel 1 ~ Daniel 2 ~
Daniel 3 ~ Daniel 4 ~ Daniel 5

30 Minutes - The Whole Bible (read all above)

Verse of the Week:

“everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has
already committed adultery with her in his heart.”

Matthew 5:28 (ESV)

Week 46 – Questions to Consider

Christian Life - Small Group Warm Up Question:

What sins do you see as dominating in popularity today? How can we best respond in truth and love?

Psalms & Proverbs

Psalm 129 ~ Psalm 130 ~ Psalm 131 ~ Proverbs 27

1. Psalm 129 describes the confidence Israel can have in God, based on their past experiences of deliverance from those who hate them. How has God grown your confidence in Him since you first became a Christian?
2. How does the Psalmist describe his suffering? What are some ways you see Christians being “afflicted” today?
3. How does the Psalmist pray for deliverance? How can we pray for deliverance of the Christians who are being persecuted today?
4. What does it feel like to be in the “depths” or low places in life? Psalm 130 begins with a plea for God to pay attention and listen to their prayer for relief. Do we pray this way? Should we pray this way? Why or why not?
5. Read Psalm 130:3-4. How would you summarize or restate the point the Psalmist is making?
6. How would you define “hope”? What does the phrase, “don’t get your hopes up” mean or imply? Why can the Psalmist so confidently claim to be waiting and hoping in the Lord? How can we gain and maintain a similar confidence in the Lord? How

does such a confidence change your perspective and attitude?

7. What does the writer do to keep himself calm and relaxed? (Psalm 131:1) What sort of things in life get you worked up or anxious? How do you try to calm yourself? What steps could you take to minimize your anxiety and calm your soul?
8. Why is a young infant at peace in its mother's presence? How can we have such peace in the midst of so much chaos in life? Why is this peace described as a forever peace? (Psalm 131:2-3)
9. What is your favorite truth from Proverbs 27? Why?
10. What are some ways we "boast about tomorrow"? Why does God warn us not to do that? (Proverbs 27:1)
11. What are ways you see people praise themselves today? Why is that dangerous? Why do people do that? What are ways to protect ourselves from that temptation? (Proverbs 27:2)
12. Why is "open rebuke" better than "hidden love"? How can we apply this to our lives? (Proverbs 27:5)
13. What are the "wounds of a friend"? How are those wounds "faithful"? (Proverbs 27:6) How can this help us to be a better friend and to seek better friends?
14. Why do you think Proverbs 27:17 is so popular? How would you explain this verse to a child?
15. What does it mean that the "heart of man reflects the man" (Proverbs 27:19)? If we see that we have "heart" problems reflected in our lives, what can we do about it?

16. How can you see in today's society that "never satisfied are the eyes of man" (Proverbs 27:20)? What steps can we better take to protect ourselves from this temptation?

General Discussion Questions

- What was something new you noticed this week? What impacted you the most? Why?
- *Application Questions*: How do you need to respond to and apply these truths to your life? (Is there a sin to avoid? A command to obey? An example to follow? A prayer to offer? A truth to remember or memorize? An attitude to change? A teaching to share?)

Week 47

Pick a plan for this week and check off your progress as you read or listen.

5 Minutes Per Day - Psalms & Proverbs

Psalm 132 ~ Psalm 133 ~ Psalm 134 ~ Proverbs 28:1-14

10 Minutes Per Day - New Testament

1 John 1 ~ 1 John 2 ~ 1 John 3 ~ 1 John 4 ~ 1 John 5

15 Minutes Per Day - Old Testament

Daniel 6 ~ Daniel 7 ~ Daniel 8 ~ Daniel 9 ~ Daniel 10 ~
Daniel 11 ~ Daniel 12 ~ Ezra 1 ~ Ezra 2 ~ Ezra 3 ~
Ezra 4 ~ Ezra 5 ~ Ezra 6

30 Minutes - The Whole Bible (read all above)

Verse of the Week:

“Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous.” Hebrews 13:4
(ESV)

Week 47 – Questions to Consider

Christian Life - Small Group Warm Up Question:

Share a time when God grew you significantly (a mission trip, a retreat, a conference, a camp, a tough season, etc.)?

Psalms & Proverbs

Psalm 132 ~ Psalm 133 ~ Psalm 134 ~ Proverbs 28:1-14

1. When David was King of Israel, how did things go for Israel? Why? What do you remember of how David finished as King? What happened after his rule? Why?
2. The Psalmist begins Psalm 132 with a focus on David's faithfulness to God in building the temple. What request is the Psalmist making? Why would the Psalmist bring up David's faithfulness in the midst of such a request?
3. When they pray for the Lord to be in their midst (Psalm 132:8 "your resting place", i.e. the temple in Jerusalem), what sort
4. The word Messiah comes from the transliterated Hebrew word for "Anointed" and the word Christ comes from the transliterating "Anointed" into Greek (ESV Study Bible). What connection do you see in Psalm 132:10 pointing forward to Jesus, according to the promises to David (Psalm 132:11-12, 17)?
5. Read Psalm 132:13-18. How does this description bring to mind a foretaste of Heaven?
6. Have you ever experienced a time of division within your church family? Within your

biological/adopted/marriage family? Within your workplace? All of the above? What does it feel like to be in such situations of turmoil? In contrast, what is the experience of “unity” in relationships like? (Psalm 133:1)

7. Psalm 133 uses the imagery of a priest being anointed in comparison with “unity.” How does peace in relationships demonstrate our “holiness” in being set apart for God’s purposes?
8. Psalm 133 also uses the imagery of a mountain rising above the landscape as the visible source of water for the region. How does peace in relationships bring life to others around Christians?
9. Read Psalm 134. What do you think the purpose is for this Psalm? What does it teach? How does it encourage you?
10. Why would the wicked flee “when no one pursues”? Why would the righteous be as “bold as a lion”? How have you experienced or observed this personally? (Proverbs 28:1)
11. How might Proverbs 28:2 apply to what you have observed in your nation’s government? How might this guide your prayers for your country?
12. Would you rather be rich or poor? Why? What are the temptations that the rich face? What temptations might the poor face? What important truths can we learn from Proverbs 28:6,8,11 about being rich or poor? How do these verses encourage you in your relationship with money?
13. Proverbs 28:13-14 reveal two attitudes towards God in regard to sin. What are the promises? How might this motivate and direct us in our daily prayer life?

General Discussion Questions

- *Context Questions*: Who is writing this? Who is it being written to? When? Why? What type of writing is this? How does this matter to my understanding of the meaning of these chapters?
- *Application Questions*: How do you need to respond to and apply these truths to your life? (Is there a sin to avoid? A command to obey? An example to follow? A prayer to offer? A truth to remember or memorize? An attitude to change? A teaching to share?)

Week 48

Pick a plan for this week and check off your progress as you read or listen.

5 Minutes Per Day - Psalms & Proverbs

Psalm 135 ~ Psalm 136 ~ Psalm 137 ~ Proverbs 28:15-28

10 Minutes Per Day - New Testament

2 John ~ 3 John ~ Jude ~ Revelation 1 ~ Revelation 2

15 Minutes Per Day - Old Testament

Haggai 1 ~ Haggai 2 ~ Zechariah 1 ~ Zechariah 2 ~
Zechariah 3 ~ Zechariah 4 ~ Zechariah 5 ~ Zechariah 6

30 Minutes - The Whole Bible (read all above)

Verse of the Week:

“However, let each one of you love his wife as himself,
and let the wife see that she respects her husband.”

Ephesians 5:33 (ESV)

Week 48 – Questions to Consider

Christian Life - Small Group Warm Up Question:

What is your biggest hope and prayer for the future of your church?

Psalms & Proverbs

Psalms 135 ~ Psalm 136 ~ Psalm 137 ~ Proverbs 28:15-28

1. What was a game you played as a child that involved being “chosen”? What did it feel like to hear your name called out? To be picked for a good team? Read Psalm 135:4 & 1 Peter 2:9-10. How does it feel to know that the Creator of the universe chose you, called you by name, and wants you on His “team”
2. Have you ever known someone who does whatever they want? What are the characteristics of someone like that? Read Psalm 115:3 & 135:6. What do you think about God doing whatever He wants? Do you struggle with this reality, that God does whatever He wants? Why or why not? How do you think verses 7-14 help us? How can this truth comfort our souls in times of suffering and difficulty?
3. What are some of the purposes of idols in the Bible? Why would people worship them? What are some of the “idols” you see today? How do people “worship” them? Why do people “worship” them? (Psalm 135:15-17) Why does God warn us about idols? (Psalm 135:18)
4. Psalm 135 finishes with an emphasis on calling everyone to “bless the Lord” (Psalm 135:19-21).

- Why is blessing the Lord important? When can we do that? How can we do that?
5. If someone asked you to summarize the purpose and meaning of Psalm 136, how would you respond? What has God taught you through Psalm 136?
 6. What are some of the differences between human “love” and God’s perfect love? (Psalm 136)
 7. Look at the descriptions of God in Psalm 136. Why do you think these particular descriptions were given to us? Which is your favorite descriptor of God here? Why?
 8. How would you describe your “low estate” before you were born again? (Psalm 136:23) What “foes” did God rescue you from? (Psalm 136:24) How has God provided for your needs? (Psalm 136:25) How do these reminders make us more grateful to God? How do these reminders specific evidence God’s particular, steadfast love towards you?
 9. What do you think it would be like for your nation to be invaded, conquered, and for you and your family to be forced to move into the land of the conquering nation? What emotions would you experience? What would you miss most? What would you pray for? How would you pray concerning your enemies? Understanding that the Israelites were in exile as captives in Babylon, how does Psalm 137 reveal their heart and their priorities?
 10. Why do some people get so passionate about political leadership and elections? What differences does a bad leader make? What differences does a good leader make? How might Proverbs 28:15-16

direct our prayers in regards to our governmental leaders?

11. What do you think about the work ethic in your country today? In your workplace? Read Proverbs 28:19. How have you seen this truth play out in life? What are some “worthless pursuits” you see people choosing today?

General Discussion Questions

- What do these passages teach us about our enemies’ attacks (deceptions, distractions, discouragement, and temptations)? How can we better resist these attacks?
- *Application Questions:* How do you need to respond to and apply these truths to your life? (Is there a sin to avoid? A command to obey? An example to follow? A prayer to offer? A truth to remember or memorize? An attitude to change? A teaching to share?)

Week 49

Pick a plan for this week and check off your progress as you read or listen.

5 Minutes Per Day - Psalms & Proverbs

Psalm 138 ~ Psalm 139 ~ Psalm 140 ~ Proverbs 29

10 Minutes Per Day - New Testament

Revelation 3 ~ Revelation 4 ~ Revelation 5 ~ Revelation 6 ~ Revelation 7

15 Minutes Per Day - Old Testament

Zechariah 7 ~ Zechariah 8 ~ Zechariah 9 ~ Zechariah 10
~ Zechariah 11 ~ Zechariah 12 ~ Zechariah 13 ~
Zechariah 14

30 Minutes - The Whole Bible (read all above)

Verse of the Week:

“Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, ‘I will never leave you nor forsake you.’” Hebrews 13:5 (ESV)

Week 49 – Questions to Consider

Christian Life - Small Group Warm Up Question:

What is your biggest hope and prayer for your family?

Psalms & Proverbs

Psalm 138 ~ Psalm 139 ~ Psalm 140 ~ Proverbs 29

1. What are you most thankful for in your life? When did you last thank God specifically for them? What does it mean to be half-hearted? What does it mean to be whole-hearted? How do you want to be more genuinely whole-hearted in our thanks-giving to God? (Psalm 138:1)
2. If a child is ungrateful, how would you teach that child to be more thankful for what they have? How can you recognize sincere gratitude in a child? As a child of God, how has God taught you to be more grateful? What is the Psalmist most thankful for in Psalm 138:2? Why?
3. Have you ever called, texted, emailed, or messaged someone and been intentionally ignored? What did that feel like? Why? If you could call, text, email, or message a celebrity, who would you call and why? How would you feel if they refused to respond to your communication? Why? Now think about the Creator of the Universe. Psalm 138:3 says “On the day I called, you answered me.” Think about how God gives you a way to communicate with Him. Invites you to call upon Him. Chooses to listen to your voice. Loves to answer your prayer, even

- though you are “lowly” compared to Him (Psalm 138:6). What is God teaching you now? About prayer? About gratitude? About God?
4. What are some of the “troubles” God has rescued you from in the past? For which you are most grateful? (Psalm 138:7) What “purpose” do you think God has for you? (Psalm 138:8) In light of all for which you are grateful, how does that impact your desire to live in God’s “purpose” for you?
 5. Look over Psalm 139:1-6. What does God know about you? What does God not know about you? How should we respond to God’s knowledge?
 6. Look over Psalm 139:7-12. Where does God go? How does reality impact you?
 7. Look over Psalm 139:13-16. Why is God’s creation of us in our mother’s womb so significant? What does the Psalmists description of pre-born human children reveal about him?
 8. Why do think lost souls fight so hard to disregard infants as human life? Why do you think there is such a demonic effort to murder babies in the womb? What does our attitude about pre-born human children reveal about us?
 9. What do you think about how Psalm 139 ends?
 10. What are some ways Christians might pray for protection and deliverance today? Where you live? In other countries? How should we pray to God on behalf of the next generation of Christians?
 11. Why do you think Proverbs 29 uses so many contrasting examples? What are some of your favorites? Why?

12. How do you see people “squandering wealth” on sexual sin today? (Proverbs 29:3) What other examples from Proverbs 29 do you see playing out today?
13. If you were to write your own piece of wisdom, in the style of Proverbs 29, what wisdom would you prioritize to share with the next generation?

General Discussion Questions

- What did you learn about humanity or yourself in the readings this week? About your identity, character or purpose as a Christ-follower?
- *Application Questions*: How do you need to respond to and apply these truths to your life? (Is there a sin to avoid? A command to obey? An example to follow? A prayer to offer? A truth to remember or memorize? An attitude to change? A teaching to share?)

Week 50

Pick a plan for this week and check off your progress as you read or listen.

5 Minutes Per Day - Psalms & Proverbs

Psalm 141 ~ Psalm 142 ~ Psalm 143 ~ Proverbs 30

10 Minutes Per Day - New Testament

Revelation 8 ~ Revelation 9 ~ Revelation 10 ~
Revelation 11 ~ Revelation 12

15 Minutes Per Day - Old Testament

Esther 1 ~ Esther 2 ~ Esther 3 ~ Esther 4 ~ Esther 5 ~
Esther 6 ~ Esther 7 ~ Esther 8 ~ Esther 9 ~ Esther 10

30 Minutes - The Whole Bible (read all above)

Verse of the Week:

“The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 4:5–7 (ESV)

Week 50 – Questions to Consider

Christian Life - Small Group Warm Up Question:

What Christmas traditions help you remember and celebrate the true meaning of Jesus' birth?

Psalms & Proverbs

Psalm 141 ~ Psalm 142 ~ Psalm 143 ~ Proverbs 30

1. When do you remember King David being in positions of desperation? What sort of struggles do you think he may have faced as a King? How does it help to think of David more personally as you read Psalm 141? How do you connect personally with the prayer of Psalm 141?
2. What was the purpose of incense and sacrifices in the Bible? How is prayer similar? How do we usually think of prayer? (Psalm 141:2)
3. Psalm 141 requests God's protection to remain faithful, sincere, uncompromising in the face of dangers or threats. When have you been treated wrongly due to your faith? How have you been tempted to compromise your faith in such seasons? Why is Psalm 141:3-4 such a help in such situations? How does Psalm 141:9 help you? How does Psalm 141 encourage you to maintain a good witness for Jesus?
4. How can we pray against "evil deeds" today? What would you prioritize in those prayers? (Psalm 141:5)
5. Psalm 142, like Psalm 57, probably describes David's escape from Saul into a cave in 1 Samuel 22:1 or 24:3. Have you ever felt like you were being

- “chased” by an enemy in a particular situation? Like you were “hiding” in a cave? What was that like? How did David respond through Psalm 142?
6. Compare Psalm 142 with Psalm 57. What similarities do you notice? What differences?
 7. If you were to write out a song or prayer to God in a “cave moment”, what might you write?
 8. Psalm 143 is a “penitential psalm”, or a song of confession of sin (similar to Psalm 6, 32, 38, 51, & 130). Read Psalm 143:2. How can you relate to this prayer? How do you intentionally seek to ask God for forgiveness and mercy for your sins? How has God grown you in the practice of confession to Him?
 9. What is the purpose of “remembering”, “meditating”, and “pondering” on God’s past works in biblical history? (Psalm 143:5)
 10. Do you prefer to lead or take directions when you are walking or driving somewhere? What is hard about leading? What is important in leading? What is hard in following? What is important in following? As a Psalm of repentance (penitential), Why do you think this Psalm says “make me know the way I should go” and “let your good Spirit lead me on level ground”? (Psalm 143:8, 10)
 11. What is your favorite piece of wisdom from Proverbs 30? Why?
 12. Why do you think Proverbs 30 starts out the way it does? What is the connection between the first 4 verses and verses 5 & 6?
 13. What do you think about Proverbs 30:8, “give me neither poverty nor riches”? Would you pray this way? Why or why not?

14. If you could be like any animal, which would you pick and why? What do you think about Proverbs 30:24-28?

General Discussion Questions

- What can you learn about God from these passages? His work? His character? How can this help you grow in your trust of Him?
- *Application Questions*: How do you need to respond to and apply these truths to your life? (Is there a sin to avoid? A command to obey? An example to follow? A prayer to offer? A truth to remember or memorize? An attitude to change? A teaching to share?)

Week 51

Pick a plan for this week and check off your progress as you read or listen.

5 Minutes Per Day - Psalms & Proverbs

Psalm 144 ~ Psalm 145 ~ Psalm 146 ~ Proverbs 31:1-9

10 Minutes Per Day - New Testament

Revelation 13 ~ Revelation 14 ~ Revelation 15 ~
Revelation 16 ~ Revelation 17

15 Minutes Per Day - Old Testament

Malachi 1 ~ Malachi 2 ~ Malachi 3 ~ Malachi 4 ~ Ezra 7
~ Ezra 8 ~ Ezra 9 ~ Ezra 10

30 Minutes - The Whole Bible (read all above)

Verse of the Week:

“Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.” Ephesians 5:15–17 (ESV)

Week 51 – Questions to Consider

Christian Life - Small Group Warm Up Question:
Looking back at the past year, what were some ways
you grew spiritually?

Psalms & Proverbs

Psalm 144 ~ Psalm 145 ~ Psalm 146 ~ Proverbs 31:1-9

1. When was a time that you felt under attack?
When is a time in your future where you will feel a similar sense of being overwhelmed or helpless? Read Psalm 144:1-2. How does God encourage you with His names?
2. When are times that people are tempted to feel lonely? Purposeless? Worthless? How does Psalm 144:3-4 overwhelm you with significance and love?
3. Psalm 144:12 speaks to the desire for one's sons and daughters to mature and impactful. What are some of the ways you pray for your children or grandchildren?
4. Psalm 144:13-14 is a prayer for material blessing? Is it wrong to pray for prosperity? When might it be ok to pray this way? When might it be wrong to pray this way?
5. Why is it important to bless God's name every day? (Psalm 145:1-2) What does it look like to do that? Why do you think the phrase "The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love" (Psalm 145:8) is so

- often repeated across the Scriptures? How could this guide our prayers?
6. When you see all of the ongoing evil in the world, how does Psalm 145:20 help you?
 7. Why do you think so many people put so much trust, faith, and hope in their government leaders? What is the danger in that? (Psalm 146:3-4)
 8. What connections do you see between Psalm 146:5-10 and Jesus?
 9. When the end of a year comes, and the beginning of a new year approaches, why do so many people make “New Year’s resolutions”? What is the purpose? How does one go about making a resolution? What are some keys to a successful resolution? In Proverbs 31:2, the question “What are you doing?” is repeated three times. How is the key question to establishing a good resolution?
 10. What are the two warnings of the oracle to King Lemuel from his mother? (Proverbs 31:3-5) What warnings would you prioritize for your children? Why?
 11. King Lemuel’s positive encouragements come in verses 8 & 9. Why do you think these are priorities for him as a king? What are some of your priorities in your role where God has placed you?

General Discussion Questions

- What was something new you noticed this week? What impacted you the most? Why?

- *Application Questions:* How do you need to respond to and apply these truths to your life? (Is there a sin to avoid? A command to obey? An example to follow? A prayer to offer? A truth to remember or memorize? An attitude to change? A teaching to share?)

Week 52

Pick a plan for this week and check off your progress as you read or listen.

5 Minutes Per Day - Psalms & Proverbs

Psalm 147 ~ Psalm 148 ~ Psalm 149 ~ Psalm 150 ~
Proverbs 31:10-31

10 Minutes Per Day - New Testament

Revelation 18 ~ Revelation 19 ~ Revelation 20 ~
Revelation 21 ~ Revelation 22

15 Minutes Per Day - Old Testament

Nehemiah 1 ~ Nehemiah 2 ~ Nehemiah 3 ~ Nehemiah 4
~ Nehemiah 5 ~ Nehemiah 6 ~ Nehemiah 7 ~
Nehemiah 8 ~ Nehemiah 9 ~ Nehemiah 10 ~
Nehemiah 11 ~ Nehemiah 12 ~ Nehemiah 13

30 Minutes - The Whole Bible (read all above)

Verse of the Week:

“For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.” Romans 8:18 (ESV)

Week 52 – Questions to Consider

Christian Life - Small Group Warm Up Question:
Looking forward to the next year, what plans are you making to better love God and others?

Psalms & Proverbs

Psalm 147 ~ Psalm 148 ~ Psalm 149 ~ Psalm 150 ~
Proverbs 31:10-31

1. When have you been most “brokenhearted”? How did God heal and grow you through that season? (Psalm 147:3)
2. When you think of the fact that God created, named, and determined the exact number of stars in the universe (Psalm 147:4), yet knew your name from the foundation of the universe (Revelation 17:8), how do these realities affect you? What does it tell you about your significance to God?
3. What does the world try to push as keys to a “successful life”? According to Psalm 147:10-11, what pleases the Lord? How should these truths affect our priorities in life?
4. How would you summarize Psalm 148 in one sentence? How should this be the goal of our life?
5. Why are songs so powerful, impactful, and helpful? What are some Christian songs that you have found yourself singing in your bed? (Psalm 149:5)
6. While our lives are designed to “praise the Lord”, our songs are a verbalization and specific expression of those praises. What are some highlights you see in Psalm 150 about biblical songs of praise? What are

- some of your favorite characteristics of singing in your church?
7. What are some of the characteristics that stand out to you about the “Proverbs 31 woman”? If you were to highlight some of your favorite characteristics about the women in your life (wife, daughters, mother, grandmother, etc.), what would you highlight? Why?
 8. Proverbs 31:10-31 is essentially a list of genuine compliments about a woman “who fears the Lord.” Do you struggle with giving compliments? Why or why not? Why do you think genuine compliments (not flattery) are so important? How do genuine compliments help you? What are some biblical characteristics you prioritize in your own life? Why?
 9. Why is someone’s trust such a compliment to their character? (Proverbs 31:11) How is trust gained? How is trust lost?
 10. What are some ways in which you see the “Proverbs 31 woman” fulfilling the command to love others? In what ways does Proverbs 31 reveal the priorities of those relationships? Who are the priorities that God has called you to love? How can you love them better over the next year?
 11. Proverbs 31:30 mentions “charm” and “beauty” as two worldly priorities that ultimately fail. What does the world today highlight as its priorities for women? For men? How do those priorities ultimately fail? Why is one “who fears the Lord” the ultimate foundational characteristic to these other praiseworthy descriptions? (Proverbs 31:30)

General Discussion Questions

- *Context Questions:* Who is writing this? Who is it being written to? When? Why? What type of writing is this? How does this matter to my understanding of the meaning of these chapters?
- *Application Questions:* How do you need to respond to and apply these truths to your life? (Is there a sin to avoid? A command to obey? An example to follow? A prayer to offer? A truth to remember or memorize? An attitude to change? A teaching to share?)

A Year in Review

Christian Life - Small Group Warm Up Question:
Did you make a resolution for this past year? How did it go?

Are you making a resolution for the next year ahead?

1. What were some of the challenges you faced this past year in your Bible reading plan? Where did you find success? How do you wish things had gone differently? What did you learn through your quiet times this past year?
2. What were some of the challenges in life that you faced this past year? How did God use your time in the Psalms and Proverbs to help guide, carry, and strengthen you?
3. What was your favorite part of the Psalms? Do you have a favorite Psalm? Why?
4. What was your favorite part of the Proverbs? Do you have a favorite verse from Proverbs? Why?
5. Try watching “Book of Psalms Summary” from the Bible Project (<https://bibleproject.com/guides/book-of-psalms/>) or look over some of the major themes or key idea of Psalms. How does this reinforce or summarize some of the best lessons God taught you this year from the Psalms?
 - a. Here is the Bible Project’s “big idea” from Psalms: “Psalms teaches us to neither ignore our pain nor let it determine our lives. God will fulfill his promises from the Torah and send the Messiah. This book is all about the lament, praise, faith, and hope of God’s

- people.” Agree or disagree? What would you add or change?
6. Try watching “Book of Proverbs Summary” from the Bible Project (<https://bibleproject.com/guides/book-of-proverbs/>) or look over some of the major themes or key idea of Proverbs. How does this reinforce or summarize some of the best lessons God taught you this year from the Proverbs?
 - a. Here is the Bible Project’s “big idea” from Proverbs: “Wisdom depends on trusting God and leads to life, but folly starts with distrusting God and leads to death.” Agree or disagree? What would you add or change?
 7. If you were to give advice to someone who was about to start reading the Psalms and Proverbs, what would you share?
 8. If you could encourage one person to be in the Word more in the next year, who would it be and why? How do you think you could best encourage or help them?
 9. What is your biggest hope and prayer for your own spiritual growth in the year ahead?
 10. How can you best pray for your family, friends, church, and coworkers as they begin a new year?

Appendix of Resources

Here are some of my favorite Bible study resources I think you'll find helpful!

Top Children's Bibles

www.trustworthyword.com/childrens-bibles

[The Beginner's Bible: Timeless Children's Stories](#)

- One of the most popular story Bibles for younger children.

[The Big Picture Story Bible](#) – by David R. Helm and Gail Schoonmaker

- Beautiful illustrations for young children.

[Bible Storybook from The Bible App & YouVersion](#)

- Excellent for toddlers through early elementary. Images connect well with the free interactive Bible app that young children will love.

[The One Year Children's Bible](#) – by Rhona Davies

- Perfect for elementary school age children and a wonderful length for family devotional time. One for every day of the year.

[Foundations for Kids: A 260-day Bible Reading Plan for Kids](#) - by Robby Gallaty

- A workbook-style approach that engages elementary school age children well as they journey through each of the 260 chapters of the New Testament.

[It's All About Jesus Bible Storybook \(padded\):
100 Bible Stories \(One Big Story\)](#)

- 100 of the most important stories of the Bible with a free interactive app. Great for elementary school age and family devotional times.

[The Jesus Storybook Bible: Every Story
Whispers His Name](#) – by Sally Lloyd-Jones

- A good fit for older element through high school (and helpful for adults too) to piece together the 44 most important stories of the Bible in a simple and flowing format.

[The One Year Children's Bible for Kids –
Challenge Edition](#) – by Tyndale Publishers

- Perfect for middle and high school students. Requires about one page a day of reading that takes readers through the most biblical significant passages.

[Cornerstones - 200 Questions & Answers to
Learn Truth](#) – by Brian Dembowczyk

- A simple question and answer format to the most important truths of the Christian faith. Great for all ages. A more in-depth parent guide is available that would be a good fit for a year-long small group study.

Best Bible Apps for Kids

www.trustworthyword.com/childrens-bible-apps

Children's Bibles

- **Bible for Kids** (FREE) - LifeChurch.TV ,
YouVersion
- *BEST FREE Children's Bible App!!!*
- **The Beginner's Bible** (some is free, but totals \$19.99 for everything) - HarperCollins Christian Publishing
- *BEST PAID Children's Bible App!!!*
- **Bible.is KIDZ** (FREE) - Faith Comes by Hearing - Listen. See. Grow.
- **God's Love: A Bible Storybook** (\$0.99) - Positive Action for Christ

Bible Verse Memory

- **God's Word: Hide It!** (FREE) - Kingdom Media, LLC
- **Verses - Bible Memory** (\$3.99-\$6.99 depending on translation) Verses, Ltd. Co. (under iPhone apps)

Bible Trivia

- **Superbook Bible Trivia Game** (FREE) - The Christian Broadcasting Network
- **Scripture Champion** (FREE) - Kingdom Media LLC

Bible Songs

- **Cubbies Bible Verse Music:** Sing Along with Scripture Songs from AWANA - Kingdom Media (\$7.99 for all songs)
- **Bible Songs: Sing Along with Noah and other Bible Heroes for Children** (\$9.98 for all songs) - Kingdom Media
- **GarageBand** (FREE) - Apple (to play along with Christian music)

Various Bible Apps

- **Got Questions?** (FREE) Got Questions Ministries
- **Superbook Kid's Bible, Videos, and Games** (FREE - videos can be downloaded if you are a subscriber) - The Christian Broadcasting Network
- *Best Bible Video Series for Kids!!*
- Subscribe at:
<https://www.cbn.com/giving/special/sbdvdclub.aspx>
- **Owlegories** (FREE - full videos can be purchased) - Spy House, LLC

Bibles for All Ages

- **ESV Study Bible** (\$17.99) - Crossway
- *BEST PAID Study Bible*
- Also get as an in-app purchase within the ESV Bible
- **Gideons** (FREE) - Faith Comes by Hearing
- *BEST FREE Audio Bible*
- Also can get through Bible.is App
- Multiple languages to read or listen!

- **YouVersion Bible** (FREE) - LifeChurch.TV ,
YouVersion
- #1 Rated and Downloaded Bible App

Bible Characters

- **4soils.com** has a collection of Bible Characters apps
(a few are free, but most have various prices with
bundled prices having the most value) - Kingdom
Media
- Life of Jesus Bundle, Miracles of Jesus bundle,
Parables of Jesus bundle, Bible Heroes bundle,
Esther, David, Joseph, Noah, Jonah, Daniel

Fun Ideas on How to Use Children's Bible Apps

1. **Trivia Contest:** Pair up or have a group competition using a trivia app!
2. **Bible Verse Lookup:** Have a race to see who can find a verse first!
3. **Character Discovery:** Challenge your child to find a particular character or story on the SuperBook or another app.
4. **Scripture Artwork:** Use an app to draw out a Scripture or color a story activity.
5. **Music Play Along:** Use GarageBand to play instruments & sing a song or hymn.
6. **Find and Listen:** Use Bible.is KIDZ or ESV Study Bible to play the Bible out loud.
7. **Bible Memory:** Memorize a verse for a prize using an app to help!
8. **Got Questions:** Find some challenging and interesting questions with Bible answers!
9. **Sing Along:** Sing loud and proud as you place a Bible song!
10. **Church Happenings Exploration:** Use your church's app to explore activities.
11. **Language Lookup:** Use the Gideons app to read a Bible verse in another language.

12. Verse Connections: Use the ESV Study Bible to use notes to find corresponding verses or Bible references.

Top One Year Bibles

www.trustworthyword.com/one-year-bibles

The One Year Bible – by Tyndale House Publishers

- One of the most popular approaches to reading the entire Bible in a year. A digital version can be found in the YouVersion Bible app as well. Various translations are available as well.

The One Year Bible Companion – by Tyndale House Publishers

- This companion book offers answers to some of the most common questions that come along with your daily readings.

The One Year Chronological Bible – by Tyndale House Publishers

- This chronological approach helpfully guides you through parallel passages in a smooth, easy-to-use format. If you've never read the Bible chronologically this is the easiest way to start.

Reading God's Story: A Chronological Daily Bible and Reader's Guide to the Bible: A Chronological Bible Reading Plan – by George Guthrie

- A 52-week chronological Bible coupled with a commentary guide and small group discussion questions.

The YouVersion Bible App –

www.youversion.com

- Installed on over 500 million devices, has numerous reading plans, translations, and audio bibles.

Faith Comes by Hearing Bible App -

www.bible.is

- The best audio Bible app and website available for free listening to the Bible.

How Can I Become a Christian?

www.trustworthyword.com/how-can-i-become-a-christian

1. Understand and believe that God is the Creator of the Universe

God created us and has authority over us.

- Colossians 1:16-17 "For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. 17 And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together."
- Hebrews 11:3 "By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible."

We will give an answer for our lives.

- Hebrews 9:27 "And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment"
- Hebrews 4:13 "And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account."

2. Acknowledge and confess your sinfulness

God's Commandments are His perfect standard of Holiness.

- Romans 3:19-20 "Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. 20 For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin."
- Romans 3:23 "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God"
- James 2:10 "For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it."

Admit that you are not good. Turn away from you sin and turn towards Christ.

- Psalm 32:5 "I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity; I said, 'I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,' and you forgave the iniquity of my sin."
- Romans 3:10-12 "None is righteous, no, not one; [11] no one understands; no one seeks for God. [12] All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one."

- 1 John 1:9-10 “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. [10] If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.”

3. Believe that Jesus died on the cross and rose from the grave

Realize that Salvation is by Faith (trusting in Jesus, loving and valuing Him more than anyone or anything) and not by works.

- Romans 6:23 "For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."
- Ephesians 2:8-9 "For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, 9 not a result of works, so that no one may boast."
- Mark 12:28-31 "And one of the scribes came up and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, asked him, 'Which commandment is the most important of all?' [29] Jesus answered, "The most important is, 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. [30] And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' [31] The second is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these."

Affirm that Jesus is God and is the Only Way of Salvation. Salvation is not possible by obedience in Judaism, not through Mohammed's revelation of Allah (Islam), not through Buddhism or Hinduism, not by good works or a specific church/denomination (Catholicism),

and not through Jehovah's Witnesses or Mormonism. Salvation is only available through Jesus.

- John 14:6 "Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.'"
- Acts 4:12 "And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."
- 1 John 2:23 "No one who denies the Son has the Father. Whoever confesses the Son has the Father also."

4. Call out to Jesus in prayer to be in charge of your life

Publicly place your trust and faith in Him.

- Acts 16:30-31 Then he brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" [31] And they said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household."
- Romans 10:9-10 "if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. [10] For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved."
- Romans 10:13 "For 'everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.'"

Submit and yield to His Lordship. Let Him be in control of your life.

- Acts 2:37-38 “Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, ‘Brothers, what shall we do?’ [38] And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.
- Matthew 16:24-26 “Then Jesus told his disciples, ‘If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. [25] For whoever would save his life(1) will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. [26] For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul?’”

Now What? If you have chosen to believe that Jesus Christ is God, died on the cross, and rose from the grave and have truly yielded control of your life to Him, you are a Christian and follower of Jesus. *Here is what to do next...*

Walk with Jesus in Fellowship with Other Believers
Proclaim Christ's Lordship over your life through Baptism

- Acts 2:38 "And Peter said to them, 'Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.'"

See “What does the Bible say about Baptism?” on TrustworthyWord.com

- www.trustworthyword.com/what-does-the-bible-say-about-baptism

Read your Bible to grow in your knowledge and love of Christ

See “How to Study the Bible?” on TrustworthyWord.com

- www.trustworthyword.com/how-to-study-the-bible

Pray consistently and daily to relate more with Jesus

See “What Does the Bible Say God is Like?” and “What Does the Bible Say about Christian Identity?” on TrustworthyWord.com

- www.trustworthyword.com/what-does-the-bible-say-god-is-like
- www.trustworthyword.com/what-does-the-bible-say-about-christian-identity

Connect with a biblically faithful church family

- Hebrews 10:25-26 "And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, 25 not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near."

See “What Does the Bible Say about Church Membership?” on TrustworthyWord.com

- www.trustworthyword.com/what-does-the-bible-say-about-church-membership

Speak and Demonstrate God's Love

- Ephesians 2:10 "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them."

See "What Does the Bible Say about Love?" on TrustworthyWord.com

- www.trustworthyword.com/what-does-the-bible-say-about-love

Listen to and Obey God's Commands

- Hebrews 10:26-27 "For if we go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, 27 but a fearful expectation of judgment, and a fury of fire that will consume the adversaries."

- 1 Peter 1:15-16 "but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, 16 since it is written, 'You shall be holy, for I am holy.'"

See "What Does the Bible Say about Sin?" and "What Does the Bible Say about Sanctification?" on TrustworthyWord.com

- www.trustworthyword.com/what-does-the-bible-say-about-sin

- www.trustworthyword.com/what-does-the-bible-say-about-sanctification

Common Objections to the Gospel

1. What about people who've never heard about Jesus? Will they go to Hell?

What about other religions: Muslims, Buddhists, Hindus, and tribal religions? A person doesn't go to Hell for failing to hear the Gospel, they go to hell for failing to obey God's law. Consider if a man jumped out of a plane without a parachute. He doesn't die primarily because he doesn't have a parachute. The reason he dies is because he violates the law of gravity...which brings him to his death. If a person dies without Christ, it is because he has transgressed the law of God...ignorance is not excuse. If we really care about those who have not heard about Jesus, we need to first come to Christ, and take His name, the only name which offers hope of salvation....to the ends of the earth.

2. My god is a god of love and forgiveness who doesn't send someone to hell.

This is an example of idolatry...a violation of the 2nd commandment. Crafting a god of our own imagination, in our own image, or a god we are comfortable with. We cannot separate God's justice from God's love. He does judge the wicked and the immoral by their transgression of the law, and their sentence is eternal death and suffering in a very real Hell. This same God, we learn from Romans 5:8, loved us so much, that while we were still rebels and enemies, sent His son to die for us.

3. Why is there so much suffering?

We all go through suffering. All of us have been hurt by the sinfulness of others, the consequences of living in a fallen world, and by our own sinfulness. We need to have faith in God, knowing and trusting that He is in control, and that His good plan includes an eternal rescue from sin, suffering, and death. It is good to ask these deep questions. I would recommend

www.gotquestions.org to dig deeply into this question and other similarly tough questions. Ultimately God sent this message here today to help save you from eternal suffering. This is God's love.

4. I'm already saved.

God tells us to test ourselves to see if we are in the faith. Have our lives changed? Do we desire to hear God's voice through the Bible? Are we obedient to God's commands? Do we see the fruits of God's Spirit (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control) in our lives? (Galatians 5:22-24) Or do we see the works of the flesh in our lives (sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these)? (Galatians 5:19-21) Do we desperately seek Him in prayer? Do we see righteousness being produced by God in our lives? Are we quick to forgive? Do we love others?

SEE "How Can I Be Sure I Am a Christian?" (the next chapter) or on TrustworthyWord.com @

- www.trustworthyword.com/how-can-i-be-sure-im-a-christian

When you see a doctor and you are sick, what does he do? He assess the symptoms, shoots straight with you, and tells you about your disease and any possible cures. The Bible clearly speaks to any symptoms of ongoing, unrepentant sin in our lives. Matthew 7:21 “I never knew you.” Test yourselves.

5. I don't believe in God.

Just because we don't believe something doesn't make it disappear. Put on a blindfold and stand in front of a large truck on a highway, saying I don't believe the truck exists. I know there is no such thing as an atheist. No such thing as an atheist at 25,000 ft in crazy turbulence. Look at a painting, do you say, look what coincidentally formed by chance over a ridiculously long period of time? No. You see a painting. You know there is a painter. You see a building, you know there is a builder. You see the Creation and you know there is a Creator.

6. I don't believe the Bible is God's Word.

You are right the Bible was written by men. When you write a letter, do you write, or does the pen? Men are God's instruments to write the Bible. The Bible is the most accurate piece of literature in all of history...scientifically, historically, prophetically, archaeologically, and documentary or manuscript evidence. Find an error. We've searched. We can't find any.

7. I confess my sins and say I'm sorry all the time.

Consider civil law. If someone is guilty of a serious crime, when they come to trial, if they just say "I'm sorry" to the judge, do you think he'll just let her go? That's not fair. Only a corrupt or unrighteous judge would let a guilty person free without a penalty. The law has been broken. Justice demands a punishment. We can't just say we are sorry. We can't be "good enough" to overcome our crimes. We need Jesus to pay for the penalty for our sin.

8. I've lied, but that doesn't make me a bad person.

On moral issues...it only takes one commission of a crime to be labeled a criminal. One murder = a murderer. One lie = liar. One theft = a thief. One lust = adulterer. It is human nature to trivialize sin, but sin is serious. God tells us in James 2:10 that anyone who is guilty of one sin is guilty of all sin.

9. Christianity is narrow-minded.

The Bible is clear that there is only one way. Jesus says in John 14:6, "I am the way and the truth and the life, no one comes to the Father except through me." In Acts 4:12 we learn that there is only one "name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved." I you don't have the Son, don't have the Father. You're right, without Jesus, no hope for your transgression of the law. Jesus has the power to forgive sins...He openly offers

that exclusive path to salvation to all who hear...would you reject Him? Put your faith in Him?

10. I don't agree with you.

No one knows when they will face death. Did you know that 150,000 people die every 24 hours? That is not a scare tactic, that is reality. And after death there is guaranteed judgment. Jesus speaks of the rich man and Lazarus, the rich man who is in Hell becomes desperate to tell his family about Jesus. Read Romans 2:4 – We plead with you to realize you are storing up wrath for yourself for the day of judgment...don't presume upon God's patience and kindness. Get right with the Lord. Consider our motives...we just want you to know and love Jesus and find eternal life. Paul in Romans 9 explains that he wishes he could sacrifice his own salvation for the salvation of someone else...but it doesn't work that way. You must decide.

THE BOTTOM LINE? There is no good objection for failing to follow Christ as your Lord. Do you have a good reason for putting Him off any longer?

Check out these resources for more answers!

- needgod.com
- gotquestions.org

How Can I Be Sure I Am a Christian?

www.trustworthyword.com/how-can-i-be-sure-im-a-christian

“Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?— unless indeed you fail to meet the test!” 2
Corinthians 13:5 (ESV)

1. Did a work start in you?

- if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. (Romans 10:9)
- And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. (Philippians 1:6)

2. Have you experienced God’s Spirit in you?

- In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire

possession of it, to the praise of his glory. (Ephesians 1:13-14)

3. Is there fruit of God's Spirit growing in you? (Read the book of 1 John)

1. Do you enjoy having fellowship w/Christ & Christians? ([1 John 1:3](#))
2. Would people say you walk in the light or darkness? ([1 John 1:6-7](#))
3. Do you admit and confess your sin? ([1 John 1:8](#))
4. Are you obedient to God's Word? ([1 John 2:3-5](#))
5. Does your life indicate you love God or the world? ([1 John 2:15](#))
6. Is your life characterized by "doing what is right"? ([1 John 2:29](#))
7. Do you seek to maintain a pure life? ([1 John 3:3](#))
8. Do you see a decreasing pattern of sin in your life? ([1 John 3:5-6](#)) [i.e. not continuing in sin as a way of life, not a total absence of sin.]
9. Do you demonstrate love for other Christians? ([1 John 3:14](#))
10. Do you "walk the walk," vs just "talking the talk"? ([1Jn 3:18-19](#))
11. Do you maintain a clear conscience? ([1 John 3:21](#))
12. Do you experience victory in your Christian walk? ([1 John 5:4](#))

4. Do you endure in the faith?

- They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us. But they went out, that it might become plain that they all are not of us. (1 John 2:19)

Works of the Flesh

vs.

Fruits of the Spirit:

What best describes you?

The “works of the flesh” are evidence for unbelief and an eternity in Hell.

The “fruit of the Spirit” evidences God’s saving work and eternity with Christ. (Galatians 5:16-24)

[19] Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, [20] idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, [21] envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

VS.

[22] But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, [23] gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. [24] And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

***Parable of the Sower:
What category of “soil” best describes
your response to the good news about
Jesus?***

(Matthew 13:19-23 ESV)

1. [19] When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is what was sown along the path.
2. [20] As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, [21] yet he has no root in himself, but endures for a while, and when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately he falls away.
3. [22] As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it proves unfruitful.

*Only the fourth ("good") soil below describes a genuine
Christian.*

4. [23] As for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it. He indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.

Do You See These Three Characteristics in Your Life?

*The Book of 1 John Helps Us to See Characteristics of
Truly Converted and Saved Souls.*

“I write these things to you who believe in the name of
the Son of God that you may know that you have
eternal life.” (1 John 5:13)

1. Obedience to God's Commands?

- If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. (1 John 1:6)
- Whoever says “I know him” but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may know that we are in him: whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked. (1 John 2:4-6)
- If one turns away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer is an abomination. (Proverbs 28:9)
- No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or known him. (1 John 3:6)
- By this it is evident who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is the one who does not love his brother. (1 John 3:10)

- For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome. (1 John 5:3)

2. Forgiveness?

- Whoever says he is in the light and hates his brother is still in darkness. (1 John 2:9)
- For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses. (Matt 6:14-15)

3. Love?

- If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. (1 John 2:15)
- No one who denies the Son has the Father. (1 John 2:23)
- But if anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for members of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever. (1 Timothy 5:8)
- Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. (1 John 4:8)

Evidence for Jesus

www.trustworthyword.com/evidence-for-jesus

Was Jesus' Life, Death, & Deity Real?

INTERNAL EVIDENCE

(inside the Bible)

Attests to Jesus' Deity, Existence & Death

Scriptural Consistency, Prophetic Claims, Eyewitness Accounts, Internal Consistency, Corroborating & Circumstantial Evidence Archaeological Congruence & Evidence, Scientific Evidence, Jesus' Claims of Deity, Disciples Claims of Deity Jesus Predicts His Death & Resurrection – Mk 8:31-33, 9:30-32; Mt 20:17-19

Prophecies and Fulfillment of Christ

1. Offspring of a Woman – Genesis 3:15, Luke 2:7, Revelation 12:5
2. Offspring of Abraham – Genesis 18:18, Acts 3:25, Matthew 1:1, Luke 3:34
3. Offspring of Isaac – Genesis 17:19, Matthew 1:2, Luke 3:34
4. Offspring of Jacob – Numbers 24:17, Genesis 28:14, Luke 3:34, Matthew 1:2
5. Descended from the Tribe of Judah – Genesis 49:10, Luke 3:33, Matthew 1:2-3
6. Heir to the Throne of David – Isaiah 9:7, 11:1-5, 2 Samuel 7:13, Jeremiah 23:5, Matt 1:1,6, Luke 1:32-33

7. Born in Bethlehem – Micah 5:2, Matthew 2:1, Luke 2:4-7
8. Time of Birth – Daniel 9:25, Luke 2:1-2, 2:3-7
9. Born of a Virgin – Isaiah 7:14, Matthew 1:18, Luke 1:26-35
10. Slaughter of Infants – Jeremiah 31:15, Matthew 2:16-18
11. Escape into Egypt – Hosea 11:1, Matthew 2:14-15
12. A PROPHET, LIKE MOSES – Deuteronomy 18:15, John 1:45, 16:15, Acts 3:19-26
13. Ministry in Galilee – Isaiah 9:1-2, Matthew 4:12-16
14. Priest Like Melchizedek – Psalm 110:4, Zechariah 6:12-13, Hebrews 6:20, 5:5-6, 7:15-17
15. Rejected by Jews – Isaiah 53:3, Psalm 2:2, John 1:11, 5:43, Luke 4:29, 17:25
16. Characteristics – Isaiah 11:2, Psalm 45:7, Luke 2:52, 4:18
17. Triumphal Entry – Zechariah 9:9, Isaiah 62:11, John 12:13-14, Matthew 21:1-11
18. Betrayed by a Friend – Psalm 41:9, Mark 14:10
19. Sold for 30 Pieces of Silver, Potter's Field – Zechariah 11:12-13, Matthew 26:15, 27:6-7
20. Judas' Position Replaced – Psalm 109:7, Acts 1:18-20
21. False Witnesses' Accused Him – Psalm 27:12, Matthew 26:60-61
22. Silent When Accused – Isaiah 53:5, Matthew 26:62-63
23. Struck and Spit Upon – Isaiah 50:6, Mark 14:65
24. Hated Without Cause – Psalm 69:4, John 15:23
25. Suffered Vicariously – Isaiah 53:4, Matthew 8:16-17
26. Hands and Feet Pierced – Psalm 22:16, John 20:27

“I am trying here to prevent anyone saying the really foolish thing that people often say about Him: I’m ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don’t accept his claim to be God.

That is the one thing we must not say. A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic — on the level with the man who says he is a poached egg — or else he would be the Devil of Hell.

You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God, or else a madman or something worse. You can shut him up for a fool, you can spit at him and kill him as a demon or you can fall at his feet and call him Lord and God, but let us not come with any patronizing nonsense about his being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to.”

- C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*

“The Bible was written over a span of 1500 years by forty different human authors in three different languages (Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek), on hundreds of subjects. And yet there is one consistent, non-contradictory theme that runs through it all: *God’s redemption of humankind.*”

Hank Hanegraaff in “Bible Reliability”

www.equip.org/articles/bible-reliability-m-a-p-s-to-guide-you-through-bible-reliability

Is Jesus Really God's Son?

Whoever speaks the truth gives honest evidence, but a false witness utters deceit. (Proverbs 12:17 ESV)

If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied. (1 Corinthians 15:19 ESV)

but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, (1 Peter 3:15 ESV)

1. Baptism – Mark 1:9-11
2. I AM Statements – Mark 14:62, John 4:26, 8:58, 18:6, Exodus 3:14, Isaiah 4:45
3. Immanuel – Matthew 1:23
4. See God – Matthew 5:8
5. Seen Me, Seen Father – John 14:7
6. Image of the Invisible God – John 1, Col 1:15-16
7. Father and I Are One – John 10:30
8. Alpha and Omega, Beginning and the End – Revelation 1:8, 22:20
9. Making Self Equal with God – John 5:18
10. Shares God's Glory – John 17:5-6
11. He Is the New Temple – John 2:18-19
12. He Is the Law Giver – Matthew 5-7
13. Great High Priest – Hebrews 4:14

Was Jesus More Than Just a Good Man?

1. Virgin Birth – Matthew 1:18, Luke 1:26-35
2. Fulfillment of Prophecies – Ps 22, Isaiah 53:1-12
3. Angels Worship Him – Hebrews 1:6

4. Reception of Worship – John 9:38, 20:28
5. Transfiguration – Matthew 17:1-13
6. Claim of Disciples – John 20:28-29 – Thomas
7. Without Sin – Hebrews 4:15
8. Forgives Sin – John 9:2-6
9. Raising Others from the Dead – John 11:1-46
10. Resurrection and Ascension – Mt 28:1-15, Acts 1:4-11, Luke 23 & 24

EXTERNAL EVIDENCE

(outside the Bible)

Attests to Jesus' Deity, Existence & Death

Manuscript & Bibliographical Evidence, Eyewitness
Accounts, Corroborating & Circumstantial Evidence,
Archaeological Evidence, & Scientific Evidence

Below quotes from: Paul Maier in *Did Jesus Really
Exist?* & *Joseph and Josephus* www.4truth.net ,also: *The
Case for the Real Jesus* by: Lee Strobel

**“there is more evidence that Jesus of Nazareth
certainly lived than for most famous figures of the
ancient past” Paul L. Maier, The Russell H. Seibert
Professor of Ancient History, Western Michigan
University**

The Manuscript & Bibliographical Evidence: Ancient Works vs. Bible

Author	Work	Date Written	Earliest Manuscripts	Time Gap	Number of Manuscripts
Homer	<i>Iliad</i>	800 BC	c. 400 BC	400	1,757
Herodotus	<i>History</i>	480–425 BC	10th C	1,350	109
Sophocles	Plays	496–406 BC	3rd C BC	100-200	193
Plato	Tetralogies	400 BC	895	1,300	210
Caesar	<i>Galic Wars</i>	100-44 BC	9th C	950	251
Livy	<i>History of Rome</i>	59 BC–AD 17	Early 5th C	400	150
Tacitus	<i>Annals</i>	AD 100	1st half: 850, 2nd: 1050 (AD 1100)	750–950	2 + 31 15 th C
Pliny, the Elder	<i>Natural History</i>	AD 49–79	5th C fragment: 1; Rem. 14–15th C	400 (750)	200
Thucydides	<i>History</i>	460–400 BC	3rd C BC (AD 900)	200 (1,350)	96
Demosthenes	Speeches	300 BC	Some fragments from 1 C. BC. (AD 1100)	1,100+ (1,400)	340
New Testament		AD 50–100	AD 130 (or less)	40	5,795

NOTE: This does not even show the Old Testament manuscript evidence (Dead Sea Scrolls, Septuagint, Massoretic, etc) or the thousands of other New Testament manuscripts available in other languages and ancient time periods (24,000+ total NT manuscripts, 5795 Greek mss, 8,000-10,000 Latin mss, 8,000 Ethiopic, Slavic & Armenian).

www.equip.org/articles/the-bibliographical-test-updated/#christian-books-2
www.leaderu.com/orgs/probe/docs/bib-docu.html

“We have more than 14,000 manuscripts and fragments of the Old Testament of three main types: (a) approximately 10,000 from the Cairo Geniza (storeroom) find of 1897, dating back as far as about AD. 800; (b) about 190 from the Dead Sea Scrolls find of 1947-1955, the oldest dating back to 250-200 B.C.; and (c) at least 4,314 assorted other copies. The short time between the original Old Testament manuscripts (completed around 400 B.C.) and the first extensive copies (about 250 B.C.) — coupled with the more than 14,000 copies that have been discovered — ensures the trustworthiness of the Old Testament text. The earliest quoted verses (Num. 6:24-26) date from 800-700 B.C.”

www.equip.org/articles/bible-reliability-m-a-p-s-to-guide-you-through-bible-reliability

"The interval, then, between the dates of original composition and the earliest extant evidence becomes so small as to be in fact negligible, and the last foundation for any doubt that the Scriptures have come down to us substantially as they were written has now been removed. Both the authenticity and the general integrity of the books of the New Testament may be regarded as finally established." -Sir Frederic G. Kenyon, *The Bible and Archaeology*, former director and principal librarian of the British Museum

CHRISTIAN HISTORICAL EVIDENCE

Early Church Fathers (ccel.org) all of the early church pastors and leaders establish consistency of the message and personal testimony and witness of the apostles and disciples of Christ

Justin Martyr (early Christian convert): “Born of pagan parents around A.D. 100 in Nablus (between Judea and Galilee), Justin tried and abandoned various philosophical schools until he found in Christianity the one true teaching. As a native of the Holy Land, Justin mentions sites associated with Jesus, such as the Bethlehem grotto in which he was born, and even such details as Jesus working as an apprentice carpenter in the shop of his foster father Joseph, where they specialized in producing such agricultural implements as yokes for oxen and plows.” (Paul Maier in <http://www.4truth.net/fourtruthpbjesus.aspx?pageid=8589952895>)

JEWISH HISTORICAL EVIDENCE

Sacred Jewish Writings spell Jesus' name accurately in Amaraic (the spoken language of the day, "Yeshua Hannotzri"—Joshua (Jesus) of Nazareth), writing of his arrest warrant in the *Mishna* (earliest collection of writings in the *Talmud*) "He shall be stoned because he has practiced sorcery and lured Israel to apostasy. Anyone who can say anything in his favor, let him come forward and plead on his behalf. Anyone who knows where he is, let him declare it to the Great Sanhedrin in Jerusalem."

The Babylonian Talmud (Sanhedrin 43a) "confirms Jesus' crucifixion on the eve of Passover and the accusations against Christ of practicing sorcery and encouraging Jewish apostasy."

Jewish History: Flavius Josephus a famous Jewish historian mentions "Jesus who is called the Christ" twice in his *Jewish Antiquities*. In the second of these, he tells of the death of Jesus' half-brother James the Just of Jerusalem (20:200). In the longest first-century non-biblical reference to Christ, Josephus writes: "At this time there was a wise man called Jesus, and his conduct was good, and he was known to be virtuous. Many people among the Jews and the other nations became his disciples. Pilate condemned him to be crucified and to die. But those who had become his disciples did not abandon his discipleship. They reported that he had appeared to them three days after his crucifixion and that he was alive. Accordingly,

he was perhaps the Messiah, concerning whom the prophets have reported wonders. And the tribe of the Christians, so named after him, has not disappeared to this day.” (18:63)

SECULAR HISTORICAL EVIDENCE

Cornelius Tacitus, “one of the most reliable source historians of first-century Rome, wrote in his *Annals* a year-by-year account of events in the Roman Empire under the early Caesars. Among the highlights that he reports for the year A.D. 64 was the great fire of Rome. People blamed the emperor Nero for this conflagration since it happened ‘on his watch,’ but in order to save himself, Nero switched the blame to ‘the Christians,’ which is the first time they appear in secular history. Careful historian that he was, Tacitus then explains who ‘the Christians’ were: ‘Christus, the founder of the name, had undergone the death penalty in the reign of Tiberius, by sentence of the procurator Pontius Pilatus’ (15:44). He then goes on to report the horrors that were inflicted on the Christians in what became their first Roman persecution.”

“Tacitus, it should be emphasized, was not some Christian historian who was trying to prove that Jesus Christ really lived, but a pagan who despised Christians as a ‘disease,’ a term he uses later in the passage. Had Jesus never even existed, he would have been the first to expose that pathetic phantom on whom such cultists placed their trust. Were no other references to Jesus available, this passage alone would have been sufficient to establish his historicity. Skeptics realize this, and so have tried every imaginable means to discredit this passage—but to no avail. Manuscript analysis and computer studies have never found any reason to call this sentence into question, nor its context.”

Gaius Suetonius Tranquillus also recorded events of the first century in his famous Lives of the Twelve Caesars. He, too, regarded the Christians as a sect "professing a new and mischievous religious belief" (Nero 16) and doubtless cited "Chrestus" (Claudius 25).

Pliny the Younger "was the Roman governor of Bithynia—today, the northwestern corner of Turkey—and about the year 110 he wrote the emperor Trajan (98-117 A.D.), asking what to do about the Christians, a 'wretched cult' whom he mentions eight times in his letter. Christ himself is cited three times, the most famous instance referring to Christians '...who met on a fixed day to chant verses alternately among themselves in honor of Christ, as if to a god...' (Letter No. 96). Trajan's response, interestingly enough, suggests that Christians not be hunted out. (Ibid., No. 97). But again, if Christ were only a mythical character, these hostile sources would have been the first to emblazon that fact in derision."

Below references are from: www.gotquestions.org/did-Jesus-exist.html

Julius Africanus "quotes the historian **Thallus** in a discussion of the darkness which followed the crucifixion of Christ (Extant Writings, 18)."

Lucian of Samosata "was a second-century Greek writer who admits that Jesus was worshiped by Christians, introduced new teachings, and was crucified for them. He said that Jesus' teachings included the brotherhood of believers, the importance of conversion, and the

importance of denying other gods. Christians lived according to Jesus' laws, believed themselves to be immortal, and were characterized by contempt for death, voluntary self-devotion, and renunciation of material goods.”

Mara Bar-Serapion “confirms that Jesus was thought to be a wise and virtuous man, was considered by many to be the king of Israel, was put to death by the Jews, and lived on in the teachings of His followers.”

“Then we have all the *Gnostic writings* (The Gospel of Truth, The Apocryphon of John, The Gospel of Thomas, The Treatise on Resurrection, etc.) that all mention Jesus. ... In fact, *we can almost reconstruct the gospel just from early non-Christian sources*: Jesus was called the Christ (Josephus), did “magic,” led Israel into new teachings, and was hanged on Passover for them (Babylonian Talmud) in Judea (Tacitus), but claimed to be God and would return (Eliezar), which his followers believed, worshiping Him as God (Pliny the Younger).”

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVIDENCE

www.bibleplaces.com – photographs & descriptions of archaeological sites that evidence and corroborate the Bible

www.blog.bibleplaces.com – ongoing discoveries and archaeological updates

“TOP TEN BIBLICAL ARCHAEOLOGY DISCOVERIES”

from the Biblical Archeology Society by James Brashler, Jane Cahill West, Ze’ev Meshel, John Monson, Hershel Shanks, Suzanne F. Singer, Lawrence E. Stager, James F. Strange

(Available from www.biblicalarchaeology.org/free-ebooks)

1. The Nag Hammadi Library - Codices Shed New Light on Early Christian History
2. The New ‘Ain Dara Temple: Closest Solomonian Parallel
3. The Tel Dan (“David”) Stela
4. Mona Lisa of the Galilee
5. “Yahweh and His Asherah” The Kuntillet ‘Ajrud Ostraca
6. St. Peter’s House: Has the House Where Jesus Stayed in Capernaum Been Found?
7. The Siloam Pool: Where Jesus Cured the Blind Man
8. Ashkelon’s Arched Gate: When Canaanites and Philistines Ruled Ashkelon
9. Jerusalem’s Stepped-Stone Structure: Jerusalem in David and Solomon’s Time

10. Jerusalem's Babylonian Siege Tower: Remains of the Babylonian Siege

More Amazing Archaeological Discoveries

A Common Flood Story, The Code of Hammurabi, The Nuzi Tablets, The Existence of Hittites, The Merneptah Stele, Biblical Cities Attested Archaeologically, Shishak's Invasion of Judah, The Moabite Stone, Obelisk of Shalmaneser III, Burial Plaque of King Uzziah, Hezekiah's Siloam Tunnel Inscription, The Sennacherib Prism, The Cylinder of Cyrus the Great
(Available from: <http://www.equip.org/articles/biblical-archaeology-factual-evidence-to-support-the-historicity-of-the-bible/>)

RESOURCES FOR FUTURE STUDY

What does God say through the Bible?

www.gotquestions.org – almost 400,000 answers to life, spiritual, and Bible questions.

Is Christianity True?

- *I Don't Have Enough Faith to be an Atheist* – by Norman Geisler and Frank Turek, shows how there is more evidence for Christianity than evolution/naturalism
- *The Case for Christ* – by Lee Strobel – simply explains much of the evidence for Christianity
- *Scientific Facts in the Bible: 100 Reasons to Believe the Bible is Supernatural in Origin* by Ray Comfort
- *The New Evidence that Demands a Verdict* by Josh McDowell

Creation vs. Evolution

- www.evolutionvsGod.com – A 38-minute video, with over 1.7 million views, of interviews with atheist professors and scholars concerning their beliefs in evolution.
- www.answersingenesis.org - Provides answers to questions about the Bible regarding issues such as creation, evolution, science, and the age of the earth
- www.reasons.org - explains scientific discoveries and shows how they continue to evidence the truthfulness of Scripture

- *Where the Conflict Really Lies: Science, Religion & Naturalism* by Alvin Plantinga

Archaeological Evidence

www.bibleplaces.com – www.blog.bibleplaces.com -
www.biblicalarchaeology.org/free-ebooks

Comparison of Christianity with other World Religions

www.4truth.net – A reasoned approach to Christianity

Additional Resources

- *Life's Ultimate Questions: An Introduction to Philosophy* by Ronald H. Nash
- *Reasonable Faith: Christian Truth and Apologetics* by William Lane Craig
- *Who Made God? And Answers to Over 100 Other Tough Questions of Faith* by Ravi Zacharias and Norman Geisler
- *Reasons for Faith: Making a Case for the Christian Faith* Norman L. Geisler

How to Study Your Bible

www.trustworthyword.com/how-to-study-the-bible

10 Reasons to Read and Study the Bible

1. **Encounter God** - The Bible is where we meet God and hear His voice and truth!
2. **Know God** - We don't just seek to know about God, but to relate to and grow in love for Him.
3. **Glorify God** - We desire to grow in holiness and imitation of Christ in order to honor God.
4. **Experience God's Past Work** - We learn from God's revealed historical work among humanity.
5. **Understand God's Present Work** - We hear how God desires to work in & through us today.
6. **Look Forward to God's Future Work** - We trust in His promised future return and work.
7. **Protect from Satan's Attacks** - We remember our real enemy in Satan, his demons, the world, and our flesh and are reminded that His truth is a spiritual weapon of offense and defense.
8. **Share True Hope with Others** - We evangelistically speak God's hope, love, and Gospel truth.
9. **Live Life According to God's Wisdom** - We submit to our Father's loving instruction for life
10. **Obedience** - God has commanded us to listen and obey His voice through the Bible.

10 Ways to Read the Bible

As you seek to read the Bible, ensure to prioritize time to take the Bible for study and meditation: understanding, absorbing, internalizing, memorizing, and applying the Scriptures.

- 1. Through the Bible** - Read the whole Bible from beginning to end or in some other order!
 - Try about.esvbible.org/resources/reading/ or www.biblestudytools.com/bible-reading-plan/
- 2. New Testament** - If you read a chapter per weekday, you can read the whole Bible in a year
- 3. Proverbs** - There are 31 Proverbs, so seek to read the one corresponding to the calendar day (i.e. read Proverbs 17 on the 17th day of the month, Proverbs 18 on 18th day of the month, etc.).
- 4. Psalms** - There are 150 Psalms, so choose a Psalm each day to help guide your prayers (i.e. on the 17th day of the month select either Psalm 17, 47, 77, 107, or 137 to read and instruct you in prayer).
 - See *Don Whitney's* [Praying the Bible](#)
- 5. Read slowly through Romans** - Go deeper and digest and study theology.
 - Use a resource like Wayne Grudem's [Christian Beliefs](#) or [Systematic Theology](#) to help you!

6. **Pick a single Bible book to read** – (i.e. John to learn the basics of Jesus’ life and death. James or Proverbs to know and apply God’s wisdom. 1 John to check and ensure you are a believer.) The Bible Project has amazing Bible-book approach video resources that you won’t want to miss: www.bibleproject.com

7. **Subscribe to a faithful devotional aid to compliment your Bible reading**
 - Try www.biblestudytools.com/devotionals

8. **Study a character. Search and read wherever their name appears.**
 - Check out [The Baker Encyclopedia of Bible People](#)

9. **Study a place. Search and read wherever that place is mentioned.**
 - Check out www.bibleplaces.com/sites for some incredible descriptions and pictures!

10. **Study a topic. Search and learn about what God teaches about key issues.**
 - Check out GotQuestions.org

Important Bible Study Questions

Where did the Bible come from? What is the Bible?

The Bible was spoken and revealed from God into the hearts of men that the Scriptures might be written and shared among God's children. Some of these writings are historical descriptions, prophetic writings, poetry and songs, wisdom, and letters. Although written by the hands of men, these writings were not written by the will of man, but were inspired and given by the power and will of God's Spirit. The Bible is the specific revelation by God about Himself, His work, and His plan for all of humanity so that we may love, trust, and obey Him. The whole Bible is breathed out by God, to make His people wise for salvation and to equip His people to lovingly teach, train, correct, and confront with God's truths (2 Timothy 3:10-17)

"And we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts, 20 knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. 21 For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit." 2 Peter 1:19-21

"For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty." 2 Peter 1:16

"The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things that are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law."
Deuteronomy 29:29

Can we expect more books to be discovered or added to the Bible?

No. God has clearly spoken in the Scriptures and across early church history such that the current collection of recognized biblical books (canon) is complete. This process of recognizing the words of God comes through the recognition of the authorship as a biblical prophets or apostle, the self-attestation of the book within the Scriptures themselves, and their continuity with other books of the Bible.

Does the Bible have errors?

The original writings (autographs) have no errors at all. The ancient copies (manuscripts) we possess have small differences between them. These differences have primarily arisen from those who were copying and translating them. These differences have been recognized, described and corrected via a modern day comparison of the thousands of manuscripts to produce reliable Hebrew (Old Testament) and Greek (New Testament) compilations that have been reliably translated into many languages. None of the manuscript differences affect or speak to major theological issues but are most commonly mere grammatical issues. Comprehensive resources are available to explain the

process of translation and decisions made concerning the compilation of manuscripts.

Is the Bible trustworthy?

Yes. The Bible shows its own trustworthiness through its self-attestation in the lives of believers and its internal consistency over thousands of years at the hands of many writers. The Bible is clearly seen to be the most accurate book in all of human history through archaeological, historical, scientific, and documentary evidence. The biblical content clearly reveals that its author is God Himself. The Bible has the most and best manuscript evidence, seen in its thousands of copies that were written soon after its original writing and discovered in a multiplicity of geographic locations. No literary work in all of human history is comparable to the trustworthiness of the Bible.

"He must hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to rebuke those who contradict it." Titus 1:9

"For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. 13 And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account."
Hebrews 4:12-13

"The law of your mouth is better to me than thousands of gold and silver pieces." Psalm 119:72

Is the KJV the best translation?

The King James Version (KJV) of the Bible is a good translation of the Bible. When it was written only a few manuscripts had been discovered, which limited the scope and accuracy of its translation. Since its translation hundreds of years ago, many additional archaeological discoveries have been made which provided thousands of more trustworthy manuscripts in the twentieth century. Many modern day translations have been written since the KJV translation, providing plenty of accurate biblical translations. Many people prefer the KJV because of their personal familiarity with it. Many others struggle with the KJV since it uses Old English, a language that is antiquated, no longer spoken, and difficult for many modern day English speakers to understand.

Many teachers give the false impression that the KJV is the only accurate Bible to be used. This is a touchy issue, one which must be handled with great care and humility. Such teachers may have genuine motives in preventing any corruption of the Biblical translations, but such opinions are often rooted in human pride and personal ignorance of the translation process and manuscript evidence. Those who prefer the KJV have the joy of continuing in their freedom of this preference but must humbly encourage and accept the fact that many prefer translations based on a more comprehensive collection of biblical manuscripts and translated into the common languages of the day.

Suggested book: [The King James Only Controversy by James White](#)

Why are there so many translations?

When translating the Bible, the translators must make decisions to translate either literally with a word for word approach (formal) or with a thought for thought approach (dynamic equivalence). These two approaches are both accurate and helpful. Some writings are written with more simple wording to recognize the differences in literary capabilities of different people and communities.

There are also other translations based upon a paraphrase approach. The paraphrase approach is when the Biblical text is not translated but is instead summarized and restated. Although such an approach may be helpful for children's Bibles and chronological Bible storying, it is not a good approach for maturing and literate Christians.

The English language is blessed to have many translations, but some languages possess only one translation. Many languages have yet to have the Bible translated. Although the multiple translations are extremely beneficial, we must recognize and be aware that there are translations that make unhelpful and heretical changes to the meaning of the biblical text.

There are modern translations that have removed gender specific language (NIV), removed references to Christ's deity (Jehovah's Witnesses' New World Translation), added books to the Bible (Catholicism), or subjugated the Bible to other books and authorities (Catholicism and Mormonism).

"Everyone who goes on ahead and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God. Whoever abides in the teaching has both the Father and the Son." 2 John 1:9

Which translation is the best?

Assuming the translation is faithful to the biblical text, the best translation is the one that you can easily read and understand. As some grow in their reading and comprehension abilities, they may find that more formal translations are most helpful to them in the process of study.

Are devotional guides and books ok?

Devotional guides and books can be helpful for Christians as an aid and tool to enhancing their personal study of God's Word. Devotional guides and books can also be a dangerous impediment to spiritual growth if Christians never grow in their own abilities to study Scripture. True Christians seek to mature and should never be content with solely a second hand experience with God as related through others. The Bible is clearly understood (perspicuity of the Bible), which means that it is intelligible through the enlightenment of the Holy

Spirit. If you struggle with your own personal and direct study of God's Word, pray to God and seek help from others in order to enhance and increase your ability to hear God's voice through the study of His Word.

How can I go about reading more of the Bible?

Make a plan. Make time. Be intentional. The reading of God's Word is essential for spiritual growth. The best plan is the one in which you will be able to follow. It could be as simple as picking a Bible book and reading through it one day at a time. It could involve a goal like reading through the entire New Testament in a year by reading one chapter per weekday. Many books, Bibles, and apps have a plan for reading through the entire Bible in a year. We tend to prioritize that which we find valuable. Prioritize and make time for the reading of God's Word, it is of infinite value.

"the rules of the LORD are true, and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb." Psalm 19:9-10

Is the New Testament more important than the Old Testament? What is their relationship?

All of Scripture is valuable and trustworthy. The Bible is one big story, not two separate sections (Hebrews 1:1-2, 2 Timothy 3:14-17). God speaks not only through his prophets, but also through the life of Christ. The expression that "*the New is in the Old concealed and the Old is in the New revealed*" helps us to understand this relationship. We need to give equal attention to the

study of both the Old Testament and New Testament for "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever" (Hebrews 13:8).

"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change." James 1:17

"Therefore I love your commandments above gold, above fine gold. Therefore I consider all your precepts to be right; I hate every false way." Psalm 119:127-128

How can I understand the meaning of the Bible?

The best way to understand the Bible is to spend time in it. Study Bibles, commentaries, and online resources (GotQuestions.org, BibleStudyTools.com, and BibleHub.com). Here are some helpful questions to ask yourself, and seek answers to, as you discover the meaning of the Scriptures:

- Who is writing this?
- Who is it being written to?
- What type of writing is this?
- What does the Scripture mean?
- What do we learn about God?
- What do we learn about God's work?
- What do we learn about ourselves?
- Why does this passage matter?
- How do I need to respond to and apply these truths to my life? (Is there a sin to avoid, a command to obey, an example to follow, a prayer to offer, a truth to remember, an attitude to change, or a teaching to share?)

What does it mean to meditate on God's Word?

Meditation on God's Word is the filling up of one's heart and mind with the truths of God. As these truths are internalized, we are to spend more time in mental contemplation and processing over His truth in order to grow in our faith and to share our faith with others. Meditation happens when we read, listen to, pray over, learn, think, speak, write, and share about God's truths.

"Only be strong and very courageous, being careful to do according to all the law that Moses my servant commanded you. Do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may have good success wherever you go. 8 This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success." Joshua 1:7-8

"Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect." Romans 12:2

How can I share and speak God's truths lovingly to others?

Memorizing the Scripture is the best way to prepare to share God's truths. We should pray to God for opportunities and courage to witness. When we pray according to His will we know he hears and answers us (1 John 5:14-15), and we know it is His will that we be

His witnesses (Matthew 28:18-20, Acts 1:8). The more we meditate, study, and memorize God's Word, the more our hearts and lips will naturally and courageously bear witness to the glory and goodness of God.

We must remember that we have a responsibility to warn others of God's coming judgment (Ezekiel 3:17-19 & 33:7-9). When we share the Gospel we ought to communicate the truths concerning God as Creator (Colossians 1:16-17, Hebrews 4:13, 9:27), mankind's sinful rebellion (Romans 3:23), Christ's sacrifice and gift (Romans 6:23), and our need to respond to God as our Lord and Savior (Romans 10:9). The Gospel must be clearly spoken from our lips but also must be faithfully lived out in our lives, marriages, families, and workplaces (Ephesians 5 & 6).

Here are three great online resources to learn how to share your faith:

- *The Way of the Master* (Ray Comfort)
www.livingwaters.com [our personal favorite!]
- *Share Jesus without Fear* (William Fay)
www.sharejesuswithoutfear.com
- *Steps to Peace with God* (Billy Graham)
www.peacewithgod.net

Many people fear the questions that may arise when witnessing, but it is ok to answer that "I do not know, but will find out." A great resource for discovering God's answers to difficult questions is www.gotquestions.org . Finally we must always remember that our calling is not simply to make converts, but to make disciples,

connecting believers into church fellowships where they can grow in their love and knowledge of God.

How can I recognize false teachers and false prophets?

The best way to recognize false teachers is to listen to their teachings and watch their lives (Deuteronomy 13:1-5, 18:15-22, Matthew 12:33-37, Galatians 1:8-9, 2 Peter 2, Jude 1:1-10, 2 John 1:9, James 3:1). If their teachings and lives do not line up with Scriptural truths, they may be false teachers, false prophets, or immature believers who do not need to be teaching or leading.

More help here: www.trustworthyword.com/what-does-the-bible-say-about-false-teachers

"But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing upon themselves swift destruction." 2 Peter 2:1

"But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed. 9 As we have said before, so now I say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be accursed." Galatians 1:8-9

Steps to Studying the Bible

1. **Pray** before Studying the Bible - ask God to open your mind and heart to His truths
2. **Read** the Bible - follow a plan, be disciplined, seek accountability, use an audio bible such as found from faithcomesbyhearing.com (“Bible.is” as an app)
3. **Listen** to Faithful Teachings - commit to regularly listen to your pastor’s and others’ teachings while diligently checking the Scripture to ensure what they say is true (Acts 17:11).
4. **Study** the Bible - slowly and intentionally dig deep into the Scriptures
5. **Meditate** on the Bible - remove distractions and seek the work of the Spirit for your understanding and application of these truths in your life
6. **Pray** through the Bible - use the Scriptures to guide your prayer. The Psalms are the best for this, but you can pray as the Lord leads for conviction and turning from sin as well as for the increased maturity in Christ
7. **Memorize** the Bible - write, speak out loud, draw, use games, acronyms, songs, and repetition, recite portions of verses and progress to the whole verse, keep accountability to your memorization goals
8. **Teach** the Bible - find someone to mentor and teach, learning how to study the Bible, in teaching you will learn and grow most rapidly
9. **Evangelize** with the Bible - the Bible is meant to be shared, focus on Gospel presentation passages to use in witnessing

10. **Pray** for God to remind and deepen you into the truths of God, asking Him to help you to obey His Word

Passages Emphasizing the Importance of the Study of the Bible

- Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth. - 2 Timothy 2:15
- For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, 11 so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it. - Isaiah 55:10-11
- You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me, 40 yet you refuse to come to me that you may have life. - John 5:39-40
- Jesus said to them, "Is this not the reason you are wrong, because you know neither the Scriptures nor the power of God?" - Mark 12:24
- You, however, have followed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, 11 my persecutions and sufferings that happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, and at Lystra - which persecutions I endured; yet from them all the Lord rescued me. 12 Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, 13 while evil people and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. 14 But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed,

knowing from whom you learned it 15 and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. 16 All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work. - 2 Timothy 3:10-17

- Command and teach these things. 12 Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity. 13 Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching. 14 Do not neglect the gift you have, which was given you by prophecy when the council of elders laid their hands on you. 15 Practice these things, immerse yourself in them, so that all may see your progress. 16 Keep a close watch on yourself and on the teaching. Persist in this, for by so doing you will save both yourself and your hearers. - 1 Timothy 4:11-16
- Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls. 22 But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. 23 For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. 24 For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. 25 But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no

hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing. - James 1:21-25

- take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, - Ephesians 6:17
- I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book, 19 and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book. - Revelation 22:18-19
- For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. 13 And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account. - Hebrews 4:12-13
- If anyone teaches a different doctrine and does not agree with the sound words of our Lord Jesus Christ and the teaching that accords with godliness, 4 he is puffed up with conceit and understands nothing. He has an unhealthy craving for controversy and for quarrels about words, which produce envy, dissension, slander, evil suspicions, 5 and constant friction among people who are depraved in mind and deprived of the truth, imagining that godliness is a means of gain. - 1 Timothy 6:3-5
- Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, 2 but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he

appointed the heir of all things, through whom also
he created the world. - Hebrews 1:1-2

Top 10 Bible Study Tips

www.trustworthyword.com/bible-study-tips

“Half our fears arise from neglect of the Bible.”

Charles H. Spurgeon

1. Pick a Plan

Ever hear the expression, “a goal without a plan is just a wish”? If you want to draw closer to the Lord through the Bible you’ve got to make a plan that is “SMART” or 1)Specific, 2)Measurable, 3)Achievable, 4)Realistic, and 5)Timely

2. Be Realistic, Keep It Simple

Consider your past and present situations as you evaluate your goals for the future!

3. Set a Time

Are you a morning person or an evening person? Do you need to wake up earlier or block off a particular time of day a little better?

4. Pick, Prepare, & Protect a Place

Where is a spot (chair, room, car) where you avoid distractions while being focused on reading or hearing God’s Word?

5. Make Reminders

What will help you to remember daily? Leaving your Bible or devotional out in a particular spot? Sticky note? Dry eraser on the mirror or fridge? Phone app notification? Repeating calendar event?

6. Keep Track of Your Progress

Use a bookmark, check off a reading plan, use a chart to see what you've accomplished!

7. Have a Catch-Up Plan, Readjust If Necessary

Block off time (evening, weekend, a day per month) to pick up when you inevitably miss a reading or day. Find yourself getting too far behind, adjust your goals to be more realistic and achievable or stretch out your goal's end date.

8. Create Accountability

Aim for the same goal with a child, spouse, friend, or family member. Share your goal and progress or setbacks online or with others for encouragement. Confess your failures or struggles to receive wisdom or prayer.

9. Use Tools for the Journey

Whether it is highlighters, gel pens, or a commentary, concordance, atlas, or app - find practical resources that make your journey more enjoyable and profitable.

10. Celebrate Small Wins Along the Way

Make celebratory steps and incentives as you keep up for a month, finish a book, or complete your next chapter. Make an end of the year prize that you look forward to using a small reward!

“The vigor of our spiritual life will be in exact proportion to the place held by the Bible in our life and thoughts.” George Mueller

Christian Life Small Group Warm Up (“Ice-Breaker”) Questions

These questions are already listed throughout this book (one each week), but this consolidated list might be helpful too! You might want to use this space to write down some new “ice-breaker” type questions as you think of them.

1. What is a way you hope to grow spiritually in the year ahead?
2. When and how did God save you?
3. What is one of your favorite parts of your church family?
4. What is a spiritual milestone in your life?
5. What is one of the biggest challenges facing Christians today?
6. What is your favorite Bible verse and why?
7. What is a memorable time that God answered your prayers?
8. How are you seeing God grow you this year?
9. Who has been a spiritual mentor to you?
10. What is your favorite mission or ministry experience?
11. Which Bible character or story is your favorite?
12. If you could change something in your past, what would it be?
13. What Easter traditions help you remember and celebrate the true meaning of Resurrection Sunday?
14. How do you want to be remembered after you die?

15. If you could go on a mission trip today, where would you go?
16. What Bible book do you want to study and understand better?
17. How do you feel God has gifted you?
18. How has your study of the Bible improved over the years?
19. How can you free up more time in your day? Where are you wasting time?
20. When did God take a difficult season or situation and use it as a blessing?
21. What is an effective way you've found to share the Gospel with others?
22. How has your faith impacted your marriage or parenting?
23. How has your faith impacted you at work or school life?
24. If you could permanently change one part of yourself instantly, what would it be? Why?
25. If you could ask God one question to answer, what would it be and why?
26. What could we learn from how other denominations or cultures worship?
27. How do you think church will change over the next 10 years? 50 years?
28. What is something you are excited about in the next 12 months?
29. What is your favorite part about church? Why?
30. What is your favorite Christian song? Why?
31. If you could see one person in your life be saved, who would it be?
32. What do you think about miracles continuing today?

33. Do you have a favorite Christian app or website?
How does it help you?
34. Who is your favorite Christian podcast or preacher?
35. What is your favorite Christian book or study?
36. What are some tips you would share with a new Christian about studying the Bible?
37. What are some tips you would share with a new Christian about prayer?
38. What are some tips you would share with a new Christian about church?
39. What are some tips you would share with a new Christian about marriage?
40. What are some tips you would share with a new Christian about parenting and family?
41. What are some times or ways you have seen God's greatness and power through nature?
42. How are you seeing God work among the next generation?
43. How are you trying to share God's truth and love with the next generation?
44. Who is on the top of your prayer list? Why?
45. What is a favorite memory of yours from growing up in church?
46. What sins do you see as dominating in popularity today? How can we best respond in truth and love?
47. Share a time when God grew you significantly (a mission trip, a retreat, a conference, a camp, a tough season, etc.)?
48. What is your biggest hope and prayer for the future of your church?
49. What is your biggest hope and prayer for your family?

50. What Christmas traditions help you remember and celebrate the true meaning of Jesus' birth?
51. Looking back at the past year, what were some ways you grew spiritually?
52. Looking forward to the next year, what plans are you making to better love God and others?



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Dr. Jonathan Carl

Jonathan Carl grew up in the great state of Texas as the oldest of six kids. He graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point and served in the U.S. Army as a tanker with a combat tour in Iraq in the early 2000s. He had the joy of journeying to Kentucky where he met and married his wonderful wife Brittney. Several years later he became the lead pastor at South Fork Baptist Church where he has served for over a decade. He enjoyed the



opportunities to study and earn his Master of Divinity and Doctor of Philosophy degrees in Evangelism & Missions from the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. Jonathan & Brittney have four daughters (Sophia, Lydia, Alia & Mia) with whom they enjoy spending every spare minute they can.

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In Christ,^[11]_[SEP]Jonathan Carl

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