



WEEK 11 – STUDY QUESTIONS

3/18 – 3/25

.....

RUTH

.....

Many times in the Old Testament, characters embody the picture of Christ in the New Testament. The story of Ruth and Boaz is a beautiful picture of Christ's relationship to his Bride, the Church. Because of Boaz's position in the family, he has the ability to choose to redeem and restore Ruth by marrying her. However, in blessing and redeeming Ruth, there was a cost that had to be paid. Boaz was willing to pay the price that the other redeemer considered too great a sacrifice.

- **Why do you think there is so much emphasis placed on the fact that Ruth is a Moabite? Does anyone remember where the Moabites came from?**
- **What truth does this point towards concerning Gentiles in the New Covenant?**
- **What do the words of the first redeemer in 4:6, *pg. 368* ("*...Then I cannot redeem it because I might endanger my own estate. You redeem it yourself. I cannot do it.*") illustrate to us about the sacrifice that Christ made on our behalf?**

The end of the book of Ruth obviously points forward in the genealogy that follows after Boaz and Ruth. It specifically reflects on King David. The writer recognized the significance of God's provision for Ruth in the lineage of David. Now as we read the account we know that David was not the greatest King to come from this family line. Christ the King ultimately followed the same line, and not only is this story a part of his family history, but a clear mirror and forerunner for the redemption he offers to all people.

- **How does it affect your reading of this story, and all of God's word, knowing that He knew the end of the story when all its parts were being written?**
- **What is the main message of God's Great Story (the whole Bible)?**
- **How does it affect your relationship with Christ to think of Him as your Kinsman Redeemer?**
- **How should you incorporate the understanding you gained from this story into your prayer life?**
- **Read Titus 3:1-8. How can you demonstrate Christ's loving kindness to those around you, not so you are praised, but to glorify the Great Redeemer?**



WEEK 12 – STUDY QUESTIONS

3/25 – 4/1

.....
1 SAMUEL 1-17
.....

Read 1 Samuel 8 (pg.393).

- **Why did Israel really want a king to rule over them(8:19-22)?**
- **Why was their desire sinful (8:6-9)?**

In verse 7 the Lord told Samuel that the people “have rejected Me from being king over them.”

- **In what ways do you fail to treat God as your King? How do you seek other sources of protection?**
- **What are the implications of God being your King?**

After Saul failed to serve the Lord faithfully as king of Israel, he was told that he and his dynasty had been rejected and that the kingdom had been given to a neighbor (15:22-29, pg.404), a man after the Lord’s heart.

- **After having discussed the Old Testament law for quite some time, what makes 15:22-23 so amazing and vitally important?**

When Samuel sees the oldest of Jesse’s sons, he assumes he is the likeliest candidate

- **In what ways do we focus on the outward appearance of others, rather than their heart?**
- **Throughout Scripture why does God place such an emphasis on the heart—that spiritual part of us where our emotions and desires dwell?**
- **Like David, why was Jesus not the Messiah the world expected?**



WEEK 13 – STUDY QUESTIONS

4/1 – 4/8

.....
PSALMS IN 1ST AND 2ND SAMUEL
.....

Read Psalm 57 (pg.424).

- **Think back on a time in your own life where you felt as though you were “in the midst of lions.” Was your view of God affected? How did you respond? How did God bring you through? What did you learn through it all?**

According to this psalm:

- **How does David respond to the difficult situation he finds himself in? Take some time to list them and discuss their significance.**
- **Why do you think David includes “Be exalted, O God, above the heavens; let your glory be over all the earth” in the middle and at the end of this psalm?**

There were many psalms written during this period of David’s life, such as psalms 59, 56, 34, 142, 52, 63, 54, 57 and 18.

- **How did your reading of these psalms in context help you understand them better or see them differently?**
- **What stands out to you the most about these psalms?**
- **What do these psalms teach us about facing hardships and adversity in this life?**

Read Psalm 18 (pg.441-443).

- **How is Jesus Christ the fulfillment of this psalm?**



WEEK 14 – STUDY QUESTIONS

4/8 – 4/15

2 SAMUEL 7 (PG. 449-50)

David was finally at rest from his enemies. Israel is experiencing peace, the ark of the covenant is now in Jerusalem (although in a tent), and David is enjoying his new cedar palace. All these events lead David to decide God needs a proper dwelling place.

- **In crisis, we tend to cry out to the Lord; but when we are at rest, where do we turn our attention? How should we respond during times of blessing and peace?**

The Lord makes eternal promises to the house of David (7:4-17). This Davidic covenant will become the center of hope for the messages of the prophets in later generations, and these promises are the foundation for the messianic expectations that are fulfilled in Jesus Christ.

- **What is God's point by first reminding David of God's hand on his life (*first paragraph pg. 450, vv.8-9*)?**
- **What kind of house (literal and spiritual) is God going to build for David?**
- **What does it mean that Christians become a living temple to the Lord?**
- **How does Christ fulfill the promises in this text?**

Read 2 Samuel 7:18-29 (*pg.450*).

David responds to God's declaration by going into the tent (tabernacle), sitting before the ark of the covenant (the footstool of God's throne) and praising God. This response provides a model for all who receive unmerited blessing from God.

- **How does David begin? How does he speak of himself?**
- **How many times does David refer to himself as servant? What is significant about his response in this manner, instead of referring to himself as the king of God's people?**
- **How does David praise God? What does he say about God?**

- **What promises has God made to each of us? How often do you praise God for the promises he has made to you? How often do we praise God as a body of believers?**

WEEK 15 – STUDY QUESTIONS

4/15 – 4/22

.....
1 CHRONICLES 29
.....

Just before anointing Solomon as his successor and himself being laid to rest, David fixes everyone's attention in the gathered assembly of God's people upon the greatness and glory of God. In so doing, 1 Chronicles 29 reports David's final prayer.

Read 1 Chronicles 29:10-22 (*pg.489-90*).

- **What does David say about God in these verses?**
- **What similarities do you find between David's prayer at the end of his life and the prayer Jesus taught his disciples to pray in Matthew 6:9-13?**
- **What elements are necessary for a God-centered prayer?**

- **What does adoring God as *both* eternal father *and* universal king do for our faith?**
- **Why might it be unhealthy if we reflect on one aspect of who God is to the neglect of the other?**
- **Why does David focus on who God is for his people before focusing on what God does for his people?**
- **Are you quick to credit God for your various successes in life? Why or why not?**

In the second part of David's prayer, God's gracious generosity sharpens into focus. Since all things belong to God and come from God, the people are only able to serve God with the resources supplied by God. Not only does God supply the material resources, but He also supplies people with the spiritual resolve and motivation for accomplishing his purposes. The worship taking place in this moment, and that which will occur in the future, takes place by God's gracious generosity. In a similar way, just before Jesus died on the cross, He interceded for his disciples (John 17). He too prays for God to supply his disciples with the necessary resources for advancing his kingdom in the world.

- **Is it appropriate to ask God to supply what he requires?**



WEEK 16 – STUDY QUESTIONS

4/22 – 4/29

.....
PSALM 40
.....

This psalm occurs during a very turbulent time in David's life and kingship. He is in the middle of facing the consequences for his sin of adultery with Bathsheba, including the heartbreaks of rape, fratricide, treachery, rebellion, seizure of his concubines, and civil war.

Read Psalm 40 (pg.526).

- **When faced with great trouble, what did David first reflect on?**
- **Do you find yourself following David's example? Why or why not?**
- **In what areas of life are you currently waiting on the Lord? Do you find it difficult to wait?**
- **Has there been a time in your life in which you cried out to the Lord and he delivered you from a troubling situation?**

David responded to God's gracious act of deliverance by dedicating himself to the Lord and His will, recalling that God preferred his obedience to his sacrifices.

- **What did David do with God's law? How about you? What's your daily practice and use of God's word? In what ways can you hide it in your heart?**
- **What's the relationship David makes between delighting in/desiring to do God's will and putting his law in his heart? What are the implications of this for our lives?**

Note how many times the word "Lord" is used in this passage.

- **In light of the context why is this important? What does this reveal about David?**
- **How do these verses give us a clear picture of our ultimate deliverance in Christ?**

WEEK 17 – STUDY QUESTIONS

4/29 – 5/6

.....
PSALM 103
.....

Read Psalm 103 (pg.550-551).

- **What part(s) of this psalm stood out to you the most?**
- **How would you summarize this psalm in a sentence or two? What is the theme, the main point David is trying to get across?**
- **What are God’s “benefits” described in this psalm?**
- **What does “*and heals all your diseases*” mean in context? Is right to assume that we are always owed physical healing?**
- **According to this psalm, to whom do all these blessings and promises belong?**

.....
PSALM 119
.....

Psalm 119 is the longest chapter in the Bible, with 176 verses, and arguably the most beautiful in form and literary structure. It is an acrostic poem, the stanzas of which begin with the successive letters of the Hebrew alphabet, and the verses of each stanza begin with the same letter, respectively. All but 5 of the 176 verses in this Psalm mention God’s word in one way or another. The exceptions (v.84, 90, 121, 122, and 132) all refer to God.

- **Do you think there’s a reason that this psalm, inspired by the Holy Spirit, is entirely centered on God’s word? What does this say about the sufficiency of Scripture?**

One of the many truths of the word of God is that it gives life (v.25, 37, 40, 50, 88, and 93). Verse 37 says “*Turn away my eyes from looking at vanity, and revive me in Your ways.*” (ESV “give me life”, NIV “preserve”). The definition of revival is “a renewal of interest in something” or “the process of bringing somebody back to life, consciousness, or full strength.”

- **What part does God’s word play in “revivals”?**
- **How should this truth of God’s word affect our prayer, and even approach, for revival?**

More than sixty verses in this Psalm specifically mention trial and persecution (v.20, 50-53, 95, 98, and so on). Believers will experience trials in this world even as they’re obedient to God’s word, but his word is a source of comfort through those trials.

- **To whom or what do you regularly turn to for guidance or help in times of need?**
- **Do you only turn to God’s word at “special” times, or in times of need?**



WEEK 18 – STUDY QUESTIONS

5/6 – 5/13

.....
PSALM 27
.....Read Psalm 27 (*pg.583-84*).

- **What are the greatest sources of fear in your life? What is your normal pattern for responding to these fears?**
- **How does the fact that the Lord is your “light”, “salvation” and “stronghold” help you respond to these fears?**

Apparently, the Lord was not promptly granting David’s request for protection. He asked the Lord not to forsake him since he was in great need. God had instructed the righteous to pray and that is what David was doing.

- **Can you sympathize with David’s frustration in this passage (*first stanza on pg. 584*)? Please explain.**
- **Have you ever felt like God has forsaken you and isn’t answering your prayers? How did you respond?**
- **How are you able to maintain trust in God during those times when He appears to be silent?**
- **Why do you find it difficult to wait for the Lord in times when you desire immediate deliverance from some present difficulty?**

Belief in the Lord’s “goodness” caused David to patiently wait for the Lord even when times were difficult.

- **How has the Lord’s goodness helped you to patiently wait for the Lord in similar situations?**

Psalm 27:4: *“One thing I ask from the Lord, this only do I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze on the beauty of the Lord and to seek him in his temple.”*

- **How does reading this in context help us understand its meaning (what *does* it mean) and apply it to our lives?**



WEEK 19 – STUDY QUESTIONS

5/13 – 5/20

1 KINGS 8 (MAY 14)

Approaching the presence of God is not to be done lightly. In 2 Samuel 6, Uzzah touched the ark and was immediately killed. As the priests carried the ark to the Temple, Solomon and the entire congregation sacrificed many sheep and oxen. Sacrifices were offered in recognition of national sin and individual sin, as well as praise to God.

Read 1 Kings 8:1-11 (pg.602-03).

- **How should we approach the presence of God in worship today as a small group or a church gathering? What can we learn from 1 Kings 8:1-11?**

Read 1 Kings 8:54-61 (pg.605).

- **Why has God provided salvation to his children and fulfilled all of his promises? Is it for our sake alone?**
- **When we pray for God to bless us and to maintain our cause, what should be our ultimate purpose in making this request?**

PROVERBS 1

The Book of Proverbs provides short pithy sayings that give wise instruction for living a skillful or useful life; these sayings are not law. The word “wisdom” basically means “skill.” In the Book of Proverbs, it refers to skillful living, “the ability to make wise choices and live successfully according to the moral standards of the covenant community.” Wisdom is the skill of applying knowledge rightly, or skill in the art of godly living.

Read Proverbs 1:1-7 (pg.619-20).

- **Take some time and discuss what these verses are actually saying. Define some of these descriptive words (“instruction”, “understanding words of insight”, “prudent behavior”, “discretion to the young”, etc).**
- **What is the difference between knowledge and wisdom?**
- **What does it mean to “fear the LORD”?**

Read 1 Corinthians 1:26-31 (pg.1533).

- **What does the Bible mean when it refers to Jesus as the one who became wisdom for us?**

WEEK 20 – STUDY QUESTIONS

5/20 – 5/27

.....

SONG OF SOLOMON (MARCH 26)

.....

Introductory discussion:

- **Have you ever done a study of The Song of Solomon / thought of it as an unimportant book compared to other books / questioned why it is even in the Bible?**
- **How important is it in our day and age to have God’s perspective on sexuality?**
- **Before you were a Christian, who or what most shaped your view of sex and sexuality?**

The cultures of the world around Israel in the OT and those around the church today have, by their misuse of human sexuality, greatly affected the mindset of God’s people. In an effort to avoid adopting the view held by the world about the subject, the church tends to avoid it altogether.

To begin to understand The Song of Solomon, we must grasp four important truths: this is (1) a song, (2) about human love set in the context of marriage, (3) found in the inspired Word of God, and (4) written to give us wisdom. We have this song in the Bible because God is reminding us that He created man to be in relationship with woman (monogamy) *and* in relationship with Him. God created man and woman, and their union, to be good. This book gives a wholesome and God-glorifying perspective on human sexuality and its place inside marriage, putting before God’s people an example of love and intimacy as it was designed to be by the Creator of all things.

The content of this book reminds the reader of the creation story (companionship of the man and the woman, imagery of fruits and flowers, and the language of life and the garden). It reminds the reader of the beginnings of sex, and reclaims it as a good and wholesome by sharing its true design and function in the context of marriage. The picture of pure and devoted love seen in the marriage of this book should be greatly valued by all people, past and present, young and old, married and single. It is vastly important for all in the church to have a good understanding of marriage and sexuality.

This book functions to help guard not only our perception of the way God designed husband and wife to relate, but the way He designed us to relate to Him. God is passionate in pursuit of his people, He showers them with love and mercy, and He desires their complete union to Him and will not share them with other “gods”.

- **In what ways does The Song of Solomon enrich your understanding of Christ and his love for you (and the church)? How does it affect the way you (we) love Him in response?**
- **If married, do you think about your marriage as an example to those around you (in the church and the world) of the relationship between Christ and the church?**
- **If not married, can you identify examples around you that model this loving relationship?**
- **How should the church differ from the world in its approach to marriage and sexuality?**
- **Do you think God’s view of sex is more satisfying and pleasurable than the view of the world? Explain your answer.**
- **How can parents use this book to teach their children and teenagers about sex? What truths do you think are most important to point out to them?**