

Read Through The Bible

Week 4 – Feb. 25-March 2, 2024

Genesis 43-50; Job 1-10, Matthew 15:10-19; Palm 13-17:5; Proverbs 3:1-20

Icebreaker

How did you get along with your brothers and sisters?

What is the hardest thing you have ever had to forgive?

Who is the greatest example of trust you have personally witnessed?

Step 1 - GET REAL

What are you thankful for from the past week?

What struggles did you face?

What can you share from your personal Bible reading this week?

Where did you see God in your daily life?

Step 2: GET FED

Scripture

Genesis

Genesis 43:8-9 (ESV) ⁸ And Judah said to Israel his father, “Send the boy with me, and we will arise and go, that we may live and not die, both we and you and also our little ones. ⁹ **I will be a pledge of his safety. From my hand you shall require him.** If I do not bring him back to you and set him before you, then let me bear the blame forever.

Genesis 44:33-34 (ESV) ³³ Now therefore, **please let your servant [Judah] remain instead of the boy as a servant to my lord, and let the boy go back with his brothers.** ³⁴ For how can I go back to my father if the boy is not with me? I fear to see the evil that would find my father.”

Genesis 43:21-23 (ESV) ²¹ And when we came to the lodging place we opened our sacks, and there was each man’s money in the mouth of his sack, our money in full weight. So we have brought it again with us, ²² and we have brought other money down with us to buy food. We do not know who put our money in our sacks.” ²³ He [Joseph’s servant] replied, **“Peace to you, do not be afraid. Your God and the God of your father has put treasure in your sacks for you. I received your money.”** Then he brought Simeon out to them.

Genesis 45:4-8 (ESV) ⁴ So Joseph said to his brothers, “Come near to me, please.” And they came near. And he said, “I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. ⁵ And now **do not be distressed or angry with yourselves because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life.** ⁶ For the famine has been in the land these two years, and there are yet five years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. ⁷ And **God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors.** ⁸ So it was not you who sent me here, but God. He has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt.

Genesis 46:1-4 (ESV) ¹ So Israel took his journey with all that he had and came to Beersheba, and **offered sacrifices to the God of his father Isaac.** ² And God spoke to Israel in visions of the night and said, “Jacob, Jacob.” And he said, “Here I am.” ³ Then he said, **“I am God, the God of your father. Do not be afraid to go down to Egypt, for there I will make you into a great nation.** ⁴ I myself will go down with you to Egypt, and I will also bring you up again, and Joseph’s hand shall close your eyes.”

Genesis 48:15-16 (ESV) ¹⁵ And he blessed Joseph and said, **“The God before whom my fathers Abraham and Isaac walked, the God who has been my shepherd all my life long to this day,** ¹⁶ **the angel who has redeemed me from all evil, bless the boys; and in them let my name be carried on, and the name of my fathers Abraham and Isaac; and let them grow into a multitude in the midst of the earth.”**

Genesis 49:8-10 (ESV) ⁸ “Judah, your brothers shall praise you; your hand shall be on the neck of your enemies; your father’s sons shall bow down before you. ⁹ Judah is a lion’s cub; from the prey, my son, you have gone up. He stooped down; he crouched as a lion and as a lioness; who dares rouse him? ¹⁰ **The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor the ruler’s staff from between his feet, until tribute comes to him; and to him shall be the obedience of the peoples.**

Genesis 50:12-14 (ESV) ¹² Thus his sons did for him as he had commanded them, ¹³ for his sons carried him to the land of Canaan and buried him in the cave of the field at Machpelah, to the east of Mamre, which Abraham bought with the field from Ephron the Hittite to possess as a burying place. ¹⁴ After he had buried his father, Joseph returned to Egypt with his brothers and all who had gone up with him to bury his father.

Genesis 50:15-21 (ESV) ¹⁵ When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "It may be that Joseph will hate us and pay us back for all the evil that we did to him." ¹⁶ So they sent a message to Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this command before he died: ¹⁷ 'Say to Joseph, "Please forgive the transgression of your brothers and their sin, because they did evil to you.'" And now, please forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him...¹⁹ But Joseph said to them, "Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? ²⁰ As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today. ²¹ So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones." Thus he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

Job

Job 1:1-5 (ESV) ¹ There was a man in the land of Uz whose name was Job, and that man was blameless and upright, one who feared God and turned away from evil...⁵ And when the days of the feast had run their course, Job would send and consecrate them, and he would rise early in the morning and offer burnt offerings according to the number of them all. For Job said, "It may be that my children have sinned, and cursed God in their hearts." Thus Job did continually.

Job 1:8-11 (ESV) ⁸ And the LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, who fears God and turns away from evil?" ⁹ Then Satan answered the LORD and said, "Does Job fear God for no reason? ¹⁰ Have you not put a hedge around him and his house and all that he has, on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. ¹¹ But stretch out your hand and touch all that he has, and he will curse you to your face."

Job 1:20-22 (ESV) ²⁰ Then Job arose and tore his robe and shaved his head and fell on the ground and worshiped. ²¹ And he said, "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return. The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD." ²² In all this Job did not sin or charge God with wrong.

Job 2:3-5 (ESV) ³ And the LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, who fears God and turns away from evil? He still holds fast his integrity, although you incited me against him to destroy him without reason." ⁴ Then Satan answered the LORD and said, "Skin for skin! All that a man has he will give for his life. ⁵ But stretch out your hand and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will curse you to your face."

Job 2:9-10 (ESV) ⁹ Then his wife said to him, "Do you still hold fast your integrity? Curse God and die." ¹⁰ But he said to her, "You speak as one of the foolish women would speak. Shall we receive good from God, and shall we not receive evil?" In all this Job did not sin with his lips.

Job 2:11-13 (ESV) ¹¹ Now when Job's three friends heard of all this evil that had come upon him, they came each from his own place, Eliphaz the Temanite, Bildad the Shuhite, and Zophar the Naamathite. They made an appointment together to come to show him sympathy and comfort him. ¹² And when they saw him from a distance, they did not recognize him. And they raised their voices and wept, and they tore their robes and sprinkled dust on their heads toward heaven. ¹³ And they sat with him on the ground seven days and seven nights, and no one spoke a word to him, for they saw that his suffering was very great.

Job 3:1, 11 (ESV) ¹ After this Job opened his mouth and cursed the day of his birth...¹¹ "Why did I not die at birth, come out from the womb and expire?"

Job 4:5-6 (ESV) ⁵ But now it has come to you, and you are impatient; it touches you, and you are dismayed. ⁶ Is not your fear of God your confidence, and the integrity of your ways your hope?

Job 4:17 (ESV) ¹⁷ 'Can mortal man be in the right before God? Can a man be pure before his Maker?

Job 5:8-9 (ESV) ⁸ "As for me, I would seek God, and to God would I commit my cause, ⁹ who does great things and unsearchable, marvelous things without number:

Job 5:17 (ESV) ¹⁷ "Behold, blessed is the one whom God reproves; therefore despise not the discipline of the Almighty.

Job 6:10 (ESV) ¹⁰ *This would be my comfort; I would even exult in pain unsparing, for I have not denied the words of the Holy One.*

Job 9:4-10 (ESV) ⁴ *He is wise in heart and mighty in strength* —who has hardened himself against him, and succeeded?— ⁵ *he who removes mountains*, and they know it not, when he overturns them in his anger, ⁶ *who shakes the earth out of its place*, and its pillars tremble; ⁷ *who commands the sun*, and it does not rise; who seals up the stars; ⁸ *who alone stretched out the heavens and trampled the waves of the sea*; ⁹ *who made the Bear and Orion, the Pleiades and the chambers of the south*; ¹⁰ *who does great things beyond searching out, and marvelous things beyond number.*

Matthew

Matthew 15:15-20 (ESV) ¹⁵ *But Peter said to him, “Explain the parable to us.”* ¹⁶ *And he said, “Are you also still without understanding?”* ¹⁷ *Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth passes into the stomach and is expelled?”* ¹⁸ *But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this defiles a person.* ¹⁹ ***For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander.*** ²⁰ ***These are what defile a person. But to eat with unwashed hands does not defile anyone.***

Matthew 16:24-26 (ESV) ²⁴ *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 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?*

Matthew 17:19-20 (ESV) ¹⁹ *Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, “Why could we not cast it out?”* ²⁰ *He said to them, “**Because of your little faith.** For truly, I say to you, if you have faith like a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move, and nothing will be impossible for you.”*

Matthew 18:1-4 (ESV) ¹ *At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, “Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?”* ² *And calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them* ³ *and said, “**Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.*** ⁴ *Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.*

Matthew 18:21-22, 35 (ESV) ²¹ *Then Peter came up and said to him, “Lord, **how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?”*** ²² *Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times...”* ³⁵ *So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, **if you do not forgive your brother from your heart.**”*

Matthew 19:21-26 (ESV) ²¹ *Jesus said to him, “If you would be perfect, go, **sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.**”* ²² *When the young man heard this he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.* ²³ *And Jesus said to his disciples, “Truly, I say to you, only with difficulty will a rich person enter the kingdom of heaven.* ²⁴ *Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God.”* ²⁵ *When the disciples heard this, they were greatly astonished, saying, “Who then can be saved?”* ²⁶ *But Jesus looked at them and said, “**With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.**”*

Psalms

Psalm 14:1-2 (ESV) ¹ *The fool says in his heart, “**There is no God.**” They are corrupt, they do abominable deeds, there is none who does good.* ² *The LORD looks down from heaven on the children of man, to see if there are any who understand, who seek after God.*

Psalm 17:3 (ESV) ³ *You have tried my heart, you have visited me by night, you have tested me, and you will find nothing; **I have purposed that my mouth will not transgress.***

Proverbs 3:9-10 (ESV) ⁹ ***Honor the LORD with your wealth and with the firstfruits of all your produce;*** ¹⁰ *then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine.*

Proverbs

Proverbs 3:5-8 (ESV) ⁵ ***Trust in the LORD with all your heart,*** and do not lean on your own understanding. ⁶ ***In all your ways acknowledge him,*** and he will make straight your paths. ⁷ ***Be not wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD,*** and turn away from evil. ⁸ *It will be healing to your flesh and refreshment to your bones.*

Questions

Genesis

In Gen. 43:9 and 44:33-34, Judah offers himself as security for Benjamin. Would you be willing to offer your life for another?

In Gen. 43:23, the servant of Joseph recognizes the role of God in providing for the brothers. How can we help insure those of the world see God's actions in the world?

Joseph, in Gen. 45:4-8 and Gen. 50:19-21, recognizes God's role in preserving the lineage of Jacob, the child of Abraham and Isaac. Do we recognize God's plan and provision in our life? Do we recognize this even in situations of trouble and/or stress in our life? How can we be more like Joseph?

In Gen. 46:1-4, Jacob/Israel decides to go to Egypt. He offers a sacrifice and God tells him to not be afraid to go to Egypt because He will be with him, make him into a great nation, bring him back to the land of Canaan, and Joseph will close his eyes. Then in Gen. 48:15-15, Jacob calls God the one who has shepherded him all his life and redeemed him from all evil. Can we say that God has shepherded us all our life? What events in your life would show this to be true? How can we let God shepherd our life?

Gen. 50 relates the story of Joseph carrying his father back to Canaan to bury him with his fathers in the cave at Machpelah. Joseph's brothers now begin to fear Joseph will retaliate for what they have done since their father is not present. They try to trick Joseph into forgiving them. Joseph replies, "*Do not fear, for am I in the place of God?*" Do we put ourselves in the place of God when it comes to forgiveness? When it comes to judging others for what they have done? When it comes to determining what others should do to atone for their actions? Do we not forgive others?

Gen. 50 also related the brother's attempt to deceive Joseph one more time.

Gen. 48:8-10 relates the blessing of Judah. In the blessing, Jacob notes that the scepter will not depart from Judah, a foreshadowing of the lineage of Christ, the King, from Judah. What does this tell us about God's plan?

Job

Job 1:8, 8, 2:3 In each of these, Job is declared by God to be a blameless and upright man. What would it take for God to declare this of a man? Could we reach this plateau? How would God describe us?

Job 1:11, 2:5 Satan declares that Job will turn away from God if his possessions and/or health are taken away from him, if he encounters evil. How often is this true of men? The biggest claim against God is the presence of evil and/or suffering. "What kind of God would..." is often the question raised by those who are suffering. What evil or suffering have you encountered that has caused you to question God's motives or love? How did you conquer this doubt?

Job 1:22, 2:10 "*In all this, Job did not sin or charge God with wrong.*" How do you think it was possible for Job to make it through his travails without sinning? What can we do to strengthen our faith like this?

Job 2:11-13 Job's three friends come to comfort him when they hear of his suffering. They sat with him for seven days and nights and did not say a word. How quick are we to come and comfort our friends? Have you ever just sat with a friend without saying a word? Have you ever had a friend that just sat with you in times of discomfort or grief and didn't say a word? How comforting was this for you?

Job 2:9 Job's wife gave him the advice to "*Curse God and die.*" What kind of advice was this? Is it typical of many today? How did Job respond?

Job 3:1, 11 Job despises the day of his birth. How much hurt would you have to endure to wish you were never born? Have you ever felt that way? What other situations might make someone feel this way? What is the solution?

Job 4:5-6 Eliphaz notes all the good Job has done and is surprised that Job feels the way he does. His solution: "*Is not your fear of God your confidence and the integrity of your ways your hope?*" What should these do for us? Are these helpful?

Job 4:17 Eliphaz asks if a mortal man can be in the right before God, pure before his Maker. Yes or No. If No, why not? If Yes, how? Is our answer different once we know New Testament theology versus Job's concepts?

Job 5:8-9 Eliphaz gives good advice even though his assumptions about Job's sin are wrong. How can we seek God and commit our cause to God?

Job 5:17 Eliphaz also opines “despise not the discipline of the Almighty.” Where do we see a similar in the New Testament? (see Hebrews 12:3-11)

Job 6:10 Job says he has “*not denied the words of the Holy One.*” He has not defied God. Can we say that? Is our questioning denying God? Do we defy God in our sufferings?

Job 9:4-10 Job describes God’s awesome power. Do we marvel at God’s power? Do we recognize God’s power? How should we respond to God’s power?

Job 10 Job knows he cannot stand against God; he cannot measure up to God in any way. But he still wants to know what he did. Do we feel this way? Would we like to stand in court with God and argue our side? Could we?

Matthew

Matthew 15:15-20 What does not defile a person? What does defile a person? From where do these things come? How are we doing with this list?

Matthew 16:24-26 How are we to save our life? What does this mean for us today?

Matthew 17:19-20 Why could the apostles not cast out the demon from the epileptic child? How could they have cast it out? How does this idea relate to us today? What level of faith do we have?

Matthew 18:1-4 What must we do to enter the kingdom of heaven? How can we do that?

Matthew 18:21-22, 35 How many times are we to forgive? How difficult is this to do when we have been sinned against multiple times by the same person? What does it mean to forgive someone? What can we do to insure we can meet this standard? What does it mean to forgive from the heart?

Matthew 19:21-26 Why would Jesus give this charge to this young man? Why was he sorrowful? How can a rich person enter the kingdom? Almost every time I hear this passage talked about, I hear something to the effect of: “It is not a sin to have money.” What is the reasoning behind this thought? Why would this be brought out almost every time? What is the danger of this attitude?

Psalms

Psalms 14:1-2 What does the fool say in his heart? What does God look down to see? Based on these two verses, how important is it to believe God exists? To seek after God?

Psalms 15 Who shall dwell on the holy hill of the LORD? How many of these criteria do you meet? Do we have to perfectly meet these criteria?

Psalms 17 3 “*I have purpose that my mouth will not transgress.*” How many of us have made this same purpose in our heart? Should we make it? If so, how could we enforce it in our lives?

Proverbs

Proverbs 3:5-8 How hard is it “*Trust in the Lord with all our heart.*”? We are also told to “*Be not wise in our own eyes.*”

Proverbs 3:9-10 “*Honor the LORD with your wealth.*” How hard is that for us to do? Would we rather spend it on our own interests or God’s? How can we honor the LORD with our wealth? What can we do to insure we honor Him with our firstfruits?

Step 3: GET ACTIVE

Think of someone you need to forgive and make a plan to do that. Be sure part of that plan is making the person you need to forgive aware of your forgiveness.

Evaluate your finances to see if you are honoring God with your wealth. Make a plan to insure that will happen. “*Trust in the LORD with all your heart.*” Evaluate how well you are meeting this goal. Write a list of actions that would indicate we are trusting God rather than ourselves. Make a plan to increase our trust in God.