

Read Through The Bible

Week 20 – June 16-22, 2024

Judges 18-21; Ruth 1-4; 1 Samuel 1-7; John 8:12-11:57; Psalms 60:5-Ps. 64, Proverbs 12:8-28

Icebreaker

- Who is the kindest person you know? What is one example of their kindness?
- How do you feel about someone who always has to have their own way?
- What event has caused the most sorrow in your life?
- Do you know anyone born blind? How well were they able to get around in life?

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

Judges

Judges 18:16-20 16 Now the 600 men of the Danites, armed with their weapons of war, stood by the entrance of the gate. 17 And the five men who had gone to scout out the land went up and entered and **took the carved image, the ephod, the household gods, and the metal image**, while the priest stood by the entrance of the gate with the 600 men armed with weapons of war. 18 And when these went into Micah's house and took the carved image, the ephod, the household gods, and the metal image, the priest said to them, "What are you doing?" 19 And they said to him, "Keep quiet; put your hand on your mouth and **come with us and be to us a father and a priest. Is it better for you to be priest to the house of one man, or to be priest to a tribe and clan in Israel?**" 20 And the priest's heart was glad. He took the ephod and the household gods and the carved image and went along with the people.

How did the carved image, ephod, household gods, and the metal image fit into God's commands? How did the people of Dan convince the priest to leave Micah and join them? Was it better for the priest or did it matter? How would this situation apply to us today?

Judges 21:25 25 In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes.

How closely does this compare to our day? Who/what should be the standard of what is right? What is the standard of what is right? How do we determine what is right, by God's word or our feelings?

Ruth

Ruth 1:15-17 15 And she said, "See, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law." 16 But Ruth said, "Do not urge me to leave you or to return from following you. **For where you go I will go, and where you lodge I will lodge. Your people shall be my people, and your God my God. 17 Where you die I will die, and there will I be buried. May the LORD do so to me and more also if anything but death parts me from you.**"

One of the most quoted passages of the Bible, what concept does it demonstrate? How should we use this passage as a lesson today?

Ruth 1:20-21 20 She said to them, "Do not call me Naomi; I **call me Mara**, [Mara means Bitter] 2 for the Almighty has dealt very bitterly with me. 21 I went away full, and the LORD has brought me back empty. Why call me Naomi, when the LORD has testified against me and the Almighty has brought calamity upon me?"

Do you ever feel this way? Was it God that brought calamity upon Naomi? Does God bring calamity upon us? How should we view calamity in our lives?

Ruth 2:10-12 10 Then she fell on her face, bowing to the ground, and said to him, “**Why have I found favor in your eyes, that you should take notice of me, since I am a foreigner?**” 11 But Boaz answered her, “**All that you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband has been fully told to me, and how you left your father and mother and your native land and came to a people that you did not know before. 12 The LORD repay you for what you have done, and a full reward be given you by the LORD, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge!**”

How will we be repaid for good deeds? Does this concept of refuge remind you of the psalms? Do we go to God for refuge?

Ruth 2:20 20 And Naomi said to her daughter-in-law, “**May he be blessed by the LORD, whose kindness has not forsaken the living or the dead!**” Naomi also said to her, “**The man is a close relative of ours, one of our redeemers.**”

How does kindness show God’s love to others? Will God always approve kindness? How have you been kind today? This week?

Ruth 4:17 17 And the women of the neighborhood gave him a name, saying, “**A son has been born to Naomi.**” **They named him Obed. He was the father of Jesse, the father of David.**

Ruth giving birth to Obed puts her in the lineage of Jesus. Ruth was a Moabite woman. What was the attitude of Jews toward the Moabites? What lesson can we learn from Ruth becoming a part of the lineage of Jesus?

1 Samuel

1 Samuel 6:6-7 6 And her rival used to provoke her grievously **to irritate her**, because the LORD had closed her womb. 7 So it went on year by year. As often as she went up to the house of the LORD, **she used to provoke her. Therefore Hannah wept and would not eat.**

Is there someone who irritates you like this or do you know a situation like this? Can you think of another situation like this in the Scripture? Do you irritate anyone like this? Why do you think the husband did not stop this? How common are situations like these in the world? In the church? What should we do if we are the one being irritated? We are the one doing the irritating?

1 Samuel 1:10-11 10 She was deeply distressed and prayed to the LORD and wept bitterly. 11 And she vowed a vow and said, “**O LORD of hosts, if you will indeed look on the affliction of your servant and remember me and not forget your servant, but will give to your servant a son, then I will give him to the LORD all the days of his life, and no razor shall touch his head.**”

Is this a legitimate subject of prayer? What does this say about subjects of prayer? What type of things do we bring to the Lord in prayer? Are there things we do not bring in prayer? Do we expect answers to our prayers? How long are we prepared to wait for answers?

1 Samuel 1:26-28 26 And she said, “**Oh, my lord! As you live, my lord, I am the woman who was standing here in your presence, praying to the LORD. 27 For this child I prayed, and the LORD has granted me my petition that I made to him. 28 Therefore I have lent him to the LORD. As long as he lives, he is lent to the LORD.**”

How hard do you think it was For Hannah to give up her only child to God? Would you be willing to give up something dear to you as her son was to Hannah? What have you given up for God? Do we honor our promises to God? What have you done that you promised God you would?

1 Samuel 2: 26 26 Now the boy Samuel continued to **grow both in stature and in favor with the LORD and also with man.**

What does it take to grow in favor with the Lord? What does it take to grow in favor with man? How are you doing in growing in favor with the Lord? With man?

1 Samuel 7:3-4 3 And Samuel said to all the house of Israel, “**If you are returning to the LORD with all your heart, then put away the foreign gods and the Ashtaroth from among you and direct your heart to the LORD**

and serve him only, and he will deliver you out of the hand of the Philistines.” 4 So the people of Israel put away the Baals and the Ashtaroth, and they served the LORD only.

Are we serving the Lord only? Are we serving Him with all our heart?

John

John 8:34-36 34 Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, **everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin.** 35 The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. 36 So **if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.**

Are you a slave to sin or have you been set free?

John 9:25, 30-34, 39-41 25 He answered, “Whether he is a sinner I do not know. **One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.”**

30 The man answered, “Why, this is an amazing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. 31 We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does his will, God listens to him. 32 **Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a man born blind.** 33 **If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.”** 34 They answered him, “**You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?**” And they cast him out.

39 Jesus said, “For judgment I came into this world, **that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind.**” 40 Some of the Pharisees near him heard these things, and said to him, “Are we also blind?” 41 Jesus said to them, “**If you were blind, you would have no guilt;4 but now that you say, ‘We see,’ your guilt remains.**

How could the man born blind know these things about Jesus, but the learned Jews did not? Why could he see, but the Jews could not? Do we have this problem today? What are we unwilling to see about God?

John 10:10-11 10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. **I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.** 11 **I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.**

Can we say we have abundant life? Do we know the good shepherd? Are we following the good shepherd? Do we realize daily the magnificence of the gift of life Jesus gave for us?

John 11:21-27 21 Martha said to Jesus, “**Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.** 22 **But even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you.”** 23 Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” 24 Martha said to him, “**I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.**” 25 Jesus said to her, “**I am the resurrection and the life.4 Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, 26 and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?**” 27 She said to him, “Yes, Lord; **I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world.**”

Martha had great faith. She professed He was the Christ, the Son of God. She knew that God would give Jesus whatever he asked. Why did Jesus ask Martha, “Do you believe this?” Do we believe this truth? Do we believe Jesus is the Resurrection and the Life? How important is it for us to believe this? Does Jesus’ statement remain true today?

Psalms

Psalms 61:1-31 Hear my cry, O God, listen to my prayer; 2 from the end of the earth I call to you when my heart is faint. **Lead me to the rock that is higher than I,** 3 for you have been my refuge, a strong tower against the enemy.

How much higher is God than we are? Do we want to be led to Him or would we rather live our life without Him? What evidence is there in our lives that we want to be led to Him?

Psalms 62:10 10 Put no trust in **extortion**; set no vain hopes on **robbery**; if **riches** increase, set not your heart on them.

How many today trust in these things? In what are we to trust?

Proverbs

Psalm 12:11 11 Whoever works his land will have plenty of bread, but he who follows worthless pursuits lacks sense.

What does the world think of this proverb today? Do you know anyone following worthless pursuits? Which of these two are you?

Psalm 12:25 25 Anxiety in a man's heart weighs him down, but a good word makes him glad.

Which of these most closely fits you? Who do you know that is often anxious? Why are you anxious? Do you know someone who makes people glad? Who have you made glad this week?

Step 3: GET ACTIVE

- Look for opportunities for kindness every day this week. Act upon at least one of those opportunities each day.
- Meditate on Christ giving His life for the sheep. Write at least three benefits due to Christ giving His life.
- The man born blind could see far better than the leaders of the Jews. Contemplate how well you see.
- “*A good word makes him glad.*” Try to make someone glad each day this week.
-

All scripture is quoted from: The Holy Bible, English Standard Version copyright © 2001, 2007, 2011, 2016 by Crossway Books and Bibles, a Publishing Ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.