

Week 4 – Questions to Consider

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

Christian Life - Small Group Warm Up Question:

What is a spiritual milestone in your life?

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?

More questions @ www.southfork.church/psalms-proverbs-discussion-guide

God’s Perfect Love God’s Perfect Hate

Psalm 5:4–6 “For you are not a God who delights in wickedness; evil may not dwell with you. The boastful shall not stand before your eyes; you hate all evildoers. You destroy those who speak lies; the LORD abhors the bloodthirsty and deceitful man.”

Psalm 11:5–7 “The LORD tests the righteous, but his soul hates the wicked and the one who loves violence. [6] Let him rain coals on the wicked; fire and sulfur and a scorching wind shall be the portion of their cup. [7] For the LORD is righteous; he loves righteous deeds; the upright shall behold his face. (ESV)

What is love? What is hate?

Love - an intense feeling of deep affection

Hate - to feel intense or passionate dislike

**What do you love? Who do you love? Why?
What do you hate? Who do you hate? Why?
Can you put something or someone on both lists?**

How can you tell what you love? Hate?

- **5 Love Languages** by Gary Chapman - gifts, quality time, acts of service, physical touch, words of affirmation

How Does God Define Love? Hate?

- Isaiah 5:20 “Woe to those who call evil good and good evil”
- Romans 5:8–10 “God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. ... while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son”
- 1 John 4:8–10 “Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.”

What does God love? Who does God love?

- John 3:16 “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 13:1 “Jesus...having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.”
- 2 Peter 3:9 “The Lord ... is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.”
- 1 Timothy 2:4 “desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.”
- Romans 2:4–5 “God’s kindness is meant to lead you to repentance? But because of your hard and impenitent heart you are storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath when God’s righteous judgment will be revealed.”

What does God hate? Who does God hate?

- Hebrews 1:8–9 “of the Son he says... ‘You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness’”
- Proverbs 8:13 “The fear of the LORD is hatred of evil. Pride and arrogance and the way of evil and perverted speech I hate.”
- Proverbs 6:16–19 “There are six things that the LORD hates, seven that are an abomination to him: [17] haughty eyes, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, [18] a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that make haste to run to evil, [19] a false witness who breathes out lies, and one who sows discord among brothers.”
- Psalm 5:5 “you hate all evildoers”
- Psalm 11:5 “The LORD...his soul hates the wicked”
- Hosea 9:15 “Every evil of theirs is in Gilgal; there I began to hate them. Because of the wickedness of their deeds I will drive them out of my house. I will love them no more; all their princes are rebels.”
- Romans 9:13–16 “As it is written, ‘Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated.’ [14] What shall we say then? Is there injustice on God’s part? By no means! [15] For he says to Moses, ‘I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion.’ [16] So then it depends not on human will or exertion, but on God, who has mercy.”

What about “love the sinner, hate the sin”?

What should you love? Who should you love?

What should you hate? Who should you hate?

- Ecclesiastes 3:8 “a time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace.”
- Amos 5:14–15 “Seek good, & not evil...Hate evil, & love good”
- Micah 6:8 “He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?”
- Psalm 97:10 “O you who love the LORD, hate evil!”
- Psalm 119:163 “I hate and abhor falsehood, but I love your law.”
- Jude 23 “hating even the garment stained by the flesh”
- Romans 12:9 “Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good.”
- 1 Thessalonians 5:21–22 “test everything; hold fast what is good. Abstain from every form of evil.”
- Psalm 119:113 “I hate the double-minded, but I love your law.
- Luke 6:27–28 “But I say to you who hear, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you.”
- Matthew 5:43–48 “I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you...You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.”
- John 13:34 “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

“What Does the Bible Say about Love?”

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

This Next Week’s Psalms & Proverbs Reading Plan:

Week 5: Psalm 13-15 & Proverbs 3:19-35

- **Hope & Purpose in Jesus:** www.southfork.church/jesus
- **Daily Verse by Text Message:** remind.com/join/sfbcdevo
- **Our Plan:** www.southfork.church/2023-bible-reading-plan