

Week 1 – Questions to Consider

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

Christian Life - Small Group Warm Up Question:

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

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?

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

How to Understand Psalms & Proverbs: The Goodness & Wisdom of God

Psalms 1 & Proverbs 1 (ESV)

Helpful Links to Study & Pray Psalms & Proverbs:

www.trustworthyword.com/prayer-in-psalms-and-proverbs

Proverbs are General T_____ (Not Predictive Promises)

- Understand Common Grace
- Understand Specific Grace

Receive W_____ : Guided by God in Life

1 Kings 9:4 And as for you, if you will walk before me, as David your father walked, with integrity of heart and uprightness, doing according to all that I have commanded you, and keeping my statutes and my rules,

- From ESV Study Bible: “diligence and laziness (6:6–11); friendship (3:27–28; 18:24); speech (10:19–21); marriage (18:22; 19:14); child rearing (22:6); domestic peace (15:17; 17:1); work (11:1); getting along and good manners (23:1–2; 25:16–17; 26:17–19; 27:14); eternity (14:32; 23:17–18)”
- Knowledge - Head (Facts/Situation)
- Understanding - Heart (Comprehension/Connection)
- Wisdom - Hands (Application)

Heed Warnings: F_____ of Ignoring God

1 Kings 9:6-9 “But if you turn aside from following me, you or your children, and do not keep my commandments and my statutes that I have set before you, but go and serve other gods and worship them, then I will cut off ... I will cast out of my sight...this house will become a heap of ruins... ‘Because they abandoned the LORD their God who brought their fathers out of the land of Egypt and laid hold on other gods and worshiped them and served them. Therefore the LORD has brought all this disaster on them.’”

Know Solomon - Author of Most of Proverbs

1 Kings 3:9 "Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, that I may discern between good and evil, for who is able to govern this your great people?"

www.trustworthyword.com/solomon

- Obedient Actions Line Up with Words (1 Kings 3:3)
- Loves Others: Requests Wisdom (1 Kings 3:9)
- Invests Wealth Towards God (1 Kings 4:20-28, ch5 & 6)
- Prioritizes God's Voice (1 Kings 6:12)
- Spends Time in God-Centered Tasks (1 Kings 6:38)
- Focuses on God's Name above His Own (1 King 8:20)

Imitate Solomon's...

- 1) **Head** of Knowledge - Renewed Mind in God's truth
- 2) **Heart** of Understanding - Believing & Trusting God
- 3) **Hands** of Wisdom - Awe/Respect of God Seen In Obedience

The A_____ of God is the Beginning of Wisdom

- Proverbs 1:7 "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction."
- 1 Kings 4:29-34 "God gave Solomon wisdom and understanding beyond measure...spoke 3,000 proverbs"

Beware Solomon's F_____ - 1 Corinthians 10:12-13

- *The Warning of Deuteronomy 17:16-17 - Pride, Lust, Wealth*
"Only he must not acquire many horses for himself or cause the people to return to Egypt in order to acquire many horses, since the LORD has said to you, 'You shall never return that way again. And he shall not acquire many wives for himself, lest his heart turn away, nor shall he acquire for himself excessive silver and gold.'"
- (1 Kings 11:1-8 ESV) Now King Solomon loved many foreign women ... Solomon clung to these in love. ... his heart was not wholly true to the LORD his God, as was the heart of David his father.

The Psalms Guide Us In P_____ with God

- **see *The Bible Project* videos & poster**
- To Value the Torah (Bible) & Messiah (Jesus)
- A Prayer Guide for Lament & Praise
- An Example of Faith & Hope

Know David: Author of at least 73 of Psalms

An I_____ Man after Gods Own Heart

www.trustworthyword.com/david

- 1 Samuel 13:14 "The LORD has sought out a man after his own heart"

Imitate David's...

1) Genuine R_____ & Return to the Lord

Psalm 51:10-11 "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me."

2) True L_____ of God

Acts 13:22 "he raised up David to be their king, of whom he testified and said, 'I have found in David the son of Jesse a man after my heart, who will do all my will.'"

3) Heartfelt S_____ to God's Will

Acts 13:36 "David, after he had served the purpose of God in his own generation, fell asleep and was laid with his fathers"

This Next Week's New Testament Reading Plan:

Week 2: Psalm 4-6; Proverbs 1:17-33

- **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

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