November 5	*	Daniel 7-12 encouraged the Jews during times of persecution. These visions show that God will be faithful to His people. He will care for them and since God is sovereign, He will eventually bring His people to victory.
□ Daniel 8 □ Psalm 119:1- 48	. *	
		of the Lord" in verse 1). Each day meditate on the beauty of God's Word.
November 6 □ Daniel 9 □ Daniel 10	*	righteousness, but to us open shame." He knows that Israel's suffering is the result of Israel's sin and he comes in humility to confess her sin and to plead for God's mercy.
☐ Ezekiel 41 ☐ Ezekiel 42 ☐ Psalm 119: 49-104		the spiritual world and demonic powers. One error is to ignore it and believe it is myth. Daniel 10 shows that demonic power is real. The second error is to exaggerate Satan's power. Daniel 10 shows that God is more powerful than Satan. God <i>will</i> be victorious; we do not need to live in fear.
November 7	?	Highlight each term in Ps 119:49-104 that refers to God's Word. Meditate on the beauty of God's Word. Daniel 12 looks to the end of time. God's people do not need to fear the future because God is
□ Daniel 11		sovereign and He will be victorious. Rejoice in His power and sovereignty.
□ Daniel 12 □ Psalm 119: 105-152	?	Highlight each term in Ps 119:105-152 that refers to God's Word. Meditate on the beauty of God's Word.
November 8	*	Ezra is divided into two sections. Ezra 1-6 takes place from 537-515 BC, long before Ezra's time. Ezra 7-10 begins in 458 with Ezra's travel to Jerusalem. The book covers nearly 100 years.
□ Ezra 2 □ Psalm 119: 153-176	*	Notice God's sovereignty in the book of Ezra. God "stirred up the spirit of Cyrus" (a pagan king) to allow the Jews to return to their homeland (1:1). Then "everyone whose spirit God had stirred to go up" returned to Jerusalem (1:5). The same God who sent Israel into captivity and who protected them in Babylon now brought them home. God always has a plan for our lives!
	?	You may want to skim the list of names in Ezra 2. But ask this question, "If my family had lived in Babylon for at least 50 years, would I leave my house, business, and friends to return to a desolate Jerusalem?" These people were very dedicated to God's Temple. Remember that as you read of their later failure.
	?	Highlight each term in Ps 119:153-176 that refers to God's Word. Meditate on the beauty of God's Word.

November 9 □ Ezra 3 □ Ezra 4 □ Ezra 5 □ Ezra 6 □ Haggai 1 □ Haggai 2	 * When the foundation of the new temple was laid, many people rejoiced. But some of the old men who remembered the first temple (destroyed fifty years ago) wept (Ez 3:12-13). From the size of the foundation, they knew that the new temple would not be as large and glorious as the first temple. * Soon after they began rebuilding the temple (in 536 B.C.), the enemies of the Jews wrote to Artaxerxes to stop the rebuilding. The process was stopped for sixteen years. Haggai and Zechariah were the two "Temple Prophets" who inspired the people to resume the building of the temple. * Haggai brought four messages from God. God said: -If you do not put my house first, your prosperity will be meaningless (1:2-11). -You do not need to be afraid because "I am with you" (1:12-15). -Do not be discouraged that the new temple is small. My glory will fill this temple (2:1-9). -You must be holy. Sin will defile your work on the temple (2:10-23).
Nov 10 Zechariah 1 Zechariah 2 Zechariah 3 Zechariah 4 Zechariah 5 Zechariah 6 Psalm 120 Psalm 121	 Zechariah was a priest who returned from Babylon with Zerubbabel in 538 B.C. He began his prophecies in 520, just after Haggai. With a smaller temple and a weak city, people felt that it was a "day of small things" (4:10). Zechariah promised that God was watching and would act at just the right time. Zechariah brought God's promise, "Return to me and I will return to you" (1:3). Each of Zechariah's visions brought a message of redemption. Vision 1 (1:7-17) - God's horsemen are patrolling the earth and will restore Jerusalem. Vision 2 (1:18-21) - those who oppressed Israel will be "cast down." Vision 3 (2:1-13) - Jerusalem is being measured because people will again inhabit the city. Vision 4 (3:1-10) - The high priest will rule God's house with purity. Vision 5 (4:1-14) - Zerubbabel and Joshua will rebuild the temple with God's power. Vision 7 (5:5-11) - Wickedness will come on those who break the covenant. Vision 8 (6:1-8) - God continues to patrol the earth.
Weekly Summary	Write down one "big lesson" that you have learned from this week's readings. Each day next week, review this lesson and ask God to help you to apply the lesson in your daily life.

Nov 12	
□ Zechariah 7	? Zechariah 7 shows that we cannot substitute rituals for obedience. God is looking for people who show kindness and mercy. Do you speak the truth and act with justice and peace? (8:16-17)
□ Zechariah 8 □ Zechariah 9	* Zechariah contrasted a future shepherd who would care for the sheep with Israel's shepherds who fed themselves at the expense of the sheep (Zech 9, 10 and 11).
□ Zechariah 10 □ Psalm 122	? We often think of God as King. Zechariah 9 adds to this image by showing that God is a Divine Warrior who will fight on behalf of His people. What does this add to your understanding of God as King?
□ Psalm 123 □ Psalm 124	? Look for the images of the coming Messiah in Zechariah 9-13. This section is full of prophecies of Jesus.
□ Psalm 125	* Psalms 120-134 are called the "Songs of Ascents." They were associated with pilgrims traveling up to Jerusalem. See the joy of the people as they travel to God's house.
□ Psalm 127	* Psalm 126 gives two pictures of restoration. God restores us "like streams in the Negeb" (126:4). This is the sudden rushing of water into a dry riverbed. But God also works like a sower who sows seeds during tears and disappointment (126:6). It may take months or years for the seed to bring a harvest. Have you seen God in dramatic and sudden ways? Have you seen Him work slowly and gradually over time? Will you be patient to let Him work in His way and His time?
Nov 13	
☐ Zechariah 11	* Zechariah said that during a time of trouble, the sheep would suffer, but God would ultimately
□ Zechariah 12	redeem His people. Again in these chapters, God is the Divine Warrior who will fight to defend His people (Zech 11-14).
□ Zechariah 13	* Notice the message of hope in Zechariah 12. Underline the phrase "in that day" that is repeated throughout the chapter.
☐ Esther 1 ☐ Esther 2	* The book of Esther is quite unique. It was written to explain the Jewish Feast of Purim (9:28) The word <i>Purim</i> means "lot" and refers to Haman's casting of lots to determine the day to carry out his plan to exterminate the Jews.
□ Psalm 128	Esther does not mention the name of God, but He is a central character in the book. As you read notice how many "coincidences" come together to accomplish God's purpose. Although His name is not mentioned, He is accomplishing His purpose to protect His people. As you read, I will mention some of these providential events. You may notice others I don't mention. The first to notice is 2:22 when Mordecai overhears the plot to kill King Ahasuerus.
Nov 14	? As you read of Haman's anger in Esther 3, notice the terrible impact of his anger. He isn't satisfied
□ Esther 3	to get revenge on Mordecai; he wants to "destroy all the Jews." Can you remember a time when your anger has caused you to make a foolish decision?
□ Esther 4	? Can you imagine the courage of Esther who says, "if I perish, I perish" (4:16)? Would you take
□ Esther 5	such a drastic risk?
□ Esther 6	* Notice God's providence in Esther 4:1-2. At just the right time, the king is unable to sleep. And of all the books that could have been chosen, his reader read the story of Mordecai's actions in saving
□ Esther 7	the king's life.
□ Esther 8	
□ Psalm 129	
□ Psalm 130	
	·

Nov 15	? At the end of the book of Esther, ask, "When have I seen God's providence in my life? Did I stop to say 'thank you, God'"?
□ Esther 9	
□ Esther 10	* Ezra 7:1 begins 57 years after Ezra 6. This section tells of Ezra's travels to Jerusalem to teach the
□ Ezra 7	Word of God to the people.
□ Ezra 8	? It was approximately 900 miles from Babylon to Jerusalem. Babylon was a beautiful and modern city; Jerusalem was in ruins. Would you have joined the travelers in Ezra 8 to come back to
□ Psalm 131	Jerusalem? Recognize what a dedicated group of people made this long and dangerous journey.
Nov 16	* The reason that God did not allow the Jews to marry those of other races was not a racial
□ Ezra 9	prohibition; it was a religious prohibition. When the Jews married Gentiles, they began worshiping the false gods of the pagan nations. God forbade them from marrying "the peoples
□ Ezra 10	who practice these abominations" (Ezra 9:14).
□ Nehemiah 1 □ Nehemiah 2	? Notice the language of Ezra's prayer of confession in Ezra 9. Hear his shame at Israel's sin and his true repentance. Have you truly repented of your sin? Have you felt the shame of your rebellion against a holy God? Ezra shows the power of repentance and forgiveness.
□ Psalm 132	* Like the second part of Ezra, Nehemiah takes place long after Israel's return to Jerusalem. As you read this book, realize that the city has been in ruins for more than 100 years. It is no wonder that the people feel such hopelessness.
	? Mark all the prayers you read in Nehemiah. At the end of this section, I will ask you to list three lessons you learn from these prayers. For example:
	-Nehemiah 1:5 shows that we can pray with great confidence in God.
	-Nehemiah 1:6-7 shows that prayer must include confession of sin.
Nov 17	? In Nehemiah 3:5, the people of Tekoa (a village near Jerusalem) helped with the work, but the leaders of the village refused. Many commentators believe this is because they were unwilling to
□ Nehemiah 3	submit to the authority of Nehemiah, an outsider. Serving God often requires us to submit to
□ Nehemiah 4	other authority. Is there some earthly authority to whom you need to submit in order to be a more effective servant of God?
□ Nehemiah 5 □ Nehemiah 6	? Nehemiah's response to opposition was prayer (Neh 4). What is your response to trouble in your life? Do you pray or do you respond with anger or frustration?
□ Psalm 133	* When the enemy threatened the builders, Nehemiah did two things: he trusted in God's protection (4:20) and he provided an armed guard (4:21). Trust in God does not mean that we
~~~~~ +UT	do not prepare for battle (Prov 21:31).
	? As you finish reading the Psalms of Ascents, remember that these were sung as pilgrims traveled to Jerusalem to worship. Do you have this joy in worship? Do you anticipate joyfully God's house? If not, what would increase your joy in worship?
Weekly	Write down one "big lesson" that you have learned from this week's readings. Each day next week,
Summary	review this lesson and ask God to help you to apply the lesson in your daily life.

			WCCR +/
Nov 19  Nehemiah 7		*	Nehemiah 8 connects this book with the book of Ezra. Nehemiah rebuilt the physical wall around Jerusalem. Ezra rebuilt the "spiritual wall" of obedience to God's law. Both were necessary to preserve Israel.
□ Nehemiah 8 □ Psalm 135		*	The Feast of Booths (8:13-18) was the most joyous feast in the Jewish calendar. It celebrated God's care for Israel in the desert. Now they celebrated this feast and thanked God for once again protecting the people as they traveled through the desert to return to Jerusalem.
		?	Psalm 135 praises God for choosing Israel (135:4) and for His greatness (135:5). What praise should you offer God today?
Nor-22		2	Dood countylly the confession of sin in Nehomieh of There is a his difference between the
Nov 20			Read carefully the confession of sin in Nehemiah 9. There is a big difference between apology and true repentance. Notice the people's sorrow for their sin. God always responds to repentance. Have you truly repented of your sins? Do you see your sin through God's eyes?
□ Neh 10 □ Psalm 136		*	It was not enough to rebuild the walls. Israel must remain faithful to God's law. Nehemiah 10 is a reminder of the covenant. God's people must honor God's law.
o o		*	Psalm 136 is a great hymn of praise. In Jewish worship, a leader would sing the first phrase of each verse. The congregation would respond in unison, "for his steadfast love endures forever." Try reading this aloud in your family. Have one person read the first line and the family join together in the response.
		,,	
Nov 21  □ Neh 11		*	To us today, the lists of names in Ezra and Nehemiah may have little meaning, but to the returned exiles, these lists were important. The lists recognized their identity as the people of God. The lists meant, "We are committed to God. We still belong to Him. He knows our name."
□ Neh 12		*	As you read Psalm 137, imagine the sorrow of the Jews as they lived in exile in Babylon. Then
□ Psalm 137			imagine their joy as they returned from Babylon to Jerusalem.
□ Psalm 138			
Nov 22		*	Both Nehemiah 13 and Malachi show the need for continuing revival in Israel. Israel soon
□ Neh 13			returned to some of the sins that brought God's judgment. Both Nehemiah and Malachi warn Israel that she must be faithful to God's law.
□ Malachi 1		?	List three lessons about prayer that you learned from reading the book of Nehemiah.
□ Malachi 2			
□ Malachi 3		*	Malachi probably preached during the time of Ezra and Nehemiah. His message was similar to
□ Malachi 4			their message: God's people must be faithful to God's law. He warned against dishonoring God with careless offerings, disobedience to God's law, and begrudging offerings. God honors those
□ Psalm 139			who honor Him.
		3	One solution to the halfhearted obedience in Malachi is to have God search our heart. Pray the prayer of Psalm 139:23-24. Ask God to reveal any sin in your heart.
i	1	1	

Nov 23	* The book of Hebrews is written to encourage Jewish Christians to faithfulness. It contains both
□ Hebrews 1	warning (do not leave the faith) and encouragement (the new covenant is better than the old covenant). Because of this, they should hold to their faith. The word "better" appears ten times in
□ Hebrews 2	this book. Watch for it as you read. Because we have such privileges, Hebrews warns Christians not to waste those privileges.
□ Hebrews 3	* Hebrews 1 shows that we have a better revelation. We do not rely on angels but have seen the Son
□ Hebrews 4	of God revealed.
☐ Hebrews 5 ☐ Hebrews 6	* The first warning passage is in Hebrews 2. We must not "neglect such a great salvation" that God has provided.
	? Hebrews 3 shows that because Jesus was better than Moses, we have great confidence and hope. List three ways in which the promises of Jesus are better than the promises of the Old Testament.
	* The second warning is in Hebrews 3:12. We must take care that we do not have an unbelieving heart that causes us "to fall away from the living God."
	* The third warning is in Hebrews 6:4. We must take care that we do not fall away from the gospel. It is important to understand that this warning addresses apostasy, the sin of rejecting the truth of the gospel. It is more than falling into sin; it is rejecting the gospel. By doing this, we "crucify again the Son God" and separate ourselves from the means of salvation.
Nov 24	* Hebrews 8-10 show that we have a better covenant. Instead of temporary sacrifices, Christ is the high priest of an eternal covenant. Instead of laws written on stone, God's law is now written on
☐ Hebrews 8	our hearts.
☐ Hebrews 9	? Hebrews 10:26-27 gives the most solemn warning of the book. The writer of Hebrews knows that some people might be tempted to think, "Since we have a better covenant, I can continue in my
☐ Hebrews 10	willful life of sin and God will ignore my sin." He warns, "if we go on sinning deliberately, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a fearful expectation of judgment." Does the wonder of
	God's grace cause you to live in joyful obedience to God's law? Or are you tempted to continue in your willful sin? If so, meditate on Heb 10:26-27.
Weekly Summary	Write down one "big lesson" that you have learned from this week's readings. Each day next week, review this lesson and ask God to help you to apply the lesson in your daily life.

Nov 26  □ Hebrews 11	* In light of the serious warnings, we read in Hebrews 1-10, you might ask, "How is it possible to live by God's demands?" Hebrews 11 gives the answer, a life of faith. Hebrews 11 gives a long list of Old Testament saints who pleased God "by faith."
☐ Hebrews 12 ☐ Hebrews 13	? As you read Hebrews 11, choose one person who stands as a hero to you. Think of ways in which his life can be a model for you.
□ Psalm 140	* Hebrews 12 begins with the word "therefore." "Therefore" points back to the preceding verses. In other words, "Because of the faithfulness in the men of faith in Hebrews 11, we must lay aside any weights and sins which threatens us and must run the Christian race with endurance."
	* The final warning in Hebrews is a reminder that those of the Old Testament were judged if they ignored the law given by Moses. How much more will we be judged if we ignore the New Covenant given through the coming of Jesus Christ (12:25-29)?
	* As in many of Paul's letters, Hebrews ends with a list of practical advice. Hebrews 13 gives simple instructions for living the Christian life.
	* A key to prayer during difficult times: trust in God. Notice the ending of this psalm, "I <i>know</i> that the Lord will maintain the cause of the afflicted" (140:12).
Nov 27  ☐ 1 Peter 1	* 1 Peter was written to Christians who were suffering persecution. Peter writes to encourage these Christians to persevere. Although they may suffer now, they will enjoy eternal life.
□ 1 Peter 2	? As you read 1 Peter, use these chapters to test your Christian walk? Are you living the life God calls you to live?
□ 1 Peter 3 □ 1 Peter 4	-Read 1 Peter 1:3-5. Are you born again? Do you have a living hope through Jesus Christ? Are you waiting for an inheritance in heaven?
□ 1 Peter 5	-Read 1 Peter 1:13-16. Is your hope set on the grace of Jesus Christ? Are you living a holy life?
	-Read 1 Peter 1:22. Are you obeying the truth? Do you love other believers?
	-Read 1 Peter 2:13-3:6. Are you obeying proper authorities?
	-Husbands, read 1 Peter 3:7. Do you show understanding and honor to your wife?
	* Peter ends with this encouragement. "Yes, you may suffer a while in this world, but you will enjoy eternal glory in Christ. Heaven will be worth the difficulties of this world!"
Nov 28  □ 2 Peter 1	? In 1 Peter, Christians faced persecution from outside the church. In 2 Peter, Christians face false teaching from inside the church. Which is the greater danger?
□ 2 Peter 2	? Read the list of qualities in 2 Peter 1:5-7. Peter says, "Make every effort" to develop these qualities. Which of these do you need to develop in your Christian life?
□ 2 Peter 3	* Notice the warning signs of a false teacher in 2 Peter 2. False teachers:
□ Psalm 141	-Deny the Master
□ Psalm 142	-Are sensual and greedy
	-Forsake the right way
	-Are slaves of corruption
	? Pray Psalm 141:3-4 this morning. Ask God to "set a guard" over your mouth to guide your talk. Ask Him to keep your heart from "inclining to any evil."

Nov 29	* 1 John was written to show how we can know that we are God's children. It is not enough to sa
□ 1 John 1	the words, "I believe the gospel." Our actions must show genuine belief; we must repent of ou
	sins and leave our sinful life.
□ 1 John 2	? As you read 1 John, underline each occurrence of the word "know." When you finish, list all the reasons, we can know that we are God's child. (For example, from 2:3 – we know God "if we kee"
□ 1 John 3	his commandments.")
□ 1 John 4	? John was known as the "Apostle of Love." Notice what he teaches about love:
🗆 1 John 5	-If I love God, I will not love the values of this world (2:15)
	-If I love other people, I will meet their needs (3:16-18)
	-If I love God, I will love other believers (4:7-11)
Nov 30	* 2 John shows that we must walk in truth and love (2 Jn 1:3). If we love God, we will obey him
□ 2 John	(1:6). If we know God, we will abide in his truth (1:9-10).
□ 3 John	? As you read 3 John, underline the word "truth." Notice how important truth is to John. He knew that Satan would try to lead God's people astray with false teaching.
□ Jude	* Jude shares the emphasis on truth. He warns of false teachers who will mislead the church. W
□ Psalm 143	must persevere in truth. The key to persevering in the truth is found in 1:20-21. A Christia should:
□ Psalm 144	-Build yourself in the faith
	-Pray in the Holy Spirit
	-Keep yourself in the love of God
	-Wait for the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ
	? Notice the contrast in Psalm 144. God is "steadfast love, a fortress, a stronghold, and m deliverer" (144:2). Man is "a breath and a passing shadow" (144:4). Where will you put your trust Will you trust in God or in man?
Dec 1	
□ Psalm 145	? The book of Psalms ends with a great crescendo of praise. Each chapter praises God for Hi
□ Psalm 146	goodness. In Psalm 145, underline all the synonyms for praise. Then ask, "How can I praise God today?"
□ Psalm 147	? Read Psalm 150 aloud. Rejoice with the psalmist as you praise God and celebrate His goodness
□ Psalm 148	Through the day repeat these final words of Psalms, "Let everything that has breath praise the Lord! Hallelujah!"
□ Psalm 149	
□ Psalm 150	
Weekly Summary	Write down one "big lesson" that you have learned from this week's readings. Each day next week review this lesson and ask God to help you to apply the lesson in your daily life.