

Week 7

<p>February 12</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Leviticus 16 <input type="checkbox"/> Leviticus 17 <input type="checkbox"/> Leviticus 18 <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 22 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Leviticus 16 tells of the annual Day of Atonement, <i>Yom Kippur</i>. On that day, a goat was sacrificed for the sake of the sins of the people. * On the cross, dying as our sin offering, Jesus quoted the opening words of Psalm 22. He became the once-for-all sin offering for all people. ? Are you still carrying the guilt and shame of your sin, or have you allowed Jesus to be your sacrifice? Through the perfect sacrifice, you can be free from the guilt, the shame, and the controlling power of your sin.
<p>February 13</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Leviticus 19 <input type="checkbox"/> Leviticus 20 <input type="checkbox"/> Leviticus 21 <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 23 <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 24 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Leviticus 19 is one of the most important chapters of Leviticus. It begins what is called the “Holiness Code.” This chapter taught Israel how holy people should live outside the tabernacle. Holiness in Leviticus was more than tabernacle rituals; it was a daily life. Israel was called to “be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy.” To be holy meant to have the character of God. ? As you read Leviticus 19:9-18, notice how it provides practical examples of the second great commandment, “Love your neighbor as yourself.” Are you living these principles of holy love in your daily life? ? I love the last verse of Psalm 23. David promises that God’s “goodness and mercy shall follow me.” The term “follow” is active. You can read it, “God’s goodness and mercy is chasing me through life! God is following me with goodness.” Take five minutes to make a list of ways in which God’s goodness and mercy has been demonstrated in your life.
<p>February 14</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Leviticus 22 <input type="checkbox"/> Leviticus 23 <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 25 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * In Leviticus 23, we read about the Jewish festivals. They were a time of celebration and joy. True Judaism, before it was corrupted by backsliding, was a joyful faith. ? Like Old Testament Judaism, Christianity is to be a joyful faith! Do your children see the joy of your Christian faith? Do you have times at which you remind them of the great things God has done for His people and allow them to celebrate God’s goodness? Christmas, Easter, Pentecost are a few of the days when our families should rejoice in the Christian faith. ? David prayed, “Teach me your paths. Lead me in your truth and teach me” (Ps 25:4-5). Are you teachable? Do you have a humble spirit that is open to God’s truth and instruction? What has He taught you recently? Today, take time to pray, “God, teach me your paths.”
<p>February 15</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Leviticus 24 <input type="checkbox"/> Leviticus 25 <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 26 <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 27 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * The “Year of Jubilee” was a celebration of God’s goodness and care for His people. In that year, debts were canceled and those who had been sold into slavery for their debts were freed. In the Year of Jubilee, God’s people were to show the mercy that God shows to us. ? David promised that the righteous “stand on level ground” (Ps 26:12). Take time to pray that God will keep you secure on “level ground” today, and to thank Him for His protection in your past. ? David had “one thing” that he asked for: to live in God’s presence (Ps 27:4). What is your “one thing?” What is most important to you: God’s presence or something else?

Week 8

<p>February 19</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> John 1</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> John 2</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> John 3</p>	<p>* As you read the Gospel of John, notice how John portrays Jesus. John wrote late in the first century after all the other gospels were well known. Because of this, John does not repeat much of the information from the other gospels. About 90% of the material in John is unique to this gospel. Enjoy John’s picture of Jesus!</p> <p>* John’s first picture of Jesus is based on Genesis 1. “In the beginning, God...” Now, “In the beginning was the Word.” That shows that Jesus was and is the Eternal God.</p> <p>? When you read of Jesus as the Lamb of God, what does that mean to you? Try to read it through the eyes of a Jewish person. A lamb was not a pet; it was a sacrifice for sin.</p> <p>? What does it mean to be “born again?” Think how you can explain that phrase in a way that an unbeliever can understand.</p>
<p>February 20</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> John 4</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> John 5</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 34</p>	<p>* For readers today, the shock of John 4 is lost. The “woman at the well” was a Samaritan, she was a woman, and she was immoral. <i>No</i> Jewish rabbi would have been seen talking to her. But Jesus not only talked to her, he revealed his identity as Messiah to this woman (Jn 4:26). This is his first statement that He is Messiah – and it came to a Samaritan woman. Jesus truly came into our world to redeem <i>all</i> peoples.</p> <p>? How do you worship in “spirit and truth” (Jn 4:24)? What does that teach us about how God wants us to approach Him?</p> <p>? As you read John 5, is it clear that Jesus claimed to be the Son of God? If so, why did the Jewish leaders refuse to accept His claim?</p> <p>? “I will bless the Lord at <i>all times</i>.” What is the difficulty you face today? Are you blessing the Lord even during that difficult time?</p>
<p>February 21</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> John 6</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 35</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 36</p>	<p>* John 6:60-66 shows the high cost of discipleship. “Many” who had followed Jesus and enjoyed the bread and fishes turned away when they realized the cost of following this man who required complete faith and obedience.</p> <p>? Why do you follow Jesus? Are you following Him for the benefits (the bread)? Or are you a committed disciple?</p> <p>? Bread was much more important in the ancient world than it is today. This was not simply a “side dish” for the meal; it was a primary part of the meal. What does Jesus mean when He says, “I am the bread of life”?</p> <p>? When God delivered him from trouble, David promised, “My tongue will tell of your righteousness and of your praise all the day long.” Do you take time to praise God and “brag on” His goodness?</p>
<p>February 22</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> John 7</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 37</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 38</p>	<p>* On the last day of the Feast of Booths, Jesus stood and announced that He was the fulfillment of the Old Testament prophecies. Isaiah had prophesied that one would come who would invite “Everyone who thirsts to come to the waters” (Isa 55:1). Jesus announced that He had come to fulfil this promise (Jn 7:37-38).</p> <p>? John gives another picture of Jesus. Here, John shows that Jesus is the Water of Life? What does this imagery mean to you? How important is water to our basic existence?</p> <p>? We often read Psalm 37 as a psalm to encourage us in times of trouble. This is true, but focus as you read on the commands. We cannot receive the promises if we do not obey the commands. Notice the commands: “Do not fret...” “Trust in the Lord...” “Delight in the Lord...” “Commit your way to the Lord...” “Be still before the Lord...” “Refrain from anger...” Are you keeping the commands of this psalm?</p>

