

Week 5

<p>January 29</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Exodus 26</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Exodus 27</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 1</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 2</p>	<p>* Be prepared – some of this week’s reading in Exodus will feel difficult. You will read repeated details about building of the Tabernacle. At times, you may be tempted to think, “What does this have to do with <i>my</i> life?” Instead of becoming discouraged with all the details, notice the ‘big picture.’ Worship is important enough to God that He gave careful instruction for every detail of the Tabernacle and priests.</p> <p>? In the Old Testament, God dwelled in the Tabernacle and the Temple. Today, He lives in the hearts of every believer. If this is true, does God care about the details of our life in the same way that He cared about the details of the Tabernacle and Temple? How does this affect your view of your daily obedience?</p> <p>? Psalm 1 describes a person who “delights in the law of the Lord.” Do you delight in God’s law or do you obey out of obligation? Ask God to give you a joy and delight in His law.</p>
<p>January 30</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Exodus 28</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Exodus 29</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 3</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 4</p>	<p>* Notice the attention to the holiness of the priests. Their robes and the ritual of consecration was intended to set them apart for service to God. We will see more of this in Leviticus, but these chapters show how important holiness is to God.</p> <p>* Both the Psalms you read today are prayers for deliverance during times of trouble. Notice the words of trust in these Psalms: God is a shield, my glory, and the lifter of my head; He sustains me; He gives relief; He hears when I call.</p> <p>? What distress do you face today? Can you lie down and sleep <i>because</i> you trust God to make you “dwell in safety?” (Ps 4:8)</p>
<p>January 31</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Exodus 30</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Exodus 31</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Exodus 32</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 5</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 6</p>	<p>* The Sabbath was more than an empty ritual; it was a weekly reminder that a holy God makes His people holy (Ex 31:13). It was a reminder that God owns all of our life (Ex 31:17).</p> <p>* In Exodus 32, we see the result of doubt and a lack of faith in God. When the people began to doubt that God was caring for them (because “Moses delayed to come down from the mountain”) they soon turned to idol worship. We worship false gods because we do not trust the true God. While few of us actually worship a physical idol, we are often tempted to lose our trust in God. The root of idolatry is a lack of faith. Exodus 32 warns against putting our trust in anything other than God.</p> <p>? In Psalm 5:11, those who trust God can “sing for joy.” Those who love God “exult” in Him. This joy is based not on the circumstances of our life, but on our trust in God. Despite the external circumstances of your life, can you determine to sing for joy and exult in God today?</p>
<p>February 1</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Exodus 33</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Exodus 34</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Exodus 35</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 7</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 8</p>	<p>* Notice God’s mercy in Exodus 34. Instead of destroying the people, God showed mercy. How? By again writing the Law on tablets. The Law was not a burden for Israel; it was a gift of a loving God. The Law taught Israel how to walk in fellowship with the God who loved them and cared for them.</p> <p>? When Moses was in God’s presence, the skin of his face was shining (Ex 34:35). As God’s people, our attitude and spirit in life should show the effects of God’s presence in our life. How does your life show God’s presence?</p> <p>* As you read Psalm 8, take time to praise God for His glory and majesty. Then, take time to thank Him for caring for you. Among all the glory of the heavens, the moon and the stars, God has given special glory and honor to humankind. Thank Him today for His love and grace to you.</p>

<p>February 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Exodus 36 <input type="checkbox"/> Exodus 37 <input type="checkbox"/> Exodus 38 <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 9 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * These chapters are full of many details of the building of the Tabernacle. Why? Because worship matters to God and He cared for the details of how and where His people would worship Him. ? Notice Exodus 36:2-7. The craftsmen worked because their hearts were “stirred to do the work.” The people gave willingly until Moses had to “restrain” the people from giving. Do you serve the church and give to God out of obligation or from a willing heart? ? Psalm 9:1 shows the importance of remembering what God has done for us. List some of the “wonderful deeds” that God has done in your life up to this point in your walk with Him. As you remember those things, does it increase your faith that God will take care of your future?
<p>February 3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Exodus 39 <input type="checkbox"/> Exodus 40 <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 10 <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 11 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Notice the repeated phrase, “As the Lord had commanded.” Moses was careful to follow every instruction that God gave for building the Tabernacle. ? As the New Testament “temple of the Holy Spirit,” are you living carefully “as the Lord commanded?” Are there areas in which you are careless in your obedience? If so, do you believe that those areas matter to God who cared about the smallest detail of the Old Testament Tabernacle? ? Psalms 10 and 11 describe the wicked in graphic terms. But notice the promise at the end of each Psalm (Ps 10:17-18 and Ps 11: 7). God promises that “the upright will behold his face.” If you walk faithfully with Him, you will see His face and know His love and care. This is not <i>only</i> a promise for a future in heaven. It is a promise that we can see Him and His love in our life on a regular basis as we walk uprightly before Him. Are you living in a way that allows you to “see His face?”
<p>Weekly Summary</p>	<p>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.</p>

Week 6

<p>February 5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Leviticus 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Leviticus 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Leviticus 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Leviticus 4 <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 12 <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 13 	<p>* The offerings in Leviticus 1-7 teach how fallen man can approach a holy God. The purpose of the offerings was not to “earn” God’s favor, but to show that God in His grace had provided a way for sinful man to enter His presence.</p> <p>In the burnt offering, the life of an animal is sacrificed because of our sin. The grain offering represents the gift of complete and willing service to God. The peace offering celebrates communion between God and man. It represents a meal shared by God and man. The sin and guilt offerings provide for our sins to be forgiven.</p> <p>These offerings show the seriousness of sin (sin required the death of a sacrificial animal), but they also show God’s grace to provide a way of restoration. In the Old Testament, these offerings opened the path for sinful man to approach a holy God. In the New Testament, Jesus became the perfect sacrifice that provided “once for all” a path to God.</p> <p>? David ends Psalm 12 with two contrasting statements. “You will guard us” but “On every side the wicked prowl.” He has faith in God’s protection, but he is also honest in recognizing the danger he faces. Which of these statements is closest to your feelings about the challenges you face? Are you able to look from the pressures of the wicked to confidence in God’s protection?</p>
<p>February 6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Leviticus 5 <input type="checkbox"/> Leviticus 6 <input type="checkbox"/> Leviticus 7 <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 14 <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 15 	<p>* Psalm 15 is one of the great “liturgical psalms.” It was to be sung as a worshiper came to the temple. We read it while we are reading Leviticus to remind us that sacrifices were not sufficient if they did not come from a sincere and obedient heart. Psalm 15 shows the kind of person who can “live in God’s holy hill.”</p> <p>? As you read Psalm 15, ask, does this describe me? “A person who does what is right? Who speaks the truth? Who does not slander, etc.?” When you finish, ask God to help you to grow in the areas where you fall short of His standard for worshipers.</p>
<p>February 7</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Leviticus 8 <input type="checkbox"/> Leviticus 9 <input type="checkbox"/> Leviticus 10 <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 16 <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 17 	<p>* Leviticus 8 and 9 show how carefully the priests followed God’s instructions. Then in Leviticus 10, the story of Nadab and Abihu shows the results when the priest did not follow God’s instructions. While we do not know the details of their sin, it appears that they broke God’s law regarding the sacrifices, and they were killed for their sin. God demanded complete respect for His presence – because He is a holy God.</p> <p>? Do you enter God’s presence with reverence? In worship, do you recognize that you are entering the presence of a holy God?</p> <p>? One of the secrets to David’s walk with God is found in Psalm 16:8. “I have set the Lord <i>always</i> before me.” David learned to maintain a constant awareness of God’s presence. That awareness guided his daily decisions and daily life. Do you make an effort to remember God’s presence? Do you frequently remember, “I belong to God. I am His child”? The awareness of God’s presence can give you confidence in trouble and guidance in times of confusion.</p>

<p>February 8</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Leviticus 11</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Leviticus 12</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 18</p>	<p>* Leviticus 11-15 are very foreign to our world. Do not try to find a deep meaning in every instruction in these chapters. Instead understand this basic principle: God wanted His people to know that all of life is either “clean” or “unclean.” We are either holy or unholy. We cannot be neutral. In these laws, God gave Israel an ‘object lesson’ to understand what it means to be set apart to God. In the New Testament, God gave us a person (Jesus Christ) who modeled perfectly what it means to be set apart. Are you glad that we have the living model rather than the object lesson?</p> <p>* In Psalm 18, David praises God for delivering him from the hand of Saul who wanted to kill David. Most of us do not have someone trying to kill us! But all of us have been delivered by God in times of trouble. After you read this Psalm, take five minutes to thank God for His protection and blessing in your life.</p>
<p>February 9</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Leviticus 13</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 19</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 20</p>	<p>* Psalm 19 points first to the glory of nature as a testimony to God; “the heavens declare the glory of God.” Then the Psalm points to God’s Word as a testimony: “the law of the Lord is perfect.” Both nature and Scripture testify to glory of the great God we serve.</p> <p>? David knew that we are good at hiding <i>even from ourselves</i> the depths of our sinful nature. So, he prayed, “Declare me innocent from hidden faults. Keep back your servant from presumptuous sins.” Do you pray regularly that God will guide you away from sin? Do you seek the power of His Spirit to keep you away from sin? It is only through His Spirit that we can live holy lives that please a holy God.</p> <p>? David said that some trust in chariots and horses (symbols of power), but God’s people trust in the name of the Lord. Where is your ultimate trust? Power, money, position? Or God?</p>
<p>February 10</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Leviticus 14</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Leviticus 15</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 21</p>	<p>* Psalm 21 celebrates the rule of a godly king. The righteous king (21:1) rejoices in God’s salvation. He trusts in God and God’s love (21:7).</p> <p>? Psalm 21 contrasts two types of people. The righteous king and the wicked who “plan evil” and “devise mischief” (21:11). God blesses the righteous and opposes the wicked. Which describes your life to this point? Are you living in deliberate trust in God or are you devising your own path to life? Psalm 21 reminds us that the only wise way to live is a life of obedience to God.</p>
<p>Weekly Summary</p>	<p>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.</p>