

Week 1 (12/31/2018 - 1/6/2019)

<p>Monday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 4 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ? What does it mean to be created “in the image of God?” As you mature as a Christian, can you see that your attitudes, words, and actions increasingly show God’s character? ? Genesis 1 uses the name “God” (<i>Elohim</i>). This name shows His power over the universe. Genesis 2 uses the personal name “Lord God” (<i>Yahweh</i>). This name shows His personal interest in humanity. As you read these chapters, ask, “Do I know God in a personal way or only as the powerful God of the universe?” * Sin damaged man’s relationship with God (Gen 3:10). Sin damaged the relationship between husband and wife (Gen 3:12). Sin damaged even the relationship between man and nature (Gen 3:17-19). However, instead of abandoning man, a loving God promised a Savior who will someday “bruise Satan’s head” (Gen 3:15). ? As you read Genesis 3, notice the steps by which Satan led Eve into sin. Be aware of Satan’s techniques. Are you prepared to resist his temptation today? ? How has sin damaged relationships in your life? Your relationship with God? Your relationships with other people?
<p>Tuesday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 5 <input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 6 <input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 7 <input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 8 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Although God made man in His image, man’s rebellion caused God to regret “that He had made man” (Gen 6:6). In judgment, God sent the flood that reversed the creative work of Genesis 1. ? Even in a wicked world, men like Enoch (Gen 5:24) and Noah (Gen 6:9) were righteous; they “walked with God.” What was different about these men? (You can find an answer to this in Hebrews 11:5-7.) ? How can you walk with God in our sinful world? What are some spiritual practices that will help you to remain faithful to God in a world where sin is so prevalent?
<p>Wednesday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 9 <input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 10 <input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 11 <input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 12 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Soon after the flood, man again rebelled against God. At the Tower of Babel, man united to build a tower to reach to the heavens. This Tower was probably a ziggurat, the temple-towers found throughout ancient Mesopotamia. Like Eve, the people of Babel wanted to take the place of God. God judged man’s rebellion by confusing their languages and scattering the people. ? In our world today, how do we seek to “make a name for ourselves” and to take God’s place of authority? * Genesis 12 begins the story of Abraham. Genesis 12:2-3 is one of the most important promises in the Old Testament. “All nations” will be blessed through the Messiah who came through the line of Abraham. This promise begins the story of the messianic line. ? In each of the stories we have read (Adam and Eve, Noah’s Flood, Babel, Abraham), we see both God’s judgment on sin and His loving mercy on those who call on Him. Think back across your life to this point. How have you seen God’s judgment when you sinned against Him? How have you seen God’s mercy when you called on Him for forgiveness? ? When Abraham failed to trust God completely, he lied to Pharaoh (Gen 12:13). Are there areas in your life where you need to trust God more fully? Ask God to give you faith to trust Him completely.

<p>Thursday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 13 <input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 14 <input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 15 <input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 16 <input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 17 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * The covenant in Genesis 15 between God and Abraham is foreign to our customs. However, in the ancient world, this was a way of making a “blood oath.” When the flaming torch that represented God passed between the parts of the sacrifice (Gen 15:17), God was saying, “I put myself under an oath. I will die before I break my promise to you.” ? What does this oath say about the character of God? Do you see that He is a God who will always keep His promises to you? * When we read about Bible characters like Abraham, we sometimes think, “They were perfect. I can never be like them.” However, although Abraham became a great man of faith, he too had to learn to trust God completely. After God promised that Abraham would be the father of a great nation, Abraham doubted. He decided to father a child by Sarai’s servant Hagar. Although this was a common custom in their world, it was not God’s plan. At the age of ninety-eight, God again promised Abraham a son. God taught Abraham faith in His promises. ? As you read Abraham’s story, do you identify with his doubts? Do you find it difficult to believe without reservation?
<p>Friday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 18 <input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 19 <input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 20 <input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 21 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * The story of Sodom shows how man soon returned to his sinful ways. However, God had promised that He would never again destroy the entire earth with a flood. Although God judged Sodom and Gomorrah, He kept the promise He had made to Noah. ? In Genesis 18, are you surprised when Abraham “bargains” with God about Sodom? What does this story reveal about Abraham’s close relationship with God? What does it reveal about Abraham’s deep love for Lot? ? Try to imagine Abraham’s joy to have a son when he was 100 years old. Do you think Abraham ever again doubted God’s promises?
<p>Saturday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 22 <input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 23 <input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 24 <input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 25 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Genesis 22 is one of the most challenging stories in the Bible. God called Abraham to sacrifice his son. To understand Abraham’s faith, read Hebrews 11:17-19. Abraham trusted that God could raise Isaac from the dead. ? Do not ask, “Do I have as much faith as Abraham showed in this story?” Instead, ask, “Am I willing to allow God to grow my faith as He chooses?” * As you read Genesis 24, put yourself in the ancient world where a son’s wife was chosen by the father for the benefit of the family name. Notice how faithfully Abraham’s servant carries out his master’s instructions. Also notice Rebekah’s spirit of service in Genesis 24:46. (Each camel could drink as much as twenty-five gallons of water.) ? Abraham, Isaac, and Rebekah all show their trust in God. Are you learning to trust God with the situations of your life? Are you willing to patiently wait as He works out His plan for your life?
<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 2 (1/7/2019 - 1/13/2019)

<p>Monday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 26 <input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 27 <input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 28 <input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 29 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * As He did with Abraham, God made a great promise to Isaac (Gen 26:3-5). And like Abraham, Isaac struggled to trust God fully. Like his father, Isaac lied to a ruler to protect his wife, Rebekah. * In Genesis 27, we see another challenge to the fulfillment of God’s promises to Abraham. Jacob “stole” the blessing that belonged to the older brother Esau. However, despite Jacob’s deceitful character, God’s promises were fulfilled. Rejoice that we serve a “promise-keeping God.” ? What situations in your life have caused you to doubt God’s promises? Do you trust Him to fulfill His promises despite obstacles that cause hesitation and doubt? ? As Jacob was fleeing from an angry Esau, God revealed Himself at Bethel. Think back across your life. How has God revealed Himself to you? Through people you have known? Through difficult circumstances? Through Scripture? How have you responded when God spoke to you?
<p>Tuesday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 30 <input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 31 <input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 32 <input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 33 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Jacob cheated Esau. Laban cheated Jacob. Jacob then found a way to cheat Laban. As a result of these family rivalries, Jacob was forced to flee again. Meeting Esau, Jacob had to face the consequences of a lifetime of deception. The story of Jacob wrestling with God (32:22-32) symbolizes the transformation of Jacob’s character as God forces him to confess, “My name is Jacob – cheater.” God then renames Jacob “Israel,” the name by which God’s chosen people will be known. If you see areas of your character that should be transformed, the story of Jacob will encourage you to trust God to shape your character. ? In the ancient world, names were a picture of character. If a person’s name was changed, it meant that their character had been changed. If your name reflected your character, what name would you be called? More importantly, since meeting Christ, what new name would you receive? Take time today to think about the transformation God has made in your life.
<p>Wednesday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 34 <input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 35 <input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 36 <input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 37 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * It is easy to understand God’s great promise to Abraham – a man who left his home and traveled 1100 miles in obedience to God. But it is more difficult to understand God’s promise to Jacob, a cheater who spends much of his life running from the results of his deceptions. But God says to Jacob, “The land I gave to Abraham and Isaac I will give to you and your offspring.” You may not feel like an Abraham. Perhaps your past is more like Jacob. If so, rejoice in a merciful God who looks beyond our past to a bright future. * Genesis 37-50 tells the story of Joseph, the son of Rachel, Jacob’s favored wife. After Jacob unwisely shows favoritism, Joseph’s jealous brothers sell him to a caravan of Ishmaelite traders. Through this, Joseph ends up as a slave in Egypt. ? If you are Joseph, sold into slavery by your brothers, how will you respond to your situation? How will you feel towards your brothers? Towards Potiphar, your owner? Towards God who allowed this terrible situation? As you prepare for tomorrow’s readings, imagine your response to Joseph’s situation. Tomorrow, you can compare your response to Joseph’s response.

<p>Thursday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 38 <input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 39 <input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 40 <input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 41 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Think of God’s promises to Abraham. “I will make you a great nation, and your descendants will be a blessing to all families of the earth.” It is now 200 years later. Jacob, a dishonest man, is the family patriarch. Simeon and Levi, his sons, murder the men of Shechem. Judah has twin sons through a shameful act with his widowed daughter-in-law. Joseph is a slave in Egypt. It might appear that God’s promises have failed. But God never fails to keep His promises. * In the ancient world, dreams were seen as one way in which God communicated with mankind. In Genesis 37, Joseph shared dreams that showed God’s favor. In prison, he interprets dreams from his fellow prisoners. Later, he interprets Pharaoh’s dream that foretells years of famine. Through this, Joseph is raised to a position of great power in Egypt. God uses Joseph to spare Egypt’s population during the famine, and ultimately to save the Hebrew people. ? Joseph is sold as a slave by his own brothers. He assumes he will never again see his homeland or his family. Yet he continues faithful to his God. He resists the advances of Potiphar’s wife; he refuses to become bitter towards the cupbearer who forgets him; he faithfully serves Pharaoh, the enemy of his people. Joseph’s secret is his constant awareness of God’s presence (39:9; 40:8; 41:16; 41:25-32; 41:51-52). Does your awareness of God’s presence give you strength in the face of temptation or discouragement?
<p>Friday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 42 <input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 43 <input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 44 <input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 45 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ? As you read these chapters try to view the story through the eyes of each character: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How did Joseph feel when he recognized his brothers? Was he tempted to anger and revenge? - How did the brothers feel when this Egyptian governor treated them so strangely on their first visit? How did they feel when he revealed himself as the brother they had sold into slavery? - How did Jacob feel when he heard that his son was still alive? ? You do not need to ask, “Could I forgive as Joseph forgave?” You are not in Joseph’s situation. Instead, ask, “Is there someone who has wronged me? Have I forgiven them?” If not, ask God to give you the grace to forgive the person who has wronged you.
<p>Saturday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 46 <input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 47 <input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 48 <input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 49 <input type="checkbox"/> Genesis 50 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * These chapters conclude Joseph’s story. In preparation for the book of Exodus, they explain how God’s people were in Egypt instead of the Promised Land. Jacob’s blessing on each of his sons (Gen 49) foreshadows the role of each tribe of Israel. Especially noteworthy is his blessing on Judah (Gen 49:10). Both King David and the Messiah will come from the tribe of Judah. ? Meditate on Genesis 50:20. The period between the brothers’ “evil” (selling Joseph into slavery) and God’s “good” (saving Israel from famine) lasted more than twenty years. Which difficult circumstances in your life may be intended by God for good? As you think about this, read Romans 8:28-29 and remember that God is working “all things” to accomplish the good of making you into His image.
<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 3 (1/14/2019 - 1/20/2019)

<p>Monday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Mark 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Mark 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Mark 3 	<p>* This week, we will read the Gospel of Mark. Mark demonstrates that Jesus is the Son of God (Mk 1:1; 15:39). This gospel, addressed to a Roman audience, focuses on healings and activities that demonstrate divine power to a Gentile reader. Mark asks, “What did Jesus <i>do</i> that shows he is the Son of God?”</p> <p>? What signs of Jesus’ power do you see in these first three chapters? Which signs are most impressive to you as a reader in the 21st century?</p> <p>? Mark shows Jesus’ relationship to many people considered “unclean” by the Jews – a leper (1:40-45), a man with an evil spirit (1:21-27), and tax collectors (2:13-17). Why is this important for Mark’s purpose?</p>
<p>Tuesday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Mark 4 <input type="checkbox"/> Mark 5 <input type="checkbox"/> Mark 6 	<p>* The miracles in Mark 4-6 continue Mark’s purpose to show that Jesus is the Son of God. He has power over nature (calming the storm in Mk 4); he has power over demons (Mk 5); he has power over illness (Mk 5); he can feed 5,000 with a few loaves and fishes (Mk 6); he can even walk on water (Mk 6).</p> <p>? In Mark 1-3, “unclean” people follow Jesus. In Mark 6, people in his hometown reject Jesus. Mark shows that people will respond to the gospel in different ways. It isn’t enough to hear the gospel; we must respond in faith. In the parable of the Sower and the Seed (4:1-25), each soil receives the same seed (the Word of God), but each responds differently. As you read, ask, “Which soil am I?”</p>
<p>Wednesday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Mark 7 <input type="checkbox"/> Mark 8 <input type="checkbox"/> Mark 9 	<p>* The Pharisees were considered the “best” of the Jewish people, but they rejected Jesus. They resented his demands. Although they were careful about external laws, Jesus insisted that discipleship requires a change of the heart.</p> <p>? Why did people such as the Gentile woman in Mark 7:24-30 trust Jesus while religious leaders rejected him (Mk 8:11-13)? Why were the poor, the sinful, and the needy attracted to his message?</p> <p>? In Mark 8:34-37, Jesus shows the cost of discipleship. To be Jesus’ disciple, we must take up our “cross.” A cross meant death. To be a disciple means that we must die to our own desires and ambitions. Paul will later write, “Put to death anything sinful in you.” As you read Mark 8, ask, “What will it cost me to be a disciple of Jesus?” But then ask, “What will it cost if I <i>reject</i> Jesus?” Compare the cost of discipleship to the incredible value of your eternal soul.</p>
<p>Thursday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Mark 10 <input type="checkbox"/> Mark 11 <input type="checkbox"/> Mark 12 	<p>* Mark 10:45 is the key verse of Mark. Jesus came to accomplish two goals: to serve and to give his life as a ransom. Mark 1-10 looks at Jesus’ service to his world. Mark 11-16 looks at his sacrifice for all mankind at Calvary. These chapters show Jesus’ increasing awareness of the cross. He warns his disciples that he will suffer and die in Jerusalem.</p> <p>? In Mark 10, Jesus required a rich man to sell everything and give it to the poor. But in other places, Jesus does not require this. Why did Jesus demand this sacrifice of this rich young man? (The answer is found in Mark 8:34-37.) What does it cost to be a disciple? It costs <i>anything</i> that we value above Christ.</p>

<p>Friday</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Mark 13</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Mark 14</p>	<p>* Throughout Mark, we have seen how much it costs us to be a disciple of Jesus. In Mark 14, we see how much it cost Jesus to provide salvation for us. In Mark 14:36, Jesus prayed, “Remove this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will.” Discipleship requires that we obey God without reservation. Our salvation required Jesus to submit to the Father’s will without reservation.</p> <p>? In Mark 13, Jesus responds to a question about the end of time (13:4). His answer gives signs of the end of time <i>but</i> is not very specific. Why did Jesus give this response? Is the reason related to 13:33? We must remain “awake” and “on guard” to be prepared for Jesus’ return.</p> <p>? Jesus prayed to his Father, “Not what I will, but what you will.” Do you pray the same prayer? Are you living in daily surrender to the Father’s will?</p>
<p>Saturday</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Mark 15</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Mark 16</p>	<p>* The other gospels give much more detail than Mark about Jesus’ trial, crucifixion, and resurrection. Because he is writing to a Roman audience, Mark avoids detailed explanations that would not interest a Gentile audience. However, the climax of his Gospel comes from a Roman centurion (a witness with great authority for Roman readers), “Truly this man was the Son of God!” (Mark 15:39)</p> <p>? Pilate crucified Jesus not because he believed Jesus was guilty but to “satisfy the crowd” (15:15). Which matters more to you – truth or the approval of the people around you?</p> <p>? At the end of Mark, the Roman centurion said, “Truly this man was the Son of God!” As you review this week’s readings, what is the greatest evidence you have seen for Jesus’ deity? What is the greatest proof that Jesus was the Son of 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>

Week 4 (1/21/2019 - 1/27/2019)

<p>Monday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Exodus 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Exodus 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Exodus 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Exodus 4 <input type="checkbox"/> Exodus 5 	<p>* Exodus continues the story of God’s chosen people. Genesis ended with the people of Israel in Egypt instead of Canaan, the land of promise. Exodus tells how God led His people out of captivity. Exodus begins 400 years after Genesis ends. The Pharaoh who honored Joseph is dead, and the people of Israel are treated as slaves.</p> <p>? Notice how God protected and prepared His servant Moses. At birth, God protected Moses from Pharaoh’s order to kill all male infants. God provided a way for Moses to grow up in Pharaoh’s house. This prepared Moses to be a leader who understood Egyptian law. How has God prepared you to serve Him?</p> <p>? In Exodus 2:23-25, God heard the cry of His people. As you see the suffering of Christians around the world, do you believe that God still hears the cries of His people?</p>
<p>Tuesday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Exodus 6 <input type="checkbox"/> Exodus 7 <input type="checkbox"/> Exodus 8 <input type="checkbox"/> Exodus 9 	<p>* The plagues were a sign of God’s sovereignty – both to Egypt and to Israel. The plagues showed the Egyptians that Jehovah was stronger than their false gods. The plagues showed the people of Israel that they could trust the promises of a sovereign God.</p> <p>? In spite of miraculous signs and terrible plagues, Pharaoh continued to reject God’s warnings. Many people stubbornly continue a sinful path in spite of repeated warnings. Why? Are there areas of your life where you are ignoring God’s warnings?</p>
<p>Wednesday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Exodus 10 <input type="checkbox"/> Exodus 11 <input type="checkbox"/> Exodus 12 <input type="checkbox"/> Exodus 13 	<p>* Throughout Israel’s history, Passover was an important memorial. The Passover meal looked back to God’s deliverance from Egypt. Passover also looked forward to a coming Messiah who would fulfill the promises of deliverance completely. At the Last Supper, Jesus testified that He was the promised Deliverer. His blood provided the eternal sacrifice for our sin. His blood delivers us from bondage to sin.</p> <p>? Each of the plagues was an attack on the false gods of Egypt. (For instance, the Egyptians worshiped <i>Heket</i>, a goddess represented by a frog. Moses covered the land with frogs. This showed that Israel’s God was more powerful than <i>Heket</i>.) What false gods do we worship in our world today (money, education, prestige)?</p> <p>? As the plagues increased, Pharaoh tried to bargain with God (Ex 9:27-28; 10:7-11; 10:24-27), but he refused complete obedience. Are there areas in your life in which you are trying to bargain with God rather than surrendering fully to His will?</p>
<p>Thursday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Exodus 14 <input type="checkbox"/> Exodus 15 <input type="checkbox"/> Exodus 16 <input type="checkbox"/> Exodus 17 	<p>* Immediately after their deliverance from Egypt, the people of Israel began to reveal their lack of trust in God (Ex 14:10-12; 16: 2-3; 17:2-3). In spite of the miraculous crossing of the Red Sea, they doubted that God would take care of them. In the Wilderness, God taught His people to trust Him.</p> <p>? Like the people of Israel, are you prone to grumbling? What does today’s reading teach you about the danger of grumbling rather than trusting in God? It is impossible to grumble while trusting God completely. Grumbling demonstrates a lack of trust.</p> <p>? As you read these chapters, reflect on God’s continuing grace and mercy on Israel. Then take time to reflect on His amazing grace and mercy in your life.</p>

<p>Friday</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Exodus 18</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Exodus 19</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Exodus 20</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Exodus 21</p>	<p>* Exodus 1-19 shows how God rescued Israel from Egypt. Exodus 20-40 shows how God built a relationship with His people. The people of Israel knew little about Jehovah. Through the Law, through His provision in the wilderness, and through the teaching of Moses, God revealed Himself to Israel and established a relationship with His people.</p> <p>? In Exodus 18, Jethro, Moses’ father-in-law, came to see Moses. He warned Moses that he was trying to do too much and would soon tire from the heavy burden. He taught Moses to delegate responsibility to other people. Do you have someone in your life who warns you of dangers in your life and ministry? Do you heed their warnings?</p> <p>* Notice how each of the Ten Commandments (Ex 20:1-17) is based on love. Jesus will later say that “All the law is summed up in two commands: Love God and love your neighbor.” The first four commandments (20:3-11) are an expression of our love for God. The last six commandments (20:12-17) are an expression of our love for other people. Love fulfills the law.</p>
<p>Saturday</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Exodus 22</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Exodus 23</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Exodus 24</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Exodus 25</p>	<p>* In Exodus 23:20-33, God tells Israel that he will drive the Canaanites out of the land. He warns the Israelites against worshiping the gods of the Canaanites. When Israel later ignored this warning, it brought trouble for God’s people.</p> <p>? Notice the principle of justice in the laws of restitution (Ex 21:33-22:15). Rather than seeking vengeance (the goal of most ancient law), God sought justice. Restitution restored the relationship between the offender and the victim. When someone wrongs you, do you seek restoration or vengeance?</p> <p>? As you read the laws of social justice (Ex 22:21-27), think about the role of mercy in our legal system and our world. How do you serve the widow and the fatherless? How do you meet the needs of the poor? The law of Moses provided a model for showing love to the needy.</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>

Week 5 (1/28/2019 - 2/3/2019)

<p>Monday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Exodus 26 <input type="checkbox"/> Exodus 27 <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 2 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Be prepared – some of this week’s reading in Exodus may feel uninspiring. You will read detailed descriptions 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. ? In the Old Testament, God dwelled in the Tabernacle and the Temple. Today, He lives in the hearts of believers. God cares about the details of our lives in the same way He cared about the details of the Tabernacle and Temple. How does this affect your view of your daily obedience? ? 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 joy and delight in His law.
<p>Tuesday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Exodus 28 <input type="checkbox"/> Exodus 29 <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 4 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * The ritual of consecration set the priests apart for service to God. In the Old Testament, “set-apartness” is one of the key aspects of holiness. We will see more of this in Leviticus, but these chapters show how important holiness is to God. * The Psalms you read today are prayers for deliverance during times of trouble. Highlight the words of trust in these Psalms: God is a <u>shield</u>, my <u>glory</u>, and the <u>lifter of my head</u>; He <u>sustains</u> me; He gives <u>relief</u>; He <u>hears</u> when I call. ? What distress do you face today? Can you lie down and sleep because you trust God to make you “dwell in safety?” (Ps 4:8)
<p>Wednesday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Exodus 30 <input type="checkbox"/> Exodus 31 <input type="checkbox"/> Exodus 32 <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 5 <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 6 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * The Sabbath was a weekly reminder that a holy God makes His people holy (Ex 31:13). It was a reminder that God owns all our life (Ex 31:17). * In Exodus 32, we see what happens when we do not trust God. When the people doubted God’s care because “Moses delayed to come down from the mountain,” they turned to idol worship. We worship false gods because we do not trust the true God. The root of idolatry is a lack of faith. Exodus 32 warns against putting our trust in anything other than God. ? While few of us worship physical idols, we are often tempted to trust something other than God. Which “idol” are you tempted to trust for your ultimate security? An idol can be our job, a person, our bank account, our abilities.... Anything that provides our ultimate security becomes an idol. ? 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 life, but on confidence in God. Despite the external circumstances of your life, can you determine to sing for joy and exult in God today?
<p>Thursday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Exodus 33 <input type="checkbox"/> Exodus 34 <input type="checkbox"/> Exodus 35 <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 7 <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 8 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * 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. The Law showed God’s love for His people. ? When Moses was in God’s presence, the skin of his face shone (Ex 34:35). As God’s people, our attitude and spirit should show the effects of God’s presence. How does your life show God’s presence? * As you read Psalm 8, take time to praise God for His glory and majesty seen in the universe. Then, take time to thank Him for caring for you personally. 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 seen in your life.

<p>Friday</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 give 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 willingly gave 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>Saturday</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? Do you believe those areas matter to the 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), “the upright will behold his face.” If you walk faithfully with Him, you will see His face and know His love and care. We do not have to wait until heaven to see this promise fulfilled. It is a promise that we can experience God’s care in our daily life 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>