Week 45 (11/4/2019 - 11/10/2019)

Monday □ Dan 7 □ Dan 8 □ Psalm 119:1-48	 * Daniel 7-12 encouraged the Jewish people during a time of persecution. These visions show that God will be faithful to His people in all situations. A sovereign God will eventually bring His people to victory. * Notice the contrast between the four beasts of Daniel 7:3-8 and the "Ancient of Days" in Daniel 7:9-10. The beasts are mixtures of different animals and birds, an impure abomination for the Jewish people. By contrast, the "Ancient of Days" is pure; his "clothing was white as snow, and the hair of his head like pure wool." ? As you read Psalm 119 this week, highlight each term that refers to God's Word (for instance, "law of the Lord" in verse 1). Meditate on the power and beauty of God's Word.
Tuesday □ Dan 9 □ Dan 10 □ Psalm 119: 49-104	 Notice the humility of Daniel's prayer in Daniel 9:3-19. Israel's suffering is the result of Israel's sin, so Daniel humbly confesses her sin and pleads for God's mercy. "To you, O Lord belongs righteousness, but to us open shame" (9:7). * The battle between the angel Michael and the "prince of the kingdom of Persia" shows that the spiritual world is real (10:12-14). There are two common errors regarding the spiritual world. One error is to believe that demonic power is a 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 will be victorious; we do not need to live in fear. ? Highlight each term in Ps 119:49-104 that refers to God's Word. Meditate on the power and beauty of God's Word.
Wednesday □ Dan 11 □ Dan 12 □ Psalm 119: 105-152	 * Daniel 12 looks to the end of time. God's people do not need to fear the future because God is sovereign. Rejoice in His power. ? Highlight each term in Ps 119:105-152 that refers to God's Word. Meditate on the power and beauty of God's Word.
Thursday □ Ezra 1 □ Ezra 2 □ Psalm 119: 153-176	 * Ezra is divided into two sections, spanning nearly 100 years. Ezra 1-6 takes place from 537-515 B.C., long before Ezra's life. Ezra 7-10 begins in 458 B.C. with Ezra's travel to Jerusalem. * 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). "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 His people. ? As you read the list of names in Ezra 2, ask, "If my family had lived in Babylon for fifty years, would I leave my house, business, and friends to return to a desolate Jerusalem?" These are the most dedicated of the Israelites. Remember this fact as you read of their later failure to remain faithful. ? Highlight each term in Ps 119:153-176 that refers to God's Word. Meditate on the power and beauty of God's Word.

Friday Ezra 3 Ezra 4 Haggai 1 Haggai 2 Ezra 5 Ezra 6	 * When the foundation of the new temple was laid, many people rejoiced. But those who remembered the first temple wept (3:12-13). From the size of the foundation, they knew that the new temple would not be as large and glorious as the temple destroyed fifty years previously. * Soon after the Jewish people began rebuilding the temple (in 536 B.C.), their enemies wrote King Artaxerxes to stop the rebuilding. Their objections stopped the building process for sixteen years. Two "Temple Prophets," Haggai and Zechariah, inspired the people to resume the building process. * Haggai brought four prophetic messages. 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). -If you do not live holy lives, your sin will defile the temple (2:10-23).
Saturday Zechariah 1 Zech 2 Zech 3 Zech 4 Zech 5 Zech 6 Psalm 120 Psalm 121	 Zechariah traveled with Zerubbabel from Babylon in 538 B.C. Zechariah began prophesying in 520 B.C., just after Haggai. The people in Jerusalem felt that they lived in a "day of small things" (4:10). They had no king or Temple. They were surrounded by enemies. They were a weak and poor nation. Zechariah promised that God would act on behalf of His people 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 oppress 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) - With God's power, Zerubbabel and Joshua will rebuild the temple. -Vision 6 (5:1-4) - The covenant curses will come on those who break the covenant. -Vision 7 (5:5-11) - Wickedness will be removed from Jerusalem to Babylon. - Vision 8 (6:1-8) - God continues to patrol the earth.
Weekly Summary	Summarize one practical application of 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.

Week 46 (11/11/2019 - 11/17/2019)

Monday	? Zechariah 9 shows that God is a Divine Warrior who will fight on behalf of His people What does this add to your understanding of God and His role in our life?
□ Zechariah 7	* Zechariah contrasted Israel's shepherds who fed themselves at the expense of the sheep
□ Zech 8	with a future shepherd who would care for the sheep (10:1-11:17). This promise was fulfilled
□ Zech 9	in the ministry of Jesus. Look for images of the coming Messiah in Zechariah 9-13. This section contains many prophecies of Jesus.
□ Zech 10	* Psalms 120-134 are called the "Songs of Ascents." These psalms were sung by pilgrims
□ Psalm 122	traveling to Jerusalem. Sense the joy of the people as they traveled to God's house.
□ Psalm 123	* Psalm 126 gives two pictures of restoration. God sometimes restores us "like streams in the
□ Psalm 124	Negeb," the sudden rushing of water through a dry riverbed (126:4). God sometimes works like a sower who sows seeds during tears and disappointment (126:6). It may take months
□ Psalm 125	or years for the seed to bring a harvest. Have you seen God in dramatic and sudden ways?
□ Psalm 126	Have you seen Him work slowly and gradually over time? Will you be patient as He works in His way and His time?
□ Psalm 127	
Tuesday	* Zechariah foresaw a time of trouble for God's people. The sheep would suffer, but God
□ Zech 11	would ultimately redeem His people. God is again portrayed as the Divine Warrior who fights to defend His people (Zech 11-14).
□ Zech 12	* Notice the message of hope in Zechariah 12. Highlight the repeated phrase "in that day."
□ Zech 13	* The book of Esther is unique in Scripture. This book explains the Jewish Feast of Purin
□ Zech 14	(9:28). The word <i>Purim</i> (lot) refers to Haman's casting of lots to determine the day that he would carry out his plan to exterminate the Jews.
□ Esther 1	* Esther does not mention God, but He is the central character in the book. Notice the
□ Esther 2	"coincidences" that come together to accomplish God's purpose. Although God's name is
□ Psalm 128	not mentioned, He is accomplishing His purpose of protecting His people. One of these providential events is Mordecai's overhearing of a plot to kill King Ahasuerus (2:22).
Wednesday	? As you read of Haman's anger in Esther 3, notice the terrible impact of his anger. He isn't satisfied to take revenge on Mordecai; he tries to "destroy all the Jews." Has anger ever
□ Esther 3	caused you to make a foolish decision?
□ Esther 4	* Imagine the courage required to enter the king's presence without invitation. Esther says
□ Esther 5	"If I perish, I perish" (4:16).
□ Esther 6	* Notice God's providence in Esther 6:1-2. At just the right time, the king is unable to sleep Of all the royal records that could have been chosen, a servant read the story of Mordecai's
□ Esther 7	actions to save the king's life. God, the unnamed central character in the book, is again
□ Esther 8	accomplishing His purpose to save His people.
□ Psalm 129	
□ Psalm 130	
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Thursday	? Have you seen God's providence in your life? We often attribute His protection to "chance" or "coincidence." Ask God to help you recognize His work in your life.
□ Esther 9 □ Esther 10	* Ezra 7:1 begins 57 years after Ezra 6 ends. The last part of the book records Ezra's ministry as he taught the Word of God to the people of Jerusalem.
□ Ezra 7	? It was approximately 900 miles from Babylon to Jerusalem. Babylon was a beautiful and
□ Ezra 8	modern city; Jerusalem was in ruins. Would you have joined the returning exiles in Ezra 8? Recognize the dedication of those who made this long and dangerous journey.
□ Psalm 131	recognize the dedication of those who made this long and dangerous journey.
Friday Ezra 9 Ezra 10 Nehemiah 1 Neh 2 Psalm 132	 * The reason God did not allow the Jewish people to marry those of other races was religious, not racial. When Jews married Gentiles, they soon began worshiping the false gods of the pagan nations. God forbade them from marrying people "who practice these abominations" (9:14). ? Notice the language of Ezra's prayer of confession in Ezra 9. Hear his shame at Israel's sin. This is one evidence of true repentance. Have you felt the shame of your rebellion against a holy God? Ezra shows the power of repentance and forgiveness. * Like Ezra 7-10, the events recorded in Nehemiah occur long after Israel's return to Jerusalem. The city has been in ruins for more than 100 years. It is no wonder that the people feel such hopelessness. ? Mark each of the prayers in Nehemiah. Record lessons you learn from these prayers. For example: -Nehemiah 1:5 shows that we can pray with confidence in God. -Nehemiah 1:6-7 shows that prayer must include confession of sin.
Saturday Neh 3 Neh 4 Neh 5 Neh 6 Psalm 133 Psalm 134	 ? The people of Tekoa, a village near Jerusalem, helped with the work, but the leaders of the village refused to participate (3:5). They were unwilling to submit to the authority of Nehemiah, an outsider. Serving God often requires us to submit to other authority. Is there some human authority to whom you must submit in order to serve God? ? Nehemiah's response to opposition was prayer (4:4-5). What is your response to trouble? Do you respond with prayer, or do you respond with anger and frustration? * When an enemy threatened the builders, Nehemiah did two things: he trusted in God's protection (4:20), and he provided an armed guard for the builders (4:21). Trusting God does not prevent us from preparing for battle (Prov 21:31). ? As you finish the Psalms of Ascents, remember that these were sung as pilgrims traveled to Jerusalem for worship. Do you have this joy in worship? Do you joyfully anticipate God's house?
Weekly Summary	Summarize one practical application of 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.

Week 47 (11/18/2019 - 11/24/2019)

*	Nehemiah 8 connects this book with the book of Ezra. Nehemiah rebuilt a physical wall around Jerusalem; Ezra rebuilt a "spiritual wall" of obedience to God's law. Both were necessary to preserve Israel.
*	The Feast of Booths (8:13-18) was the most joyous feast in the Jewish calendar. This festival celebrated God's care for Israel as they traveled through the desert after leaving Egypt. In the book of Nehemiah, the people celebrated the Feast of Booths to thank God for His protection as they traveled through the desert to return from exile in Babylon.
?	Psalm 135 praises God for choosing Israel (135:4) and for His greatness (135:5). What praise should you offer God today?
?	Read the confession of sin in Nehemiah 9 carefully. There is a big difference between an 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?
*	It was not enough to rebuild Jerusalem's physical walls. Israel's protection required faithfulness to God's law. In Nehemiah 10, the people of Israel swore to be faithful to the covenant. God's people must honor God's law.
*	Psalm 136 is a great hymn of praise to be sung responsively. A leader would sing the first phrase of each verse and the congregation would respond in unison, "for his steadfast love endures forever." Read this psalm responsively in your family worship.
*	The names in Ezra and Nehemiah may have little meaning to us, but these names were
	important to the returning exiles. The lists recognized their identity as the people of God. The lists meant, "We still belong to God. He knows our name."
*	As you read Psalm 137, imagine the sorrow of the Jews as they lived in exile in Babylon. Then imagine their joy as they returned from Babylon to Jerusalem.
*	Both Nehemiah 13 and Malachi show Judah's need for continuing revival. After the Exile,
	Judah soon returned to the sins that brought God's judgment. Both Nehemiah and Malachi warn Judah that she must be faithful to God's law.
?	List three lessons about prayer that you learned from reading the book of Nehemiah.
*	Malachi probably preached during the time of Ezra and Nehemiah. They shared the same message: God's people must be faithful to God's law. Malachi charged Judah with dishonoring God with begrudging offerings, disobedience to God's laws, and moral offenses.
?	As you pray Psalm 139:23-24, ask God to reveal anything in your life that grieves Him. Ask Him to lead you "in the way everlasting."
	? * * *

Friday Hebrews 1 Hebrews 2 Hebrews 3 Hebrews 4 Hebrews 5 Hebrews 6	 * Hebrews was written to encourage Jewish Christians to faithfulness. It contains both warning (do not abandon the faith) and encouragement (the new covenant is better than the old covenant). Highlight the word "better" as you read. It appears ten times in this book. As Christians, we must not waste our privileges. * Hebrews 1 shows that we have a better revelation. We do not rely on angels; we have seen the Son of God himself. * 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 be careful that an unbelieving heart does not cause us "to fall away from the living God." * The third warning is in Hebrews 6: 4-6. We must be careful that we do not fall away from the gospel. This warning addresses apostasy. Apostasy is more than falling into sin; it is rejecting the truth of the gospel. By doing this, we "crucify again the Son of God" and separate ourselves from the means of salvation.
Saturday Hebrews 7 Hebrews 8 Hebrews 9 Hebrews 10 Weekly Summary	 * Hebrews 8-10 shows 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 written on our hearts. ? Hebrews 10:26-27 gives the most solemn warning of the book. Someone might think, "Since we have a better covenant, I can continue in a life of willful sin." Hebrews warns, "if we go on sinning deliberately, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a fearful expectation of judgment." If you are tempted to continue in willful sin after your conversion, meditate on the warning of Heb 10:26-27. Summarize one practical application of 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.

Week 48 (11/25/2019 - 12/1/2019)

Monday Hebrews 11 Hebrews 12 Hebrews 13 Psalm 140	 * In light of the severe warnings of Hebrews 1-10, you might ask, "How is it possible to live up to God's demands?" Hebrews 11 gives the answer: a life of faith. Hebrews 11 gives a list of Old Testament saints who pleased God "by faith." As you read Hebrews 11, choose one person who stands as a hero to you. Think of how his or her life can be a model for you. * Hebrews 12 begins with the word "therefore." "Therefore" points back to the preceding chapter. We could paraphrase this way: "Because of the faithfulness demonstrated by the men in Hebrews 11, we must lay aside any weights and sins which threaten us. We must run the Christian race with endurance." * The final warning of Hebrews is a reminder that those of the old covenant were judged if they ignored the law of Moses. How much more will we be judged if we ignore the new covenant brought through Jesus Christ (12:25-29)? * A key to prayer during difficult times is trust in God. Notice the ending of Psalm 140, "I know that the Lord will maintain the cause of the afflicted" (140:12).
Tuesday 1 Peter 1 1 Peter 2 1 Peter 3 1 Peter 4 1 Peter 5	 Peter wrote his first epistle to encourage persecuted Christians to persevere in the faith. We may suffer in this world, but we will enjoy eternal life. As you read 1 Peter, use these chapters to evaluate your Christian walk. -Read 1 Peter 1:3-5. Do you have a living hope through Jesus Christ? Are you waiting for an inheritance in heaven? -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 in this world, but you will enjoy eternal glory in Christ. Heaven will be worth the difficulties of this world!"
Wednesday 2 Peter 1 2 Peter 2 2 Peter 3 Psalm 141 Psalm 142	 ? 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? ? Read the list of qualities in 2 Peter 1:5-7. Peter says, "Make every effort" to develop these qualities. Which of these qualities do you need to develop? * Notice the warning signs of a false teacher in 2 Peter 2. False teachers:

John wrote his first epistle to show how we know we are God's children. It is not enough to
say, "I believe the gospel." Our actions must show genuine belief; we must repent of our sins and leave our sinful life.
? As you read 1 John, underline each occurrence of the word "know." List reasons you know
you are God's child. (For example, from 2:3 – we know God "if we keep his commandments.")
? John was known as the "Apostle of Love." Notice what he teaches about love:
-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 when I have the power to do so (3:16-18)
-If I love God, I will love other believers (4:7-11)
* As God's children, we must walk in truth and love (2 Jn 1:3). If we love God, we will obey him (1:6). If we know God, we will abide in his truth (1:9-10).
? As you read 3 John, underline the word "truth." John knew that Satan would try to lead God's people astray with false teaching.
* Jude shares John's emphasis on truth. We must persevere in truth when false teachers try
to mislead us. The key to persevering in truth is found in 1:20-21. Christians should: -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 my deliverer" (144:2) while man is merely "a breath and a passing shadow" (144:4). Where will you put your trust? Will you trust in God or in man?
? The book of Psalms ends with a great crescendo of praise. Each of the final chapters praises
God for His goodness. In Psalm 145, underline all the synonyms for praise. Ask, "How can I praise God today?"
? Read Psalm 150 aloud. Throughout the day, repeat the final words of Psalm 150, "Let everything that has breath praise the Lord! Hallelujah!"
Summarize one practical application of 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.