

Introduction To Quiet Time/Personal Devotion

What Is Quiet Time/Personal Devotion: Quiet Time or Personal Devotion is more than just reading the Bible, it is a time of fellowship and dating with God. It is a time to get to know God and His will more as well as to enjoy His presence. Since personal devotion is a process of communication, it involves both “listening” (Reading His Word, Meditating, and Reflecting) and “talking” (Praying, Responding, and Devoting) to Him.

Time and Place: Choose a quiet place and a set time. If possible, morning is most ideal. If you must choose another time, choose a time when you can be most serene and alert. Also, make sure that you do your devotion before you spend time on the computer, TV, internet, or games so that your mind will not be filled with distractions that prevent you from meditating on God’s words.

Focus: Ask God to quiet your heart and to open your eyes so that you can understand God’s words. You can also praise God or sing a short hymn to Him.

Read & Reread: Read the Scripture carefully and meditate on what God is telling you. Usually, you may not be able to understand the meaning and essence of a passage when you first read it; only through repetition and meditation can one gain meaningful insights.

Using the Devotional Booklet: ①Please follow the steps in this booklet to first calm your heart with a short prayer and praise, then read and reread the given passage, and answer the questions accordingly. Then read the contributor’s insights and see how you could apply what you have learned in your life. Finally, end your Quiet Time with prayer and ask God to help you live out His words. ②Besides the reflection questions, notes, and applications, this booklet also asks the reader to fill in the date and time of each daily devotion so that the reader can evaluate his/her devotional life more precisely. ③The Scriptures quoted in this booklet are from NIV (1984). We would encourage you not to use the Bible Apps in your cell phone to read the Scriptures lest you will be distracted by the notifications or incoming calls. ④This Devotion booklet is contributed by various staff of the Cumberland Presbyterian Chinese Church and is first written in either Chinese or English, and translated by other brothers and sisters. The contribution of the staff as well as of the translators is deeply appreciated. At times, some devotions are written in both languages by the contributor. ⑤Memory verses may be quoted for meditation and memorization depending on the context and as needed; thus, it may not be provided daily.

The Benjamites Were Sodomites

Passage: Judges 19:11-30; Genesis 19:1-8

June 1

Date: _____ Start Time: _____ End Time: _____

PRAYER: Ask God to calm your heart, open your eyes, so that you can understand His Word.

ADORATION: Be still before God, praise Him in your heart, or sing a praise song or hymn.

READING GOD'S WORD: Read Judges 19:11-30 & Genesis 19:1-8 and think about what God is trying to say to you.

NOTE: A concubine in the Old Testament time was a female servant or slave who was regarded as part of the family; her primary function was childbearing to enlarge the family (c.f. Jacob's concubines, Bilhah and Zilpah [Gen. 30:4-13]).

RE-READING GOD'S WORD: Read the above passages again with careful observation, and answer the following questions:

In Exodus, God gave the laws to Israel so that they could build a society that was governed by law and order. The laws of God can be divided into three general categories: moral law, civil law, and religious law.

1. What do you think could happen when a city or nation is not governed by the laws of God?
2. Of the three categories, which law were the men of Gibeah breaking?
 - The book of Judges described the life of Israel after the death of Joshua and before the rise of monarch. During this period of 300 years, the Israelites were not building their nation according to the laws of God. The following is an incident that described the lawless behavior of the Benjamites in the city of Gibeah.
 - A Levite and his concubine had some disagreement so she went home to Bethlehem to live with her father. After 4 months, the Levite went to Bethlehem to ask her to come home with him.

When he arrived, the father-in-law showed great hospitality to the Levite according to the law of hospitality (Ex. 23:9).

- On the way home, they decided to bypass Jebus because it was occupied by non-Israelites; and they headed toward Gibeah, a town occupied by the Benjamites (Israelites). When they entered into the city, no one showed them any hospitality. Until an old man, a sojourner from Ephraim, saw them and took them in for the night. He showed proper hospitality by washing their feet and feeding them.
- That evening some of the wicked and lawless men of Gibeah surrounded the house and told the old man to bring his guest out so that they could violate him. The host pleaded with them not to do such a wicked thing. He offered his virgin daughter and the concubine to them, that they could do as they pleased with them.
- This story is similar to the story of Lot in Genesis 19 that happened a thousand years ago. In that story, Lot was pleading the Sodomites not to violate his two male guests; here, the old man was pleading the Benjamites not to violate his male guest. The wicked men would not listen and they forcefully took the female guest and violated her all night until dawn, until she was dead.
- The people of Israel were given the laws of God in Sinai so that they could form an orderly society under God. Instead, they became lawbreakers, they broke the moral law; and they were not better than the wicked Sodomites who were judged by God.

APPLICATION:

- In what way do you follow the laws of God? How do you apply the moral laws in your daily life?

- In what way have you broken the laws of God? How can you remedy your infractions?

Prayer: Tell God what you have learned and how you would like to respond to Him. Pray for His empowerment to live out His will.

Everyone Did Whatever

Passage: Judges 20:12-17, 29-48

June 2

Date: _____ Start Time: _____ End Time: _____

PRAYER: Ask God to calm your heart, open your eyes, so that you can understand His Word.

ADORATION: Be still before God, praise Him in your heart, or sing a praise song or hymn.

READING GOD'S WORD: Read Judges 20:12-17, 29-48 and think about what God is trying to say to you.

RE-READING GOD'S WORD: Read the above passages again with careful observation, and answer the following questions:

1. What kind of status did the women have in the time of Judges? Were they treated with rights, dignity and respect?

2. When injustice was committed against the woman at that time, where could her husband go to get justice?

 - The Levite wanted justice for her concubine so he took the dead woman home, took a knife and divided her, limb by limb into 12 pieces, and sent her throughout the territory of Israel. When the eleven tribes of Israel heard that the Benjamites committed this evil against a woman, they were outraged and they came together to punish the lawless men of Gibeah.

- However, the Benjamites would not give up their men to be tried for their crime. Perhaps they honestly thought that they had not done anything wrong, since no one taught them to obey the laws that God had given to them at Sinai.
- And civil war broke out between the Israelites who had 400,000 fighting men, and the Benjamites who had only 26,700 men (vv. 15, 17). When the battle ended, only 600 men remained.
- Interestingly, the victors felt sorry for the defeated because the tribe of Benjamin was down to 600. They decided to help them with the tribal rebuilding. They went and killed the people of Jabesh-gilead, took 400 of their virgins by force and gave them to the 600 Benjamites as wives.
- The irony is that the Israelites had double standards. They came to avenge the death of one woman who was taken by force then they turned around and violently killed the parents of 400 virgins and took them by force. Their action revealed that they had no regards for women as human beings who were created in the image of God; they treated the women as objects to be used by the Benjamites as breeders.

APPLICATION:

- In what ways do you treat women as human beings with human rights?

- What will you do about the injustice done against women today?

PRAYER: Tell God what you have learned and how you would like to respond to Him. Pray for His empowerment to live out His will.

We Want A King!

Passage: 1 Samuel 8:4-9, 15-22; 10:17-19

June 3

Date: _____ Start Time: _____ End Time: _____

PRAYER: Ask God to calm your heart, open your eyes, so that you can understand His Word.

ADORATION: Be still before God, praise Him in your heart, or sing a praise song or hymn.

READING GOD'S WORD: Read 1 Samuel 8:4-9, 15-22; 10:17-19 and think about what God is trying to say to you.

RE-READING GOD'S WORD: Read the above passages again with careful observation, and answer the following questions:

1. Why did the Israelites want a king?

2. What did God say about their request?

- The book of Judges ended with this statement: In those days, there was no king in Israel, and everyone did what was right in his own eyes (21:25). The assumption was if there was a king there would be law and order. The two books of Samuel described the beginning of monarchy and the story of the two

kings whose roles were to lead people back to the true God, destroy the Canaanites and form a government according to God's laws. The following is the story of Samuel and his search for a king.

- Samuel was a fair and well-respected judge; unfortunately, his two sons were not, they took bribes and perverted justice. The people came to Samuel and asked for a king to replace them (8:5).
- Samuel told the people that having a king would be worse because the king would draft their sons into his army, take the best of their fields and herds, and would tax them heavily (8:10-18). However, the people refused to listen and demanded a king. When Samuel told God their demand, God surprisingly told Samuel to let them have it their way (8:22).
- When we insist on doing things our way, God would warn us; and when we still refuse to listen to Him, God would give up and let us have it our way. In Romans 1:24, 26, God gave the people over to the sinful desires of their hearts.

APPLICATION: If you have been insisting on having things your way, you need to change. How will you change so that God can have his way with you?

PRAYER: Tell God what you have learned and how you would like to respond to Him. Pray for His empowerment to live out His will.

The Selection Of Saul

Passage: 1 Samuel 9:1-2, 15-17; 10:20-25

June 4

Date: _____ Start Time: _____ End Time: _____

PRAYER: Ask God to calm your heart, open your eyes, so that you can understand His Word.

ADORATION: Be still before God, praise Him in your heart, or sing a praise song or hymn.

READING GOD'S WORD: Read 1 Samuel 9:1-2, 15-17; 10:20-25 and think about what God is trying to say to you.

RE-READING GOD'S WORD: Read the above passages again with careful observation, and answer the following questions:

1. If you were to select a leader for the nation, what would you look for?

2. What was God looking for in a king?

- The people of Israel wanted a king and the search was on. Saul was tall and handsome; perhaps he could be a good candidate to be king (9:1-2; 10:23). Interestingly, the Lord revealed to Samuel that he had indeed chosen Saul as king over Israel because he will deliver the Israelites from the hand of the Philistines (9:15-17).
- Since God had chosen Saul, Samuel obediently anointed Saul as the prince of Israel (10:1). Samuel then gathered the people of Israel and announced to them that since they had rejected God, God had chosen Saul as their first king and the people responded by shouting “long live the king!” (10:24).
- Model agency usually chooses tall and handsome men to be male models. I do not think God is using this criterion to choose a king because the Bible said, the Lord sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart (1 Sam. 16:7).

APPLICATION:

- What kind of inner qualities would you like to develop? How do you plan to do that?

- If God chooses people according to their hearts and not by their looks, then why do you think God chose Saul to be the first king? For an answer to this question, read Romans 9:14-23 (we will further discuss this passage in tomorrow's devotion).

PRAYER: Tell God what you have learned and how you would like to respond to Him. Pray for His empowerment to live out His will.

- God is sovereign; He chooses some people to be vessels of wrath prepared for destruction and some people to be vessels of mercy for His glory (Rom. 9:21-23).
- God revealed that He raised Pharaoh up to display God's power (Rom. 9:17) and to show that Pharaoh was the object of God's wrath. Pharaoh was a harsh man with a hard heart and God used this man to put pressure on the Israelites so that they would leave Egypt and move to Canaan.
- In the same manner, God raised Saul up to display God's power in Canaan and to show that Saul was a vessel of God's mercy. God knew that Saul was a disobedient man, yet God used him to deliver the Israelites from the Philistines and Amalekites.
- Therefore, God's choice of Saul was not based on his good looks or leadership but solely on God's mercy (9:14-16).

APPLICATION: Now that you know that you are chosen by God to be vessels of His mercy, how will you live your life differently?

PRAYER: Tell God what you have learned and how you would like to respond to Him. Pray for His empowerment to live out His will.

The Disobedience Of Saul

Passage: 1 Samuel 10:8; 13:1-14

June 6

Date: _____ Start Time: _____ End Time: _____

PRAYER: Ask God to calm your heart, open your eyes, so that you can understand His Word.

ADORATION: Be still before God, praise Him in your heart, or sing a praise song or hymn.

READING GOD'S WORD: Read 1 Samuel 10:8; 13:1-14 and think about what God is trying to say to you.

RE-READING GOD'S WORD: Read the above passages again with careful observation, and answer the following questions:

1. What was the cause of the crisis in this chapter?

2. How did Saul react to the crisis? Where did he go for help?

- When Saul became a king, Samuel became a liaison between God and the king. When Samuel gave instruction to Saul, it was an order or command from God.
- Samuel told Saul that whenever he needed direction from God, he should wait for him in Gilgal for 7 days and when he arrived, he would offer the burnt offerings and tell Saul what to do (10:8).

- Three years later, Jonathan, the son of Saul attacked a Philistine outpost and the Philistines in response mustered 30,000 chariots and 6,000 horsemen to fight with Israel. Saul was alarmed and he needed direction from God so he went to Gilgal and waited for 7 days for Samuel; when Samuel did not show up after 7 days Saul decided to offer the offerings himself (13:11-12).
- When Samuel arrived he rebuked Saul for not obeying God's command, Saul said that the Philistines were coming and his soldiers were scattering, so he had no choice but to offer the offerings himself so that God would help him in the battle (13:12).
- Samuel told Saul that he was foolish for disobeying God's command. He told Saul that his disobedience had disqualified him as king (13:14), and he would be replaced by someone whose heart was fully committed to God (Acts 13:22).
- People often react out of fear; instead of waiting, they go ahead and do what they think is best for their happiness.
- For example, many believers knew that they should not be yoked with unbelievers, but still went ahead and married them anyway. They were afraid that they were getting older and this might be their last chance of finding someone who would marry them.

APPLICATION: Recall a decision that you have made out of fear recently. Some of the bad decisions can be undone, some cannot. Repent and if possible reverse your bad decision immediately.

PRAYER: Tell God what you have learned and how you would like to respond to Him. Pray for His empowerment to live out His will.

The Rejection Of Saul

Passage: 1 Samuel 15:1-9

June 7

Date: _____ Start Time: _____ End Time: _____

PRAYER: Ask God to calm your heart, open your eyes, so that you can understand His Word.

ADORATION: Be still before God, praise Him in your heart, or sing a praise song or hymn.

READING GOD'S WORD: Read 1 Samuel 15:1-9 and think about what God is trying to say to you.

NOTE: “Totally/completely destroyed” (Hebrew: *ḥērem* [Cherem]; cf. 15:3, 8, 9, 15, 18, 20). The idea of “Cherem” is to destroy all living things (men, women, children and livestock) that are in Amalek. The purpose of total destruction is to stop the spread of their abominable practice of paganism or idolatry – it is similar to the burning of furniture and clothing belonging to the people who died from Bubonic plague so that the disease would not spread.

For example: the city of Jericho was devoted as “Cherem” and when God brought the walls down, Joshua ordered the Israelites to destroy everything in the city (Jos. 6:17). Unfortunately, Achan disobeyed and took some gold and silver from Jericho and brought disaster upon his family and the Israelites.

RE-READING GOD'S WORD: Read 1 Samuel 15:1-9 again with careful observation, and answer the following questions:

1. Why did God want Saul to attack the Amalekites?

2. What was Saul supposed to do in Amalek? Did he do it? Why or why not?

- When Saul became king he fought against the Ammonites, Edomites, Philistines, and Amalakites and delivered Israel from these enemies (1 Sam. 14:47-48). One day Samuel came to Saul and commanded him to strike Amalek and to destroy (“Cherem”) all the things in that city (1 Sam. 15:3) because the Amalekites attacked Israel when they first came out of Egypt (Ex. 17:8).
- Saul went to war with the Amalekites and defeated them. Unfortunately, Saul did not follow the command to destroy all the living things in the city (15:9); he spared king Agag and he kept the good sheep, oxen, calves and lambs for himself.

APPLICATION: What did the word of God command you to do this week? How would you do it so that you could obey God completely?

PRAYER: Tell God what you have learned and how you would like to respond to Him. Pray for His empowerment to live out His will.

Disobedience And Consequences

Passage: 1 Samuel 15:10-23

June 8

Date: _____ Start Time: _____ End Time: _____

PRAYER: Ask God to calm your heart, open your eyes, so that you can understand His Word.

ADORATION: Be still before God, praise Him in your heart, or sing a praise song or hymn.

READING GOD'S WORD: Read 1 Samuel 15:10-23 and think about what God is trying to say to you.

RE-READING GOD'S WORD: Read 1 Samuel 15:10-23 again with careful observation, and answer the following questions:

1. How could Samuel tell that Saul did not complete his mission?

2. Why did Saul not destroy everything as commanded?

- God is omniscient so He knows everything; God told Samuel that King Saul did not carry out his command (15:11). The next morning Samuel went to confront Saul.
- When Saul saw Samuel, he lied to Samuel that he had done everything God had commanded him to do (15:13). Saul was so naïve; he thought that he could lie to God and His prophet.
- When Samuel exposed his lie (15:14), Saul rationalized his disobedience by saying that the animals were saved for God as offering (15:15). Samuel rebuked him and said that God preferred obedience over offering (15:22).

APPLICATION:

- In what way have you disobeyed God in the recent past?

- What was your excuse? What do you plan to do about your disobedience?

PRAYER: Tell God what you have learned and how you would like to respond to Him. Pray for His empowerment to live out His will.

Admission And Absolution

Passage: 1 John 1:5-10

June 9

Date: _____ Start Time: _____ End Time: _____

PRAYER: Ask God to calm your heart, open your eyes, so that you can understand His Word.

ADORATION: Be still before God, praise Him in your heart, or sing a praise song or hymn.

READING GOD'S WORD: Read 1 John 1:5-10 and think about what God is trying to say to you.

RE-READING GOD'S WORD: Read 1 John 1:5-10 again with careful observation, and answer the following questions:

1. Today's reading is short, so spend some time to search your hearts to see if there is any disobedience that you need to acknowledge before God.

- John said, if we claim to walk with God in the light while we walk in the darkness, we are lying; if we claim to obey God while in reality we have disobeyed, we are lying (1 John 1:6).
- If we claim that we have not sinned, we are deceiving ourselves and we are living in denial (1:8).

- If however, we admit and confess that we have sinned, God will forgive our sins (1:9) — Christ had paid for our sins so God can forgive us (2 Cor. 5:21).

APPLICATION: Do not live in denial, confess your sins and come clean with God now.

PRAYER: Tell God what you have learned and how you would like to respond to Him. Pray for His empowerment to live out His will.

- Today sit quietly and reflect on your character.
- Since Saul disobeyed God twice, he was rejected as king over Israel (16:1). God told Samuel to choose someone else to replace him.
- When it comes to choosing, people often choose those with good looks and talents; but the Lord prefers a good character or heart more than good looks (16:7).

APPLICATION: What do you need to change in order to have a heart fully committed to God?

PRAYER: Tell God what you have learned and how you would like to respond to Him. Pray for His empowerment to live out His will.

Big Problem

Passage: 1 Samuel 17:1-11, 20-26

June 11

Date: _____ Start Time: _____ End Time: _____

PRAYER: Ask God to calm your heart, open your eyes, so that you can understand His Word.

ADORATION: Be still before God, praise Him in your heart, or sing a praise song or hymn.

READING GOD'S WORD: Read 1 Samuel 17:1-11, 20-26 and think about what God is trying to say to you.

RE-READING GOD'S WORD: Read the above passages again with careful observation, and answer the following questions:

1. How was Saul trying to solve the problem of Goliath?

2. If you were in his shoes, what would you have done?

- The Philistines and the Israelites were getting ready to do battle. The Philistines had a champion who was bigger than any Israelite (17:4-7), and he challenged the Israelites for a duel (17:8); but King Saul was too afraid to accept the challenge.

- You may notice that King Saul never once prayed to God for a godly solution. Instead, Saul offered wealth, tax exemption and his daughter to anyone who could kill the giant — a worldly solution.
- In contrast, when King Hezekiah was surrounded by the stronger Assyrian army, he prayed to God for a solution (2 Chron. 32:20-21), and God answered his prayer by sending one angel to destroy all the Assyrian officers and soldiers. When the Assyrian king went home, his own sons killed him for bringing disgrace to the country.

APPLICATION:

- When you have a big problem, immediately go to God for help. Do not try to find your own solution.

- Tell your problem to God now and wait. He will provide a solution for you.

PRAYER: Tell God what you have learned and how you would like to respond to Him. Pray for His empowerment to live out His will.

Forty Days Of Waiting

Passage: 1 Samuel 17:11, 16; Matthew 4:1-2

June 12

Date: _____ Start Time: _____ End Time: _____

PRAYER: Ask God to calm your heart, open your eyes, so that you can understand His Word.

ADORATION: Be still before God, praise Him in your heart, or sing a praise song or hymn.

READING GOD'S WORD: Read 1 Samuel 17:11, 16 & Matthew 4:1-2 and think about what God is trying to say to you.

RE-READING GOD'S WORD: Read the above passages again with careful observation, and answer the following questions:

1. What do you think Saul was doing when he and his men were being challenged for 40 days?

2. If you were Saul, what would you have done in these 40 days?

- There are several places in the Bible that talked about people waiting on God for 40 days. Moses waited 40 days on Mt. Sinai to receive the two stone tablets, the Law from God (Ex. 24:18; 34:28). Elijah traveled 40 days to Mt. Horeb to hear God and receive ministry direction from God (1 Kgs. 19:8). Jesus talked to the Father for 40 days in the desert before he launched his public ministry.

- When Goliath challenged Israel for 40 days in the Valley of Elah (17:16), King Saul was not praying to God or waiting on God for 40 days. He spent 40 days doing nothing in his camp because he was paralyzed in fear (17:11).

APPLICATION: Today, spend 40 minutes alone with God. Turn off your cell phone, find a quiet place, sit and wait on God. Tell God your problems, read the Word, be attentive to God; try not to doze off or to let your mind wander, and wait for His answer and direction. Write down your reflection on that experience in the space below. If possible, repeat this spiritual exercise for the next 40 days.

PRAYER: Tell God what you have learned and how you would like to respond to Him. Pray for His empowerment to live out His will.

Small Victories And Confidence

Passage: 1 Samuel 17:32-37; Philippians 4:13

June 13

Date: _____ Start Time: _____ End Time: _____

PRAYER: Ask God to calm your heart, open your eyes, so that you can understand His Word.

ADORATION: Be still before God, praise Him in your heart, or sing a praise song or hymn.

READING GOD'S WORD: Read 1 Samuel 17:32-37 & Philippians 4:13 and think about what God is trying to say to you.

RE-READING GOD'S WORD: Read the above passages again with careful observation, and answer the following questions:

1. What do you think David did when he was in the field with the sheep?

2. Whom did David give credit to for the killing of the lion and bear? Why?

- David was a shepherd, his job was to watch and protect his father's sheep from predators (17:34). In order to do his job well, he needed to practice his slinging skill. I imagine that he practiced slinging stones every day. One time, a lion came and took a lamb from the flock; David, without any hesitation, went after the lion and killed it with the sling and stone and saved the lamb. Another time a bear came and took a lamb, and he also killed it with the sling and stone (17:35-36).

- David had confidence that he could kill the giant with his sling and stones because God had helped him killed the lion and the bear (17:37).
- For example, if God helped you to finish the 10K run; then with proper training, you should have the confidence to finish the half marathon as well.

APPLICATION: In the letter to the Philippians, Paul said, “I can do all things through Him (Christ) who strengthens me.” Recall a victory that God has helped you win, and write down the struggles and the process in the space below. Also, write down some of the challenges that is ahead, then confidently go and take down the challenges that are in front of you.

PRAYER: Tell God what you have learned and how you would like to respond to Him. Pray for His empowerment to live out His will.

Sword Or Stone

Passage: 1 Samuel 17:38-40

June 14

Date: _____ Start Time: _____ End Time: _____

PRAYER: Ask God to calm your heart, open your eyes, so that you can understand His Word.

ADORATION: Be still before God, praise Him in your heart, or sing a praise song or hymn.

READING GOD'S WORD: Read 1 Samuel 17:38-40 and think about what God is trying to say to you.

RE-READING GOD'S WORD: Read the above passages again with careful observation, and answer the following questions:

1. What kind of equipment did Saul provide for David to go into the duel? Why do you think he did that?

2. What was wrong with the equipment? What lesson could we learn from that?

3. What did David end up bringing? What lesson could we learn from that?

- Since David volunteered to fight Goliath, Saul thought that he should give his helmet, armor and sword to David so that he could use them to fight the giant.
- Saul knew how to use the sword but David did not (17:38-39); he only knew how to use the sling and stone. What worked well for Saul was not working for David. So he quickly took off the helmet, armor and sword and brought only his staff, sling and stones into the battle (17:40). The point is that what works for others may not work for you.
- For example, just because certain programs work at another church does not mean they will work at our church.

APPLICATION: In spiritual discipline, what works for one Christian may not work for another. Some draw near to God through the daily reading of scripture; some draw near to God through hour long prayer; some draw near to God through nature walk; some draw near to God through service; some draw near to God through worship; and some wait on God for 40 days in solitude until they hear from God. What do you think works for you and why? Experience the various approaches and use the one that works best for you daily.

PRAYER: Tell God what you have learned and how you would like to respond to Him. Pray for His empowerment to live out His will.

A Big Problem And A Small Stone

Passage: 1 Samuel 17:41-49

June 15

Date: _____ Start Time: _____ End Time: _____

PRAYER: Ask God to calm your heart, open your eyes, so that you can understand His Word.

ADORATION: Be still before God, praise Him in your heart, or sing a praise song or hymn.

READING GOD'S WORD: Read 1 Samuel 17:41-49 and think about what God is trying to say to you.

RE-READING GOD'S WORD: Read 1 Samuel 17:41-49 again with careful observation, and answer the following questions:

1. What kinds of equipment did the giant bring to the battle (cf. 17:4-7)?

2. What kinds of equipment did David bring? What is the significance of the contrast?

- The duel was on and the giant came out ready to fight. He had a giant sword, a bronze javelin, a coat of mail that weighed 5,000 shekels (55,000 grams) of bronze (17:5), and a spear the size of a beam with a spearhead that weighed 600 shekel (6,600 grams) of iron (17:7).
- However, David only had five small stones. He came to fight in the name of the Lord and had confidence that God would help him kill the giant (17:45-47).
- The Israelites saw a big giant and reacted in fear; David saw a big target and rejoiced in glee because he could not possibly miss the target (17:49).

APPLICATION: Write down some of the big problems that you are facing. Bring your BIG problem to God and ask him for a simple solution.

PRAYER: Tell God what you have learned and how you would like to respond to Him. Pray for His empowerment to live out His will.

Do Your Part In The Plan Of God

Passage: 1 Samuel 17:48-50; Romans 5:8-11; 10:13-15 June 16

Date: _____ Start Time: _____ End Time: _____

PRAYER: Ask God to calm your heart, open your eyes, so that you can understand His Word.

ADORATION: Be still before God, praise Him in your heart, or sing a praise song or hymn.

READING GOD'S WORD: Read 1 Samuel 17:48-50; Romans 5:8-11; 10:13-15 and think about what God is trying to say to you.

RE-READING GOD'S WORD: Read the above passages again with careful observation, and answer the following questions:

1. How did God demonstrate His love to the world? What does that mean to you?

2. How does Acts 2:42-47 describe the fellowship of believers in the early churches? How do you compare your church life with that of the early churches?

- God had done His part to save Israel by sending David to them;

David did his part by slaying the giant with a stone.

- God has done His part by sending Jesus to die on the cross for sinners (Rom. 5:8-11); the church must do her part by going and sharing the gospel with others (Rom. 10:13-15).

APPLICATION: What do think your part is in God's eternal plan?

Just as David had learned to sling the stones well, every Christian needs to learn the Word of God well, so that when opportunity arises, we are prepared to give the answer (the gospel) to those who are losing hope in this world (1 Peter 3:15). Start by memorizing these verses: Isaiah 53:5-6; Romans 3:23 & 6:23; 2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 John 5:12.

MEMORY VERSES:

⁵But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. ⁶We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.”
Isaiah 53:5-6

“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” Romans 3:23

“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”
Romans 6:23

“God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”
2 Corinthians 5:21

“He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.”
1 John 5:12

PRAYER: Tell God what you have learned and how you would like to respond to Him. Pray for His empowerment to live out His will.

A Father To The Fatherless

Passage: Psalm 68:4-6

June 17

Date: _____ Start Time: _____ End Time: _____

PRAYER: Ask God to calm your heart, open your eyes, so that you can understand His Word.

ADORATION: Be still before God, praise Him in your heart, or sing a praise song or hymn.

READING GOD'S WORD: Read Psalm 68:4-6 and think about what God is trying to say to you.

RE-READING GOD'S WORD: Read Psalm 68:4-6 again with careful observation, and answer the following questions:

1. Why do you think God wants to protect the widows and fatherless?

2. Read Psalm 68:4-6 again, slowly and repeatedly (you may repeat it three times or more). As you read, try to pay attention to specific words, moods or feelings, or any particular thoughts that speak to you between the lines. Write down your reflections below:

- There are many children growing up without fathers. Some lost their fathers when they were young and some have never gotten any attention from their absentee fathers.
- God knows you are lonely and He is willing to be your Father; as a Father, He will provide for you, love and guide you in the way you should go in life.

APPLICATION: Write a letter to God and ask Him to be your Father. Tell Him in what ways that you would like Him to be involved in your life.

PRAYER: Tell God what you have learned and how you would like to respond to Him. Pray for His empowerment to live out His will.

A Good Father

Passage: Luke 11:2-13; Galatians 5:16

June 18

Date: _____ Start Time: _____ End Time: _____

PRAYER: Ask God to calm your heart, open your eyes, so that you can understand His Word.

ADORATION: Be still before God, praise Him in your heart, or sing a praise song or hymn.

READING GOD'S WORD: Read Luke 11:2-13 & Galatians 5:16 and think about what God is trying to say to you.

RE-READING GOD'S WORD: Read the above passages again with careful observation, and answer the following questions:

1. What do we usually expect fathers to do for their families?
2. How does this passage remind you of your relationship with the Heavenly Father?

- According to Jesus, every father is imperfect; but even imperfect fathers provide the basic need (fish & eggs) for their children, they have enough decency not to put poison (snake or scorpion) in their children's meals.
- How much more would a good Father in heaven provide for those who ask Him for food and help from the Holy Spirit.

APPLICATION:

- Why do we need to ask the Father to “keep us safe from ourselves?” Because someone once said, “we have met the enemy and it is us.” In what way have you find the above statement true? Furthermore, thank the Father for the gift of the Holy Spirit; for He will help us overcome the sinful nature within us (Galatians 5:16).
- For today's application simply ask, “Father, reveal who you are. Set the world right. Keep us alive with three square meals. Keep us forgiven with you and forgiving others. Keep us safe from ourselves and the Devil.” (The Message).

PRAYER: Tell God what you have learned and how you would like to respond to Him. Pray for His empowerment to live out His will.

Dysfunctional Family (I) — I'd Wish I Wasn't Passive

Passage: 2 Samuel 13:1-22

June 19

Date: _____ Start Time: _____ End Time: _____

PRAYER: Ask God to calm your heart and open your eyes so that you can understand His Word.

ADORATION: Be still before God, praise Him in your heart, or sing a praise song or hymn.

READING GOD'S WORD: Read 2 Samuel 13:1-22 and think about what God is trying to say to you.

RE-READING GOD'S WORD: Read 2 Samuel 13:1-22 again with careful observation and answer the following questions:

1. How would you describe Amnon as a person?
2. If you were Tamar, whom would you go to for help?
3. What should David do about Amnon? What did he end up doing?
 - In an ecological system, if people dump mercury into the water, the fish will be poisoned, the birds that eat the fish will be poisoned, the people who eat the fish will be poisoned and soon all the living things in this system are poisoned.
 - In the same way, the family is a system, if the father or son is not healthy, this toxic individual will poison the other members in the family and soon the family becomes unhealthy and dysfunctional.

- King David had six sons and one daughter (2 Sam. 3:2-5) born to him in Hebron. Amnon was the oldest and he was first in line for the throne. When he was old enough to have sexual desire, he started lusting after his beautiful half-sister Tamar. When his friend found out about his sinful desire, he told Amnon to pretend to be sick and asked his father to send Tamar to make some bread for him, and when she came closer to him, he could do whatever he wanted with her.
- David thought that his son was really sick so he sent Tamar to make bread for him. When she went to feed Amnon on his bed, he sent the servants out of his room and forced himself on her.
- After he violated her, he told the servant to throw the woman out of his room. Please note, he referred to her as “this woman,” not my sister or Tamar. He had depersonalized her and reduced her to an object. This proves that he had never loved her as a person.
- There are laws against incest (Lev. 18:9) and man who had sex with unwilling virgin (Deut. 22:28). Prince Amnon had definitely broken the laws and had to be held accountable.
- Tamar was violated and someone needed to do something about it; she probably had told her father thinking that the king would do the right and just thing. When the king heard her story he was furious, but he did not do anything.

APPLICATION:

- Just as kings have the responsibility to protect their nations, fathers have the responsibility to discipline and/or to protect their children.
- If your son did something wrong, discipline him and make him take responsibility for his deeds.
- If your daughter is violated, stand by her side, and encourage her to report the offender to authority.
- However, do not take your own revenge; only God has the right to avenge (Rom. 12:19).
- Commit your family/future family to God, and ask for strength and wisdom to lead your family according to God’s will.

PRAYER: Tell God what you have learned and how you would like to respond to Him. Pray for His empowerment to live out His will.

- For two years, Absalom pretended that nothing had happened but he was quietly planning his revenge on Amnon. Finally, he had his chance and he invited Amnon and all his brothers to his sheep shearing party. Amnon did not suspect anything, and Absalom managed to get him drunk and ordered his servants to murder Amnon.
- After he murdered his own brother, Absalom fled to his grandfather's house in Geshur, and stayed there for three years. When David found out about the murder, he tore his clothes, wailed, and mourned for his son every day. He probably regretted that when his daughter came to him for help, he did not discipline Amnon immediately. He regretted that he did not talk to Absalom on how to manage his anger. If he did, he might have prevented Absalom from killing Amnon.
- People have many regrets. Some regret that they did not stop smoking; some regret that they did not stop gambling; some regret that they did not start saving money in their twenties.

APPLICATION: What are your regrets? What are some of the things that you could do about it now before they get worse? If the situation or mistakes could not be corrected, pray for forgiveness and empowerment so that you could leave what was done behind and start a new life.

PRAYER: Tell God what you have learned and how you would like to respond to Him. Pray for His empowerment to live out His will.

Dysfunctional Family (III) — I Wish My Dad Listened To Me

Passage: 2 Samuel 14:21-28; Malachi 4:5-6

June 21

Date: _____ Start Time: _____ End Time: _____

PRAYER: Ask God to calm your heart and open your eyes so that you can understand His Word.

ADORATION: Be still before God, praise Him in your heart, or sing a praise song or hymn.

READING GOD'S WORD: Read 2 Samuel 14:21-28 & Malachi 4:5-6 and think about what God is trying to say to you.

RE-READING GOD'S WORD: Read the above passages again with careful observation and answer the following questions:

1. What did David do when Absalom came back to Jerusalem?

2. If you were Absalom, how would you feel?

- Three years had gone by and David missed Absalom; so Joab, David's chief of staff, found a way to bring Absalom home. However, when Absalom came home, David would not see or talk to him for two years. Perhaps he was still angry at Absalom for killing Amnon and this was his punishment.

- In the parable of the prodigal son, when the son came home, the father ran to meet him. Nevertheless, David would not meet or talk to his son Absalom.
- God warned through prophet Malachi that when fathers would not reconcile with their children, there would be disaster or curse (Mal. 4:5-6).
- The thing is, that every son needs to see his father. Absalom needed to see his father; he needed someone to listen to his anger and hatred; he needed his father to guide him in life. However, David failed to do that.
- Someone has said, "Hurt people hurt people." Absalom was hurt and he hurt his father back by starting a revolt. When David found out that Absalom had rebelled, he fled. After his father had fled, Absalom entered the palace and humiliated his father by publicly violating David's concubines on the roof of the palace (2 Sam. 16:22).

APPLICATION:

- Fathers/Mothers, your children (even adult children) need to see your face; they need you to listen to them. Think of some ways to make it possible for them to come to you and pour out their hearts to you (whether good or bad).
- Children (even adult children), you need to forgive your fathers for the father wound (or parents). Think of some practical ways to reconcile with them.

PRAYER: Tell God what you have learned and how you would like to respond to Him. Pray for His empowerment to live out His will.

Dysfunctional Family (IV) — The Tragedy Of A Father

Passage: 2 Samuel 18:4-5, 31-33

June 22

Date: _____ Start Time: _____ End Time: _____

PRAYER: Ask God to calm your heart and open your eyes so that you can understand His Word.

ADORATION: Be still before God, praise Him in your heart, or sing a praise song or hymn.

READING GOD'S WORD: Read 2 Samuel 18:4-5, 31-33 and think about what God is trying to say to you.

RE-READING GOD'S WORD: Read 2 Samuel 18:4-5, 31-33 again with careful observation and answer the following questions:

1. Could you describe the feeling that David had for his son Absalom?

2. Why do you think Joab disobeyed David's order?

- After David left Jerusalem, he mustered his men to fight the rebel Absalom. However, David did not want his son to die so he commanded Joab and two other commanders to be gentle with the young man Absalom (18:5).

- During the battle, Absalom's head got stuck in an oak branch and Joab, instead of bringing him back to David as prisoner, killed him on the spot. The Bible does not say why he disobeyed David; but this was the quickest way to end a rebellion, because as soon as Absalom died all the rebels fled. When David heard the news of his death, he was inconsolable.
- Please note that David never once called Absalom his son before the battle; he referred to him as the "young man Absalom." Now that he was gone, he called him, "O my son Absalom! My son, my son Absalom! If only I had died instead of you--O Absalom, my son, my son!"

APPLICATION:

- Do not wait till your son is gone before you call him, "My son, my son." Do not wait till your father is gone before you call him, "My father, my father." Say it to them while they are still alive.
- When you see your estranged son, say this to him, "My son, I am sorry I have neglected you for years. I love you and I want to change the way I relate to you. Please forgive me, son."
- Evaluate your relationships with your family members, draft some practical steps that you could do to improve the relationships.

PRAYER: Tell God what you have learned and how you would like to respond to Him. Pray for His empowerment to live out His will.

Do Not Withhold Discipline From A Child

Passage: Proverbs 23:13-25

June 23

Date: _____ Start Time: _____ End Time: _____

PRAYER: Ask God to calm your heart and open your eyes so that you can understand His Word.

ADORATION: Be still before God, praise Him in your heart, or sing a praise song or hymn.

READING GOD'S WORD: Read Proverbs 23:13-25 and think about what God is trying to say to you.

NOTE: “save his soul from death” (v. 14) literally means “rescue his soul from Sheol” (NASB). Sheol in Hebrew means “grave” — the Old Testament designation for the abode of the dead. Here it probably implies “an early and unexpected death.”

RE-READING GOD'S WORD: Read Proverbs 23:13-25 again with careful observation and answer the following questions:

1. When children break the laws of God, what should fathers do?
 - When a rod is applied to a child (however, not in excessive force, cf. v. 13, “he will not die”), he will learn not to repeat the behavior that will lead him to an early and unexpected death (Sheol). Fathers must never apply corporal punishment out of anger because biblical discipline is rooted in love.
 - Had David disciplined his two sons according to the laws of God; and gave them severe penalty for their respective crimes; he might have avoided a revolt, a civil war, and the public humiliation of his 10 concubines.

- When people regularly drink to excess, they may become poor because drunkards make bad employees, and most end up in the street. Therefore, listen to your fathers and do not become addicted to alcohol, drugs or gambling because they will ruin your life.
- When rich people regularly drink and eat to excess, they become like the rich man in the parable of Jesus (Lk. 16), they become blind to the need of the extreme poor, and when they die, they go to Hades (this Greek word corresponds to Sheol in the Old Testament). These people may be rich in this world but they are definitely not rich toward God (Lk. 12:21). On the other hand, those who are poor in the eyes of the world, but rich in faith will inherit the kingdom of God (Jas. 2:5).

APPLICATION: When God give you riches and wealth through good jobs or good business practices, what should you do?

PRAYER: Tell God what you have learned and how you would like to respond to Him. Pray for His empowerment to live out His will.

Every Word Of God Is True

Passage: Proverbs 30:5-17

June 24

Date: _____ Start Time: _____ End Time: _____

PRAYER: Ask God to calm your heart and open your eyes so that you can understand His Word.

ADORATION: Be still before God, praise Him in your heart, or sing a praise song or hymn.

READING GOD'S WORD: Read Proverbs 30:5-17 and think about what God is trying to say to you.

RE-READING GOD'S WORD: Read Proverbs 30:5-17 again with careful observation and answer the following questions:

1. What do you think about the Bible? Do you think it contains the word of God? Or do you think it is the word of God? What is the difference?

2. What teaching in this passage do you find most relevant to you? Why?

Every word of God is true; the inspiration of scripture extends to every word; every word has been proven true by saints through the ages. Therefore, no one should add any word to God's words and to change its meaning to justify their sinful lifestyle that is widely accepted in the world.

If you want to live a life that is pleasing to God, first, do not lie or slander; speak the truth. Secondly, do not pursue the rich and famous lifestyle of eating and drinking to excess.

If you want to avoid the curse of God, do not curse your parents; do not be arrogant; do not mock your parents (maybe for their lack of education); and do not be insatiably greedy.

APPLICATION: What do you plan to do on this Father's Day? What practical steps could you take to improve your relationship with your father (or family members, i.e. parents, children, siblings, etc.)?

MEMORY VERSE: ⁷Two things I ask of you, O LORD; do not refuse me before I die: ⁸Keep falsehood and lies far from me; give me neither poverty nor riches, but give me only my daily bread. ⁹Otherwise, I may have too much and disown you and say, 'Who is the LORD?' Or I may become poor and steal, and so dishonor the name of my God." Proverbs 30:7-9

PRAYER: Tell God what you have learned and how you would like to respond to Him. Pray for His empowerment to live out His will.

- Our evil actions are often prompted by what we see, so be careful with our sight; what we see can lead us to sin.
- Moral failure is seldom a blowout; it is usually a slow leak. For example, if a married man had a moral failure, it started with him lusting after a woman, then it led to a dinner meeting with that woman, and then sleeping with that woman. It all started with a man looking at a woman with lustful intent (Mt. 5:28).
- In the same way, King David saw a woman bathing on the roof and he lusted after her so he sent for her and slept with her (11:2).
- The point is, our sinful actions are often prompted by what we see, so when you see something that you should not, nip it in the bud.

APPLICATION: What are some of the practical steps that you could take to withstand or to avoid the temptation of the “Lust of the Eye”? (Brothers in Christ, in particular, what should you do when you see something you should not see on the internet or video?)

PRAYER: Tell God what you have learned and how you would like to respond to Him. Pray for His empowerment to live out His will.

God's Mercy In Judgment

Passage: 2 Samuel 12:4-25, Ephesians 2:3-5

June 26

Date: _____ Start Time: _____ End Time: _____

PRAYER: Ask God to calm your heart and open your eyes so that you can understand His Word.

ADORATION: Be still before God, praise Him in your heart, or sing a praise song or hymn.

READING GOD'S WORD: Read 2 Samuel 12:4-25 & Ephesians 2:3-5 and think about what God is trying to say to you.

RE-READING GOD'S WORD: Read the above passages again with careful observation and answer the following questions:

1. What are the similarity between the rich man in the story and King David?

 2. What do you think is the right punishment for the rich man?

 3. What do you think is the right punishment for David?
- The rich man in the story had many sheep, but the poor man had only one lamb. The rich man had a guest and he did not want to take his own sheep to prepare for the guest so he took the poor man's lamb and cooked it for the guest.
 - When David heard the story of a rich man who unjustly took the lamb from a poor man, he was outraged and he said that the rich man deserved to die and should restore the lamb fourfold to the poor man according to the law of God in Exodus 22:1.

- David had six wives (2 Sam. 3:2-5) and ten concubines (2 Sam. 15:16), but Uriah had only one wife. Nathan said to David that if he wanted, God would have gladly given him more wives. David definitely broke God's law when he took Uriah's wife.
- God could have given David a fourfold judgment according the law, the fourth judgment would be to take David's life for Uriah's life (Ex. 21:14), but God in his mercy only gave a threefold judgment and spared his life.
- First judgment, Uriah was killed by the sword of the Ammonites so someone in his family would die by swords (12:10). Some years later, his two sons, Amnon and Absalom died by the swords. They were not innocent; Amnon violated his sister (Lev. 18:9; 20:17; Deut. 27:22); Absalom publicly violated his father's wives (Lev. 18:8; 20:11), and they deserved death.
- Second judgment, David had sex with Bathsheba in secret but Absalom would publicly have sex with David's concubines on the roof (12:11; 16:22) — probably on the same roof where he watched Bathsheba.
- Third judgment, the baby that was conceived in adultery would die (12:14).

APPLICATION: The word of God said that all of us were at one time, indulged in the desires of the flesh, and by nature objects (children) of God's wrath like the rest of mankind, but God in his love and mercy has made us alive with Christ, and turned us into objects of mercy (Eph. 2).

As objects (children) of mercy, how would you treat those whom you thought deserved God's wrath or judgment? How would you treat the despicable people in your work, church and in your community?

PRAYER: Tell God what you have learned and how you would like to respond to Him. Pray for His empowerment to live out His will.

- Sin is transgressions; transgression is a willful defiance of God's laws; sin is a bad mark that needs to be blotted out; sin is a dirty stain on clothes that needs to be washed thoroughly (vv.1-2).
- Although we were born with a sinful nature, we choose to sin. We cannot blame it on our family upbringing. Sin is a choice and David admitted that he was responsible for his transgression and his sin (v.5).
- During the Passover, the hyssop branches were used to sprinkle the blood of the lamb on the doorposts (Ex. 12:22). This verse foreshadows the death of Christ and the shedding of his blood for the remission of our sins. In other words, only the blood of the Lamb can cleanse our sin (v.7).

APPLICATION: Spend some time in reflection and see if there is any hidden sins in your life. Ask God to wash and cleanse your sins and transgressions, and thank Him for His unfailing love and His great compassion.

PRAYER: Tell God what you have learned and how you would like to respond to Him. Pray for His empowerment to live out His will.

Be Useful Again

Passage: Psalm 51:8-17

June 28

Date: _____ Start Time: _____ End Time: _____

PRAYER: Ask God to calm your heart and open your eyes so that you can understand His Word.

ADORATION: Be still before God, praise Him in your heart, or sing a praise song or hymn.

READING GOD'S WORD: Read Psalm 51:8-17 and think about what God is trying to say to you.

NOTE: The word "create" in verse 10 is the Hebrew word *bara*, it is the same word in Gen. 1:1 describing God's creation of the universe; God is recreating the sinners, and renewing the spirit within them (v.10).

RE-READING GOD'S WORD: Read Psalm 51:8-17 again with careful observation and answer the following questions:

1. What is the one thing that David did not want taken away from him?

2. What is the one thing that God desires and will not despise?

- David had seen the Spirit departed from Saul so he asked God not to remove the Holy Spirit from him. And God in his mercy did not take the Spirit from him (v.11).

- God is restoring sinners to the place of usefulness in ministry; Christians who had sinned may serve in ministry again; Bible teachers who had sinned can teach again; they can use their broken experience to help others who have committed similar sin (v.13).
- God disciplines those whom he loves; God breaks the bones of those who are self-sufficient and strong will (v.8). God does not want any sacrifice from those who are hard hearted. The only sacrifice that God wants is a broken heart or spirit (vv.16-17).

APPLICATION: In what way has God been crushing your bones and spirits?

As a restored person, in what way do you want to be used by God? What do you plan to do in church ministry?

MEMORY VERSES: ¹⁰Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. ¹¹Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. ¹²Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.... ¹⁷The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.”
Psalm 51:10-12, 17

PRAYER: Tell God what you have learned and how you would like to respond to Him. Pray for His empowerment to live out His will.

- Sin is denial; when sinners pretend that they did not sin, God will not let them get away; He will come upon them with a heavy hand until their vitality saps away (vv.3-4).
- However, when people acknowledge their sins and confess them to God, they are forgiven (v.5).

APPLICATION: Psalm 32 was St. Augustine's favorite psalm; he inscribed this psalm on his wall so that he can meditate on it day and night. He said, "The beginning of knowledge is to know oneself to be a sinner." Do you agree with him, why or why not?

Has your strength ever been drained away due to sin? Do you have any unconfessed sin in your life? Confess your sin to God now and stop living in denial.

PRAYER: Tell God what you have learned and how you would like to respond to Him. Pray for His empowerment to live out His will.

The Joy of Confession (II)

Passage: Psalm 32:6-11

June 30

Date: _____ Start Time: _____ End Time: _____

PRAYER: Ask God to calm your heart and open your eyes so that you can understand His Word.

ADORATION: Be still before God, praise Him in your heart, or sing a praise song or hymn.

READING GOD'S WORD: Read Psalm 32:6-11 and think about what God is trying to say to you.

RE-READING GOD'S WORD: Read Psalm 32:6-11 again with careful observation and answer the following questions:

1. What are the wicked people going to get?

2. What are the godly people going to get?

- David the sinner is now David the teacher.
- Students, if you have sinned, you should pray for forgiveness now because when judgment comes, it is too late to pray (vv.6-7). Think about it — Selah.
- Do not be stubborn like mules. The wicked will be surrounded with sorrows and calamities, but the one who loves and trusts God will be surrounded with God's love (vv.9-10).

APPLICATION: In what way have you been stubborn like a mule? What do you need to change to be teachable? Spend some time in quiet meditation and ask for a change of heart so that you could enjoy the joy of forgiveness.

PRAYER: Tell God what you have learned and how you would like to respond to Him. Pray for His empowerment to live out His will.

Overall Insights In June

Write down the overall spiritual insights that you have learned in your daily devotion this month:

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