

2014

Session 13

The Summer Reading Challenge



THE BIBLE IN 90 DAYS™

WHOLE-CHURCH CHALLENGE

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Tonight's Outline

- Welcome Activities
- Reading Discussion (30 min)
- Video (20 min)
- Video Discussion
- This Coming Week's Reading
- Closing Prayer

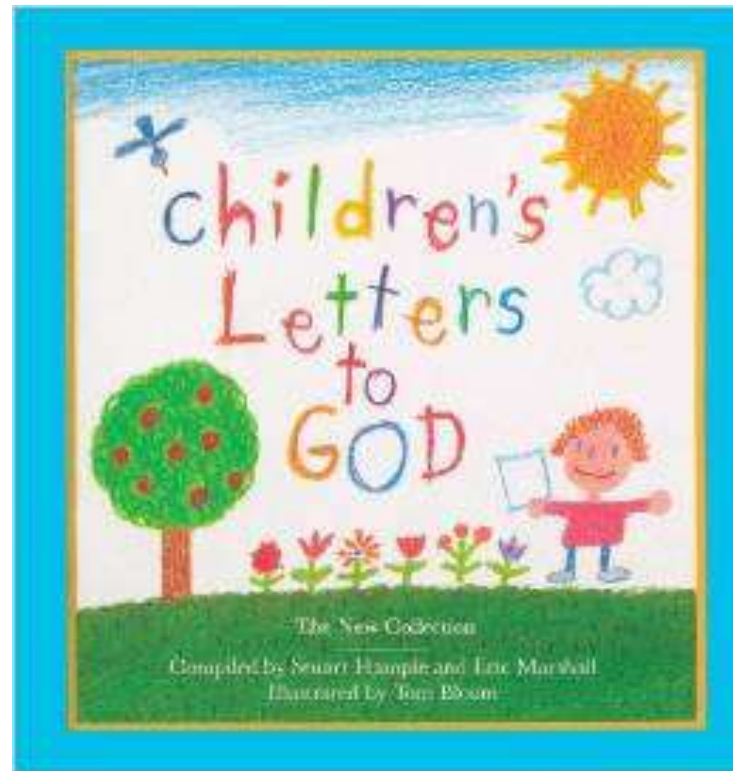


Welcome Activities

- Opening Prayer

Reading Discussion

- Children's Letters to God



Reading Discussion (cont.)

- Dear God,
Who draws the lines around
countries?
Nan
- Dear God,
I bet it is hard for you to love all
the people in the world. There
are only four people in my family,
and I could never do it.
James

Reading Discussion (cont.)

- Dear God,
We read that Thomas Edison invented light. But in Sunday school, we learned that you did it. So I guess he stole the idea from you.
Donna
- Dear God,
I didn't think that orange went with purple until I saw the sunset on Thursday. That was cool.
Eugene

Reading Discussion (cont.)

- Dear God,
Thank you for the baby
brother, but what I prayed for
was a puppy.
Love, Joyce

Reading Discussion (cont.)

- Think about that last letter as we round the corner to what, for most of us, will be our last week of reading through *The Bible in 90 Days*
- Are you getting out of the reading what you expected? If so, what are you getting out of it?
- If not, what was your puppy (what you had hoped for) and what is your baby brother (what you are getting instead)?

Reading Discussion (cont.)

- If you are current in your reading, how can you support those who may be a bit behind?
- If you are behind, do you have a plan for catching up?
- Have you asked for help from others in your group?

Reading Discussion (cont.)

- After Stephen is stoned, the church is persecuted “and all except the apostles were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria” (Acts 8:1). Is there any upside to this tragedy? What are other examples from your New Testament reading where adversity leads to comparable consequences?

Reading Discussion (cont.)

- 2 Timothy 3:16 – 17
 - What does “all Scripture” mean?
 - Do you believe that what you’ve read so far is “God-breathed”? Why or why not?
 - What is “righteousness”?
 - In what ways would what you’ve read so far be “useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness”?

Reading Discussion (cont.)

- 2 Timothy 3:16 – 17
 - Is there an implication that God is interested in our doing good works? What if we didn't do good works?
 - Do you feel that your reading has made you more “thoroughly equipped for every good work”?
 - What about Christians who haven't read the entire Bible — can they be “thoroughly equipped for every good work”?

Reading Discussion (cont.)

- Personal Reflection:
 - Have you learned any lessons while reading The Bible in 90 Days that you can apply to your life?
 - Do you see any parallels between how you approached your reading — in both your successes and your failures — and your faith walk?
 - How have you been changed by your The Bible in 90 Days experience?

Reading Discussion (cont.)

- Reflect on the expansion of the early church (Acts 8:1-8). What challenges today might serve as like catalysts?
- Consider the Books of Acts as a whole: what does it suggest about the relationship b/w faith and works?

Reading Discussion (cont.)

- Even the early church suffered from division (1 Corinthians 1:10-13). What are one or two ways to unite the body of Christ today?
- 2 Corinthians 11:1-4 details Paul's urgent concern for the Corinthians listening to false apostles. How can we avoid this ourselves?

Video

- Our video teacher is Dr. Mark Strauss



- Professor of New Testament at Bethel Seminary in San Diego, California

Video Discussion

- Thoughts?
- Questions?
- Observations?
- Comments?

This Coming Week's Reading



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- Hebrews 1 through Revelation 22
- Reading Tips:
 - Good news: There are only ~39 pages to read this week! So, if you're a few pages behind, you have plenty of time to catch up and finish on time.
 - Enjoy the reading, and, as you do, reflect further on your journey through all of God's Word. Then, be prepared to come back and celebrate next week at the final class!

This Coming Week's Reading (cont.)

- Hebrews Overview
 - In this letter to the Hebrews, Christ is explained against the backdrop of the Old Testament. The author of this letter is unknown.
- James Overview
 - James is a half-brother of Jesus. His message here is to submit to God in humility. This book is a call to action, with James asserting, “a person is justified by what he does and not by faith alone.”
- 1 Peter Overview
 - The apostle Peter writes on being holy, submitting to others and living for God.

This Coming Week's Reading (cont.)

- 2 Peter Overview
 - Peter reminds Christians that he writes as a witness of Christ’s life, and he encourages all to actively develop a number of Christian qualities as byproducts of our faith.
- 1 John Overview
 - Echoing Peter, the apostle John proclaims that he writes as one who witnessed Christ’s life. John encourages readers to walk in the light, love one another and fear not, because “perfect love drives out fear.”
- 2 John Overview
 - The apostle tells readers to love one another, but to be wary of those who do not bring the teaching of Christ.

This Coming Week's Reading (cont.)



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- 3 John Overview
 - John encourages his friend Gaius to walk in truth and protect himself from evil.
- Jude Overview
 - A half-brother of Jesus, Jude calls on believers to build themselves up and persevere in the faith.
- Revelation Overview
 - The Apostle John's apocalyptic vision is a fantastic end to an extraordinary journey through the Bible. Like the rest of the Bible, reading Revelation once is good start, but further reading and study are necessary to begin grasping its complex and layered message.



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Closing Prayer