

2014

## Session 7

# 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

**Most people want to  
serve God -- but only in  
an advisory capacity.**

# Reading Discussion (cont.)

- This week you read Job, a book in which a collection of Job's friends comfort him by advising him on the reasons for his distress. Did you agree with any of the arguments made by Job's friends? If so, which ones?

# Reading Discussion (cont.)

- When you are distressed, where have you historically gone for solutions?
  - Friends?
  - Family?
  - Bar?
  - Prayer?
  - Self-help book?
  - The gym?
  - The Bible?
  - Other??

# Reading Discussion (cont.)

- After reading the Bible for several weeks, do you think your search for solutions will change? Why or why not?
- Even though God is never mentioned in Esther, what are some examples that his hand is at work?

# Reading Discussion (cont.)

- How did this week's reading impact your thoughts on a current event or personal experience?
- What's your favorite moment in the Esther story and why? (Esther 1-10)
- Job is often associated with the terms "suffering" or "patience." Build a case supporting the contention that this book is really about "faith."



# Reading Discussion (cont.)

- What are some of the worst things to say to someone who's suffering? (Job 1-23)
- What's one thing God says of himself that you never thought of before? (Job 38-41)
- How does God answer Job's questions? Does he answer the way you want him to answer? Does his response impact the way you will make decisions in the future?

# Reading Discussion (cont.)

- Anyone have a favorite psalm? What is particularly striking or significant about your psalm?
- Find a life lesson in Psalm 1 and explain it.
- When have you experienced one of the ways God cares for you found in Psalm 34?

# Reading Discussion (cont.)

- In last week's Reading Tips, we recommended that you mark the psalms that you want to go back to, the ones you want to spend more time reading and studying. Which of those psalms, or the ones just mentioned by your fellow small group members, has changed the way you will communicate with God in the future?
- What teaching about sin in Psalm 51 do Christians need to understand better?
- Are you finding yourself singing a song based on a Psalm? Worship today by linking us to a Psalm-based song.

# Video

- Our video teacher is Dr. John Walton



- Professor of Old Testament at Wheaton College in Wheaton, Illinois

# Video Discussion

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

# This Coming Week's Reading



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- Psalms 89 through Isaiah 13
- Reading Tip:
  - You will read four very different kinds of books this week. Some of these books lend themselves more readily to this kind of reading than others. Find a rhythm that works for each book, and stick with the reading. Absorb what you can, and don't worry about the rest.

# This Coming Week's Reading



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- Looking Forward to Jesus
- Foretelling Christ's birth:
  - Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel. Isaiah 7:14
- Foretelling Christ as Savior
  - Do not be afraid; you will not suffer shame. Do not fear disgrace; you will not be humiliated. You will forget the shame of your youth and remember no more the reproach of your widowhood. For your Maker is your husband — the LORD Almighty is his name — the Holy One of Israel is your Redeemer; he is called the God of all the earth. Isaiah 54:4 – 6

# This Coming Week's Reading (cont.)

- Intro to Proverbs
- This is a book of pithy sayings that highlight general principles about how to live wisely.
- First of the “Solomon” trilogy



# This Coming Week's Reading (cont.)

- Intro to Ecclesiastes
- Written by a wise “teacher” – often attributed to Solomon
- A discourse on the meaninglessness of life and then points to the only true source of meaning and hope.
- Second of the “Solomon” trilogy

# This Coming Week's Reading (cont.)

- Intro to Song of Songs
- Where Ecclesiastes tends to the pessimistic, Song of Songs is the opposite.
- Often seen as a poem between lovers
- Also a illustration of Christ's love for his church
- Most sexually graphic found in the Scriptures.

# This Coming Week's Reading (cont.)

- Intro to Isaiah
- First of the “major” prophets.
- Rewind back to Kings and Chronicles
- Isaiah prophesied during the later kings of Judah.
- He foretells the coming of Christ, praises the Lord’s faithfulness and offers comfort for God’s people.
- If you haven’t tried listening while you read, the prophets may be a good place for you to start.



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# Closing Prayer