

2014

Session 8

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

- Warm Up:
 - Better to live in a desert than with a quarrelsome and ill-tempered wife. Proverbs 21:19
 - As a dog returns to its vomit, so a fool repeats his folly. Proverbs 26:11
- How do you respond to the proverbs above?
- Why do you think they are included in the Scriptures?
- Take a minute or two and write your own two-line proverb expressing a woman's version of the first proverb above. Please share...

Reading Discussion (cont.)

- 4 types of Proverbs:
 - Synonymous — the second line repeats the first line in a little different way
 - Antithetical — the second line is contrary to the first line
 - Synthetic — the second line adds to the idea of the first line
 - Comparative — a truth is explained relative to some experience or something in nature

Reading Discussion (cont.)

- Find your favorite concept in Psalm 103:8-18 and tell why you like it.
- Did anyone write your own 'Ode to Scripture' such as might be found in Psalm 119? If so, would you care to share?
- Today, why do you need to 'trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding'? (Proverbs 3:5)

Reading Discussion (cont.)

- Which of today's proverbs resonates with you most? What about posting it on your mirror or fridge?
- Name something that you know you are foolish about (Proverbs 28:26). How can you change this?
- What does Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 suggest to you about being prepared for life?

Reading Discussion (cont.)

- Ecclesiastes disputes any notion that life has any meaning apart from God. Can you really accept this on an intellectual level? On an emotional one? Name something you will change about your life as a result of this new, or newly reiterated, point of view.
- Throughout his life, the prophet Isaiah is God's advocate before the kings of Judah. Would you be willing to be God's advocate before a president of the United States? Who would you preach to, if led by God to do so? How might you override any personal barriers that might make this a challenge for you?

Reading Discussion (cont.)

- The prophet Isaiah was well liked at the beginning of his career, but not later. Are you willing to risk popularity for your faith?
- Homework Challenge: Pick a short psalm that you like and vow to commit it to memory this week. Write the psalm on a separate piece of paper, and take it with you throughout the week, rereading it as many times as you can. If you've never memorized Scripture before, this will give you a taste. Once you finish reading through the entire Bible, you might want to start setting aside some time each week to memorize selected verses.

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



- Isaiah 14 through Jeremiah 32
- Reading Tip:
- The books of the prophets are challenging even to Biblical scholars, so be prepared to “press on” after reading passages that you don’t quite fully understand.
- The book of Isaiah can be particularly challenging, because:
 - It contains a collection of visions and prophecies relating to various times.
 - It is not always easy to follow — partly because we are unfamiliar with the language and ways of the prophets and visionaries, and partly because we do not know on what basis (chronological order, topical order, etc.) the material was assembled.

This Coming Week's Reading (cont.)

- Intro to Jeremiah
- Jeremiah is a "reluctant" prophet – so much so that he is commonly referred to as the "weeping prophet"
- God calls on him to foretell of the capture by Nebuchadnezzar and the exile to Babylon.
- Jeremiah also "points to Christ"



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Closing Prayer