

One Year Bible – Week 19

Summary: John Reading

The Gospel of John has a great deal of material not found in the other Gospels. Read this week with attentiveness and freshness to the account of Jesus' life on earth.

Summary: Judges/Ruth/1Samuel Reading

Ruth tells the story of a woman from Moab and her loyalty to her mother-in-law who was a Jew. Ruth is a story of loyalty and love, but also an episode in history of God's unfolding plan. First Samuel tells of the first centralized leadership since Joshua. It begins with Samuel's mother Hannah and the graciousness of God.

Things to Look For and Questions to Ponder as You Read:

- OT – Notice that Ruth is the great grandmother of King David, and thus included in the lineage of Jesus. Remember that Ruth was a Moabite and not a Jew. Yet because of her loyalty to her mother-in-law Naomi, and consequently her commitment to YHWH, she found blessing from YHWH. It is significant to see that in the Old Testament God's hand extended even among gentiles. Not only that, but God can and will use whomever he desires, no matter how unlikely, to fulfill his purposes.
- OT – The story of Hannah is, to some, an unexpected way to begin a book about Samuel. Observe how Hannah approaches and communicates with God. (1Sa 1-2:11) Keep in mind that what we read in these verses were her words over the span of many months. What does Hannah see about God that leads her to talk of him the way she does? How does Hannah's picture of God help to inform your own? – May 7

Small Group Questions:

- 1) NT – Jesus' interaction with Nicodemus is one of the most revealing interchanges he has because he speaks at length with a Pharisee about the real message of God. (Jn 3:1-21) For many, John 3:16 provides a powerful summary of the Gospel. What do you notice about Nicodemus' attitude as he approaches Jesus – what information in the passage reveals this to us? How do you think Jesus' answers affected the way Nicodemus felt about Jesus? Take a moment to reread

Jn 3:13-21. Share with the group which of Jesus' words touch your heart the most and why. – May 3

- 2) NT – What is the context of Jesus' statements in Jn 4:23-24? Why do you think he emphasized worshipping in "spirit and truth?" What must we do to make sure to be the worshippers that the Father seeks? – May 5
- 3) OT – Take a few moments for everyone to read 1Sa 2:12-36 on their own – prompt everyone to look for the contrasts between Eli's sons and Samuel. What observations did you make? What is Scripture intending to point to by showing this contrast? How can the contrast between the sons of Eli and Samuel affect the way we relate with God? Share your ideas with the group. – May 7-8
- 4) NT – In a monologue to Jewish leaders Jesus gives a brief but pointed charge. Read Jn 5:39-40. Notice that he is rebuking people who read the Scriptures! What is Jesus rebuking in this passage? Have you seen, or been, a person who was like this? How do you think this could happen, that people "diligently study the Scriptures" and think that by them they possess eternal life and yet neglect Jesus? How can we make sure to prevent becoming these people ourselves? – May 8

Journal the Psalms this week:

Psalm 105:1-5 gives us a picture of how we can be in relationship with the living God, particularly out of gratitude for what he has done for us. List the different actions the Psalmist declares are fitting in response to God. What do you feel when you read these words? How many of these actions are common in your life? Journal about your response to these questions, and about your reaction to the attitude described by the Psalmist in these verses. – May 5

Reading Schedule:

Jdg = Judges / Ru = Ruth / 1Sa = 1 Samuel / Jn = John / Ps = Psalms /
Pr = Proverbs



May 3 – Jdg 17:1-18:31 / Jn 3:1-21 / Ps 104:1-23 / Pr 14:20-21
May 4 – Jdg 19:1-20:48 / Jn 3:22-4:3 / Ps 104:24-35 / Pr 14:22-24
May 5 – Jdg 21:1-Ru 1:22 / Jn 4:4-42 / Ps 105:1-15 / Pr 14:25
May 6 – Ru 2:1-4:22 / Jn 4:43-54 / Ps 105:16-36 / Pr 14:26-27
May 7 – 1Sa 1:1-2:21 / Jn 5:1-23 / Ps 105:37-45 / Pr 14:28-29
May 8 – 1Sa 2:22-4:22 / Jn 5:24-47 / Ps 106:1-12 / Pr 14:30-31
May 9 – 1Sa 5:1-7:17 / Jn 6:1-21 / Ps 106:13-31 / Pr 14:32-33