Week 7

February 12	*	Leviticus 16 tells of the annual Day of Atonement, <i>Yom Kippur</i> . On that day, a goat was sacrificed
□ Leviticus 16	*	for the sake of the sins of the people.
□ Leviticus 17	*	On the cross, dying as our sin offering, Jesus quoted the opening words of Psalm 22. He became the once-for-all sin offering for all people.
□ Leviticus 18	?	Are you still carrying the guilt and shame of your sin, or have you allowed Jesus to be your
□ Psalm 22		sacrifice? Through the perfect sacrifice, you can be free from the guilt, the shame, and the controlling power of your sin.
February 13	*	Leviticus 19 is one of the most important chapters of Leviticus. It begins what is called the
□ Leviticus 19		"Holiness Code." This chapter taught Israel how holy people should live outside the tabernacle. Holiness in Leviticus was more than tabernacle rituals; it was a daily life. Israel was called to "be
□ Leviticus 20		holy, for I the Lord your God am holy." To be holy meant to have the character of God.
□ Leviticus 21	?	As you read Leviticus 19:9-18, notice how it provides practical examples of the second great commandment, "Love your neighbor as yourself." Are you living these principles of holy love in your daily life?
□ Psalm 23	?	I love the last verse of Psalm 23. David promises that God's "goodness and mercy shall follow
□ Psalm 24		me." The term "follow" is active. You can read it, "God's goodness and mercy is chasing me through life! God is following me with goodness." Take five minutes to make a list of ways in which God's goodness and mercy has been demonstrated in your life.
February 14	*	In Leviticus 23, we read about the Jewish festivals. They were a time of celebration and joy. True
☐ Leviticus 22		Judaism, before it was corrupted by backsliding, was a joyful faith.
☐ Leviticus 23	?	Like Old Testament Judaism, Christianity is to be a joyful faith! Do your children see the joy of your Christian faith? Do you have times at which you remind them of the great things God has done for His people and allow them to celebrate God's goodness? Christmas, Easter, Pentecost are a few of the days when our families should rejoice in the Christian faith.
□ Psalm 25	?	David prayed, "Teach me your paths. Lead me in your truth and teach me" (Ps 25:4-5). Are you teachable? Do you have a humble spirit that is open to God's truth and instruction? What has He taught you recently? Today, take time to pray, "God, teach me your paths."
February 15	*	The "Year of Jubilee" was a celebration of God's goodness and care for His people. In that year,
□ Leviticus 24		debts were canceled and those who had been sold into slavery for their debts were freed. In the Year of Jubilee, God's people were to show the mercy that God shows to us.
☐ Leviticus 25		
□ Psalm 26	?	David promised that the righteous "stand on level ground" (Ps 26:12). Take time to pray that God will keep you secure on "level ground" today, and to thank Him for His protection in your past.
□ Psalm 27	?	David had "one thing" that he asked for: to live in God's presence (Ps 27:4). What is your "one thing?" What is most important to you: God's presence or something else?

February 16 □ Leviticus 26 □ Leviticus 27	 * When you read the promises of blessings for obedience and punishment for disobedience, remember that in the Old Testament, these blessings were tied to Israel's status as a nation. The blessings and punishments were physical and temporal. Today, we experience God's blessings on obedience and His punishment for disobedience – but they are spiritual and eternal. ? The imagery of Leviticus 26:23-24 is powerful. If we "walk contrary" to God, He will "walk contrary" to us. If we are walking in opposition to His commands and will, He opposes us. Are you walking "with God," or walking "contrary to God?" ? As you finish reading Leviticus, take time to thank God that He sent Jesus to fulfill the sacrifices once-for-all. We no longer go to the Temple. Christ died to free us from the power of sin.
□ Psalm 28 □ Psalm 29	? In Psalm 23, the image of shepherd is primarily one who feeds and leads the sheep. In Psalm 28:8-9, the shepherd protects and carries the sheep in times of danger. When has God protected you? When has He carried you when you could not face trouble in your own strength? Take time to thank Him.
February 17 Psalm 30 Psalm 31 Psalm 32 Psalm 33	 * One of the great themes of the Psalms is God's power to "turn" from evil to good, adversity to blessing, and tears to joy. Notice in Psalm 30:
Weekly Summary	Write down one "big lesson" that you have learned from this week's readings. Each day next week, review this lesson and ask God to help you to apply the lesson in your daily life.

Week 8

February 19 □ John 1	* As you read the Gospel of John, notice how John portrays Jesus. John wrote late in the first century after all the other gospels were well known. Because of this, John does not repeat much of the information from the other gospels. About 90% of the material in John is unique to this gospel. Enjoy John's picture of Jesus!
□ John 2 □ John 3	* John's first picture of Jesus is based on Genesis 1. "In the beginning, God" Now, "In the beginning was the Word." That shows that Jesus was and is the Eternal God.
	? When you read of Jesus as the Lamb of God, what does that mean to you? Try to read it through the eyes of a Jewish person. A lamb was not a pet; it was a sacrifice for sin.
	? What does it mean to be "born again?" Think how you can explain that phrase in a way that an unbeliever can understand.
February 20 ☐ John 4 ☐ John 5	* For readers today, the shock of John 4 is lost. The "woman at the well" was a Samaritan, she was a woman, and she was immoral. <i>No</i> Jewish rabbi would have been seen talking to her. But Jesus not only talked to her, he revealed his identity as Messiah to this woman (Jn 4:26). This is his first statement that He is Messiah – and it came to a Samaritan woman. Jesus truly came into our world to redeem <i>all</i> peoples.
	? How do you worship in "spirit and truth" (Jn 4:24)? What does that teach us about how God wants us to approach Him?
	? As you read John 5, is it clear that Jesus claimed to be the Son of God? If so, why did the Jewish leaders refuse to accept His claim?
□ Psalm 34	? "I will bless the Lord at <i>all times</i> ." What is the difficulty you face today? Are you blessing the Lord even during that difficult time?
February 21	* John 6:60-66 shows the high cost of discipleship. "Many" who had followed Jesus and enjoyed the bread and fishes turned away when they realized the cost of following this man who required complete faith and obedience.
	? Why do you follow Jesus? Are you following Him for the benefits (the bread)? Or are you a committed disciple?
	? Bread was much more important in the ancient world than it is today. This was not simply a "side dish" for the meal; it was a primary part of the meal. What does Jesus mean when He says, "I am the bread of life"?
□ Psalm 35 □ Psalm 36	? When God delivered him from trouble, David promised, "My tongue will tell of your righteousness and of your praise all the day long." Do you take time to praise God and "brag on" His goodness?
February 22 □ John 7 □ Psalm 37	* On the last day of the Feast of Booths, Jesus stood and announced that He was the fulfillment of the Old Testament prophecies. Isaiah had prophesied that one would come who would invite "Everyone who thirsts to come to the waters" (Isa 55:1). Jesus announced that He had come to fulfil this promise (Jn 7:37-38).
□ Psalm 38	? John gives another picture of Jesus. Here, John shows that Jesus is the Water of Life? What does this imagery mean to you? How important is water to our basic existence?
	? We often read Psalm 37 as a psalm to encourage us in times of trouble. This is true, but focus as you read on the commands. We cannot receive the promises if we do not obey the commands. Notice the commands: "Do not fret" "Trust in the Lord" "Delight in the Lord" "Commit your way to the Lord" "Be still before the Lord" "Refrain from anger" Are you keeping the commands of this psalm?

February 23 ☐ John 8 ☐ John 9 ☐ Psalm 39	* "Before Abraham was, I am" (Jn 8:58). Many skeptics today say that Jesus never claimed to be God. This is one of His clearest statements that He is God. "I am" is the name that God used when He revealed Himself to Moses in Exodus 3:14. When Jesus used this title, the Jewish leaders knew that He was saying, "I am God." John makes clear that Jesus came as the Son of God. ? The disciples assumed that the man born blind was guilty of some sin. Like many in our day, they believed that physical blessings are proof that God is "happy" with us and that physical suffering is proof that God is unhappy with us. Jesus responded by showing that God has His own reasons for what God does and allows (Jn 9:3). Do you find that you equate physical blessings with spiritual health? Can you trust God's goodness even when there are no physical blessings? Pavid prayed, "Make me to know the measure of my days." He knew that we are "a mere breath." Life is short; eternity is long. Are you measuring your days wisely? Do you have the same
February 24 ☐ John 10 ☐ John 11	 priorities for your life that God has: spiritual health; discipleship; being transformed into the image of God? * It is popular today to say, "There are many paths to God. We must each find our own path. As long as we are sincere, we will be ok." Jesus completely rejected this teaching. He said, "I am the door." There is no other path to life. Love for others requires us to warn them if they are on the wrong path. We must point our world to Jesus, the only path to eternal life. ? Jesus could have come to Bethany in time to spare Lazarus from death. Why did he wait till Lazarus was dead?
□ Psalm 40 □ Psalm 41	 ? Miracles do not always convince an unbeliever. The miracle of raising Lazarus hardened the unbelief of the religious leaders. Miracles alone do not lead to faith in Christ. Do you have friends or family members who are not believers? If miracles are not sufficient, how can you point them to Jesus, the only way to eternal life? ? David rejoiced, "He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God." Do the people who know you best hear a "new song" of praise from you? Does the joy of your life show that you have been raised from the "pit of destruction" and put on a rock? Is your life a testimony to others?
Weekly Summary	Write down one "big lesson" that you have learned from this week's readings. Each day next week, review this lesson and ask God to help you to apply the lesson in your daily life.