

### Week 14

<b>Monday</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Job 32 <input type="checkbox"/> Job 33 <input type="checkbox"/> Job 34	<p>* Elihu was the youngest of Job's friends, so he waited until the last to speak. After the first three friends failed to prove Job's guilt, Elihu made his case. Like the other friends, Elihu argued that Job must be guilty of sin since he was suffering.</p> <p>? As you read Elihu, does he seem closer to the truth than the other friends?</p> <p>? Elihu argues that God is a just God who punishes sin. Every Christian agrees with this statement, but does it apply to Job's situation? Based on what you read in Job 1-2, is Job suffering as punishment for sin?</p>
<b>Tuesday</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Job 35 <input type="checkbox"/> Job 36 <input type="checkbox"/> Job 37	<p>* Elihu reminds Job of God's power and majesty. He speaks of a God of thunder and lightning, a God who is far above us.</p> <p>? Elihu concludes that every person must respond in one of two ways to God's greatness: wise people will fear God; other people will be "wise in their own conceit" and will be rejected by God. Again, Elihu's conclusion is correct, but does it apply to Job's situation?</p> <p>? Does Job agree with Elihu that God is powerful and mighty? Both Job and Elihu recognize God's great power. Elihu believes God's power is used to care for mankind. What does Job believe about God's power?</p> <p>? Before you read God's answer to Job in Job 38-41, think about the answer you would expect from God. After Job's suffering, what do you expect God to say to him?</p>
<b>Wednesday</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Job 38 <input type="checkbox"/> Job 39	<p>* For many readers, God's answer is surprising because it doesn't seem to relate to Job's suffering. To speak to a suffering man about the wonders of creation seems irrelevant. However, God answers Job's question, "Where is God while I suffer?" He is intimately involved in the daily operation of our world. He is interested in all things. Even when we can't see Him, He is present.</p> <p>? Are you surprised by God's answer to Job? What does God's answer say to you?</p>
<b>Thursday</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Job 40 <input type="checkbox"/> Job 41 <input type="checkbox"/> Job 42	<p>* Job comes to peace in Job 42:5. "I have heard of you, but now my eye sees you!" Later God restores Job's fortune, but Job is satisfied <i>before</i> he receives any physical blessings. Seeing God satisfies Job's search. If Job had died immediately after Job 42:5, he would have died as a "blessed man."</p> <p>? Is "seeing God" enough to satisfy your desires? When we truly love God, we are satisfied with God alone.</p>

<b>Friday</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Matthew 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Matthew 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Matthew 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Matthew 4 <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 42 <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 43	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Matthew is often called the “Gospel of the King.” Matthew shows how Jesus fulfilled the promises of a King who would sit on the throne of David. This is seen in:           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* A genealogy that traces Jesus’ ancestry through King David (Matt 1)</li> <li>* The visit of the wise men who were looking for a king (Matt 2)</li> <li>* Herod’s desire to kill this rival king (Matt 2)</li> <li>* John the Baptist prepares the way for “the kingdom of heaven” (Matt 3)</li> </ul> </li> <li>* As you read through Matthew, use a highlighter to mark every time the word “Kingdom” or “King” appears. This will show how the Kingdom of Heaven is important in the Gospel of Matthew.</li> <li>? What do the names Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, and “the wife of Uriah” have in common? Since Jewish genealogies did not normally include women, why did Matthew include these names?</li> <li>? Notice the order of stories in Matthew 3-4. When Jesus is baptized by John the Baptist, the voice from heaven says, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.” In the following verses, Jesus is severely tempted. Do you find that times of blessing are often followed by times of temptation?</li> <li>? In Psalm 42, the writer “thirsts” for God as a deer thirsts for water. Do you thirst for God? Is He your greatest desire?</li> </ul>
<b>Saturday</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Matthew 5 <input type="checkbox"/> Matthew 6 <input type="checkbox"/> Matthew 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* The Sermon on the Mount defines life in the Kingdom of God. Please read it not as a list of “rules” but as a description of “Kingdom life.” Citizens of God’s Kingdom:           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Measure blessing by a different standard than this world (5:3-11).</li> <li>* Bring glory to God by being salt and light in the world (5:13-16).</li> <li>* Live by the law of love that goes deeper than the written law (5:17-48).</li> <li>* Give, pray, and fast to please God, not to impress other people (6:1-18).</li> <li>* Do not focus on earthly treasure but on heavenly treasure (6:19-34).</li> <li>* Do not judge others (7:1-6), but discern trees by the fruit (7:15-20).</li> <li>* Trust God for provision (7:7-11).</li> <li>* Treat others as they want to be treated (7:12-14).</li> <li>* Build their lives on God’s Word (7:21-27).</li> </ul> </li> <li>? In the six examples of Matthew 5:21-48, “love” is the ultimate law. If we love people, we will not treat them with anger. If we love our wife, we will not lust after other women. If we love our wife, we will not divorce her unjustly. If we love people, our word will be trustworthy. If we love those who wrong us, we will not seek retaliation. If we love our enemy, we will be like our heavenly Father. As you read these examples, ask, “Am I treating others with Christ-like love?”</li> <li>? Jesus teaches about three spiritual disciplines: praying, fasting, and giving. He assumes that His followers will regularly practice each of these. Do you fast? If so, how have you benefited spiritually from this practice? If not, I encourage you to fast one meal with the purpose of using that time for prayer and Bible reading.</li> <li>? Greed (6:19-24) and worry (6:25-34) both demonstrate an inappropriate concern for money. Which of these two is your biggest problem? Are you learning to trust God instead of money?</li> </ul>
<b>Weekly Summary</b>	<p>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.</p>

## Week 15

<b>Monday</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Matthew 8 <input type="checkbox"/> Matthew 9 <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 44	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Matthew 8 shows the authority of the King. A Roman centurion recognizes Jesus' authority (Matt 8:5-13). The winds recognize His authority (Matt 8:23-27). Demons recognize His authority (Matt 8:28-34). Matthew shows that Jesus has power over the powers of this world.</li> <li>? Mathew 9:1-6 shows two miracles: a paralyzed man is healed, <i>and</i> his sins are forgiven. Which of these two miracles (a physical healing or a spiritual healing) impresses you more? Which is more important for eternity?</li> <li>? Psalm 44 is a prayer for deliverance in a time of trouble. Have you ever experienced difficulties such as this Psalm describes? If so, pray the prayer of verse 26: "Redeem us for the sake of your steadfast love!"</li> </ul>
<b>Tuesday</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Matthew 10 <input type="checkbox"/> Matthew 11 <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 45 <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 46	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* In Matthew 10, the King sends His disciples to preach the message of the Kingdom. Despite persecution from those who oppose His Kingdom, we must not be afraid. God will be with those who preach the Kingdom.</li> <li>? Do you find Jesus' yoke "easy" and his burden "light"? (Matt 11:30). Or do you find the Christian life to be a struggle? If it is a struggle, give your burden to Christ and let Him bring peace to your life.</li> <li>* Psalm 46 inspired Martin Luther's great hymn, "A Mighty Fortress is Our God." This psalm promises that in times of trouble, we can remain confident that "God is our refuge and strength."</li> </ul>
<b>Wednesday</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Matthew 12 <input type="checkbox"/> Matthew 13 <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 47	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Our words reveal what is in our heart. If you find that your mouth speaks evil, hurtful words, it is because your heart is producing evil, hurtful thoughts (Matt 12:33-37).</li> <li>? Jesus' family is defined by obedience (Matt 12:50). By this definition, are you part of His family?</li> <li>* Matthew 13 contains seven "Kingdom parables" that show how God's Kingdom operates.           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Parable of the Soil and Seed shows that we must receive and act on God's Word.</li> <li>The Parable of the Weeds shows that there will be a judgment at the end of time. Not all who profess to be part of the Kingdom are true members of the Kingdom.</li> <li>The Parable of the Mustard Seed and the Parable of the Leaven show the spread of the Kingdom far beyond its original size.</li> <li>The Parable of the Hidden Treasure and the Parable of the Pearl of Great Value show that it is worth any cost to be part of the Kingdom of Heaven.</li> <li>The Parable of the Net again points to the judgment at the end of time.</li> </ul> </li> <li>? As you read the Parable of the Sower, ask "Which soil am I? Am I allowing God's Word to bear fruit in my life?"</li> </ul>
<b>Thursday</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Matthew 14 <input type="checkbox"/> Matthew 15 <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 48 <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 49	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>? The miracle of the Feeding of 4,000 (Matt 15:32-39) takes place soon after the Feeding of 5,000 (Matt 14:13-21). But the disciples doubt that Jesus will feed the multitude (Matt 15:33). Why did they doubt?</li> <li>* Psalm 48 celebrates God's presence in Jerusalem, the "City of our God." This psalm was written to "tell the next generation that this is God" (Ps 48:13). Never forget to tell your children what God does in your life. Our children need to hear stories of God's goodness.</li> <li>* The teaching of Psalm 49 is simple: regardless of a person's wealth, everyone will die. Because of this, we must prepare for death. Since only God can "ransom my soul from the power of the grave," He is the One in whom I must put my trust.</li> </ul>

<b>Friday</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Matthew 16 <input type="checkbox"/> Matthew 17 <input type="checkbox"/> Matthew 18 <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 50	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* The foundation of Christ's Kingdom is the profession of Jesus as "the Christ, the Son of the Living God" (Matt 16:16). The church is not simply a social organization. It is built on faith in Jesus as the Son of God.</li> <li>? Read Matthew 16:24-26 and then answer, "By Jesus' definition, am I a disciple?"</li> <li>* At the Transfiguration, Moses represented the Law and Elijah represented the Prophets. These were the two large divisions of the Old Testament. The Old Testament saints recognized Jesus as the promised Messiah.</li> <li>? Jesus said that we must "become like children" to enter the Kingdom of Heaven. What characteristics of a child are needed to enter the Kingdom of Heaven?</li> <li>? Read Matthew 18:15-17 for a guide to resolving conflicts in the church. Do you follow each of these steps? Notice step 3; "If he refuses to listen to the church, let him be as a Gentile and a tax collector" (in other words, "as an unbeliever"). Is this permission to treat a fallen brother with unkindness? How are Christians supposed to treat unbelievers? Do we treat them with love?</li> <li>? There are two ways we can respond to God, the judge of the world. If we call on Him, He will deliver us (Ps 50:15). If we "forget" Him, there will be no deliverance (Ps 50:22). Do you call on God or forget God?</li> </ul>
<b>Saturday</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Matthew 19 <input type="checkbox"/> Matthew 20 <input type="checkbox"/> Matthew 21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* To 21<sup>st</sup> century wealthy Americans, Matthew 19:24 sounds impossible! Even a middle-class American is "rich" by historical standards. However, Jesus promised, "with God, all things are possible." What God requires, God makes possible.</li> <li>? Do you follow Jesus' model of "servant leadership"? (Matt 20:26-28).           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How will servant leadership look in your family?</li> <li>How will servant leadership look in your business?</li> <li>How will servant leadership look in your church?</li> <li>Which of these is most difficult for you to apply?</li> </ul> </li> <li>? Matthew 21 is the start of Jesus' last week of earthly ministry. He enters Jerusalem as a King honored by crowds. Within only five days, the same crowds will shout "Crucify Him!" Why?</li> </ul>
<b>Weekly Summary</b>	<p>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.</p>

## Week 16

<b>Monday</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Matthew 22 <input type="checkbox"/> Matthew 23 <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 51	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Continuing his emphasis on Jesus as the King of the Jews, Matthew shows the conflict between Jesus and the religious leaders in Jerusalem. These leaders rejected Jesus as their King and now they “plotted how to entangle him in his words” (Matt 22:15). The Sadducees and Pharisees were bitter rivals, but they worked together to trap Jesus. Matthew 23 records Jesus’ final public warnings before his arrest. He gives the religious leaders one final opportunity to repent.</li> <li>? Do you faithfully keep the two great commandments: love God and love your neighbor?</li> <li>? The world looks at the outside; God looks at the inside. Does your heart match your outward appearance? (Matt 23:28)</li> <li>* Psalm 51 is David’s prayer of repentance after his sin with Bathsheba. Notice David’s spirit of true repentance. He does not simply regret the result of his sin; he repents for his sin against God.</li> <li>? After reading Psalm 51, reread Psalm 32. David’s song of joy is the result of true repentance. Have you experienced the joy of true repentance?</li> </ul>
<b>Tuesday</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Matthew 24 <input type="checkbox"/> Matthew 25 <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 52 <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 53	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* To those who reject Christ, the return of Christ is frightening; when he returns, he will come to judge those who do not believe. For those who follow him, this is an encouraging teaching; when he returns, he will rule as our rightful King.</li> <li>? As you read about Jesus’ Second Coming, ask, “Am I ready for His return?” He may come at any moment; we must be ready.</li> <li>? According to Psalm 53, only the fool denies God. Are you wise?</li> </ul>
<b>Wednesday</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Matthew 26 <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 54 <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 55 <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 56	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>? Try to imagine yourself with Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane. Where would you stand:           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-With the crowd who came to arrest Jesus?</li> <li>-With the disciples who waited?</li> <li>-With Peter, James, and John who went with Jesus to the place of prayer?</li> </ul>           How close will you follow Jesus?         </li> <li>* Psalm 55 traces David’s emotional struggle in a time of trouble. Notice the progression:           <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) David feels <u>fear</u> as he sees the danger (55:1-8).</li> <li>2) He feels <u>anger</u> as he remembers the betrayal of a trusted friend (55:9-15).</li> <li>3) He chooses <u>faith</u> as the proper response of God’s people (55:16-23).</li> </ol> </li> <li>? Do you struggle with fear? If so, memorize Psalm 56: 13 with its a great promise in times of trouble.</li> </ul>
<b>Thursday</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Matthew 27 <input type="checkbox"/> Matthew 28 <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 57 <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 58	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* As you read the Passion story in Matthew 27, remember that Jesus suffered willingly for your sin and for mine. He suffered the cross because “God so loved the world that He gave His only Son....”</li> <li>? Jesus’ final commission to his followers was, “Make disciples.” This commission is for <i>every</i> believer. Every Christian has a role in making disciples. Some are evangelists who lead unbelievers to Christ; some are teachers who train believers; some are friends who encourage and support new believers. What is your role in fulfilling the Great Commission?</li> <li>* In times of trouble, pray the words of Psalm 57:7, “My heart is steadfast, O God, my heart is steadfast!” To be steadfast does not mean that you will not struggle; to be steadfast means that <i>even in the struggle</i> you will remain faithful to God. You may fall down, but you will not quit.</li> </ul>

<b>Friday</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Joshua 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Joshua 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Joshua 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Joshua 4 <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 59 <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 60	<p>* The book of Joshua records Israel's conquest of Canaan. Joshua 1-12 tells the story of Israel's battles to conquer the Promised Land. Joshua 13-24 tells about the division of the land.</p> <p>? In Joshua 1:5 and 3:7, God promised Joshua, "As I was with Moses, so I will be with you." Think of one of your spiritual heroes. God wants to work in your life just as He did in the life of your spiritual hero. Do you believe that you can be close to God just as other people have been?</p> <p>? Memorials were important to Israel's faith. They taught the next generation about what God had done for His people. How do you teach your children about God and His blessings in your life? Have they heard the testimony of your conversion? Are you passing your spiritual heritage to the next generation?</p> <p>? Psalm 59 is David's prayer for deliverance when Saul's soldiers surrounded David's house to kill him. As you read Ps 59:16, realize that Saul's soldiers are still there. David chose to "sing aloud of your steadfast love" <i>before</i> the deliverance came. This is faith; to trust God before we see His deliverance.</p>
<b>Saturday</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Joshua 5 <input type="checkbox"/> Joshua 6 <input type="checkbox"/> Joshua 7 <input type="checkbox"/> Joshua 8 <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 61	<p>* These chapters contrast the results of disobedience (Josh 7) and obedience (Josh 6 and 8). Disobedience led to defeat; obedience led to victory.</p> <p>? As you read Joshua 6, place yourself in Israel's situation. Would you trust God's strange command to march around the city? Do you walk in obedience to God even when you don't fully understand His purpose?</p> <p>? David prayed, "Let me dwell in your tent forever! Let me take refuge under the shelter of your wings!" (Ps 61:4) There is no safer place to live than under God's protection. Do you enjoy the peace of living under the shelter of God's wings?</p>
<b>Weekly Summary</b>	<p>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.</p>

## Week 17

<b>Monday</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Joshua 9 <input type="checkbox"/> Joshua 10 <input type="checkbox"/> Joshua 11 <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 62 <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 63	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Joshua 9-11 continues the record of Israel's conquest of Canaan. These chapters again demonstrate the danger of operating apart from God's direction (Josh 9) and the blessings of operating in God's power (Josh 10).</li> <li>? Joshua made a critical mistake by making an unwise treaty with the Gibeonites. As a result, Israel later suffered a three-year famine during David's reign (2 Samuel 21:1). What caused Joshua's mistake? (The answer is in Josh 9:14). Have you ever failed to seek God's direction before making an important decision? What was the result?</li> <li>* Highlight each time the name "the Lord" appears in Joshua 10. Victory over Israel's enemies did not result from her military strength, but from "the Lord" fighting on Israel's behalf.</li> <li>? David prayed, "He (God) alone is my rock and my salvation" (Ps 62:2). He promised to "Trust in him at all times" (Ps 62:8). Do you trust in God alone? Do you trust in Him at all times? That is a life of true faith.</li> </ul>
<b>Tuesday</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Joshua 12 <input type="checkbox"/> Joshua 13 <input type="checkbox"/> Joshua 14 <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 64 <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 65 <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 66	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Joshua 12 compares Joshua's military leadership to Moses' military leadership. This highlights Joshua's role as the chosen successor to Moses.</li> <li>* Don't skip over Joshua 13:22. Balaam was the prophet hired by Balak to curse Israel (Numbers 22-24). Although God did not allow Balaam to curse Israel, he died with the enemies of Israel. When we begin to move away from God, we will eventually find ourselves as willing participants in sin.</li> <li>? Do you have the heart of Caleb? Can you testify, "I wholly followed the Lord my God"? (Josh 14:8)</li> <li>? You may someday suffer a time of discouragement. Today, make a list of the "awesome deeds" God has done for you. Keep that list to review in times of discouragement.</li> </ul>
<b>Wednesday</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Joshua 15 <input type="checkbox"/> Joshua 16 <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 67 <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 68	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Joshua 15-16 lists Israel's tribal allotments in Canaan. However, "the Canaanites have lived in the midst of Ephraim to this day" (Josh 16:10). Ephraim later turned to the gods of the Canaanites. To protect His people from idolatry, God commanded Israel to drive out the Canaanites. Israel's failure to obey God's commands fully led to spiritual disaster.</li> <li>? Psalm 67 reveals God's love for all nations. The psalmist prays, "May God be gracious to us and bless us..." (Ps 67:1). Why? "That your way may be known on earth, your saving power among all nations" (Ps 67:2). God blesses His people as a testimony to others. Do you seek God's blessing on yourself? That's fine! But you must use His blessings to bring God's saving power to those who do not know Him.</li> </ul>
<b>Thursday</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Joshua 17 <input type="checkbox"/> Joshua 18 <input type="checkbox"/> Joshua 19 <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 69 <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 70	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Psalm 69 is one of David's most intense laments. David cries out to God for deliverance. However, even in trouble, David trusts that God's "steadfast love is good" (Ps 69:16). This confidence keeps him from despair.</li> <li>? In times of trouble, to whom do you turn for deliverance? Do you trust God to save you in difficult times?</li> </ul>

<b>Friday</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Joshua 20 <input type="checkbox"/> Joshua 21 <input type="checkbox"/> Joshua 22 <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 71	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* The “cities of refuge” in Joshua 20 demonstrate an important principle of biblical justice. These cities protected a person who unintentionally killed another person. This demonstrates the principle of justice; the cities of refuge prevented unjust revenge. However, the killer had to remain in the city for the rest of his life. This demonstrates the value of human life; there was a personal cost for taking a human life, even unintentionally.</li> <li>* Joshua 21 is a testimony to God’s faithfulness. “Not one word of all the good promises that the Lord had made to the house of Israel had failed; all came to pass” (Josh 21:45). God is a promise-keeping God.</li> <li>? As you read Joshua 22:5, ask, “Do I obey each of these imperatives? Do I love God? Do I walk in His ways? Do I keep His commandments? Do I cling to Him? Do I serve him with all my heart?”</li> </ul>
<b>Saturday</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Joshua 23 <input type="checkbox"/> Joshua 24 <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 72	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* At the end of his life, Joshua charged Israel’s leaders to be faithful to the covenant. He arranged a covenant renewal ceremony for Israel. This ceremony was similar to the ceremony at the beginning of the book of Joshua. This ceremony was designed to inspire Israel to be faithful to the covenant.</li> <li>? Read Joshua 23:11. Are you “careful to love the Lord your God?” Here is the test to know if you love Him: Do you obey Him? God’s “love language” is obedience. If we love Him, we will obey Him.</li> <li>* Joshua 24:15 contains one of the Bible’s great statements of faith: “But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.” Make this commitment today; “God, I am yours. Regardless of what happens, by your grace, I will serve you!”</li> </ul>
<b>Weekly Summary</b>	<p>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.</p>



## Week 18

<b>Monday</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Judges 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Judges 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Judges 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Judges 4 <input type="checkbox"/> Judges 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* The book of Judges tells the sad story of Israel's failure to complete the conquest of Canaan. Instead of fulfilling God's purpose, she tolerated and soon began to worship the gods of the Canaanites.</li> <li>? Why did Israel fail to drive out the Canaanite tribes? (The answer is in 2:2 and 2:20-23. Notice that there are two reasons involved in this failure.)</li> <li>* Six times in Judges, Israel goes through a cycle of sin, judgment, repentance, and deliverance. Each time, she falls further into depravity. As you read Judges, highlight the verses that show this pattern. Look for this pattern:                  Sin (3:12)          Judgment (3:13-14)          Cry for deliverance (3:15)          Deliverance (3:30)</li> <li>* Judges 4-5 tell the same story in two different ways. Judges 4 tells the story of Deborah in prose; Judges 5 tells the story in poetry.</li> </ul>
<b>Tuesday</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Judges 6 <input type="checkbox"/> Judges 7 <input type="checkbox"/> Judges 8 <input type="checkbox"/> Judges 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>? Gideon trusted God only after he received a sign (6:36-40). Gideon's fleece was a sign of doubt, not faith. Do you trust God on His word alone, or do you require a sign?</li> <li>? Why did God shrink Gideon's army from 32,000 to 10,000 to 300?</li> <li>* Following Gideon's victory, he made an ephod (a religious artifact) that "became a snare to Gideon and to his family." Throughout the Bible, we see that great victories are often followed by times of temptation. After a time of success, beware of the temptation to carelessness. Judges 9 fits into the pattern of Judges by showing that even Gideon's own family failed to follow God's plan for His people.</li> </ul>
<b>Wednesday</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Judges 10 <input type="checkbox"/> Judges 11 <input type="checkbox"/> Judges 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Jephthah delivered Israel only after making a foolish curse that costs the life of his daughter. God did not ask Jephthah to make this vow. Jephthah appeared to believe that Jehovah was like the gods of the Canaanites – a god who must be won with vows.</li> <li>? Do you try to bargain with God or do you walk with Him in confident faith?</li> <li>* Judges 12 shows the continuing disintegration of the nation. The tribe of Ephraim is part of Israel, but 42,000 Ephraimites are killed in this civil war.</li> </ul>
<b>Thursday</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Judges 13 <input type="checkbox"/> Judges 14 <input type="checkbox"/> Judges 15 <input type="checkbox"/> Judges 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Samson is the last of Israel's judges. Although he is physically strong, he is spiritually weak. He is careless with God's commands. He marries a Philistine woman (contrary to God's laws against marrying the unbelieving Canaanites). He eats honey from the carcass of a lion (contrary to the laws of cleanness).</li> <li>* As you read the story of Samson, notice how he moves closer and closer to trouble – spending time with the Philistines and then marrying a Philistine woman. The story of Delilah portrays this dangerous tendency: each time Samson answers Delilah's question, his answer is a bit closer to the truth. Finally, he reveals his secret. He is captured, blinded, and mocked by being forced to do the work of an ox (providing power for the mill).</li> <li>? Look at your life. Is there an area where you are careless about sin? Is there an area where you allow yourself to come close to disobeying God's Word? If you continue that path, where will it lead?</li> </ul>

<b>Friday</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Judges 17 <input type="checkbox"/> Judges 18 <input type="checkbox"/> Judges 19 <input type="checkbox"/> Judges 20 <input type="checkbox"/> Judges 21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* The final chapters of Judges show the chaos into which Israel has fallen. Judges 17-18 show the religious chaos – Micah makes his own god and hires his own priest. Judges 19-21 show the social chaos – Israel commits the sins of Sodom and Gomorrah, and she suffers a civil war.</li> <li>? Two phrases in these chapters show why Israel is in trouble.           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-The first is in 18:1; “In those days there was no king in Israel.” Why is this important?</li> <li>-The second is in 21:25; “Everyone did what was right in his own eyes.” Why is this important?</li> </ul> </li> <li>? As you read the story of the Levite’s concubine (Judges 19), remember the story of Sodom and Gomorrah (Genesis 19). Do you see the similarities?</li> <li>? What happens to a society when “everyone does what is right in his own eyes?”</li> </ul>
<b>Saturday</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Ruth 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Ruth 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Ruth 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Ruth 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* The Book of Ruth is a beautiful short story set in the time of the judges. It tells of a Moabite woman who is faithful to Israel’s God and who becomes the great-grandmother of King David.</li> <li>* It is helpful to remember two Jewish customs as you read the book of Ruth.           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Ruth 2 is based on the law of “gleaning” (Leviticus 19). As a landowner, Boaz was expected to leave part of the crop for poor people to glean. This was God’s means for providing for the poor.</li> <li>-Ruth 4 is based on the law of the “kinsman-redeemer” (Deuteronomy 25). By this law, a close relative of a man who died was expected to marry his widow to preserve the family name and inheritance. Boaz married Ruth under this law.</li> </ul> </li> <li>? What is the importance of the phrase “in the days when the judges ruled” in Ruth 1:1? Put this story of faithfulness in the setting of the stories you have just read from Judges. Remember that Ruth is a Moabite; the people in Judges were Israelites. Notice how the author contrasts the faithfulness of a Moabite with the unfaithfulness of the Israelites.</li> <li>? Compare your commitment with the commitment of Ruth in 1:16. Will you serve God with this undivided loyalty?</li> </ul>
<b>Weekly Summary</b>	<p>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.</p>