

Notes & Group Questions from October 17-23 readings (Questions (Q:) for groups are bolded below)

JEREMIAH 30:1 - 44:23

10/17 - Wow. These two chapters in Jeremiah today are the most hopeful we've read yet in the book of Jeremiah! These chapters give so much joy to my heart to read them, as the promises of deliverance and hope of restoration are given by God! In Jeremiah chapter 31 verses 15 through 17 today we read - *"This is what the LORD says: "A cry of anguish is heard in Ramah--mourning and weeping unrestrained. Rachel weeps for her children, refusing to be comforted--for her children are dead." But now the LORD says, "Do not weep any longer, for I will reward you. Your children will come back to you from the distant land of the enemy. There is hope for your future," says the LORD. "Your children will come again to their own land."* **Q: Did you notice verse 15 above is also in the New Testament?** It is quoted in Matthew chapter 2 verse 18 based on Herod's orders to murder all of the male infants being a fulfillment of this verse. Here's verses 16 through 18 in Matthew chapter 2: *"When Herod realized that he had been outwitted by the Magi, he was furious, and he gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had learned from the Magi. Then what was said through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled: "A voice is heard in Ramah, weeping and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children and refusing to be comforted, because they are no more."* **Q: Think these verses could be applied to abortions in our world today? Do you think God is weeping for His children?**

10/17 - Jeremiah 31:18 gives a great example of the true relationship we can have with God - *"I have heard Israel saying, 'You disciplined me severely, but I deserved it. I was like a calf that needed to be trained for the yoke and plow. Turn me again to you and restore me, for you alone are the Lord my God.'*" Israel was finally beginning to repent and return to God. I know the word "discipline" can maybe be a tough one for us - we've probably all experienced some unjust discipline. I pray that you can see that God's discipline for us is ultimately very loving - training us, turning us, restoring us. **Q: If you feel that God is disciplining you in your life right now, will you let him? So that he can train you, turn you, restore you?**

10/17 - I love the last verse in Jeremiah's readings today! 31:26 - *"At this, I woke up and looked around. My sleep had been very sweet."* Very sweet readings in Jeremiah today indeed! **Q: When is the last time you've had sweet sleep? Do you think sweet sleep is a gift from God?**

10/18 - Jeremiah chapter 31 today is encouraging reading! It seems we've rounded the corner from the coming destruction and captivity prophecies in the book of Jeremiah, and God is now speaking about rebuilding Jerusalem. We get a good Messianic foreshadowing today in verse 31: *"The day will come," says the Lord, "when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and Judah."* The new covenant is coming!

10/18 -Today in Jeremiah 31:33 we read: *"I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts."* This verse reminds me of the importance in memorizing scripture – not just reading scripture, but memorizing it and writing it upon our hearts. I have been amazed oftentimes how [Proverbs 3:5-6](#) comes to my mind and heart at some very needed and specific times. (if you can only memorize 2 scripture verses, please memorize these Proverbs verses) **Q: Do you memorize scripture? Do you not just memorize it, but internalize its teachings and meanings into your heart? Do you see the value in memorizing scripture and writing it upon your heart?**

10/18 - Jeremiah Chapter 32 is intriguing. God asks Jeremiah to buy land - even though all of the land of Jerusalem will soon fall under captivity. Jeremiah is - once again - obedient. God goes on in this chapter to indeed confirm that Jerusalem will fall - but that God will eventually restore the Israelites back to Jerusalem and buying and selling of land will occur again. Interesting chapter. The call to Jeremiah to buy land was to set the stage for reminding the Israelites that they will soon lose this ability, but it will come back to them again eventually. I like this example. **Q: What about you in your life today - is there anything God is asking you to be obedient in? Even if you perhaps won't see an "immediate" return on your investment of your obedience, will you obey God? Is the eternal return on your investment of obedience worth it?**

10/19 - Today in our readings we get the famous Jeremiah 33:3 verse: *"Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know."* (NIV) Verses 15 & 16 are powerful Messianic verses, harkening back to Jeremiah 23:6 (The Lord Our Righteousness): *"In those days and at that time I will make a righteous Branch sprout from David's line; he will do what is just and right in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. This is the name by which it will be called: The Lord Our Righteousness."* Verse 22 is a great verse echoing the covenant promises to Abraham: *"I will make the descendants of David my servant and the Levites who minister before me as countless as the stars of the sky and as measureless as the sand on the seashore."* Verse 18 threw me for a loop initially, trying to figure out how this could still be - *"nor will the priests, who are Levites, ever fail to have a man to stand before me continually to offer burnt offerings, to burn grain offerings and to present sacrifices."* I wondered - where are the Levites today? Fortunately, I read a commentary that set me straight - Jesus is fulfilling this ministry for us today! Jesus is our Levitical priest standing before God continually. **Q: Beautiful, eh? Do you consider Jesus to be your High Priest?**

10/19 - Jeremiah chapter 34 is interesting with the freedom for the slaves - and then the reversal of that decision. **Q: Could this story remind us of our lives at times? Do we sometimes promise God that we'll do something he wants us to do? Maybe even start to do it? And then change our minds? Why are we not consistent with what we tell God we will do?** Let us pray for consistency in our spiritual walk!

10/20 - Jeremiah chapter 35 today is a fantastic example of obedience from the Recabites! Interestingly, the Recabites are being obedient to a human's word... This stands in stark contrast to the Israelites disobedience to God's Word... **Q: Do we do this sometimes in our lives? Obey human words and disobey God's Word?**

10/21 - We read about some very interesting dynamics in Jeremiah chapters 37 & 38 today... Jeremiah goes from dungeon to prison to cistern to prison to being the king's confidant. Being a prophet is quite a life!! I continue to admire Jeremiah's boldness in speaking the truth in these chapters. 37:17 stood out: *"Later King Zedekiah secretly requested that Jeremiah come to the palace, where the king asked him, 'Do you have any messages from the Lord?'" "Yes, I do!" said Jeremiah. "You will be defeated by the king of Babylon."* Jeremiah goes right to the truth... no beating around the bush! And then 3 verses later he asks Zedekiah - *"Listen, my lord the king, I beg you. Don't send me back to the dungeon in the house of Jonathan the secretary, for I will die there."* He speaks a harsh truth to Zedekiah and then asks for a favor. I like that! **Q: Do we speak the truth in our lives? Even if we know we'll need to ask for a favor of someone later, will we still speak the truth? Or will we default to the un-truthful position of "hear no evil, speak no evil, see no evil...."**

10/22 - Jeremiah chapter 39 brings the fall of Jerusalem! :(It is sad to read about king Zedekiah's fate. But, he was forewarned many times by Jeremiah of the coming destruction. It is interesting that King Nebuchadnezzar sought out Jeremiah and told his soldiers to free Jeremiah - and give him the option of staying in Judah or coming to Babylon, where he would be taken care of. **Almost seemed like Nebuchadnezzar feared God more than Zedekiah?** Actually, in Jeremiah 40:2, we do see that the Babylonians did have a good understanding of God's prophecies and they seemed to believe them: *"The captain of the guard called for Jeremiah and said, 'The Lord your God has brought this disaster on this land, just as he said he would. For these people have sinned against the Lord and disobeyed him. That is why it happened.'" Q: Is it possible in our lives today that sometimes others can see more clearly than we can of how God is moving in our lives?*

10/22 - Jeremiah chapter 40 continues with Gedaliah being appointed governor of Judah by Babylon. Gedaliah seems to be a good sort, as he invites the people living in the country side to: *"Settle in any town you wish, and live off the land. Harvest the grapes and summer fruits and olives, and store them away."* (v. 10). However, things don't go well too long for Gedaliah, which is sad... Ishmael enters the scene in chapter 40 and into chapter 41, and ultimately murders Gedaliah. This definitely made me sad! Things seemed to be getting a bit peaceful in Judah, and prosperous to a degree. And then evil enters the scene once again... **Q: How many times have we seen this scenario play out over history?**

10/23 - The three Jeremiah chapters today are quite eventful! It is intriguing that the Israelites ask Jeremiah for a message from God - and that whatever they hear back they will do and obey. But then they don't obey! **Q: Are we like this at times... ? We promise promise promise God that we'll listen & change... but then do we? If you are going through struggles in your life today will you call out to God? Do you trust that He will answer in His own unique and perfect way and timing? And then will you trust and obey?**

10/23 - Chapter 43 reminds me that when we are disobedient to God's will that our disobedience can affect not only

ourselves, but others around us too. Mind you, Egypt was not a "house of the holy" - but the Israelites disobedience is going to bring destruction to themselves and Egypt. They're carrying their disobedience and curse on to others. Jeremiah 43's verses 9 & 10 stood out: *"While the people of Judah are watching, bury large rocks between the pavement stones at the entrance of Pharaoh's palace here in Tahpanhes. I will surely bring my servant Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, here to Egypt."* Interesting that God calls Nebuchadnezzar his "servant". **Q: Would God have said this about the Israelites at this time? Called them his servants?**

10/23 - Chapter 44 is a great reminder of why it's a bad idea to pursue idols in our life instead of God! Verse 7 asks *"Why are you destroying yourselves?"* I love this verse. **Why are we destroying ourselves?** We bring upon self-abuse, self-destruction, when we pursue things that are not of God. Think about it. **Q: They may bring a quick temporary pleasure, but in the long run are they building us up or destroying us? Why are we destroying ourselves?**

1 TIMOTHY 2:1 - 2 TIMOTHY 2:21

10/17 - 1 Timothy 2 starts off with yet another reminder to pray for others... I love and need this type of reminder in verses 1 and 2... often! *"I urge you, first of all, to pray for all people. As you make your requests, plead for God's mercy upon them, and give thanks. Pray this way for kings and all others who are in authority, so that we can live in peace and quietness, in godliness and dignity."* This is powerful. Pray for all people. Make requests for them. Plead God's mercy upon them. Give thanks. Pray for those leading our government. I think these verses are very appropriate during a time of local and national elections coming up. Pray for all of the candidates. Make requests for them. Plead God's mercy upon them. Give thanks. Pray. The other thing these opening two verses remind me of is to "Pray the News." I think often times we read about all of the bad news in the world and maybe feel a bit helpless or hopeless in the midst of it all. However, I strongly believe that God has blessed us with the ability to "Pray the News." Pray for earthquake victims, the people starving and dying in other parts of the world, the person who was in a car crash in your town, etc. etc. Pray for them. Make requests for them. Plead God's mercy upon them. Give thanks. **Q: Will you join me in "Praying the News" each day? Will you join me in praying for our politicians?**

10/17 - I realize that Paul's instructions for women in today's readings can be controversial. This is one of those days that if you have the Tyndale Publishers One Year Bible Companion to please read the 3 questions & answers for today. All 3 relate to these instructions of Paul's. Basically, the instructions for women in today's readings can either be interpreted as being: 1. historically conditioned - instructions just for the women of the church in Ephesus at that time and place or 2. universal and timeless instructions. Honestly, different Christian denominations interpret these verses different ways - but probably along one of the two lines above for the most part. The One Year Bible Companion does a great job of going down these 2 paths, with some detail placed on why the instructions could be being historically conditioned because of the Ephesian church having a unique case of prevalent false teachings. Overall, know that Paul did not forbid women from ever teaching or being active in church life. Priscilla taught Apollos, a great preacher from Acts. Phoebe worked in the church (see Romans 16:1). Mary, Tryphena, Tryphosa, Eudia and Syntyche were all women who were the Lord's workers in the New Testament as well (see Romans 16:6, 12 and Philippians 4:2). If you want to dive into further study on 1 Timothy 2:15 today: *"But women will be saved through childbearing..."* please check out an in depth look at this verse on bible.org at this link. **Q: What is your reaction to Paul's instructions for women from today's readings?**

10/18 - Paul's teachings in 1 Timothy 3 gives some great rules and regulations for leaders in a church. It all makes a lot of sense. I would encourage anyone who has interest in leading in your church - or if you are currently leading in your church - to prayerfully read through these. **How are you doing on these? Are there some areas in your life discussed here that need redeeming?** One of my favorite verses in all of these is verse 5 - *"For if a man cannot manage his own household, how can he take care of God's church?"* **How very true is that? How are you doing in managing your own household?**

10/18 - Verse 16 today beautifully demonstrates Jesus' divinity and his humanity!
*"Without question, this is the great mystery of our faith:
Christ appeared in the flesh
and was shown to be righteous by the Spirit.
He was seen by angels
and was announced to the nations.
He was believed on in the world
and was taken up into heaven."*

Q: Do you believe in everything written above? When is the last time you meditated upon the fact that Jesus

ascended into heaven? I heard a Pastor recently say that he thinks the Ascension is one of the most overlooked facts of Jesus' life in the church today. Jesus ascended into heaven and sits at the Father's right hand! This is very good news for us indeed!

10/19 - Today in 1 Timothy 4:7-8 we will read: *"Train yourself to be godly. For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come."* **Q: How are you doing on training yourself to be godly? Do you believe this is something you can be trained in? Are you practicing spiritual disciplines on a regular basis?** Spiritual disciplines might include: prayer, journaling, quiet time, fasting, retreats, Sabbaths, reading the Bible :), to name a few.

10/20 - First Timothy 5:8 is a powerful teaching from Paul today: *"But those who won't care for their own relatives, especially those living in the same household, have denied what we believe. Such people are worse than unbelievers."* This is such a great reminder to care for our parents as they get older! I have seen some family members and friends do this for their parents - and uncles and other relatives - and it is such a blessing to see in action. This reminds me of the commandment of "Honor your father & mother." What a blessed way to honor your father and mother by caring for them when they are older!

10/20 - First Timothy 5:24 is so important: *"Remember, the sins of some people are obvious, leading them to certain judgment. But there are others whose sins will not be revealed until later."* There is so much I could say about this verse. First and foremost, I think each of us needs to consider this verse in our own lives. **Q: Are there sins in our life that no one else knows about? Do you think that God knows about these secret sins? Do you think those secret sins will indeed eventually be revealed?** I recently heard Dennis Prager (radio talk show host) talking about secrets. And basically he made the point that none of us should have secrets in our life because if we do those secrets will not "keep" - they'll spoil us inside and, worst case, someday they could explode in horrendous ways. Prager made the comment that someone in our life needs to know absolutely everything in our life. (not that everyone in our life needs to know everything - but at least one person does) He ranked this in order of who he thought should know everything about us: 1. your spouse 2. a good trusted friend. 3. a clergy or professional counselor. It was interesting that Prager did make the point that he didn't think that your child(ren) need to know absolutely everything - but someone does... Obviously, we all know that God knows everything about us. But, I think there is so much truth in that one of the key ways to rid ourselves of a secret sin is to bring it out of the dark and into the Light by sharing that secret with someone else. And if it's a continuing sin, ask that person for help and accountability. Let us not wait until we meet the Lord face to face for us to rid ourselves of the rotten burden of secrets! Let us shine a Light on the secrets now for healing & peace!

10/21 - Today we wrap up First Timothy! Second Timothy begins tomorrow! First Timothy chapter 6 today is full of great wisdom. Verse 7: *"Yet true religion with contentment is great wealth."* Are you seeking true religion? What is true religion? I think Paul gives some great hints to us in verses 11-14: *"Run from all these evil things, and follow what is right and good. Pursue a godly life, along with faith, love, perseverance, and gentleness. Fight the good fight for what we believe. Hold tightly to the eternal life that God has given you, which you have confessed so well before many witnesses. And I command you before God, who gives life to all, and before Christ Jesus, who gave a good testimony before Pontius Pilate, that you obey his commands with all purity."* **Q: Are you holding tightly to the eternal life that God has given you?** Hold tight!

10/21 - Verse 10 is powerful today - *"For the love of money is at the root of all kinds of evil. And some people, craving money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many sorrows."* It is important to note that the "love of money" is the root of all kinds of evil. Not money in and of itself - that's not the root of evil. But the *love of money*... this is a great distinction and a great truth. **Do you love money? If so, should you be worried about this? If we love money, might we wander from the faith and pierce ourselves with many sorrows?**

10/22 - Today we begin Paul's second letter to Timothy, which was likely the last letter Paul ever wrote. Some call this letter Paul's "last will and testament!"

~ **Second Timothy** ~

Author: Paul the apostle

Place: Probably Rome

Date: A.D. 66 or 67

Content: This letter was probably the last letter that Paul ever wrote, and he addressed it to his former associate Timothy. It is a personal letter that expresses Paul's deepest feelings and the assurance that though his earthly life might end, God

had eternal life waiting for him in heaven. Paul also reflects upon the faithfulness of God (who led him through his entire life) and upon the coming desperate days when men would depart from the truth, refusing to acknowledge God as Lord. He exhorts Timothy to stand firm in the face of the coming persecutions.

Theme: The sovereign control of God over all things is the basic theme of this book. Although distress has come and will continue to increase, God is in control and those who trust him will have nothing to fear. Paul also adds his own testimony of faith, describing how he fought for the truth and will be rewarded by God in the end. (*Above commentary is from Tyndale Publishers "The One Year Bible Companion" pp. 29-30*)

10/22 - Second Timothy chapter 1 verse 6 is a very important teaching of Paul's that each of us should consider in our own lives: *"This is why I remind you to fan into flames the spiritual gift God gave you when I laid my hands on you."* Do you notice that Paul says "fan into flames the spiritual gift God gave you"? What does this say to you? This says to me that when God gives us spiritual gifts, they don't typically come in full bloom all at once! The gifts are given, and then we are to partner with the Spirit of God in fanning the embers of the spiritual gifts into full flames! This is really powerful to think about. I think sometimes we think that once we're saved, that's it. We're done. We've got all we need and there's nothing more to do except wait for heaven. Well... I think once we're saved the spiritual adventure really begins! God's gives us spiritual gifts. He gives us Kingdom work to do on this side of heaven! **Q: Do you believe that you have spiritual gifts? Do you know what they are? If not, do you suppose that perhaps your spiritual gifts are currently embers and now is the time for you to "fan into flames the spiritual gifts God gave you"?** Let us fan the flames folks!

10/23 - 2 Timothy 2, verse 9 has a great verse for us One Year Bible readers! :) *"But the word of God cannot be chained."* Amen! Well, I suppose in theory one individual Bible could be chained (as you sadly see below), but not all Bibles. God's living and active Word overall cannot be chained! 2 Tim 2 is a great chapter today... just jam packed with wisdom. Verse 4 stands out: *"And as Christ's soldier, do not let yourself become tied up in the affairs of this life, for then you cannot satisfy the one who has enlisted you in his army."* **Q: How often do we become tied up in affairs of this life.... ? Every day? Every hour? More often than that... ? If we are constantly "distracted" by the affairs of this life, do we lose sight of Jesus? Do we distract ourselves so much so that we can't serve Jesus well?**

10/23 - Verse 21 is a great closing verse today: *"If you keep yourself pure, you will be a utensil God can use for his purpose. Your life will be clean, and you will be ready for the Master to use you for every good work."* **Q: Will you keep yourself pure? Have you ever realized that you are indeed a utensil for God's use? :**

PSALM 87:1 - 93:5

10/17 - Psalm 87 is a celebration of Jerusalem as the City of God, as we read in verse 3 - *"O city of God, what glorious things are said of you!"* As we continue to read through the One Year Bible this year it is amazing to reflect upon how much focus there is on Jerusalem as the city of God. Truly, so many of the Psalms glorify Jerusalem, often as a foreshadowing of the Heavenly City of God. Indeed, as this verse suggests, many glorious things are said of Jerusalem in the Bible! **Q: Have you visited Jerusalem? Is it glorious?**

10/18 - Psalm 88 is quite a Psalm! Interestingly many churches read this Psalm during their Good Friday liturgies, interpreting this Psalm as a prayer of Jesus suffering on the road to Golgotha. Take a read through this Psalm again with this perspective...

10/19 - Psalm 89 verse 11 is so powerful for us to remember - *"The heavens are yours, and the earth is yours; everything in the world is yours--you created it all."* Everything in this world is God's. Everything. This means every single person we meet is God's. However... they might not realize it. But, I think it is important for us to remember that every single person we meet - no matter how "bad" they may seem or whatever - is still made in the image of God. And there is the possibility of that person getting to know they are God's. There is the possibility of redemption - not by our human power, but by the power of God. I think sometimes we go through our day thinking the world is bad. People are bad. It all is bad. And certainly, it is a fallen world. But it is still God's world - and yes, the devil is thrashing around his temptations as rapidly as he can in the hearts of men and women. This is the great spiritual battle. But, God is so much stronger than the devil. The name of Jesus expels the devil quicker than anything. So, know that while we are in a fallen world, it is God's world. Everything in this world is God's. **Q: What are you and I doing to let others know that they are God's - particularly if they don't know it? What are we doing to bless others with the knowledge that there is another Way than the devil's temptations in this world? What are we doing? Really. What are we doing with our lives to**

let others know about Jesus? Whew... this one gets to me for some reason. There are people suffering so much in our world. If only they knew there was another way.... **Will you help to show them to the Way?**

10/20 - I love Psalm 89:15 today! *"Happy are those who hear the joyful call to worship, for they will walk in the light of your presence, Lord."* **Q: Do you hear the joyful call to worship in your life? Do you worship God with a community of believers each week? (i.e. at a church... be it a house church or regular church or some church...) Will you choose to walk in the light of God's presence each week?**

10/21 - Psalm 89 verse 48 is something important to keep in mind as I think it does help us think about how we are really living our short earthly lives - *"No one can live forever; all will die. No one can escape the power of the grave."* **Q: Knowing this, how are you living your life? Are you living your life with love? Are you loving God and loving other people with all that you are? Are you living your life intentionally? Are you living your life as God would want you to live your life?** I heard someone once state: "Just keep in mind that we're not going to live forever. 100 years from now on this planet? It will be all new people." That is an interesting thing to keep in mind... 100 years from now... all new people. Hopefully this is a fact that encourages each of us not to waste our precious time here on things that are not of God! No one escapes the grave. Our condition is terminal. But of course our condition can be eternal through faith in Jesus!

10/22 - Today in Psalm 91:11-12 we read the words quoted by Satan to Jesus during the temptation in the desert: *"For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways; they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone."* **Q: As you read this Psalm, do these words apply to Jesus only? Or to those who trust in the Lord as well? Do you believe that the Lord is guarding you in all your ways? Do you believe this is possible?** (I hope your answer is yes!) Do you recall Jesus' response to Satan in Matthew 4:7: *"It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"* **What do Jesus' words to Satan tell you about these words in the Psalm? Can we believe these words of the Psalmist, and also not put God to the test at the same time? As an example, is driving over the speed limit putting God to the test? Is deciding to skip church one week (or for many weeks) because we have some chores to catch up on / or fun stuff to do / or because we're just tired, putting God to the test in some ways?**

10/23 - Today in Psalm 92 verse 4 we read a joyful verse! *"For you make me glad by your deeds, O LORD; I sing for joy at the works of your hands."* **Q: When was the last time you reflected upon God's deeds? When was the last time you reflected upon God's work of his hands? Do you think this might be a good daily habit? Do God's deeds make you glad? Do you sing for joy regularly for the work of God's hands?**

PROVERBS 25:18 - 26:5

10/17 - Proverbs 25:18 today teaches us of the danger of spreading lies about others! This indeed can indeed be *"as harmful as hitting them with an ax, wounding them with a sword, or shooting them with a sharp arrow."* **Q: How are you doing in your life today of not engaging in telling lies about others? Do you see how this can be as harmful as hitting someone with an ax?**

10/18 - Proverbs 25 verse 20 is intriguing to me today: *"Singing cheerful songs to a person whose heart is heavy is as bad as stealing someone's jacket in cold weather or rubbing salt in a wound."* I've always kind of thought you should try to "cheer someone up" when they are feeling down. **But... this Proverb seems to suggest otherwise? What do you think?** Actually, this does remind me that if someone is grieving the loss of a loved one, we should allow them to grieve. If they don't grieve now, they'll grieve later. It's better to go through the grieving process than to repress it. So, let us be judicious in when we sing cheerful songs to someone whose heart is heavy... They probably don't need to see these 3 folks below at their doorstep early on in the grieving process...

10/19 - Today's Proverbs chapter 25 verses 23 & 24 teach us: *"As surely as a north wind brings rain, so a gossiping tongue causes anger! It's better to live alone in the corner of an attic than with a quarrelsome wife in a lovely home."* These verses are great teachings of - 1. don't gossip. 2. don't be contentious. Or if you are a gossip or if you are contentious, then you just might find your spouse hiding from you in the attic... :)

10/20 - Proverbs 25:6 today is strong: *"If the godly compromise with the wicked, it is like polluting a fountain or muddying a spring."* **Q: Is there an area in your life where you might be compromising? Will you return to the pure spring water of life? Where can you find the pure spring water of life? Will you stop polluting in your own life?**

10/21 - Today in Proverbs 25:28 we are taught: *"Like a city whose walls are broken down is a man who lacks self-control."* **Q: Does this Proverb remind you of our recent readings in Jeremiah? Are there parallels to the captivity of the Israelites and this Proverb? How does this Proverb speak to you personally? Are your walls in need of some repair? Will you allow Jesus to repair them? Will you allow Jesus to restore self-control in those areas of your life that are lacking in self-control?**

10/22 - Proverbs 26 verse 2 is a great reminder to not curse anyone! We are not the judge. God is. We cannot truly curse anyone. Any curse we offer is an unfair curse. *"Like a fluttering sparrow or a darting swallow, an unfair curse will not land on its intended victim."* **Q: Why do we ever behave like fluttering sparrows or a darting swallows by giving unfair curses? Do we realize that any curse we attempt to impose will not land on our intended victim, but could come right back on ourselves like a boomerang?**

10/23 - In Proverbs 26 today I think we have a catch-22! Someone correct me if I'm wrong here in verses 4 & 5 - *"When arguing with fools, don't answer their foolish arguments, or you will become as foolish as they are. When arguing with fools, be sure to answer their foolish arguments, or they will become wise in their own estimation."* **Q: So do we not answer their foolish arguments.... or do we? :)** I can see the wisdom in both verses in different circumstances...

Group discussions:

- Introductions.
- What were some of your favorite verses or passages from the past week's readings?
- What are some questions that were generated for you based on the past week's readings?
- What is something new you learned about God or the Bible from the past week's readings?
- How did God speak to you through the past week's readings?
- What is something you want to change or grow in your life based on the past week's readings?
- **Discuss the bold Questions in the Study Notes**
- Any prayer requests for the group for the coming week?

Each group is encouraged to close in prayer.

Daily questions for this next week's readings you may want to journal or pray through and discuss with your group next Sunday:

- My favorite verses or passages:
- What I learned from the readings:
- My questions for further study:
- How God spoke to me through the Word:
- Something I want to change or grow in my life based on the Word:
- My prayer points based on the Word:

Visit www.OneYearBibleBlog.com this next week for daily commentary and questions for reflection.

[Copyright © 2004-2010 One Year Bible Blog](http://www.OneYearBibleBlog.com)