

**One Year Bible Blog – Weekly Notes - [www.OneYearBibleBlog.com](http://www.OneYearBibleBlog.com)  
November 7 - November 13, 2010, [Copyright © 2004-2010 One Year Bible Blog](http://www.OneYearBibleBlog.com)  
Weekly Notes will cover our readings from Sundays through Saturdays**

**Notes & Group Questions from November 7-13 readings (Questions (Q:) for groups are bolded below)**

**EZEKIEL 16:42 - 28:26**

11/7 - Ezekiel chapter 16 compares the sins of Jerusalem to those of Sodom! These are bold comparisons, as you know the story of Sodom and the wipeout there. The Israelites were in relationship with God - they should have known better - hence the Sodom comparison. Verse 49 stood out to me in this chapter "*Sodom's sins were pride, laziness, and gluttony, while the poor and needy suffered outside her door.*" The interesting thing to note is that Sodom's social injustice sins are highlighted here - rather than their sexual sins. Sodom was not taking care of the poor. And nor was Jerusalem at this time of the 6th century B.C. **Q: What about in our world today? Are there poor and needy suffering outside our door today? Are we not taking care of them because of our pride, laziness, or gluttony? Where is our "door"? Who is our neighbor? What will you do?**

11/7 - Ezekiel chapter 17 is a great story of the two eagles! This is basically a story of the city of Jerusalem's vacillating foreign policy between Babylon and Egypt. The first eagle is King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon and the treaty Jerusalem makes w/ Babylon is in the story. Then, the second eagle represents a pharaoh from Egypt, whom Jerusalem makes another treaty with subsequently, which goes against Babylon. The bad part of this is that the Babylon treaty was sworn to by the king of Jerusalem/Judah in the Lord's name - then broken. This is a very bad idea to swear something in the Lord's name and then not uphold it... The close of this chapter is phenomenal when it takes a Messianic turn, foreshadowing Jesus in verses 22 and 23: "*And the Sovereign LORD says: I will take a tender shoot from the top of a tall cedar, and I will plant it on the top of Israel's highest mountain. It will become a noble cedar, sending forth its branches and producing seed. Birds of every sort will nest in it, finding shelter beneath its branches.*" **Q: Do these verses sound like Jesus to you?**

11/8 - Ezekiel chapter 18 is a powerful chapter! What we are seeing in this chapter is the Old Covenant - which I do believe was compassionate & "fair", but different from the New Covenant, which I believe is compassionate & graceful (which may not necessarily be "fair" - but which is good news - Gospel - for us sinners!). Verse 30 is a good look at the Old Covenant: "*Therefore, I will judge each of you, O people of Israel, according to your actions, says the Sovereign LORD. Turn from your sins! Don't let them destroy you!*" Verse 4 of course stands out too with: "*And this is my rule: The person who sins will be the one who dies.*" You read this at a high level and you'll get a bit nervous, no? :) Indeed this is the Old Covenant: your actions will dictate your death or your life. It's up to your actions. It's up to you. You'll get what you deserve. And this is certainly "fair." However, this changes through Jesus Christ's atonement for our sins once and for all on the cross. Under the New Covenant, through God's gift of grace, we now simply need to have faith that Jesus Christ is the Messiah, died for our sins and rose from the dead. As we've been reading in Hebrews currently - we simply need to have faith in Christ as our High Priest. God's grace and our faith becomes the key (regeneration). Not our actions on their own. This being said, after our salvation (justification) through grace and faith, God is very interested in our actions and wants us to live a life of holiness (sanctification). This is a lot of theology here... and more than I can blog on without goofing it up - actually I probably already have. :) **Q: What are your thoughts on the person who sins will be the one who dies? How does this relate to Jesus' ministry?**

11/8 - Verse 32 can be argued to be the single most important point in all of the book of Ezekiel - "*I don't want you to die, says the Sovereign LORD. Turn back and live!*" This is a powerful verse. **Q: Think this verse shows us that God is compassionate? Think this might be the single most important point in the book of Ezekiel? Think this verse can apply to our lives today? Are there areas of sin in your life which God is calling you to turn back from? Calling you to turn toward true Life? And to be free from the slavery of sin? Will you turn back? Will you repent?**

11/8 - Ezekiel Chapter 19 is a funeral song and allegory about the land of Judah and Jerusalem. Jerusalem is the lioness and the lions are two of her sons, two kings - one who ended up trapped and deceived by Egypt and the other by Babylon. The last sentence of verse 14 is a sad one... "*This is a funeral song, and it is now time for the funeral.*" As we know, it is now time for the funeral for Jerusalem in Ezekiel's time. However, of course, there is the redemption to come and the continuation of the house of David. The promise to Abraham won't die here! There is another Lion of Judah yet

to come...

11/9 - Ezekiel chapter 20 verse 12 stands out to me today: *"And I gave them my Sabbath days of rest as a sign between them and me. It was to remind them that I, the LORD, had set them apart to be holy, making them my special people."* I like learning this - the Sabbath days of rest were given as a sign between God and his people. **Q: How are you doing on taking a day of rest each week? Would taking a day of rest each week - a Sabbath day - benefit your relationship with God? And with others? Would it benefit perhaps the other 6 days of your week?**

11/9 - After verse 12 above, we read this from God in verse 13: *"But the people of Israel rebelled against me, and they refused to obey my laws there in the wilderness. They wouldn't obey my instructions even though obedience would have given them life. And they also violated my Sabbath days. So I threatened to pour out my fury on them, and I made plans to utterly consume them in the desert."* The thing that stood out to me in this verse was "they also violated my Sabbath days." I don't get too caught up on which day of the week we take a Sabbath - as some may work weekends and have Mondays off, for example. **Q: Whatever the day is for you - do you have 1 day a week that you consider a Sabbath? Why might this be a smart thing to do? A healthy thing to do? A faithful thing to do?**

11/9 - In Ezekiel 20:40 we read: *"There I will require your offerings and your choice gifts, along with all your holy sacrifices."* **Q: What are your offerings, choice gifts and holy sacrifices to the Lord? Your life, your thoughts, your finances? Do you give a percentage of your income to your local church, ministries, and nonprofits? Would this perhaps be a "holy sacrifice" if you did so? Would this be a bold act of faith?**

11/10 - In Ezekiel chapter 21 today we read about the Lord's sword of judgment! Which, in this case is Babylon and King Nebuchadnezzar. I did not realize until today that there is actually a "sword song" in the Bible - a song that warriors may have sung and even danced to before going out to battle. Unfortunately, this sword song in verses 9 through 11 was being sung for Jerusalem because of her many sins... *"A sword, a sword is being sharpened and polished. It is sharpened for terrible slaughter and polished to flash like lightning! Now will you laugh? Those far stronger than you have fallen beneath its power! Yes, the sword is now being sharpened and polished; it is being prepared for the executioner."* Okay, so Ezekiel Chapters 21 & 22 are the types of chapters where you might think about stereotypes of the Old Testament - a "grouchy/mean" God perhaps one might say about these two chapters... However! - context of course is key to keep in mind. We must also know the book of Jeremiah or Ezekiel prior to these chapters. God has been slow to anger, compassionate, asking - no, begging - people to repent. And they have not. And things just keep getting worse and worse and worse. Check out chapter 22 verses 1 through 16 for how bad the sins of Jerusalem have gotten... *All of this reminds me that the consequences for sin are very real. Let us never forget the truth of Romans 6:23 - "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."* And, once again, in verse 30 of chapter 22 we see God's compassion and God seeking an opportunity to stop the coming judgment: *"I looked for someone who might rebuild the wall of righteousness that guards the land. I searched for someone to stand in the gap in the wall so I wouldn't have to destroy the land, but I found no one."* No one was found... **Q: This verse makes me think about this - sometimes I think we tell ourselves, "What difference does it make? What difference does it make if I'm good or bad? What difference does it make if I serve and love others in need?" Check out verse 30 above again. Think one person could have made a difference then? What about now? Will you make a difference today? Will you stand in the gap?**

11/11 - Ezekiel chapter 23 is interesting in its use of prostitution and lust as the metaphors for Israel's political alliances with neighboring lands. My thoughts here are that we live in a "sexualized" world in so many ways today - and perhaps things weren't so different back then. Sex is obviously something that was created as a good by God - but can so quickly and easily be twisted into something that is not good. Sex is good in the right context of marriage. Detrimental in the wrong. It seems to me that lust and the selling of sex was as prevalent back in Ezekiel's today as it is in ours. To which we may need to remember well Paul's words in 1 Corinthians 6:18 - *"Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a man commits are outside his body, but he who sins sexually sins against his own body."* And of course James 4:7 - *"Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."* **Q: Is there an area of our lives related to sex that you must flee from? Will you flee?**

11/12 - An important note from our readings in Ezekiel chapter 24 today is that Ezekiel's wife dies on the exact same day the Temple in Jerusalem was burned! August 14, 586 B.C. As I read these verses about Ezekiel's wife and the Temple I am reminded of a verse in the book of Job - 13:15- *"Though he slay me, yet will I hope in him."* Though Ezekiel's wife dies and though the Temple burned, the Lord still instructs Judah in verse 23: *"You will not mourn or weep"*. The Job

situation is of course different in that Job was righteous and Judah was not at this time. And there is not clear hope for Judah at this time - though there ultimately is redemption for Jerusalem. However, again, look at Job's faith in the midst of all he was going through: *"yet I will hope in him."* **Q: When times are bad - or times are good - do you hope in Him? No matter what, will you hope in Him?**

11/13 - Ezekiel Chapter 27 indicates that Tyre was certainly good at business and trading! However chapter 28 tells us that there was also a lot of pride associated with these business skills & wealth. Verse 5 tells us: *"Yes, your wisdom has made you very rich, and your riches have made you very proud."* This verse definitely stands out to me. **Q: How often in our lives does something in our lives make us proud? Verse 2 in this chapter says this: "In your great pride you claim, 'I am a god!'" If we get prideful enough, might we even consider ourselves a god?? Do you hear others in our culture today telling us that we are gods? Good idea or bad idea here....?**

#### **HEBREWS 8:1 - 11:31**

11/7 - Hebrews chapter 8 is awesome in that it dives into some verses we read recently in the book of Jeremiah about the new covenant! Verse 3 stands out: *"And since every high priest is required to offer gifts and sacrifices, our High Priest must make an offering, too."* What was the offering Christ made for our sins? Verse 13 stands out too: *"When God speaks of a new covenant, it means he has made the first one obsolete. It is now out of date and ready to be put aside."* Something I learned recently - the old / first covenant referred to in this chapter is the "Sinaitic" covenant and not the Abrahamic covenant - the difference being not the promise to Abraham that his descendants will outnumber the stars in the sky and God will be our God and we his people (the Abrahamic covenant) - but the "Sinaitic" covenant are the laws given to Moses on Mt. Sinai and in the desert for how the Israelites were to live - including how priests would make sacrifices for sin. The Abrahamic covenant still stands today - the Sinaitic covenant is now out of date and ready to be put aside because it was completed by the new covenant of Jesus Christ. Our High Priest who offered His life for our lives. **Q: How is Jesus your High Priest these days?**

11/8 - Hebrews chapter 9 is a fairly brief reading today on the Old Covenant rules for approaching God. We also read today about the ark of the covenant. One thing that stands out in my mind when reading this chapter today is that just after Jesus dies on the cross there is an earthquake, which shakes the Temple in Jerusalem where the Most Holy Place was located at the time of Jesus' death. The curtain separating the Most Holy Place from the rest of the Temple is torn in two. This is incredible imagery that shows that no longer is the Most Holy Place and an earthly high priest the only way to God. Jesus has torn that veil in two and Jesus is our new and eternal High Priest ushering in the New Covenant!

11/9 - Hebrews chapter 9 verses 27 & 28 today teaches us: *"And just as it is destined that each person dies only once and after that comes judgment, so also Christ died only once as a sacrifice to take away the sins of many people."* This stands in stark contrast to the old covenant where the High Priest had to atone for the people's sins over and over and over again. With faith in Jesus, our sins are forgiven all at once - for eternity - and Christ does not need to forgive us of our sins over and over and over again. Faith in Christ is the one and only thing that matters. **Q: Do you believe this?**

11/10 - Hebrews chapter 10 is powerful today! I did come across a great learning, which I hadn't really picked up before. In verse 9 we read this about Jesus: *"He cancels the first covenant in order to establish the second."* At first glance you might think, wow, the old / first covenant is over. Things like the Ten Commandments don't matter anymore. Well, not so fast! Tyndale's One Year Bible companion tells us that this verse refers to the doing away (canceling) of the system of sacrifices contained in the **ceremonial** law. However, this does not mean canceling / eliminating God's **moral** law (the Ten Commandments). Only through faith in Christ we can fulfill the moral law, as Jesus lives in us. **Q: Good to know, eh? I'd never really picked up this distinction before of Jesus canceling the ceremonial law but not the moral law. Do you see this distinction?** As I've done some more reading on this, I realize this is a bit of a contentious point for many Christians. Check out this great overview of the Mosaic Law in light of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection - including a disagreement on my point above about the moral law - [at bible.org at this link](http://at.bible.org/at.this.link).

11/11 - Hebrews chapter 10 today is amazing! In verse 22 we read: *"Let us go right into the presence of God, with true hearts fully trusting him. For our evil consciences have been sprinkled with Christ's blood to make us clean, and our bodies have been washed with pure water."* Great stuff! The last few words of this verse remind me of the blessing of Baptism - as an outward sign of our inner transformation and faith in Christ. **Verse 24** is just pure joy & goodness: *"Think of ways to encourage one another to outbursts of love and good deeds."* Outbursts of love & good deeds indeed! Who are you encouraging these days to outbursts of love and good deeds? Can you think of some ways to do this? And **verse 25** reminds me of the importance of finding a church community to do life with together: *"And let us not neglect our*

*meeting together, as some people do, but encourage and warn each other, especially now that the day of his coming back again is drawing near."* Do you meet together with others in a local church? Have you found a small group, community group, or prayer group that you can spend some quality time with outside of regular church services? A group where you can encourage, warn, and pray for each other? **Verse 26** and the following verses are strong reminders of the one option we have for our faith - the one true God to follow: *"Dear friends, if we deliberately continue sinning after we have received a full knowledge of the truth, there is no other sacrifice that will cover these sins."* **Q: Is there another sacrifice besides Jesus' sacrifice on the cross that will cover our sins?**

11/12 - Today we read Hebrews Chapter 11, which is a great reflection of the faith of our spiritual ancestors in the Old Testament! Some call this chapter the "Hall of Faith" - as in the Hall of Fame. :) I would encourage you to read this chapter entirely today - and again tomorrow in its entirety. Chapter 11 opens with this critically important verse for us to memorize and take to heart: *"Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see."* **Q: Are you sure of what you hope for? Are you certain of what you do not see? As you read through this chapter, do you see the value in the faith of our spiritual ancestors? In what area of your life might God be calling you to step forward in faith?**

11/12 - Verses 13 through 16 I think are four of the most amazing verses we've read in Hebrews and I think each of us should really meditate on what these verses might mean in our lives today: *"All these people died still believing what God had promised them. They did not receive what was promised, but they saw it all from a distance and welcomed it. They agreed that they were foreigners and nomads here on earth. Obviously people who say such things are looking forward to a country they can call their own. If they had longed for the country they came from, they could have gone back. But they were looking for a better place, a heavenly homeland. That is why God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them."* **Q: What do you think of these verses? If these heroes of our faith died still believing what God promised them - even though they did not receive what was promised here on earth - do you think that perhaps you and I should always be faithful in our lives to God no matter what we may think we're not "receiving" here on earth? If we're not receiving perfect health. If we're not receiving a perfect job. If we're not receiving a perfect family. If we're not receiving a perfect mental state. If not, if not, if not.... will we still believe what God promised us? Will we still believe that God is not ashamed to be called our God? Will we still believe that God has prepared a heavenly city for us? Let us believe!**

11/13 - Hebrews 11 verses 25 & 26 today tell us so much about the character and faith of Moses! *"He chose to share the oppression of God's people instead of enjoying the fleeting pleasures of sin. He thought it was better to suffer for the sake of the Messiah than to own the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking ahead to the great reward that God would give him."* **Q: Do these verses speak to us today as well? Will we share in the oppression of God's people? Or do we enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin? Do we suffer for the sake of Jesus? Or would we prefer to chill out and hang out with our luxuries in life? Do we look ahead to the great reward that God promises? Will we pursue the character and faith of Moses in our own lives today?**

#### **PSALM 106:13 - 111:10**

11/7 - Today in Psalm 106:19-21 we read: *"At Horeb they made a calf and worshiped an idol cast from metal. They exchanged their Glory for an image of a bull, which eats grass. They forgot the God who saved them, who had done great things in Egypt."* This of course sounds very familiar to Romans chapter 1 verses 22 and 23: *"Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles."* **Q: Was this wise that the Israelites exchanged their Glory for an image of a bull? Why did they do this? What should have been their Glory? What is your Glory today? Do you, at times, exchange your true Glory for something else? Is this wise? Are you forgetting the God who saved you? The God who has done great things for you? Please don't ever exchange the true Glory for a false idol!**

11/7 - Verse 13 in this Psalm also stands out: *"Yet how quickly they forgot what he had done! They wouldn't wait for his counsel!"* **Q: Is this true of us? Do we forget or take for granted all of the blessings God has poured out into our lives? In doing so, do we decide to take matters into our own hands - not waiting on God's counsel for our direction? Will we remember? Will we wait? Patiently...?**

11/8 - Psalm 106 verse 39 stood out to me today, speaking about the Israelites: *"They defiled themselves by their evil deeds, and their love of idols was adultery in the LORD's sight."* I think this Psalm verse stands the test of time with our modern world today. **Q: Do you believe that we still defile ourselves with our evil deeds today? Do you believe**

**that our love of idols is adultery in God's sight? How can we stop defiling ourselves with evil deeds and stop loving idols in our modern world today? Who can save us from ourselves?**

11/9 - Psalm 107 repeats a verse four times - starting with verse 6 here - *"LORD, help!" they cried in their trouble, and he rescued them from their distress.*" (then see verse 13, verse 19, and verse 28 - same verse) This is a great reminder to pray - and yes, it's great to pray during times of distress of course. But, how about praying during times of happiness & joy? Or even times of just regular blahs? I recently read much of the book "The Life You've Always Wanted" by John Ortberg (great book!), and it has a great chapter on prayer. It is so true that one of the best ways to truly know and love God is through prayer. Simple prayer. 5 minutes a day. **Q: Do you pray to God 5 minutes a day? When the storms of life come, do you cry out for help to Jesus? Do you know that he will always be there for you in the midst of the storm?**

11/10 - I love Psalm 108 verse 1 today: *"My heart is confident in you, O God; no wonder I can sing your praises! Wake up, my soul!"* **Q: Is your heart confident in God? Do you sing God's praises? Is your soul awake? Or does your soul need a wake up call? Where do you suppose you can find that wake up call for your soul? The Bible? Jesus? The Holy Spirit? God? Will you answer the call today? Will your soul wake up?**

11/11 - Today in Psalm 109 verse 4 in the NIV we read these words of David - *"I am a man of prayer."* Wow. I like that. And I'm not sure I can honestly say that about myself right now. Sure, I will roll out of bed and offer up some prayers. Yeah, I'll try to say a prayer before meals. And yes, I'll pray briefly before going to sleep. Oh yeah, maybe in church once a week too I'll offer up some prayers. But, for me to say "I am a person of prayer" would probably not be truthful. Ouch. Don't worry - I'm not beating myself up too badly over it. But - if I really want to realize that God is holy and a Rock and if I really want to love God and other people, then I have a hunch that being a person of prayer is a critical part of the equation. I don't think that prayer is so much talking to God as it is really slowing down and listening to God. Sure, it's a conversation, but I think in our fast pace world today we would do well to really slow down in prayer and listen to God. Listen for that still small voice within our hearts leading us to God's kingdom and glory and peace. It's there. I think it takes prayer to really hear it oftentimes. **Q: How about you? Are you a person of prayer? Do you want to be a person of prayer? When you pray, do you talk more or listen more to God? Do you want to live your life as a person of prayer?**

11/13 - Psalm 111 is a wonderful Psalm of praise! I love the way it ends in verse 10: *"Reverence for the LORD is the foundation of true wisdom. The rewards of wisdom come to all who obey him. Praise his name forever!"* **Q: Do you believe that reverence for God is the foundation of true wisdom? Do you believe that there are rewards of wisdom if you obey God? Will you praise his name forever?**

#### **PROVERBS 27:7 - 16**

11/7 - Today in Proverbs 27 verse 8 we read: *"A person who strays from home is like a bird that strays from its nest."* **Q: Where is our spiritual home? Who is our spiritual home? Have we strayed from our spiritual nest?** As I read this I of course think about our relationship with Jesus first - and then manifestation of his body in the local church as being our spiritual home. And I realize that if I do not attend church on a weekly basis, I am like a bird straying from its nest. Our prime home is Jesus - we do not want to stray from our relationship with Him, ever. It's far too risky to do so, for obvious reasons. But I think we can sometimes feel like we don't need Jesus' body, his church. We feel like we can do life fine without church. I submit to you that this is far too risky of a way to live life. I am just afraid that if we stray away from the nest of our local church, then we are at risk of potentially straying away from Jesus. We need the church. We need Jesus. **Are you going to church each week these days? Do you think you should?** If there is one thing I can encourage you on, almost more than anything, is to please find a local church where Jesus is clearly the cornerstone and the Bible is clearly taught. And then please do not stray away from that nest. . . I cannot encourage you enough on this point. I love the church so very much. I pray that you do as well. (It brings tears to my eyes to even try to think of my life without the church - I cannot imagine it. I pray this is the case for you as well . . .)

11/8 - Proverbs 27:10 is interesting and not something I would think of on my own: *"Never abandon a friend--either yours or your father's. Then in your time of need, you won't have to ask your relatives for assistance. It is better to go to a neighbor than to a relative who lives far away."* I would of course think it's better to ask a distant relative for help than a friend. But, this Proverb tells us differently... Why do you suppose this is? I guess as I think about it, it is probably because when our "time of need" comes we will first turn to our neighbors in our local community - to call the fire department or call the police or call the paramedics or whatever the case may be. We'll need our neighbors during that

time of need initially. And then, longer term, yes we'll need our relatives who live far away. But that unforeseen time of immediate need is just one more reason to live in loving community with our neighbors! And let us always be ready to serve our neighbors when they need us. **Do you really know your neighbors? Are you a good neighbor?**

11/9 - It is interesting to read Proverbs 27:11 as if God was writing this to each of us: *"My child, how happy I will be if you turn out to be wise! Then I will be able to answer my critics."* **Q: Are we spending our lives striving to be wise in God's eyes or the world's eyes? Do you think that God will be happy if you are wise? Do you want godly wisdom? Where will you find it? Below is an image of a young Jesus growing in wisdom with Scripture - think this made God happy?**

11/10 - Proverbs 27:12 reminds us that it's good to be a defensive driver on the roads! :) *"A prudent person foresees the danger ahead and takes precautions. The simpleton goes blindly on and suffers the consequences."* Honestly, I do think that we do well when we are "defensive" drivers or defensive walkers or defensive workers or this list could go on. I am afraid that all too often we can drive or walk or work like we are #1 and there is no one else in this world... well, guess what? The person you crash into with your car, or get in a fight with when you walk, or get in an argument with when you work is thinking the exact same thing - except they are thinking that they are #1! This is where Jesus wisely encouraged us to consider others before ourselves. Imagine if our world operated this way - in Jesus' way of humility and service to others - instead of everyone thinking they are #1? **Q: How would our world be different if this was the case? Are you helping our world be different? Are you humbling yourself to be a #2 or #3 or #4 instead of being #1 all the time? Think this is prudent? A good way to foresee the dangers ahead? And a good way to take precautions? Or are you going on blinding as a #1 and suffering the consequences?** (I have to admit - this kiddo below does appear to be #1 in his household at this very moment... and suffering any consequences is probably not going to happen in this case! :)

11/11 - Proverbs 27:13 today teaches us: *"Get security from someone who guarantees a stranger's debt. Get a deposit if he does it for foreigners."* This is a great simple but important reminder to get collateral or security on debts! Particularly if the guarantee is for someone you don't know - though I'd recommend a guarantee on family loans too... :) Otherwise you may see your money "fly away" from you... **Q: How are you doing with debt in your life today?**

11/12 - Proverbs 27:14 today makes me laugh: *"If you shout a pleasant greeting to your neighbor too early in the morning, it will be counted as a curse!"* This reminds me of my visit to the coffee shop in the morning before I've had a chance to drink my coffee... those people behind the counter are already wired on their espresso shots and are just way too pleasant first thing in the morning! :) **Q: Any other coffee addicts out there...?** Coffee may be an idol for me that I need to not worship anymore... really...

11/13 - Proverbs chapter 27 verse 16 is a great teaching that it is tough to try to stop the wind or hold something with greased hands... How's that for avoiding the real point of this Proverb? :) I'm newly married, so I'll punt to you veteran married folks to give commentary from here about that dripping analogy in verse 15! :)

#### **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:

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