

Through the Bible in 24 Months



WEEK 60 OF 104

My Redeemer Lives

Week 60 of 104 • 58% of the way through the Bible

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

General Old Testament	Job 12-19
Wisdom Literature	Psalms 69
Gospels	Luke 8:40-9:17
General New Testament	Ephesians 5-6

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

A man sitting in ashes, scraped raw, abandoned by the three people who came to help him, says the sentence that has been carved on gravestones ever since: I know that my Redeemer lives. That is the center of this week. Psalm 69 puts you in deep water with a man whose throat is raw from crying out, and hands you lines that Jesus would one day live out on a cross. Luke shows a father whose daughter dies while Jesus is stopped in the road talking to somebody else, and then a hillside where five loaves feed a multitude. And Paul tells husbands to love the way Christ loved the church, tells the church to sing to one another, and then hands everybody armor. Hope, in Scripture, is never a mood. It is a Person.

How to use this guide: Read all four passages during the week. Your teacher will take up two of them in class, one in each session. For the other two, work through the "Extended Class Discussion or Self-Study" questions on your own and write your answers in the space provided.

GENERAL OLD TESTAMENT Job 12-19

Though He Slay Me

WHAT YOU WILL FIND HERE

Job answers Zophar with heavy sarcasm, insisting he understands God's power as well as any of them, and then turns from his friends and addresses God directly. He calls them forgers of lies and worthless physicians. He wonders whether a man who dies can live again. Eliphaz returns, harder than before. Job calls all three miserable comforters. Bildad paints the ruin of the wicked. Then, having lost family, health, reputation, and friendship, Job says that he knows his Redeemer lives.

FOR CLASS DISCUSSION

1. Job says in 13:15 that though God slay him, yet will he trust Him, and three verses earlier he demands the right to argue his case before God. How do those two live in the same man, and is arguing with God a failure of faith or an act of it?

2. Job calls his friends forgers of lies and worthless physicians in 13:4, and miserable comforters in 16:2. They had traveled a long way, sat with him a week, and said a great many true things. What exactly made them worthless?
3. Read Job 19:23–27 aloud, slowly. What does Job claim to know, and what does he still not know? How can a man hold a hope that firm while holding no explanation at all?

EXTENDED CLASS DISCUSSION OR SELF-STUDY

1. Read Job 12:13–25 and list what Job says God does with judges, kings, priests, counselors, and nations. He is answering a specific accusation from his friends. What is he proving to them, and why is it not the comfort they expected?
2. Trace Job's picture of human life in 14:1–12: few days, full of trouble, like a flower, like a shadow. Compare Psalm 90:10 and James 4:14. Then read his question in 14:14 and find where the New Testament finally answers it (John 11:25–26; 1 Corinthians 15:20–22).
3. In 16:19–21 Job says his witness is in heaven and his advocate is on high, and he wishes someone could plead for a man with God. Compare 1 John 2:1 and Hebrews 7:25. Write down what Job wanted and what Christians actually have.
4. Go through chapter 19 and count everyone who has turned away from Job: relatives, acquaintances, close friends, household servants, his wife, even young children. How many separate relationships does he list, and what does that tell you about the weight he is carrying beyond the physical pain?
5. Somebody near you is being treated to a great deal of true advice and very little presence. Go be a physician of value this week: listen for thirty minutes and prescribe nothing at all.

WISDOM LITERATURE Psalm 69

Deep Waters and Gall

WHAT YOU WILL FIND HERE

This is a long lament from a man in over his head, and the opening image sets everything: save me, for the waters have come up to my neck. He is sinking in deep mire with no footing, weary with crying, his throat dry, hated without cause by more people than he can count. He has become a stranger to his own brothers because

of his zeal for God's house. The middle of the psalm calls down judgment on his persecutors, and the end turns, remarkably, to praise.

FOR CLASS DISCUSSION

1. The New Testament quotes Psalm 69 about Jesus more often than almost any other psalm. Find the lines used in John 2:17, John 15:25, Matthew 27:34 and 27:48, Romans 15:3, and Acts 1:20. How does it change your reading of this psalm to know that Jesus lived these very words?
2. In verse 8 the psalmist says he has become a stranger to his brothers and an alien to his mother's children, and verse 9 gives the reason: zeal for God's house has consumed him. When has taking God seriously cost you standing with people who should have been closest to you?
3. Verses 22 through 28 ask God to bring real and terrible things on the psalmist's enemies. Read them honestly rather than skipping them. Given Luke 23:34 and Romans 12:19, how should a Christian pray about people doing genuine evil?

EXTENDED CLASS DISCUSSION OR SELF-STUDY

1. List every water image in the psalm: the flood, the mire, the deep, the pit. Then describe in your own words the specific kind of trouble each image is meant to capture.
2. Verse 5 says, O God, You know my foolishness, and my sins are not hidden from You. Jesus had no sin, yet this psalm is applied to Him repeatedly. Explain how a psalm can describe the psalmist truthfully and still point forward to Christ in particular lines.
3. Compare Psalm 69:9 with John 2:13–17 and Romans 15:3. Trace how the same verse is used two different ways in the New Testament, and what each use teaches.
4. Read 69:30–31, where the psalmist says praise will please the Lord better than an ox or a bull. Compare Psalm 51:16–17 and Hebrews 13:15. What has God always wanted more than the ritual He Himself commanded?
5. Name the reproach you have quietly avoided because it would cost you standing with family, coworkers, or friends: a conviction unspoken, an invitation never given, a stand never taken. Take it this week, and expect it to cost something.

Interrupted on the Way

WHAT YOU WILL FIND HERE

A synagogue ruler falls at Jesus' feet because his only daughter is dying, and Jesus starts toward the house. On the way a woman who has bled for twelve years touches the edge of His garment and is healed, and Jesus stops the whole procession to find her. While He is still speaking, word arrives that the girl is dead. Then Jesus sends the Twelve out with authority, Herod hears the reports and wonders who this is, and five thousand men are fed from five loaves.

FOR CLASS DISCUSSION

1. Jairus has to stand there while Jesus stops for someone else, and in that delay his daughter dies. Put yourself in his place during those minutes. Where has God's timing in your life looked exactly like indifference, and what did you learn afterward, if anything?
2. Jesus already knew who touched Him, yet He would not move until the woman came forward and told her story in front of everyone. Why would He require that of a woman who had every reason to stay hidden?
3. In 9:13 Jesus tells the apostles to give the crowd something to eat when they have five loaves and two fish. Where has God handed you an assignment plainly larger than your resources, and what do you usually do with that gap?

EXTENDED CLASS DISCUSSION OR SELF-STUDY

1. Luke tells two stories at once. List the parallels between the woman and the girl: the twelve years, the word daughter, the touch, the faith, the impossibility. Why do you think Luke wove them together rather than telling them separately?
2. Read Luke 9:1–6 and list exactly what Jesus gave the Twelve and exactly what He told them not to take. Then read Luke 22:35–36, where He changes the instruction. Was the first set of orders a permanent rule for all preachers, and how do you know?
3. Trace the question "Who is this?" through Luke 8:25, 9:9, and 9:20. Write down who asks it each time and what answer, if any, is given. How is Luke building his case?
4. Compare the feeding of the five thousand in 9:12–17 with 2 Kings 4:42–44 and John 6:1–14. Note who provided the food, what the servants objected, and how much was left over. What is the point of the twelve baskets?
5. The apostles were sent out with no bag, no bread, no money, and no spare tunic. Name the one thing you rely on more than you rely on God, and go without it for one full week beginning today.

Love, Sing, Stand**WHAT YOU WILL FIND HERE**

Paul tells the Ephesians to walk in love as Christ loved us and gave Himself, and then gets specific about speech, purity, and how a Christian spends his time. He contrasts drunkenness with being filled with the Spirit, and describes a church singing to one another and giving thanks. Then come the household instructions: wives and husbands, children and fathers, servants and masters, with the marriage section rising into a description of Christ and the church. The letter ends with armor and prayer.

FOR CLASS DISCUSSION

1. Read 5:22–33 aloud, and read the husband's assignment in verses 25 through 33 before you discuss the wife's in verses 22 through 24. What is the husband actually commanded to do, and how does Christ's example rule out both harshness and passivity in him?
2. Ephesians 5:19 describes Christians speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in the heart to the Lord. Put it beside Colossians 3:16. According to those two verses, what is the singing meant to accomplish, and who is it aimed at?
3. Work through the armor in 6:13–17 piece by piece. Which piece is missing or loose in your life right now, and what would putting it on look like on an ordinary Wednesday?

EXTENDED CLASS DISCUSSION OR SELF-STUDY

1. List each piece of armor in 6:14–17 and write beside it the reality it stands for. Notice how many pieces are defensive and how many are for attack, and what that proportion suggests about the Christian life.
2. Ephesians 5:15–16 says to walk circumspectly, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Track your actual hours for one week on paper. Where did the time go, and what would redeeming it require you to stop?
3. Read 6:1–4 with Deuteronomy 6:6–7 and Colossians 3:21. Fathers are given one prohibition and one assignment. Name both, and describe what each one looks like in a home with a teenager in it.
4. Ephesians 6:5–9 addresses servants and masters in a Roman world where slavery was everywhere. Compare Colossians 3:22–4:1, 1 Timothy 6:1–2, and the letter to Philemon. How does the New Testament transform that relationship from the inside, and what does it never call good?

5. Ephesians 6:18 says to pray always with all prayer and supplication for all the saints. Take the congregation's directory this week and pray by name through a portion of it every day until you have prayed for every member.

NEXT WEEK'S READING: Job 20-30 · Psalm 70 · Luke 9:18-62 · Philippians 1

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