CREATION – Week One

Pray each day:

“Your hands have made me and set me in place. Help me understand so I can learn your commandments” (Psalm 119:73)

READ:

Day 1: The Contents in your Bible listing each of the Books. Recognize that they are each written separately with different types of literary styles.

Day 2: Psalm 84-poetry, 1 Chronicles 22-history, Exodus 20-law

Day 3: Micah 4-prophets, Philemon-letter, Luke 16-parables

Day 4: Aloud Genesis 1:1-2:3 (the first creation story) and Genesis 2:4:25 (the second creation story), Psalm 8-praise

Day 5: Psalm 19:1-6-God’s glory, Psalm 150-praise, Job 38-God’s mystery and majesty

Day 6: Ponder

What are your favorite types of scripture?

How do you show in the way that you live that you belong to God?

What are you doing to exercise stewardship of all creation?

How does your day of rest reflect a quiet trust in the great, good, and loving God who has created you and who sustains you? Can you think of some ways to rest more creatively on your Sabbath?

DISCIPLES KNOW THEY BELONG TO GOD, THAT GOD HAS CLAIM ON THEM. THEY PLACE THEMSELVES UNDER THE POWER AND AUTHORITY OF SCRIPTURE.

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SIN – Week Two

Pray each day:

“Come back to me and have mercy on me; that’s only right for those who love you name” (Psalm 119:132).

READ:

Day 1: Genesis 3-4 (the Fall, Cain and Abel)

Day 2: Genesis 6:5-9:29 (Noah and the Flood)

Day 3: Genesis 11:1-9 (the tower of Babel)

Day 4: Jeremiah 8:18-9:11 (a lament for Judah and Jerusalem)

Day 5: 2 Samuel 11:1-12:7 (David’s sin and Nathan’s reproof); Psalm 51 (confession)

Day 6: Ponder

We all try to hide our sinfulness, even from ourselves. Recall a time when some person or some event caused you to see your sinful nature.

Because we tend to defy God and take life into our own hands, how do we go about putting ourselves back under God’s authority? Read again Psalm 51.

We are part of the collective wickedness of the world. We have the capability of destroying ourselves. What, in your view, are the means and our chances of our survival?

DISCIPLES ACKNOWLEDGE THEIR REBELLION, ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY FOR THEIR SIN, AND REPENT.

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COVENANT – Week Three

Pray each day:

“You, LORD my God! You’ve done so many things – Your wonderful deeds and your plans for us – no one can compare with you! If I were to proclaim and talk about all of them, they would be too numerous to count!” Psalm 40:5

READ: Day 1: Genesis 12-13; 14:17-17:27 (call of Abraham, covenant with God)

Day 2: Genesis 18-23 (birth of Isaac, testing of Abraham)

Day 3: Genesis 24-27 (Isaac and Rebekah)

Day 4: Genesis 28-33; 35 (Jacob, Rachel, Leah and the twelve sons)

Day 5: Genesis 37; 39-41 (Joseph in Egypt); 42-45 (Joseph’s brothers in Egypt; 47-50 (Jocob’s move to Egypt)

Day 6: Ponder

What weaknesses do you have that God might see as strengths and use?

Recall an experience in your life when God made good come out of evil.

What helps you feel a sense of belonging to the called corporate people of God? DISCIPLES RESPOND TO GOD’S CALL TO ENTER THE COVENANT COMMUNITY OF FAITH AND EXPRESS COMMITMENT TO THE COVENANT THROUGH THE TITHE.

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DELIVERANCE – Week Four

Pray each day:

“Hear my words, LORD! Consider my groans! Pay attention to the sound of my cries, my king and my God, because I am praying to you! LORD, in the morning you hear my voice. In the morning I lay it all out before you. Then I wait expectantly” Psalm 5:1-3

READ: Day 1: Exodus 1-4 (the oppression of the Hebrews and the call of Moses)

Day 2: Exodus 5-7 (Moses confronting Pharaoh, beginning of the plagues)

Day 3: Exodus 8-11 (remaining plagues)

Day 4: Exodus 12-14 (explanation of Passover, death of the firstborn, escape from Egypt)

Day 5: Exodus 15-18 (song of Moses, experiences in the wilderness; Psalm 105 (thanksgiving for God’s faithfulness to the covenant with Israel)

Day 6: Ponder

Have you ever felt you had too much power over others or they had too much power over you? Do you have a deliverance story?

Have you felt a reluctance about responding when God calls you to something you find difficult?

What is it about being Christian that causes us to weep with the suffering and hope with the despairing?

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ORDER – Week Five

Pray each day:

“LORD, teach me what your statutes are about, and I will guard every part of them. Help me understand so I can guard your instruction and keep it with all my heart. Lead me on the trail of your commandments because that is what I want.” Psalm 119:33-35

READ: Day 1: Exodus 19-20 (Israel at Sinai); Deuteronomy 4:44-5:33 (summary of the Law) Compare them.

Day 2: Exodus 21:1-23:19 (laws concerning slaves, restitution, sabbath, and feasts); 31:18-32:35 (the golden calf)

Day 3: Leviticus 11 (clean and unclean animals); 17:10-19:37 (sexual relations, the law of love)

Day 4: Numbers 13:1-14:38 (spies sent to Canaan). Deuteronomy 5;6;9 (what God requires). Notice Deut. 6:4-9. This passage is called the Shema, which means “Hear”

Day 5: Number 18 (priests and Levites); Deuteronomy 14:22-15:23; 34 (tithe, sabbatical year, death of Moses)

Day 6: Ponder

Identify some of the words of the law that, through you obedience, bring order to your life.

…that bring security to your family.

…that give you a sense of belonging.Has there been a time in your life when failure to obey God’s law resulted in chaos?

DISCIPLES KEEP GOD’S LAW BY DOING IT.

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ATONEMENT – Week Six

Pray each day:

“I will fulfill my promises to you, God. I will present thanksgiving offerings to you.” Psalm 56:12

READ:

Day 1: Exodus 24-27 (covenant ratification, the ark of the covenant, the Tabernacle)

Day 2: Exodus 34:29-36:1 (new tablets, offerings for the Tabernacle); 40 (glory of the Lord)

Day 3: Leviticus 1-4:12; 5:1-6 (the burnt offering, offerings of well-being, sin and guilt offerings)

Day 4: Leviticus 6-7 (ritual for offerings, the priest’ portion); Deuteronomy 18 (Levites)

Day 5: Leviticus 16-17 in the New Revised Standard Version (Day of Atonement); Leviticus 23 (appointed festivals)

Day 6: Ponder

Do your church’s rituals help you feel freed of guilt and shame? ..feel reconciled to God and neighbor? …what element do you find most meaningful: remembrance, atonement, or thanksgiving?

DISCIPLES COMMIT THEMSELVES TO CORPORATE WORSHIP

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LEADERSHIP – Week Seven

Pray each day:

“Rise up, God! Judge the earth because you hold all nations in your possession!” Psalm 82:8

READ:

Day 1: Joshua 1-3 (Joshua’s commission, Rahab and the spies, entering the land)

Day 2: Joshua 4-6 (memorial stones, fall of Jericho; 24 (covenant at Shechem, death of Joshua)

Day 3: Judges 1-2 (incomplete conquest, apostasy); 4 (Deborah)

Day 4: Judges 6-8 (Gideon)

Day 5: Judges 13-16 (Samson)

Day 6: Ponder

What kind of people do you think God chooses as leaders?

What does it mean to place yourself under the authority of your spiritual leaders?

Describe what would happen if in our country, church and households “each person did what they thought to be right”. (Judges 21:25)

DISCIPLES PROVIDE A SENSE OF DIRECTION AND PURPOSE THROUGH GODLY, OBEDIENT LEADERSHIP.

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SECURITY – Week Eight

Pray each day: “I will give thanks to you, my LORD, among all the peoples; I will make music to you among the nations because your faithful love is as high as heaven; your faithfulness reaches the clouds. Exalt yourself, God, higher than heaven! Let your glory be over all the earth!” Psalm 57:9-11

READ:

Day 1: 1 Samuel 1-3; 7:3-17 (Samuel)

Day 2: 1 Samuel 8-10; 12 (Saul, Samuel’s farewell address)

Day 3: 1 Samuel 14:47-19:24; 31 (Saul rejected, David anointed king, David and Goliath, David and Jonathan, death of Saul)

Day 4: 2 Samuel 7-8; 11-12 (God’s covenant with David, David and Bathsheba)

Day 5: 1 Kings 1-2:12; 3; 4:20-34; 5-6:14; 7:1-12; 8; 11-12 (David’s death, Solomon’s prayer, building and dedicating the Temple, Solomon’s apostasy)

Day 6: Ponder

Why do people put such high hopes in their leaders?

What kinds of actions and attitudes of leaders do you think God blesses? What kinds of actions and attitudes demonstrate faithfulness to God’s will?

DISCIPLES MAINTAIN A PERSPECTIVE ON LEADERSHIP THAT SUPORTS AND RESPECTS GODLY LEADERS BUT GIVE TRUE ALLEGIANCE ONLY TO GOD.

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WARNING – Week Nine

Pray each day: “Won’t you bring us back to life again so that your people can rejoice in you? Show us your faithful love, LORD! Give us your salvation! Psalm 85:6-7

READ:

Day 1: 1 Kings 16:29-19:18 (Elijah and Ahab)

Day 2: 1 Kings 21-22 (Ahab, Naboth’s vineyard)

Day 3: Amos 2:6-4:13 (repeated warnings)

Day 4: Amos 5; 7:1-9; 9 (lament and visions of Amos, a plumb line in Samaria)

Day 5: Isaiah 3-6 (rebellious Judah, Isaiah’s call)

Day 6: Ponder

What are the sins against neighbors described in the Amos readings? What do you hear about attitudes against human suffering?

How do you stay balanced about economic matters? Jobs and money are necessary to operate today, but greed violates God’s law.

Has God’s Spirit given you a holy warning that you felt you needed to share with others?

DISCPLES RECOGNIZE AND LISTEN TO PROPHETIC VOICES RAISED ABOUT COMMUNITY, NATION, AND WORLD AND AT TIMES BECOME THE PROPHETIC VOICE.

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CONSEQUENCES – Week Ten

Pray each day: “Please, for the sake of your good name, LORD, forgive my sins, which are many!” Psalm 25:11

READ:

Day 1: 2 Kings 17 (fall of the Northern Kingdom); 2 Kings 18-20 (King Hezekiah of the Southern Kingdom)

Day 2: 2 Kings 22:1-2; 23 (King Josiah’s reforms in the Southern Kingdom); 2 Kings 25 (fall of the Southern Kingdom)

Day 3: Jeremiah 8 (warnings to the Southern Kingdom before the fall); Jeremiah 37-39 (Jeremiah imprisoned); Isaish 28:16-26 (warnings to Jerusalem); Lamentations 1 (Jeremiah’s sorrow over Jerusalem)

Day 4: Isaish 40; 42:1-9; 43:1-13 (words of comfort in exile); 44:21-23 (Israel the chosen); 49 (God’s help); 55 (God’s offer of mercy)

Day 5: Ezekiel 1-3:15 (Ezekiel’s call); Ezekiel 37 (vision of valley of dry bones); Jeremiah 31-32 (the new covenant)

Day 6: Ponder

Think of some times you were given a second chance. Think of some times you were held accountable. How did you handle the consequences?

DISCIPLES ACCEPT THE CONSEQUENCES OF THEIR SIN, SEEK FORGIVENESS, AND LOOK FOR HEALING AND NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR FAITHFULNESS. DISCIPLES CHOOSE TO SERVE RATHER THAN TO DESPAIR WHEN SUFFERING THE CONSEQUENCES OF SIN.

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