

Week 19 – Questions to Consider

Psalm 58 ~ Psalm 59 ~ Psalm 60 ~ Proverbs 13

Small Group Warm Up Question:

When did God take a difficult season or situation and use it as a blessing?

1. Why can politics be such a touchy issue to discuss? Why is it such an important topic?
2. What are some of the characteristics of bad leaders described in Psalm 58:2-5? What are forms of injustice that we can see in our government and other governments today?
3. Would you struggle with praying Psalm 58? Why or why not?
4. How can Psalm 58 guide us in praying for our government leaders today? What are some specific ways we could apply such prayers? How is a prayer ultimately trusting in the Lord's justice and vengeance in such situations?
5. If you were in the midst of a military battlefield, how would you pray for yourself? How would you pray for your enemies? How does the military battle perspective help us to better understand the vivid descriptions of Psalm 58:6-9?
6. How does life often feel like a military battle? In what ways do you feel Satan attacks you most often? If you were in a military battle and found victory, could you see yourself celebrating a victory similar to what is described in Psalm 58:10-11? Why or why not?
7. In what ways have you asked God to "deliver" you in your life? In what ways have you found yourself pursued and attacked? How has God answered you in your times of need? (Psalm 59:1-2)
8. Read Psalm 59:3-4. How does this remind you of Job being attacked by Satan in Job 1-2?
9. When we suffer in ways we don't deserve, how should we respond?
 - a. Skim over the resource at: www.trustworthyword.com/enemies What is a truth, strategy, or solution that stands out to you about our enemies and how to respond to them? What is your favorite verse about enemies?
 - b. Look at Matthew 5:44 & Luke 6:27-28 How is it possible to simultaneously love our enemies and pray against them?
10. What does it mean that the Lord laughs at His enemies and holds them in "derision"? (Psalm 59:8)

More questions @ www.southfork.church/psalms-proverbs-discussion-guide

5 Ways to Pray for Evil, Immoral Leaders

Psalm 58 (ESV)

Spiritual Warfare in the Bible (a helpful book)

- “What does the Bible say about Hell” (p.133)
- “What does the Bible say about Enemies?” (p.268)
- “How to Avoid being Outwitted by Satan” (p.270)
- “Solutions to Your Enemies’ Attacks” (p.273)
- “Your Enemy Wants You...” (p.281)
- “What to Do When you are Surrounded by Evil” (p.283)
- “10 Scriptures to Pray in Times of War” (p.290)
- “What does the Bible say about Voting and Politics?” (p.394)
- “How Should a Christian Vote?” (p.398)
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- Free @ www.spiritualwarfare.blog/free-books (also on Amazon)

1) **W**_____y - Confident in God's Truth

Psalm 58:1-5 “Do you indeed decree what is right, you gods? Do you judge the children of man uprightly? [2] No, in your hearts you devise wrongs; your hands deal out violence on earth. [3] The wicked are estranged from the womb; they go astray from birth, speaking lies. [4] They have venom like the venom of a serpent, like the deaf adder that stops its ear, [5] so that it does not hear the voice of charmers or of the cunning enchanter.”

2) **L**_____ly - We're All Made in God's Image

- Luke 6:27-28 “But I say to you who hear, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, [28] bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you.”
- Romans 13:1-2, 5 “Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. [2] Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. ... Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience.”

3) H_____ly - Your Nation May Be Under Judgment

- Isaiah 5:20 "Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter!"
- 1 Samuel 12:14–15 "If you will fear the LORD and serve him and obey his voice and not rebel against the commandment of the LORD, and if both you and the king who reigns over you will follow the LORD your God, it will be well. [15] But if you will not obey the voice of the LORD, but rebel against the commandment of the LORD, then the hand of the LORD will be against you and your king."
- Jeremiah 29:7 "But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the LORD on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare."

Romans 12:9–13 "Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. [10] Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. [11] Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. [12] Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. [13] Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality."

4) E_____ly - Hell is Real

- Romans 12:14–16 "Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. [15] Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. [16] Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight."
- 1 Timothy 2:1–4 "First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, [2] for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. [3] This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, [4] who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth."

5) S_____ly - Trusting God's Vengeance & Wrath

- Psalm 58:6–11 "O God, break the teeth in their mouths; tear out the fangs of the young lions, O LORD! [7] Let them vanish like water that runs away; when he aims his arrows, let them be blunted. [8] Let them be like the snail that dissolves into slime, like the stillborn child who never sees the sun. [9] Sooner than your pots can feel the heat of thorns, whether green or ablaze, may he sweep them away! [10] The righteous will rejoice when he sees the vengeance; he will bathe his feet in the blood of the wicked. [11] Mankind will say, "Surely there is a reward for the righteous; surely there is a God who judges on earth."
- Romans 12:17–21 "Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. [18] If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. [19] Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." [20] To the contrary, "if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head." [21] Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. (ESV)
- Matthew 6:33–34 "But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. [34] "Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble."

This Next Week's Psalms & Proverbs Reading Plan:

Week 21: Psalm 61 ~ Psalm 62 ~ Psalm 63 ~ Proverbs 14:1-17

- **Hope & Purpose in Jesus:** www.southfork.church/jesus
- **Daily Verse by Text Message:** remind.com/join/sfbcdevo
- **Our Plan:** www.southfork.church/2023-bible-reading-plan

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