

## Week 17 – Questions to Consider

Psalm 49 ~ Psalm 50 ~ Psalm 51 ~ Proverbs 11:16-31

### Small Group Warm Up Question:

How do you feel God has gifted you?

1. What does it take to get your attention? Why is it so hard to get the attention of people to think about God? What are some of the most effective ways you've found to get people to open up to God's Word? (Psalm 49:1)
2. Read Psalm 49:5. Why do we fear in times of trouble? Why shouldn't we? Why do we keep needing these reminders? Why is Psalm 49:7-9 so powerful when you think about what Jesus did on the cross for us?
3. How can conversations about the reality of death be a great gateway to talking about Jesus? (Psalm 49:10-12)
4. Do you feel like you watch too much news? Spend too much time on social media? What are the dangers of too much time watching others? (Psalm 49:16-20) What basic Scriptural truths will keep us grounded in the midst of the world's chaos and injustice?
5. Read Psalm 50:3. Is this a description that typically comes to mind when we think of God? How is it a helpful corrective?
6. Why would God emphasize a "sacrifice of thanksgiving" in Psalm 50:14? Are we grateful enough to God? How can we more regularly practice gratitude towards God?
7. Why does God describe the wicked as those who "hate discipline" and "cast my words behind you" (Psalm 50:17)? Why does a follower of God ultimately love discipline even when it is hard? Why does a follower of God have God's words before them?
8. How would you summarize the story of David and Bathsheba (2 Samuel 11-12)? Knowing that back ground, how does Psalm 51 impact you? Did God grant David's requests in Psalm 51?
9. When you think of your most serious sins in life, what emotions do you experience? How does Psalm 51 become more beautiful in light of God's amazing mercy and forgiveness?
10. What does David mean when he says "against you, you only, have I sinned"? (Psalm 51:4) Does it mean that he didn't sin against Bathsheba, Uriah, or his nation? Why is our sin ultimately most against God?
11. Why was Nathan's rebuke of David so challenging and difficult? Why is it so hard for us to confront people we love about their sin? How might Psalm 51 encourage us to have more courage and loving boldness to confront people in their sin?

More questions @ [www.southfork.church/psalms-proverbs-discussion-guide](http://www.southfork.church/psalms-proverbs-discussion-guide)

## But God...

Psalm 49:15 But God will ransom my soul from the power of Sheol, for he will receive me. Selah (ESV)

### ***“But God” Moves in These 13 Ways!***

#### **1. God S\_\_\_\_\_ to Counter Satan's Lies**

Genesis 3:3 “but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.’”

#### **2. God Graciously W\_\_\_\_\_ the Lost by Dreams**

- Genesis 20:3 “But God came to Abimelech in a dream by night and said to him, ‘Behold, you are a dead man...’”
- Genesis 31:24 “But God came to Laban the Aramean in a dream by night & said to him, ‘Be careful not to say anything’”

#### **3. God S\_\_\_\_\_ Hidden Evil in Hearts**

- Luke 16:15 “And he said to them, ‘You are those who justify yourselves before men, but God knows your hearts. For what is exalted among men is an abomination in the sight of God.’”

#### **4. God C\_\_\_\_\_ the Works of Evildoers**

- Genesis 45:8 “So it was not you who sent me here, but God.”
- Gen 50:20 “you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive”
- 1 Samuel 23:14 “David remained...And Saul sought him every day, but God did not give him into his hand.”

#### **5. God I\_\_\_\_\_ Justice & Wrath on the Lost**

- Psalm 52:5 “But God will break you down forever...”
- Psalm 64:7 “But God shoots his arrow at them...”
- Psalm 68:21 “But God will strike the heads of his enemies...”
- Luke 12:20 “But God said to him, ‘Fool! This night...’”
- Acts 7:42 “But God turned away and gave them over...”

## **6. God S\_\_\_\_\_ His Love**

- Acts 10:39–40 “...but God raised him on the third day”
- Acts 13:30–31 “But God raised him from the dead...”
- Romans 5:8 “but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

## **7. God P\_\_\_\_\_ Us from Temptations**

Exodus 13:17–18 “When Pharaoh let the people go, God did not lead them by way of the land of the Philistines, although that was near. For God said, “Lest the people change their minds when they see war and return to Egypt.” [18] But God led the people around by the way of the wilderness toward the Red Sea”

## **8. God D\_\_\_\_\_ His Children**

- 1 Chronicles 21:7–8 “But God was displeased with this thing...”
- 1 Chronicles 28:3 “But God said to me, ‘You may not build...’”
- Jonah 4:9 “But God said to Jonah, ‘Do you do well to be angry’”

## **9. God R\_\_\_\_\_ Us In Our Suffering**

- Genesis 8:1 “But God remembered Noah...”
- Phil 2:27 “he was ill, near to death. But God had mercy...”
- 2 Corinthians 7:6 “But God, who comforts the downcast...”

## **10. God C\_\_\_\_\_ All Spiritual Growth**

- Acts 10:28 “...but God has shown me...”
- 1 Corinthians 3:6–7 “I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. [7] So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth.”

## **11. God K\_\_\_\_\_ Working Through His Church**

- 1 Corinthians 1:27 “But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world...”
- 1 Corinthians 12:24 “But God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it”

## **12. God C\_\_\_\_\_ His Work Beyond Our Death**

- Genesis 48:21 “Then Israel said to Joseph, ‘Behold, I am about to die, but God will be with you and will bring you...’”
- Genesis 50:24 “And Joseph said to his brothers, ‘I am about to die, but God will visit you and bring you up out of this land...’”

## **13. God G\_\_\_\_\_ Us Life Beyond Our Death**

- Psalm 73:26 “My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.”
- Ephesians 2:4–5 “But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, [5] even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved”

**But God**

**Will Ransom**

**My Soul**

**From the Power of Sheol**

**For He Will Receive Me**

**Selah**

## **This Next Week’s Psalms & Proverbs Reading Plan:**

Week 18: Psalm 52 ~ Psalm 53 ~ Psalm 54 ~ Proverbs 12:1-14

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

## But God...

Psalm 49:15 But God will ransom my soul from the power of Sheol, for he will receive me. Selah (ESV)

### ***“But God” Moves in These 13 Ways!***

#### **1. God Speaks to Counter Satan’s Lies**

Genesis 3:3 “but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.’”

#### **2. God Graciously Warns the Lost by Dreams**

- Genesis 20:3 “But God came to Abimelech in a dream by night and said to him, ‘Behold, you are a dead man because of the woman whom you have taken, for she is a man’s wife.’”
- Genesis 31:24 “But God came to Laban the Aramean in a dream by night and said to him, ‘Be careful not to say anything to Jacob, either good or bad.’”

#### **3. God Sees Hidden Evil in Hearts**

- Luke 16:15 “And he said to them, “You are those who justify yourselves before men, but God knows your hearts. For what is exalted among men is an abomination in the sight of God.”

#### **4. God Counters the Works of Evildoers**

- Genesis 45:8 “So it was not you who sent me here, but God. He has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt.”
- Genesis 50:20 “As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today.”
- 1 Samuel 23:14 “David remained in the strongholds in the wilderness, in the hill country of the wilderness of Ziph. And Saul sought him every day, but God did not give him into his hand.”

#### **5. God Implements Justice & Wrath on the Lost**

- Psalm 52:5 “But God will break you down forever; he will snatch and tear you from your tent; he will uproot you from the land of the living. Selah”
- Psalm 64:7 “But God shoots his arrow at them; they are wounded suddenly.”
- Psalm 68:21 “But God will strike the heads of his enemies, the hairy crown of him who walks in his guilty ways.”
- Luke 12:20 “But God said to him, ‘Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?’”
- Acts 7:42 “But God turned away and gave them over to worship the host of heaven, as it is written in the book of the prophets: ‘Did you bring to me slain beasts and sacrifices, during the forty years in the wilderness, O house of Israel?’”

#### **6. God Shows His Love**

- Acts 10:39–40 “They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, but God raised him on the third day”
- Acts 13:30–31 “But God raised him from the dead...”
- Romans 5:8 “but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

#### **7. God Protects Us from Temptations**

Exodus 13:17–18 “When Pharaoh let the people go, God did not lead them by way of the land of the Philistines, although that was near. For God said, “Lest the people change their minds when they see war and return to Egypt.” [18] But God led the people around by the way of the wilderness toward the Red Sea.”

## **8. God Disciplines His Children**

- 1 Chronicles 21:7–8 “But God was displeased with this thing, and he struck Israel. [8] And David said to God, “I have sinned greatly in that I have done this thing. But now, please take away the iniquity of your servant, for I have acted very foolishly.”
- 1 Chronicles 28:3 “But God said to me, ‘You may not build a house for my name, for you are a man of war and have shed blood.’”
- Jonah 4:9 “But God said to Jonah, ‘Do you do well to be angry for the plant?’ And he said, ‘Yes, I do well to be angry, angry enough to die.’”

## **9. God Remembers Us In Our Suffering**

- Genesis 8:1 “But God remembered Noah and all the beasts and all the livestock that were with him in the ark. And God made a wind blow over the earth, and the waters subsided.”
- Philippians 2:27 “Indeed he was ill, near to death. But God had mercy on him, and not only on him but on me also, lest I should have sorrow upon sorrow.”
- 2 Corinthians 7:6 “But God, who comforts the downcast, comforted us by the coming of Titus”

## **10. God Causes All Spiritual Growth**

- Acts 10:28 “but God has shown me that I should not call any person common or unclean.”
- 1 Corinthians 3:6–7 “I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. [7] So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth.”

## **11. God Keeps Working Through His Church**

- 1 Corinthians 1:27 “But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong”
- 1 Corinthians 12:24 “But God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it”

## **12. God Continues His Work Beyond Our Death**

- Genesis 48:21 “Then Israel said to Joseph, ‘Behold, I am about to die, but God will be with you and will bring you again to the land of your fathers.’”
- Genesis 50:24 “And Joseph said to his brothers, ‘I am about to die, but God will visit you and bring you up out of this land to the land that he swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.’”

## **13. God Grants Us Life Beyond Our Death**

- Psalm 73:26 “My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.”
- Ephesians 2:4–5 “But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, [5] even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved”
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