

## Week 21 – Questions to Consider

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

### Small Group Warm Up Question:

What is an effective way you've found to share the Gospel with others?

1. Was there a certain section of this week's readings that you found difficult? What do you do when you get "stuck" on a Bible passage? What Bible study tools do you find most helpful?
2. What does Proverbs 14:1 mean about building up and tearing down a house? What have you seen as some of the best ways to build up homes? What have you seen tear down homes?
3. How does behavior connect to respect of the authorities? How might you see that in a school classroom? A sports team? A workplace? A home? According to Proverbs 14:2 how does our behavior connect to our respect (fear)?
4. How do the Proverbs motivate you to want to be wise and not a fool?
5. Why is Proverbs 14:12 a good warning about the philosophies of "follow your feelings" or "you be you"?
6. If you were to write a Psalm or prayer to God in the season of life you are in right now, what would it be like? Praise? Sorrow? Asking for deliverance? Asking for justice and wrath upon an enemy?
7. What sorts of things do you find yourself praying to God most often for? Why? (Psalm 61:1)
8. Why is it so amazing that we can call to God from anywhere? ("ends of the earth", Psalm 61:2)
9. What kind of situations make our hearts feel "faint"? Why? (Psalm 61:2)
10. Do you have a favorite historical leader or President? What would it have been like for them live and to be "enthroned forever"? (Psalm 62:6-7) How do you think your country would be different if that leader continued to live to this day? How does remembering God is forever King of Kings give you hope for the future?
11. What is your favorite song? What do you like about the lyrics? Why do you think Psalm 61 finishes with the statement, "So will I ever sing praises to your name, as I perform my vows day after day"?
12. What has been one of your biggest struggles in life? How have you seen God consistently be a "rock" and a "fortress" in your times of need? (Psalm 62:2)
13. Why is Psalm 62:8 such a powerful encouragement?

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

## The God Who Hears

Psalm 61 (ESV)

### The One, True God Hears Our Cries for H\_\_\_\_\_

Psalm 61:1 "Hear my cry, O God"

Isaiah 9:6 "his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor"

### The One, True God Listens to Our Prayer

Psalm 61:1 "listen to my prayer"

Psalm 65:2 "O you who hear prayer"

### The One, True God Pays A\_\_\_\_\_ to Our Commitment to Him

Psalm 61:5 "For you, O God, have heard my vows"

## 6 Truths About Fake Gods

### 1) We Make Fake Gods with Our Minds, Hearts, and Hands - Choose Wisely

- 1 Kings 18:21 "And Elijah came near to all the people and said, 'How long will you go limping between two different opinions? If the LORD is God, follow him; but if Baal, then follow him.' And the people did not answer him a word."
- Acts 17:29-31 "Being then God's offspring, we ought not to think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man. [30] The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent"

### 2) U\_\_\_\_\_ Jesus, Spirit, Gospel = Fake Jesus, Fake spirit, Fake gospel

- 2 Corinthians 11:4 "For if someone comes and proclaims another Jesus ... a different spirit ... a different gospel"

### 3) Fake Gods Are No Gods At All

- 1 Kings 18:24 “the God who answers by fire, he is God”
- Revelation 9:20 “The rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands nor give up worshiping demons and idols of gold and silver and bronze and stone and wood, which cannot see or hear or walk”

### 4) Fake Gods Aren't Like the L\_\_\_\_\_ God

- Isaiah 44:15-20 “And the rest of it he makes into a god, his idol, and falls down to it and worships it. He prays to it and says, “Deliver me, for you are my god!” [18] They know not, nor do they discern, for he has shut their eyes, so that they cannot see, and their hearts, so that they cannot understand.”
- 2 Corinthians 6:14–16 “What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God”

### 5) Fake Gods are Powerless Compared God

- 1 Kings 18:25–29 “as midday passed, they raved on until the time of the offering of the oblation, but there was no voice. No one answered; no one paid attention.”

### 6) The One, True God Hears and A\_\_\_\_\_

- 1 Kings 18:36–39 “Elijah the prophet came near and said, “O LORD, God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, let it be known this day that you are God in Israel, and that I am your servant, and that I have done all these things at your word. [37] Answer me, O LORD, answer me, that this people may know that you, O LORD, are God, and that you have turned their hearts back.” [38] Then the fire of the LORD fell and consumed the burnt offering and the wood and the stones and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench. [39] And when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces and said, “The LORD, he is God; the LORD, he is God.”

## 3 Ways to Speak to the God Who Hears

### 1) Speak B\_\_\_\_\_ to God - His Revealed Will

- 1 John 5:13–15 “this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. [15] And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him.”
- Deuteronomy 29:29 “The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things that are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law.”
- God’s Secret Plans = “Hidden Will”, “Will of Decree”
- God’s Biblical Commands = “Revealed Will”, “Will of Precept”

### 2) Speak S\_\_\_\_\_ to God - Your Heartfelt Will

- Matthew 6:7–10 “And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words. [8] Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. [9] Pray then like this... Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.”
- Ephesians 5:10 “try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord.”

### 3) Speak Out of a R\_\_\_\_\_ with Jesus

- Ephesians 5:15–17 “Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, [16] making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. [17] Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.”
- Proverbs 15:29 The LORD is far from the wicked, but he hears the prayer of the righteous.”

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

- Week 21: Psalm 64 ~ Psalm 65 ~ Psalm 66 ~ Proverbs 14:18-35
- **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)

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Isaiah 9:6 “his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor”

### The One, True God Listens to Our Prayer

Psalm 61:1 “listen to my prayer”

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### The One, True God Pays Attention to Our Commitment to Him

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### 2) Unbiblical Jesus, Spirit, Gospel = Fake Jesus, Fake Spirit, Fake gospel

- 2 Corinthians 11:4 “For if someone comes and proclaims another Jesus than the one we proclaimed, or if you receive a different spirit from the one you received, or if you accept a different gospel from the one you accepted, you put up with it readily enough.”

### 3) Fake Gods Are No Gods At All

- 1 Kings 18:24 “‘And you call upon the name of your god, and I will call upon the name of the LORD, and the God who answers by fire, he is God.’ And all the people answered, ‘It is well spoken.’”
- Revelation 9:20 “The rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands nor give up worshiping demons and idols of gold and silver and bronze and stone and wood, which cannot see or hear or walk”

### 4) Fake Gods Can’t Hear or Answer Like the Living God

- Isaiah 44:15 “Then it becomes fuel for a man. He takes a part of it and warms himself; he kindles a fire and bakes bread. Also he makes a god and worships it; he makes it an idol and falls down before it.”
- Isaiah 44:17–18 “And the rest of it he makes into a god, his idol, and falls down to it and worships it. He prays to it and says, ‘Deliver me, for you are my god!’ [18] They know not, nor do they discern, for he has shut their eyes, so that they cannot see, and their hearts, so that they cannot understand.”
- Isaiah 44:20 “He feeds on ashes; a deluded heart has led him astray, and he cannot deliver himself or say, ‘Is there not a lie in my right hand?’”
- 2 Corinthians 6:14–16 “Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership has righteousness with lawlessness? Or what fellowship has light with darkness? [15] What accord has Christ with Belial? Or what portion does a

believer share with an unbeliever? [16] What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; as God said, “I will make my dwelling among them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.”

## 5) Fake Gods are Powerless Compared to Our God

- 1 Kings 18:25–29 “Then Elijah said to the prophets of Baal, “Choose for yourselves one bull and prepare it first, for you are many, and call upon the name of your god, but put no fire to it.” [26] And they took the bull that was given them, and they prepared it and called upon the name of Baal from morning until noon, saying, “O Baal, answer us!” But there was no voice, and no one answered. And they limped around the altar that they had made. [27] And at noon Elijah mocked them, saying, “Cry aloud, for he is a god. Either he is musing, or he is relieving himself, or he is on a journey, or perhaps he is asleep and must be awakened.” [28] And they cried aloud and cut themselves after their custom with swords and lances, until the blood gushed out upon them. [29] And as midday passed, they raved on until the time of the offering of the oblation, but there was no voice. No one answered; no one paid attention.”

## 6) The One, True God Hears and Answers

- 1 Kings 18:36–39 “And at the time of the offering of the oblation, Elijah the prophet came near and said, “O LORD, God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, let it be known this day that you are God in Israel, and that I am your servant, and that I have done all these things at your word. [37] Answer me, O LORD, answer me, that this people may know that you, O LORD, are God, and that you have turned their hearts back.” [38] Then the fire of the LORD fell and consumed the burnt offering and the wood and the stones and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench. [39] And when all the

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