

Questions for thought:

- What does the passage say about God?
- What does this passage say about human beings?
- What does this passage say about creation, the environment?
- What does this passage say about the relationship between creation, God, and humanity and how they connect at the "table?"

Monday August 14th

Numbers 6:1-4. The Nazarenes that were set apart were not allowed to drink wine. They were not even allowed to have vinegar or grapes. To be ultra set apart for God is to sometimes do without special things, to fast from some enjoyment to remain focused. Have you ever fasted or set something you enjoy aside to become more focused on God?

Tuesday August 15th

Samuel 30:11-12. The Egyptian was found hungry and thirsty and he was brought to David and given bread and water and fig cakes. The man was in the middle of a field all alone and was then found. Do you ever feel like you have been left in a field all alone spiritually? Faith is the awareness to call on the name of the Lord and experience hope from the hands of others. When was the last time you received help or helped someone else this way?

Wednesday August 16th

2 Samuel 6:19. David celebrates with the Ark of the Covenant and makes the necessary offerings to God. He then has bread and raisin and date cakes given to every household so that the people can take the gifts back home and enjoy them. Worshipping God is an experience that bridges the gap from the spiritual to the practical.

Thursday August 17th

Genesis 25:29-34. Jacob cooked stew for his brother to trick him for his birthright. He waited until Esau was exhausted and famished and then traded the stew for his birthright. It is the most betrayal ever served up in a bowl.

Friday August 18th

Samuel 17:17-18. David is sent as a delivery boy. Basically Jesse is sending his youngest son as a Jimmy John's driver to the battlefield with food. Yet God takes the delivery boy and makes him the greatest soldier ever when David defeats the mighty Goliath. Quite a twist of events, huh?

Saturday August 19th

Job 10:8-11. Job questions God with an analogy of the care it takes to make cheese. It is a little strange to us but is a powerful part of the story. Job is saying, you took so much time to make me and you're just going to destroy me now? It is a reminder that everything was made by the hands of God and sometimes it is difficult to try and figure everything out. Christ teaches us that it is about love and trust.

Look at the prayer list. Who can you pray for? Who needs a little extra help in an area where you can make a difference?

Family & Friends: Mary Hicks, Maple Hill UMC, Sandy Grubb, Angela Bryan (Dawn McCarty's sister), Mark Thompson (Barbara's brother), Rex Townsend, Stan Ensich, Chris Osborn (Ken and Sandy Grubb's daughter), Janet Coons (Donna McCullough's daughter)

College Students: Noel Wolfe, Emily Crowel, Adam Zietlow, Emily Zietlow, Alexandria Meyer

Homebound Members: Mary Hicks, Mary Schmidt, Jeanne Carman, Ginny Compton, Clara Ford, Carolyn Loos

Military Personnel: Adam Walters, Joseph Roberts, Lucas Lamkin, Adam Clark

OTHER PRAYER REQUESTS & REFLECTIONS