Scripture Scholar! PART 2

**DUE:**

Name:

We will be reading a short passage from each book of the Old Testament. This may seem over whelming, but we will be completing about 2-3 passages a week and answering **three questions** for each passage week in order to stay on schedule. (There are a total of 21 books in Part 1 so you can also do them all at once if you choose). Please do your own work!

**If you don’t have a Catholic Bible at home…**

**BibleGateway.com** allows you to type in a book, chapter, and verse and look at different translations easily. Remember that there are 7 books that are only found in a Catholic Bible! **Translations of the Bible I would recommend:** New Revised Standard Version and New American Bible

1. *Psalms 51: 1-19*

*Note: According to the law burnt offerings were given to God as a form of repentance and then God would forgive the person (Look at Leviticus 6:24-7:10)*

1. Who is thought to have written this psalm? After what happened? (Check out 2 Samuel 11 for the whole story)
2. What does the psalm writer say will be acceptable and pleasing to God? What does this mean to you?
3. Take a moment to reflect on people that you have hurt – either physically, mentally or spiritually. Think about how much this has also hurt God. Write a short prayer asking God for forgiveness.
4. *Proverbs 8: 1-21*

*Note: Wisdom (feminine form) and Word (masculine form) are traditionally used in the New Testament to describe Jesus.*

1. Who does Wisdom call?
2. As described in the Scripture passage you just read, what benefits would one gain by seeking Wisdom?
3. In what ways do you pursue wisdom in your life?
4. *Ecclesiastes 2:12-26*
5. In the beginning of the passage what turned the author’s heart to despair, thinking that all is vanity?
6. What does the author suggest is the best thing that people can do since the same fate befalls both who are wise and foolish?
7. How do you find enjoyment in things that you don’t want to do or find meaningless?
8. *Song of Solomon (Sometimes called Song of Songs)*

*Note: This of ancient love poems that is usually attributed to King Solomon. It has been interpreted in many ways; one of them being an allegorical that God is the lover and the people of God is the beloved.*

***Boys Read: Song of Solomon 5:10-16***

***Girls Read: Song of Solomon 4: 1-7***

1. What do you think are three best qualities for a person to have?
2. What do you think those of the opposite sex think is the most important to have?
3. What do you think God values most? Why?
4. *Wisdom of Solomon 15:7-17*
5. Why is the one who makes idols “lives worth less than the clay”?
6. What can the clay idol not do?
7. We don't worship idols of clay anymore but, what are some “idols” that our society “worships”?
8. *Sirach (also called Ben Sira) 43: 13-33*
9. What does he scatter the snow like?
10. What should we do to the Creator of all these things?
11. Awesome (usually refers to something impressive) because you are *full of awe* at the power, beauty, or intricacy (great detail) of something. What are some natural or man-made things that you are in awe of? Why?
12. *Isaiah 40: 1-11*
13. The grass fades and the flowers wither, but what stands forever?
14. In the New Testament, the author of the Gospel of Luke makes a reference to this passage. (check out Luke 40:3-5) Who does this reference?
15. During the time of Isaiah this passage gave hope to the Israelites in exile, promising that the Temple that had been destroyed and Jerusalem would be restored to them. What are things that you are hopeful for in your own life?
16. *Jeremiah 18:1-11*
17. What does Jeremiah see at the potter’s house?
18. Many times the God of the Old Testament is depicted as an angry and wrathful God, sending down ruin and destruction. But what is God’s real purpose for “reworking” his Chosen People?
19. What is metaphor or symbol that describes your relationship with God right now? Why?
20. *Lamentations 3: 1-66*

*Note: These poems were written during the Babylonian Exile. Lamenting is a form of prayer. You will notice there is a pattern that the author has established,* ***the first part*** *(Lam. 3:1-20) tells of the present situation- the grief and loss,* ***the second part*** *(Lam 3:21-54) remembering the good works and faithfulness of God, and* ***the third part*** *(Lam 3:55-66) asks and “reminding “God to remain faithful to his part of the covenant.*

* 1. What are some images/metaphors that the author uses to describe the pain he is going through, while in Exile?
  2. What does the author hope for?
  3. Write your own lament according to the parts listed above (at least one sentence for each part, see above).

1. *Baruch 4: 5-21*

*Note: this is a book of complied writings, which notes the lessons that the Jewish people have learned after the Exile.*

1. Who is figuratively left a widow, who is grieved because her children have been exiled?
2. She (look at answer above) has taken off the robe of peace and put on what? What do you think this mean in your own words?
3. What are some ways that you can “turn back” towards God in your own life?
4. *Ezekiel 37: 15-28*

*Note: Ezekiel is a prophet and priest (his name means “God strengthens”) who had many visions that he shares with the people in order that they might return to God.*

1. What does Ezekiel write on the two sticks?
2. Describe in your own words what these two sticks mean and what God ask Ezekiel to prophesize?
3. Think of someone that you need to be reunited with. What is a simple gesture or act that you can do to be reunited with them?
4. *Daniel 6: 1-24*
5. Why is Daniel thrown into the lion’s den?
6. What saves Daniel in the lion’s den?
7. Describe a time when you stood up to peer pressure, and decided to do the right thing even though others would not.
8. *Hosea 11:1-8*

*Note: This passage describes God as a loving parent.*

1. The Israelites were lead with “cords of human kindness” and what else?
2. Where will the people return?
3. Describe a time when you felt strongly loved by your parent or guardian.

1. *Joel 2:12-14*
2. What are the people instructed to do to help them “return to the Lord?”
3. List the words and phrases used to describe God in verse 13.
4. Which of the answers to Question B do you think describes God best? Why?
5. *Amos 2: 6-11*

*Note: Amos, is not as hopeful as the other prophets, and stresses that Israel’s destruction is certain, but he is speaking of God’s righteous anger and justice.*

1. What does it mean in your own words “to sell the righteous for silver and the needy for a pair of sandals?”
2. What good work of God does Amos recall to remind the people of God’s Covenant?
3. What are some ways that you can serve and care for the poor and needy in your community?
4. *Obadiah 1: 10-16*

*Note: In the book of Genesis, there is a conflict between Jacob and his brother Esau (Check out* ***Genesis 27: 1-45*** *for the whole story). Hundreds of years later the Israelites (in this passage called the people of Judah) are still fighting with the Edomites (the descendants of Esau). Fun Fact: This is the shortest book in the Bible!*

1. After scanning through the section in Genesis (look above) what was the original conflict about?
2. What crime are the Edomites being accused of against the people of Judah?
3. Whatever you do comes back to affect you eventually. What is a way that you can practice peace in your home or school so that more peace will spread?
4. *Jonah 4: 1-11*

*Note: God calls Jonah to go to Nineveh to preach against their ungodly ways. Jonah does not want to do this and tries to run away from God. Luckily after getting eaten by a big fish, (not a whale!) he is given a second chance. The city of Nineveh repent and God forgives them. But what does Jonah do…*

1. Why is Jonah angry?
2. What does God show Jonah after the bush that provided him shade dies?
3. Think of a time when someone you dislike was praised or congratulated. What is one way that you could see this situation from God’s perspective?
4. *Micah 6: 6-8*

A. What is one way that is suggested for atoning (making up) for one’s sins?

B. But what does God require?

C. Pick one of the requirements of God (See Question B above), how can you practice this in your own life? (For a challenge think about the last one☺)

1. *Nahum 1: 1-11*

*Note: This is another prophet full of righteous anger and justice, this time towards the Assyrians that have destroyed Israel. And Nahum foretells the coming destruction of this violent enemy (I wonder what would have happened if he and Jonah would have talked). The Assyrian Empire does fall about 100 years later. But there are messages of hope to the people of Israel.*

1. In the first couple passages God is described as jealous (in the sense that he wants the people to turn to him and not other gods), angry, and wrathful. But what else is God described as in verse 3?
2. What does God promise to do for those who take refuge in him?
3. What do you think it means to practice justice? Is it always taking actions of punishment?
4. *Habakkuk 2: 1-4*

*Note: Habakkuk was the first prophet who dared ask God about God’s behavior. He questions why there is evil in the world, and it resembles some of the earlier Wisdom writings.*

A. Where will Habakkuk wait for the Lord’s response to his question?

B. What does the Lord ask Habakkuk to do with the vision he receives?

C.What are ways that you can practice patience in your own life?

1. *Zephaniah 3: 14-20*
   1. For what two reasons are the people of Zion (Israel) rejoicing?
   2. What will God turn the people’s shame into?
   3. What reason do you have to rejoice in your own life right now? (Think of your blessings!)
2. *Haggai 2:20-23*
3. When did the Word of the Lord come to Haggai the second time?
4. The Lord will make Zerubbabel (what a name!) like what? What does this image mean in your own words?
5. This passage concluded by God saying he has chosen Zerubbabel. What has the Lord chosen you to do to bring his presence to those in your life? (I don’t know is not an answer☺)
6. *Zechariah 8:18-20*
   1. When shall the people fast?
   2. Where will the people go to seek the Lord of hosts?
   3. There are many ways to seek the Lord: praying in a certain place, singing songs, fasting, being quiet, reading Scripture, or being in nature. What is you favorite way to seek the Lord? Why?
7. *Malachi: 3 1-6*

*Note:* ***This is the last book in the Old Testament!*** *The Jewish people are still awaiting the messenger described in this passage. But for Christians there is the New Testament that will bring about reform and purification, though not in the way of a great warrior as they expected, but one who brings peace.*

* 1. What two things is the coming messenger like?
  2. In your own words what is God trying to tell the children of Jacob (the Jewish people) in both verse 6 AND 7?
  3. What has been your favorite passage that we have looked at thus far? Why?

**Congrats! You have read a passage of every book in the Old Testament!**