

Day One: Genesis 9:18-29

1. Describe Noah's sons (18-19). Describe Noah and what he did after leaving the ark (20). What happened when he drank wine from the vineyard (21)? As a result, what did Ham do (22)? What about Shem and Japheth (23)? Upon waking, what did Noah learn (24)? What did this spur him to proclaim about Ham (25)? What did he then proclaim about Shem and Japheth (26-27)? How does this passage conclude (28-29)?
2. Noah, like all the patriarchs in the Old Testament, had some failures as a father. Why do you think the Bible includes stories of inept fathering? How would you characterize Noah's drunkenness, followed by his curse of one son and blessing of others? Imagine yourself as Noah's son. How does this make you feel? Contrast Noah's portrayal of fatherhood with God's: one that is lavish and affectionate. What do you want to say to the Lord about this?

Day Two: Psalm 65

1. What two things do the people offer to God (1)? How does the Lord respond regarding prayer and sin (2-3)? Describe those who are blessed (4). How does God answer his people (5)? For whom is he a savior and a hope (5)? Summarize all the ways the Lord pours out his power and love in the world, particularly regarding nature (6-13). What symbolism is found in this vivid description?
2. Which verses in this psalm depict God's love as generous and lavish? What does this text reveal about the recipients of such love; how is the reach of our heavenly father's love different from that of earthly fathers? Meditate on verse four. Reflect on all the ways you are filled with the good things of God. Out loud, praise the Lord for these gifts. What response do you sense from him?

Day Three: Psalm 145

1. What does David pledge to do (1-2)? How do both David and others, and even creation, esteem God (3-7, 10-11)? What fruit does this produce (12)? Describe the Lord's grace, compassion and dominion (8-9, 13). Describe his faithfulness and provision (13-17, 19). What about his affection (18)? Contrast the way God relates to "the wicked" with those who love him (20)? How does David conclude this psalm (21)?
2. Re-read verse 16. Do you find this and similar sentiments in the psalm to be true? Why or why not? What interferes with your ability to get a complete picture of God's lavish love and affection? Ask the Lord to remove these obstacles. Invite his healing into your heart and ask that he would fully open your eyes to the many displays of his fatherly love. How can you maintain this spiritual posture and outlook? What first step can you take to walk this out?

Day Four: Luke 11:9-13

1. What did Jesus tell His followers to do (9)? Why (10)? What rhetorical questions did he then pose (11-12)? When we ask him, what should we trust God to give to us (13)? Why do you think Jesus said, "though you are evil"? Why do you think he is so insistent that in prayer, all who ask, seek, and knock will be given the Holy Spirit? How do you think Jesus wants you to respond when this doesn't seem to be your reality?
2. What does this text reveal about God's surprising role as our loving father? What does he long to give to us? Why do you think so? Meditate on verses 11-13, where Jesus contrasted an earthly father's generosity with that of our heavenly Father. What thoughts and feelings does it stir up within you? How can you point others toward God's fatherly love? Specifically, what spiritual practices will help you to establish and nurture this habit?

Day Five: James 1:13-18

1. Regarding temptation, what is a wrong belief (13)? Why is it wrong (13)? What is correct thinking on temptation (14)? Trace one's journey from temptation to death (15). What does James warn against (16)? What is the source of "good and perfect" gifts (17)? In this context, how is God described (17)? What did the Lord choose to do (18)? Why (18)?
2. As proclaimed in verse 13, some believe God actively seeks their failure. Do you? Why or why not? Ask the Lord to give you a new mindset. Re-read verse 17. How does it make you feel, especially if you struggle to believe God wants nothing more than to pour his love into your heart? Over the next week, maintain a list of "every good and perfect gift" you receive, everything from nice weather to deepening friendships. What impact do you expect this to make?