

I. CHECK-IN

- Check in. How is everyone doing?
- Reflect on last week's challenge:

"Familiarize yourself with a few of the Prophet books. Keep an eye out for oracles to know when the prophets are speaking. Do you have a favorite prophet story?"

PSALMS

- Expresses worship.

PROVERBS

- Largely concerned with the inevitability of God's justice and the importance of prudence and moderation.

JOB

- Invites us to trust God's wisdom and character no matter our circumstances.

SONG OF SONGS/SOLOMON

- Poetically presents a broad range of events and feelings in the days leading up to and during marriage.

RUTH

- Demonstrates that God responds to His people's cry.

LAMENTATIONS

- Expresses the humiliation, suffering, and despair of Jerusalem and her people following the destruction of the city by the Babylonians in 587 BCE

ECCLESIASTES

- Life is fleeting and meaningless without God's gift of wisdom and eternal perspective.

ESTHER

- Tells the story celebrated at Purim of how Queen Esther and her cousin Mordecai saved the Jewish people from the plot of the wicked Haman, who was advisor to the Persian King Ahasuerus and who tried to have the Jews destroyed.

DANIEL

- Just as the God of Israel saved Daniel and his friends from their enemies, so he would save all Israel in their present oppression.

EZRA

- Ezra restored the Jewish community after its exile in Babylon,

NEHEMIAH

- concerning the rebuilding of the walls of Jerusalem after the Babylonian exile and the dedication of the city and its people to God's laws (Torah).

1 CHRONICLES

- The story of King David.

2 CHRONICLES

- The story of the kings of Israel.

II. THE WRITINGS

II. PRAYER

Spend some time sharing prayer requests with each other. As the small group leader, we ask that you do two things:

1. write them down
2. ask someone to pray

IV. CHALLENGE

Your challenge this week is to spend time reading through Song of Songs (also known as Song of Solomon). What stands out to you? Have you ever heard these stories before? If not, why do you think that is? Take time to journal about this and be prepared to share your thoughts next week.

III. DISCUSSION

- What is something **new** you learned about the writings through this SermonCast?
- Job and Ecclesiastes are great books for those who have lots of questions because it validates question asking. Do you feel like it is okay to question God and the bible? Why or why not?
- The author of Ecclesiastes challenges the idea that the wicked are punished and the righteous are rewarded (aka Retribution Theology). Why do you think it is important to challenge traditional biblical interpretations? (Ex. when a child dies, a comfort phrase is that God needed another angel in heaven). Ecclesiastes gives us permission to challenge if Is this really the way God works.
- The book of Ruth is a story about a foreign woman, who ends up being a part of the lineage of King David and eventually Jesus. This book was meant to challenge a traditional view of foreigners. Do you believe scripture still challenges some traditional views of people still today? How so?
- Read Psalm 22 and discuss it. Does the beginning of the Psalm ring any connections for you?