

questions for reflection

series: "(re)discovering God through Scripture"
 The Bible is the story of how God has revealed Himself to the world. And yet sometimes when we read the Scriptures, we don't hear anything new or fresh from the one who inspired them. Maybe we have Sunday School answers from the Scriptures if we grew up in the church, or maybe we have yet to learn what it looks like to meet God through his Word. In this series we will discover or rediscover together the God who reveals Himself in the Scripture, and find the One about whom the 66-books of Bible were written.

part 3:
"Wisdom"
 by Alyssa English on Tuesday January 20, 2009

Who is the wisest person you know? How would you, or they, say they have become that wise?

How do you want to be described by others 10 years from now? Think specifically of those descriptions that might not be as readily ascribed to you today.

What paths have you walked down in your life that a wiser person, or wiser version of yourself, might not have?

What is the biggest failure in your life that has taught you and changed you?

How do you seek wisdom to inform your important life decisions? Who do you involve in those decisions and how much weight do you give to their wisdom?

James 1:5 says that God gives wisdom to those who ask him. How does he do so?

Alyssa noted that the pursuit of wisdom depends on two important things: time for reflection and intentionally learning from life lessons.

- How does reflection fit into your relationship with God? How do you do it?
- Do you include anyone else in your reflective process and how? Who are people you could do this with, and what would it look like to include them?
- What is required to learn from our life lessons? What do people do that helps or hinders that process?

Like other forms of wisdom literature, Psalm 1 contrasts the "good" and "wicked" person.

- How do you see each type of person present in you?
- What does the metaphor of the tree speak to you?

1 Corinthians 1:20-30 compares wisdom and foolishness from God's perspective and the world's.

- What kinds of worldly wisdom seem foolish to Christ followers?
- From the perspective of those outside of Christian faith, what kinds of wisdom of God to us appears as foolishness to them?
- How can you handle those situations when they come up in a mixed belief environment?

Experiences in Wisdom Literature

- The most familiar wisdom literature of the Bible is the book of Proverbs. It has 31 chapters, and a classic Christian reflection habit involves taking a month and reading one chapter of Proverbs a day, corresponding to the date (i.e. Ch 23 on the 23rd). Consider taking the next month to read Proverbs this way, and journal about one idea that strikes you in the chapter per day.

(continued...)

(re)discovering God
THROUGH SCRIPTURE

JANUARY 6 THROUGH FEBRUARY 10, 2009



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part 1: "Torah"

by Dave Terpstra on Tuesday January 6, 2009

Ecclesiastes is one of the most interesting wisdom books of the Bible. At times it feels brilliant, at times cynical, and at times almost wrong. Read the book (12 chapters) in one sitting and reflect on what you read.

Experiences in the Scriptures

- During this series, people from TNL are reading a book called The Blue Parakeet. It is a book about how we understand what we read in the Bible. If you'd like to join others for a Wednesday night discussion group on the book, go to www.tnl.org for details.
- Consider reading the Bible through in a year. It takes about 2 hours a week to do. You can find a breakdown of the passages for the day at <http://www.oneyearbibleblog.com/>
- Journal about what you read in a passage...journaling may be the most practical form of meditation.
- Choose one key word in the verse and think about it – what does it mean?
- Read a verse several times through and place the stress on different words each time you read it. How does that make concepts stand out to you more?
- Rewrite a passage in your own words, and include personal application ideas.
- If you don't know where to start reading in the Bible, ask friends what their favorite books are and why.
- Grab a friend or two, choose a book of the Bible, commit to reading it over a month, and meet once a week to talk about your questions and observations.
- There are a number of passages in the Bible about the Bible. Read them, including the context around them. Consider their example to you. Journal about them. Pray about them.

Psalms 119:97-104, Joshua 1:1-9, II Peter 1:16-21, II Timothy 3:10-17, Deut. 8:1-5, John 8:31-32, Hebrews 4:12-13, I Peter 1:13-25, Deut. 30:11-20, Phil. 4:8-9, Deut 17:18-20, Luke 8:16-18, Proverbs 2, II Timothy 2:15