

October 1st Readings

[JUDGES 17:1-18:31](#)

[JOHN 3:1-21](#)

[PSALM 104:1-23](#)

[PROVERBS 14:20-21](#)

Understanding the customs and reasoning of the children of Israel during the times of the judges seems difficult. Idolatry – then and now – leads to unthinking, uncaring actions that can be characterized as darkness.

Scripture reminds us that God provides for and cares for all. “But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what he has done has been done through God.” John 3:21

Jesus came as the light, to dispel darkness for all, for all generations and all times, whether we understand or not.

October 2nd Readings

[JUDGES 19:1-20:48](#)

[JOHN 3:22-4:3](#)

[PSALM 104:24-35](#)

[PROVERBS 14:22-24](#)

Unspeakable evil done to innocents is not overlooked by the master of the universe.

Selfishness and self-righteousness have no place in the kingdom of God. As we learn to follow Jesus, we can also learn from the example of John the Baptist, who understood his place in the overall scheme of redemption.

One challenge of daily life is remembering that God is in control (even when evil abounds) and that we must become less as Christ becomes more within our own lives. This means putting God's plan and commands above our own wishes and desires. Thank God for His wisdom and provision and his everlasting love for us.

October 3rd Readings

[JUDGES 21:1-25](#)

[RUTH 1:1-22](#)

[JOHN 4:4-42](#)

[PSALM 105:1-15](#)

[PROVERBS 14:25](#)

Today's group of readings is a study in contrasts.

Consider: Those who had no wives

Those who had no husbands or protectors

The woman who had no hope

All of these help us to remember God's provision and faithfulness.

John 4:24 "God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth."

Thank God for his Spirit who helps us understand his Truth.

October 4th Readings

[RUTH 2:1-4:22](#)

[JOHN 4:43-54](#)

[PSALM 105:16-36](#)

[PROVERBS 14:26-27](#)

How difficult is it to do the right thing when we think no one notices?

Ruth was noticed because of her unselfish behavior and care for another, and ultimately received the reward of security for herself and her family.

The official in John 4 took Jesus at his word, and his son was healed.

Following Jesus by doing the right thing and taking Him at his word brings ultimate reward to us as well. God sends us repeated reminders that doing His will brings rewards. Even though those rewards are not always on our time frame or in the ways we expect, kingdom rewards will exceed our expectations when we follow and obey Jesus.

October 5th Readings

[1 SAMUEL 1:1-2:21](#)

[JOHN 5:1-23](#)

[PSALM 105:37-45](#)

[PROVERBS 14:28-29](#)

God heard Hannah's prayer and granted her request. She kept her promise to God and remained faithful to him, and was further blessed.

Jesus provided healing to the lame man because the man asked and followed what he was told to do. He picked up his mat and walked.

God heard the cries of the children of Israel in Egypt and rescued and provided for them.

Sometimes we fail to see God's provision for our own immediate needs, but He provides nonetheless. Thank you, Lord, for your daily provision. Help us to see the working of your hand in our lives.

October 6th Readings

[1 SAMUEL 2:22-4:22](#)

[JOHN 5:24-47](#)

[PSALM 106:1-12](#)

[PROVERBS 14:30-31](#)

How difficult it is to correct those we love when we see their wrong-doing! It is sometimes easier to turn a blind eye to undesirable or even evil actions. True love corrects to save, just as God corrects us in order to bring us into his presence. We must not close our ears to those who lovingly and honestly remind us of God's truths.

October 7th Readings

[1 SAMUEL 5:1-7:17](#)

[JOHN 6:1-21](#)

[PSALM 106:13-31](#)

[PROVERBS 14:32-33](#)

The children of Israel had no king, yet Samuel throughout his life was a judge for them, leading them as a faithful servant toward the will of God.

Jesus knew the hearts of those who wanted to make him king, and went off by himself to follow the plan of His father. Jesus calmed the terrified disciples with only a word and their knowledge of his presence.

Father, forgive me of my tendency to put other things before you and serve the idols of my surroundings. I am thankful for the knowledge of your love and care and for your presence in my life. Thank you for Jesus and your Spirit to lead me in your ways and your plans.