

## October 8th Readings

[1 Samuel 8:1-9:27](#)

[John 6:22-42](#)

[Psalm 106:32-48](#)

[Proverbs 14:34-35](#)

I often look up the definition of words: To be united means to be joined together politically, for a common purpose, or by common feelings.

Trying to make a single nation out of a dozen tribes had to be hard. Unity came hard for Israel.

Being united as a nation is still something we struggle with today in the United States. We seem to think our ideas are the best. We want to be in control. Israel was supposed to be different from the other nations. We as Christians are supposed to be different as well. We have the bible as our guide and that helps us decide the difference between right and wrong. No matter what our President decides, we should put our ultimate faith and trust in the Lord. He is our savior and King. He hears our prayers. He listens when we cry out and he shows mercy to us even when we do not deserve it. If we chose to follow God, no matter what everyone else is doing, we never go wrong.

No country is great without a great leader.

No matter who rules our country, ultimately, God is our leader.

## October 9th Readings

[1 Samuel 10:1-11:15](#)

[John 6:43-71](#)

[Psalm 107:1-43](#)

[Proverbs 15:1-3](#)

The Lord lavishes us with blessings daily, and oftentimes, I do not even think we realize it.

Having a roof over our heads, clothes on our backs and a nice meal are things we take for granted. Oftentimes, it seems like we tend to dwell on the negatives. We have pity parties, we complain, and we cannot figure out why life is so unfair. God never promises us that life is always going to be easy. Sometimes life is hard because of the poor decisions we make. Other times, bad things happen to us that are out of our control. In Psalm 107:1-43, we are reminded that God's love endures forever.

God redeems us, he delivers us from our distress, he brings us out of darkness, he heals us and rescues us, he blesses us, and he lifts us out of our afflictions.

Instead of always dwelling on the negatives, try to look for the positive blessings that come our way each day.

No problem is too great for God. God always rescues those who call on Him.

#### October 10th Readings

[1 Samuel 12:1-13:23](#)

[John 7:1-30](#)

[Psalm 108:1-13](#)

[Proverbs 15:4](#)

I have had the privilege of working in a school for the past 10 years. I could write two completely different books on what I have seen and heard over the past decade. One book would be full of all the positive things that the children have said and done. Just last week, our junior high students loaded an entire trailer full of items they had collected for the Hurricane Harvey victims. On Fridays, we hand out "Above the Bar" awards to students that have gone out of their way to do or say something kind to another student.

On the other hand, I could write a book about all of the bullying that takes place daily. I have witnessed students lying, cussing, being disrespectful to their parents and teachers, and repeating lewd jokes.

Sometimes we say things we should not say. Unfortunately, once we say something, we cannot take it back.

Proverbs 15:4 says, “The soothing tongue is a tree of life, but a perverse tongue crushes the spirit.”

We must think before we speak. I don’t know about you, but I would like to be remembered as someone who always encouraged others.

#### October 11th Readings

[1 Samuel 14:1-52](#)

[John 7:31-53](#)

[Psalms 109:1-31](#)

[Proverbs 15:5-7](#)

Fall is one of my favorite times of the year. Mostly because cooler temperatures are coming and it is the start of football season. I love the game of football, but there are many players with big egos. The word ego is defined as a “person’s sense of self-esteem or self-importance”. Big Egos are something that have been around for a very long time. Several Kings in the Bible had big egos. Specifically, King Saul was one of those kings. He caused many problems for himself because of his ego. We can read about this in 1 Samuel 14. As Christians, we need to make sure we do not act impulsively. We should be humble and selfless. We need to ask ourselves if our actions are glorifying God, or if we are only thinking about ourselves. We should be honoring God in all we do.

### October 12th Readings

[1 Samuel 15:1-16:23](#)

[John 8:1-20](#)

[Psalm 110:1-7](#)

[Proverbs 15:8-10](#)

When our children are little, we spend a lot of time correcting them. Sometimes they do what we say, and sometimes they have to learn the hard way. A wise person will give correction as well as receive it. It is easy for us to tell people what to do, but it is hard to stand corrected.

External worship without obedience and devotion is worthless before God. We must never grow tired of pleasing God and following His instructions. We must do what He says. He loves those that pursue righteousness.

We must also be careful never to alter the word of God. It is perfect and complete.

### October 13th Readings

[1 Samuel 17:1-18:4](#)

[John 8:21-30](#)

[Psalm 111:1-10](#)

[Proverbs 15:11](#)

There are several different religions in the world today. Unfortunately, you can become a part of a congregation that teaches just about anything you want to hear. When a person becomes determined to mold his religion to his own liking, he will despise the truth and reject correction. It saddens me to have conversations with individuals that do not believe the word of God even though you can show them the scripture. Ephesians 4:5 says, "There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all." The Bible is the only book we need.

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. We serve a gracious, compassionate God. Why would we not want to do what He says?

### October 14th Readings

[1 Samuel 18:5-19:24](#)

[John 8:31-59](#)

[Psalm 112:1-10](#)

[Proverbs 15:12-14](#)

Blessed is the man who fears the Lord, and delights in His commands.

When I read this verse, I think of my father. My father worked hard, but we never had much money.

We always had just what we needed to get by. I knew my father loved me, but most importantly, he loved the Lord. He was the spiritual leader of the family. Because of the example he made, my sister and I are faithful members of the Lord's church and we are trying to raise our children in the same way.

My father died with cancer four years ago. He was never afraid of his future. Although his physical body was wasting away, he knew where he was going in the end.

Things don't always go the way we want them to. My father was a man of few words. He taught me the importance of praying, studying, being kind, teaching, and serving. I never heard him say an ill word against anyone. I never heard him complain one time about having cancer.

If we keep our focus on Heaven, our life will be full of joy.