Rivertree Lake Bible Recap
Breakout Group Discussion Questions
Week 35 – September 31

Day 239 Ezekiel 1-4
Day 240 Ezekiel 5-8
Day 241 Ezekiel 9-12
Day 242 Ezekiel 13-15
Day 243 Ezekiel 16-17
Day 244 Ezekiel 18-20
Day 245 Ezekiel 21-22

Open the breakout group discussion in prayer (see back)

Questions

1. What were some things you learned this week?

2. In Ezekiel 1, what is the significance of God showing up in all His glory in Babylon?

3. Why do you think God puts such an emphasis on both His people and His enemies knowing that He is the LORD?

4. What things in your life (circumstances, experiences, people, etc.) have helped you come to believe that He is the LORD?

5. What are some of the ways the Israelites have struggled to adjust to a spiritual mindset instead of a *cultural* mindset? In what ways do you struggle to do the same?

6. Read **Ezekiel 11:19-20** aloud. What are the implications of what God is promising in these verses? In what ways is this different from the relationship God has had with Israel up to this point? When does or did this change occur?

7. In **Ezekiel 14:1-8,** the rebellious elders come to seek God's counsel. He agrees to speak with them but says He won't answer their requests for guidance; He'll only address their idolatry. Why is this the best and wisest type of response? Have you ever had a similar experience in your relationship with God?

8. Read **Ezekiel 17:23-24** aloud. What do you think God is communicating to the Israelites through this metaphor and prophecy?

9. Read **Ezekiel 18:23** and **18:32** aloud. If these verses are true, how do we explain all the passages where God commands or causes death?

10. God finds no righteous people among Israel. He calls them all "dross." Based on your current understanding and what you've seen in the story of their relationship, do you agree with God's assessment?

11. Given that the people of Israel are consistently rebellious, why does God continue to speak to them about restoration?

12. What is your favorite thing you read about God's character in your God shots from this week?

Opening Prayer Suggestions:

- God, give us wisdom, knowledge, and understanding.
- God, let any knowledge we gain serve to help us love You and others more, and not puff us up.
- God, help us see something new about You we've never seen before.
- God, correct any lies we believe about You or any misunderstandings we have
- God, direct our steps according to You Word.

Closing Prayer Suggestions

- Ask your group for specific prayer requests and pray over them
- Thank God for His Character traits discussed in the God Shots this week (Power, sovereignty, mercy, grace, love)
- Ask God to help each of us grow as Disciples of Jesus by studying the Bible

Rivertree Lake Bible Recap
Breakout Group Discussion Questions
Week 36- October 7

Day 246 Ezekiel 23-24
Day 247 Ezekiel 25-27
Day 248 Ezekiel 28-30
Day 249 Ezekiel 31-33
Day 250 Ezekiel 34-36
Day 251 Ezekiel 37-39
Day 252 Ezekiel 40-42

Open the breakout group discussion in prayer (see back)

Questions

1. What were some things you learned this week?

2. In his role as a prophet, Ezekiel often has to experience various kinds of personal pain that will give him credibility when addressing the people. What important characteristics would this help develop in a prophet? What does it reveal to us about God that He wants His prophets to develop those characteristics?

3. Based on your current understanding what do you think happened with Ezekiel's prophecy about Tyre in Ezekiel 27-28? Was it fulfilled and merely infused with metaphor? Did Tyre repent and avoid total disaster? Did it merely happen on a different timeline than the other prophecies?

4. Read Ezekiel 28:11-19 aloud. What conclusion did you reach about whom this prophecy (which is given to Tyre) refers to?

5. Read Ezekiel 33:13 aloud. How does this verse dispel the idea that God weighs our good and bad deeds on a scale to determine our eternal destinies?

6. Read Ezekiel 35:4 aloud, then read 36:9-11 aloud. In both passages, God is taking action to make Himself known to people, but the actions are completely different. Consider

the context. What accounts for such different actions? What does this reveal about God and His character, plan, and motives?

7. In the vision of the dry bones in Ezekiel 37, God doesn't command the bodies to breathe; instead, He commands the breath to enter the bodies. Do you think there is any spiritual significance to this? If so, what is it?

8. In chapter 42, Ezekiel's temple vision records that the wall is "to make a separation between the holy and the common." What might be some wrong ways to interpret the meaning and implications of this passage? What might be some right ways to interpret its meaning and implications?

9. What is your favorite thing you read about God's character in your God shots from this week?

Opening Prayer Suggestions:

- God, give us wisdom, knowledge, and understanding.
- God, let any knowledge we gain serve to help us love You and others more, and not puff us up.
- God, help us see something new about You we've never seen before.
- God, correct any lies we believe about You or any misunderstandings we have
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Rivertree Lake Bible Recap
Breakout Group Discussion Questions
Week 37- October 14

Day 253 Ezekiel 43-45
Day 254 Ezekiel 46-48
Day 255 Joel 1-3
Day 256 Daniel 1-3
Day 257 Daniel 4-6
Day 258 Daniel 7-9
Day 259 Daniel 10-12

Open the breakout group discussion in prayer (see back)

Questions

1. What were some things you learned this week?

2. In every day's readings up until the final three days of Ezekiel, where he shares his temple vision, God repeatedly uses the phrase "they shall know that I am the Lord." By some counts, it shows up roughly 70 times. Do you think there's any significance in that number?

3. Why do you think God stops using that phrase when He starts describing the temple?

4. In all the dimensions and descriptions in Ezekiel's temple vision, what stood out to you most? Why?

5. Read **Joel 2:27** and **3:17** aloud. This book was likely written around the same time as the book of Ezekiel, and it references the same phrase that God spoke through Ezekiel repeatedly. Why do you think both prophets referenced the same phrase?

6. King Nebuchadnezzar quickly goes from giving praise to YHWH for Daniel's dream interpretation skills to building a statue in honor of himself. Can you think of a time when your heart pivoted quickly from God to self or something else?

7. In Daniel 4, God speaks to Nebuchadnezzar through dreams, through Daniel, and through an audible voice. Which form of communication might be easiest to misunderstand or misinterpret? What might be helpful in knowing this communication is all from God?

8. Do you believe God has spoken to you through a dream? If so, what was that experience like and how did you respond to it?

9. When you read the prophetic books of Scripture, what is your intellectual and/or emotional response? Do you find it hard to look for God and His character instead of just looking for a forecast of the future? What do our responses reveal about our hearts?

10. What did you learn from or appreciate most about Daniel's sneak peek into the spiritual realm in chapters 10-12?

11. What is your favorite thing you read about God's character in your God shots from this week?

Opening Prayer Suggestions:

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Closing Prayer Suggestions

- Ask your group for specific prayer requests and pray over them
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Rivertree Lake Bible Recap
Breakout Group Discussion Questions
Week 38-October 21

Day 260 Ezra 1-3
Day 261 Ezra 4-6 Ps 137
Day 262 Haggai 1-2
Day 263 Zechariah 1-4
Day 264 Zechariah 5-9
Day 265 Zechariah 10-14
Day 266 Esther 1-5

Open the breakout group discussion in prayer (see back)

Questions

1. What were some things you learned this week?

2. Read Ezra **1:2-3** aloud and listen for what Cyrus believes about God and himself. Where does Cyrus claim dominion? Who gave him that dominion? Where does Cyrus claim God is located? What insights does all this information give us into what Cyrus believes about God and himself?

3. In Ezra 5, the prophets Haggai and Zechariah speak to the returned exiles in Jerusalem, and their encouragement prompts them to begin rebuilding the temple. Why do you think the people are willing to listen to and respond to these prophets but wouldn't listen to or respond to the prophets who called them to repent before the exile?

4. Read **Haggai 1:9 aloud**. Why is God thwarting their plans? When you encounter thwarted plans, who do you naturally tend to blame—God, Satan, yourself, someone else? How can we determine whether we're supposed to keep trying, change course, or stop altogether?

5. Read **Zechariah 5:3-4** aloud. Then read **8:16-17** aloud. What connections do you notice between the vision of the flying scroll and God's commands to the people? Why do you think God emphasizes these things? What does this reveal about what God values?

6. In the final chapter of Zechariah, he recounts a vision of the coming Day of the LORD, including descriptions of Jerusalem and its architecture and landscapes, but makes no mention of the temple. If the temple has been such a focus of Jerusalem, why is there no mention of it in this vision of the future?

7. Based on your current understanding, do you think a third temple will be built? Why or why not?

8. Despite the fact that God's name never appears in the book of Esther, He's evident behind the scenes throughout the story. Where did you notice His stealth activity most?

9. What is your favorite thing you read about God's character in your God shots from this week?

Opening Prayer Suggestions:

- God, give us wisdom, knowledge, and understanding.
- God, let any knowledge we gain serve to help us love You and others more, and not puff us up.
- God, help us see something new about You we've never seen before.
- God, correct any lies we believe about You or any misunderstandings we have
- God, direct our steps according to You Word.

Closing Prayer Suggestions

- Ask your group for specific prayer requests and pray over them
- Thank God for His Character traits discussed in the God Shots this week (Power, sovereignty, mercy, grace, love)
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Rivertree Lake Bible Recap
Breakout Group Discussion Questions
Week 39- October 28

Day 267 Esther 6-10
Day 268 Ezra 7-10
Day 269 Neh 1-5
Day 270 Neh 6-7
Day 271 Neh 8-10
Day 272 Neh 11-13; Ps 126
Day 273 Malachi 1-4

Open the breakout group discussion in prayer (see back)

Questions

1. What were some things you learned this week?

2. Scripture describes Ezra as being "skilled in the law of Moses" (**7:6**). His knowledge of the Word gives him an increased understanding of God's sovereignty. In fact, he credits God with a wide variety of things: the kindness of the pagan king of Persia, the provision of the staff, protection on their journey, and favor in the midst of their slavery. How have you seen your view of God increase as you've studied the Word?

3. Both Ezra and Nehemiah have confessed the sins of the people, not just their own personal sins. While we're only held accountable for our own sins in the scheme of eternity, Scripture seems to demonstrate a measure or responsibility for how we resolve corporate sins on earth. Read the following verses and discuss how you've seen them applied in Ezra and Nehemiah specifically. **Exodus 20:5**, **Jeremiah 32:18, Lamentations 5:7**.

4. How would you describe the prayer in **Nehemiah 9:6-38**? The only request it makes of God is for Him to take notice of their current state of affliction (**v. 32**). How is this kind of prayer fitting for a corporate setting? Why would a different kind of prayer be more suited to a private setting?

5. In the Hebrew Old Testament, Ezra and Nehemiah are one book of history (not two); their timeline and location often overlap. What similarities and contrasts do you see between the two leaders? Which leader are you drawn to most? Why?

6. Malachi points out strong contrasts between Jacob and Esau. If you had a chance to research this, what do you think he was pointing to? Some popular opinions are:
    a. God hated Esau the person
    b. By comparison, God loved Esau less than Jacob
    c. This refers to the two people groups, not necessarily the individual people

d. This text reveals that God isn't bound by cultural norms to show preference to the firstborn

7. If God were to love one sinner but hate another, which person would get what they deserved from God? Which person would get what they didn't deserve? How does this help us as we wrestle with the Jacob/Esau question above?

8. The end of the book of Malachi describes two fires—the oven to burn up evildoers and the sun of righteousness that brings healing. How might this idea of fire serving two opposite purposes for two different types of people connect with the Jacob/Esau question from the beginning of the book?

9. How do these two fires disprove the people's two accusations of God in **Malachi 2:17**?

10. What is your favorite thing you read about God's character in your God shots from this week?

Opening Prayer Suggestions:

- God, give us wisdom, knowledge, and understanding.
- God, let any knowledge we gain serve to help us love You and others more, and not puff us up.
- God, help us see something new about You we've never seen before.
- God, correct any lies we believe about You or any misunderstandings we have
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Closing Prayer Suggestions

- Ask your group for specific prayer requests and pray over them
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Rivertree Lake Bible Recap
Breakout Group Discussion Questions
Week 40-November 4

Open the breakout group discussion in prayer (see back)

Day 274 Luke 1, John 1
Day 275 Matt 1, Luke 2
Day 276 Matt 2
Day 277 Matt 3, Mark 1, Luke 3
Day 278 Matt 4, Luke 4-5
Day 279 John 2-4
Day 280 Matt 8, Mark 2

Questions

1. What were some things you learned this week?

2. The first humans to confirm or acknowledge that Mary is pregnant with the Messiah are the unborn John the Baptist and the elderly Elizabeth. What does it reveal about God that these are His two choices for the first prophecies (physical and audible) about Jesus's identity?

3. Read **Luke 2:29-32** aloud. What do you think Simeon means by his words verse **32**? Why is this important to note?

4. What new things did you notice or learn about the birth of Christ?

5. Through Simeon's prophecy about Jesus being a light to all the nations (**Luke 2:32**) and the wise men coming to worship Jesus from far away in the east, we're starting to see that the Jewish Messiah is actually going to rescue more people than the Jews. How do you think this message will go over with the Jews?

6. Read **Matthew 3:9** aloud. What is the heart of the message that John the Baptist is communicating here? Why is this important?

7. We see the three persons of the Trinity serving in distinct roles at Jesus's baptism. Can you think of other places in Scripture where we see them working together simultaneously or where they reference or point to each other? How does this help us understand their roles and functions?

8. Which of the three persons of the Trinity (Father, Son, or Spirit) are you most inclined toward and why? Which is the most challenging for you to connect with?

9. Read **John 10:30**, **John 14:26**, **Colossians 1:15**, and **Hebrews 1:3** aloud. What do these verses reveal about the unity of the Trinity? Does this help resolve any connections that are challenging for you? Why or why not?

10. What buttons does Jesus seem to already be pushing with His messages? Is this surprising? Why or why not?

11. Why do you think Jesus is reserved with some miracles and more demonstrative with others?

12. What is your favorite thing you read about God's character in your God shots from this week?

Opening Prayer Suggestions:

- God, give us wisdom, knowledge, and understanding.
- God, let any knowledge we gain serve to help us love You and others more, and not puff us up.
- God, help us see something new about You we've never seen before.
- God, correct any lies we believe about You or any misunderstandings we have
- God, direct our steps according to You Word.

Closing Prayer Suggestions

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Rivertree Lake Bible Recap
Breakout Group Discussion Questions
Week 41-November 11

Day 281 John 5
Day 282 Matt 12, Mark 3 Luke 6
Day 283 Matt 5-7
Day 284 Matt 9, Luke 7
Day 285 Matt 11
Day 286 Luke 11
Day 287 Matt 13, Luke 8

Open the breakout group discussion in prayer (see back)

Questions

1. What were some things you learned this week?

2. The Pharisees repeatedly accuse Jesus of breaking the law. On a spiritual level, why is this impossible?

3. In what ways do we sometimes act like Pharisees and "build a fence around the law"? What are some positive and negative things that can result from setting up our own standards? What are we trying to accomplish by putting our own standards in place?

4. How has this week's reading shaped or expanded your understanding of the Sabbath?

5. Read **Matthew 12:30-37** aloud. Based on the context of this conversation and what you learned in this week's reading, can a Christian commit the sin of "blasphemy against the Spirit" **(12:31).** Why or why not?

6. How has this week's reading shaped or expanded your understanding of Jesus's miraculous healings?

7. Read **Matthew 11:25-26** aloud. What is Jesus praising the Father for in this passage?

8. Does it matter which person of the Trinity we address when we pray? Is it okay to just use the name of God instead of being more specific? Why or why not?

9. Jesus has harsh words for the Pharisee and the lawyer in **Luke 11:37-53.** How does His response shape your view of Him? How does it shape your understanding of His purposes and goals in His conversations?

10. Consider **Matthew 13** and the parable of the sower. At first Jesus is talking to a crowd that includes both people who are His disciples and followers and people who aren't. Later He talks only with His disciples. How do the members of Jesus's audiences impact what He shares? Where else have we seen Him adapt His message to be specific to the person or location?

11. What is your favorite thing you read about God's character in your God shots from this week?

Opening Prayer Suggestions:

- God, give us wisdom, knowledge, and understanding.
- God, let any knowledge we gain serve to help us love You and others more, and not puff us up.
- God, help us see something new about You we've never seen before.
- God, correct any lies we believe about You or any misunderstandings we have
- God, direct our steps according to You Word.

Closing Prayer Suggestions

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Rivertree Lake Bible Recap
Breakout Group Discussion Questions
Week 42-November 18 (Trivia Day)

Open the breakout group discussion in prayer (see back)

Day 288 Mark 4-5
Day 289 Matt 10
Day 290 Matt 14, Mark 6, Luke 9
Day 291 John 6
Day 292 Matt 15, Mark 7
Day 293 Matt 16, Mark 8
Day 294 Matt 17, Mark 9

Questions

1. What were some things you learned this week?

2. Read **Mark 4:10-12** aloud. What do you think Jesus means by this? How does this quote from the prophet Isaiah connect with His answer here?

3. Read **Mark 4:37-39** aloud. What does it reveal about Jesus that He doesn't rebuke the disciples for their fear in the storm but instead rebukes the storm itself?

4. In **Matthew 10:22,** Jesus is talking about the persecution the disciples will endure when they go out to preach the kingdom of God. He says, "The one who endures to the end will be saved." What does He mean by this?

5. Read **Mark 6:51-52** aloud. What keeps the disciples from understanding Jesus? What does this reveal about head knowledge versus heart knowledge? What else can we learn from this passage?

6. **Read John 6:28** aloud. What would you have expected Jesus to say in response to this question?

7. Read **John 6:37** and **6:44** aloud. Reflecting on your own life, what were some of the tools God used to draw you to Himself?

8. When Jesus multiplies the loaves and fish the first time, there are twelve baskets left over. When He multiplies the loaves and fish the second time, there are seven baskets left over. What do you think these numbers symbolize? How has Jesus tailored this symbolism to each audience?

9. Read **Matthew 16:24** aloud. What are the three steps of obedience Jesus addresses here? Which is the most challenging for you? Why?

10. Jesus warns His disciples against letting the teachings of the Pharisees creep into their beliefs. Based on what you know so far, how would you summarize the teachings of the Pharisees? How can we spot similar ideas when we encounter them in the world today?

11. Read **Mark 9:30-32** aloud. Jesus explains His death clearly to the disciples. Why do you think they can't understand what He is saying will happen to Him?

12. What is your favorite thing you read about God's character in your God shots from this week?

Opening Prayer Suggestions:

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- God, let any knowledge we gain serve to help us love You and others more, and not puff us up.
- God, help us see something new about You we've never seen before.
- God, correct any lies we believe about You or any misunderstandings we have
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