

## Year C Summer Reading Small Group Questions



### ***Knowing God the Father Through the Old Testament***

by Christopher J.H. Wright

*Over the summer, you should read the introductory chapters to "Introduction to the Prophets" by Leclerc. Chapters 1, 3, 4, and 5 will be most helpful.*

*Also read "Knowing God the Father Through the Old Testament" and answer the below questions. This book will help reorient us to the Old Testament times and culture. It will remind us of some of the key points of salvation history from the OT, and it will reveal the Father as the One who cares for His people. This is not an introduction to the prophets themselves, but it reviews the times in which they lived and reviews how the Old Testament can have meaning for us today.*

*Please answer the following questions and bring them with you to our First Class Kick-off. Your instructor may wish to collect your answers, so bring them to class the first day you meet at your parish location.*

At the First Class Kick-off, begin by introducing yourselves to those at your table and what you hope to learn this coming year in the prophets.

1. Wright states, "Knowing God starts with knowing what God has done for us out of His love and grace" (pg. 41).

- a) Do you see the Old Testament story and/or New Testament as your story, and if so how?
- b) Consider some of the key points of your personal story with God. Write down any you are willing to share.

2. In chapter 4, God is described as "Father" using examples from the Old and New Testaments. Three characteristics are provided: the nation of Israel as a son to God, the ability of the Father to discipline his children, and the hope that comes from the Father relationship (pg. 79). In chapter 1, God is also described as the Father who adopts (pgs. 35-37).

Answer one of the following:

- How do you see this Father-child relationship lived out in the life of Israel, the life of the early Church, and/or in your life?

- OR -

- Do you think that Paul's theology of our adoption into the Father's household through baptism is a continuation of the Old Testament understanding of God as Father, something new, or a combination of the two? (see pg. 87-89)

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3. Wright explains four points that we can know about God from Habakkuk and Psalm 46: God is in control; God will act in just judgment within history; God will defend His own people; and God will be universally exalted (pg. 215).

Answer the following regarding one (or more) of these four points:

- a) Do any of these examples stand out to you from your reading in Year A?
- b) Did you see any of these reflected in the readings in Year B, even if only partially fulfilled?

4. Wright provides us with multiple views of God as Father. We see His *hesed* demonstrated through His actions (chap 1), grace (chap 2), and love (chap 7). We see His ability to judge (chap 3 and 6). We see Him as the only God above all other powers (chap 8 and 9).

- a) Which of these characteristics do you think people find the hardest to understand today, either in the secular world or in the Church, and why?
- b) Do last year's readings from the New Testament help to shed more light on any of these, and if so, how?

5. In chapter 5, Wright holds up Moses and Abraham as examples of people who have personal relationships with God that were illustrated through their prayer lives.

Answer one of the following:

- How do you think prayer life reflects relationship with God, either for people as individuals, or collectively through the celebration of the sacraments?
- OR -
- Have you seen your prayer life and/or relationship with God change or develop through reading Scripture over the past two years?