

CBSM Year C: Called to Return to Love
Summer Reading Discussion Questions



Knowing God the Father Through the Old Testament

by Christopher J.H. Wright

Over the summer, you should read the introductory chapters of your textbook ***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***. This book reminds us of some key events in salvation history and reveals the Father as the One who cares for His people. This is not an introduction to the prophets themselves; rather, it reorients us to Old Testament times and culture and their meaning for us today.

Please bring your written answers to the below questions to your first class for a short discussion.

1. Wright states, "Knowing God starts with knowing what God has done for us out of His love and grace" (pg. 41). Explain how the Old Testament and/or New Testament is your own story, showing what God has done for you.

2. In chapter 5, Moses and Abraham are examples of people who have personal relationships with God that were illustrated through their prayer lives. Answer one (or both) 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?
 - How has your prayer life and/or relationship with God changed as a result of reading Scripture over the past two years?

3. Answer one (or more) of the following about God and His character:
 - God as Father: God is described as "Father" to Israel who is "son". As Father, God disciplines, offers hope, and adopts (see chapters 1 and 4). 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 own life?
 - Revelation of God: Wright explains four points about God revealed in Habakkuk and Psalm 46: God is in control, will act in just judgment within history, will defend His own people; and will be universally exalted (chap 9). Which of these stand out to you most clearly from your reading in Year A and/or Year B?
 - God's character: In Wright's book we see God's *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). 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?