

Reflections on April 2013 Readings

During April we read Joshua, Judges, Ruth, the Gospel of John, and selected Psalms and Proverbs.

- * During our weekly gathering we shared favorite parts of the readings. For example, we shared the story of the fall of Jericho and the story of Ruth, Naomi's daughter-in-law. Then we had fun telling stories from the perspective of one of the characters so the listeners could guess who was doing the talking. Here is what one character said after Florence told the Jericho story in detail:

We were all scared to death. We knew the Israelites were going to annihilate us; even our massive city walls wouldn't be able to protect us. I'm a practical person, so I made a deal to hide the Israelite spies and help them escape after scouting out our city. In return, they promised to spare my entire family. I did what they said and hung a red rope out my window so those of us inside wouldn't be harmed. Can you believe I went from being a prostitute to marrying an Israelite. And my son Boaz married a foreigner, too—a woman named Ruth. I became her "other" less-known mother-in-law." My great-great-grandson was the "apple of God's eye," none other than King David himself. And in just 14 more generations I became ancestor to Jesus, the Savior of the world! Who am I? (Read Joshua 2 and 6, and Matthew 1:1-17)

- * Some of the Scriptures that touched our hearts and lives this past month were (CEV translation):
...be strong and brave. Don't ever be afraid or discouraged! I am the Lord your God, and I will be there to help you, wherever you go. (God to Joshua; from Joshua 1:9)

The sun stood still and didn't go down for a whole day. Never before or since has the Lord done anything like that for someone who prayed. (Joshua 10: 12-14)

...let everyone who loves you, Lord, shine brightly like the sun at dawn. (Judges 5:31)

*I will go where you go, live where you live,
your people will be my people, your God my God.
I will die where you die and be buried beside you.
May the Lord punish me if we are ever separated, even by death.
(A faithful widowed daughter-in-law to her widowed mother-in-law): Ruth 1:16-17*

*The Word became a human being and lived here among us. We saw his true glory,
the glory of the only Son of the Father. From him all the kindness and truth of God have come
down to us. (John 1:14)*

*...only God's Spirit can change you into a child of God... only God's Spirit gives new life.
(John 3, Jesus to Nicodemus, a Pharisee and Jewish leader)*

*I don't depend on what people say about me... I don't care about human praise...
(Jesus in John 5:34 and 41)*

Don't judge by appearances. Judge by what is right. (Jesus: John 7:24)

*Stay joined to me and let my teachings become part of you... Love each other as I have loved
you. (Jesus speaking: read all of John 15)*

Follow me! (Guess who!)

Jesus must become more important, while I become less important. (John the Baptist; John 3:30)