**Everyday Gospel Christmas Devotional - Paul David Tripp**

**Reading Guide #1**

**December 1 – December 7**

For the Advent season this year we are going to be working our way through Paul David Tripp’s *Everyday Gospel Christmas Devotional*. I know the dates won’t neatly match up when we meet on Thursdays and Sundays to discuss – but hey – we can make it work! I love this season as we prepare our hearts to reflect and remember the birth of our Savior. And – I love sharing this season with The Bridge family. Each day’s reading will have a question from the Bible reading and a question based on the devotional reading. *The italicized text is from the* *devotional*. I can’t wait to go through this with you.

***December 1***

**READ Genesis 3:14-21**

**Could God have responded to the sin of Adam and Eve in any other way than He did?**

**Tripp says the opening chapters of Genesis have three foundational themes. List them. Why do you understand them to be foundational?**

***December 2***

**READ Genesis 21:1-7**

**What does this passage tell us about God?**

*“Unless we are resting in the presence and power of the Lord, we will evaluate situations from the perspective of our many limits”.* **Resting in the Lord or evaluating situations from our perspective – which side usually wins in your life?**

***December 3***

**READ Exodus 4:1-17**

**How did God respond to each of Moses’ objections with some provision of his power? What do we learn about God throughout this interaction? What do we learn about us?**

*God doesn’t call us because we have, in ourselves, everything we need to accomplish what he’s calling us to do. No, he calls weak and broken people to do huge and important things because he is able.* **What huge and important things do you think God might be asking you to do?**

***December 4***

**READ Ruth 4:13-22**

*If you read through the biblical narrative, you will soon have to let go of the conclusion that hardship means God is absent, distant, uninvolved, or uncaring. Behind dark clouds of difficulty is a God who is actively working for the good of his children. God regularly takes his children places they never would have planned to go in order to produce in and through them things they never could have produced on their own***. Have you witnessed this in your life? When?**

***December 5***

**Read 2 Kings 23:1-14**

**Josiah led an amazing spiritual revival in Israel. (he was probably a teenager at the time). Is a revival like this possible today? What would that look like?**

*Out of utter spiritual darkness comes this moment of spiritual revival. God’s law is observed and his covenant renewed.* **What do you understand to be the components of a spiritual revival?**

***December 6***

**READ Esther 4:1-17**

**God is working in Esther’s life, but it wasn’t just for Esther. God is working in you, but it will never be just for you. Influence always involves a group of people. Who are the people to whom you have the greatest influence? Are you making the best use of that privilege? How do you know?**

*So, it is important to understand that the God who works in the light also works in the shadows. His sovereign power and redeeming care are not always clear, but we ought not think he is absent, distant, inactive, or uncaring. God never forsakes his own, and he never fails to deliver what he has promised.* **What do you understand God has promised you?**

***December 7***

**READ Job 33:19-30**

*God’s primary agenda is not that we would achieve a comfortable and pleasurable life between the “already” and the “not yet.”* **What do you understand to be God’s primary agenda?**

*How many of your joys and sorrows have anything whatsoever to do with the kingdom and purposes of God?*