

# Allelon Sunday School for August 19, 2007

## Opening Prayer

### Responsive Reading: Psalm 80:8-19

8 You brought a vine out of Egypt,  
*you drove out the nations and planted it.*

9 You cleared the ground for it,  
*it took deep root and filled the land.*

10 The mountains were covered with its  
shade,  
*the mighty cedars with its branches;*

11 it sent out its branches to the sea,  
*and its shoots to the River.*

12 Why then have you broken down its  
walls,  
*so that all who pass along the way pluck its  
fruit?*

13 The boar from the forest ravages it,  
*and all that move in the field feed on it.*

14 Turn again, O God of hosts; look down  
from heaven,  
*and see; have regard for this vine  
80:15 the stock that your right hand  
planted.*

16 They have burned it with fire, they have  
cut it down,  
*may they perish at the rebuke of your  
countenance.*

17 But let your hand be upon the one at  
your right hand,  
*the one whom you made strong for  
yourself.*

18 Then we will never turn back from you,  
*give us life, and we will call on your name.*

19 Restore us, O LORD God of hosts,  
*let your face shine, that we may be saved.*

## Stand as Leader Reads Hebrews 11:29-12:2

## Move to Building Groups

After Building Groups time, Leader Reads  
Isaiah 5:1-7

## Closing Prayer

## The Week's Preparation

Each day's Scripture readings are now available  
automatically from  
<http://bogartchristian.org> for your  
devotions. Look on the Sunday school  
page.

As you say your prayers each morning or  
evening (or, even better, both), try to use  
phrases from the Scriptures in your prayers and  
to pray for the people who were in your  
Building Group this week. Write their names at  
the bottom of this sheet.

## Extra Innings

If you answer all of the questions on the  
other side of this sheet before 10:45,  
take a few minutes to talk about some of  
these questions.

1. Take a minute to look at today's  
prayer requests. If there's any of  
them that your group members  
don't know, inform one another.
2. Look at the names of the elders  
serving communion today and  
make sure that everyone in the  
group knows who they are and  
how people got to know them.
3. Take a look at the first verse of  
today's communion hymn. How  
does it prepare the soul to sit at  
the table with Jesus?
4. Look at today's Old Testament  
passage that we read. What does  
it tell us about Israel? About how  
Israel's journey with God differs  
from our own?

## **Building Group Discussion**

Get together with the everyone in your Building Group. Everyone should write down two things that they hope people think about them and two things that they hope to be irrespective of people's opinions. (For instance, do you hope that people think of you as cool? As smart? As helpful? Do you want to be patient even if people think you're hotheaded? Truthful? Forgiving?) After you take a couple minutes to do that, compare lists. Talk about why certain things are better seen and some things don't depend on what people think.

## **Story time!**

Go through as many of these as you can before 10:35:

1. Someone older than twenty, tell a story about a Christian you know who, irrespective of being faithful, still suffered. How did the person deal with it? How did the Church deal with it?
2. Someone younger than twenty, tell a story about a group project or team sports situation in which one member of the team did not do her or his part. Did the group still get the job done? What would have been different had the weak link been stronger?
3. Someone other than the first two storytellers, tell a story about someone who really lived out her or his working or school life as a Christian. How did they conduct themselves differently? When they became weak (if they did), how did that affect the way people looked at them?
4. Someone other than the first three storytellers, tell a story about having to do something difficult while people watched. Why were they watching? What was the task?

## **The Crawl: Hebrews 11:29-12:2**

Answer these as a group. If you don't understand, talk with your group until everyone has a grasp on it. When someone says something that makes you think of a question, ASK THE QUESTION OUT LOUD!

1. This is the conclusion of the famous catalog of the faithful in Hebrews 11. In verses 29 and 31, what are three things the faithful ones have in common?
2. In verse 35, the passage takes a dramatic turn. How do verses 32-34 differ from verses 35-38? What do they still have in common?
3. Verse 39 says that the people who faced persecution in days gone by did not receive what they had been promised. In verse 40, the author makes a startling pronouncement. Upon whom does the happiness of those martyrs of former generations depend? What might this mean? What makes it better?
4. In 12:1, what's the "therefore" there for? How does that verse's call to believers of the present day connect to the suffering faithful of 11:35-38? What kinds of people are in the cloud of witnesses? To what do they bear witness as we live our lives?
5. Where is Jesus in 12:2? How does that connect to 12:1?

**Return to the sanctuary by 10:45, but only after you've really dug into those questions! If you finish early, go to the front of this sheet and talk through the "Extra Innings" questions.**