



Small group discussion questions July/August 2017

Chapter & verse – John Proctor (page 18)

Read Job 28, followed by John Proctor's article.

1. The first verse of Job 28 describes the mine as 'a place for gold to be refined'. What words of images come to mind when thinking about the refinement process?
2. In the opening of his third paragraph, John says that the writer of the Bible passage 'knew something about mining and respected the people who did it'. What reactions do you, and today's society, have towards mining?
3. John's fourth paragraph reminds us: 'Never think that the Bible takes us away from the practical side of human life.' Can you think of any biblical examples that deal with life's practicalities?
4. The fifth paragraph of 'Chapter & verse' describes wisdom as 'a practical thing. It's about living life the way God wants it to be lived.' How else can wisdom be described?
5. John argues in the sixth paragraph that wisdom is found 'most surely and fully when we are serious about looking for God'. Do you agree?
6. A warning is offered in paragraph eight: 'Beware. Gold may lie in rugged places'. Are there any other warnings that spiritual mining might necessitate?
7. In the wider context of the book of Job, discuss the ways in which life had been mining Job, as John mentions in his eighth paragraph.
8. John's final paragraphs describe how, despite of and amidst hardship in life, 'gold comes into view'. Have you experienced this, or know of others who have?

For further reflection: 'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field.' Matthew 13:44

Prayer: Thank you, Father, that there is more to our lives than lies on the surface. Teach us to dig deep, we pray, and to treasure what we find within. Amen.

