

SUMMIT BIBLE READING PLAN



READING PLAN PURPOSE

Throughout Scripture, one large story is taking place. Through the words of many authors, the lives of many people, and the work of God over thousands of years, this story emerges as we engage Scripture. Our hope is that this reading plan would help us to step back from the close-up view we often take, and see how God has chosen to reveal himself to this world through the main thing Scripture is pointing to - our need for restoration, and God's restorative action. This reading plan is an outline of pivotal moments in this story line, helping us connect each piece to the larger narrative.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10

READ Genesis 6v1-8: Noah Finds Favor

READING PROMPT

It can often be easy to read narrative and place ourselves in the shoes of the hero. We long to associate ourselves with the character who brings redemption and does what is good. Yet we must face the reality that our character is not just made up of pure goodness. We have parts of us that are sinful and unhealthy. Today as you read, recall the moments your brokenness has been more evident to you. Our brokenness is not something we necessarily have to get over or try to block out. Our sinfulness is worthy of our grieving. Yet in our grieving there is always hope of God's presence and work to bring healing and holistic restoration. This is true in the case of Noah's presence in this passage, and is true of how the Lord can work in our lives to bring us from our own wickedness and into a life lived in the goodness he offers.

PRAYER PROMPT

Regardless of the things that came to mind as you read through this passage and reflected on your own brokenness, Christ's love for you has not and will not be diminished. As you pray today, remember that you do not have to put on a show for God. He sees everything about you, and he steps toward you in love. Today in prayer, walk through the idea that while you were so broken that someone had to die for you, you were so loved that Jesus actually did.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12

READ Genesis 7v1-24: God Saves Noah

READING PROMPT

In Genesis 7v1-24, we see that God saves Noah, and humanity through him, after seeing his righteousness. Verse 23 is striking as it states, "Only Noah was left, and those with him in the ark." In this chapter of Genesis, we get a foretaste of God's saving work through the righteousness of Christ on behalf of all of those who are with him. In Noah, we see a minor glimpse of the weight Christ would have placed on him in the garden. In both instances, we see God work to bring restoration to humanity through the act of righteous obedience.

PRAYER PROMPT

"Obedience" is a term we often shy away from or are fearful of. Today, ask that God would show you any fears you have regarding obedience and help you get to the root of them. Pray for the freedom to live into a life of whole hearted obedience, realizing our lives are part of something far larger than ourselves.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16

READ Genesis 12v1-9: The Promise of a Blessing Through Abram

READING PROMPT

Hebrews 11v8 says, “By faith Abraham (Abram) obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going.” Through Abram’s faith, God would move in a remarkable way to eventually bring not only an inheritance of land to his family, but the blessing of Christ himself through his lineage. As you read this portion of Genesis, look forward to how God would fulfill his promise to Abram through the person of Christ.

PRAYER PROMPT

Here in Genesis we see a God who is not bound by human limitation. God works beyond the constraints of time to move through human action over centuries to fulfill his word. As you pray today, reflect on your faith in God. Would you be willing to follow him into something unknown? What might that look like for you in this next week?

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19

READ Genesis 25v19-34: Jacob and Esau

READING PROMPT

In Genesis 25v19-34, we see Esau sell his birthright (think along the lines of an inheritance) for a meal. As we read through this transaction, it can be easy to observe it from the outside as a bad business deal, the action of someone in desperation, or just near-sighted foolishness. Yet in this passage, we see a glimpse of how we often interact with the gospel ourselves. We have the promise of an unparalleled inheritance waiting for us, and yet we often neglect the promise of our Father for the near-sighted pleasure or fulfillment we think we might gain from living into our sinful desires. The story of Jacob and Esau might seem a bit out of touch with our lives today, but in Jacob and Esau we can get a picture of exactly how we treat God himself.

PRAYER PROMPT

Set aside a portion of time for confession. This time can be between you and God, or you can bring close friends, your spouse, or your community group into it if you'd like. Trust that God hears you with love and compassion, and ask for him to open your eyes to the things you have put before him.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21

READ Genesis 28v1-3, v10-15, Gen 29v13-30: Jacob, Leah, and Rachel

READING PROMPT

Jacob had lived most of his life in the shadow of his older brother. His father's blessing only came in the moment Jacob had disguised himself and tricked his father. So in Genesis 28 and 29, the Jacob we see has his eyes set on something he thinks might bring him the value he has sought throughout his life. As Jacob see's Rachel, recognize the amount of time and effort Jacob was willing to devote for Laban's approval. As you read through these chapters, think about the weight we allow the things we value to hold in our lives. There is no one person's approval, affection, and no status of success that can match the relationship we are offered in Christ.

PRAYER PROMPT

As you pray today, reflect on what in life has your focus and effort. Is this goal worthy of your time and resources? Do your goals and aspirations serve you and Christ, or do you serve your goals and aspirations?

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22

READ Genesis 29v31-35: Leah's Struggle for Love

READING PROMPT

In the midst of Jacob's story, we see Leah pushed to the side. Imagine the pain and difficulty of recognizing that your father tricked your husband into marrying you only to be forgotten. Leah walks through this difficulty and looks not to God, but to her children to find fulfillment in life. Child after child, Leah hopes that the birth of a boy would bring contentedness throughout her life, yet she is left emptied by the reality that she is incapable of earning Jacob's affection. Until Leah gives birth to Judah and chooses to praise the Lord rather than seek out Jacob's love. In Matthew 1, we see that Judah's line leads to Jesus himself. While Leah is walking through great difficulty and isolation, God was working to use her in ways she could never imagine.

PRAYER PROMPT

What do you think your largest aspirations, your largest successes, and your largest failures reveal about what you prioritize in this life? It is not wrong to desire things in this life- it is good and healthy to desire a family, to do well in your workplace, to have meaningful friendships- but each of these things can be twisted into something that pulls you away from Christ rather than encouraging you toward him. Today, pray that God would be praised in all that you do.

TUESDAY, MARCH 2

READ Exodus 1v8-22: The Pharaoh

READING PROMPT

As we begin in the book of Exodus, take note of two themes that jump out in this first chapter. First, the Pharaoh acts out of his fear and calls for the deaths of all the Israelite boys. Second, we see in the midwives what it looks like to fear and follow God rather than mankind regardless of the circumstance. Through the Pharaoh, we can see just how far humanity can go when self interest is the predominant motivating factor. Yet through the midwives, we can see just how much a group of people can accomplish when God remains at the center and selflessness is a core value.

PRAYER PROMPT

Pray for a perspective that is centered on God’s desire for this world, and for clarity in how you can live into God’s desire as an act of worship. Reflect on your work, your family, and whatever takes up the majority of your time. What would it look like to enter these spheres with an awareness of how God is already moving in those people and places?

THURSDAY, MARCH 4

READ Exodus 2v23-25, 3v1-20: The Burning Bush

READING PROMPT

In this passage, God speaks to Moses through the burning bush. One thing to take note of is God’s response when Moses asks what name he should use when he speaks with the Israelites. God’s response is, “I am who I am.” This response reveals that God is above every other god represented in the surrounding cultures. While many other gods were worshipped for their power over particular aspects of life, God declares in his “I am” statement that there is no other God equivalent to him. It is this God who will keep his promises to Moses throughout the book of Exodus, and it is this same God we get to enter into relationship with through the life, death, resurrection and ascension of Christ.

PRAYER PROMPT

Talk with God about the things you have allowed to be gods in your life. What things, people, or ideas have you allowed to have an authoritative voice in your life? Spend time praying through what it might look like for you to engage with those things in a healthy way or if there are things in your life you should let go of entirely.

FRIDAY, MARCH 5

READ Exodus 4v1-21, v29-31: Moses is Given Powerful Signs

READING PROMPT

As God calls Moses to go to the Israelites, Moses is overwhelmed with all of his inadequacies and insecurities. God gifts Moses with signs and miracles to recall and illustrate God's power. Yet Moses has tunnel vision on all the things he can't get right. God is far more concerned with Moses' presence than he is with what Moses perceives as perfection. Often, it can become easy to obsess with every way we aren't perfect and yet God is far more concerned with your presence than he is with any type of perfection we attempt to live into. We aren't perfect, and yet God chooses to use us despite our shortcomings.

PRAYER PROMPT

Reflect on what you believe your inadequacies are (which may or may not actually be true) and the things you are insecure about. Ask the Spirit to draw to your mind the truth of what he is doing in and through you, and what might be getting in your way from following what God is calling you into.

MONDAY, MARCH 8

READ Exodus 11v1 4-7, 12v1-7, 12-14, 22-23, 28-33, 43-51: The Passover

READING PROMPT

The initiation of the Passover is a monumental moment in the story of Scripture. In this moment, we are offered a picture of the gospel. As a sacrifice is offered by God's people, God insures the lives of the firstborn sons are not taken. In the gospel, God offers his own Son to take on the sinfulness of humanity. As the lives of the firstborn sons are spared, God the Father knows the sacrifice of his own Son's life that is to come through the person of Jesus.

PRAYER PROMPT

Rarely do we sit in the weightiness of our own corruption. We may find it easy to dismiss the poor decisions we've made or the sin that isn't "that bad" in our own lives. However, grieving our sinfulness enables us to see more of the grace of God than we have ever seen before. In the weightiness of our sin before the cross, we are offered a glimpse into the extremity of God's love for us.

MONDAY, MARCH 15

READ Exodus 40v36-38, Numbers 13v1-3,17-21,25-33: The Spies Report on Canaan

READING PROMPT

This collection of passages includes the moment the people of Israel finally approach the land and deliverance God had promised them out of Egypt. As the people approach this land, they are intimidated by what is ahead of them. It doesn't take much to be overwhelmed by a situation. A strong army was enough to dissuade the spies from offering a fair report of what was ahead of them, and often we fail to see what God has ahead of us due to the opposition of a friend, the discomfort of a conversation, or the cost of our personal time. As you read through the passages today, think through what it means to follow God regardless of the opposition you may face.

PRAYER PROMPT

In prayer today, reflect on the areas of your life you experience timidity with your faith. What would it look like to enter into these places with a confidence in who God is?

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17

READ Numbers 20v2-12, 21v4-9: Christ as the rock, Christ as the Serpent

READING PROMPT

In both Numbers 20v2-12 and 21v4-9, we are offered images of Christ on the cross. In the crushing of the rock, we see God’s people fail to live into trust in the Lord, and instead take things into their own hands. Provision is viewed as the result of breaking the rock rather than trusting God. The rock may symbolize how Christ was broken on behalf of our sins after we failed to live into relationship with God. In the serpent, we see a clear picture of the cross. Just as a servant was held up to save the people from the brokenness brought about by the venom of the other servants, so in the crucifixion we see one man (Jesus) held up on the cross so that all who look upon him and believe would be saved.

PRAYER PROMPT

Prayerfully reflect on the gospel today and ask God to refresh your heart for Christ.

THURSDAY, MARCH 18

READ Joshua 1v1-2, 11v23, Judges 2v7-8: Joshua’s Leadership

READING PROMPT

The books of Joshua and Judges point to Joshua as an admirable leader of a people who consistently followed God under his leadership. This reality was made possible through Moses’ obedience and leadership before him. The book of Joshua looks back on Moses in a positive light more often than every other Old Testament book combined. Joshua was able to step into the fruit of Moses’ struggle to follow God. Similarly, we get to step into the fruit of Christ’s ministry as we follow in his obedience to the Father. Similarly to how Moses worked, in obedience to God, for the deliverance of the Israelites from captivity, Jesus worked in submission to the Father for the deliverance of all who follow him into the Father’s blessing and into freedom from captivity to sin. As you read about the life of Joshua, reflect on the power of the obedience of those who have come before us, and on what it looks like to step into the freedom offered to us through the life of Christ.

PRAYER PROMPT

Today, pray for people in places of leadership.

MONDAY, MARCH 22

READ 1 Chronicles 29v26-28, 2 Chronicles 1v1, 2v1, 5v1: Solomon Becomes King

READING PROMPT

Solomon's life was devoted to God and dedicated to the building of the temple. This life work of Solomon was an act aimed at bringing God glory and honor.

PRAYER PROMPT

It can often be easy to live day by day without even thinking of God. But to live a life of worship doesn't mean to isolate yourself from reality or to quit everything you have going on in your life. A life of worship could look like taking a moment to invite God into your day with you. Solomon's worship was his devoted act of building a temple. Anyone could have a building constructed without it ever actually being worshipful, but the dedication and devotion to God changed the act of building the temple entirely. Today, pray that God would be honored in your work and that your life would be a form of worshiping him in all that you do.

THURSDAY, MARCH 25

READ Matthew 1v1-2, v18-25: Jesus’ Line is Through Those Whom God Promised

READING PROMPT

The idea of Jesus’ virgin birth was no more plausible to Joseph than it is to us today. This was a remarkable work of the Holy Spirit. Thinking through Joseph’s response to this moment calls for a pause. Consider the trust in God Joseph chose to walk in. It can be easy to read through a passage partially disconnected from the reality of what Scripture is claiming, but considering the mystery of who God is and how he acts throughout Scripture can lead to a depth in our relationship with God that we would never have otherwise entered into.

PRAYER PROMPT

Take a moment to enter into a prayer of silence before God. As you consider God in prayer, know that he is not afraid of any doubts or questions you may have.

SUNDAY, MARCH 28

READ Matthew 3v1-17, John 1v29-34: Jesus' Ministry is Inaugurated

READING PROMPT

Matthew 3v13-17 reveal that Jesus did nothing apart from the Father and the Spirit of God. In Jesus' baptism, we see a glimpse into how the Father, Son and Spirit work together in all things.

PRAYER PROMPT

As we internalize the story of Jesus and reflect on what it means in our lives, we are often left with the reality that Jesus came to bring flourishing in our lives, and that Jesus came to save us. These things are both accurate, but if we stop there we will miss a certain beauty in the gospel. Jesus' life was lived in submission to the Father for the glory of the Father, which ultimately led him to the cross. Through Jesus, we see a life fully devoted to God the Father. Today as you pray through these passages, pray for God to reveal what it might look like to live a life aimed at glorifying God above all things.

THURSDAY, APRIL 1

READ Mark 2v1-17: Jesus Heals the Paralytic

READING PROMPT

In this passage from Mark, we see a paralytic desperate for healing. As Jesus heals the man, the pharisees were quick to question Jesus' powerful work. This story might be revealing to how we approach Jesus in our lives today. You may relate with the paralytic in your desperation for Christ. There is also the possibility that you've been following Jesus for some time now and it's become more comfortable for you to question the legitimacy of God's movement in someone else's life. The pharisees were in just as much need for Christ as the paralytic was, and, similarly, the person who has known Jesus for 40 years is in just as much need for him as the person crying out to him for the first time.

PRAYER PROMPT

Remember back to when you first believed the gospel today. Remember your desperation for Jesus in all of your life. Think back to your excitement for what life could look like and for the drive and passion it formed within you. Today, pray for a renewal of your hunger for the kingdom of God.
