



WEEK BY WEEK BIBLE CONVERSATIONS: THE NEW TESTAMENT

Discussion Guide with Questions
for Sunday School Classes,
Small Groups, and Journaling

Dr. Jonathan Carl

Week by Week Bible Conversations: The New Testament

*Discussion Guide with Questions for Sunday
School Classes, Small Groups, and Journaling*

Plus 5-30 Minute Bible Reading Plans,
Bible Study Helps & Resources

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Downloadable resources and helpful study &
Bible reading videos freely available at:
www.TrustworthyWord.com and www.Bible.video

I am so thankful to God for His free gift of salvation in Jesus
as revealed in the Bible!

“Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of
Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching.” - 1 Timothy 4:13

I love and am so grateful for my amazing wife Brittney and
her loving, tireless support. Together we are blessed with
some amazing daughters in Sophia, Lydia, Alia, and Mia! Our
church family at South Fork has been incredible in their
encouragement :) *Thank you all for putting up with my many
hours of studying & writing for this work!*

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Cover Photo by Author

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www.esv.org

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How to Use this Book

This book is the formulation of years of guiding myself and my church family through Bible reading. It is a simple but helpful tool to help with the discipline of drawing near to God through regular Bible reading and listening. While this version goes through the New Testament alone, I am working on conversation guides for the Psalms, Proverbs and Old Testament. Be sure to check out and share www.Bible.video and www.TrustworthyWord.com for our latest, free downloadable resources.

Sunday School & Small Group Discussion Questions

This book is full of questions, both specific and generic, to help you and your group in studying God's Word together. These questions are coupled with a New Testament reading plan to help you understand and apply God's truth to your life. These questions can also be helpful personally for journaling or prayer. ***You'll find yourself asking more questions as you journey through the New Testament, so write them down or type them up for future discussions and learning!***

Good questions help us to learn and apply what God is wanting to say to us each day. Each week has several questions available that you might find helpful for your personal devotional time or to use for discussion in a Sunday School class or small group. Some of these questions are generic towards helping our Bible

understanding while others are more specific and applicational. May we not simply be hearers of the Word, but lovers and doers of God's voice as well!

One of the best resources to consult for short, biblical answers to the most common questions of life is www.GotQuestions.org – check it out sometime, you'll be glad that you did!

The Bible Project (www.bibleproject.com) is another incredible resource with video summaries of Bible books and Bible themes.

If you are looking for some additional resources for questions for your small group, Sunday School class, or for personal use, here are some suggestions:

Serendipity Bible: For Personal and Small Group Study – edited by Lyman Coleman

The One Year Bible Companion – by Tyndale House Publishers

The Complete Bible Discussion Guide: Group Discussion Questions for Every Chapter in the Bible – by Mack Thomas

3 Questions on Every Chapter in the Bible – by Ed Roop

If you are a group leader you may want to use the margins of this book to write some of your own questions to expand on the provided questions. You may

want to raise your own questions to encourage discussion within your group gatherings. As you encounter God in the New Testament, ask Him to show you new and deeper truths about His goodness and greatness!

If you are a group participant you will likewise want to prepare for your gathering ahead of time. Your involvement and time in the Word will impact others in your class. As you read the New Testament chapters each week you may have your own questions so don't be shy about writing them down and asking them in class. The group conversations that follow your questions will help you all to think through and together may you find God's answers! Ask God to grow you through this study and to use you in the lives of your small group friends. What a blessing it is to be a disciple who makes disciples!

2 Timothy 2:2 “what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also.” (ESV)

General Discussion Questions

These generalized questions will help you to think through, pray through, and apply the truths that you are reading. As you begin this journey, consider how these questions might help you grow closer to Jesus through journaling, prayer, and Sunday school class or small group discussions.

- *Context Questions:* Who is writing this? Who is it being written to? When? Why? What type of writing is this? How does this matter to my understanding of the meaning of these chapters?
- What was something new you noticed this week? What impacted you the most? Why?
- What can you learn about God from these passages? His work? His character? How can this help you grow in your trust of Him?
- What did you learn about humanity or yourself in the readings this week? About your identity, character or purpose as a Christ-follower?
- What do these passages teach us about our enemies' attacks (deceptions, distractions, discouragement, and temptations)? How can we better resist these attacks?
- *Application Questions:* How do you need to respond to and apply these truths to your life? (Is there a sin to avoid? A command to obey? An example to follow? A prayer to offer? A truth to remember or memorize? An attitude to change? A teaching to share?)

5-30 Minute Plans

Although this study is coupled with a New Testament reading plan, some additional plans for the Psalms & Proverbs as well as the Old Testament are included. Should you choose to go beyond the New Testament reading you will certainly find that your readings in the Old Testament will compliment and enlighten your time in the New Testament.

How much time would you like to spend reading or listening to the Bible each day? Whether you would like to read Psalms/Proverbs, the New Testament, the Old Testament, or the whole Bible there is a plan to carry you through the year.

This could be a 1, 2, or 3 year plan for you to read the Bible. You might want to start off with a 5 minute-per-day commitment one year (Psalms & Proverbs), before progressing to a 10 (New Testament) or 15 (Old Testament) minute-per-day goal. Or maybe you have always wanted to read through the entire Bible in 52 weeks, you could start this any time of year, but will want to prepare for at least 30 minutes of Bible reading or listening each day.

Since this reading plan is outlined as a “weekly” plan instead of a “daily” plan, you might find that you spend more time on the weekends reading and then use the past readings for journaling, reflecting, and praying on the weekdays. Or you may prefer to do your reading on

weekdays and keep the weekends as a “catch up” time for anything you missed.

Regardless of the specific plans you make, I am proud of you for taking this significant step. May you enjoy your weekly encounters with your Lord through His Word.

Free, downloadable PDF versions of this book and all of the reading plans are available at www.Bible.video and www.TrustworthyWord.com

Verse of the Week

The Good News of Jesus is important for Christians to daily remember about our identity in Christ and for our gratitude towards God. Through these verses we can more fully enjoy the goodness of God & prepare ourselves for Gospel-sharing opportunities! We've included some of the most important verses for evangelism and for finding daily victory in the most common struggles of life. You can find the complete listing of verses here:

“What Bible Verses Are Good to Memorize for Evangelism?” - www.trustworthyword.com/what-bible-verses-are-good-to-memorize-for-evangelism

“What Bible Verses Are Good for Christians to Memorize? The 40 Most Important Verses Every Christian Should Know” - www.trustworthyword.com/what-bible-verses-are-good-for-christians-to-memorize

“in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect”
1 Peter 3:15 (ESV)

Resources

In the back of the book (and linked below) are resources you might find helpful for yourself or to help others. In it you'll find Bible study tips as well as some of the best digital and print resources available today.

“Top Children’s Bibles” –

www.trustworthyword.com/childrens-bibles

“Top One Year Bibles” –

www.trustworthyword.com/one-year-bibles

“How Can I Be Sure I’m a Christian?” -

www.trustworthyword.com/how-can-i-be-sure-im-a-christian

“How Can I Become a Christian?” -

www.trustworthyword.com/how-can-i-become-a-christian

“Evidence for Jesus” -

www.trustworthyword.com/evidence-for-jesus

“How to Study Your Bible” -

www.trustworthyword.com/how-to-study-the-bible

“10 Bible Study Tips” –

www.trustworthyword.com/bible-study-tips

www.Bible.video - “The Video Bible”

*“Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of
Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching.”*

1 Timothy 4:13

Did someone read to you growing up? Did that time impact you? Help you? Grow you? Comfort you?

We feel that reading the Bible visually and audibly to one another is important and helpful too! What a joy it is to see print Bibles reaching the ends of the earth (through amazing groups like the [Gideons](#) and [The International Bible Society](#) and especially www.NetBible.com). How incredible it is that translations are made ([Wycliffe](#)) and digitally distributed ([Bible.com](#) and [BibleStudyTools.com](#)) all over the world! In the past few decades, audio Bibles have also become numerous and more accessible through wonderful ministries like [Faith Comes By Hearing](#).

Unfortunately there isn't much of a presence currently of someone visually reading the Bible to another. We hope to help provide this through the “The Video Bible”!

We feel this is a needed resource for evangelism and discipleship and we pray that it will be extremely effective! The biblical origins of both visually watching someone read and listening simultaneously is important to how we process and respond to the Word. We hope to have the opportunity to help get complete bible

translations free into the ears, eyes, minds, and souls of millions more over the years ahead via video.

www.TrustworthyWord.com

“He must hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to rebuke those who contradict it.”

Titus 1:9 (ESV)

Trustworthy Word was born out of a desire to equip churches with free, downloadable handouts as a resource for biblical teaching on various topics. We wanted to see the people of God think deeply about the Word of God and realize the implications that come about as a result.

One of the great things that we have seen happen though is that members of our church (South Fork Baptist Church in Hodgenville, KY) have begun to use the site as a mobile resource when they are sharing the gospel or having bible-centered conversations. Trustworthy Word has become a digital filing cabinet where with a few taps of the finger, we can quickly locate helpful resources both for our own spiritual growth and to engage those with whom we are having Christ focused conversations.

Our hope is that you too will find Trustworthy Word as a digital discipleship and evangelism resource you can utilize in moments when you have your phone, tablet, or computer with you. You may enjoy using some of the free handouts to help guide your small group into a deeper walk with Jesus in Bible study. With just a few clicks we hope you begin to think deeply about the Word of God and see how that impacts your life.

*“The Bible was not given for our information
but for our transformation.*

... Read the Bible, read the Bible!

Let no religious book take its place.

Through all my perplexities and distresses,

I seldom read any other book,

and I as rarely felt the want of any other.”

~ **Dwight Lyman Moody**

“Come back to the Bible. Begin to read it.

Study it and God will speak to you

and change you.” ~ **Billy Graham**

“It takes a whole Bible to make a whole
Christian.” ~ **Alistair Begg**

“The vigor of our spiritual life will be in exact
proportion to the place held by the Bible in
our life and thoughts.” ~ **George Mueller**

“Half our fears arise from neglect of the Bible.”
~ **Charles H. Spurgeon**

Week 0 – Questions to Consider

Before you begin this journey of Bible reading, it might be helpful to consider some of these questions:

- Why are you using this Bible reading plan? What is your hope for this journey ahead?
- Where have you failed or struggled before in Bible reading or Bible listening? What did you learn from those experiences?
- How have you experienced the most success in your time in the Word? How do you hope to continue and build on those successes?
- Who might be a helpful encourager or someone to hold you accountable during this season of study? Who might you help in their discipline of Bible reading/listening?
- What tools have been helpful to you?
- When is the best time of day for you to study the Bible and pray? When do you encounter the most distractions or obstacles? How can you best prepare and plan now to overcome the challenges ahead?
- What is a practical step you might take to better remember to not miss your daily time with Jesus?
- How might you better help lead and encourage your children and family into more time in the Word? Where have you struggled with this before? When have you had success in this before?

Week 1

Pick a plan for this week and check off your progress as you read or listen.

5 Minutes Per Day - Psalms & Proverbs

Psalm 1 ~ Psalm 2 ~ Psalm 3 ~ Proverbs 1:1-16

10 Minutes Per Day - New Testament

Matthew 1 ~ Matthew 2 ~ Luke 1 ~ Luke 2 ~ John 1

15 Minutes Per Day - Old Testament

Genesis 1 ~ Genesis 2 ~ Genesis 3 ~ Genesis 4 ~

Genesis 5 ~ Genesis 6 ~ Genesis 7 ~ Genesis 8 ~

Genesis 9 ~ Genesis 10 ~ Genesis 11 ~ Genesis 12 ~

Genesis 13 ~ Genesis 14 ~ Genesis 15

30 Minutes - The Whole Bible (read all above)

Verse of the Week:

“The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.” Psalms 19:1 (ESV)

Week 1 – Questions to Consider

Fun Small Group Warm Up Question:
What is your favorite New Year's memory?

New Testament

Matthew 1 ~ Matthew 2 ~ Luke 1 ~ Luke 2 ~ John 1

1. Why do you think God included the genealogies of Jesus (Matthew 1 and also Luke 3)? What is different between them? What names do you recognize? Do any names appear that surprise you? How does this matter to us today?
2. How does the name “Immanuel” of Jesus impact you?
3. What kind of faith do you think it took for the wise men to make the journey they made? How does that encourage your faith?
4. Why was Luke written (Luke 1:4)? How does that encourage you to be more diligent in Bible reading in the year ahead?
5. How does the story of Zechariah and Elizabeth (Luke 1:5-25) challenge or encourage you?
6. Why do you think God sent angels alongside the sending of His Son?
7. Read Mary's song (Luke 1:46-55). What do you love about this?
8. What do you think about Simeon and Anna's appearance in Luke 2? How does their example inspire you?
9. Which is your favorite verse from John 1? Why?

General Discussion Questions

- What was something new you noticed this week?
What impacted you the most? Why?
- *Application Questions*: How do you need to respond to and apply these truths to your life? (Is there a sin to avoid? A command to obey? An example to follow? A prayer to offer? A truth to remember or memorize? An attitude to change? A teaching to share?)

Week 2

Pick a plan for this week and check off your progress as you read or listen.

5 Minutes Per Day - Psalms & Proverbs

Psalm 4 ~ Psalm 5 ~ Psalm 6 ~ Proverbs 1:17-33

10 Minutes Per Day - New Testament

Matthew 3 ~ Matthew 4 ~ Mark 1 ~ Luke 3 ~ Luke 4

15 Minutes Per Day - Old Testament

Genesis 16 ~ Genesis 17 ~ Genesis 18 ~ Genesis 19 ~
Genesis 20 ~ Genesis 21 ~ Genesis 22 ~ Genesis 23
~ Genesis 24 ~ Genesis 25 ~ Genesis 26 ~ Genesis
27 ~ Genesis 28 ~ Genesis 29 ~ Genesis 30

30 Minutes - The Whole Bible (read all above)

Verse of the Week:

“You shall be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy.”
Leviticus 19:2 (ESV)

Week 2 – Questions to Consider

Fun Small Group Warm Up Question:

Who was your best friend growing up?

New Testament

Matthew 3 ~ Matthew 4 ~ Mark 1 ~ Luke 3 ~ Luke 4

1. How do you think John the Baptist's message of repentance would go over today? What about his dialogue with the religious leaders? (Matthew 3:1-12, Mark 1:1-8, Luke 3:1-22)
2. What stands out to you in Jesus' baptism account (Matthew 3:12-17, Mark 1:9-11)? Why do you think God did this so publicly?
3. When Jesus is tempted by Satan, how does He respond (Matthew 4:1-11, Mark 1:12, Luke 4:1-12)? When Satan tempts Jesus, how does he do it? What can we learn for our battles against Satan's deceptions and temptations? How can we better prepare for the battles that are ahead?
4. Like John, Jesus preaches for repentance (Matthew 4:17, Mark 1:14). How should that affect our approach to evangelism and conversations with unbelievers?
5. What does it mean to be a fisher of men? (Mark 1:17) How does the example of the first disciples "immediately" responding to and following Jesus encourage your faithful obedience?

6. How is Jesus' teaching different then? (Mark 1:22, 27) How is Jesus' teaching different than many false teachers today?
7. How does Jesus preach in his hometown of Nazareth? (Luke 4:16-30) How do they respond? How might we similarly expect opposition when declaring God's truth? When was a time you faced opposition for being faithful to the Bible?
8. How does Jesus' authority over the demonic (Luke 4:31-41) and diseases encourage your faith? Do you struggle with believing in any of Jesus' miracles? Why or why not?
9. What does Jesus say is His purpose (Luke 4:43)? How does that connect with our purpose?

General Discussion Questions

- *Context Questions:* Who is writing this? Who is it being written to? When? Why? What type of writing is this? How does this matter to my understanding of the meaning of these chapters?
- *Application Questions:* How do you need to respond to and apply these truths to your life? (Is there a sin to avoid? A command to obey? An example to follow? A prayer to offer? A truth to remember or memorize? An attitude to change? A teaching to share?)

Week 3

Pick a plan for this week and check off your progress as you read or listen.

5 Minutes Per Day - Psalms & Proverbs

Psalm 7 ~ Psalm 8 ~ Psalm 9 ~ Proverbs 2

10 Minutes Per Day - New Testament

Mark 2 ~ John 2 ~ John 3 ~ John 4 ~ John 5

15 Minutes Per Day - Old Testament

Genesis 31 ~ Genesis 32 ~ Genesis 33 ~ Genesis 34 ~
Genesis 35 ~ Genesis 36 ~ Genesis 37 ~ Genesis 38
~ Genesis 39 ~ Genesis 40 ~ Genesis 41 ~ Genesis
42 ~ Genesis 43 ~ Genesis 44 ~ Genesis 45

30 Minutes - The Whole Bible (read all above)

Verse of the Week:

“Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created.” Revelation 4:11 (ESV)

Week 3 – Questions to Consider

Fun Small Group Warm Up Question:

What was your first job?

New Testament

Mark 2 ~ John 2 ~ John 3 ~ John 4 ~ John 5

1. Why did so many people gather to see and hear Jesus? (Mark 2:2) Where can we go to encounter Jesus today? What are obstacles we face in the disciplines of: bible reading, church attendance, Sunday school/small group participation, prayer, and fasting? What common excuses have we used or heard? How can we change our mindset to be more consistent and joyful in seeking Jesus personally?
2. What can we learn about fasting from Jesus in Mark 2:18-22? Does it mean we shouldn't fast? What is the purpose of fasting? Where have you found helpful truths on fasting? How have you struggled or found success in fasting?
3. What is Jesus speaking against in Mark 2:23-27? Are there any modern day church "traditions" that we've seen or accepted that may not be biblical?
4. What did you notice in Jesus' interactions with his mother in the wedding at Cana (John 2:1-12)? Why do you think Jesus chose to do this miracle?
5. When you think of Jesus' character, how would you describe Him? What about the story of Jesus in John 2:13-22)? How does this affirm or challenge your understanding of what Jesus is like?

6. What does it mean to be born again (John 3:1-15)? Why does Jesus not give a long list of rituals, rules, or traditions to obey to “see the kingdom of God”?
7. When were you born again? What did you experience when you were born again? How has God been growing you since you were born again?
8. Who is God’s salvation available to? How does salvation happen? What does saving belief in Jesus look like? What does false belief in Jesus look like? (John 3:16-21)
9. What do you love about Jesus’ interaction with the woman at the well (John 4:1-45)? How does it encourage your faith? Overwhelm you with God’s love? Challenge you to be bolder in witnessing?
10. Why were the Jews trying to kill Jesus (John 5:18)? In what other ways do we see Jesus demonstrate and say that He is God?

General Discussion Questions

- What do these passages teach us about our enemies’ attacks (deceptions, distractions, discouragement, and temptations)? How can we better resist these attacks?
- *Application Questions:* How do you need to respond to and apply these truths to your life? (Is there a sin to avoid? A command to obey? An example to follow? A prayer to offer? A truth to remember or memorize? An attitude to change? A teaching to share?)

Week 4

Pick a plan for this week and check off your progress as you read or listen.

5 Minutes Per Day - Psalms & Proverbs

Psalms 10 ~ Psalms 11 ~ Psalms 12 ~ Proverbs 3:1-18

10 Minutes Per Day - New Testament

Mark 3 ~ Luke 5 ~ Luke 6 ~ Matthew 5 ~ Matthew 6

15 Minutes Per Day - Old Testament

Genesis 46 ~ Genesis 47 ~ Genesis 48 ~ Genesis 49 ~
Genesis 50 ~ Job 1 ~ Job 2 ~ Job 3 ~ Job 4 ~ Job 5 ~
Job 6 ~ Job 7 ~ Job 8 ~ Job 9 ~ Job 10

30 Minutes - The Whole Bible (read all above)

Verse of the Week:

“And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.” Mark 12:30 (ESV)

Week 4 – Questions to Consider

Warm Up Question:

What was your favorite pet growing up?

New Testament

Mark 3 ~ Luke 5 ~ Luke 6 ~ Matthew 5 ~ Matthew 6

1. In Mark 3:1-6 the religious leaders are looking to accuse Jesus of doing something wrong. When and where have you experienced people hardened against you? Trying to entrap you? What can we learn from Jesus' example?
2. How is our mission similar to the twelve apostles (Mark 3:13-15)? Why is such a humbling task? How can we be encouraged and emboldened in this task?
3. With whom did Jesus encounter opposition in Mark 3:21? Why? How have you experienced, or should expect, similar opposition?
4. How do we know if we are part of God's family? (Mark 3:35) What does it look like to honor God with your lips but not with your life (Matthew 15:7-9)? What does it look like to confess with your mouth and believe in your heart (Romans 10:8-9)?
5. What kind of faith does it take to be made clean by Jesus (Luke 5:12-16)? How are we often tempted to make ourselves clean by our "good works"?
6. Who are the modern day outcasts that we might be tempted to avoid and not witness to? How does the example of Levi's salvation convict and grow you?

- (Luke 5:27-32)? How can we be tempted to be self-righteous like the Pharisees?
7. Skim over “The Beatitudes” of Matthew 5:1-12. How have you experienced God’s blessings in these areas? How do you want to grow in experiencing God’s blessings in these areas?
 8. Skim over the areas Jesus speaks to in His sermon on the mount (Matthew 5-6). Which areas do you need to hear Jesus preach to you about? What section does our community need to hear? What temptations might we face to not preach or speak certain truths?
 9. What aspects of prayer do you see in the example Jesus gives us in “The Lord’s Prayer” (Matthew 6:5-14)?

General Discussion Questions

- What did you learn about humanity or yourself in the readings this week? About your identity, character or purpose as a Christ-follower?
- *Application Questions:* How do you need to respond to and apply these truths to your life? (Is there a sin to avoid? A command to obey? An example to follow? A prayer to offer? A truth to remember or memorize? An attitude to change? A teaching to share?)

Week 5

Pick a plan for this week and check off your progress as you read or listen.

5 Minutes Per Day - Psalms & Proverbs

Psalm 13 ~ Psalm 14 ~ Psalm 15 ~ Proverbs 3:19-35

10 Minutes Per Day - New Testament

Matthew 7 ~ Matthew 8 ~ Luke 7 ~ Luke 8 ~ Matthew
11

15 Minutes Per Day - Old Testament

Job 11 ~ Job 12 ~ Job 13 ~ Job 14 ~ Job 15 ~ Job 16 ~
Job 17 ~ Job 18 ~ Job 19 ~ Job 20 ~ Job 21
~ Job 22 ~ Job 23 ~ Job 24 ~ Job 25

30 Minutes - The Whole Bible (read all above)

Verse of the Week:

“Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.” Psalm 51:5 (ESV)

Week 5 – Questions to Consider

Warm Up Question:

What is your favorite Winter childhood memory?

New Testament

Matthew 7 ~ Matthew 8 ~ Luke 7 ~ Luke 8 ~ Matthew
11

1. What does it mean to “judge” someone? (Matthew 7:1) What does it sound like? How is it received? How is that different than a loving “rebuke” which is so often recommended and commanded (Proverbs 17:10, 27:5; Luke 17:3; 1 Timothy 5:20; 2 Timothy 4:2)?
2. Why does Jesus warn about hypocrisy and self-evaluation before helping others? (Matthew 7:1-5)
3. Of the many short statements of Jesus in Matthew 7, which one stands out to you or helps you the most?
4. Read Matthew 7:21-23. Do you agree that this might be one of the scariest passages in the Bible? Why or why not?
5. We see so many healings in Matthew 8. How does it make you feel that we don’t see as many miraculous healings today? When and where do we find our ultimate healing?
6. Look at Jesus’ power over the demonic in Matthew 8:16, 28-34 & Luke 8:26-39. Why do we need this reminder even today?
7. What do you think was going through the disciples’ minds seeing all of these miracles of Jesus? (Luke

- 7:16-17) Why were they so eager to tell everyone? When do we lose our excitement for evangelism and missions? How can we gain it back?
8. What do you think Luke 7:47 means? What is key to growing in our love for God and others?
 9. Do you like Jesus' parables or find them difficult? How is the parable of the sower (Luke 8:1-15) helpful in evaluating and testing the genuineness of one's salvation (2 Corinthians 13:5)?
 10. Read Matthew 11:28-29. How could you use this as a reminder and a prayer in the week ahead?

General Discussion Questions

- What can you learn about God from these passages? His work? His character? How can this help you grow in your trust of Him?
- *Application Questions:* How do you need to respond to and apply these truths to your life? (Is there a sin to avoid? A command to obey? An example to follow? A prayer to offer? A truth to remember or memorize? An attitude to change? A teaching to share?)

Week 6

Pick a plan for this week and check off your progress as you read or listen.

5 Minutes Per Day - Psalms & Proverbs

Psalm 16 ~ Psalm 17 ~ Psalm 18 ~ Proverbs 4

10 Minutes Per Day - New Testament

Matthew 9 ~ Matthew 12 ~ Matthew 13 ~ Mark 4 ~
Mark 5

15 Minutes Per Day - Old Testament

Job 26 ~ Job 27 ~ Job 28 ~ Job 29 ~ Job 30 ~ Job 31 ~
Job 32 ~ Job 33 ~ Job 34 ~ Job 35 ~ Job 36
~ Job 37 ~ Job 38 ~ Job 39 ~ Job 40

30 Minutes - The Whole Bible (read all above)

Verse of the Week:

“Your iniquities have made a separation between you
and your God, and your sins have hidden his face
from you so that he does not hear.”

Isaiah 59:2 (ESV)

Week 6 – Questions to Consider

Warm Up Question:

If you could travel anywhere in the world tomorrow, where would you go and why?

New Testament

Matthew 9 ~ Matthew 12 ~ Matthew 13 ~ Mark 4 ~
Mark 5

1. When “some people” bring their paralyzed friend to Jesus, the Bible says Jesus “saw their faith” (Matthew 9:2). Who do you know who is in the low point or far from God that might need your faith to bring them closer to Jesus? Why is that so intimidating?
2. When Jesus calls Matthew to follow Him (Matthew 9:9-13) what temptations do you think Matthew faced? What excuses came your way when Jesus was calling you to follow Him?
3. Have you ever fasted before? What is the purpose of fasting? What obstacles did you face when you fasted? How did fasting help you be more desperate for God?
4. In Matthew 9:24 the crowd laughs at Jesus. How does the world laugh at Jesus, the Bible, and Christianity today? How should we respond in the face of such opposition?
5. Read Matthew 9:37-38. How is this convicting?
6. What does “out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks”? (Matthew 12:34) Why is this verse

- and the surrounding passage so convicting to be careful with our words? Is there anywhere that you would be ashamed with how you speak? Why is changing our tongue so hard? So important?
7. Read Matthew 12:43-45. Why is moral improvement (“the house empty, swept, and put in order”) not enough to protect us from Satan? What needs to dwell in our “house”? Can a Christian be demon possessed?
 8. Why do you think Jesus speaks about sin, hell, Satan and demons so much? Why might false teachers avoid such passages? (2 Timothy 4:3)
 9. Why does Jesus talk about the “kingdom of heaven” so much in Matthew 13? What does He want us to understand? How can such a focus on eternity change how we live here and now?
 10. Read Mark 4:21-25. How does this encourage you? How does this challenge you?
 11. When the woman told Jesus “the whole truth” (Mark 5:33) how do you think she felt? Why is it so hard for us to admit fault and confess our sins to God and others? What is it like after we tell the “whole truth”?

General Discussion Questions

- What was something new you noticed this week? What impacted you the most? Why?
- *Application Questions*: How do you need to respond to and apply these truths to your life? (Is there a sin to avoid? A command to obey? An example to follow? A prayer to offer? A truth to remember or memorize? An attitude to change? A teaching to share?)

Week 7

Pick a plan for this week and check off your progress as you read or listen.

5 Minutes Per Day - Psalms & Proverbs

Psalm 19 ~ Psalm 20 ~ Psalm 21 ~ Proverbs 5

10 Minutes Per Day - New Testament

Matthew 10 ~ Matthew 14 ~ Mark 6 ~ Luke 9 ~ John 6

15 Minutes Per Day - Old Testament

Job 41 ~ Job 42 ~ Exodus 1 ~ Exodus 2 ~ Exodus 3 ~
Exodus 4 ~ Exodus 5 ~ Exodus 6 ~ Exodus 7 ~
Exodus 8 ~ Exodus 9 ~ Exodus 10 ~ Exodus 11 ~
Exodus 12 ~ Exodus 13

30 Minutes - The Whole Bible (read all above)

Verse of the Week:

“None is righteous, no, not one; no one understands; no one seeks for God. All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one.” Romans 3:10-12 (ESV)

Week 7 – Questions to Consider

Fun Small Group Warm Up Question:

What was your favorite teacher or subject in school?

New Testament

Matthew 10 ~ Matthew 14 ~ Mark 6 ~ Luke 9 ~ John 6

1. What do you think the apostles were experiencing as they were doing the same miracles Jesus was doing (Matthew 10:8)? Why do you think Jesus warns them about taking limited supplies and not receiving money for their miracles?
2. What do you think Jesus means by “let your peace come upon it” and “let your peace return to you” (Matthew 10:13)? How might that apply to us in witnessing today?
3. What does it mean to be “wise as serpents and innocent as doves” (Matthew 10:16)? Why is it important to have “understanding of the times” (1 Chronicles 12:32)? How can we try to “be wise as to what is good and innocent as to what is evil” (Romans 16:19)?
4. Read Matthew 10:19-20. How does this encourage you? How might this change your prayer life the next time you are in a tough situation?
5. What does God mean that “the one who endures to the end will be saved” (Matthew 10:22)? What does it mean to “acknowledge” or “deny” God before men (Matthew 10:32)? Why is that so serious?

6. Do you think some people want to be in Heaven more to see their deceased relatives than to see Jesus? What do people often say that might reflect this? How does that counter Matthew 10:37?
7. How does John the Baptist's courage inspire you (Matthew 14:1-12, Mark 6:18)? Where do we need to speak with more boldness and courage today? How can we do better at speaking the truth while saying it with love in our hearts (Ephesians 4:15)?
8. Why did Peter begin to sink in Matthew 14:22-33? When do we begin to "sink" in life? What was Jesus' response to Peter when he cried out for help? What is Jesus' response to us when we cry out sincerely and desperately for Him?
9. Why do you think the feeding of the 5,000 (Matthew 14, Mark 6, Luke 9, & John 6) is important (the only miracle reported in all 4 Gospels)? Why do you think Mark 6:52 is included?
10. How do you think the disciples were prepared to see Him do the same miracle in feeding 4,000 (Matthew 15 & Mark 8)? In Matthew 16 & Mark 8 the disciples were still struggling after seeing two massive feeding miracles, yet Jesus is patient with them and does not give up on them. How does this encourage you?
11. Look at John 6:66-71. Why did many turn aside after some tough teachings? Why did Peter and the other 11 stay? Why do you think Jesus references Judas' future betrayal here? How does this apply to us today?

General Discussion Questions

- *Context Questions:* Who is writing this? Who is it being written to? When? Why? What type of writing is this? How does this matter to my understanding of the meaning of these chapters?
- *Application Questions:* How do you need to respond to and apply these truths to your life? (Is there a sin to avoid? A command to obey? An example to follow? A prayer to offer? A truth to remember or memorize? An attitude to change? A teaching to share?)

Week 8

Pick a plan for this week and check off your progress as you read or listen.

5 Minutes Per Day - Psalms & Proverbs

Psalm 22 ~ Psalm 23 ~ Psalm 24 ~ Proverbs 6:1-19

10 Minutes Per Day - New Testament

Matthew 15 ~ Matthew 16 ~ Matthew 17 ~ Mark 7 ~
Mark 8

15 Minutes Per Day - Old Testament

Exodus 14 ~ Exodus 15 ~ Exodus 16 ~ Exodus 17 ~
Exodus 18 ~ Exodus 19 ~ Exodus 20 ~ Exodus 21 ~
Exodus 22 ~ Exodus 23 ~ Exodus 24 ~ Exodus 25 ~
Exodus 26 ~ Exodus 27 ~ Exodus 28

30 Minutes - The Whole Bible (read all above)

Verse of the Week:

“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”
Romans 3:23 (ESV)

Week 8 – Questions to Consider

Fun Small Group Warm Up Question:
What was your favorite sport growing up?

New Testament

Matthew 15 ~ Matthew 16 ~ Matthew 17 ~ Mark 7 ~
Mark 8

1. What religious traditions did you grow up with? What Christian traditions or “commandments of men” still exist today? Why does Jesus warn of Christian tradition rather than praise it? (Matthew 15:1-9) What can we do to avoid falling into the trap of false worship and man-made commands?
2. Why is it so easy to get caught up with the idea of moralism and good works? Why is obedience not enough? What does it mean that Jesus wants our “heart”?
3. Why do so many false teachers and prophets offer false signs and wonders? What is so appealing about them? What is so dangerous about them? (Matthew 16:1-12) What is the sign of “Jonah”? Why is that the most important?
4. Do we ever try to “correct” Jesus or the Bible with our own opinions and experiences? Why do we do this? Why did Peter “rebuke” Jesus in Matthew 16:21-23? What is Jesus’ response? Does He sound too harsh? Why is so easy for us to set our minds on the “things of man”? What steps can we take,

especially before a big decision, to set our minds on the “things of God”?

5. Why do you think Jesus invited Peter, James and John onto the Mount of Transfiguration with Him? (Matthew 17:1-13) What experiences does Jesus invite us into? Why?
6. How did the disciples’ sin at the Transfiguration? What was God the Father’s command and their response (Matthew 17:5-6)? What was Jesus’ action and words (Matthew 17:7)? How is that comforting to use when we fail?
7. When we read the Scriptural accounts of Jesus’ miracles shouldn’t we also respond “He has done all things well. He even makes the deaf hear and the mute speak.” (Mark 7:37)? What gets in the way of us giving Jesus the proper praise?
8. In Mark 8:2 Jesus sees the hunger of the crowd and says “I have compassion” before He takes action in feeding the 4,000. Who do we need to have more compassion and action towards?
9. Why do you think Jesus foretells His death and resurrection (Mark 8:31)? Why do you think He gives us the book of Revelation?

General Discussion Questions

- What do these passages teach us about our enemies’ attacks (deceptions, distractions, discouragement, and temptations)? How can we better resist these attacks?
- *Application Questions:* How do you need to respond to and apply these truths to your life? (Is there a sin to avoid? A command to obey? An example to follow?)

A prayer to offer? A truth to remember or memorize?
An attitude to change? A teaching to share?)

Week 9

Pick a plan for this week and check off your progress as you read or listen.

5 Minutes Per Day - Psalms & Proverbs

Psalm 25 ~ Psalm 26 ~ Psalm 27 ~ Proverbs 6:1:20-35

10 Minutes Per Day - New Testament

Matthew 18 ~ Mark 9 ~ John 7 ~ John 8 ~ John 9

15 Minutes Per Day - Old Testament

Exodus 29 ~ Exodus 30 ~ Exodus 31 ~ Exodus 32 ~

Exodus 33 ~ Exodus 34 ~ Exodus 35 ~ Exodus 36 ~

Exodus 37 ~ Exodus 38 ~ Exodus 39 ~ Exodus 40 ~

Leviticus 1 ~ Leviticus 2 ~ Leviticus 3

30 Minutes - The Whole Bible (read all above)

Verse of the Week:

“Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God.” Romans 3:19 (ESV)

Week 9 – Questions to Consider

Fun Small Group Warm Up Question:

What is your favorite card, board, or video game?

New Testament

Matthew 18 ~ Mark 9 ~ John 7 ~ John 8 ~ John 9

1. How is “greatness” or “success” defined in your family, workplace, or culture? How does Jesus define “greatness” in Matthew 18:1-4?
2. Read Mark 9:33-37. How does this help us better understand humility?
3. When you read Matthew 18:8-9 about taking sin so serious, how did it affect you? Do we take sin serious enough? Why or why not?
4. Why is forgiveness so hard? Who is the hardest to forgive? Why? What is the biblical process of seeking reconciliation in relationships according to Matthew 18:15-20? Do we follow this process? What happens when we don’t?
5. Read Matthew 18:35. Why is forgiveness so important? How does this compare to when Jesus finishes the Lord’s prayer in Matthew 6:14-15?
6. How did Peter get it wrong on the Mount of Transfiguration in Mark 9? How did the Father correct and refocus him? How do we similarly get distracted by the world around us and need refocusing?
7. Why do you think Jesus describes the Holy Spirit as “living water” in our hearts (John 7:38)? How does

this describe your own experience of being indwelt by God the Holy Spirit?

8. What does it mean to “abide” in Jesus’ word (John 8:31-32)? “Hear the words of God” (John 8:47)? “Keeps my word” (John 8:51)? Why is it so important?
9. Why do the Jews try to kill Jesus after he says “before Abraham was, I am.” (John 8:58)? Can you think of other ways Jesus claims to be God in His words or actions?
10. When Jesus is asked about why a man was born blind, what is His answer (John 9:3)? How is this helpful to think about with other born differences in people?

General Discussion Questions

- What did you learn about humanity or yourself in the readings this week? About your identity, character or purpose as a Christ-follower?
- *Application Questions:* How do you need to respond to and apply these truths to your life? (Is there a sin to avoid? A command to obey? An example to follow? A prayer to offer? A truth to remember or memorize? An attitude to change? A teaching to share?)

Week 10

Pick a plan for this week and check off your progress as you read or listen.

5 Minutes Per Day - Psalms & Proverbs

Psalm 28 ~ Psalm 29 ~ Psalm 30 ~ Proverbs 7

10 Minutes Per Day - New Testament

Luke 10 ~ Luke 11 ~ Luke 12 ~ Luke 13 ~ John 10

15 Minutes Per Day - Old Testament

Leviticus 4 ~ Leviticus 5 ~ Leviticus 6 ~ Leviticus 7 ~

Leviticus 8 ~ Leviticus 9 ~ Leviticus 10 ~ Leviticus

11 ~ Leviticus 12 ~ Leviticus 13 ~ Leviticus 14 ~

Leviticus 15 ~ Leviticus 16 ~ Leviticus 17 ~

Leviticus 18

30 Minutes - The Whole Bible (read all above)

Verse of the Week:

“everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart.”

Matthew 5:28 (ESV)

Week 10 – Questions to Consider

Fun Small Group Warm Up Question:

What is your favorite TV show ever?

New Testament

Luke 10 ~ Luke 11 ~ Luke 12 ~ Luke 13 ~ John 10

1. What do you think it would've been like to be a part of the first 72 disciples sent out two-by-two into every town before Jesus (Luke 10:1)? Would verse 3 have encouraged you? What does verse 11 mean? How might it apply today? How is verse 16 empowering?
2. If we have spiritual successes, what is our ultimate focus of rejoicing to be (Luke 10:20)?
3. What are some of the ways the world around us answers the question about "what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" (Luke 10:25)? How do people try to justify their salvation?
4. How does the parable of the Samaritan demonstrate true love (John 10:29-37)? Who is our example of true love? How does this parable show us who are neighbors are? Who do you find challenging to love? Why?
5. Where do you find yourself to be tempted towards busyness, anxiety, and worry like Martha (Luke 10:40-41)? How does your schedule or decisions need to change to be more like Mary (Luke 10:39, 42)? Why is Mary's choice so necessary according to Jesus?

6. Read the Lord's prayer (Luke 11:1-4 or Matthew 6:9-15). Where are you currently praying similar to this prayer? What focus in your prayer life might need to be added or adjusted?
7. Why are we blessed when we "hear the word of God and keep it" (Luke 11:28)?
8. Why are we sometimes tempted towards hypocrisy (Luke 12:1)? How do we avoid and protect ourselves from that temptation?
9. What does it look like to live a life that acknowledges Jesus? To live a life that denies Jesus? Why does that matter eternally (Luke 12:8)?
10. What is coveting? How can we guard ourselves better "against all covetousness" (Luke 12:15)?
11. Why does Jesus command us not to be anxious (Luke 12:22-34)? What is the solution to worry?
12. When Jesus answers a question about deaths by accident and by evil, how does He redirect the conversation? Why? (Luke 13:1-5)
13. How is the description of Jesus and salvation helpful to you understanding your relationship with God? To Understanding His love for you? (John 10:1-18)

General Discussion Questions

- What can you learn about God from these passages? His work? His character? How can this help you grow in your trust of Him?
- *Application Questions*: How do you need to respond to and apply these truths to your life? (Is there a sin to avoid? A command to obey? An example to follow? A prayer to offer? A truth to remember or memorize? An attitude to change? A teaching to share?)

Week 11

Pick a plan for this week and check off your progress as you read or listen.

5 Minutes Per Day - Psalms & Proverbs

Psalm 31 ~ Psalm 32 ~ Psalm 33 ~ Proverbs 8:1-21

10 Minutes Per Day - New Testament

Luke 14 ~ Luke 15 ~ Luke 16 ~ Luke 17 ~ John 11

15 Minutes Per Day - Old Testament

Leviticus 19 ~ Leviticus 20 ~ Leviticus 21 ~ Leviticus
22 ~ Leviticus 23 ~ Leviticus 24 ~ Leviticus 25 ~
Leviticus 26 ~ Leviticus 27 ~ Numbers 1 ~ Numbers
2 ~ Numbers 3 ~ Numbers 4 ~ Numbers 5 ~
Numbers 6

30 Minutes - The Whole Bible (read all above)

Verse of the Week:

“Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.” 1 John 3:15 (ESV)

Week 11 – Questions to Consider

Fun Small Group Warm Up Question:

What was the best book you ever read?

New Testament

Luke 14 ~ Luke 15 ~ Luke 16 ~ Luke 17 ~ John 11

1. Why does Jesus often reply to His enemies' attacks with a question? (Luke 14:6) How might that be helpful as a witnessing tool for you?
2. How might Luke 14:21 change our approach to evangelism and missions?
3. Why does Jesus describe the life of a Christian in such serious terms? (Luke 14:25-33)
4. Why does Jesus use the parable of the lost sheep, coin, and son? Why do we sometimes lose our joy in witness? Why do we sometimes give up and lose our urgency or focus? How can we sometimes be like the older son who grumbles and complains? (Luke 15)
5. Read Luke 16:10. What has the Lord entrusted to you? How are you managing it and using it? How can we be more faithful in how we manage and use our: finances, time, relationships, physical health, or mental health?
6. Read the story of the rich man and Lazarus in Luke 16:19-31. When the rich man finds himself in Hell, what is his first request? What is his second request? Why does Abraham answer the way he does? How should this impact our witnessing?

7. Look at Luke 17:3-4. Why do we avoid this process? Who might we do better in holding accountable? Who do we need to do better at forgiving?
8. What do you think it would've been like to be a leper? What would it have been like to be healed? How much has Jesus healed us? How should the parable of the healed lepers change our hearts to be more regularly grateful?
9. Why do you think there is an ongoing interest, even in Jesus' day, of the "end times" (Luke 17:20-37)? How does Luke 17:33 apply to our daily living and perspective?
10. How does the story of the death and resurrection of Lazarus (John 11) impact you? What do you think it was like to be in Mary & Martha's situation as they watched their brother die without Jesus' intervention? What do you think was going through their minds when Jesus promised to resurrect Lazarus (John 11:23)? How does it affect you to see Jesus weep and be moved alongside them as they grieve (John 11:33-38)? Read John 11:44. How does this give you hope in facing your own future death? How does it motivate you for more boldness and passion in evangelism and missions?
11. Why were the religious leaders so committed to kill Jesus (John 11:45-57)? How and where might Christians today expect and prepare for similar persecution?

General Discussion Questions

- What was something new you noticed this week?
What impacted you the most? Why?
- *Application Questions*: How do you need to respond to and apply these truths to your life? (Is there a sin to avoid? A command to obey? An example to follow? A prayer to offer? A truth to remember or memorize? An attitude to change? A teaching to share?)

Week 12

Pick a plan for this week and check off your progress as you read or listen.

5 Minutes Per Day - Psalms & Proverbs

Psalm 34 ~ Psalm 35 ~ Psalm 36 ~ Proverbs 8:22-36

10 Minutes Per Day - New Testament

Matthew 19 ~ Matthew 20 ~ Mark 10 ~ Luke 18 ~ Luke
19

15 Minutes Per Day - Old Testament

Numbers 7 ~ Numbers 8 ~ Numbers 9 ~ Numbers 10 ~
Numbers 11 ~ Numbers 12 ~ Numbers 13 ~
Numbers 14 ~ Numbers 15 ~ Numbers 16 ~
Numbers 17 ~ Numbers 18 ~ Numbers 19 ~
Numbers 20 ~ Numbers 21

30 Minutes - The Whole Bible (read all above)

Verse of the Week:

“For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point
has become accountable for all of it.” James 2:10
(ESV)

Week 12 – Questions to Consider

Fun Small Group Warm Up Question:

What is your favorite super hero? Super villain?

New Testament

Matthew 19 ~ Matthew 20 ~ Mark 10 ~ Luke 18 ~ Luke
19

1. Read Luke 16:18 from last week and Matthew 5:31-32. Read Matthew 19:1-12 and Mark 10:1-12. Why does Jesus teach on such a controversial topic? Why do we like to avoid, skim through, or justify ourselves on such tough teachings? If we are convicted about past failures, on this topic or others, what are we called to do?
2. What is Jesus talking about in Matthew 19:26 when he says “With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible”? Why do we need this instruction and reminder?
3. Why is Jesus emphasizing “the last will be first, and the first last” (Matthew 19:30, 20:16)? See how James and John were leveraging for power, position, authority, and fame (Mark 10:35-45). How might we be tempted in our own circles by our own struggles with pride?
4. Why does Jesus so explicitly and repeatedly predict his death and resurrection (Matthew 20:17-19, 16:21-23, 17:22-23, 26:2)? Why do you think God gives us so many “end times” warnings and details? Why are

- some of these predictions “hidden from” us (Luke 18:34)? Why would Jesus do that?
5. When the two blind men call out to Jesus, “Lord, have mercy on us”, how should that remind us for our daily need of God’s mercy (not giving us the punishment we deserve) and grace (giving us the blessing of forgiveness and spiritual life that we do not deserve)? How were we spiritually blind before meeting Jesus? How has Jesus spiritually given us sight? (Matthew 20:29-34).
 6. We are told of Bartimaeus by name specifically (Mark 10:46-52), and that he “immediately recovered his sight and followed him on the way” and was “glorifying God” (Luke 18:43). How should Bartimaeus’ example inspire our own ultimate purpose and calling in life?
 7. When the rich young ruler turns away from Jesus “disheartened” (Mark 10:22) how does it remind us of our own previous rejections of lack of prioritization of Jesus?
 8. Read Luke 18:1-8. When are we tempted to give up on our prayer requests? Why does Jesus give us this example (Luke 18:1)? In what area is God calling you to not give up hope and to keep praying?
 9. How are the Pharisees described in Luke 18:9? How would those who know us best describe us? How would we want to be described?
 10. Tax collectors like Zacchaeus were hated and avoided. What are some types and groups of people that we might consciously or sub-consciously avoid or ignore in our own lives? How did Jesus treat Zacchaeus (Luke 19:1-10)? Why? How does Jesus

want to change our hearts towards the marginalized or maligned in our society today? What opposition might we face in doing that?

11. Read Luke 19:28-40. How does the response of the crowd move you? Why should we weep over our own communities like Jesus did over Jerusalem (Luke 19:41-44)? Have our churches lost focus on our main priorities (Luke 19:45-48)?

General Discussion Questions

- *Context Questions:* Who is writing this? Who is it being written to? When? Why? What type of writing is this? How does this matter to my understanding of the meaning of these chapters?
- *Application Questions:* How do you need to respond to and apply these truths to your life? (Is there a sin to avoid? A command to obey? An example to follow? A prayer to offer? A truth to remember or memorize? An attitude to change? A teaching to share?)

Week 13

Pick a plan for this week and check off your progress as you read or listen.

5 Minutes Per Day - Psalms & Proverbs

Psalm 37 ~ Psalm 38 ~ Psalm 39 ~ Proverbs 9

10 Minutes Per Day - New Testament

Matthew 21 ~ Matthew 22 ~ Mark 11 ~ Mark 12 ~ Luke
20

15 Minutes Per Day - Old Testament

Numbers 22 ~ Numbers 23 ~ Numbers 24 ~ Numbers 25
~ Numbers 26 ~ Numbers 27 ~ Numbers 28 ~
Numbers 29 ~ Numbers 30 ~ Numbers 31 ~
Numbers 32 ~ Numbers 33 ~ Numbers 34 ~
Numbers 35 ~ Numbers 36

30 Minutes - The Whole Bible (read all above)

Verse of the Week:

“For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Romans 6:23
(ESV)

Week 13 – Questions to Consider

Fun Small Group Warm Up Question:

What is your favorite Easter activity or childhood memory?

New Testament

Matthew 21 ~ Matthew 22 ~ Mark 11 ~ Mark 12 ~ Luke 20

1. What do you think it would've been like to be part of the crowd when Jesus enters Jerusalem triumphantly? (Matthew 21:8–11)
2. What do you think is so significant about Jesus beginning (John 2:13-17) & finishing (Matthew 21:12–13) His ministry years by cleansing the Temple?
3. What do you think “whatever you ask in prayer, you will receive, if you have faith” means? (The Cursing of the Fig Tree - Matt 21:21–22) What does a faithful prayer sound like?
4. Why do you think so many religious leaders (Pharisees, Scribes, Sadducees) challenged Jesus' authority then? (Jesus in the Temple - Matthew 21:23) Why do people resist His authority today? When are we tempted to resist Jesus' authority?
5. What did God teach you from the Parable of the Two Sons (Matthew 21:28–32)?
6. Why does Jesus warn in so many ways about Hell? (Matthew 21:41)
7. How do we avoid being wrong? (Matthew 22:29)

8. How does Jesus summarize the 10 commandments and the whole Bible (Matthew 22:37-39)? How does Satan, the world, and our own flesh make such love so hard?
9. Who are the people in your life that are the toughest to love? How can we love God and others better?
10. How does the warning of the scribes apply to us today? (Luke 20:46–47 “Beware of the scribes...”)
11. Why is giving \$ to God such a touchy subject? Do you think our giving to God can be a good measure of our spiritual maturity? Why or why not? (Mark 12:42, 44 “a poor widow came and put in two small copper coins ... everything she had, all she had to live on”)

General Discussion Questions

- What do these passages teach us about our enemies’ attacks (deceptions, distractions, discouragement, and temptations)? How can we better resist these attacks?
- *Application Questions:* How do you need to respond to and apply these truths to your life? (Is there a sin to avoid? A command to obey? An example to follow? A prayer to offer? A truth to remember or memorize? An attitude to change? A teaching to share?)

Week 14

Pick a plan for this week and check off your progress as you read or listen.

5 Minutes Per Day - Psalms & Proverbs

Psalm 40 ~ Psalm 41 ~ Psalm 42 ~ Proverbs 10:1-16

10 Minutes Per Day - New Testament

Matthew 23 ~ Matthew 24 ~ Mark 13 ~ Luke 21 ~ John
12

15 Minutes Per Day - Old Testament

Deuteronomy 1 ~ Deuteronomy 2 ~ Deuteronomy 3 ~
Deuteronomy 4 ~ Deuteronomy 5 ~ Deuteronomy 6
~ Deuteronomy 7 ~ Deuteronomy 8 ~ Deuteronomy
9 ~ Deuteronomy 10 ~ Deuteronomy 11 ~
Deuteronomy 12 ~ Deuteronomy 13 ~ Deuteronomy
14 ~ Deuteronomy 15

30 Minutes - The Whole Bible (read all above)

Verse of the Week:

“And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment.” Hebrews 9:27 (ESV)

Week 14 – Questions to Consider

Fun Small Group Warm Up Question:

Tell us about your worst haircut.

New Testament

Matthew 23 ~ Matthew 24 ~ Mark 13 ~ Luke 21 ~ John
12

1. Look at the “woes” to the Scribes and Pharisees in Matthew 23:1-36. Which ones stand out to you? Why? How are these warnings to us also today?
2. How does a hen protect her chicks? Why does Jesus use that analogy? (Matthew 23:37-39). Why do we have to be willing to received Jesus’ care and protection?
3. Why does Jesus give warnings about the Temple’s destruction and signs of the end of the age? (Matthew 24:1-14) What specific warnings speak to you today?
4. What is the connection between “lawlessness” and “the love of many will grow cold (Matthew 24:12)? Why is Matthew 24:13 so important for to understand and remember?
5. How would you summarize the “end times” in Matthew 24 in one sentence?
6. Matthew 24:35 says “Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.” How does this encourage you in the discipline of Bible reading, study, prayer, & memorization?

7. When four of the disciples ask about the coming of the end times Jesus' response is first to say "See that no one leads you astray" (Matthew 24:4, Mark 13:5, Luke 21:8). How is this relevant with "end times" ministries today?
8. What does it look like for a Christian to "stay awake" in preparation for Jesus' return? (Mark 13:37)
9. Why do you think Jesus includes the warning of your hearts not being "weighed down" by sexual immorality, greedy spending, substance abuse ("dissipation and drunkenness") and "the cares of this life" (Luke 21:34)? What can we do to best resist and avoid such temptations?
10. Read John 12:1-10. What do you think each one of these people was thinking & feeling? Do you think Lazarus lived differently after his resurrection? Do you think he feared those who were trying to murder him? How should we live differently after our salvation?
11. Read John 12:25-26. What does it look like to "love" your life versus "hate" your life? What does serving God look like? Why is it so important?

General Discussion Questions

- What did you learn about humanity or yourself in the readings this week? About your identity, character or purpose as a Christ-follower?
- *Application Questions*: How do you need to respond to and apply these truths to your life? (Is there a sin to avoid? A command to obey? An example to follow? A prayer to offer? A truth to remember or memorize? An attitude to change? A teaching to share?)

Week 15

Pick a plan for this week and check off your progress as you read or listen.

5 Minutes Per Day - Psalms & Proverbs

Psalm 43 ~ Psalm 44 ~ Psalm 45 ~ Proverbs 10:17-32

10 Minutes Per Day - New Testament

Matthew 25 ~ Matthew 26 ~ Mark 14 ~ Luke 22 ~ John
13

15 Minutes Per Day - Old Testament

Deuteronomy 16 ~ Deuteronomy 17 ~ Deuteronomy 18
~ Deuteronomy 19 ~ Deuteronomy 20 ~
Deuteronomy 21 ~ Deuteronomy 22 ~ Deuteronomy
23 ~ Deuteronomy 24 ~ Deuteronomy 25 ~
Deuteronomy 26 ~ Deuteronomy 27 ~ Deuteronomy
28 ~ Deuteronomy 29 ~ Deuteronomy 30

30 Minutes - The Whole Bible (read all above)

Verse of the Week:

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son,
that whoever believes in him should not perish but
have eternal life.” John 3:16 (ESV)

Week 15 – Questions to Consider

Fun Small Group Warm Up Question:

If you could eat anything for lunch what would it be?

New Testament

Matthew 25 ~ Matthew 26 ~ Mark 14 ~ Luke 22 ~ John
13

1. Has anyone ever called you foolish or stupid? What did that feel like? Has anyone called you wise or smart? How did that encourage you? What is the difference between the “foolish” and the “wise” virgins in Matthew 25:1-13? How does that apply to us today?
2. In the parable of the talents (Matthew 25:14-30) several servants are entrusted by the master with His resources. What resources has God entrusted to you? How does seeing this description of resources, accountability, reward, and punishment affect your perspective on life? How might it affect our priorities this week?
3. Read Matthew 25:34. How does this encourage you? What was the evidence of their salvation?
4. Read Matthew 25:41. How does this affect you? What was the evidence of their lostness?
5. God warns us in 1 Corinthians 10:12–13 “Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall. [13] No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the

temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it” (ESV). Considering Matthew 26 (Judas’ betrayal, Peter’s denial, and the disciples’ abandonment of Jesus), how might Satan, the world or your flesh tempt you to abandon Jesus? Before you were saved, how were you held captive apart from Christ? How has God changed you since then? What ways is God providing you to escape and endure temptations today?

6. Jesus replies to His enemies’ attacks with silence, boldness, rebuke, and wise questions. What temptations do we face when we are attacked by enemies? How can we prepare for and respond better the next time we are confronted by evil?
7. Read Mark 14:3-9. Why is what this woman did so “beautiful”? How does the world see Christian living as “wasteful”? In what beautiful ways do we worship Jesus?
8. Luke 22:3 says “Satan entered into Judas.” Did the devil make Judas betray Jesus? Or did Judas already belong to Satan as evidence by his ongoing sin of theft? (John 12:6)
9. How does the Lord’s Supper help us regain a biblical perspective on life? (Luke 22:14-23)
10. How was Jesus mocked then? (Luke 22:63-65). How do we see Jesus mocked today? Why should we expect to be hated today (John 15:18-25)?
11. Read Matthew 5:10-12 and Luke 6:22-23. Consider how the apostles were beaten and their response was to rejoice and serve with greater passion and

boldness (Acts 5:41-42). How is it blessed to be mistreated? How can we prepare for such suffering?

General Discussion Questions

- What can you learn about God from these passages? His work? His character? How can this help you grow in your trust of Him?
- *Application Questions:* How do you need to respond to and apply these truths to your life? (Is there a sin to avoid? A command to obey? An example to follow? A prayer to offer? A truth to remember or memorize? An attitude to change? A teaching to share?)

Week 16

Pick a plan for this week and check off your progress as you read or listen.

5 Minutes Per Day - Psalms & Proverbs

Psalm 46 ~ Psalm 47 ~ Psalm 48 ~ Proverbs 11:1-15

10 Minutes Per Day - New Testament

John 14 ~ John 15 ~ John 16 ~ John 17 ~ John 18

15 Minutes Per Day - Old Testament

Deuteronomy 31 ~ Deuteronomy 32 ~ Deuteronomy 33
~ Deuteronomy 34 ~ Joshua 1 ~ Joshua 2 ~ Joshua 3
~ Joshua 4 ~ Joshua 5 ~ Joshua 6 ~ Joshua 7 ~
Joshua 8 ~ Joshua 9 ~ Joshua 10 ~ Joshua 11

30 Minutes - The Whole Bible (read all above)

Verse of the Week:

“Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.” John 3:36 (ESV)

Week 16 – Questions to Consider

Fun Small Group Warm Up Question:
What is your favorite song?

New Testament

John 14 ~ John 15 ~ John 16 ~ John 17 ~ John 18

1. Read John 14:6. Do other world religions lead to an eternal relationship with God? (see also 1 John 2:23) Read Acts 4:12. Do good works (our own name) bring someone to Heaven? (see also Ephesians 2:8–9) Why are these verses so important today?
2. Jesus says in John 14:15 “If you love me, you will keep my commandments.” What does He mean by this? Why would a true love of God be evidenced by obedience? Why would a lack of love be evidenced by disobedience to God’s commands (John 14:24)?
3. What does it mean to “abide” in Jesus (John 15)? How can we better “abide” in Jesus on a daily basis? What ways does Satan, the world, and our flesh come against our “abiding”?
4. What verse stands out to you in John 15? Why?
5. How does Jesus’ teachings serve “to keep you from falling away”? (John 16:1)
6. What is some of the work of the Holy Spirit? (John 16:8-14)? How does the Spirit serve as Helper through this work? How should our awareness to His work change our prayer lives?
7. Where do we find peace? Where do we find trouble? How do we have hope? (John 16:33)
8. How is John 17:3 a definition of “eternal life”?
9. How do you pray generically for larger groups of people? How do you pray differently for a family member than

you pray for a stranger? Why does Jesus say He is praying for His followers and not the whole world? (John 17:9) If Jesus loves the whole world (John 3:16) how is His love for you even better? When you read that this is Jesus' prayer for you (see John 17:20), how that affect you?

10. What is one of the main things Jesus is praying for His followers? (John 17:21) Why is this so difficult to achieve? In marriage? Families? Workplaces? Churches? Why is this so important (John 17:23)?
11. When you hear someone's name, what comes to mind? When someone hears your name, what do you want to come to mind? What does Jesus mean when He says that "I have made known to them your name, and I will continue to make it known"? (John 17:26). How is that our purpose as well?
12. When Jesus steps forwards into His arrest and path towards the cross, God says He does it "knowing all that would happen to Him" (John 18:4). How does that help you to see the love that Jesus has for you?
13. Peter goes quickly from fighting for Jesus (John 18:10) to denying Jesus (John 18:17, 25, 27). How is that a warning to us?
14. Luke 22:61 tells us that when Peter denied Jesus for the third time, "the Lord turned and looked at Peter." Peter's immediate response to his failure was that "he broke down and wept" (Mark 14:72). Later, in John 21, Peter enthusiastically returns to Jesus and enjoys His presence. How are Peter's responses different than Judas'? What do Peter's responses evidence? Provide?

General Discussion Questions

- What was something new you noticed this week? What impacted you the most? Why?

- *Application Questions:* How do you need to respond to and apply these truths to your life? (Is there a sin to avoid? A command to obey? An example to follow? A prayer to offer? A truth to remember or memorize? An attitude to change? A teaching to share?)

Week 17

Pick a plan for this week and check off your progress as you read or listen.

5 Minutes Per Day - Psalms & Proverbs

Psalm 49 ~ Psalm 50 ~ Psalm 51 ~ Proverbs 11:16-31

10 Minutes Per Day - New Testament

Matthew 27 ~ Matthew 28 ~ Mark 15 ~ Luke 23 ~ John
19

15 Minutes Per Day - Old Testament

Joshua 12 ~ Joshua 13 ~ Joshua 14 ~ Joshua 15 ~ Joshua
16 ~ Joshua 17 ~ Joshua 18 ~ Joshua 19 ~ Joshua 20
~ Joshua 21 ~ Joshua 22 ~ Joshua 23 ~ Joshua 24 ~
Judges 1 ~ Judges 2

30 Minutes - The Whole Bible (read all above)

Verse of the Week:

“In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.” 1 John 4:10 (ESV)

Week 17 – Questions to Consider

Fun Small Group Warm Up Question:

What is your favorite Spring activity or childhood memory?

New Testament

Matthew 27 ~ Matthew 28 ~ Mark 15 ~ Luke 23 ~ John
19

1. Have you ever experienced someone plotting against you? Lying about you? What does that feel like?
2. Matthew 27:1 “When morning came, all the chief priests and the elders of the people took counsel against Jesus to put him to death.” What do you think Jesus was feeling when he endured the lies and accusations? The scourging? The mocking? The tortuous death? How does that affect you when you consider the depth of His love for you?
3. Have you ever lost a friend, coworker or family member to suicide? How did that affect you? What do you think Judas’ friends and family members went through when they learned of his ongoing theft (John 12:4-7), betrayal of Jesus and the disciples (Matthew 26:14-16), and suicide (Matthew 27:3-10)? More truths on suicide:
www.trustworthyword.com/suicide
4. God references Judas as a “devil” (John 6:70), “thief” (John 12:4-7), indwelt by Satan (John 13:27), says it would have been better for him if he was never born (Matthew 26:20-24), and speaks of him as “lost” and a “son of destruction” (John 17:12). If

you had the chance to speak with someone who was about to enter Hell, how urgently would you warn them? What would you say?

5. Why do you suppose the crowd chose Barabbas? (Matthew 27:15-22). Who do the crowds choose today?
6. Read Jesus' final words on the cross and discuss their meaning and impact.
 - 1st Word from the Cross - Luke 23:34 "Father forgive them, for they do not know what they do.
 - 2nd Word from the Cross - Luke 23:43 "Today you will be with me in paradise"
 - 3rd Word from the Cross - John 19:26-27 "Jesus saw His own mother, and the disciple standing near whom He loved. He said to His mother, Woman, behold your son.' Then He said to the disciple, 'Behold your mother.'"
 - 4th Word from the Cross - Mk 15:34 "And at the ninth hour, Jesus shouted in a loud voice, 'Eloi, Elon, lama sabachthani?' which is translated, My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"
 - 5th Word from the Cross - John 19:28 "He said, 'I thirst.'"
 - 6th Word from the Cross - Luke 23:46 "Speaking in a loud voice, Jesus said, Father, into your hands I commit my spirit."
 - 7th Word from the Cross - John 19:30 "Jesus said, 'It is finished.'"
7. Read Matthew 27:52. Have you read this before? Does this surprise you? Should it? How do you think they and Lazarus lived differently? How does this get you excited about your own resurrection?

8. Read Matthew 28:18-20. How does this encourage you? Guide you? How are you and your church doing at this mission? How can you improve?

General Discussion Questions

- *Context Questions:* Who is writing this? Who is it being written to? When? Why? What type of writing is this? How does this matter to my understanding of the meaning of these chapters?
- *Application Questions:* How do you need to respond to and apply these truths to your life? (Is there a sin to avoid? A command to obey? An example to follow? A prayer to offer? A truth to remember or memorize? An attitude to change? A teaching to share?)

Week 18

Pick a plan for this week and check off your progress as you read or listen.

5 Minutes Per Day - Psalms & Proverbs

Psalm 52 ~ Psalm 53 ~ Psalm 54 ~ Proverbs 12:1-14

10 Minutes Per Day - New Testament

Mark 16 ~ Luke 24 ~ John 20 ~ John 21 ~ Acts 1

15 Minutes Per Day - Old Testament

Judges 3 ~ Judges 4 ~ Judges 5 ~ Judges 6 ~ Judges 7 ~
Judges 8 ~ Judges 9 ~ Judges 10 ~ Judges 11 ~
Judges 12 ~ Judges 13 ~ Judges 14 ~ Judges 15 ~
Judges 16 ~ Judges 17

30 Minutes - The Whole Bible (read all above)

Verse of the Week:

“but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” Romans 5:8 (ESV)

Week 18 – Questions to Consider

Fun Small Group Warm Up Question:
What is your favorite movie?

New Testament

Mark 16 ~ Luke 24 ~ John 20 ~ John 21 ~ Acts 1

1. Look at Mark 16:1-8 or Luke 24:1-12. When these ladies encountered the angels, they were overwhelmed with fear. What situations in life have overwhelmed you? How did God comfort you and carry you beyond those experiences forward to encounter Him and His peace?
2. Luke 24:8 “they remembered His words” but to others Luke 24:11 “these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them.” What Bible truths or passages did you once disbelieve but now bring you great strength, comfort and wisdom?
3. What is your favorite Bible verse or passage? How has God made your heart “burn within you” through His truth and power (Luke 24:32)?
4. Why do you think Jesus appeared several times in person to His disciples before His ascension to Heaven? Read Luke 24:45. Based on this verse, how should we pray before we hear a sermon, do a devotional, have a Sunday School class?
5. How does Luke 24:5-53 describe the disciples’ response after Jesus’ departure? How is it similar or different from Acts 1:6-11?
6. Read the story of Jesus’ encounter with Thomas in John 20:24-29. What stands out to you? What sort

- of doubts did you have before you became a Christian? What sort of doubts have you had since you became a Christian? How has Jesus increased your faith in your encounters with Him?
7. What is the purpose of the book of John? (John 20:31) Why do we need that reminder?
 8. When we sin, how does that affect our relationship with God? Even though Peter failed Jesus in his abandonment and denials, how did Peter respond when he saw Jesus in John 21:7? How does that encourage us to respond when we sin? Who do you know who has been avoiding God (or Christians, the Bible, or church) out of guilt and shame and needs to hear this story? How could you share this story in an encouraging way?
 9. How would you define mercy? Grace? In John 21:15-19 we see Jesus restore Peter. Why do you think God tells us about Peter's restoration? What does that show us about His mercy? His grace? How does that comfort you in your past, present, and future failures?

General Discussion Questions

- What do these passages teach us about our enemies' attacks (deceptions, distractions, discouragement, and temptations)? How can we better resist these attacks?
- *Application Questions*: How do you need to respond to and apply these truths to your life? (Is there a sin to avoid? A command to obey? An example to follow? A prayer to offer? A truth to remember or memorize? An attitude to change? A teaching to share?)

Week 19

Pick a plan for this week and check off your progress as you read or listen.

5 Minutes Per Day - Psalms & Proverbs

Psalm 55 ~ Psalm 56 ~ Psalm 57 ~ Proverbs 12:15-28

10 Minutes Per Day - New Testament

Acts 2 ~ Acts 3 ~ Acts 4 ~ Acts 5 ~ Acts 6

15 Minutes Per Day - Old Testament

Judges 18 ~ Judges 19 ~ Judges 20 ~ Judges 21 ~ Ruth 1
~ Ruth 2 ~ Ruth 3 ~ Ruth 4 ~ 1 Samuel 1 ~ 1 Samuel
2 ~ 1 Samuel 3 ~ 1 Samuel 4 ~ 1 Samuel 5 ~ 1
Samuel 6 ~ 1 Samuel 7

30 Minutes - The Whole Bible (read all above)

Verse of the Week:

“But he was wounded for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his stripes we are healed.” Isaiah 53:5 (ESV)

Week 19 – Questions to Consider

Fun Small Group Warm Up Question:

If you had one day with no responsibilities, what would you do?

New Testament

Acts 2 ~ Acts 3 ~ Acts 4 ~ Acts 5 ~ Acts 6

1. How did your life change when you became a Christian? How have you experienced the Holy Spirit's changing work in your life?
2. What do you think it was like for the believers at Pentecost, when they first received the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:1-13)?
3. What were the gifts of "tongues" described in Acts 2? What was their purpose? Why was this so needed?
4. We may not preach to a crowd like Peter did in Acts 2, but we are called to be "witnesses" wherever we live and go. What are some ideas of how we can better share the truth and love of Jesus in the midst of a hostile and apathetic culture? Where have you seen success in witnessing? Where have you failed in witnessing?
5. How did Peter know there were people ready to receive Jesus (Acts 2:37)? What did Peter tell them to do?
6. Read the description of the early church in Acts 2:42-47. How is our church similar or different? Are there areas we are missing or ways we can improve as a church family?
7. What is the most valuable thing we can give someone who is poor? Should we ignore beggars? How can we best interact with beggars? Why is this such a touchy issue. What can we learn from Acts 3:1-10? How do we

- balance this with Matthew 25:42-46? What about 2 Thessalonians 3:10?
8. What do you think about modern day “faith healers”? Fake or faithful? What does Peter say in Acts 3:12? How does that compare with many modern day “faith healers” who seem motivated by money and pride?
 9. Many people today believe there are “many ways to God.” How is Acts 4:12 a corrective to that false belief?
 10. Read the description of Peter and John in Acts 4:13. How does that encourage you?
 11. If someone told you that you couldn’t talk about Jesus, how might you respond? How did Peter and John respond in Acts 4:19-20? How does that inspire you? Why did they still pray for boldness (Acts 4:29)? How did God answer their prayers?
 12. Why were the early believers so generous? (Acts 4:32-37) How can God change our heart to be more generous?
 13. What is the danger of misrepresenting your generosity or faithfulness? (Acts 5:1-11)
 14. Read the story in Acts 5:17-42. What amazes you? Inspires you? How does the story end?
 15. How does Acts 6:1-7 help us to know what to look for in selecting a deacon for our church family? What is their work? How is Stephen described?

General Discussion Questions

- What did you learn about humanity or yourself in the readings this week? About your identity, character or purpose as a Christ-follower?
- *Application Questions*: How do you need to respond to and apply these truths to your life? (Is there a sin to avoid? A command to obey? An example to follow? A prayer to offer? A truth to remember or memorize? An attitude to change? A teaching to share?)

Week 20

Pick a plan for this week and check off your progress as you read or listen.

5 Minutes Per Day - Psalms & Proverbs

Psalm 58 ~ Psalm 59 ~ Psalm 60 ~ Proverbs 13

10 Minutes Per Day - New Testament

Acts 7 ~ Acts 8 ~ Acts 9 ~ Acts 10 ~ Acts 11

15 Minutes Per Day - Old Testament

1 Samuel 8 ~ 1 Samuel 9 ~ 1 Samuel 10 ~ 1 Samuel 11 ~
1 Samuel 12 ~ 1 Samuel 13 ~ 1 Samuel 14 ~ 1
Samuel 15 ~ 1 Samuel 16 ~ 1 Samuel 17 ~ 1 Samuel
18 ~ 1 Samuel 19 ~ 1 Samuel 20 ~ 1 Samuel 21 ~ 1
Samuel 22

30 Minutes - The Whole Bible (read all above)

Verse of the Week:

“For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.” 2 Corinthians 5:21 (ESV)

Week 20 – Questions to Consider

Fun Small Group Warm Up Question:
What is a life accomplishment that you proud of?

New Testament

Acts 7 ~ Acts 8 ~ Acts 9 ~ Acts 10 ~ Acts 11

1. If someone asked you to share the Gospel story could you do it? How would you feel if you were asked to explain the whole Bible in 5 minutes? How might you better prepare for evangelism opportunities ahead? Why do you think Stephen focused on Abraham, Joseph, and Moses? (Acts 7:1-50) How might you more effectively communicate Jesus in your setting?
2. What do you think about Stephen’s bold transition in Acts 7:51-53? Are we called to a similar boldness? Why or why not? What might such boldness sound like today? What truths would “enrage” the society around us today? What suffering might we endure?
3. What inspires you from Stephen’s final moments before he is killed? (Acts 7:54-60)
4. What do you think Christians were thinking and feeling when Saul was “ravaging the church” (Acts 8:3)? What sort of prayers would they have been praying? What sort of decisions would they have to make? How might we need to prepare spiritual for future “ravaging” of Christian churches? How might we more faithfully pray for modern day churches that are in situations of ongoing “ravaging”?

5. How many places have you lived before? What are the challenges and advantages that come with moving? When the early church was scattered, what did they do? (Acts 8:4-7) What was the result? (Acts 8:8) What is the most important thing we have to offer our communities?
6. Acts 8:13 describes Simon as having “believed” and been “baptized” but had not yet received the Holy Spirit (Simon’s actions in Acts 8:18-19 and Peter’s rebuke in Acts 8:20-21 seems to evidence that Simon’s faith was not genuine). What was Simon the magician’s serious sin? How do people mistakenly try to “earn” or “buy” their salvation today?
7. In Acts 8:9-25 we encounter a unique situation when early believers did not receive the Holy Spirit until an apostle was present. This brings about some important questions (with helpful answers linked below) like:
 - “When/how do we receive the Holy Spirit?”
www.gotquestions.org/receive-Holy-Spirit.html
 - “Why had the believers in Samaria not received the Holy Spirit (Acts 8)?” www.gotquestions.org/Acts-8-receive-Holy-Spirit.html
 - “What is the baptism of the Holy Spirit?”
www.gotquestions.org/Spirit-baptism.html
 - “What is the indwelling of the Holy Spirit?”
www.gotquestions.org/indwelling-of-the-Holy-Spirit.html
8. What sorts of reasons do people struggle with getting baptized? In the story of the Ethiopian Eunuch (Acts 8:26-40) he eagerly desires to be baptized, saying “See,

here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?”
(v.38) How should his example guide us?

9. What stands out to you from the story of Paul’s conversion and reception into the church? (Acts 9)
What does it mean to “walk in the fear of the Lord and the comfort of the Holy Spirit” (Acts 9:31)?
10. How is Tabitha/Dorcas described (Acts 9:36)? How do you want your life to be remembered and described?
11. When Peter shares the Gospel with the Gentiles in Acts 10, he shares the Gospel clearly and concisely (v.36-40). How would you share the Gospel briefly? If you only could share one Bible verse, what would you share first? Is Acts 10:42 our responsibility as well? How is Acts 10:43 a good summary?
12. The Apostle Peter is criticized by a group within the church in Acts 11:2-3. What sorts of issues causes fights and quarrels within churches today? What is the root cause of fights and quarrels? (see James 4:1-4)
13. How does Peter respond to their accusations in Acts 11? What is the result? Why is Ephesians 4:15 a good reminder before we respond to accusations against us?
14. How would you describe what it means to be called a “Christian?” Where were believers first called “Christians?” (Acts 11:26)
15. When a worldwide famine is predicted (Acts 11:27-30), how did the early church respond? What does “every one according to his ability” mean? How should this inspire our own efforts for relief to our

brothers and sisters in Christ in the midst of natural or manmade disasters?

General Discussion Questions

- What can you learn about God from these passages? His work? His character? How can this help you grow in your trust of Him?
- *Application Questions:* How do you need to respond to and apply these truths to your life? (Is there a sin to avoid? A command to obey? An example to follow? A prayer to offer? A truth to remember or memorize? An attitude to change? A teaching to share?)

Week 21

Pick a plan for this week and check off your progress as you read or listen.

5 Minutes Per Day - Psalms & Proverbs

Psalm 61 ~ Psalm 62 ~ Psalm 63 ~ Proverbs 14:1-17

10 Minutes Per Day - New Testament

Acts 12 ~ Acts 13 ~ Acts 14 ~ Acts 15 ~ Acts 16

15 Minutes Per Day - Old Testament

1 Samuel 23 ~ 1 Samuel 24 ~ 1 Samuel 25 ~ 1 Samuel
26 ~ 1 Samuel 27 ~ 1 Samuel 28 ~ 1 Samuel 29 ~ 1
Samuel 30 ~ 1 Samuel 31 ~ 1 Chronicles 10 ~ 2
Samuel 1 ~ 2 Samuel 2 ~ 2 Samuel 3 ~ 2 Samuel 4 ~
1 Chronicles 1

30 Minutes - The Whole Bible (read all above)

Verse of the Week:

“Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.” John 3:3 (ESV)

Week 21 – Questions to Consider

Fun Small Group Warm Up Question:

Who (other than God) made the biggest impact on your life?

New Testament

Acts 12 ~ Acts 13 ~ Acts 14 ~ Acts 15 ~ Acts 16

1. How would you feel if government officials started arresting and killing believers in your church? What effect do you think it would have on church attendance, baptisms, missions, and giving? How did the early church respond when James was killed by Herod (Acts 12:1-5)?
2. What goes through our minds when some are delivered from evil/sickness/death and others are not? What does the rescue of Peter tell us about God (Acts 12:6-19)? What do you think of the reaction of the prayer group when Peter arrived? How has God amazed you at His answers to your prayers? What has God taught you when your prayers were not answered as you had hoped?
3. What do we learn about the seriousness of God's name and wrath in the story of Herod's death (Acts 12:20-25)?
4. Look at the description of Manaen in the list of early believers (Acts 13:1). What would it have taken for him to become a believer? How did God save you? How has God surprised you in how He has worked salvation in the lives of others?

5. Although all Christians are sent out to go witness and make disciples (missions), some are specially called and sent for specific seasons to specific places for missions work. How was the sending out of Barnabas and Saul unique (Acts 13:2-3). How should this guide our process for sending out missionaries and missions teams?
6. Can you think of biblical examples of “cursing” someone who is intent on evil? Or Psalms of God’s wrath and judgment (imprecatory Psalms)? What do you think it would have been like to witness Paul’s cursing of Elymas (Acts 13:8-12)? How do we reconcile Paul’s cursing of his enemy with Jesus’s guidance on enemies in Luke 6:27-36? Romans 12:14?
7. Why is the Gospel “good news” (Acts 13:32)? Why does Paul summarize the Bible story? What was the Gentiles’ response (Acts 13:48-52)? What does “as many as were appointed to eternal life believed” mean?
8. Have you ever experienced active opposition to Gospel sharing? What was that like? Paul and Barnabas were driven out of Antioch in Pisidia and had to flee Iconium before they murdered... were they successful? (Acts 14:1-7) Jews then come from Antioch and Iconium to Lystra to stone Paul to near deaths (Acts 14:19). How do we know when to stay in the midst of danger, when to flee, and when to stay in the face of certain death? How can we tell if we are successful in the ministry and missions opportunities that God gives us? What did Paul do after such dangerous encounters (Acts 13:51-52,

- Acts 14:6, 20-21)? How would you have responded similarly or differently?
9. Read 2 Timothy 3:10-11. How did the Lord use and grow Paul through the “persecutions and sufferings” he endured in Antioch, Iconium, and Lystra?
 10. What blessings (common grace) did God show you before you were saved? (Acts 14:17). How can we use a similar approach as a “Gospel bridge” to help people turn to God in salvation?
 11. In Acts 15 we see a debate over circumcision as a requirement for the salvation of Gentile Christians. How does Paul handle the discussion? What issues are debated among Christians today? How should we go about handling discussions on such issues?
 12. Paul was abandoned by John Mark in the middle of a mission trip and thus didn’t want to take him on the next trip (Acts 15:36-41). Is there wisdom in exercising caution over those who have failed or abandoned you? In 2 Timothy 4:11 we hear of Paul desiring to have the company of John Mark since he is now “useful.” How could this example of restoration apply to us with those who we are currently distant or separated from?
 13. So although Paul was almost killed in Lystra, now he finds Timothy, a believer to accompany and serve with him (Acts 16:1-5). How does this encourage you to never give on your prayers and witnessing for God’s good work in seemingly impossible situations?
 14. Have you ever sensed the Spirit forbidding you from doing something good like Paul, Timothy, and Silas experienced (Acts 16:6)? How do you feel when

- such an obstacle appears to godly work? How quickly did Paul obey when He discerned where the Lord wanted them to go instead? (Acts 16:10)
15. How is Lydia's salvation described? What can we learn about God through this description in Acts 16:14-15?
 16. After Paul experience a great spiritual victory (casting out a demon from a fortune telling girl, Acts 16:16-18) they are arrested and severely beaten (Acts 16:19-24). What do you think was going through their minds? What would be going through your mind? What amazes you about God's powerful deliverance and their faithfulness to stay and witness to the Philippian jailer? (Acts 16:25-40).
 17. How does Paul answer the jailer's question, "what must I do to be saved?" (Acts 16:30)

General Discussion Questions

- What was something new you noticed this week? What impacted you the most? Why?
- *Application Questions*: How do you need to respond to and apply these truths to your life? (Is there a sin to avoid? A command to obey? An example to follow? A prayer to offer? A truth to remember or memorize? An attitude to change? A teaching to share?)

Week 22

Pick a plan for this week and check off your progress as you read or listen.

5 Minutes Per Day - Psalms & Proverbs

Psalm 64 ~ Psalm 65 ~ Psalm 66 ~ Proverbs 14:18-35

10 Minutes Per Day - New Testament

Acts 17 ~ Acts 18 ~ Acts 19 ~ Acts 20 ~ Acts 21

15 Minutes Per Day - Old Testament

1 Chronicles 2 ~ 1 Chronicles 3 ~ 1 Chronicles 4 ~ 1
Chronicles 5 ~ 1 Chronicles 6 ~ 1 Chronicles 7 ~ 1
Chronicles 8 ~ 1 Chronicles 9 ~ 2 Samuel 5 ~ 2
Samuel 6 ~ 1 Chronicles 11 ~ 1 Chronicles 12 ~ 1
Chronicles 13 ~ 1 Chronicles 14 ~ 1 Chronicles 15

30 Minutes - The Whole Bible (read all above)

Verse of the Week:

“But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.”

John 1:12 (ESV)

Week 22 – Questions to Consider

Fun Small Group Warm Up Question:

What is the most embarrassing (but appropriate to share) thing you have ever done?

New Testament

Acts 17 ~ Acts 18 ~ Acts 19 ~ Acts 20 ~ Acts 21

1. How does Paul “reason with people” (Acts 17:2) to try and persuade them to place their faith in Jesus? How is this a helpful example and reminder to us? How did people respond (Act 17:4-9)? How do people respond to our Gospel sharing attempts today?
2. Are we known as people “who turned the world upside down”? (Acts 17:6) Should we be? Why would the early disciples be described this way? How should the world see and hear our message as “upside down”?
3. Read Acts 17:11. What were the Bereans doing right? How can we imitate their example better in our own lives?
4. Paul was provoked by the many idols in Athens (Acts 17:16) and then finds an opportunity to lovingly but clearly share the Gospel. What are some of the idols of our society today? Are we rightly provoked? How can we bridge from our cultural idols into a better, loving, and clear Gospel witness?
5. What can we learn from the example of Priscilla and Aquilla privately help Apollos understand “the way

- of God more accurately” (Acts 18:26)? What might that look like in our Sunday School classes and small groups? In our relationships with family and friends who are believers? Based on this example, do you think social media is a helpful place to correct someone in the Christian understanding? Why or why not? What guidelines might be helpful to follow with an online presence?
6. Paul stayed in Corinth for 18 months (Acts 18:11) and Ephesus for three years (Acts 20:31). What are the challenges to living in the same place for a long time? What are the joys and opportunities that come with that sort of longevity?
 7. What does it mean when the demon says to the sons of Sceva that “Jesus I know, and Paul I recognize, but who are you?” (Acts 19:15)? What does that mean we need for protection against the demonic?
 8. In Ephesus in Acts 19:19 new believers burned their magic books (worth \$6 million US in today’s currency) as a sign of their repentance. What might be some practical signs of repentance to show up in the lives of new, true believers today?
 9. What does it look like to declare “the whole counsel of God” in our marriages, homes, workplaces, and church? (Acts 20:27)
 10. What is the purpose of work? Is there a good work ethic in our society today? Why do you think that is? What do Paul and Jesus tell us about the purpose of work in Acts 20:35?
 11. What is helpful to you in Acts 21 from Paul’s example of endurance and suffering? To learn about God? Yourself?

General Discussion Questions

- *Context Questions*: Who is writing this? Who is it being written to? When? Why? What type of writing is this? How does this matter to my understanding of the meaning of these chapters?
- *Application Questions*: How do you need to respond to and apply these truths to your life? (Is there a sin to avoid? A command to obey? An example to follow? A prayer to offer? A truth to remember or memorize? An attitude to change? A teaching to share?)

Week 23

Pick a plan for this week and check off your progress as you read or listen.

5 Minutes Per Day - Psalms & Proverbs

Psalm 67 ~ Psalm 68 ~ Psalm 69 ~ Proverbs 15:1-15

10 Minutes Per Day - New Testament

Acts 22 ~ Acts 23 ~ Acts 24 ~ Acts 25 ~ Acts 26

15 Minutes Per Day - Old Testament

1 Chronicles 16 ~ 1 Chronicles 17 ~ 1 Chronicles 18 ~ 1
Chronicles 19 ~ 1 Chronicles 20 ~ 2 Samuel 7 ~ 2
Samuel 8 ~ 2 Samuel 9 ~ 2 Samuel 10 ~ 2 Samuel 11
~ 2 Samuel 12 ~ 2 Samuel 13 ~ 2 Samuel 14 ~ 2
Samuel 15 ~ 2 Samuel 16

30 Minutes - The Whole Bible (read all above)

Verse of the Week:

“if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.” Romans 10:9 (ESV)

Week 23 – Questions to Consider

Fun Small Group Warm Up Question:

What is the best dessert or candy ever created?

New Testament

Acts 22 ~ Acts 23 ~ Acts 24 ~ Acts 25 ~ Acts 26

1. When Paul gives his defense in Acts 22, what do you think his motive is? When we find ourselves being defensive what are some of our motives? What can we learn from Paul?
2. Some people have a sudden, dramatic testimony of salvation like Paul, while others have a testimony of growing up and believing in Jesus at early age. Is one testimony more “powerful”? Why or why not? What is your testimony? How does God use our testimonies to save others?
3. Why do you think they interrupted Paul’s testimony when they did (Acts 22:22)? Paul avoids a flogging at this point by exerting his rights as a Roman citizen. How does this example help us think through the role of government today?
4. God tells Paul “Take courage, for as you have testified to the facts about me in Jerusalem, so you must testify also in Rome” (Acts 23:11). How is Christian witnessing simply “telling the facts” about God? Why do we need the Lord’s exhortation to “take courage”?
5. In Acts 23:13 Paul has 40 people making a pact together to find and kill him. How does Paul’s

suffering for Jesus put our own suffering in perspective?

6. Paul says in Acts 24:16 “I always take pains to have a clear conscience toward both God and man.” What does it mean to have a “clear conscience”? How do you maintain a “clear conscience”?
7. Governor Felix seemingly has an interest in hearing the Gospel and is alarmed (Acts 24:24-25). When have you seen someone seem to understand the Gospel but yet fail to submit to Jesus as Lord and Savior? How do you think Paul was feeling when Felix left him in prison for two years? (Acts 24:27) What doubts, fears, regrets, or worries might he have encountered?
8. When Paul meets King Agrippa (Acts 26) what does he water do? Does he try to smooth things over in a way to benefit himself? How does Paul’s example encourage your faith?
9. How does Festus reply to Paul’s witnessing? (Acts 26:24). How do people in our culture today similarly mock Christian beliefs?
10. What do you think about Paul’s response to King Agrippa in Acts 26:29? How should this be our motive for everyone we encounter?

General Discussion Questions

- What do these passages teach us about our enemies’ attacks (deceptions, distractions, discouragement, and temptations)? How can we better resist these attacks?
- *Application Questions*: How do you need to respond to and apply these truths to your life? (Is there a sin to

avoid? A command to obey? An example to follow?
A prayer to offer? A truth to remember or memorize?
An attitude to change? A teaching to share?)

Week 24

Pick a plan for this week and check off your progress as you read or listen.

5 Minutes Per Day - Psalms & Proverbs

Psalm 70 ~ Psalm 71 ~ Psalm 72 ~ Proverbs 15:16-33

10 Minutes Per Day - New Testament

Acts 27 ~ Acts 28 ~ Romans 1 ~ Romans 2 ~ Romans 3

15 Minutes Per Day - Old Testament

2 Samuel 17 ~ 2 Samuel 18 ~ 2 Samuel 19 ~ 2 Samuel 20 ~ 2 Samuel 21 ~ 2 Samuel 22 ~ 2 Samuel 23 ~ 2 Samuel 24 ~ 1 Chronicles 21 ~ 1 Chronicles 22 ~ 1 Chronicles 23 ~ 1 Chronicles 24 ~ 1 Chronicles 25 ~ 1 Chronicles 26 ~ 1 Chronicles 27

30 Minutes - The Whole Bible (read all above)

Verse of the Week:

“everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” Romans 10:13 (ESV)

Week 24 – Questions to Consider

Fun Small Group Warm Up Question:

What is your favorite summer activity or childhood memory?

New Testament

Acts 27 ~ Acts 28 ~ Romans 1 ~ Romans 2 ~ Romans 3

1. If you were headed off to jail unjustly, what would be going through your mind? How would you be doing emotionally? Physically? Relationally? Spiritually? If you had been imprisoned unjustly for over 4 years like Paul (Acts 24:27 & 28:30-31), with no clear end in sight how would you endure? How would you find purpose in your imprisonment? How might you be tempted?
2. If you work in a secular, Christian-hostile, environment, how might you find practical ways to show God's kindness and love? How have non-believers shown you kindness when you didn't deserve it? The Roman centurion Julius "treated Paul kindly" (Acts 27:3) and "gave him leave to go to his friends and be cared for." How do you think God was working through Julius? Why should we intentionally invest in relationships with the lost? What are some boundaries and precautions we should take in our relationships with the lost?
3. Later Julius has to make a decision about their sailing trip and Paul offers his advice to discontinue the journey due to the season and weather risks. Julius "paid more attention to the pilot and the owner of the ship than to what Paul said" (Acts

27:11) and subsequently their ship becomes lost at sea for two weeks and in great danger. While Paul then says “you should have listened to me” he also proclaims an angelic vision and asserts a confident “faith in God that it will be exactly as I have been told.” (Acts 27:21-25). How does this example encourage you to look for opportunities to reprove, rebuke, and exhort the lost (2 Timothy 4:2)?

4. See how Paul remained faithful to God throughout the storm, when eating even “giving thanks to God in the presence of all” (Acts 27:35). How might our public meal times prayers be used by God to show faith to the lost and encourage faith to the saints? Do you have a meal time prayer story that has encouraged you?
5. Read Acts 27:42-43. How does this encourage your faith to see the Lord’s protection and provision in a moment where Paul and the prisoners likely felt that their death was imminent?
6. Although Malta wasn’t a desired, planned or expected stop, on Malta God performed miracles on and through Paul (Acts 28:1-9). When have you seen God work on or through your life in undesired, unplanned, or unexpected detours in life?
7. When Paul finally makes it to Rome, he looks for Gospel opportunities for “trying to convince them about Jesus” from the Scriptures (Acts 28:23). Whom are you currently trying to convince about Jesus now? How? How do you want to try to grow and improve in the area of evangelism and witnessing?
8. How would you describe yourself in one sentence? How would you explain your purpose in life in one

- sentence? How does Paul introduce himself in the letter to the Romans (Romans 1:1-7)? What stands out to you?
9. Read Romans 1:16-17. When are we tempted to be ashamed of the Gospel and the Bible? Why? What do you think gave Paul such courage to be “unashamed” in his words and actions?
 10. Read Romans 1:19. Does God believe in atheists?
 11. In our lostness we did not “honor” or “give thanks” to God because we were “futile in our thinking” and our “foolish hearts were darkened” (Romans 1:21). How should this reminder of our sinful past make us more thankful for God’s mercy and grace upon us? How should this make us more compassionate towards the lost around us?
 12. Read Romans 1:26-27 about the sin of homosexuality. Are we ashamed of this truth today? Should we be? How can we best speak the truth accurately and boldly while being loving and kind? How have you struggled to believe or communicate the seriousness of LGBTQ+ sins as the Scripture reveals?
 13. Paul continues to describe what it looks like to be lost and under God’s wrath (Romans 1:28-32) with a laundry list of sin, ultimately covering the breaking of all 10 commandments in Romans 1. In Romans 2:15 God says that the “law is written on their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness.” Romans 3:19 says we are given the law “so that every mouth may be stopped” from making excuses and that the “whole world may be held accountable to God.” Although the world may not like or receive biblical

- truths about God's commandments, why is it so essential for salvation that people hear God's law?
14. How is a good summary and understanding of the lost "who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness" (Romans 2:8)?
 15. While the law isn't sufficient to save, only to condemn, our obedience to the law is part of God's evidence of salvation (Romans 1:7,13). How does that truth encourage your personal assurance of faith? How does that truth encourage your desire to grow in obedience to the Lord?

General Discussion Questions

- What did you learn about humanity or yourself in the readings this week? About your identity, character or purpose as a Christ-follower?
- *Application Questions:* How do you need to respond to and apply these truths to your life? (Is there a sin to avoid? A command to obey? An example to follow? A prayer to offer? A truth to remember or memorize? An attitude to change? A teaching to share?)

Week 25

Pick a plan for this week and check off your progress as you read or listen.

5 Minutes Per Day - Psalms & Proverbs

Psalm 73 ~ Psalm 74 ~ Psalm 75 ~ Proverbs 16:1-16

10 Minutes Per Day - New Testament

Romans 4 ~ Romans 5 ~ Romans 6 ~ Romans 7 ~
Romans 8

15 Minutes Per Day - Old Testament

1 Chronicles 28 ~ 1 Chronicles 29 ~ 1 Kings 1 ~ 1 Kings
2 ~ 1 Kings 3 ~ 1 Kings 4 ~ 2 Chronicles 1 ~ Song of
Solomon 1 ~ Song of Solomon 2 ~ Song of Solomon
3 ~ Song of Solomon 4 ~ Song of Solomon 5 ~ Song
of Solomon 6 ~ Song of Solomon 7 ~ Song of
Solomon 8

30 Minutes - The Whole Bible (read all above)

Verse of the Week:

“Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.” Matthew 11:28 (ESV)

Week 25 – Questions to Consider

Fun Small Group Warm Up Question:

What was something good that happened this past week?

New Testament

Romans 4 ~ Romans 5 ~ Romans 6 ~ Romans 7 ~
Romans 8

1. Have you found Romans challenging so far? Why or why not? How has it been helpful to you in these first 8 chapters? Why do you think Romans is such an important book for us to understand and grow through?
2. How does God describe Abraham's salvation in Romans 4:3? Is anyone saved by "good works"? What does saving belief, or trust, in Jesus look like? If someone asked you how someone is "saved", how would you answer?
3. When God is described as Him "who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist" (Romans 4:17), how does that help you to "believe" and "not weaken in faith" (Romans 4:18-19)? Why does seeing and remembering God's goodness and greatness help us to grow "strong" in our faith and be "fully convinced that God" will "do what He promised" (Romans 4:20-21)?
4. How have you experienced "peace with God" (Romans 5:1) since becoming a Christian? How would you describe that experience to a non-believer?

5. Read Romans 5:8. Why is this so humbling? Overwhelming? Amazing? Different than human “love”.
6. Read Romans 5:17. How many ways are there to experience God’s “free gift of righteousness”? (see also Acts 4:12 and John 14:6)
7. God tells us that our salvation is purposed for us to “walk in newness of life” (Romans 6:4). What does that practically look like and sound like? How have you seen God change the path and pace of your life?
8. What does it mean to consider ourselves “dead to sin” and “alive to God in Christ Jesus” (Romans 6:11)? Why does God give us the commands and responsibility to “let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions. Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness but present yourselves to God” (Romans 6:12-13)? Why do our little, momentary choices in life matter in big, lasting ways?
9. John Owen said “Be killing sin or sin will be killing you!” Do you agree or disagree? Why? How do we practically “kill sin”?
10. Why is Romans 6:23 one of the best verses to memorize and summarize the whole Gospel in one verse?
11. Romans 7:1-3 (and 1 Corinthians 7:39-49) speak of God’s “law of marriage” only ending in death. Why is God’s “law of marriage” so difficult for our society and us to accept? Why is doing life and marriage God’s way always the better choice? When we are convicted that we have broken God’s commands, what should we do?

12. God describes His law as “holy and righteous and good” but describes it’s purpose that “sin might be shown to be sin” and reveal how we are “sinful beyond measure” (Romans 7:12-13)? Is ignorance of the law “bliss”? How does God use the law to bring conviction? Although conviction doesn’t feel good at the time, how does it feel after you have confessed and repented from your sin?
13. Read Romans 7:15. Paul sympathizes with our struggles against sin. How does this comfort you in your own struggles with daily temptations?
14. When you resolve to do something that pleases God (obedience, renewed devotion, a mission trip, etc.) have you ever noticed Satan counterattack you? Read Romans 7:21. Why do you think this is? How is Romans 7:22 a perfect solution to those attacks?
15. Romans 8:1 says “there is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.” Why is this such a beautiful offer to the lost? Why is this such a needed reminder to the saved? How does Satan work against Romans 8:1?
16. How can believers practically take steps to “set their minds on the things of the Spirit”? (Romans 8:5)
17. Some people teach that receiving the Spirit of God is later experience in one’s faith. Romans 8 describes clearly that all true believers are indwelt by God the Holy Spirit (Romans 8:9-11). How have you experienced God’s Spirit within you?
18. What have been your greatest sufferings and hurts in life? What does God mean when He says “the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us”

- (Romans 8:18)? What does He mean when He says “for those who love God all things work together for good” (Romans 8:28)?
19. Read Romans 8:29-30. How do these truths amaze you with God’s saving love? Why should our conclusion to these truths be a confident declaration of “if God is for us, who can be against us?” (Romans 8:31)?
20. Romans 8 finishes with some awesome facts that nothing can “separate us from the love of Christ” and that we “are more than conquerors” (Romans 8:35-39). When you and hear these realities, how is your soul affected? How is your mind renewed? How is your purpose in life energized?

General Discussion Questions

- What can you learn about God from these passages? His work? His character? How can this help you grow in your trust of Him?
- *Application Questions:* How do you need to respond to and apply these truths to your life? (Is there a sin to avoid? A command to obey? An example to follow? A prayer to offer? A truth to remember or memorize? An attitude to change? A teaching to share?)

Week 26

Pick a plan for this week and check off your progress as you read or listen.

5 Minutes Per Day - Psalms & Proverbs

Psalm 76 ~ Psalm 77 ~ Proverbs 16:17-33

10 Minutes Per Day - New Testament

Romans 9 ~ Romans 10 ~ Romans 11 ~ Romans 12 ~
Romans 13

15 Minutes Per Day - Old Testament

2 Chronicles 2 ~ 2 Chronicles 3 ~ 2 Chronicles 4 ~ 2
Chronicles 5 ~ 2 Chronicles 6 ~ 2 Chronicles 7 ~ 2
Chronicles 8 ~ 1 Kings 5 ~ 1 Kings 6 ~ 1 Kings 7 ~ 1
Kings 8 ~ 1 Kings 9 ~ Ecclesiastes 1 ~ Ecclesiastes 2
~ Ecclesiastes 3

30 Minutes - The Whole Bible (read all above)

Verse of the Week:

“I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” John 14:6 (ESV)

Week 26 – Questions to Consider

Fun Small Group Warm Up Question:
What is your favorite church song to sing?

New Testament

Romans 9 ~ Romans 10 ~ Romans 11 ~ Romans 12 ~
Romans 13

1. What was a verse or passage that impacted you this week? What was a verse or section that was particularly difficult? What do you think about Romans 9? Is it easy to understand? Do you think it could be one of the most difficult chapters in the Bible? Why or why not?
2. Paul starts Romans 9 & 10 (Romans 9:1-2 & 10:1) with a description of his love for the lost (“my heart’s desire and pray to God for them is that they may be saved”) and heartbreak over lostness (“great sorrow and unceasing anguish”). Why should we feel similarly? How do we regain such compassion if we find ourselves hardened towards the lost?
3. What does God mean when He says “not who are descended from Israel belong to Israel”? (Romans 8:6). How can we tell if we or someone else is truly saved?
4. What is God’s purpose in election (Romans 9:11,16-17)? Why might we struggle on this topic of God’s sovereign choice in salvation? How does God respond to our struggles on this subject (Romans 9:19-24)?
5. After Romans 9, God speaks very specifically about salvation in Romans 10. How does it answer the

- question of how someone is saved? (Romans 10:9-10) How is this helpful in leading someone to Christ?
6. Does Romans 10:13 (“everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved”) mean that they just need to pray a “salvation prayer” or make a simple statement of faith? What does a sincere, authentic confession or repentance and belief look like over time?
 7. Read Romans 10:14-15. How does this inspire you to be more intentional as a witness here & to the “ends of the earth” (Acts 1:8)? What does it mean that “faith comes by hearing” (Romans 10:17)? How did God save you from your sin?
 8. What does “chosen by grace” mean (Romans 11:5)? How does Romans 8:30 & Ephesians 2:8 help us understand this phrase better? How does it affect you to know that God chosen you? How do we stay humble and “not be arrogant” in regard to our salvation (Romans 11:18, 20)?
 9. Why is it important to see both the “kindness” and the “severity” of God? (Romans 11:22). What does it look like to “continue in his kindness”? Why is Romans 11:36 a great reminder of our purpose in life?
 10. What leads to us being “conformed to this world” (Romans 12:2)? How do we resist that process? How can we know God’s will (Romans 12:2)?
 11. Why are we so predisposed towards prideful selfishness (Romans 12:3)? How does seeing the varying gifts within the body of Christ humble and unify us? (Romans 12:4-7)
 12. Read the instructions of Romans 12:9-21. What did you need to hear for your own situation in life? Practically, what can we do better to “if possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all” (Romans 12:18)?

13. Why is being “subject” to the governing authorities so difficult for us yet so important to God? (Romans 13:1-7)? How can we improve at this? What temptations do we face?
14. What does it look like to “make no provision for the flesh” (Romans 13:14)?

General Discussion Questions

- What was something new you noticed this week? What impacted you the most? Why?
- *Application Questions*: How do you need to respond to and apply these truths to your life? (Is there a sin to avoid? A command to obey? An example to follow? A prayer to offer? A truth to remember or memorize? An attitude to change? A teaching to share?)

Week 27

Pick a plan for this week and check off your progress as you read or listen.

5 Minutes Per Day - Psalms & Proverbs

Psalm 78 ~ Psalm 79 ~ Psalm 80 ~ Proverbs 17:1-14

10 Minutes Per Day - New Testament

Romans 14 ~ Romans 15 ~ Romans 16 ~ 1 Corinthians 1
~ 1 Corinthians 2

15 Minutes Per Day - Old Testament

Ecclesiastes 4 ~ Ecclesiastes 5 ~ Ecclesiastes 6 ~
Ecclesiastes 7 ~ Ecclesiastes 8 ~ Ecclesiastes 9 ~
Ecclesiastes 10 ~ Ecclesiastes 11 ~ Ecclesiastes 12 ~
2 Chronicles 9 ~ 2 Chronicles 10 ~ 2 Chronicles 11 ~
1 Kings 10 ~ 1 Kings 11 ~ 1 Kings 12

30 Minutes - The Whole Bible (read all above)

Verse of the Week:

“And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.” Acts 4:12 (ESV)

Week 27 – Questions to Consider

Fun Small Group Warm Up Question:

What did you dream about being when you grew up?
If you had to switch jobs, what would be your dream job today?

New Testament

Romans 14, 15, & 16 ~ 1 Corinthians 1 & 2

1. Do you enjoy social media? Why or why not? Do you struggle with it? How? How might Romans 14:1 help us in handling social media better? How does Romans 14:1-12 help us to be more gracious towards other believers on issues that are debatable?
2. How does Romans 14:13-23 help to “walk in love”? What are some things we might feel Christian “freedom” to do that we could instead avoid in order not to be a “stumbling block or hindrance” to the faith of another believer? What might it look like to pursue “what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding”?
3. How is Romans 15:4 a good reminder of the importance of Bible reading and listening?
4. What parts of Christ’s life and death particularly impact you and strengthen your faith? (Romans 15:8)
5. Why should the Christian life be filled with joy, peace, and hope? (Romans 15:13)
6. Paul’s ambition was to “preach the Gospel” to those “who have never been told of him” (Romans 15:20-21)? Who in your life do you think may have never

- heard the Gospel clearly? Where might God be calling you to go or give or pray to tell others who have not hear the Gospel news?
7. Paul had hoped to travel to Spain (Romans 15:24) but never made it there. Is there somewhere you have tried to go but haven't made it there yet?
 8. Paul describes a lot of his fellow workers in Romans 16. Which description stands out to or inspires you?
 9. Why do you think Paul concludes with such a significant warning as in Romans 16:17-18. What does it look like to be "wise as to what is good and innocent as to what is evil" (Romans 16:19)? Why is Romans 16:20 such a needed reminder and encouragement? What do you like about the final statements of Romans 16:25-27?
 10. How would you describe yourself in one sentence? How does Paul introduce himself in 1 Corinthians 1:1?
 11. What is Paul thankful for (1 Corinthians 1:4-9)? What are you most thankful for?
 12. Why do you think Paul prioritizes church unity (1 Corinthians 1:10-17)? What was dividing the churches then? What churches divide us now? Do you think it is dangerous to brag and boast about your denomination's, church's, or pastor's name? Why or why not? Why could an "eloquent" (1 Corinthians 1:17) preacher with "lofty speech or wisdom" (1 Corinthians 2:1) actually be dangerous to our spiritual health? (1 Corinthians 2:5)
 13. How do you see the Bible as "folly to those who are perishing" today? (1 Corinthians 1:18). How is 1 Corinthians 1:25 a humbling and important teaching?

14. Why are you the best person to describe yourself to others? Why is having the Holy Spirit essential to properly understanding the Bible (1 Corinthians 2:10-16)?

General Discussion Questions

- *Context Questions:* Who is writing this? Who is it being written to? When? Why? What type of writing is this? How does this matter to my understanding of the meaning of these chapters?
- *Application Questions:* How do you need to respond to and apply these truths to your life? (Is there a sin to avoid? A command to obey? An example to follow? A prayer to offer? A truth to remember or memorize? An attitude to change? A teaching to share?)

Week 28

Pick a plan for this week and check off your progress as you read or listen.

5 Minutes Per Day - Psalms & Proverbs

Psalm 81 ~ Psalm 82 ~ Psalm 83 ~ Proverbs 17:15-28

10 Minutes Per Day - New Testament

1 Corinthians 3 ~ 1 Corinthians 4 ~ 1 Corinthians 5 ~ 1
Corinthians 6 ~ 1 Corinthians 7

15 Minutes Per Day - Old Testament

2 Chronicles 12 ~ 2 Chronicles 13 ~ 2 Chronicles 14 ~ 2
Chronicles 15 ~ 2 Chronicles 16 ~ 2 Chronicles 17 ~
1 Kings 13 ~ 1 Kings 14 ~ 1 Kings 15 ~ 1 Kings 16
~ 1 Kings 17 ~ 1 Kings 18 ~ 1 Kings 19 ~ 1 Kings
20 ~ 1 Kings 21

30 Minutes - The Whole Bible (read all above)

Verse of the Week:

“No one who denies the Son has the Father. Whoever
confesses the Son has the Father also.” 1 John 2:23
(ESV)

Week 28 – Questions to Consider

Fun Small Group Warm Up Question:

If someone gave you \$1,000,000 today, what would you do with it?

New Testament

1 Corinthians 3 ~ 1 Corinthians 4 ~ 1 Corinthians 5 ~ 1
Corinthians 6 ~ 1 Corinthians 7

1. How do babies' eating habits change as they grow up? What would it be like to see a teenager or adult still eating baby food? Why does God use this metaphor to help us see the importance of maturing as a Christian? How does our spiritual diet change as we grow up as Christians? (1 Corinthians 3:1-3)
2. What was the evidence of the Corinthians' spiritual immaturity? Why is it similarly immature to associate your spiritual success with the name of a denomination, church, or pastor? (1 Corinthians 3:4-9)
3. What would make you feel successful and accomplished in life? In the midst of our "life successes" why do we all need the reminder of 1 Corinthians 3:7?
4. How does our location affect our behavior? For better and worse? How can the truth of 1 Corinthians 3:16 change our behavior as individuals? As a church?
5. How do we form opinions? How can spiritual opinions be dangerous? (1 Corinthians 4:6)

6. How was the life of an apostle described in 1 Corinthians 4:8-13? How do many Christians live today across the world? How do most American Christians live? What are the privileges, responsibilities, and opportunities of wealthier Christians and churches?
7. What sort of sexual immorality defiles our churches today? What was the solution to sexual immorality within the church of Corinth? (1 Corinthians 5:1-5) Why is outside the church referred to as Satan's territory?
8. What was the ultimate hope in church discipline? Do our churches do good in church discipline today? Why or why not? How could we do better? For more verses on church discipline see:
<https://www.trustworthyword.com/church-discipline>
9. Although Christians may not go to court frequently (1 Corinthians 6:1-11), why might this passage be helpful for Christians to hear about "disputing" on social media?
10. How is sexual sin more serious than other sins? (1 Corinthians 6:18-20). How can we do a better job "fleeing" from sexual immorality today?
11. What counter-cultural truths does 1 Corinthians 7 offer for marriage, singleness, divorce, remarriage?
 - a. For more on singleness & dating see:
<https://www.trustworthyword.com/dating>
 - b. For more on marriage see:
<https://www.trustworthyword.com/what-does-the-bible-say-about-marriage-roles>

- c. For more on divorce and remarriage see:
<https://www.trustworthyword.com/what-does-the-bible-say-about-divorce-and-remarriage>
- d. For more on parenting in a sexualized culture see:
<https://www.trustworthyword.com/carl>

General Discussion Questions

- What do these passages teach us about our enemies' attacks (deceptions, distractions, discouragement, and temptations)? How can we better resist these attacks?
- *Application Questions*: How do you need to respond to and apply these truths to your life? (Is there a sin to avoid? A command to obey? An example to follow? A prayer to offer? A truth to remember or memorize? An attitude to change? A teaching to share?)

Week 29

Pick a plan for this week and check off your progress as you read or listen.

5 Minutes Per Day - Psalms & Proverbs

Psalm 84 ~ Psalm 85 ~ Psalm 86 ~ Proverbs 18

10 Minutes Per Day - New Testament

1 Corinthians 8 ~ 1 Corinthians 9 ~ 1 Corinthians 10 ~ 1
Corinthians 11 ~ 1 Corinthians 12

15 Minutes Per Day - Old Testament

2 Chronicles 18 ~ 2 Chronicles 19 ~ 2 Chronicles 20 ~ 2
Chronicles 21 ~ 2 Chronicles 22 ~ 2 Chronicles 23 ~
1 Kings 22 ~ 2 Kings 1 ~ 2 Kings 2 ~ 2 Kings 3 ~ 2
Kings 4 ~ 2 Kings 5 ~ 2 Kings 6 ~ 2 Kings 7 ~ 2
Kings 8

30 Minutes - The Whole Bible (read all above)

Verse of the Week:

“No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.” Luke 13:3 (ESV)

Week 29 – Questions to Consider

Fun Small Group Warm Up Question:

If you had to relocate and move far away, where would it be?

New Testament

1 Corinthians 8 ~ 1 Corinthians 9 ~ 1 Corinthians 10 ~ 1
Corinthians 11 ~ 1 Corinthians 12

1. Although food being sacrificed to idols may not be an issue in most churches today (it can be in some non-Western churches), what debatable issues can divide and distract churches where you live? What truth stands out to you in 1 Corinthians 8 on how to build and maintain unity among Christian brothers and sisters?
2. Paul references apostles and believers having the right to have a “believing wife” (1 Corinthians 9:5, which connects to 1 Corinthians 7:39). Why is genuine Christian faith the one prerequisite for a Christian in marriage? What struggles will come if there is no common faith in Christ?
3. While some churches and denominations practice “tent making” (i.e. pastors don’t get a salary but work in a secular field as Paul did in tent making), how does 1 Corinthians 9 make the case for paid Gospel ministry? What are the dangers and challenges that come with paying pastors and church staffs? What are the advantages to paying pastors

- and staffs? What are the advantages of pastors and staffs serving voluntarily or part-time?
4. What spiritual acts of discipline help us serve the Lord well (1 Corinthians 9:24-27)?
 5. Read 1 Corinthians 10:6-13. What forms of idolatry (prioritizing something or someone more than God, pursuing pleasure and avoiding suffering outside of God) do we see today? Why do we need the exhortation of 1 Corinthians 10:12?
 6. What do you run from? Why? Why are we told to “flee from idolatry” (1 Corinthians 10:14)? How do we practically do that?
 7. How can you apply 1 Corinthians 10:31 to your daily life?
 8. Can we say the same as Paul in 1 Corinthians 11:1? In what ways? In what ways can we improve?
 9. God has created men and women equal in value and worth but different in role and functions in the church, family, and world. Even though we are created and purposed differently, what are some ways we need each other and compliment one another? (1 Corinthians 11:11)
 10. Why does the world work against God’s definitions and purpose in gender? Why should the church submit to God’s created plan for gender in our appearances and service? (1 Corinthians 11:14-16)
 11. Why is the Lord’s Supper so serious? What does God command us to do in how we prepare to take it? (1 Corinthians 11:23-34)
 12. What is the purpose of spiritual gifts? What are some of your spiritual gifts? How does 1 Corinthians 12 help us to understand spiritual gifts

and our purpose as a church family? How can we do better at using the gifts that the Lord has given us? How does this chapter challenge you? What questions does it raise that make you want to learn more?

General Discussion Questions

- What did you learn about humanity or yourself in the readings this week? About your identity, character or purpose as a Christ-follower?
- *Application Questions:* How do you need to respond to and apply these truths to your life? (Is there a sin to avoid? A command to obey? An example to follow? A prayer to offer? A truth to remember or memorize? An attitude to change? A teaching to share?)

Week 30

Pick a plan for this week and check off your progress as you read or listen.

5 Minutes Per Day - Psalms & Proverbs

Psalm 87 ~ Psalm 88 ~ Psalm 89 ~ Proverbs 19:1-13

10 Minutes Per Day - New Testament

1 Corinthians 13 ~ 1 Corinthians 14 ~ 1 Corinthians 15 ~
1 Corinthians 16 ~ 2 Corinthians 1

15 Minutes Per Day - Old Testament

2 Chronicles 24 ~ 2 Chronicles 25 ~ 2 Chronicles 26 ~ 2
Chronicles 27 ~ 2 Kings 9 ~ 2 Kings 10 ~ 2 Kings 11
~ 2 Kings 12 ~ 2 Kings 13 ~ 2 Kings 14 ~ 2 Kings
15 ~ Jonah 1 ~ Jonah 2 ~ Jonah 3 ~ Jonah 4

30 Minutes - The Whole Bible (read all above)

Verse of the Week:

“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” 1 John 1:9 (ESV)

Week 30 – Questions to Consider

Fun Small Group Warm Up Question:

What is your favorite breakfast food?

New Testament

1 Corinthians 13 ~ 1 Corinthians 14 ~ 1 Corinthians 15 ~
1 Corinthians 16 ~ 2 Corinthians 1

1. Can you remember any Scriptures used specifically at your wedding? At a wedding you attended? Why is 1 Corinthians 13 such a common wedding passage? What is your favorite part of 1 Corinthians 13?
2. Why is love so hard? Why must love be paired with truth (1 Corinthians 13:1)? Why is truth without love (legalism) so dangerous? Why is love without truth (permissiveness) so dangerous?
3. Why are prophecy and tongues (languages) dangerous yet important (1 Corinthians 14)? Where have you seen false or fake prophecies and giftings? Where have you seen faithful practicing and uses of God's giftings? What is the purpose of spiritual gifts (1 Corinthians 14:12)? How has God gifted you specifically?
4. Why does God give attention to orderly worship in 1 Corinthians 14:26-40? Have you ever seen a church service be interrupted or distracted? How? Why does Satan like to create chaos in churches and worship services?
5. How is 1 Corinthians 15:3-8 a good summary of the Gospel? Why is it so important and urgent that we

- “work hard” so that people can hear and believe the Gospel? (1 Corinthians 15:11)
6. What opinions about the “afterlife” have you heard before? Why do you think many are confused on this topic? What passages or truths have been helpful to you in understanding Heaven and Hell? (1 Corinthians 15)
 - a. See: <https://www.trustworthyword.com/what-does-the-bible-say-about-heaven>
 - b. See: <https://www.trustworthyword.com/what-does-the-bible-say-about-hell>
 7. Why are money and giving touchy topics in churches? Should it be? (1 Corinthians 16:1-4). What truths have been helpful for you to learn about money, budgeting, and giving?
 - a. See: <https://www.trustworthyword.com/what-does-the-bible-say-about-money>
 8. What do you like about 1 Corinthians 16:13-14 as a simple charge and reminder for life?
 9. How has God comforted you in the midst of your suffering? How has that comfort been a ministry opportunity in your life? (2 Corinthians 1:3-7)

General Discussion Questions

- What can you learn about God from these passages? His work? His character? How can this help you grow in your trust of Him?
- *Application Questions*: How do you need to respond to and apply these truths to your life? (Is there a sin to avoid? A command to obey? An example to follow? A prayer to offer? A truth to remember or memorize? An attitude to change? A teaching to share?)

Week 31

Pick a plan for this week and check off your progress as you read or listen.

5 Minutes Per Day - Psalms & Proverbs

Psalm 90 ~ Psalm 91 ~ Psalm 92 ~ Proverbs 19:14-29

10 Minutes Per Day - New Testament

2 Corinthians 2 ~ 2 Corinthians 3 ~ 2 Corinthians 4 ~ 2
Corinthians 5 ~ 2 Corinthians 6

15 Minutes Per Day - Old Testament

Amos 1 ~ Amos 2 ~ Amos 3 ~ Amos 4 ~ Amos 5 ~
Amos 6 ~ Amos 7 ~ Amos 8 ~ Amos 9 ~ Hosea 1 ~
Hosea 2 ~ Hosea 3 ~ Hosea 4 ~ Hosea 5 ~ Hosea 6

30 Minutes - The Whole Bible (read all above)

Verse of the Week:

“Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me.” Revelation 3:20
(ESV)

Week 31 – Questions to Consider

Fun Small Group Warm Up Question:

If you were stranded on a desert island and could only bring one suitcase full of items, what would you want to have?

New Testament

2 Corinthians 2 ~ 2 Corinthians 3 ~ 2 Corinthians 4 ~ 2
Corinthians 5 ~ 2 Corinthians 6

1. What are some examples of “tough” conversations? Why are they so difficult? When are they necessary? In 2 Corinthians 1:23-2:4 talks about the strained relationship between him and the Corinthian church yet his continued love and concern for them. Who has God put in your life that has been tough to love?
2. 2 Corinthians 2:5-11 describes church discipline (much as in 1 Corinthians 5, see: www.trustworthyword.com/church-discipline). What does discipline look like in your home? What does discipline look like in your church? Why is forgiveness so important? Why is restoration our goal? How is that a picture of Christ’s love?
3. What are some of your most favorite scents? Why? What smells do you detest? Why? What do you think God means when He describes Christians as the “aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing” (2 Corinthians 2:15)? Look at 2 Corinthians 2:16. How do Christians “smell” to other Christians? Why? How do Christians “smell” to non-believers? Why? How have you experienced this?

4. How do we try to be “self-sufficient” in life? Why can it be so hard to ask for help from others? Where does our sufficiency ultimately come from? (2 Corinthians 3:5-6). Why do we need this reminder? What is the purpose of God’s sufficiency for us and in us?
5. This about your own salvation experience. How did you experience God removing the “veil” when He saved you? How did you behold the goodness and greatness of God differently? How did others see or experience God through you?
6. “Disgraceful, underhanded ways” and “tamper[ing] with God’s word” are described in 2 Corinthians 4:1-2. How have you seen that done in your life experiences with those professing the name of Jesus? How do we protect ourselves and our church from such temptations?
7. What goes through your mind when you think of your life? Disappointments? Accomplishments? Purpose? What would you still like to accomplish? Why? Read 2 Corinthians 4:7-10. How does this passage encourage you? Re-energize you? Re-focus your purpose with whatever time the Lord allows you to continue to live?
8. As you have aged, how have you experienced your “outer self is wasting away” (2 Corinthians 4:16)? Why is aging so difficult? As you have matured spiritually, how have you seen your “inner self is being renewed day by day”? Why is seeing out minds and hearts on that which is “unseen” so important?
9. What goes through your mind when you think about your own death? Read 2 Corinthians 5:1-10. What did you need to hear from this passage? Why?
10. What is the purpose of an “ambassador”? How is this a helpful analogy for thinking through our own

significance and purpose in life? (2 Corinthians 5:20)

11. How does Paul describe his service to God in 2 Corinthians 6:4-10? How does this put in perspective your own life of service to Jesus?
12. If you are single or widowed considering marriage, why is the command “do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers” (2 Corinthians 6:14) so important to obey? What is the danger of marrying a non-believer?

General Discussion Questions

- What was something new you noticed this week? What impacted you the most? Why?
- *Application Questions*: How do you need to respond to and apply these truths to your life? (Is there a sin to avoid? A command to obey? An example to follow? A prayer to offer? A truth to remember or memorize? An attitude to change? A teaching to share?)

Week 32

Pick a plan for this week and check off your progress as you read or listen.

5 Minutes Per Day - Psalms & Proverbs

Psalm 93 ~ Psalm 94 ~ Psalm 95 ~ Proverbs 20:1-15

10 Minutes Per Day - New Testament

2 Corinthians 7 ~ 2 Corinthians 8 ~ 2 Corinthians 9 ~ 2
Corinthians 10 ~ 2 Corinthians 11

15 Minutes Per Day - Old Testament

Hosea 7 ~ Hosea 8 ~ Hosea 9 ~ Hosea 10 ~ Hosea 11 ~
Hosea 12 ~ Hosea 13 ~ Hosea 14 ~ Isaiah 1 ~ Isaiah
2 ~ Isaiah 3 ~ Isaiah 4 ~ Isaiah 5 ~ Isaiah 6 ~ Isaiah 7

30 Minutes - The Whole Bible (read all above)

Verse of the Week:

“For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.” Ephesians 2:8-9 (ESV)

Week 32 – Questions to Consider

Fun Small Group Warm Up Question:

What is something you are good at?

New Testament

2 Corinthians 7 ~ 2 Corinthians 8 ~ 2 Corinthians 9 ~ 2
Corinthians 10 ~ 2 Corinthians 11

1. Have you ever known someone who claimed to be a Christian, but their life didn't line up with what you've seen in the Scriptures? How did that affect you?
2. What is "holiness"? What does it look like? Why is it important for the Christian? Why are the ongoing presence of God in the Holy Spirit and our future meeting with Jesus motivating promises for us to pursue holiness (2 Corinthians 7:1)? How can we live in ways where the world more clearly sees God's holiness through our changed lives? What is one way you want to see your behavior change this week to be a better witness of Jesus' love and truth?
3. Paul describes Titus as a source of comfort (2 Corinthians 7:6). Who has been a source of comfort in your life? How so? How can we be sources of comfort for others? How are churches designed by God to be a source of comfort to others?
4. What is the difference between "condemnation" ("worldly grief") and "conviction" ("godly grief") according to 2 Corinthians 7:8-11? How can we better encourage others towards repentance?

5. What does it mean to give “according to their means” and “beyond their means” (2 Corinthians 8:3)? Why is giving to God an uncomfortable subject for many of us to talk about? Should it be? How would you like to see your giving habits change in the future? What sacrifices or disciplines would you need to take in order to be more generous to God?
6. How does 2 Corinthians 9:6-7 encourage you to seek to be more generous to God? How do we go about “decided” what to give to God through our local church?
7. When you were a child, did you ever want to be famous? At what? Why? Why do you think so many “famous” people fall and fail so frequently? What does God mean when He says “let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord” (2 Corinthians 10:17)?
8. Although Titus is named throughout 2 Corinthians, a “brother who is famous among all the churches for his preaching of the gospel” (2 Corinthians 8:18) and a man of integrity (2 Corinthians 8:22) remains anonymous. While sometimes we cannot prevent attention being given to our names, what is the danger of fame? How should we evaluate our motives in serving Jesus?
9. Why is the reminder that “we are not waging war according to the flesh” so important (2 Corinthians 10:3)? How can we best be armed for the daily spiritual battles we face? (2 Corinthians 10:4-6)
10. How does Satan seek to lead us “astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ” (2 Corinthians 11:3)? How can we guard against such attacks?

- What different, corrupted versions of Jesus and the Gospel are being taught today (2 Corinthians 11:4)?
11. How does Paul describe his Christian life in 2 Corinthians 11:24-28? Why is the Christian life so hard at times? How can we not only endure such suffering, but thrive in the midst of such suffering?

General Discussion Questions

- *Context Questions:* Who is writing this? Who is it being written to? When? Why? What type of writing is this? How does this matter to my understanding of the meaning of these chapters?
- *Application Questions:* How do you need to respond to and apply these truths to your life? (Is there a sin to avoid? A command to obey? An example to follow? A prayer to offer? A truth to remember or memorize? An attitude to change? A teaching to share?)

Week 33

Pick a plan for this week and check off your progress as you read or listen.

5 Minutes Per Day - Psalms & Proverbs

Psalm 96 ~ Psalm 97 ~ Psalm 98 ~ Proverbs 20:16-30

10 Minutes Per Day - New Testament

2 Corinthians 12 ~ 2 Corinthians 13 ~ Galatians 1 ~ Galatians 2 ~ Galatians 3

15 Minutes Per Day - Old Testament

2 Chronicles 28 ~ 2 Kings 16 ~ 2 Kings 17 ~ Isaiah 8 ~ Isaiah 9 ~ Isaiah 10 ~ Isaiah 11 ~ Isaiah 12 ~ Micah 1 ~ Micah 2 ~ Micah 3 ~ Micah 4 ~ Micah 5 ~ Micah 6 ~ Micah 7

30 Minutes - The Whole Bible (read all above)

Verse of the Week:

“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.” John 10:10 (ESV)

Week 33 – Questions to Consider

Fun Small Group Warm Up Question:

If you could meet someone in history, who would it be?

New Testament

2 Corinthians 12 ~ 2 Corinthians 13 ~ Galatians 1 ~
Galatians 2 ~ Galatians 3

1. God allowed Paul many amazing experiences (2 Corinthians 12:2-3) in heaven but was not allowed to speak of it. God allows Paul to suffer greatly from a “thorn” in the flesh which is a “messenger of Satan” (i.e. a demon, “messenger” is “angelos” in Greek which means angel, whether faithful or fallen) that actively harasses him. When Paul asked for relief, how did God respond? Why? (2 Corinthians 12:8-10). How are you currently suffering? What might God be teaching you from this passage?
2. Paul sees himself as a spiritual “parent” (2 Corinthians 12:14-15), investing himself in their spiritual growth. Who has invested in you spiritually? How? Who are you investing in spiritually? How?
3. Paul describes “quarreling, jealous, anger, hostility, slander, gossip, conceit, and disorder... impurity, sexual immorality, and sensuality” as problems within churches (2 Corinthians 12:20-21). Why does Satan attack Christians and churches with such temptations? How can we better resist Satan’s schemes?

4. Read 2 Corinthians 13:5. Why is testing the genuineness of our faith so important? How might the parable of the sower (Matthew 13:19-23), the fruits of the flesh versus spirit (Galatians 5:16-24), and the book of 1 John help us evaluate the sincerity of our belief in Jesus? For more see: www.trustworthyword.com/how-can-i-be-sure-im-a-christian
5. When Paul admonishes the church at Galatia he doesn't merely describe them as rejecting certain beliefs, he describes them as deserting God (Galatians 1:6). How have you seen people you love turn away from God? How has that affected you? What are ways we can seek, like Paul, to turn people we care about back to Jesus?
6. How does Paul describe the aim of His life? (Galatians 1:10) How have you been tempted to be a "people pleaser"? Why? How does this verse help you with having the right priorities and perspective for our focus and goals in life?
7. Paul confronts Peter over his hypocrisy that "was not in step with the truth of the gospel" (Galatians 2:14). Why is such confrontation so tough? So important? Has anyone lovingly, but firmly, confronted you when you were in error? How did it go?
8. Why do you think God wants us to see our unity in Jesus rather than our external differences? (Galatians 3:28)

General Discussion Questions

- What do these passages teach us about our enemies' attacks (deceptions, distractions, discouragement,

and temptations)? How can we better resist these attacks?

- *Application Questions*: How do you need to respond to and apply these truths to your life? (Is there a sin to avoid? A command to obey? An example to follow? A prayer to offer? A truth to remember or memorize? An attitude to change? A teaching to share?)

Week 34

Pick a plan for this week and check off your progress as you read or listen.

5 Minutes Per Day - Psalms & Proverbs

Psalm 99 ~ Psalm 100 ~ Psalm 101 ~ Proverbs 21:1-15

10 Minutes Per Day - New Testament

Galatians 4 ~ Galatians 5 ~ Galatians 6 ~ Ephesians 1 ~
Ephesians 2

15 Minutes Per Day - Old Testament

2 Chronicles 29 ~ 2 Chronicles 30 ~ 2 Chronicles 31 ~ 2
Kings 18 ~ Isaiah 13 ~ Isaiah 14 ~ Isaiah 15 ~ Isaiah
16 ~ Isaiah 17 ~ Isaiah 18 ~ Isaiah 19 ~ Isaiah 20 ~
Isaiah 21 ~ Isaiah 22 ~ Isaiah 23

30 Minutes - The Whole Bible (read all above)

Verse of the Week:

“All that the Father gives me will come to me, and
whoever comes to me I will never cast out.” John
6:37 (ESV)

Week 34 – Questions to Consider

Fun Small Group Warm Up Question:

Which cartoon or Disney character do you relate the best with?

New Testament

Galatians 4 ~ Galatians 5 ~ Galatians 6 ~ Ephesians 1 ~
Ephesians 2

1. How is an adopted child different than a biological child? How are they similar? What amazes you about adoption by God? How does that kind of love make you feel? How should our witnessing be shaped by this open invitation to be adopted? (Galatians 4:1-7)
2. What was your life like before you were born again? How were you ultimately “enslaved” to the “weak and worthless elementary principles of the world” (Galatians 4:8-9)? Why is this imagery of being “enslaved” help you think more clearly about the seriousness of sin? How does this help you understand the freedom we have in Jesus (Galatians 5:1)?
3. Read Galatians 5:13-14. What is a “freedom” you might have that is better to be laid down in order to better love and serve others?
4. What does it mean to “walk by the Spirit” (Galatians 5:16)? How does that help us to “not gratify the desires of the flesh”?
5. Read the fruits of the flesh in Galatians 5:19-21. How did that list describe you when you were

- unsaved/lost? Why are those characteristics evidence of lostness leading to Hell?
6. Read the fruits of the Spirit in Galatians 5:22-24. How has God grown this fruit in your life since you were born again? Why are those characteristics evidence of salvation leading to Heaven?
 7. While we are called to reach the lost with Gospel truth and love, we are given a warning in Galatians 6:1. What does this mean? How do we set boundaries in life to avoid temptations?
 8. Read Ephesians 1:3-6. What amazes you about this? What is difficult to understand in this?
 9. How does the fact that God “works all things according to the counsel of His will” encourage you (Ephesians 1:11)? Why is it so hard to see God’s goodness and purposes in the midst of so much evil? How can we move forward even when we don’t understand the “Why?” to so much suffering in the world around us and in our own lives?
 10. In reading Ephesians 1 & 2, what has stood out to you? What questions has it raised? What clarity has it provided?
 11. Ephesians 2:1-3 describes us in our lostness as being “dead” in our “trespasses and sins”, “following the course of this world”, “the prince of the power of the air” (Satan), and the “passions of our flesh.” How should this humble us? How should this motivate us towards greater compassion, love, prayers, and engagement with the lost?
 12. How does Ephesians 2:11-22 make you want to sing and rejoice with gratitude?

General Discussion Questions

- What did you learn about humanity or yourself in the readings this week? About your identity, character or purpose as a Christ-follower?
- *Application Questions:* How do you need to respond to and apply these truths to your life? (Is there a sin to avoid? A command to obey? An example to follow? A prayer to offer? A truth to remember or memorize? An attitude to change? A teaching to share?)

Week 35

Pick a plan for this week and check off your progress as you read or listen.

5 Minutes Per Day - Psalms & Proverbs

Psalm 102 ~ Psalm 103 ~ Psalm 104 ~ Proverbs 21:16-31

10 Minutes Per Day - New Testament

Ephesians 3 ~ Ephesians 4 ~ Ephesians 5 ~ Ephesians 6
~ Philippians 1

15 Minutes Per Day - Old Testament

Isaiah 24 ~ Isaiah 25 ~ Isaiah 26 ~ Isaiah 27 ~ Isaiah 28
~ Isaiah 29 ~ Isaiah 30 ~ Isaiah 31 ~ Isaiah 32 ~
Isaiah 33 ~ Isaiah 34 ~ Isaiah 35 ~ Isaiah 36 ~ Isaiah
37 ~ Isaiah 38

30 Minutes - The Whole Bible (read all above)

Verse of the Week:

“Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life. I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God that you may know that you have eternal life.” 1 John 5:12-13 (ESV)

Week 35 – Questions to Consider

Fun Small Group Warm Up Question:

Tell us a funny (but appropriate) joke.

New Testament

Ephesians 3 ~ Ephesians 4 ~ Ephesians 5 ~ Ephesians 6
~ Philippians 1

1. Who would you go to jail for? Why would you go to jail for them? What does Paul mean when he says he is a “a prisoner of Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles” (Ephesians 3:1)?
2. What would it be like to inherit unimaginable wealth? What if someone outside of your family was adopted into the will and shared the inheritance? How would you feel about that? Why would the Jews have such a hard time sharing their beliefs and God with the Gentiles?
3. Paul references the joy of preaching “the unsearchable riches of Christ and to bring to light to everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God” (Ephesians 3:9). How do we get the same privilege? Who shared the Gospel with you? What if they had given up on you?
4. What guides your prayer life? Who do you pray the most for? Why? How do you pray them? How do we see Paul praying in Ephesians 3:14-21? What can we learn from his example?
5. Have you ever had the job or responsibility of representing someone else, a business, a school,

or an organization? How did that situation affect how you acted and spoke? Why is it so important to live our lives “in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called?” (Ephesians 4:1) What does that look like for us as Christians?

6. What was the best gift you got for Christmas, a birthday, or an anniversary? How did you enjoy and use that gift? How has God gifted you (Ephesians 4:8)? How are you using those gifts? How do you want to improve in using your giftings?
7. According to Ephesians 4:12-15, what are some of the goals and purposes for our church? Why are these purposes so important? Why is truth without love so unhelpful? Why is love without truth so unhelpful? Why do we need both truth and love?
8. What would you say is the purpose, priorities, and motivations of the world around us? How do they live? Why does God call us to live differently? (Ephesians 4:17-24)
9. Is it possible to be angry and righteous at the same time? (Ephesians 4:26). Why does God say to “not let the sun go down on your anger”? What can we do to ensure that we obey this command in our relationships? How can we better protect ourselves, our families, coworkers, etc. from Satan’s schemes?
10. Why do most people work hard at their job? What does Ephesians 4:28 say is a good motivation for Christians to work hard?

11. What does it feel like to disappoint someone? How do we “grieve” the Holy Spirit? (Ephesians 4:30)?
12. Read Ephesians 4:31-32. Why is forgiveness so hard? So important? Who has forgiven you when you didn’t deserve it? Who has been the hardest for you to forgive? Why?
13. Read Ephesians 5:1-6. How should the church look different than the world? How can we do better in these areas? What do you think of verse 5 and 6? How is this playing out in the church today? Why do so many churches and pastors avoid these topics?
14. How can we best “discern what is pleasing to the Lord” (Ephesians 5:10)?
15. In what places and situations do you watch your step? Why do you walk more carefully there? In a similar way, why do we need to “look carefully how we walk” (Ephesians 5:15) in the world around us today? What consequences are there if Christians live in “unwise” ways or don’t make “the best use of the time” (Ephesians 5:16)?
16. Why do so many churches divide or fight over worship songs? Should they? What is the key emphasis of Ephesians 5:19? (see also: <https://www.trustworthyword.com/what-does-the-bible-say-about-worship-through-singing>)
17. Ephesians 5:22-33 is all about marriage. Why do you think marriage can be so difficult? So magnificent? Do you think verse 33 is the best summary of this passage?
18. What have been the hardest parts of parenting for you? What were the hardest parts of being a

- child for you? How does Ephesians 6:1-3 help you understand parenting better?
19. What are some of your toughest challenges or greatest joys in your workplace? What is one piece of godly wisdom that stands out to you in Ephesians 6:5-9?
 20. Ephesians 6:10-20 talks about our warfare with Satan and his demons. Why do we need the regular reminder that we “do not wrestle against flesh and blood”? (Ephesians 6:12). What one piece of the “armor of God” do you need to refocus better on?
 21. Paul starts out with a prayer of thankfulness in Philippians 1:1-11? Who or what have you taken for granted lately? How can you work on being more grateful for that blessing? Why is Philippians 1:9 such a great way to pray for someone?
 22. Paul talks about some people and churches being envious, competitive, selfishly ambitious, and not sincere, yet Paul still rejoices that “whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is proclaimed, and in that I rejoice” (Philippians 1:15-18)? Do you agree with Paul or struggle with this statement Why?
 23. Why is Philippians 1:21 such a great verse to memorize (other than it being short ☺)?

General Discussion Questions

- What can you learn about God from these passages? His work? His character? How can this help you grow in your trust of Him?

- *Application Questions:* How do you need to respond to and apply these truths to your life? (Is there a sin to avoid? A command to obey? An example to follow? A prayer to offer? A truth to remember or memorize? An attitude to change? A teaching to share?)

Week 36

Pick a plan for this week and check off your progress as you read or listen.

5 Minutes Per Day - Psalms & Proverbs

Psalm 105 ~ Psalm 106 ~ Psalm 107 ~ Proverbs 22:1-16

10 Minutes Per Day - New Testament

Philippians 2 ~ Philippians 3 ~ Philippians 4 ~
Colossians 1 ~ Colossians 2

15 Minutes Per Day - Old Testament

2 Chronicles 32 ~ 2 Chronicles 33 ~ 2 Kings 19 ~ 2
Kings 20 ~ Isaiah 39 ~ Isaiah 40 ~ Isaiah 41 ~ Isaiah
42 ~ Isaiah 43 ~ Isaiah 44 ~ Isaiah 45 ~ Isaiah 46 ~
Isaiah 47 ~ Isaiah 48 ~ Isaiah 49

30 Minutes - The Whole Bible (read all above)

Verse of the Week:

“The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we
are children of God.” Romans 8:16 (ESV)

Week 36 – Questions to Consider

Fun Small Group Warm Up Question:

What is your favorite Fall activity or childhood memory?

New Testament

Philippians 2 ~ Philippians 3 ~ Philippians 4 ~
Colossians 1 ~ Colossians 2

1. When a parent considers the outcome of their children's life to date, what would bring them joy? What would bring them grief? What sort of characteristics in Christians brings joy according to Philippians 2:2? What sort of characteristics would bring about grief?
2. Consider the statement: "Pride is the root of all sin." Agree or disagree? Why?
3. Read Philippians 2:3-4. How would you define or describe the following terms: "selfish ambition," "conceit", & "humility"? Why is looking at Jesus' incarnation (coming to earth as a human) and death the key to Christian humility and unity?
4. Why is doing "all things without grumbling or disputing" a counter-cultural way to "shine as lights in the world" (Philippians 2:14-15)? Why is this so hard?
5. Paul aims to send Timothy to the church at Philippi, describing him as "genuinely concerned for your welfare"? (Philippians 2:20) Who has God sent into your life as a similar

- blessing? Who do you think God is sending you to be a blessing to?
6. What kind of warnings did your parents give you growing up? Why? What sort of people did they caution you about? Why do you think Paul gave such a firm command to “look out for the dogs...evildoers” who were teaching a works-based salvation? (Philippians 3:2). What sort of false teachings should the modern-day church be on the watch for?
 7. How easy is it to drive forward while looking in the rear-view mirror? Why is it dangerous? Why does Satan try to distract us with our past? What does God tell us to focus on in Philippians 3:13-14? What helps you to focus forward when Satan attacks you with past failures, hurts, and sins?
 8. Why is peacemaking hard? Should it be? When Paul urges Euodia and Syntyche to “agree in the Lord”, why is the fact that their “names are in the book of life” (Philippians 4:2-3) such a helpful reminder?
 9. Read Philippians 4:6. Why is this such a popular verse? In what ways do you find yourself becoming anxious, stressed, or depressed? Why? What does this verse say is the next step when faced with worry? How have you encountered the “peace of God which surpasses all understanding” in past situations of stress?
 10. Read Philippians 4:8. How does filling our minds with such things protect us? Change us? Guide us?

11. Paul says he has learned in “whatever situation I am to be content” (Philippians 4:11-13), affirming that “I can do all things through him who strengthens me.” What is an area in which you struggle for contentment? How can we better trust in God’s power & plans to find contentment?
12. The church at Philippi is described as sharing in Paul’s trouble and being generous in their support of his missions (Philippians 4:14-19). Their offerings are described as a “a fragrant offering, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God” (Philippians 4:18). How does this encourage you to be more generous in Christian giving?
13. Read Colossians 1:9-12. What do you like about this way of praying for someone? Who is someone in your life you could pray for more consistently in this manner?
14. Every been without electricity or stuck in a scary, dark place? What was that like? How does it make you more grateful to know that, as a Christian, you have been delivered “from the domain of darkness” and transferred “to the kingdom of his beloved Son” (Colossians 1:13)? How does that motivate you to share the gospel more lovingly and courageously with others?
15. Colossians 1:15-19 describes Jesus in some amazing ways. What is your favorite description of Him here?
16. If someone claims to be a Christian, prays a prayer, walks an aisle, and gets baptized, does

- that make them a true believer? What is Colossians 1:23 warning us about? How is this connected with the warnings of Colossians 2 of being deluded by “plausible arguments” (v.4) and being taken captive by “philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition” (v.8)? How can we best avoid false belief today?
17. What would it feel like (if you have a house mortgage, student loan, business loan, vehicle loan, or credit card balance) to have all of your financial debt erased immediately? How would you respond to the one who paid off your debt? Read Colossians 2:13-15. If you are a Christian, what has Jesus done for you? How should this reminder encourage us on our down day? Motivate and change us into the future?

General Discussion Questions

- What was something new you noticed this week? What impacted you the most? Why?
- *Application Questions:* How do you need to respond to and apply these truths to your life? (Is there a sin to avoid? A command to obey? An example to follow? A prayer to offer? A truth to remember or memorize? An attitude to change? A teaching to share?)

Week 37

Pick a plan for this week and check off your progress as you read or listen.

5 Minutes Per Day - Psalms & Proverbs

Psalm 108 ~ Psalm 109 ~ Psalm 110 ~ Proverbs 22:17-29

10 Minutes Per Day - New Testament

Colossians 3 ~ Colossians 4 ~ 1 Thessalonians 1 ~ 1 Thessalonians 2 ~ 1 Thessalonians 3

15 Minutes Per Day - Old Testament

Isaiah 50 ~ Isaiah 51 ~ Isaiah 52 ~ Isaiah 53 ~ Isaiah 54
~ Isaiah 55 ~ Isaiah 56 ~ Isaiah 57 ~ Isaiah 58 ~
Isaiah 59 ~ Isaiah 60 ~ Isaiah 61 ~ Isaiah 62 ~ Isaiah
63 ~ Isaiah 64

30 Minutes - The Whole Bible (read all above)

Verse of the Week:

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.
The old has passed away; behold, the new has
come.” 2 Corinthians 5:17 (ESV)

Week 37 – Questions to Consider

Fun Small Group Warm Up Question:

What phone emoji do you use the most?

New Testament

Colossians 3 ~ Colossians 4 ~ 1 Thessalonians 1 ~ 1
Thessalonians 2 ~ 1 Thessalonians 3

1. Do you find it easier to focus on the past, present, or future? Why?
2. In what ways can focusing on the past be helpful? In what ways can focusing on the past be distracting, destructive to others, and dangerous to yourself?
3. How can we practically “set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth” (Colossians 3:2)?
4. Do we tend towards putting sin “on a shelf for later” or putting it “to death” (Colossians 3:5)? Why are “earthly things” warned against so severely? What are some of the examples that stand out to you? (See Colossians 3:5-11)
5. What sorts of things does God tell us to “put on”? (See Colossians 3:12-17). If you had to pick just one area to grow in the next week, which area would you pick?
6. Why does Satan attack marriages, families, and workplaces so hard? Why does God give such specific instructions for these environments in Colossians 3:18-4:1?

7. What does it mean to “walk in wisdom towards outsiders”? How can we do that better? For what purposes? (Colossians 4:2-6)
8. Why do you think 1 Thessalonians starts with such gratitude (1 Thessalonians 1:2-10)? What spiritual blessings do we often take for granted? How can we intentionally more thankful?
9. What are some ways you have sought to “please God” (1 Thessalonians 2:4) in your lifetime?
10. How has God shown you that the Bible is not “the word of men” but is really the “word of God” (1 Thess 2:13)? How have you improved in your study of God’s Word over the years? How do you aim to continue to grow?
11. What were COVID lockdowns like for you? Was it hard to not see people “face to face”? What did you miss about church gatherings? Why is it so important for Christian discipleship to be “in person” through our local churches and not merely online-only? Why would Satan “hinder” people from gathering together in church? (1 Thessalonians 2:17-18) (see also: www.trustworthyword.com/online-church)
12. Who has God sent you at times in your life to “establish and exhort you in your faith” (1 Thessalonians 3:2) like Timothy was sent? Who might God be sending you to?
13. Why is it so encouraging to see friends and family grow in “faith and love” (1 Thessalonians 3:6)? How does such growth best happen? How has God grown you in faith and love in the past year? How

has He helped you to stand fast in the midst of affliction?

General Discussion Questions

- *Context Questions:* Who is writing this? Who is it being written to? When? Why? What type of writing is this? How does this matter to my understanding of the meaning of these chapters?
- *Application Questions:* How do you need to respond to and apply these truths to your life? (Is there a sin to avoid? A command to obey? An example to follow? A prayer to offer? A truth to remember or memorize? An attitude to change? A teaching to share?)

Week 38

Pick a plan for this week and check off your progress as you read or listen.

5 Minutes Per Day - Psalms & Proverbs

Psalm 111 ~ Psalm 112 ~ Psalm 113 ~ Proverbs 23:1-18

10 Minutes Per Day - New Testament

1 Thessalonians 4 ~ 1 Thessalonians 5 ~ 2 Thessalonians 1 ~ 2 Thessalonians 2 ~ 2 Thessalonians 3

15 Minutes Per Day - Old Testament

Isaiah 65 ~ Isaiah 66 ~ 2 Chronicles 33 ~ 2 Chronicles 34 ~ 2 Chronicles 35 ~ 2 Kings 21 ~ 2 Kings 22 ~ 2 Kings 23 ~ Nahum 1 ~ Nahum 2 ~ Nahum 3 ~ Zephaniah 1 ~ Zephaniah 2 ~ Zephaniah 3

30 Minutes - The Whole Bible (read all above)

Verse of the Week:

“There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.” Romans 8:1 (ESV)

Week 38 – Questions to Consider

Fun Small Group Warm Up Question:

What was your favorite toy growing up?

New Testament

1 Thessalonians 4 ~ 1 Thessalonians 5 ~ 2 Thessalonians
1 ~ 2 Thessalonians 2 ~ 2 Thessalonians 3

1. How does it feel when you are trying to get someone's attention and they ignore you? How can you tell if an issue is important/ What are ways to try to help someone see the seriousness or urgency of what you are communicating? Read 1 Thessalonians 4:1. Why is Paul both asking and urging? Why is it important?
2. According to 1 Thessalonians 4:4-8, what is the specific issue that he is concerned about? What are similar ways we see this issue as a problem in our society today?
3. What does it look like to "to aspire to live quietly and to mind your own affairs"? "Work with your own hands"? (1 Thessalonians 4:11). Why would Paul consider this important? How is it connected to our witness in walking "properly towards outsiders" and being "dependent on no one" (1 Thessalonians 4:12)?
4. What was the most beautiful funeral you've attended? Why was it so beautiful? What was the saddest funeral you've been to? Why was it so sad? Why does God give us 1 Thessalonians 4:12-18?

5. What is the purpose of a “bucket list”? What are things you’d like to accomplish before you die? Why is it important to you? If you found out that today was the day of your death, do you feel prepared? Why or why not? Why does God give us such an urgent warning about Jesus’ return being so sudden in 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11? What are ways He tells us to be ready 24/7 for Jesus’ return?
6. When Paul gives some closing instructions in 1 Thessalonians 5:12-22, what stands out to you? Why?
7. Who is someone in your life who you have seen their “faith is growing abundantly” and their love “for one another is increasing”? (2 Thessalonians 2:3). How might you encourage them? Why does praise often inspire us to more growth? How are faith and love interconnected?
8. Read 2 Thessalonians 1:5-10. Why do we like to skip over these passages? Why do we need such passages?
9. Have you ever been scammed or manipulated? How did that feel? Why does God spend so much time to warning us about the “man of lawlessness”? (2 Thessalonians 2:1-12) Who do you know that has “refused to love the truth and so be saved” (2 Thessalonians 2:10)? How could you try again to love and reach them? What plans could you make to fast and pray for them more intentionally?
10. What final instructions in 2 Thessalonians 3 stand out to you? Why?

General Discussion Questions

- What do these passages teach us about our enemies' attacks (deceptions, distractions, discouragement, and temptations)? How can we better resist these attacks?
- *Application Questions*: How do you need to respond to and apply these truths to your life? (Is there a sin to avoid? A command to obey? An example to follow? A prayer to offer? A truth to remember or memorize? An attitude to change? A teaching to share?)

Week 39

Pick a plan for this week and check off your progress as you read or listen.

5 Minutes Per Day - Psalms & Proverbs

Psalm 114 ~ Psalm 115 ~ Psalm 116 ~ Proverbs 23:19-35

10 Minutes Per Day - New Testament

1 Timothy 1 ~ 1 Timothy 2 ~ 1 Timothy 3 ~ 1 Timothy 4
~ 1 Timothy 5

15 Minutes Per Day - Old Testament

Habakkuk 1 ~ Habakkuk 2 ~ Habakkuk 3 ~ Joel 1 ~ Joel
2 ~ Joel 3 ~ Jeremiah 1 ~ Jeremiah 2 ~ Jeremiah 3 ~
Jeremiah 4 ~ Jeremiah 5 ~ Jeremiah 6 ~ Jeremiah 7 ~
Jeremiah 8 ~ Jeremiah 9

30 Minutes - The Whole Bible (read all above)

Verse of the Week:

“All things are lawful for me,’ but not all things are helpful. ‘All things are lawful for me,’ but I will not be dominated by anything.” 1 Corinthians 6:12
(ESV)

Week 39 – Questions to Consider

Fun Small Group Warm Up Question:

What is your favorite hobby?

New Testament

1 Timothy 1 ~ 1 Timothy 2 ~ 1 Timothy 3 ~ 1 Timothy 4
~ 1 Timothy 5

1. How would you describe your calling in life? Why do you think Paul starts 1 Timothy by describing his apostolic calling as a “command of God”? How might we live differently with such a perspective?
2. Paul calls Timothy “my true child in the faith” in 1 Timothy 1:2. Who is someone that was a spiritual “parent” to you? Who is someone you’ve sought to mentor, guide, encourage, and help as a spiritual “child”? What has made those relationships special and effective?
3. Why does Paul give so much attention to false teachers? What dangers do they pose? What are some false teachings you’ve noticed over the years or recently? How can we best recognize false teachers?
 - a. www.trustworthyword.com/what-does-the-bible-say-about-false-teachers
4. Paul asserts that the “law is good” when used correctly, but that it is “for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and sinners, for the unholy and profane, for those who strike their fathers and mothers, for murderers, the sexually

- immoral, men who practice homosexuality, enslavers, liars, perjurers, and whatever else is contrary to sound doctrine” (1 Timothy 1:9-11). How is the law good for those continuing in sin?
5. Paul describes his life before Jesus as “a blasphemer, persecutor, and insolent opponent” (1 Timothy 1:13). How would you describe your life before Jesus? How can Paul refer to himself as the “foremost” of all sinners (1 Timothy 1:15)? Apart from God, who is most aware of the depths of your sinfulness?
 6. How do we avoid a “shipwreck of faith” like Hymenaeus and Alexander? (1 Timothy 1:19-20) Why would being cast out of church be referred to as “handed over to Satan” (1 Timothy 1:20 & 1 Corinthians 5:5)? How can church discipline help someone? Help the church? (www.trustworthyword.com/church-discipline)
 7. Who does God call us to pray for in 1 Timothy 2:1-4? Why? How should we pray for them? What types of people are the hardest to genuinely pray for?
 8. Why is prayer and unity important among men in church life (1 Timothy 2:8)? Why is modesty and good works emphasized among women in church (1 Tim 2:9-10)?
 9. Read 1 Timothy 3:12. In the context of churches, since pastors “teach” and “exercise authority over a man”, why is it controversial in some churches today to say that only men can be pastors? If our opinion on a subject differs with the Bible, who is wrong? When denominations begin to ordain women as pastors, why is that so

concerning? Why does it inevitably lead that church or denomination towards other un-biblical steps like affirming LGBTQ marriages and pastors? Although this is a touchy issue, it is an important one. Here are some other helpful Scriptures to consider on this subject: www.trustworthyword.com/women-pastors

10. Look at 1 Timothy 3:1-7 for pastors/overseers/elders and 1 Timothy 3:8-13. Why do you think God gives so many specific details about what to look for in a pastor or deacon? Why are the characteristics present-tense rather than past-tense? Who is a particular pastor or deacon that had a big impact on your life? Why?
11. God emphasizes the important role of His church by describing them as “the household of God, which is the church of the living God, a pillar and buttress of the truth.” (1 Timothy 3:15). How does it encourage you to see the impact and importance God gives His church?
12. Can you think of someone you once saw as a faithful Christian but now you are concerned about where they are at spiritually? What does it feel like to think of them? According to 1 Timothy 4:1-3 what are some of the reasons that people “depart from the faith”?
13. Why is physical exercise so difficult? How is it helpful? What makes “spiritual exercise” successful? Why is it so important according to 1 Timothy 4:8?
14. Did you ever have someone look down on you because you were younger? How did that feel?

- Did you ever have someone older than you show respect to you despite your youth? What are ways, according to 1 Timothy 4:12, that we can show spiritual maturity no matter our age?
15. How do you think our church does at showing respect to older men and women? What can we learn from 1 Timothy 5 and apply to our church ministries to those who are older than us?
 16. According to 1 Timothy 5:17-20, the role of pastor is really important. Why is it essential for churches to care for their pastors? Why is it important for churches to publicly rebuke pastors who “persist in sin”? Why should churches be slow to ordain new pastors (1 Timothy 5:22)?
 17. Read 1 Timothy 5:24-25. Explain this verse in your own words. How does it help you make sense of examples you have seen in others or yourself?

General Discussion Questions

- What did you learn about humanity or yourself in the readings this week? About your identity, character or purpose as a Christ-follower?
- *Application Questions:* How do you need to respond to and apply these truths to your life? (Is there a sin to avoid? A command to obey? An example to follow? A prayer to offer? A truth to remember or memorize? An attitude to change? A teaching to share?)

Week 40

Pick a plan for this week and check off your progress as you read or listen.

5 Minutes Per Day - Psalms & Proverbs

Psalm 117 ~ Psalm 118 ~ Proverbs 24:1-18

10 Minutes Per Day - New Testament

1 Timothy 6 ~ 2 Timothy 1 ~ 2 Timothy 2 ~ 2 Timothy 3
~ 2 Timothy 4

15 Minutes Per Day - Old Testament

Jeremiah 10 ~ Jeremiah 11 ~ Jeremiah 12 ~ Jeremiah 13
~ Jeremiah 14 ~ Jeremiah 15 ~ Jeremiah 16 ~
Jeremiah 17 ~ Jeremiah 18 ~ Jeremiah 19 ~ Jeremiah
20 ~ Jeremiah 21 ~ Jeremiah 22 ~ Jeremiah 23 ~
Jeremiah 24

30 Minutes - The Whole Bible (read all above)

Verse of the Week:

“Abba, Father, all things are possible for you. Remove this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will.” Mark 14:35-36 (ESV)

Week 40 – Questions to Consider

Fun Small Group Warm Up Question:

What is the best piece of advice you ever received?

New Testament

1 Timothy 6 ~ 2 Timothy 1 ~ 2 Timothy 2 ~ 2 Timothy 3
~ 2 Timothy 4

1. Have you ever worked in a workplace where it has been hard to maintain a Christian witness or influence? What were some of the challenges you have faced there? Why is it important to treat your boss as “worthy of all honor” according to 1 Timothy 6:1? Why is that hard to do with some bosses? Why is it extra important to be good employees when working for a Christian boss or organization? (1 Timothy 6:2)
2. 1 Timothy started out with a warning about false teachers and finishes with a warning about false teachers in 1 Timothy 6:3-10. What are some ways to recognize false teachers? What are some false teachings you’ve noticed today? How do we protect ourselves from false teachers and false teachings?
3. Why do you think Paul encourages Timothy to “fight the good fight of faith”? (1 Timothy 6:12) What does that look like?
4. If someone gave you something valuable, how would you protect it during your lifetime? How would you protect it beyond your lifetime? What does it look like to “guard the deposit

- entrusted to you”? (1 Timothy 6:20). Why do you think this theme continues on into 2 Timothy 1:14? What are some ways the “good deposit” is described? Who passed on the “good deposit” to Timothy? How does this encourage you to think about your own spiritual legacy? How do you want to be more intentional?
5. Why do you think Paul refers to a Christian as a “good soldier of Christ Jesus”? (2 Timothy 2:3). How has this been part of your experience? How does this connect with the commands and truths within Ephesians 6:10-20?
 6. Read 2 Timothy 2:5. How does this description help us to think about the Christian life? Compare it with 1 Corinthians 9:24-27. Who is the prize we are running after? What does spiritual “self-control” and “discipline” look like? Why is it so important and helpful? Read Hebrews 12:1-2 and connect its commands to the idea of life as a “race that is set before us.”
 7. How does 2 Timothy 4:6-8 help us more clearly understand and apply this imagery of soldier, athlete, farmer to our own lives? What does it mean that genuine Christians have “loved His appearing”?
 8. In 2 Timothy 2:14-26 we are warned of ways we might get attacked or tempted. Which warning stands out to you?
 9. How does 2 Timothy 3:1-9 sound similar to the times we are living in? How is it different? What is the solution presented in 2 Timothy 3:10-17? How has God strengthened and matured you in a similar way over the years?

- How do you aim to continue to grow in future years that the Lord gives you?
10. Who might God be calling you to be more “ready” to speak the Word of God to? What does it mean to “reprove”? “Rebuke”? “Exhort”? (2 Timothy 4:2). Why is patience needed in such situations?
 11. What does Paul mean by “itching ears” in 2 Timothy 4:3-4? How have you noticed this happening today? On what issues? What topics do “teachers to suit their own passions” avoid? What do such teachers sound like?
 12. How is Demas described in 2 Timothy 4:10? Have you known anyone like this who was once a faithful Christian but now is “in love with this present world”? Why should we be urgently concerned for people such as Demas? How can we best pray for such people? Love such people? Speak truth to such people?
 13. (John) Mark is described by Paul as “useful to me for the ministry” (2 Timothy 4:11) after previously abandoning Paul on a missionary trip (Acts 15:36-40)? How does this example of restoration after failure encourage you?
 14. Paul explains that “Alexander the coppersmith did me great harm” but trusts that “the Lord will repay him according to his deeds.” (2 Timothy 4:14). How is this instructive to us in our attitudes towards our enemies and those who have hurt us deeply? Why is a warning to others (2 Timothy 4:15) sometimes needed?
 15. Paul was abandoned for awhile (“no one came to stand by me” 2 Timothy 4:16) but yet knows that

“the Lord stood by me and strengthened me, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion’s mouth.” (2 Timothy 4:17). How does this encourage your faith for seasons of loneliness? What Old Testament story/figure does it seem to reference? How does Paul’s ultimate focus on “The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed and bring me safely into his heavenly kingdom.” (2 Timothy 4:18) help him? How will that perspective help us move into the challenges of the future?

General Discussion Questions

- What can you learn about God from these passages? His work? His character? How can this help you grow in your trust of Him?
- *Application Questions*: How do you need to respond to and apply these truths to your life? (Is there a sin to avoid? A command to obey? An example to follow? A prayer to offer? A truth to remember or memorize? An attitude to change? A teaching to share?)

Week 41

Pick a plan for this week and check off your progress as you read or listen.

5 Minutes Per Day - Psalms & Proverbs

Psalms 119:1-88 ~ Proverbs 24:19-34

10 Minutes Per Day - New Testament

Titus 1 ~ Titus 2 ~ Titus 3 ~ Philemon ~ Hebrews 1

15 Minutes Per Day - Old Testament

Jeremiah 25 ~ Jeremiah 26 ~ Jeremiah 27 ~ Jeremiah 28

~ Jeremiah 29 ~ Jeremiah 30 ~ Jeremiah 31 ~

Jeremiah 32 ~ Jeremiah 33 ~ Jeremiah 34 ~ Jeremiah

35 ~ Jeremiah 36 ~ Jeremiah 37 ~ Jeremiah 38 ~

Jeremiah 39

30 Minutes - The Whole Bible (read all above)

Verse of the Week:

“So we can confidently say, ‘The Lord is my helper;

I will not fear; what can man do to me?’”

Hebrews 13:6 (ESV)

Week 41 – Questions to Consider

Fun Small Group Warm Up Question:

What is the best costume you ever dressed up in?

New Testament

Titus 1 ~ Titus 2 ~ Titus 3 ~ Philemon ~ Hebrews 1

1. In Titus 1:1 Paul calls himself a “servant of God” for what purpose? How is our purpose the same? Different?
2. What is Paul’s relationship with Titus? (Titus 1:4) With whom has God place you into a similar relationship? What responsibilities and privileges come in such relationships?
3. Why does Paul give such specific commands to Titus about the role of pastor/shepherd/overseer/elder in Titus 1:5-9 as he gave to Timothy (1 Timothy 3:1-7)?
4. What does it mean to “hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught” (Titus 1:9)? How does that happen? Why is it so important? What happens if you hold onto something “loosely”? What happens if you hold on to the wrong teaching? Why is that extra important for pastors?
5. Paul gives Titus a warning of “many who are insubordinate, empty talkers and deceivers” (Titus 1:10). Why are they dangerous to a church? What is Paul’s command to Titus of how to respond to their presence and teaching (Titus 1:11)? How is this best done? What is the goal of such a confrontation

- (Titus 1:13)? What are some of the symptoms to watch for in the lives of bad & false teachers (Titus 1:14-16)? Why is this relevant today?
6. Look at the commands to older & younger men and women in Titus 2:2-8. If you had to pick one of these goals for your own life, what would you prioritize and why? How is Titus 2:9-10 important to our workplace ethics today? Why?
 7. What does it look like to “renounce ungodliness and worldly passions”? What does it look like to “live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age”? (Titus 2:12) Why is this so challenging on a daily basis? How does the reality that we are “waiting for our blessed hope” (Titus 2:13) help with this daily battle for holiness?
 8. How can we be “submissive to rulers and authorities” (Titus 3:1) if they are anti-God and evil in many of the things they say and do? How does such an attitude towards the government help our witness? Why is it important to our witness to “speak evil of no one, avoid quarreling, to be gentle, and to show perfect courtesy toward all people” (Titus 3:2)? Do you struggle with this? How can you do better?
 9. Paul writes Philemon about Onesimus, urging him to forgive Onesimus and to receive him as a Christian brother despite his theft and wrongdoing. Why is forgiveness so hard? Paul seems confident about Philemon’s forgiveness and generosity (Philemon 1:21). Why do you think that is? How does that connect with Paul’s start to the letter? (Philemon 1:1-7)

10. Read the beginning of Hebrews 1. What stands out to you? Impacts you? Why? What amazes you about who Jesus is? That the Creator speaks to us? That He is a better messenger than all of the prophets and the angels?

General Discussion Questions

- What was something new you noticed this week? What impacted you the most? Why?
- *Application Questions*: How do you need to respond to and apply these truths to your life? (Is there a sin to avoid? A command to obey? An example to follow? A prayer to offer? A truth to remember or memorize? An attitude to change? A teaching to share?)

Week 42

Pick a plan for this week and check off your progress as you read or listen.

5 Minutes Per Day - Psalms & Proverbs

Psalm 119:89-176 ~ Proverbs 25:1-14

10 Minutes Per Day - New Testament

Hebrews 2 ~ Hebrews 3 ~ Hebrews 4 ~ Hebrews 5 ~
Hebrews 6

15 Minutes Per Day - Old Testament

2 Chronicles 36 ~ 2 Kings 24 ~ 2 Kings 25 ~ Jeremiah
40 ~ Jeremiah 41 ~ Jeremiah 42 ~ Jeremiah 43 ~
Jeremiah 44 ~ Jeremiah 45 ~ Jeremiah 46 ~ Jeremiah
47 ~ Jeremiah 48 ~ Jeremiah 49 ~ Jeremiah 50 ~
Obadiah

30 Minutes - The Whole Bible (read all above)

Verse of the Week:

“bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.”

Colossians 3:13 (ESV)

Week 42 – Questions to Consider

Fun Small Group Warm Up Question:

What is one thing you would want to be sure to do
before you die?

New Testament

Hebrews 2 ~ Hebrews 3 ~ Hebrews 4 ~ Hebrews 5 ~
Hebrews 6

1. Watch this great video explanation of Hebrews:
www.youtube.com/watch?v=1fNWTZZwgbs
2. Have you ever gone swimming in the ocean? What happens when you ignore the pull of the tide? Why are we warned that “we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard”? (Hebrews 2:1)
3. Read Hebrews 2:6. What amazes you about Jesus paying attention to you and caring for you?
4. How does it comfort you to know that, even though we “do not yet see everything in subjection to” Jesus, God “left nothing outside his control” (Hebrews 2:8)? How is Satan ultimately defeated (Hebrews 2:15)?
5. What does it mean that Jesus made “propitiation for the sins of the people” (Hebrews 2:17)? Why is it so significant that Jesus “had to be made like his brothers in every respect” (Hebrews 2:17) and “he himself has suffered when tempted” (Hebrews 2:18)?
6. When you look at a building, isn’t it obvious that there is an architect and a builder? Why then do atheists look at Creation and try to deny the existence of a designer and Creator? Why is important that we have the reminder that “the builder of a house has

- more honor than the house itself” and that “the builder of all things is God” (Hebrews 3:3-4)?
7. When have you been tempted to “harden your hearts” against God (Hebrews 3:8)? What are some symptoms of a hardened spirit? What are the dangers?
 8. How do we avoid and warn others about turning away “from the living God” by “the deceitfulness of sin” (Hebrews 3:12-13)? How are we deceived by sin? What does it promise? What does it actually do?
 9. Read Hebrews 3:14. What is one evidence of true, saving faith? Why is the example of Israel’s rebellion in the Exodus used to help us understand this reality? How is Jesus better than Moses? Why then is our rebellion against Jesus more serious than Israel’s rebellion against Moses? Why is Heaven described as where we enter God’s rest (Hebrews 4:3-4)?
 10. As you have grown as a Christian, how have you experienced the Bible to be “living and active” (Hebrews 4:12)?
 11. Why is it important to understand that Jesus is our “great high priest”? What does that mean? How is he better than any other priest in all of history? (Hebrews 4:14-5:10)
 12. How do babies progress from milk to solid food? Why is it important? How is spiritual maturity seen? Why is spiritual maturity so important (Hebrews 5:11-14)?
 13. How has Jesus been “a sure and steadfast anchor” to your soul (Hebrews 6:19)? How can we better share

and show that testimony of hope in Jesus' finished work on the cross?

General Discussion Questions

- *Context Questions:* Who is writing this? Who is it being written to? When? Why? What type of writing is this? How does this matter to my understanding of the meaning of these chapters?
- *Application Questions:* How do you need to respond to and apply these truths to your life? (Is there a sin to avoid? A command to obey? An example to follow? A prayer to offer? A truth to remember or memorize? An attitude to change? A teaching to share?)

Week 43

Pick a plan for this week and check off your progress as you read or listen.

5 Minutes Per Day - Psalms & Proverbs

Psalm 120 ~ Psalm 121 ~ Psalm 122 ~ Proverbs 25:15-28

10 Minutes Per Day - New Testament

Hebrews 7 ~ Hebrews 8 ~ Hebrews 9 ~ Hebrews 10 ~ Hebrews 11

15 Minutes Per Day - Old Testament

Jeremiah 51 ~ Jeremiah 52 ~ Lamentations 1 ~ Lamentations 2 ~ Lamentations 3 ~ Lamentations 4 ~ Lamentations 5 ~ Ezekiel 1 ~ Ezekiel 2 ~ Ezekiel 3 ~ Ezekiel 4 ~ Ezekiel 5 ~ Ezekiel 6 ~ Ezekiel 7 ~ Ezekiel 8

30 Minutes - The Whole Bible (read all above)

Verse of the Week:

“I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.” John 14:3 (ESV)

Week 43 – Questions to Consider

Fun Small Group Warm Up Question:
What phone app do you use or like the most?

New Testament

Hebrews 7 ~ Hebrews 8 ~ Hebrews 9 ~ Hebrews 10 ~
Hebrews 11

1. Who was Melchizedek? (Genesis 14:18-20, Psalm 110:4, Hebrews 7) Why is Jesus compared to Melchizedek? Do you think Jesus appeared (theophany/Christophany) as Melchizedek to bless Abraham? (see www.gotquestions.org/Melchizedek.html).
2. What does it mean that Jesus “has become a priest” by “the power of an indestructible life” (Hebrews 7:16)? How is Jesus “a better hope” with “a better covenant” than the law was (Hebrews 7:19, 22; Hebrews 8:6)? Why does it make it so serious to reject Jesus as the ultimate “high priest”?
3. If you asked the average person how they might get to heaven, what do you think they would say? Do you think many Jews were thinking they could go to Heaven simply by being a good person by keeping the law and making sacrifices? Why then do you think all of this attention is given to Jesus as a priest?
4. How can you tell that every human already has the law of God in their minds and on their hearts (Hebrews 8:10, Romans 2:14-15)? Why does the law “speak to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped” (Romans 3:19)?

5. If you are a Christian, how have you experienced Jesus' new covenant of knowing Him, being His people, and experiencing His mercy (Hebrews 8:10-12)? How does it feel to know that Jesus chooses not to hold your sin against you any longer ("I will remember their sins no more" (Hebrews 8:12)?
6. What confuses you about all of the Old Testament descriptions of rules for worship and sacrifice (Hebrews 9)? What was the purpose of the various sacrifices? Were they enough (Hebrews 9:9-10)? How is Hebrews showing us that Jesus is far better than any sacrifice (Hebrews 9:11-14)? Why then is it so serious to reject Jesus?
7. Why does an inheritance only pass on at death? How does this help us to see what Jesus accomplishes in His death to allow us an "eternal inheritance" and "the forgiveness of sins" (Hebrews 9:15-22)?
8. How does it make you feel to think that "it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgement" (Hebrews 9:27)? Should Christians fear death? Judgment? Why or why not? Why is it a good description of those who are saved to be "eagerly waiting for him" (Hebrews 9:28)? What distracts us from this focus?
9. Do you think the book of Hebrews is an easy or hard book to understand? Why? How have you discovered it to be important and helpful?
10. How does it help you to have the reminder to "hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful" (Hebrews 10:23)?
11. Is church attendance important? Why or why not? Why do we need the encouragement to "consider

how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near” (Hebrews 10:24–25)? What happens when we regularly miss church gatherings?

12. Read Hebrews 10:26. What does this mean? Why is an unbeliever described as “one who has trampled underfoot the Son of God, and has profaned the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has outraged the Spirit of grace?” (Hebrews 10:29) How has Hebrews showed us that unbelief is this serious?
13. Although God gives us abundant and overwhelming evidence for His Creative work, why do we still need faith to understand Jesus as Creator? (Hebrews 11:3). Why is this important to understand when talking to someone who believes in Darwinian evolution or atheism? Who are they ultimately trusting and having faith in? Where does that faith lead to?
14. Read Hebrews 11. Why does God give us these examples from across the Scriptures? Why is this summary given to us? Which example stands out to you or encourages you particularly? How are you impacted by reading of the Christian suffering in Hebrews 11:35-38)?

General Discussion Questions

- What do these passages teach us about our enemies’ attacks (deceptions, distractions, discouragement, and temptations)? How can we better resist these attacks?

- *Application Questions:* How do you need to respond to and apply these truths to your life? (Is there a sin to avoid? A command to obey? An example to follow? A prayer to offer? A truth to remember or memorize? An attitude to change? A teaching to share?)

Week 44

Pick a plan for this week and check off your progress as you read or listen.

5 Minutes Per Day - Psalms & Proverbs

Psalms 123 ~ Psalm 124 ~ Psalm 125 ~ Proverbs 26:1-16

10 Minutes Per Day - New Testament

Hebrews 12 ~ Hebrews 13 ~ James 1 ~ James 2 ~ James 3

15 Minutes Per Day - Old Testament

Ezekiel 9 ~ Ezekiel 10 ~ Ezekiel 11 ~ Ezekiel 12 ~
Ezekiel 13 ~ Ezekiel 14 ~ Ezekiel 15 ~ Ezekiel 16 ~
Ezekiel 17 ~ Ezekiel 18 ~ Ezekiel 19 ~ Ezekiel 20 ~
Ezekiel 21 ~ Ezekiel 22 ~ Ezekiel 23

30 Minutes - The Whole Bible (read all above)

Verse of the Week:

“And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.”

Revelation 20:15 (ESV)

Week 44 – Questions to Consider

Fun Small Group Warm Up Question:

If you could be a professional athlete, what sport would you pick?

New Testament

Hebrews 12 ~ Hebrews 13 ~ James 1 ~ James 2 ~ James

3

1. Who has been a great witness of genuine Christian faith to you? How have their words encouraged you and given you biblical wisdom? How has their example inspired you and guided you to be faithful to Jesus? Read Hebrews 12:1-2. How does sin feel like a “weight” that “clings so closely”? How does it affect how we “run” in the race of life? Why is “endurance” essential in a race and in life? Who are we told to be “looking to” throughout our life? Why? How do we best do that daily?
2. In parenting, why is discipline so essential? What is the purpose of discipline? What are some of the ways that children handle and respond to discipline? How do we handle discipline from God? What is Hebrews 12:3-11 teaching about spiritual discipline from God? What does it produce? How should we respond to it?
3. What is bitterness? How does bitterness begin and then grow? How does bitterness affect our relationships and life? How do we “strive for

- peace with everyone” and destroy the “root of bitterness” (Hebrews 12:14-15)
4. Why do we need “holiness” in order to “see the Lord” (Hebrews 12:14)? What does that mean? Where does holiness come from? How does this connect with Hebrews 12:16 and sexual immorality?
 5. When you are trying to share something true and important, what does it feel like to be ignored? To be interrupted? To be argued with? Read Hebrews 12:25. How does this help us to understand the seriousness of sin? The importance of obedience?
 6. Out of some of the concluding exhortations of Hebrews 13:1-9, which stands out to you? Why? How does this connect with the role and importance of pastoral leaders within the church (Hebrews 13:17)? What does it look like to do God’s will (Hebrews 13:21)? How do we know His will?
 7. Why does James (the brother of Jesus) say difficulties should be considered as “joy”? How is that even possible? (James 1:2-4). Why is the follow on instruction in James 1:12-15 important to understand about our sufferings?
 8. What does it mean to ask for something “in faith” (James 1:5-8)? Does that mean that God will answer every prayer request that we make in confidence? What sorts of prayers does God not grant? (James 4:3)
 9. Read James 1:17. What are you taking for granted in life? How can you be more

- intentionally grateful? How can we best express that gratitude to God?
10. What is anger? Why do we struggle with it? Why is James 1:19-20 so helpful to memorize if you deal with temptations toward anger?
 11. What does James 1:22 mean? Why do we need to hear this?
 12. Is James 1:26 too harsh? Legalistic? Why are our words such an accurate tool to evaluate and assess the condition of our heart? (see also Matthew 12:34 & 15:18)
 13. Have you ever seen someone be treated with partiality above you? What does that feel like? Why is partiality so sinful? How might we be tempted towards partiality in our church? (James 2:1-13)
 14. What is the relationship between faith and works? Is there such a thing as saving faith without good works? Is there such a thing as being saved by our good works? How did Abraham's good works evidence genuine saving faith in God? (James 2:14-26). How does Ephesians 2:8-10 (and other passages like it) help us to fully understand the connection between faith and works?
 15. Look at the statements of James in chapter 3. Why is being a teacher of God's Word such a serious task? Why is our tongue so significant? Who has been a bad example to you with their tongue? Who has been a good influence to you with their tongue? What kind of influence have you been with your tongue? How would you like

to change your tongue in the days, weeks, and months ahead?

16. How does the world around us promote jealous and bitterness? How does it promote selfish ambition? How does James 3:13-18 challenge the worldly views around us?

General Discussion Questions

- What did you learn about humanity or yourself in the readings this week? About your identity, character or purpose as a Christ-follower?
- *Application Questions*: How do you need to respond to and apply these truths to your life? (Is there a sin to avoid? A command to obey? An example to follow? A prayer to offer? A truth to remember or memorize? An attitude to change? A teaching to share?)

Week 45

Pick a plan for this week and check off your progress as you read or listen.

5 Minutes Per Day - Psalms & Proverbs

Psalm 126 ~ Psalm 127 ~ Psalm 128 ~ Proverbs 26:17-28

10 Minutes Per Day - New Testament

James 4 ~ James 5 ~ 1 Peter 1 ~ 1 Peter 2 ~ 1 Peter 3

15 Minutes Per Day - Old Testament

Ezekiel 24 ~ Ezekiel 25 ~ Ezekiel 26 ~ Ezekiel 27 ~
Ezekiel 28 ~ Ezekiel 29 ~ Ezekiel 30 ~ Ezekiel 31 ~
Ezekiel 32 ~ Ezekiel 33 ~ Ezekiel 34 ~ Ezekiel 35 ~
Ezekiel 36 ~ Ezekiel 37 ~ Ezekiel 38

30 Minutes - The Whole Bible (read all above)

Verse of the Week:

“As I have loved you, so you must love one another.”

John 13:34 (ESV)

Week 45 – Questions to Consider

Fun Small Group Warm Up Question:
How would you want to be most remembered?

New Testament

James 4 ~ James 5 ~ 1 Peter 1 ~ 1 Peter 2 ~ 1 Peter 3

1. In your life, who have you had the most arguments with? As a child? As an adult? Why do we tend to have more disagreements with family than anyone else? What does God explain to us about the roots of most arguments (James 4:1-2)?
2. Why is “friendship with the world” so offensive? What is the source of such worldly temptations? What does it mean to “resist the devil”? What does it mean to “submit yourselves” to God? (James 4:4-10)
3. What challenges your priorities in James 4:13-17? Why? How do you want to change?
4. If you could inherit \$100 million, would you? What would you do with it? What sort of challenges would you expect? How does James 5:1-6 make us think differently about being rich? Are you financially rich compared with most of the world?
5. What are some of the ways we suffer here on earth? What sorts of fears or concerns do you have towards future suffering? How can we best prepare for whatever suffering we will face in the future? (James 5:7-20)

6. Do you have a friend, family member, or coworker who you worry has wandered from the truth? How does James 5:19-20 encourage you?
7. When were you “born again”? How is that a more clarifying question than asking if someone is a Christian or goes to church? What does 1 Peter 1:3 say we are born again to? What does that mean?
8. Since we have been saved, what is the purpose of our lives according to 1 Peter 1:12-25? What are some ways we can best fulfill our purpose as “born again” believers?
9. What 5 things are we warned against in 1 Peter 2:1? How do we “put away” these things on a day-to-day basis?
10. How would you describe yourself to someone new that you met? How do we see our identity? How does 1 Peter 2:9-10 challenge you to reconsider your identity?
11. Was the Roman emperor good or evil? How about your political leaders today? How can we obey 1 Peter 2:13-17 in regard to our attitudes and actions towards our governmental leaders? How does this principle also apply in our workplaces (1 Peter 2:18)? Why is this so hard? Why is this so important?
12. Read 1 Peter 3:1-7. How does this encourage or challenge you in your marriage?
13. How is 1 Peter 3:9 so counter-cultural? How can it be a Gospel witness? How does 1 Peter 3:15 help us to be better witnesses? How have you felt unprepared for evangelism? How can we

practically be better prepared for Gospel opportunities?

General Discussion Questions

- What can you learn about God from these passages? His work? His character? How can this help you grow in your trust of Him?
- *Application Questions:* How do you need to respond to and apply these truths to your life? (Is there a sin to avoid? A command to obey? An example to follow? A prayer to offer? A truth to remember or memorize? An attitude to change? A teaching to share?)

Week 46

Pick a plan for this week and check off your progress as you read or listen.

5 Minutes Per Day - Psalms & Proverbs

Psalm 129 ~ Psalm 130 ~ Psalm 131 ~ Proverbs 27

10 Minutes Per Day - New Testament

1 Peter 4 ~ 1 Peter 5 ~ 2 Peter 1 ~ 2 Peter 2 ~ 2 Peter 3

15 Minutes Per Day - Old Testament

Ezekiel 39 ~ Ezekiel 40 ~ Ezekiel 41 ~ Ezekiel 42 ~
Ezekiel 43 ~ Ezekiel 44 ~ Ezekiel 45 ~ Ezekiel 46 ~
Ezekiel 47 ~ Ezekiel 48 ~ Daniel 1 ~ Daniel 2 ~
Daniel 3 ~ Daniel 4 ~ Daniel 5

30 Minutes - The Whole Bible (read all above)

Verse of the Week:

“everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has
already committed adultery with her in his heart.”

Matthew 5:28 (ESV)

Week 46 – Questions to Consider

Fun Small Group Warm Up Question:

If you could have any superpower, what would it be?

New Testament

1 Peter 4 ~ 1 Peter 5 ~ 2 Peter 1 ~ 2 Peter 2 ~ 2 Peter 3

1. How much longer might you expect or hope to live? What life goals do you have ahead? How does 1 Peter 4:2 apply to how we re-prioritize or set new life goals? How have you seen God mature your perspective on life since He saved you?
2. Why would being “self-controlled and sober-minded” affect our prayers (1 Peter 4:7)?
3. What does it mean that “love covers a multitude of sins” (1 Peter 4:8)? How have you experienced this? Who is someone you want to be more loving towards?
4. What sorts of gifts has God given you to serve others (1 Peter 4:10)?
5. Why does suffering often catch us off guard? Cause us to question God? How should we respond to suffering? What helps you from 1 Peter 4:12-19?
6. What are some good characteristics you have seen in pastors? What are some concerning characteristics you have seen in pastors? What are some helpful instructions for pastors that stand out to you in 1 Peter 5:1-5? How are believers and pastors called to treat one another?

7. What sorts of things get you worried or anxious? How can you better cast “all your anxieties on him” (1 Peter 5:8)?
8. If you had to go outside, and knew there was a dangerous beast, how would you prepare yourself? Read 1 Peter 5:8-10. Why is remembering Satan’s ongoing presence and intent important? How do we daily “put on the whole armor of God” (Ephesians 6:10-20)?
9. What priorities and qualities does Peter call us to in 2 Peter 1:5-8? Why?
10. Has anyone ever said to you “that’s just your interpretation about the Bible” or “the Bible was written by men” as an attempt to undermine the authority of the Scripture? How should we respond to such statements? When you write something down, do you write it or does your pen? How does that analogy help you to understand 2 Peter 1:21? (see also www.trustworthyword.com/evidence-for-jesus)
11. 2 Peter 2 is one of the clearest warnings about false teachers and false prophets. Skim over it. What warnings do you see that apply today? (see also www.trustworthyword.com/what-does-the-bible-say-about-false-teachers)
12. How does it make you feel to see Peter explain that some of what Paul writes that “are hard to understand”? What warning does he give with that statement (2 Peter 3:16)? How does Peter conclude to end these two letters in 2 Peter 3:17-18?

General Discussion Questions

- What was something new you noticed this week?
What impacted you the most? Why?
- *Application Questions*: How do you need to respond to and apply these truths to your life? (Is there a sin to avoid? A command to obey? An example to follow? A prayer to offer? A truth to remember or memorize? An attitude to change? A teaching to share?)

Week 47

Pick a plan for this week and check off your progress as you read or listen.

5 Minutes Per Day - Psalms & Proverbs

Psalm 132 ~ Psalm 133 ~ Psalm 134 ~ Proverbs 28:1-14

10 Minutes Per Day - New Testament

1 John 1 ~ 1 John 2 ~ 1 John 3 ~ 1 John 4 ~ 1 John 5

15 Minutes Per Day - Old Testament

Daniel 6 ~ Daniel 7 ~ Daniel 8 ~ Daniel 9 ~ Daniel 10 ~
Daniel 11 ~ Daniel 12 ~ Ezra 1 ~ Ezra 2 ~ Ezra 3 ~
Ezra 4 ~ Ezra 5 ~ Ezra 6

30 Minutes - The Whole Bible (read all above)

Verse of the Week:

“Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous.” Hebrews 13:4
(ESV)

Week 47 – Questions to Consider

Fun Small Group Warm Up Question:

What is your favorite season or holiday?

New Testament

1 John 1 ~ 1 John 2 ~ 1 John 3 ~ 1 John 4 ~ 1 John 5

1. Have you ever read 1 John before? If so, what are some of your favorite verses or truths from it? Why does John (the author of the Gospel of John also) say he is writing this book? (1 John 1:4) What does he mean by that? Who have you mentored spiritually and seen grow? How has that experience encouraged you?
2. Read 1 John 1:5-10. What are some symptoms of unbelief? How does verse 9 encourage you? Why do some people call themselves Christians yet live totally contrary to the Bible? Why does Paul tell us to “examine” and “test” the genuineness of our faith (2 Corinthians 13:5)? How does the book of 1 John help us to do just that?
3. What is the definition of an “advocate”? How does it make you feel to know that “we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ” (1 John 2:1)? Why does John say he is writing this book in 1 John 2:1? Why does he say ongoing disobedience to God’s commands is serious (1 John 2:4)? How have you seen God grow you to walk/live increasingly more like Jesus?
4. How can you tell if you hate someone? How can you tell if you truly have forgiven someone? Why

does John say hate is so serious (1 John 2:9, also 1 John 4:19-21)? Why is forgiveness so important to God? (see also

www.trustworthyword.com/forgiveness) Consider the definitions of these words below. Consider Jesus' words, "but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses" (Matthew 6:15). Does this convict you?

- a. **Forgive** - to stop feeling angry or resentful toward (someone) for an offense, flaw, or mistake; to cancel (a debt)
 - b. **Hate** - to feel intense or passionate dislike
 - c. **Bitterness** - anger and disappointment at being treated unfairly; resentment
 - d. **Anger** - a strong feeling of annoyance, displeasure, or hostility
 - e. **Resentment** - bitter indignation at having been treated unfairly
5. What does it look like to "love the world" (1 John 2:15-17)? How has God changed your heart and priorities since you were born again?
 6. Do you know someone that once claimed to be a Christian, but now seems to have abandoned the faith, the Bible, and the church? Why is 1 John 2:19 so heartbreaking to read in such situations?
 7. If you are at work and see/know your boss/employer is approaching, how might you honestly change what you are doing? How does 1 John 2:28-29 encourage us regarding Jesus' return?
 8. Why is love the ultimate motivator for our change and growth? (1 John 3 & 4) Why is obedience to

God's commands strong evidence that you have received His love?

9. Can you be a loving parent and issue no rules to your child as they grow up? Can you be a loving child and ignore and disobey your parents' rules as you grow up? How does this parent-child analogy help us to see the relationship between love and commands/rules?
10. Does 1 John 4:1 seem strange to you? How can we "test the spirits"? Why should we?
11. How do you feel best loved? What are some ways that you can best show love to others?
12. If you were to memorize one verse from 1 John, what would it be? Why?
13. As a child, did you ever hear someone say "my daddy can beat up your daddy"? Why would they say that? How does a strong daddy give you confidence? Read 1 John 4:4. How does this truth give you confidence?
14. How does 1 John help nominal-Christians (those who would claim to be Christian but are not genuinely born-again, they are Christian in name-only, i.e. nominal) to see the seriousness of their spiritual status?
15. How does 1 John help genuine-Christians have greater confidence that they "have eternal life" (1 John 5:13)?
16. How are we to understand 1 John 4:14-15? Does that mean that God will give us whatever we ask? How does this connect with Jesus finishing His prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane with "will be

done” (Matthew 26:42) and the Lord’s prayer (Matthew 6:10)?

17. In what ways is the Christian life ultimately for us to “know him who is true” (1 John 5:20)? Why do we need the concluding warnings that “the whole world lies in the power of the evil one” and we must “keep yourselves from idols” (1 John 5:19-21)?

General Discussion Questions

- *Context Questions:* Who is writing this? Who is it being written to? When? Why? What type of writing is this? How does this matter to my understanding of the meaning of these chapters?
- *Application Questions:* How do you need to respond to and apply these truths to your life? (Is there a sin to avoid? A command to obey? An example to follow? A prayer to offer? A truth to remember or memorize? An attitude to change? A teaching to share?)

Week 48

Pick a plan for this week and check off your progress as you read or listen.

5 Minutes Per Day - Psalms & Proverbs

Psalm 135 ~ Psalm 136 ~ Psalm 137 ~ Proverbs 28:15-28

10 Minutes Per Day - New Testament

2 John ~ 3 John ~ Jude ~ Revelation 1 ~ Revelation 2

15 Minutes Per Day - Old Testament

Haggai 1 ~ Haggai 2 ~ Zechariah 1 ~ Zechariah 2 ~
Zechariah 3 ~ Zechariah 4 ~ Zechariah 5 ~ Zechariah
6

30 Minutes - The Whole Bible (read all above)

Verse of the Week:

“However, let each one of you love his wife as himself,
and let the wife see that she respects her husband.”
Ephesians 5:33 (ESV)

Week 48 – Questions to Consider

Fun Small Group Warm Up Question:

When your family gets together to eat, what is your favorite dish?

New Testament

2 John ~ 3 John ~ Jude ~ Revelation 1 ~ Revelation 2

1. What does it mean that truth “abides in us”? How can we tell if truth “abides in us” (2 John 1-2)?
2. Why would John address a church congregation as “dear lady”? Do we take our church as serious as we should? Why is commitment to a church family so important?
3. How does John define love in 2 John 6?
4. If someone adds a book or their opinion to the Bible (“the teaching of Christ”), what is the warning John gives (2 John 9)?
5. Who had caused you trouble in your life? How did you respond? How could you have responded better? Why did John want to encourage Gaius in his endurance in spite of the trouble caused by Diotrephes? How is Diotrephes described (3 John 9)?
6. Jude, brother of James and Jesus, emphasizes the importance of contending “for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints” (Jude 3). How do we have a similar calling today? How do false teachers continue to “pervert the grace of our God into sensuality” today (Jude 4)?

7. Why does Jude speak so clearly about God's judgment and Hell in Jude 5-7. What is the danger of churches, pastors, and Christians who avoid reading, teaching, preaching, and believing in Hell?
8. What are some of Jude's exhortations in the midst of "the last time" (Jude 18-20)?
9. Why is the book of Revelation so interesting to so many? Why can it be an extremely difficult and confusing book to understand? What are your feelings towards the book of Revelation?
10. Why does God give us Revelation according to the first 3 verses? Why did God give us over 300 prophecies about the coming of the Messiah?
11. While Revelation is full of future prophecy, it also has specific rebukes and encouragements to seven churches in chapter 2 & 3. Take the time to look at some of these churches. How does this apply or help teach or correct our churches today?
12. Consider watching this helpful 12 minute video by The Bible Project to introduce the book of Revelation: <https://youtu.be/5nvVVcYD-ow>

General Discussion Questions

- What do these passages teach us about our enemies' attacks (deceptions, distractions, discouragement, and temptations)? How can we better resist these attacks?
- *Application Questions:* How do you need to respond to and apply these truths to your life? (Is there a sin to

avoid? A command to obey? An example to follow?
A prayer to offer? A truth to remember or memorize?
An attitude to change? A teaching to share?)

Week 49

Pick a plan for this week and check off your progress as you read or listen.

5 Minutes Per Day - Psalms & Proverbs

Psalm 138 ~ Psalm 139 ~ Psalm 140 ~ Proverbs 29

10 Minutes Per Day - New Testament

Revelation 3 ~ Revelation 4 ~ Revelation 5 ~ Revelation 6 ~ Revelation 7

15 Minutes Per Day - Old Testament

Zechariah 7 ~ Zechariah 8 ~ Zechariah 9 ~ Zechariah 10
~ Zechariah 11 ~ Zechariah 12 ~ Zechariah 13 ~
Zechariah 14

30 Minutes - The Whole Bible (read all above)

Verse of the Week:

“Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, ‘I will never leave you nor forsake you.’” Hebrews 13:5 (ESV)

Week 49 – Questions to Consider

Fun Small Group Warm Up Question:

What is a unique or little-known fact about you?

New Testament

Revelation 3 ~ Revelation 4 ~ Revelation 5 ~ Revelation
6 ~ Revelation 7

1. Revelation 2 and 3 gives very specific communication from God to particular churches. Consider some of the following churches and how it applies to our churches today in being faithful and prepared for Jesus' return:
2. Ephesus: Revelation 2:1-7 – Ephesus was strong with “works”, “toil”, “patient endurance”, and not putting up with “those who are evil” or false apostles. How would you describe the strengths of your church? Ephesus is simultaneously rebuked for having “abandoned the love you had at first.” Is there a previous strength of your church, now a weakness, that you can help improve?
3. Smyrna: Revelation 2:8-11 – Smyrna and Philadelphia are not rebuked/corrected for any apparent problems in the church. The church at Smyrna is being slandered and is about to face severe persecution of imprisonment and death, with the exhortation to “be faithful unto death and I will give you the crown of life.” Has your church family been slandered? What was that

like to experience? How is God encouraging you to set your sights on your eternal reward in order to remain faithful to Him?

4. Pergamum: Revelation 2:12-17 – This church has faced both false teachings and persecution, but is faltering in resisting and discipling false teachers. What biblical subjects has your church struggled to preach faithfully? What false or bad teachings has your church struggled to confront or obey? What surrounding false teachings or influences might tempt your church in the future?
5. Thyatira: Revelation 2:18-28 – While Thyatira is praised on several issues, and rebuked severely for tolerating a false teacher, the faithful are encouraged to “hold fast what you have until I come.” How have you seen, or experienced yourself, the difficulty in staying faithful today? What temptations frequently pull people away from God, the Bible, and church? What has helped you to stay faithful to God?
6. Sardis: Revelation 3:1-6 – The church at Sardis has “the reputation of being alive” but is actually “dead.” The city itself was captured twice by watchmen falling asleep on duty. What lulls Christians and churches to spiritual sleep today? What helps Christians and churches to stay alert and attentive to their spiritual duties?
7. Philadelphia: Revelation 3:7-13 – The church at Philadelphia receives no rebukes or corrections but is praised for having “kept my word and have not denied my name.” What does this mean? Why is this a wonderful aim for every

Christian? How can we similarly leave such a legacy in our church, family, and as a believer? What is the significance of the imagery of being made a “pillar in the temple of my God” with the inscription of the “name of my God” and the “name of the city of my God” written on it?

8. Laodicea: Revelation 3:14-22 – Nothing is praised in the church of Laodicea, as it has not fulfilled its purpose and God warns that “I will spit you out of my mouth.” Although they were self-confident and acted self-sufficient, God points out their failures and needs, calling them to “be zealous and repent.” Why is discipline from the Lord so hard to receive? What does a truly repentant child do? What does genuine repentance look like for believers? What does a zealous sports fan look like? What does a zealous Christian look like?
9. What amazes you about the description of God’s throne in Revelation 4? What is significant about what is said?
10. What stands out to you about the song sung to Jesus in Revelation 5:9-14? How is this a picture of pure worship? What is the key to true worship?
11. What is the “scroll” in the Bible and here in Revelation? Why is Jesus only worthy to open the “scroll” and “seals”?
12. The seals of God’s judgment and wrath are revealed in Revelation 6. How does this make you more grateful to God for His mercy, forgiveness, and grace? How does this make

you more passionate about evangelism and missions?

13. Read Revelation 7:9-17. How does this make you long for Heaven? How is this description different than many peoples' opinions about Heaven? Or popularized books about someone dying, going to Heaven, and coming back to talk about it? What is the singular focus of everyone in Heaven?

General Discussion Questions

- What did you learn about humanity or yourself in the readings this week? About your identity, character or purpose as a Christ-follower?
- *Application Questions:* How do you need to respond to and apply these truths to your life? (Is there a sin to avoid? A command to obey? An example to follow? A prayer to offer? A truth to remember or memorize? An attitude to change? A teaching to share?)

Week 50

Pick a plan for this week and check off your progress as you read or listen.

5 Minutes Per Day - Psalms & Proverbs

Psalm 141 ~ Psalm 142 ~ Psalm 143 ~ Proverbs 30

10 Minutes Per Day - New Testament

Revelation 8 ~ Revelation 9 ~ Revelation 10 ~
Revelation 11 ~ Revelation 12

15 Minutes Per Day - Old Testament

Esther 1 ~ Esther 2 ~ Esther 3 ~ Esther 4 ~ Esther 5 ~
Esther 6 ~ Esther 7 ~ Esther 8 ~ Esther 9 ~ Esther 10

30 Minutes - The Whole Bible (read all above)

Verse of the Week:

“The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 4:5–7 (ESV)

Week 50 – Questions to Consider

Fun Small Group Warm Up Question:

What is your favorite Christmas carol?

New Testament

Revelation 8 ~ Revelation 9 ~ Revelation 10 ~
Revelation 11 ~ Revelation 12

1. What do you struggle with when reading and studying Revelation? What do you enjoy and find helpful from your time in Revelation? Consider this overview video by the Bible Project as we go into the second half of Revelation:
www.youtube.com/watch?v=QpnIrbq2bKo
2. How was the Exodus a foreshadowing of the first five trumpets in Revelation 8:6-9:12? Why does God give us such specific foreshadowing and prophecies about His wrath and judgement? How does this connect to 2 Peter 3:8-10 and 1 Timothy 2:3-4?
3. Did Pharaoh ever truly repent with the plagues of Egypt? How do the nations respond to God's wrath in Revelation 9:20-21? Why? What can we learn from their response?
4. What is the symbolism of eating the scroll in Ezekiel 3:1-4 & Revelation 10:9-11? How is that instructive to us? Just as the people refused to listen to Ezekiel and many of the Old Testament prophets and New Testament disciples, what sort of response might we encounter when we share the sweetness of God's Word?

5. Why do you think so many specific details are given about Heaven in Revelation? Why do you think so many specific prophecies were made about the Messiah's first coming?
6. Although much of Revelation could be interpreted literally, there is definitely a lot that can be interpreted symbolically. Who is the "temple" of God across the New Testament (1 Corinthians 3:16; 6:19-20, Hebrews 3:6, 1 Peter 2:4-5)? How does that matter for us today?
7. How are all Christians called to be "lampstands"? What is our mission?
8. Why do we need to understand about our enemies? Why is speculation or fascination with Satan and demonic dangerous? What do we know about Satan and his demons from the Bible? How do we see more of this in the end times prophecies within Revelation?
 - Names of Satan:
www.spiritualwarfare.blog/names-of-satan
 - Works of Satan:
www.spiritualwarfare.blog/works-of-satan
 - Character of Satan:
www.spiritualwarfare.blog/character-of-satan
 - Names of Demons:
www.spiritualwarfare.blog/names-of-demons
 - Works of Demons:
www.spiritualwarfare.blog/works-of-demons
 - Character of Demons:
www.spiritualwarfare.blog/character-of-demons
9. What stands out to you from Revelation 10? Compare this with Ezekiel 3:1-7. Why would the

message be both sweet and bitter? How is that similar today?

10. What do we learn from the two witnesses of Revelation 11?

General Discussion Questions

- What can you learn about God from these passages? His work? His character? How can this help you grow in your trust of Him?
- *Application Questions*: How do you need to respond to and apply these truths to your life? (Is there a sin to avoid? A command to obey? An example to follow? A prayer to offer? A truth to remember or memorize? An attitude to change? A teaching to share?)

Week 51

Pick a plan for this week and check off your progress as you read or listen.

5 Minutes Per Day - Psalms & Proverbs

Psalm 144 ~ Psalm 145 ~ Psalm 146 ~ Proverbs 31:1-9

10 Minutes Per Day - New Testament

Revelation 13 ~ Revelation 14 ~ Revelation 15 ~
Revelation 16 ~ Revelation 17

15 Minutes Per Day - Old Testament

Malachi 1 ~ Malachi 2 ~ Malachi 3 ~ Malachi 4 ~ Ezra 7
~ Ezra 8 ~ Ezra 9 ~ Ezra 10

30 Minutes - The Whole Bible (read all above)

Verse of the Week:

“Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.” Ephesians 5:15–17 (ESV)

Week 51 – Questions to Consider

Fun Small Group Warm Up Question:
What was a special Christmas gift you received?

New Testament

Revelation 13 ~ Revelation 14 ~ Revelation 15 ~
Revelation 16 ~ Revelation 17

1. How does the truth of Ephesians 6:12 that “we don’t wrestle against flesh and blood” come to be clearly seen in our readings from Revelation? Do these descriptions intimidate you? Should they? How can these descriptions help us today? Where do we find victory? (Revelation 12:11)
2. In your lifetime, what “end times” references have you heard people imply connected with global events, natural occurrences, or natural disasters? Why do you think people try to make such connections? How can this be helpful? How can this be harmful?
3. Skim Daniel 7-12 as a comparison with Revelation 13. What similarities and differences do we see? What are the connections and cautions we have with our understanding of governments and government leaders? How can nations (like Babylon, Persia, Greece, and Rome in biblical days) function like these “beasts”?
4. What does “endurance and faith of the saints” look like in the midst of government persecution and evil? (Revelation 13:10) What other truths and commands

can you think of in regard to our relationship with government as Christians? (see www.trustworthyword.com/what-does-the-bible-say-about-voting-and-politics)

5. Why do we see so much modern news about the mark of the Beast? How is this ultimately a sign of opposing devotion to God (i.e. the opposite of the Shema in Deuteronomy 6:4-8)?
6. When we read about our King of Kings in Revelation 14, how should we feel? In what ways should the world around us see the name of God already written on us, His followers? Why do you think believers (“the saints”) are described as those “who keep the commandments of God and their faith in Jesus”? (Revelation 14:12). What does it mean for us to “rest from our labors”? What does it mean that, for believers, “their deeds follow them”? (Revelation 14:13)? Since we are not saved by works, but by faith, what is the relationship between our faith and our works/obedience?
7. Why do you think God includes such detailed descriptions of His wrath? With the harvest of the lost in Revelation 14:17-20 and the bowls of God’s judgment in Revelation 15 & 16? How do you feel when you read these passages? How does it make you more grateful for God’s grace and mercy? How does it make you more passionate about sharing God’s love and truth with the lost?
8. Why does God’s wrath sometimes feel “unjust”? Should it? Why do you think the angel says, in the midst of God’s wrath: “Just are you, O Holy One, who is and who was, for you brought these

judgments. For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, and you have given them blood to drink. It is what they deserve!” And I heard the altar saying, “Yes, Lord God the Almighty, true and just are your judgments!” (Revelation 16:5–7)

9. We usually judge the seriousness of an offense to the seriousness of the harm to another. Why is sin so serious?
10. We usually assign punishment and discipline according to the seriousness of the offense. Why is sin punished so severely?
11. How should this understanding make us more grateful for God’s mercy in not giving us the punishment we deserve? How should this overwhelm us more in regard to God’s grace in providing a way for us to be with Him eternally in Heaven?
12. How does reading a summary of this great battle in Revelation 17:14 encourage you? “They will make war on the Lamb, and the Lamb will conquer them, for he is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those with him are called and chosen and faithful.” (Revelation 17:14). How does such a description change your perspective on your day-to-day difficulties?

General Discussion Questions

- What was something new you noticed this week? What impacted you the most? Why?
- *Application Questions:* How do you need to respond to and apply these truths to your life? (Is there a sin to avoid? A command to obey? An example to follow?)

A prayer to offer? A truth to remember or memorize?
An attitude to change? A teaching to share?)

Week 52

Pick a plan for this week and check off your progress as you read or listen.

5 Minutes Per Day - Psalms & Proverbs

Psalm 147 ~ Psalm 148 ~ Psalm 149 ~ Psalm 150 ~
Proverbs 31:10-31

10 Minutes Per Day - New Testament

Revelation 18 ~ Revelation 19 ~ Revelation 20 ~
Revelation 21 ~ Revelation 22

15 Minutes Per Day - Old Testament

Nehemiah 1 ~ Nehemiah 2 ~ Nehemiah 3 ~ Nehemiah 4
~ Nehemiah 5 ~ Nehemiah 6 ~ Nehemiah 7 ~
Nehemiah 8 ~ Nehemiah 9 ~ Nehemiah 10 ~
Nehemiah 11 ~ Nehemiah 12 ~ Nehemiah 13

30 Minutes - The Whole Bible (read all above)

Verse of the Week:

“For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.” Romans 8:18 (ESV)

Week 52 – Questions to Consider

Fun Small Group Warm Up Question:

What is your favorite Christmas activity or childhood memory?

New Testament

Revelation 18 ~ Revelation 19 ~ Revelation 20 ~
Revelation 21 ~ Revelation 22

1. What modern day wars have caught your attention in your lifetime? What does it feel like to see enemy victories? What does it feel like to see allied/friendly victories? As you have read Revelation, how might you see this future battle playing out? What are the best ways we can prepare ourselves and the next generations for any such battles happening in their lifetimes?
2. What do you think life was like for Christians under Roman (“Babylon”) persecution? How do you think Romans treated their government and rulers as “gods”? Do we see people looking to modern day governments and political leaders as “gods” today? If so, how?
3. What does a balanced Christian perspective on governments look like? Why do you think the Lord allows evil governments to exist? Why do you think he allows evil governments to be overturned?
4. Fallen “Babylon” is described as a “dwelling place for demons” (Revelation 18:2). What do you think that means? Biblically speaking, what do demons

- do? How do think demons are actively working in our cultures and governments today?
5. As you read about the final battles in Revelation 19 & 20, what stood out to you? How did you feel in seeing the vindication of the martyr's deaths? (Revelation 20:1-7). If you were in a situation where your life was threatened unless you disowned Jesus & Christianity, what struggles would you face? How hard would it be to see your loved ones (parents, spouse, kids, etc.) threatened or tortured for your faithfulness to Christ? How can we prepare now for the ongoing and increasing reality of Christians being persecuted? How do we stay faithful to God to the end?
 6. What do you love about the description of Jesus in Revelation 19:11-16?
 7. What is Jesus' weapon in this final battle (Revelation 19:15)? How does that connect with Isaiah 11:4 "he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked" and 49:2 "He made my mouth like a sharp sword"? How is that our weapon already today? What does it look like practically to wield the "Sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God" (Ephesians 6:12)?
 8. What is the coolest invitation you have ever received? What would be an amazing invitation you wish you received? Consider that Christians are "Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb." (Revelation 19:9). What does this feel like?
 9. What connections do you see between Revelation 20 and Daniel 7?

10. How important is it to you to understanding whether Jesus comes before the millennium (1,000 year kingdom, premillennial), after the millennium (postmillennial), or whether the millennium is symbolic and has already begun (amillennial)? Do you have any views about the future rapture of believers in relation to the tribulation (pre-tribulation, post-tribulation rapture)? Should these differing views impact and change how we live our lives now?
11. How would you summarize the main point of Revelation in your own words?
12. Why is this such an important an encouraging reminder: “Salvation and glory and power belong to our God, for his judgments are true and just” (Revelation 19:1–2)?
13. What gets you excited about New Jerusalem (Heaven) described in Revelation 21-22? What descriptions stood out to you? How is it similar to the Garden of Eden? How is it better?
14. If you were watching a movie, would you fast forward to the end to see how it finishes? If you might do this, in what cases would you do this? Why? Why do you think God gives us all of these details about how His story finishes? How did this give hope to the first century churches? How does this help us now?
15. Consider Isaiah 65:17 “For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth, and the former things shall not be remembered or come into mind.” and Revelation 21:5 “Behold, I am making all things new.” Why do you think God does this? How does

this get you excited? Make you marvel at the greatness of God?

16. Sometimes people think of heaven more as a reunion with deceased loved ones than they do of being in the presence of God. Why is this so? How does Revelation 21:3 summarize the purpose and reality of Heaven? “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God.” Why is this so much more incredible than being with deceased loved ones? How amazing is it to you that God always keeps His promises?

General Discussion Questions

- *Context Questions:* Who is writing this? Who is it being written to? When? Why? What type of writing is this? How does this matter to my understanding of the meaning of these chapters?
- *Application Questions:* How do you need to respond to and apply these truths to your life? (Is there a sin to avoid? A command to obey? An example to follow? A prayer to offer? A truth to remember or memorize? An attitude to change? A teaching to share?)

Appendix of Resources

Here are some of my favorite Bible study resources I think you'll find helpful!

Top Children's Bibles

www.trustworthyword.com/childrens-bibles

[The Beginner's Bible: Timeless Children's Stories](#)

- One of the most popular story Bibles for younger children.

[The Big Picture Story Bible](#) – by David R. Helm and Gail Schoonmaker

- Beautiful illustrations for young children.

[Bible Storybook from The Bible App & YouVersion](#)

- Excellent for toddlers through early elementary. Images connect well with the free interactive Bible app that young children will love.

[The One Year Children's Bible](#) – by Rhona Davies

- Perfect for elementary school age children and a wonderful length for family devotional time. One for every day of the year.

[Foundations for Kids: A 260-day Bible Reading Plan for Kids](#) - by Robby Gallaty

- A workbook-style approach that engages elementary school age children well as they journey through each of the 260 chapters of the New Testament.

[It's All About Jesus Bible Storybook \(padded\):
100 Bible Stories \(One Big Story\)](#)

- 100 of the most important stories of the Bible with a free interactive app. Great for elementary school age and family devotional times.

[The Jesus Storybook Bible: Every Story
Whispers His Name](#) – by Sally Lloyd-Jones

- A good fit for older element through high school (and helpful for adults too) to piece together the 44 most important stories of the Bible in a simple and flowing format.

[The One Year Children's Bible for Kids –
Challenge Edition](#) – by Tyndale Publishers

- Perfect for middle and high school students. Requires about one page a day of reading that takes readers through the most biblical significant passages.

[Cornerstones - 200 Questions & Answers to
Learn Truth](#) – by Brian Dembowczyk

- A simple question and answer format to the most important truths of the Christian faith. Great for all ages. A more in-depth parent guide is available that would be a good fit for a year-long small group study.

Best Bible Apps for Kids

www.trustworthyword.com/childrens-bible-apps

Children's Bibles

- **Bible for Kids** (FREE) - LifeChurch.TV ,
YouVersion
- *BEST FREE Children's Bible App!!!*
- **The Beginner's Bible** (some is free, but totals \$19.99 for everything) - HarperCollins Christian Publishing
- *BEST PAID Children's Bible App!!!*
- **Bible.is KIDZ** (FREE) - Faith Comes by Hearing -
Listen. See. Grow.
- **God's Love: A Bible Storybook** (\$0.99) - Positive
Action for Christ

Bible Verse Memory

- **God's Word: Hide It!** (FREE) - Kingdom Media,
LLC
- **Verses - Bible Memory** (\$3.99-\$6.99 depending on
translation) Verses, Ltd. Co. (under iPhone apps)

Bible Trivia

- **Superbook Bible Trivia Game** (FREE) - The
Christian Broadcasting Network
- **Scripture Champion** (FREE) - Kingdom Media LLC

Bible Songs

- **Cubbies Bible Verse Music:** Sing Along with Scripture Songs from AWANA - Kingdom Media (\$7.99 for all songs)
- **Bible Songs: Sing Along with Noah and other Bible Heroes for Children** (\$9.98 for all songs) - Kingdom Media
- **GarageBand** (FREE) - Apple (to play along with Christian music)

Various Bible Apps

- **Got Questions?** (FREE) Got Questions Ministries
- **Superbook Kid's Bible, Videos, and Games** (FREE - videos can be downloaded if you are a subscriber) - The Christian Broadcasting Network
- *Best Bible Video Series for Kids!!*
- Subscribe at:
<https://www.cbn.com/giving/special/sbdvdclub.aspx>
- **Owlegories** (FREE - full videos can be purchased) - Spy House, LLC

Bibles for All Ages

- **ESV Study Bible** (\$17.99) - Crossway
- *BEST PAID Study Bible*
- Also get as an in-app purchase within the ESV Bible
- **Gideons** (FREE) - Faith Comes by Hearing
- *BEST FREE Audio Bible*
- Also can get through Bible.is App
- Multiple languages to read or listen!

- **YouVersion Bible** (FREE) - LifeChurch.TV ,
YouVersion
- #1 Rated and Downloaded Bible App

Bible Characters

- **4soils.com** has a collection of Bible Characters apps
(a few are free, but most have various prices with
bundled prices having the most value) - Kingdom
Media
- Life of Jesus Bundle, Miracles of Jesus bundle,
Parables of Jesus bundle, Bible Heroes bundle,
Esther, David, Joseph, Noah, Jonah, Daniel

Fun Ideas on How to Use Children's Bible Apps

1. **Trivia Contest:** Pair up or have a group competition using a trivia app!
2. **Bible Verse Lookup:** Have a race to see who can find a verse first!
3. **Character Discovery:** Challenge your child to find a particular character or story on the SuperBook or another app.
4. **Scripture Artwork:** Use an app to draw out a Scripture or color a story activity.
5. **Music Play Along:** Use GarageBand to play instruments & sing a song or hymn.
6. **Find and Listen:** Use Bible.is KIDZ or ESV Study Bible to play the Bible out loud.
7. **Bible Memory:** Memorize a verse for a prize using an app to help!
8. **Got Questions:** Find some challenging and interesting questions with Bible answers!
9. **Sing Along:** Sing loud and proud as you place a Bible song!
10. **Church Happenings Exploration:** Use your church's app to explore activities.
11. **Language Lookup:** Use the Gideons app to read a Bible verse in another language.

12. Verse Connections: Use the ESV Study Bible to use notes to find corresponding verses or Bible references.

Top One Year Bibles

www.trustworthyword.com/one-year-bibles

The One Year Bible – by Tyndale House Publishers

- One of the most popular approaches to reading the entire Bible in a year. A digital version can be found in the YouVersion Bible app as well. Various translations are available as well.

The One Year Bible Companion – by Tyndale House Publishers

- This companion book offers answers to some of the most common questions that come along with your daily readings.

The One Year Chronological Bible – by Tyndale House Publishers

- This chronological approach helpfully guides you through parallel passages in a smooth, easy-to-use format. If you've never read the Bible chronologically this is the easiest way to start.

Reading God's Story: A Chronological Daily Bible and Reader's Guide to the Bible: A Chronological Bible Reading Plan – by George Guthrie

- A 52-week chronological Bible coupled with a commentary guide and small group discussion questions.

The YouVersion Bible App –

www.youversion.com

- Installed on over 500 million devices, has numerous reading plans, translations, and audio bibles.

Faith Comes by Hearing Bible App -

www.bible.is

- The best audio Bible app and website available for free listening to the Bible.

How Can I Become a Christian?

www.trustworthyword.com/how-can-i-become-a-christian

1. Understand and believe that God is the Creator of the Universe

God created us and has authority over us.

- Colossians 1:16-17 "For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. 17 And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together."
- Hebrews 11:3 "By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible."

We will give an answer for our lives.

- Hebrews 9:27 "And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment"
- Hebrews 4:13 "And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account."

2. Acknowledge and confess your sinfulness

God's Commandments are His perfect standard of Holiness.

- Romans 3:19-20 "Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. 20 For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin."
- Romans 3:23 "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God"
- James 2:10 "For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it."

Admit that you are not good. Turn away from you sin and turn towards Christ.

- Psalm 32:5 "I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity; I said, 'I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,' and you forgave the iniquity of my sin."
- Romans 3:10-12 "None is righteous, no, not one; [11] no one understands; no one seeks for God. [12] All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one."

- 1 John 1:9-10 “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. [10] If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.”

3. Believe that Jesus died on the cross and rose from the grave

Realize that Salvation is by Faith (trusting in Jesus, loving and valuing Him more than anyone or anything) and not by works.

- Romans 6:23 "For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."
- Ephesians 2:8-9 "For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, 9 not a result of works, so that no one may boast."
- Mark 12:28-31 "And one of the scribes came up and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, asked him, 'Which commandment is the most important of all?' [29] Jesus answered, "The most important is, 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. [30] And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' [31] The second is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these."

Affirm that Jesus is God and is the Only Way of Salvation. Salvation is not possible by obedience in Judaism, not through Mohammed's revelation of Allah (Islam), not through Buddhism or Hinduism, not by good works or a specific church/denomination (Catholicism),

and not through Jehovah's Witnesses or Mormonism. Salvation is only available through Jesus.

- John 14:6 "Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.'"
- Acts 4:12 "And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."
- 1 John 2:23 "No one who denies the Son has the Father. Whoever confesses the Son has the Father also."

4. Call out to Jesus in prayer to be in charge of your life

Publicly place your trust and faith in Him.

- Acts 16:30-31 Then he brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" [31] And they said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household."
- Romans 10:9-10 "if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. [10] For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved."
- Romans 10:13 "For 'everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.'"

Submit and yield to His Lordship. Let Him be in control of your life.

- Acts 2:37-38 “Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, ‘Brothers, what shall we do?’ [38] And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.
- Matthew 16:24-26 “Then Jesus told his disciples, ‘If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. [25] For whoever would save his life(1) will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. [26] For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul?’”

Now What? If you have chosen to believe that Jesus Christ is God, died on the cross, and rose from the grave and have truly yielded control of your life to Him, you are a Christian and follower of Jesus. *Here is what to do next...*

Walk with Jesus in Fellowship with Other Believers
Proclaim Christ's Lordship over your life through Baptism

- Acts 2:38 "And Peter said to them, 'Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.'"

See “What does the Bible say about Baptism?” on TrustworthyWord.com

- www.trustworthyword.com/what-does-the-bible-say-about-baptism

Read your Bible to grow in your knowledge and love of Christ

See “How to Study the Bible?” on TrustworthyWord.com

- www.trustworthyword.com/how-to-study-the-bible

Pray consistently and daily to relate more with Jesus

See “What Does the Bible Say God is Like?” and “What Does the Bible Say about Christian Identity?” on TrustworthyWord.com

- www.trustworthyword.com/what-does-the-bible-say-god-is-like
- www.trustworthyword.com/what-does-the-bible-say-about-christian-identity

Connect with a biblically faithful church family

- Hebrews 10:25-26 "And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, 25 not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near."

See “What Does the Bible Say about Church Membership?” on TrustworthyWord.com

- www.trustworthyword.com/what-does-the-bible-say-about-church-membership

Speak and Demonstrate God's Love

- Ephesians 2:10 "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them." See "What Does the Bible Say about Love?" on TrustworthyWord.com
- www.trustworthyword.com/what-does-the-bible-say-about-love

Listen to and Obey God's Commands

- Hebrews 10:26-27 "For if we go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, 27 but a fearful expectation of judgment, and a fury of fire that will consume the adversaries."
- 1 Peter 1:15-16 "but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, 16 since it is written, 'You shall be holy, for I am holy.'" See "What Does the Bible Say about Sin?" and "What Does the Bible Say about Sanctification?" on TrustworthyWord.com
- www.trustworthyword.com/what-does-the-bible-say-about-sin
- www.trustworthyword.com/what-does-the-bible-say-about-sanctification

Common Objections to the Gospel

1. What about people who've never heard about Jesus? Will they go to Hell?

What about other religions: Muslims, Buddhists, Hindus, and tribal religions? A person doesn't go to Hell for failing to hear the Gospel, they go to hell for failing to obey God's law. Consider if a man jumped out of a plane without a parachute. He doesn't die primarily because he doesn't have a parachute. The reason he dies is because he violates the law of gravity...which brings him to his death. If a person dies without Christ, it is because he has transgressed the law of God...ignorance is not excuse. If we really care about those who have not heard about Jesus, we need to first come to Christ, and take His name, the only name which offers hope of salvation....to the ends of the earth.

2. My god is a god of love and forgiveness who doesn't send someone to hell.

This is an example of idolatry...a violation of the 2nd commandment. Crafting a god of our own imagination, in our own image, or a god we are comfortable with. We cannot separate God's justice from God's love. He does judge the wicked and the immoral by their transgression of the law, and their sentence is eternal death and suffering in a very real Hell. This same God, we learn from Romans 5:8, loved us so much, that while we were still rebels and enemies, sent His son to die for us.

3. Why is there so much suffering?

We all go through suffering. All of us have been hurt by the sinfulness of others, the consequences of living in a fallen world, and by our own sinfulness. We need to have faith in God, knowing and trusting that He is in control, and that His good plan includes an eternal rescue from sin, suffering, and death. It is good to ask these deep questions. I would recommend

www.gotquestions.org to dig deeply into this question and other similarly tough questions. Ultimately God sent this message here today to help save you from eternal suffering. This is God's love.

4. I'm already saved.

God tells us to test ourselves to see if we are in the faith. Have our lives changed? Do we desire to hear God's voice through the Bible? Are we obedient to God's commands? Do we see the fruits of God's Spirit (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control) in our lives? (Galatians 5:22-24) Or do we see the works of the flesh in our lives (sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these)? (Galatians 5:19-21) Do we desperately seek Him in prayer? Do we see righteousness being produced by God in our lives? Are we quick to forgive? Do we love others?

SEE "How Can I Be Sure I Am a Christian?" (the next chapter) or on TrustworthyWord.com @

- www.trustworthyword.com/how-can-i-be-sure-im-a-christian

When you see a doctor and you are sick, what does he do? He assess the symptoms, shoots straight with you, and tells you about your disease and any possible cures. The Bible clearly speaks to any symptoms of ongoing, unrepentant sin in our lives. Matthew 7:21 “I never knew you.” Test yourselves.

5. I don't believe in God.

Just because we don't believe something doesn't make it disappear. Put on a blindfold and stand in front of a large truck on a highway, saying I don't believe the truck exists. I know there is no such thing as an atheist. No such thing as an atheist at 25,000 ft in crazy turbulence. Look at a painting, do you say, look what coincidentally formed by chance over a ridiculously long period of time? No. You see a painting. You know there is a painter. You see a building, you know there is a builder. You see the Creation and you know there is a Creator.

6. I don't believe the Bible is God's Word.

You are right the Bible was written by men. When you write a letter, do you write, or does the pen? Men are God's instruments to write the Bible. The Bible is the most accurate piece of literature in all of history...scientifically, historically, prophetically, archaeologically, and documentary or manuscript evidence. Find an error. We've searched. We can't find any.

7. I confess my sins and say I'm sorry all the time.

Consider civil law. If someone is guilty of a serious crime, when they come to trial, if they just say "I'm sorry" to the judge, do you think he'll just let her go? That's not fair. Only a corrupt or unrighteous judge would let a guilty person free without a penalty. The law has been broken. Justice demands a punishment. We can't just say we are sorry. We can't be "good enough" to overcome our crimes. We need Jesus to pay for the penalty for our sin.

8. I've lied, but that doesn't make me a bad person.

On moral issues...it only takes one commission of a crime to be labeled a criminal. One murder = a murderer. One lie = liar. One theft = a thief. One lust = adulterer. It is human nature to trivialize sin, but sin is serious. God tells us in James 2:10 that anyone who is guilty of one sin is guilty of all sin.

9. Christianity is narrow-minded.

The Bible is clear that there is only one way. Jesus says in John 14:6, "I am the way and the truth and the life, no one comes to the Father except through me." In Acts 4:12 we learn that there is only one "name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved." I you don't have the Son, don't have the Father. You're right, without Jesus, no hope for your transgression of the law. Jesus has the power to forgive sins...He openly offers

that exclusive path to salvation to all who hear...would you reject Him? Put your faith in Him?

10. I don't agree with you.

No one knows when they will face death. Did you know that 150,000 people die every 24 hours? That is not a scare tactic, that is reality. And after death there is guaranteed judgment. Jesus speaks of the rich man and Lazarus, the rich man who is in Hell becomes desperate to tell his family about Jesus. Read Romans 2:4 – We plead with you to realize you are storing up wrath for yourself for the day of judgment...don't presume upon God's patience and kindness. Get right with the Lord. Consider our motives...we just want you to know and love Jesus and find eternal life. Paul in Romans 9 explains that he wishes he could sacrifice his own salvation for the salvation of someone else...but it doesn't work that way. You must decide.

THE BOTTOM LINE? There is no good objection for failing to follow Christ as your Lord. Do you have a good reason for putting Him off any longer?

Check out these resources for more answers!

- needgod.com
- gotquestions.org

How Can I Be Sure I Am a Christian?

www.trustworthyword.com/how-can-i-be-sure-im-a-christian

“Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?— unless indeed you fail to meet the test!” 2
Corinthians 13:5 (ESV)

1. Did a work start in you?

- if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. (Romans 10:9)
- And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. (Philippians 1:6)

2. Have you experienced God’s Spirit in you?

- In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire

possession of it, to the praise of his glory. (Ephesians 1:13-14)

3. Is there fruit of God's Spirit growing in you? (Read the book of 1 John)

1. Do you enjoy having fellowship w/Christ & Christians? ([1 John 1:3](#))
2. Would people say you walk in the light or darkness? ([1 John 1:6-7](#))
3. Do you admit and confess your sin? ([1 John 1:8](#))
4. Are you obedient to God's Word? ([1 John 2:3-5](#))
5. Does your life indicate you love God or the world? ([1 John 2:15](#))
6. Is your life characterized by "doing what is right"? ([1 John 2:29](#))
7. Do you seek to maintain a pure life? ([1 John 3:3](#))
8. Do you see a decreasing pattern of sin in your life? ([1 John 3:5-6](#)) [i.e. not continuing in sin as a way of life, not a total absence of sin.]
9. Do you demonstrate love for other Christians? ([1 John 3:14](#))
10. Do you "walk the walk," vs just "talking the talk"? ([1Jn 3:18-19](#))
11. Do you maintain a clear conscience? ([1 John 3:21](#))
12. Do you experience victory in your Christian walk? ([1 John 5:4](#))

4. Do you endure in the faith?

- They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us. But they went out, that it might become plain that they all are not of us. (1 John 2:19)

Works of the Flesh

vs.

Fruits of the Spirit: What best describes you?

The “works of the flesh” are evidence for unbelief and an eternity in Hell.

The “fruit of the Spirit” evidences God’s saving work and eternity with Christ. (Galatians 5:16-24)

[19] Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, [20] idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, [21] envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

VS.

[22] But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, [23] gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. [24] And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

***Parable of the Sower:
What category of “soil” best describes
your response to the good news about
Jesus?***

(Matthew 13:19-23 ESV)

1. [19] When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is what was sown along the path.
2. [20] As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, [21] yet he has no root in himself, but endures for a while, and when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately he falls away.
3. [22] As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it proves unfruitful.

*Only the fourth ("good") soil below describes a genuine
Christian.*

4. [23] As for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it. He indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.

Do You See These Three Characteristics in Your Life?

*The Book of 1 John Helps Us to See Characteristics of
Truly Converted and Saved Souls.*

“I write these things to you who believe in the name of
the Son of God that you may know that you have
eternal life.” (1 John 5:13)

1. Obedience to God's Commands?

- If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. (1 John 1:6)
- Whoever says “I know him” but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may know that we are in him: whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked. (1 John 2:4-6)
- If one turns away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer is an abomination. (Proverbs 28:9)
- No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or known him. (1 John 3:6)
- By this it is evident who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is the one who does not love his brother. (1 John 3:10)

- For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome. (1 John 5:3)

2. Forgiveness?

- Whoever says he is in the light and hates his brother is still in darkness. (1 John 2:9)
- For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses. (Matt 6:14-15)

3. Love?

- If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. (1 John 2:15)
- No one who denies the Son has the Father. (1 John 2:23)
- But if anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for members of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever. (1 Timothy 5:8)
- Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. (1 John 4:8)

Evidence for Jesus

www.trustworthyword.com/evidence-for-jesus

Was Jesus' Life, Death, & Deity Real?

INTERNAL EVIDENCE

(inside the Bible)

Attests to Jesus' Deity, Existence & Death

Scriptural Consistency, Prophetic Claims, Eyewitness Accounts, Internal Consistency, Corroborating & Circumstantial Evidence Archaeological Congruence & Evidence, Scientific Evidence, Jesus' Claims of Deity, Disciples Claims of Deity Jesus Predicts His Death & Resurrection – Mk 8:31-33, 9:30-32; Mt 20:17-19

Prophecies and Fulfillment of Christ

1. Offspring of a Woman – Genesis 3:15, Luke 2:7, Revelation 12:5
2. Offspring of Abraham – Genesis 18:18, Acts 3:25, Matthew 1:1, Luke 3:34
3. Offspring of Isaac – Genesis 17:19, Matthew 1:2, Luke 3:34
4. Offspring of Jacob – Numbers 24:17, Genesis 28:14, Luke 3:34, Matthew 1:2
5. Descended from the Tribe of Judah – Genesis 49:10, Luke 3:33, Matthew 1:2-3
6. Heir to the Throne of David – Isaiah 9:7, 11:1-5, 2 Samuel 7:13, Jeremiah 23:5, Matt 1:1,6, Luke 1:32-33

7. Born in Bethlehem – Micah 5:2, Matthew 2:1, Luke 2:4-7
8. Time of Birth – Daniel 9:25, Luke 2:1-2, 2:3-7
9. Born of a Virgin – Isaiah 7:14, Matthew 1:18, Luke 1:26-35
10. Slaughter of Infants – Jeremiah 31:15, Matthew 2:16-18
11. Escape into Egypt – Hosea 11:1, Matthew 2:14-15
12. A PROPHET, LIKE MOSES – Deuteronomy 18:15, John 1:45, 16:15, Acts 3:19-26
13. Ministry in Galilee – Isaiah 9:1-2, Matthew 4:12-16
14. Priest Like Melchizedek – Psalm 110:4, Zechariah 6:12-13, Hebrews 6:20, 5:5-6, 7:15-17
15. Rejected by Jews – Isaiah 53:3, Psalm 2:2, John 1:11, 5:43, Luke 4:29, 17:25
16. Characteristics – Isaiah 11:2, Psalm 45:7, Luke 2:52, 4:18
17. Triumphant Entry – Zechariah 9:9, Isaiah 62:11, John 12:13-14, Matthew 21:1-11
18. Betrayed by a Friend – Psalm 41:9, Mark 14:10
19. Sold for 30 Pieces of Silver, Potter's Field – Zechariah 11:12-13, Matthew 26:15, 27:6-7
20. Judas' Position Replaced – Psalm 109:7, Acts 1:18-20
21. False Witnesses' Accused Him – Psalm 27:12, Matthew 26:60-61
22. Silent When Accused – Isaiah 53:5, Matthew 26:62-63
23. Struck and Spit Upon – Isaiah 50:6, Mark 14:65
24. Hated Without Cause – Psalm 69:4, John 15:23
25. Suffered Vicariously – Isaiah 53:4, Matthew 8:16-17
26. Hands and Feet Pierced – Psalm 22:16, John 20:27

“I am trying here to prevent anyone saying the really foolish thing that people often say about Him: I’m ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don’t accept his claim to be God.

That is the one thing we must not say. A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic — on the level with the man who says he is a poached egg — or else he would be the Devil of Hell.

You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God, or else a madman or something worse. You can shut him up for a fool, you can spit at him and kill him as a demon or you can fall at his feet and call him Lord and God, but let us not come with any patronizing nonsense about his being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to.”

- C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*

“The Bible was written over a span of 1500 years by forty different human authors in three different languages (Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek), on hundreds of subjects. And yet there is one consistent, non-contradictory theme that runs through it all: *God’s redemption of humankind.*”

Hank Hanegraaff in “Bible Reliability”

www.equip.org/articles/bible-reliability-m-a-p-s-to-guide-you-through-bible-reliability

Is Jesus Really God's Son?

Whoever speaks the truth gives honest evidence, but a false witness utters deceit. (Proverbs 12:17 ESV)

If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied. (1 Corinthians 15:19 ESV)

but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, (1 Peter 3:15 ESV)

1. Baptism – Mark 1:9-11
2. I AM Statements – Mark 14:62, John 4:26, 8:58, 18:6, Exodus 3:14, Isaiah 4:45
3. Immanuel – Matthew 1:23
4. See God – Matthew 5:8
5. Seen Me, Seen Father – John 14:7
6. Image of the Invisible God – John 1, Col 1:15-16
7. Father and I Are One – John 10:30
8. Alpha and Omega, Beginning and the End – Revelation 1:8, 22:20
9. Making Self Equal with God – John 5:18
10. Shares God's Glory – John 17:5-6
11. He Is the New Temple – John 2:18-19
12. He Is the Law Giver – Matthew 5-7
13. Great High Priest – Hebrews 4:14

Was Jesus More Than Just a Good Man?

1. Virgin Birth – Matthew 1:18, Luke 1:26-35
2. Fulfillment of Prophecies – Ps 22, Isaiah 53:1-12
3. Angels Worship Him – Hebrews 1:6

4. Reception of Worship – John 9:38, 20:28
5. Transfiguration – Matthew 17:1-13
6. Claim of Disciples – John 20:28-29 – Thomas
7. Without Sin – Hebrews 4:15
8. Forgives Sin – John 9:2-6
9. Raising Others from the Dead – John 11:1-46
10. Resurrection and Ascension – Mt 28:1-15, Acts 1:4-11, Luke 23 & 24

EXTERNAL EVIDENCE

(outside the Bible)

Attests to Jesus' Deity, Existence & Death

Manuscript & Bibliographical Evidence, Eyewitness
Accounts, Corroborating & Circumstantial Evidence,
Archaeological Evidence, & Scientific Evidence

Below quotes from: Paul Maier in *Did Jesus Really
Exist?* & *Joseph and Josephus* www.4truth.net ,also: *The
Case for the Real Jesus* by: Lee Strobel

**“there is more evidence that Jesus of Nazareth
certainly lived than for most famous figures of the
ancient past” Paul L. Maier, The Russell H. Seibert
Professor of Ancient History, Western Michigan
University**

The Manuscript & Bibliographical Evidence: Ancient Works vs. Bible

Author	Work	Date Written	Earliest Manuscripts	Time Gap	Number of Manuscripts
Homer	<i>Iliad</i>	800 BC	c. 400 BC	400	1,757
Herodotus	<i>History</i>	480–425 BC	10th C	1,350	109
Sophocles	Plays	496–406 BC	3rd C BC	100–200	193
Plato	Tetralogies	400 BC	895	1,300	210
Caesar	<i>Galic Wars</i>	100–44 BC	9th C	950	251
Livy	<i>History of Rome</i>	59 BC–AD 17	Early 5th C	400	150
Tacitus	<i>Annals</i>	AD 100	1st half: 850, 2nd: 1050 (AD 1100)	750–950	2 + 31 15 th C
Pliny, the Elder	<i>Natural History</i>	AD 49–79	5th C fragment: 1; Rem. 14–15th C	400 (750)	200
Thucydides	<i>History</i>	460–400 BC	3rd C BC (AD 900)	200 (1,350)	96
Demosthenes	Speeches	300 BC	Some fragments from 1 C. BC. (AD 1100)	1,100+ (1,400)	340
New Testament		AD 50–100	AD 130 (or less)	40	5,795

NOTE: This does not even show the Old Testament manuscript evidence (Dead Sea Scrolls, Septuagint, Massoretic, etc) or the thousands of other New Testament manuscripts available in other languages and ancient time periods (24,000+ total NT manuscripts, 5795 Greek mss, 8,000–10,000 Latin mss, 8,000 Ethiopic, Slavic & Armenian).

www.equip.org/articles/the-bibliographical-test-updated/#christian-books-2
www.leaderu.com/orgs/probe/docs/bib-docu.html

“We have more than 14,000 manuscripts and fragments of the Old Testament of three main types: (a) approximately 10,000 from the Cairo Geniza (storeroom) find of 1897, dating back as far as about AD. 800; (b) about 190 from the Dead Sea Scrolls find of 1947-1955, the oldest dating back to 250-200 B.C.; and (c) at least 4,314 assorted other copies. The short time between the original Old Testament manuscripts (completed around 400 B.C.) and the first extensive copies (about 250 B.C.) — coupled with the more than 14,000 copies that have been discovered — ensures the trustworthiness of the Old Testament text. The earliest quoted verses (Num. 6:24-26) date from 800-700 B.C.”

www.equip.org/articles/bible-reliability-m-a-p-s-to-guide-you-through-bible-reliability

"The interval, then, between the dates of original composition and the earliest extant evidence becomes so small as to be in fact negligible, and the last foundation for any doubt that the Scriptures have come down to us substantially as they were written has now been removed. Both the authenticity and the general integrity of the books of the New Testament may be regarded as finally established." -Sir Frederic G. Kenyon, *The Bible and Archaeology*, former director and principal librarian of the British Museum

CHRISTIAN HISTORICAL EVIDENCE

Early Church Fathers (ccel.org) all of the early church pastors and leaders establish consistency of the message and personal testimony and witness of the apostles and disciples of Christ

Justin Martyr (early Christian convert): “Born of pagan parents around A.D. 100 in Nablus (between Judea and Galilee), Justin tried and abandoned various philosophical schools until he found in Christianity the one true teaching. As a native of the Holy Land, Justin mentions sites associated with Jesus, such as the Bethlehem grotto in which he was born, and even such details as Jesus working as an apprentice carpenter in the shop of his foster father Joseph, where they specialized in producing such agricultural implements as yokes for oxen and plows.” (Paul Maier in <http://www.4truth.net/fourtruthpbjesus.aspx?pageid=8589952895>)

JEWISH HISTORICAL EVIDENCE

Sacred Jewish Writings spell Jesus' name accurately in Amaraic (the spoken language of the day, "Yeshua Hannotzri"—Joshua (Jesus) of Nazareth), writing of his arrest warrant in the *Mishna* (earliest collection of writings in the *Talmud*) "He shall be stoned because he has practiced sorcery and lured Israel to apostasy. Anyone who can say anything in his favor, let him come forward and plead on his behalf. Anyone who knows where he is, let him declare it to the Great Sanhedrin in Jerusalem."

The Babylonian Talmud (Sanhedrin 43a) "confirms Jesus' crucifixion on the eve of Passover and the accusations against Christ of practicing sorcery and encouraging Jewish apostasy."

Jewish History: Flavius Josephus a famous Jewish historian mentions "Jesus who is called the Christ" twice in his *Jewish Antiquities*. In the second of these, he tells of the death of Jesus' half-brother James the Just of Jerusalem (20:200). In the longest first-century non-biblical reference to Christ, Josephus writes: "At this time there was a wise man called Jesus, and his conduct was good, and he was known to be virtuous. Many people among the Jews and the other nations became his disciples. Pilate condemned him to be crucified and to die. But those who had become his disciples did not abandon his discipleship. They reported that he had appeared to them three days after his crucifixion and that he was alive. Accordingly,

he was perhaps the Messiah, concerning whom the prophets have reported wonders. And the tribe of the Christians, so named after him, has not disappeared to this day.” (18:63)

SECULAR HISTORICAL EVIDENCE

Cornelius Tacitus, “one of the most reliable source historians of first-century Rome, wrote in his *Annals* a year-by-year account of events in the Roman Empire under the early Caesars. Among the highlights that he reports for the year A.D. 64 was the great fire of Rome. People blamed the emperor Nero for this conflagration since it happened ‘on his watch,’ but in order to save himself, Nero switched the blame to ‘the Christians,’ which is the first time they appear in secular history. Careful historian that he was, Tacitus then explains who ‘the Christians’ were: ‘Christus, the founder of the name, had undergone the death penalty in the reign of Tiberius, by sentence of the procurator Pontius Pilatus’ (15:44). He then goes on to report the horrors that were inflicted on the Christians in what became their first Roman persecution.”

“Tacitus, it should be emphasized, was not some Christian historian who was trying to prove that Jesus Christ really lived, but a pagan who despised Christians as a ‘disease,’ a term he uses later in the passage. Had Jesus never even existed, he would have been the first to expose that pathetic phantom on whom such cultists placed their trust. Were no other references to Jesus available, this passage alone would have been sufficient to establish his historicity. Skeptics realize this, and so have tried every imaginable means to discredit this passage—but to no avail. Manuscript analysis and computer studies have never found any reason to call this sentence into question, nor its context.”

Gaius Suetonius Tranquillus also recorded events of the first century in his famous Lives of the Twelve Caesars. He, too, regarded the Christians as a sect "professing a new and mischievous religious belief" (Nero 16) and doubtless cited "Chrestus" (Claudius 25).

Pliny the Younger "was the Roman governor of Bithynia—today, the northwestern corner of Turkey—and about the year 110 he wrote the emperor Trajan (98-117 A.D.), asking what to do about the Christians, a 'wretched cult' whom he mentions eight times in his letter. Christ himself is cited three times, the most famous instance referring to Christians '...who met on a fixed day to chant verses alternately among themselves in honor of Christ, as if to a god...' (Letter No. 96). Trajan's response, interestingly enough, suggests that Christians not be hunted out. (Ibid., No. 97). But again, if Christ were only a mythical character, these hostile sources would have been the first to emblazon that fact in derision."

Below references are from: www.gotquestions.org/did-Jesus-exist.html

Julius Africanus "quotes the historian *Thallus* in a discussion of the darkness which followed the crucifixion of Christ (Extant Writings, 18)."

Lucian of Samosata "was a second-century Greek writer who admits that Jesus was worshiped by Christians, introduced new teachings, and was crucified for them. He said that Jesus' teachings included the brotherhood of believers, the importance of conversion, and the

importance of denying other gods. Christians lived according to Jesus' laws, believed themselves to be immortal, and were characterized by contempt for death, voluntary self-devotion, and renunciation of material goods.”

Mara Bar-Serapion “confirms that Jesus was thought to be a wise and virtuous man, was considered by many to be the king of Israel, was put to death by the Jews, and lived on in the teachings of His followers.”

“Then we have all the *Gnostic writings* (The Gospel of Truth, The Apocryphon of John, The Gospel of Thomas, The Treatise on Resurrection, etc.) that all mention Jesus. ... In fact, *we can almost reconstruct the gospel just from early non-Christian sources*: Jesus was called the Christ (Josephus), did “magic,” led Israel into new teachings, and was hanged on Passover for them (Babylonian Talmud) in Judea (Tacitus), but claimed to be God and would return (Eliezar), which his followers believed, worshiping Him as God (Pliny the Younger).”

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVIDENCE

www.bibleplaces.com – photographs & descriptions of archaeological sites that evidence and corroborate the Bible

www.blog.bibleplaces.com – ongoing discoveries and archaeological updates

“TOP TEN BIBLICAL ARCHAEOLOGY DISCOVERIES”

from the Biblical Archeology Society by James Brashler, Jane Cahill West, Ze’ev Meshel, John Monson, Hershel Shanks, Suzanne F. Singer, Lawrence E. Stager, James F. Strange

(Available from www.biblicalarchaeology.org/free-ebooks)

1. The Nag Hammadi Library - Codices Shed New Light on Early Christian History
2. The New ‘Ain Dara Temple: Closest Solomonic Parallel
3. The Tel Dan (“David”) Stela
4. Mona Lisa of the Galilee
5. “Yahweh and His Asherah” The Kuntillet ‘Ajrud Ostraca
6. St. Peter’s House: Has the House Where Jesus Stayed in Capernaum Been Found?
7. The Siloam Pool: Where Jesus Cured the Blind Man
8. Ashkelon’s Arched Gate: When Canaanites and Philistines Ruled Ashkelon
9. Jerusalem’s Stepped-Stone Structure: Jerusalem in David and Solomon’s Time

10. Jerusalem's Babylonian Siege Tower: Remains of the Babylonian Siege

More Amazing Archaeological Discoveries

A Common Flood Story, The Code of Hammurabi, The Nuzi Tablets, The Existence of Hittites, The Merneptah Stele, Biblical Cities Attested Archaeologically, Shishak's Invasion of Judah, The Moabite Stone, Obelisk of Shalmaneser III, Burial Plaque of King Uzziah, Hezekiah's Siloam Tunnel Inscription, The Sennacherib Prism, The Cylinder of Cyrus the Great
(Available from: <http://www.equip.org/articles/biblical-archaeology-factual-evidence-to-support-the-historicity-of-the-bible/>)

RESOURCES FOR FUTURE STUDY

What does God say through the Bible?

www.gotquestions.org – almost 400,000 answers to life, spiritual, and Bible questions.

Is Christianity True?

- *I Don't Have Enough Faith to be an Atheist* – by Norman Geisler and Frank Turek, shows how there is more evidence for Christianity than evolution/naturalism
- *The Case for Christ* – by Lee Strobel – simply explains much of the evidence for Christianity
- *Scientific Facts in the Bible: 100 Reasons to Believe the Bible is Supernatural in Origin* by Ray Comfort
- *The New Evidence that Demands a Verdict* by Josh McDowell

Creation vs. Evolution

- www.evolutionvsGod.com – A 38-minute video, with over 1.7 million views, of interviews with atheist professors and scholars concerning their beliefs in evolution.
- www.answersingenesis.org - Provides answers to questions about the Bible regarding issues such as creation, evolution, science, and the age of the earth
- www.reasons.org - explains scientific discoveries and shows how they continue to evidence the truthfulness of Scripture

- *Where the Conflict Really Lies: Science, Religion & Naturalism* by Alvin Plantinga

Archaeological Evidence

www.bibleplaces.com – www.blog.bibleplaces.com -
www.biblicalarchaeology.org/free-ebooks

Comparison of Christianity with other World Religions

www.4truth.net – A reasoned approach to Christianity

Additional Resources

- *Life's Ultimate Questions: An Introduction to Philosophy* by Ronald H. Nash
- *Reasonable Faith: Christian Truth and Apologetics* by William Lane Craig
- *Who Made God? And Answers to Over 100 Other Tough Questions of Faith* by Ravi Zacharias and Norman Geisler
- *Reasons for Faith: Making a Case for the Christian Faith* Norman L. Geisler

How to Study Your Bible

www.trustworthyword.com/how-to-study-the-bible

10 Reasons to Read and Study the Bible

1. **Encounter God** - The Bible is where we meet God and hear His voice and truth!
2. **Know God** - We don't just seek to know about God, but to relate to and grow in love for Him.
3. **Glorify God** - We desire to grow in holiness and imitation of Christ in order to honor God.
4. **Experience God's Past Work** - We learn from God's revealed historical work among humanity.
5. **Understand God's Present Work** - We hear how God desires to work in & through us today.
6. **Look Forward to God's Future Work** - We trust in His promised future return and work.
7. **Protect from Satan's Attacks** - We remember our real enemy in Satan, his demons, the world, and our flesh and are reminded that His truth is a spiritual weapon of offense and defense.
8. **Share True Hope with Others** - We evangelistically speak God's hope, love, and Gospel truth.
9. **Live Life According to God's Wisdom** - We submit to our Father's loving instruction for life
10. **Obedience** - God has commanded us to listen and obey His voice through the Bible.

10 Ways to Read the Bible

As you seek to read the Bible, ensure to prioritize time to take the Bible for study and meditation: understanding, absorbing, internalizing, memorizing, and applying the Scriptures.

- 1. Through the Bible** - Read the whole Bible from beginning to end or in some other order!
 - Try about.esvbible.org/resources/reading/ or www.biblestudytools.com/bible-reading-plan/
- 2. New Testament** - If you read a chapter per weekday, you can read the whole Bible in a year
- 3. Proverbs** - There are 31 Proverbs, so seek to read the one corresponding to the calendar day (i.e. read Proverbs 17 on the 17th day of the month, Proverbs 18 on 18th day of the month, etc.).
- 4. Psalms** - There are 150 Psalms, so choose a Psalm each day to help guide your prayers (i.e. on the 17th day of the month select either Psalm 17, 47, 77, 107, or 137 to read and instruct you in prayer).
 - See *Don Whitney's* [Praying the Bible](#)
- 5. Read slowly through Romans** - Go deeper and digest and study theology.
 - Use a resource like Wayne Grudem's [Christian Beliefs](#) or [Systematic Theology](#) to help you!

6. **Pick a single Bible book to read** – (i.e. John to learn the basics of Jesus’ life and death. James or Proverbs to know and apply God’s wisdom. 1 John to check and ensure you are a believer.) The Bible Project has amazing Bible-book approach video resources that you won’t want to miss: www.bibleproject.com

7. **Subscribe to a faithful devotional aid to compliment your Bible reading**
 - Try www.biblestudytools.com/devotionals

8. **Study a character. Search and read wherever their name appears.**
 - Check out [The Baker Encyclopedia of Bible People](#)

9. **Study a place. Search and read wherever that place is mentioned.**
 - Check out www.bibleplaces.com/sites for some incredible descriptions and pictures!

10. **Study a topic. Search and learn about what God teaches about key issues.**
 - Check out GotQuestions.org

Important Bible Study Questions

Where did the Bible come from? What is the Bible?

The Bible was spoken and revealed from God into the hearts of men that the Scriptures might be written and shared among God's children. Some of these writings are historical descriptions, prophetic writings, poetry and songs, wisdom, and letters. Although written by the hands of men, these writings were not written by the will of man, but were inspired and given by the power and will of God's Spirit. The Bible is the specific revelation by God about Himself, His work, and His plan for all of humanity so that we may love, trust, and obey Him. The whole Bible is breathed out by God, to make His people wise for salvation and to equip His people to lovingly teach, train, correct, and confront with God's truths (2 Timothy 3:10-17)

"And we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts, 20 knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. 21 For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit." 2 Peter 1:19-21

"For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty." 2 Peter 1:16

"The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things that are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law."

Deuteronomy 29:29

Can we expect more books to be discovered or added to the Bible?

No. God has clearly spoken in the Scriptures and across early church history such that the current collection of recognized biblical books (canon) is complete. This process of recognizing the words of God comes through the recognition of the authorship as a biblical prophets or apostle, the self-attestation of the book within the Scriptures themselves, and their continuity with other books of the Bible.

Does the Bible have errors?

The original writings (autographs) have no errors at all. The ancient copies (manuscripts) we possess have small differences between them. These differences have primarily arisen from those who were copying and translating them. These differences have been recognized, described and corrected via a modern day comparison of the thousands of manuscripts to produce reliable Hebrew (Old Testament) and Greek (New Testament) compilations that have been reliably translated into many languages. None of the manuscript differences affect or speak to major theological issues but are most commonly mere grammatical issues. Comprehensive resources are available to explain the

process of translation and decisions made concerning the compilation of manuscripts.

Is the Bible trustworthy?

Yes. The Bible shows its own trustworthiness through its self-attestation in the lives of believers and its internal consistency over thousands of years at the hands of many writers. The Bible is clearly seen to be the most accurate book in all of human history through archaeological, historical, scientific, and documentary evidence. The biblical content clearly reveals that its author is God Himself. The Bible has the most and best manuscript evidence, seen in its thousands of copies that were written soon after its original writing and discovered in a multiplicity of geographic locations. No literary work in all of human history is comparable to the trustworthiness of the Bible.

"He must hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to rebuke those who contradict it." Titus 1:9

"For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. 13 And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account."
Hebrews 4:12-13

"The law of your mouth is better to me than thousands of gold and silver pieces." Psalm 119:72

Is the KJV the best translation?

The King James Version (KJV) of the Bible is a good translation of the Bible. When it was written only a few manuscripts had been discovered, which limited the scope and accuracy of its translation. Since its translation hundreds of years ago, many additional archaeological discoveries have been made which provided thousands of more trustworthy manuscripts in the twentieth century. Many modern day translations have been written since the KJV translation, providing plenty of accurate biblical translations. Many people prefer the KJV because of their personal familiarity with it. Many others struggle with the KJV since it uses Old English, a language that is antiquated, no longer spoken, and difficult for many modern day English speakers to understand.

Many teachers give the false impression that the KJV is the only accurate Bible to be used. This is a touchy issue, one which must be handled with great care and humility. Such teachers may have genuine motives in preventing any corruption of the Biblical translations, but such opinions are often rooted in human pride and personal ignorance of the translation process and manuscript evidence. Those who prefer the KJV have the joy of continuing in their freedom of this preference but must humbly encourage and accept the fact than many prefer translations based on a more comprehensive collection of biblical manuscripts and translated into the common languages of the day.

Suggested book: [The King James Only Controversy by James White](#)

Why are there so many translations?

When translating the Bible, the translators must make decisions to translate either literally with a word for word approach (formal) or with a thought for thought approach (dynamic equivalence). These two approaches are both accurate and helpful. Some writings are written with more simple wording to recognize the differences in literary capabilities of different people and communities.

There are also other translations based upon a paraphrase approach. The paraphrase approach is when the Biblical text is not translated but is instead summarized and restated. Although such an approach may be helpful for children's Bibles and chronological Bible storying, it is not a good approach for maturing and literate Christians.

The English language is blessed to have many translations, but some languages possess only one translation. Many languages have yet to have the Bible translated. Although the multiple translations are extremely beneficial, we must recognize and be aware that there are translations that make unhelpful and heretical changes to the meaning of the biblical text.

There are modern translations that have removed gender specific language (NIV), removed references to Christ's deity (Jehovah's Witnesses' New World Translation), added books to the Bible (Catholicism), or subjugated the Bible to other books and authorities (Catholicism and Mormonism).

"Everyone who goes on ahead and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God. Whoever abides in the teaching has both the Father and the Son." 2 John 1:9

Which translation is the best?

Assuming the translation is faithful to the biblical text, the best translation is the one that you can easily read and understand. As some grow in their reading and comprehension abilities, they may find that more formal translations are most helpful to them in the process of study.

Are devotional guides and books ok?

Devotional guides and books can be helpful for Christians as an aid and tool to enhancing their personal study of God's Word. Devotional guides and books can also be a dangerous impediment to spiritual growth if Christians never grow in their own abilities to study Scripture. True Christians seek to mature and should never be content with solely a second hand experience with God as related through others. The Bible is clearly understood (perspicuity of the Bible), which means that it is intelligible through the enlightenment of the Holy

Spirit. If you struggle with your own personal and direct study of God's Word, pray to God and seek help from others in order to enhance and increase your ability to hear God's voice through the study of His Word.

How can I go about reading more of the Bible?

Make a plan. Make time. Be intentional. The reading of God's Word is essential for spiritual growth. The best plan is the one in which you will be able to follow. It could be as simple as picking a Bible book and reading through it one day at a time. It could involve a goal like reading through the entire New Testament in a year by reading one chapter per weekday. Many books, Bibles, and apps have a plan for reading through the entire Bible in a year. We tend to prioritize that which we find valuable. Prioritize and make time for the reading of God's Word, it is of infinite value.

"the rules of the LORD are true, and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb." Psalm 19:9-10

Is the New Testament more important than the Old Testament? What is their relationship?

All of Scripture is valuable and trustworthy. The Bible is one big story, not two separate sections (Hebrews 1:1-2, 2 Timothy 3:14-17). God speaks not only through his prophets, but also through the life of Christ. The expression that "*the New is in the Old concealed and the Old is in the New revealed*" helps us to understand this relationship. We need to give equal attention to the

study of both the Old Testament and New Testament for "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever" (Hebrews 13:8).

"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change." James 1:17

"Therefore I love your commandments above gold, above fine gold. Therefore I consider all your precepts to be right; I hate every false way." Psalm 119:127-128

How can I understand the meaning of the Bible?

The best way to understand the Bible is to spend time in it. Study Bibles, commentaries, and online resources (GotQuestions.org , BibleStudyTools.com , and BibleHub.com). Here are some helpful questions to ask yourself, and seek answers to, as you discover the meaning of the Scriptures:

- Who is writing this?
- Who is it being written to?
- What type of writing is this?
- What does the Scripture mean?
- What do we learn about God?
- What do we learn about God's work?
- What do we learn about ourselves?
- Why does this passage matter?
- How do I need to respond to and apply these truths to my life? (Is there a sin to avoid, a command to obey, an example to follow, a prayer to offer, a truth to remember, an attitude to change, or a teaching to share?)

What does it mean to meditate on God's Word?

Meditation on God's Word is the filling up of one's heart and mind with the truths of God. As these truths are internalized, we are to spend more time in mental contemplation and processing over His truth in order to grow in our faith and to share our faith with others. Meditation happens when we read, listen to, pray over, learn, think, speak, write, and share about God's truths.

"Only be strong and very courageous, being careful to do according to all the law that Moses my servant commanded you. Do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may have good success wherever you go. 8 This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success." Joshua 1:7-8

"Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect." Romans 12:2

How can I share and speak God's truths lovingly to others?

Memorizing the Scripture is the best way to prepare to share God's truths. We should pray to God for opportunities and courage to witness. When we pray according to His will we know he hears and answers us (1 John 5:14-15), and we know it is His will that we be

His witnesses (Matthew 28:18-20, Acts 1:8). The more we meditate, study, and memorize God's Word, the more our hearts and lips will naturally and courageously bear witness to the glory and goodness of God.

We must remember that we have a responsibility to warn others of God's coming judgment (Ezekiel 3:17-19 & 33:7-9). When we share the Gospel we ought to communicate the truths concerning God as Creator (Colossians 1:16-17, Hebrews 4:13, 9:27), mankind's sinful rebellion (Romans 3:23), Christ's sacrifice and gift (Romans 6:23), and our need to respond to God as our Lord and Savior (Romans 10:9). The Gospel must be clearly spoken from our lips but also must be faithfully lived out in our lives, marriages, families, and workplaces (Ephesians 5 & 6).

Here are three great online resources to learn how to share your faith:

- *The Way of the Master* (Ray Comfort)
www.livingwaters.com [our personal favorite!]
- *Share Jesus without Fear* (William Fay)
www.sharejesuswithoutfear.com
- *Steps to Peace with God* (Billy Graham)
www.peacewithgod.net

Many people fear the questions that may arise when witnessing, but it is ok to answer that "I do not know, but will find out." A great resource for discovering God's answers to difficult questions is www.gotquestions.org . Finally we must always remember that our calling is not simply to make converts, but to make disciples,

connecting believers into church fellowships where they can grow in their love and knowledge of God.

How can I recognize false teachers and false prophets?

The best way to recognize false teachers is to listen to their teachings and watch their lives (Deuteronomy 13:1-5, 18:15-22, Matthew 12:33-37, Galatians 1:8-9, 2 Peter 2, Jude 1:1-10, 2 John 1:9, James 3:1). If their teachings and lives do not line up with Scriptural truths, they may be false teachers, false prophets, or immature believers who do not need to be teaching or leading.

More help here: www.trustworthyword.com/what-does-the-bible-say-about-false-teachers

"But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing upon themselves swift destruction." 2 Peter 2:1

"But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed. 9 As we have said before, so now I say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be accursed." Galatians 1:8-9

Steps to Studying the Bible

1. **Pray** before Studying the Bible - ask God to open your mind and heart to His truths
2. **Read** the Bible - follow a plan, be disciplined, seek accountability, use an audio bible such as found from faithcomesbyhearing.com (“Bible.is” as an app)
3. **Listen** to Faithful Teachings - commit to regularly listen to your pastor’s and others’ teachings while diligently checking the Scripture to ensure what they say is true (Acts 17:11).
4. **Study** the Bible - slowly and intentionally dig deep into the Scriptures
5. **Meditate** on the Bible - remove distractions and seek the work of the Spirit for your understanding and application of these truths in your life
6. **Pray** through the Bible - use the Scriptures to guide your prayer. The Psalms are the best for this, but you can pray as the Lord leads for conviction and turning from sin as well as for the increased maturity in Christ
7. **Memorize** the Bible - write, speak out loud, draw, use games, acronyms, songs, and repetition, recite portions of verses and progress to the whole verse, keep accountability to your memorization goals
8. **Teach** the Bible - find someone to mentor and teach, learning how to study the Bible, in teaching you will learn and grow most rapidly
9. **Evangelize** with the Bible - the Bible is meant to be shared, focus on Gospel presentation passages to use in witnessing

10. **Pray** for God to remind and deepen you into the truths of God, asking Him to help you to obey His Word

Passages Emphasizing the Importance of the Study of the Bible

- Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth. - 2 Timothy 2:15
- For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, 11 so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it. - Isaiah 55:10-11
- You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me, 40 yet you refuse to come to me that you may have life. - John 5:39-40
- Jesus said to them, "Is this not the reason you are wrong, because you know neither the Scriptures nor the power of God?" - Mark 12:24
- You, however, have followed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, 11 my persecutions and sufferings that happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, and at Lystra - which persecutions I endured; yet from them all the Lord rescued me. 12 Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, 13 while evil people and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. 14 But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed,

knowing from whom you learned it 15 and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. 16 All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work. - 2 Timothy 3:10-17

- Command and teach these things. 12 Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity. 13 Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching. 14 Do not neglect the gift you have, which was given you by prophecy when the council of elders laid their hands on you. 15 Practice these things, immerse yourself in them, so that all may see your progress. 16 Keep a close watch on yourself and on the teaching. Persist in this, for by so doing you will save both yourself and your hearers. - 1 Timothy 4:11-16
- Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls. 22 But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. 23 For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. 24 For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. 25 But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no

hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing. - James 1:21-25

- take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, - Ephesians 6:17
- I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book, 19 and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book. - Revelation 22:18-19
- For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. 13 And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account. - Hebrews 4:12-13
- If anyone teaches a different doctrine and does not agree with the sound words of our Lord Jesus Christ and the teaching that accords with godliness, 4 he is puffed up with conceit and understands nothing. He has an unhealthy craving for controversy and for quarrels about words, which produce envy, dissension, slander, evil suspicions, 5 and constant friction among people who are depraved in mind and deprived of the truth, imagining that godliness is a means of gain. - 1 Timothy 6:3-5
- Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, 2 but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he

appointed the heir of all things, through whom also
he created the world. - Hebrews 1:1-2

Top 10 Bible Study Tips

www.trustworthyword.com/bible-study-tips

“Half our fears arise from neglect of the Bible.”

Charles H. Spurgeon

1. Pick a Plan

Ever hear the expression, “a goal without a plan is just a wish”? If you want to draw closer to the Lord through the Bible you’ve got to make a plan that is “SMART” or 1)Specific, 2)Measurable, 3)Achievable, 4)Realistic, and 5)Timely

2. Be Realistic, Keep It Simple

Consider your past and present situations as you evaluate your goals for the future!

3. Set a Time

Are you a morning person or an evening person? Do you need to wake up earlier or block off a particular time of day a little better?

4. Pick, Prepare, & Protect a Place

Where is a spot (chair, room, car) where you avoid distractions while being focused on reading or hearing God’s Word?

5. Make Reminders

What will help you to remember daily? Leaving your Bible or devotional out in a particular spot? Sticky note? Dry eraser on the mirror or fridge? Phone app notification? Repeating calendar event?

6. Keep Track of Your Progress

Use a bookmark, check off a reading plan, use a chart to see what you've accomplished!

7. Have a Catch-Up Plan, Readjust If Necessary

Block off time (evening, weekend, a day per month) to pick up when you inevitably miss a reading or day. Find yourself getting too far behind, adjust your goals to be more realistic and achievable or stretch out your goal's end date.

8. Create Accountability

Aim for the same goal with a child, spouse, friend, or family member. Share your goal and progress or setbacks online or with others for encouragement. Confess your failures or struggles to receive wisdom or prayer.

9. Use Tools for the Journey

Whether it is highlighters, gel pens, or a commentary, concordance, atlas, or app - find practical resources that make your journey more enjoyable and profitable.

10. Celebrate Small Wins Along the Way

Make celebratory steps and incentives as you keep up for a month, finish a book, or complete your next chapter. Make an end of the year prize that you look forward to using a small reward!

“The vigor of our spiritual life will be in exact proportion to the place held by the Bible in our life and thoughts.” George Mueller

Fun Small Group Warm Up (“Ice-Breaker”) Questions

These questions are already listed throughout this book (one each week), but this consolidated list might be helpful too! You might want to use this space to write down some new “ice-breaker” type questions as you think of them.

1. What is your favorite New Year’s memory?
2. Who was your best friend growing up?
3. What was your first job?
4. What was your favorite pet growing up?
5. What is your favorite Winter activity or childhood memory?
6. If you could travel anywhere in the world tomorrow, where would you go and why?
7. What was your favorite teacher or subject in school?
8. What was your favorite sport growing up?
9. What is your favorite card, board, or video game?
10. What is your favorite TV show ever?
11. What was the best book you ever read?
12. What is your favorite super hero? Super villain?
13. What is your favorite Easter activity or childhood memory?
14. Tell us about your worst haircut.
15. If you could eat anything for lunch what would it be?

16. What is your favorite song?
17. What is your favorite Spring activity or childhood memory?
18. What is your favorite movie?
19. If you had one day with no responsibilities, what would you do?
20. What is a life accomplishment that you proud of?
21. Who (other than God) made the biggest impact on your life?
22. What is the most embarrassing (but appropriate to share) thing you have ever done?
23. What is the best dessert or candy ever created?
24. What is your favorite Summer activity or childhood memory?
25. What was something good that happened this past week?
26. What is your favorite church song to sing?
27. What did you dream about being when you grew up?
What would be your dream job today?
28. If someone gave you \$1,000,000 today, what would you do with it?
29. If you had to relocate and move far away, where would it be?
30. What is your favorite breakfast food?

31. If you were stranded on a desert island and could only bring one suitcase full of items, what would you want to have?
32. What is something you are good at?
33. If you could meet someone in history, who would it be?
34. Which cartoon or Disney character do you relate the best with?
35. Tell us a funny (but appropriate) joke.
36. What is your favorite Fall activity or childhood memory?
37. What phone emoji do you use the most?
38. What was your favorite toy growing up?
39. What is your favorite hobby?
40. What is the best piece of advice you ever received?
41. What is the best costume you ever dressed up in?
42. What is one thing you would want to be sure to do before you die?
43. What phone app do you use or like the most?
44. If you could be a professional athlete, what sport would you pick?
45. How would you want to be most remembered?
46. If you could have any superpower, what would it be?
47. What is your favorite season or holiday?
48. When your family gets together to eat, what is your favorite dish?

49. What is a unique or little-known fact about you?
50. What is your favorite Christmas carol?
51. What was a special Christmas gift you received?
52. What is your favorite Christmas activity or childhood memory?



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Dr. Jonathan Carl

Jonathan Carl grew up in the great state of Texas as the oldest of six kids. He graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point and served in the U.S.

Army as a tanker with a combat tour in Iraq in the early 2000s. He had the joy of journeying to Kentucky where he met and married his wonderful wife Brittney. Several years later he became the lead pastor at South Fork Baptist Church where he has served for over a decade. He enjoyed the opportunities to study and earn his Master of Divinity and Doctor of Philosophy degrees in Evangelism & Missions from the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. Jonathan & Brittney have

four daughters (Sophia, Lydia, Alia & Mia) with whom they enjoy spending every spare minute they can.



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In Christ,^[1]_{SEP} Jonathan Carl

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