

BIBLE READING HELPS FOR JANUARY 2020

Anchored
IN THE WORD



What is this?

Anchored in the Word is a new resource to help you read the Bible more consistently and fruitfully in the coming year.

Here's what you will find inside:

- ⇒ A weekly section to keep track of your Bible reading, record insights from your reading, and review the weekly memory verse.
- ⇒ A brief overview of how to do more in-depth Bible study.
- ⇒ Introductions to each Biblical book that will be read during the month.
- ⇒ A listing of church events for the month.
- ⇒ Blank note pages to record key blessings & lessons from the month.

Nothing will impact your life like consistently reading and reflecting on God's Word. You will grow in your knowledge of God and His ways. You will find strength and insight for each day. There is abundant hope and help in God's Word for you!

Following the plan provided in the monthly *Anchored in the Word* booklets will allow you to read through the entire Bible in 2020. Since you'll be reading along with others in our church, it will be easier to discuss what you are reading with other believers. Sharing your insights and questions will greatly encourage others to dive into God's life-giving Word.

"Blessed is the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful; But his delight is in the law of the Lord, And in His law he meditates day and night."

Psalm 1:1–2 (NKJV)

The Inductive Bible Study Method

Observation – *What do I see?*

Start by reading the passage once through to get the big picture. Then read it again slower: pause at punctuation, identify grammar, and notice how thoughts connect. Let the scene develop in your mind.

Now, “zoom out” in stages to get the context

- *Immediate context* – What is going on?
- *Surrounding context* – What happened before and after?
- *Larger context* – What is this book about?

Next, consider how the literary style might be contributing

- *Biographical* – narrative built on key persons
- *Geographical* – location is center of narrative
- *Historical* – narrative around key events
- *Chronological* – emphasis on sequence
- *Ideological* – argument around an idea or concept

Finally “interview” the passage with these questions:

- *Who?* – What is significant to know about each person?
- *What?* – What is happening? What is being said or done?
- *Where?* – Lookup every location you encounter!
- *When?* – When did this occur? In relation to other Scripture?
- *Why?* – Look for reasons and explanations. Connect them!
- *How?* – Are methods described or instructions given?

Of course not all of these questions will have relevant answers, but as good observation skills become second nature methods you will begin noticing more details that will contribute to a rewarding Bible study. Practice, practice, and more practice!

Interpretation – *What does it mean?*

When interpreting Scripture, always keep in mind that “meaning” is not our subjective thoughts read into the text, but God’s objective truth read out of the text.

Try applying the “four C’s” of accurate interpretation:

- *Content* – Do I have all the pieces? *Observation is critical*
- *Context* – Where does this piece belong in the big picture?
 - ◊ Literary context – what type of literature is this?
 - ◊ Historical context – what events surround this text?
 - ◊ Cultural context – what were the “norms” then?
 - ◊ Geographic context – does location matter?
 - ◊ Theological context – what did they know of God?
- *Comparison* – Where does this piece fit with the others?
 - ◊ The greatest interpreter of Scripture is Scripture
- *Consultation* – Does this piece fit here?
 - ◊ Consultation is referencing secondary resources

And never forget the golden rule of interpretation:

*When the plain sense of Scripture makes common sense,
seek no other sense...or it will be nonsense.*

Application – *How does it affect me?*

To find out how the principles you’ve discovered might apply to you, it helps to restate them as a question to yourself like this:

“How does that fact that [...principle from the Bible...] affect me?”

Then ask yourself what action you should take based on what you now know. Seek God’s will in prayer for this. Permit the Holy Spirit to answer these questions for you and open your eyes to God’s perspective.

Introduction to Genesis

After a brief introduction in which the creation and the curse are described, the book gets down to its major theme which is the story of the patriarchs, that is, the fathers of the human race and fathers of the Hebrew families.

The Human Race— After the Fall, two great civilizations developed on earth. We are introduced first to the Cainite civilization, which centered around Cain and Lamech. It was a godless, lawless civilization, one that produced a brilliant social and scientific culture, but ruled out God. Side by side with the Cainite culture a Sethite civilization developed. A culture that centered around Seth, Enoch, Methuselah, and Noah. These were godly men, saints and seers, who sought to walk with God amid surrounding gloom.

After the Flood a new generation of fathers arose. Noah's three sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth, became the progenitors of the new world. From Ham came Nimrod, a great rebel, founder of the tower of Babel and leader in lawless plans that brought further judgment from God: the confounding of human language and dispersal of mankind into ethnic groups. From Shem came Terah, Haran, and, finally, Abraham; the man chosen by God to be “the father of all them that believe.”

The Hebrew Family— The Hebrew people had three titular heads: Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. About half of the book of Genesis is concerned with the story of these three men to whom God gave the promises that underly the Hebrew nation.

There were also twelve tribal heads, the sons of Jacob. For the most part, the stories of these men are woven into the story of Joseph. His story takes up a quarter of the entire book, a youth once detested but remarkably raised up to rescue and rule his people in Egypt until God's purposes are complete.

Introduction to Exodus

The Israelites remained in Egypt for about 400 years. During those centuries they multiplied so rapidly that the Pharaohs came to fear them. In time there came a Pharaoh who transformed their Egyptian asylum into a ghetto and planned the gradual extermination of the entire Hebrew people. Exodus is the story of how God used Moses and Aaron not only to foil Pharaoh's plots but to bring the Hebrews out of Egypt and on to Mount Sinai in the Arabian peninsula.

The story is in three parts. We see God *saving* His people by sending Moses, armed with a mandate and with mighty power, to break Pharaoh's hold on the children of Israel. Salvation itself ultimately hinged on the slaying of the Passover lamb. Then we see God separating His people by taking them out of Egypt and across the Red Sea into the wilderness. Finally we see God *sanctifying* His people by giving them the Law and teaching them how His people should behave. The law He gave them covered all that was needful for their walk through and worship in the wilderness

A Visual Overview

A YouTube channel called “The Bible Project” has done an excellent job summarizing each book of the Bible into a 5 minute video complete with charts and animations. Use your phone’s camera to scan these QR codes to jump straight to the videos:

Genesis



Exodus



Week One

Reading Schedule

| ✓ | Date | Day | Text |
|---|------|-----------|---------------|
| | 1/5 | Sunday | Genesis 1-3 |
| | 1/6 | Monday | Genesis 4-7 |
| | 1/7 | Tuesday | Genesis 8-11 |
| | 1/8 | Wednesday | Genesis 12-15 |
| | 1/9 | Thursday | Genesis 16-18 |
| | 1/10 | Friday | Genesis 19-20 |
| | 1/11 | Saturday | Genesis 21-23 |

Memory Verse

“Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised;
And His greatness is unsearchable.”

Psalm 145:3

Discovery Questions

What was the first thing Noah built after leaving the ark?

How many years were there between the birth of Ishmael and the birth of Isaac?

What experience did Abraham go through at the age of 137?

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Week Two

Reading Schedule

| ✓ | Date | Day | Text |
|---|------|-----------|---------------|
| | 1/12 | Sunday | Genesis 24-25 |
| | 1/13 | Monday | Genesis 26-28 |
| | 1/14 | Tuesday | Genesis 29-30 |
| | 1/15 | Wednesday | Genesis 31-32 |
| | 1/16 | Thursday | Genesis 33-35 |
| | 1/17 | Friday | Genesis 36-38 |
| | 1/18 | Saturday | Genesis 39-41 |

Memory Verse

“The words of the LORD are pure words, Like silver tried in a furnace of earth, Purified seven times.”

Psalm 12:6

Discovery Questions

Why was Esau called Edom?

How much money did Joseph’s brothers receive when they sold him?

How old was Joseph when Pharaoh promoted him to be his second-in-command?

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Week Three

Reading Schedule

| ✓ | Date | Day | Text |
|---|------|-----------|---------------|
| | 1/19 | Sunday | Genesis 42-44 |
| | 1/20 | Monday | Genesis 45-47 |
| | 1/21 | Tuesday | Genesis 48-50 |
| | 1/22 | Wednesday | Exodus 1-3 |
| | 1/23 | Thursday | Exodus 4-6 |
| | 1/24 | Friday | Exodus 7-9 |
| | 1/25 | Saturday | Exodus 10-12 |

Memory Verse

“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.”

Ephesians 2:8-9

Discovery Questions

Which if Joseph’s brothers offered himself as a substitute prisoner in Benjamin’s stead?

What excuse did the Hebrew midwives give for failing to commit abortions?

How old was Joseph when Pharaoh promoted him to be his second-in-command?

[illegible]

Week Four

Reading Schedule

| ✓ | Date | Day | Text |
|---|------|-----------|--------------|
| | 1/26 | Sunday | Exodus 13-15 |
| | 1/27 | Monday | Exodus 16-18 |
| | 1/28 | Tuesday | Exodus 19-21 |
| | 1/29 | Wednesday | Exodus 22-24 |
| | 1/30 | Thursday | Exodus 25-27 |
| | 1/31 | Friday | Exodus 28-29 |
| | 2/1 | Saturday | Exodus 30-32 |

Memory Verse

“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.”

Ephesians 2:10

Discovery Questions

In which month is the feast of unleavened bread (a.k.a. Passover)?

What was stretched out over the Mercy Seat?

What was engraved in the two onyx stones of the priestly garments?

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

Events in January

| | |
|--------------------|----------------------------|
| Faithful Men | Saturday the 11th @ 6 PM |
| Teen Fellowship | Friday the 17th @ 6 PM |
| Church Outreach | Saturday the 18th @ 1 PM |
| Members Meeting | Sunday the 19th @ 6 PM |
| Anniversary Sunday | Sunday the 26th @ 10:30 AM |

Weekly Gatherings

| | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|
| Sunday Worship Service | Sundays @ 10:30 AM |
| “Answers” Bible Classes | Sundays @ 9:30 AM |
| Sunday Evening Service | Sundays @ 5:00 PM |
| Covina Fellowship Group* | Wednesdays @ 7:00 PM |
| West Covina Fellowship Group* | Wednesdays @ 6:30 PM |
| Seniors Fellowship Group* | Fridays @ 2:00 PM |

**Meeting locations and times vary and sometimes change. Please see a pastor for information and to enroll*

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