

BIBLE READING HELPS FOR MARCH 2020

# *Anchored* IN THE WORD



# Reading the Word Together

Following the plan provided in the *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.

Here's what you will find inside:

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

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!

"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."

Psalms 1:1-2 (NKJV)

# Introduction to Deuteronomy

Deuteronomy, which means "second law," is a retelling by Moses of the teachings and events of Exodus, Leviticus, and Numbers. It includes an extended review of the Ten Commandments (4:44-5:33) and Moses' farewell address to a new generation of Israelites as they stand ready to take possession of the Promised Land. Moses reminds them of God's faithfulness and love, but also of God's wrath on the previous generation of Israelites because of their rebellion. Repeatedly he charges Israel to keep the Law.

Deuteronomy is a solemn call to love and obey the one true God. There are blessings for faithfulness and curses for disobedience. The book closes with the selection of Joshua as Israel's new leader and the death of Moses.

Scan the QR code on the right with your smartphone's camera app to watch a video overview of this book compliments of The Bible Project on YouTube.



# Introduction to Joshua

The five books of Moses anticipated the fulfillment of God's promise to Abraham regarding the Promised Land. Now (either about 1400 or 1220 B.C.), through a string of military victories under Joshua, Israel conquered the land and divided it among the twelve tribes. In these battles it became evident that God fights for his people when they are "strong and courageous" (1:6, 7, 9, 18; 10:25) and put their full trust in him.

At the close of the book, Joshua charged the people to remain faithful to God and to obey his commands, and the people agreed to do so. "As for me and my house," said Joshua, "we will serve the Lord" (24:15). Although anonymous, the book contains eyewitness testimony, which implies that Joshua is its author.

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## Introduction to Judges

Judges is named after an interesting collection of individuals who led Israel after Joshua's death until the rise of the monarchy under Samuel (up to about 1050 B.C.). In this time of national decline, despite their promise to keep the covenant (Josh. 24:16-18) the people turned from the Lord and began to worship other gods. "Everyone did what was right in his own eyes" (17:6; 21:25).

A pattern repeats throughout the book: 1) the people abandoned the Lord; 2) God punished them by raising up a foreign power to oppress them; 3) the people cried out to God for deliverance; and 4) God raised up a deliverer, or judge, for them. The author of the book is unknown, although some Jewish tradition ascribes it to Samuel.

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# Introduction to Ruth

The book of Ruth tells of a young Moabite widow who, out of love for her widowed Israelite mother-in-law, abandoned her own culture, declaring, "Your people shall be my people, and your God my God" (1:16). Though she was destitute and needing to rely on the kindness of others, Ruth's disposition and character captured the attention of Boaz, a close relative of her deceased husband. Boaz fulfilled the role of kinsman-redeemer and took Ruth as his wife.

Ruth serves as a wonderful example of God's providential care of his people, and of his willingness to accept Gentiles who seek him. Ruth was an ancestor of Christ. The author is unknown, but the genealogy at the end suggests that it was written during or after the time of David.

Scan the QR code on the right with your smartphone's camera app to watch a video overview of this book compliments of The Bible Project on YouTube.



# Introduction to 1<sup>st</sup> Samuel

First Samuel records the establishment of Israel's monarchy, at about 1050 B.C. Samuel led Israel for many years in the combined roles of prophet, priest, and judge. After the people demanded a king like those of the other nations (ch. 8), God directed Samuel to anoint Saul as Israel's first king. When Saul turned from God, David was anointed by Samuel to succeed him. After David killed the giant Goliath, he was brought to Saul's court, eventually becoming the leader of Saul's armies. Saul's subsequent violent jealousy forced David to flee. The book closes with Saul's death in battle, and looks forward to David's reign.

First Samuel's author is unstated, but Samuel himself may have written portions of the book (see 1 Chron. 29:29).

Scan the QR code on the right with your smartphone's camera app to watch a video overview of this book compliments of The Bible Project on YouTube.



# Week Nine

## Reading Schedule

✓	Date	Day	Text
	3/1	Sunday	Numbers 34-36
	3/2	Monday	Deuteronomy 1-2
	3/3	Tuesday	Deuteronomy 3-4
	3/4	Wednesday	Deuteronomy 5-7
	3/5	Thursday	Deuteronomy 8-10
	3/6	Friday	Deuteronomy 11-13
	3/7	Saturday	Deuteronomy 14-17

## Memory Verse

“Do not be deceived: Evil company corrupts good habits.”

1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15:33

## Discovery Questions

*What was the area given to the half tribe of Manasseh nicknamed?*

*Moses listed three objectives God had for their wilderness wandering, what were they?*

*According to Deuteronomy 11, the generation that entered the Promised Land was young enough to have survived the wilderness wanderings but old enough to have vivid memories of what?*

[illegible]



# Week Ten

## Reading Schedule

✓	Date	Day	Text
	3/8	Sunday	Deuteronomy 18-20
	3/9	Monday	Deuteronomy 21-23
	3/10	Tuesday	Deuteronomy 24-26
	3/11	Wednesday	Deuteronomy 27-28
	3/12	Thursday	Deuteronomy 29-31
	3/13	Friday	Deuteronomy 32-34
	3/14	Saturday	Joshua 1-4

## Memory Verse

“He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it.”

1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 5:24

## Discovery Questions

*What types of trees were the invading Israelite armies not allowed to cut down?*

*What modern church offering practice do we see a picture of in Deuteronomy 26?*

*How old was Moses when he died?*

[illegible]

# Week Eleven

## Reading Schedule

✓	Date	Day	Text
	3/15	Sunday	Joshua 5-7
	3/16	Monday	Joshua 8-9
	3/17	Tuesday	Joshua 10-11
	3/18	Wednesday	Joshua 12-14
	3/19	Thursday	Joshua 15-17
	3/20	Friday	Joshua 18-20
	3/21	Saturday	Joshua 21-22

## Memory Verse

“Therefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent,  
to be well pleasing to Him.”

2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 5:9

## Discovery Questions

*What similar experiences did Joshua and Moses have when they were Divinely ordained to lead the nation of Israel?*

*How long had the Israelite armies been invading Canaan when Caleb famously said, “give me this mountain?”*

*How did Joshua assign the remaining land tracts to the seven tribes who had not yet received their inheritance?*

[illegible]

# Week Twelve

## Reading Schedule

✓	Date	Day	Text
	3/22	Sunday	Joshua 23-24
	3/23	Monday	Judges 1-3
	3/24	Tuesday	Judges 4-6
	3/25	Wednesday	Judges 7-8
	3/26	Thursday	Judges 9-10
	3/27	Friday	Judges 11-13
	3/28	Saturday	Judges 14-16

## Memory Verse

“But the Lord is faithful,  
who will establish you and guard you from the evil one.”

2<sup>nd</sup> Thessalonians 3:3

## Discovery Questions

*How did Joshua say the Lord drove out the Canaanites?*

*What weapon did Shamgar use to drop 600 Philistines?*

*What reasoning did the men of Shechem have for choosing Abimelech as their king?*

[illegible]

# Week Thirteen

## Reading Schedule

✓	Date	Day	Text
	3/29	Sunday	Judges 17-19
	3/30	Monday	Judges 20-21
	3/31	Tuesday	Ruth 1-4
	4/1	Wednesday	1 Samuel 1-3
	4/2	Thursday	1 Samuel 4-7
	4/3	Friday	1 Samuel 8-10
	4/4	Saturday	1 Samuel 11-13

## Memory Verse

“I say then: Walk in the Spirit,  
and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.”

Galatians 5:16

## Discovery Questions

*What tribe verged on complete annihilation because of their sin?*

*In her grief, Naomi called herself by the name of which historic landmark?*

*What unusual name did Eli's daughter-in-law give her son before she died in childbirth?*

[illegible]



# Appendix A - The Inductive Study Method

## Observation – What do I see?

Start by reading the passage once through to get the big picture. Then read it again slower: noticing punctuation, identifying grammar, and observing 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 all about?

Next, consider how the **literary style** might be contributing

- Historical narrative – Factual retellings of events
- Law – God’s commands to His covenant people
- Poetry – Scripture written in verse
- Wisdom – Principles from generations of godly people
- Prophecy – Revelation from God about the future
- Argument – Ideas built upon each other to make a whole

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 other Scripture?
- Why? – Look for reasons and explanations. Connect them!
- How? – Are methods described or instructions given?

## **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. Using the analogy of a puzzle, 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 really fit here?
- Commentaries are great consultation 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.

[illegible]

[illegible]

## Events in March

Faithful Men Book Study	Saturday the 14th @ 6 PM
Irish-themed Potluck	Sunday the 15 <sup>th</sup> @ 12 PM
Ladies Book Study	Monday the 16 <sup>th</sup> @ 7 PM
Teen Fellowship	Friday the 20 <sup>th</sup> @ 6 PM
Members Meeting	Sunday the 22 <sup>nd</sup> @ 6 PM
Church Outreach	Saturday the 28 <sup>th</sup> @ 1 PM

## 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.*

## Contact

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