

# Read the Word Daily for your Soul

I'm excited to read through the Bible again this year. Why? Because it keeps my focus on Jesus. When I don't receive the word of God day by day, my faith weakens, my love fades, and my witness diminishes. I've found that there is nothing like a regular, substantial intake of the word to nourish my spiritual life. That normally means reading through the entire Bible at least one time per year.

Some struggle with this since it requires a long-term persistence. When you fall behind, you are tempted to just give up. This is why I love the plan that we are using this year. You'll only have assigned readings for 25 days out of each month. This will allow 5-6 days each month to catch up, get ahead, or read elsewhere. This year's plan also balances out reading from different portions of Scripture. It provides two readings for each day. The first reading alternates between Old and New Testament books. The second reading takes you through a chapter of the wisdom literature and Isaiah.

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.

Blessings on your reading!

Pastor Jack

Psalm 1:2

# 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.

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 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

## Introduction to Psalms

The book of Psalms is filled with the songs and prayers offered to God by the nation of Israel.

Their expressions of praise, faith, sorrow, and frustration cover the range of human

emotions. Some of the Psalms dwell on the

treasure of wisdom and God's Word. Others reveal the troubled heart of a mourner. Still others explode with praise to God and invite others to join in song. This diversity is unified by one

element: they are centered upon the one and only living God.

This Creator God is King of all the earth and a refuge to all who trust in him. Many of the Psalms are attributed to King David.



## Introduction to Proverbs

Practical wisdom for living is the central concern of the book of Proverbs. Proverbs

often contrasts the benefits of seeking wisdom and the pitfalls of living a fool's life. While the

wicked stumble in darkness the path of the

righteous is like the light of dawn. Proverbs is a collection of

Israelite wisdom literature, including an introductory section (ch 1-9) that gives readers a framework for understanding the rest of the book.



# Introduction to Mark

The Gospel of Mark emphasizes that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. Mark features three main groups of people: the disciples, the crowds, and the religious leaders, none of whom understood Jesus. When the time came for Jesus to go to the cross, the religious leaders arrested him, the disciples abandoned him, and the crowds jeered him. Only when he died alone on the cross did a Roman centurion recognize him as the Son of God.



# Week One

## Read

✓	Date	Day	Text
	1/3	Sunday	Gen 1-2   Psalm 1
	1/4	Monday	Gen 3-5   Psalm 2
	1/5	Tuesday	Gen 6-9   Psalm 3
	1/6	Wednesday	Gen 10-11   Psalm 4
	1/7	Thursday	Gen 12-14   Psalm 5
	1/8	Friday	Gen 15-17   Psalm 6
	1/9	Saturday	<i>Reflection</i>

## Reflect

*How do the attitudes at work during the Babel “uprising” compare with those we observe in our culture today?*

## Remember

Commit your way to the Lord, Trust also in Him, And He shall bring it to pass.

Psalm 37:5

[illegible]

# Week Two

## Read

✓	Date	Day	Text
	1/10	Sunday	Gen 18-20   Psalm 7
	1/11	Monday	Gen 21-23   Psalm 8
	1/12	Tuesday	Gen 24-26   Psalm 9
	1/13	Wednesday	Gen 27-29   Psalm 10
	1/14	Thursday	Gen 30-32   Psalm 11
	1/15	Friday	Gen 33-36   Psalm 12
	1/16	Saturday	<i>Reflection</i>

## Reflect

*Since the Patriarchs (Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob) did not have a “Bible” as we know it, how did their life choices reflect faith in the Word of God (Hebrews 11)? Consider examples from each.*

## Remember

Trust in the Lord forever, For in Yah, the Lord, is everlasting strength.

Isaiah 26:4



[illegible]

## Week Three

### Read

✓	Date	Day	Text
	1/17	Sunday	Gen 37-39   Psalm 13
	1/18	Monday	Gen 40-42   Psalm 14
	1/19	Tuesday	Gen 43-46   Psalm 15
	1/20	Wednesday	Gen 47-50   Psalm 16
	1/21	Thursday	Mark 1-3   Psalm 17
	1/22	Friday	Mark 4-6   Psalm 18:1-24
	1/23	Saturday	<i>Reflection</i>

### Reflect

*Joseph lived a remarkable and exemplary life; however, his death was even more impactful. How so?*

### Remember

By humility and the fear of the Lord are riches and honor and life.

Proverbs 22:4

[illegible]

# Week Four

## Read

✓	Date	Day	Text
	1/24	Sunday	Mark 7-9   Psalm 18:25-50
	1/25	Monday	Mark 10-12   Psalm 19
	1/26	Tuesday	Mark 13-16   Psalm 20
	1/27	Wednesday	Exodus 1-4   Psalm 21
	1/28	Thursday	Exodus 5-8   Psalm 22:1-11
	2/29	Friday	Exodus 9-11   Psalm 22:12-31
	1/30	Saturday	<i>Reflection</i>

## Reflect

*The gospel of Mark focuses on the kingdom fulfillment of Jesus. Did you notice any examples of Old Testament hopes and promises complete in Christ?*

## Remember

Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself.

Philippians 2:3

[illegible]

# Week Five

## Read

✓	Date	Day	Text
	1/31	Sunday	Exodus 12-14   Psalm 23
	2/1	Monday	Exodus 15-17   Proverbs 1
	2/2	Tuesday	Exodus 18-20   Proverbs 2
	2/3	Wednesday	Exodus 21-24   Proverbs 3
	2/4	Thursday	Exodus 25-27   Proverbs 4
	2/5	Friday	Exodus 28-31   Proverbs 5
	2/6	Saturday	<i>Reflection</i>

## Reflect

*Why did God free the Israelites from Egyptian bondage? Several different answers are sprinkled throughout the book of Exodus.*

## Remember

Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.

James 4:10

[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.

## Notes

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## Weekly Gatherings

Sunday Worship Service	Sundays @ 10:30 AM
Sunday Evening Service	Sundays @ 5:00 PM
West Covina Fellowship Group*	Wednesdays @ 6:30 PM
Covina Fellowship Group*	Wednesdays @ 7:00 PM

*\*Meeting locations and times subject to change. Please see a pastor for information and to enroll.*

## Contact

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