

Anchored
IN THE WORD

APRIL 2021

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 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.

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.

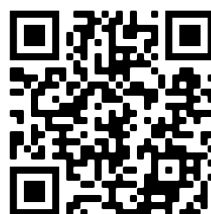
Introduction to Psalms

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 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 Romans



Romans is the longest and most systematically reasoned of Paul's letters. It is stated in Romans 1:16-17; the gospel is God's power for salvation, because it shows us that the righteousness of God is through faith for all who believe. Paul explains the need for justification through faith because of sin. He then spells out the results of justification by faith in terms of both present experience and future hope. In the next three chapters, he expresses his sorrow that many of his fellow Israelites have not embraced the gospel, and he wrestles with the theological implications of this. He concludes by describing how the gospel should affect one's everyday life. Paul wrote his letter to Rome in about AD 57.

Introduction to Mathew



The Gospel of Matthew presents Jesus as Israel's Messiah. The account alternates between Jesus' activities of healing and casting out demons, and major blocks of his teaching; including the Sermon on the Mount (ch 5-7), the Parables of the Kingdom (ch 13), the Olivet Discourse (ch 24-25) and the Great Commission (28:18-20). A recurring theme is the conflict between Jesus and the religious leaders, culminating in his pronouncement of "seven woes" upon them (ch 23). As do all four Gospel accounts, Matthew focuses on Christ's three-year ministry and his death and resurrection.

Week Ten

Read

✓	Date	Day	Text
	4/4	Sunday	Joshua 4-6 Psalm 53
	4/5	Monday	Joshua 7-9 Psalm 54
	4/6	Tuesday	Joshua 10-12 Psalm 55
	4/7	Wednesday	Joshua 13-15 Psalm 56
	4/8	Thursday	Joshua 16-18 Psalm 57
	4/9	Friday	Joshua 19-21 Psalm 58
	4/10	Saturday	<i>Reflection</i>

Reflect

As you read Joshua, you will see seasons of battle and seasons of rest. Think about times of rest that God has given you during or after hard times so that you can share it with someone else.

Remember

I love those who love me, And those who seek me diligently will find me.

Proverbs 8:17

[illegible]

Week Eleven

Read

✓	Date	Day	Text
	4/11	Sunday	Joshua 22-24 Psalm 59
	4/12	Monday	Matthew 1-4 Psalm 60
	4/13	Tuesday	Matthew 5-7 Psalm 61
	4/14	Wednesday	Matthew 8-10 Psalm 62
	4/15	Thursday	Matthew 11-13 Psalm 63
	4/16	Friday	Matthew 14-16 Psalm 64
	4/17	Saturday	<i>Reflection</i>

Reflect

What part of the Sermon on the Mount (Matt. 5-7) is hardest to live for you?

Remember

Delight yourself also in the Lord, And He shall give you the desires of your heart.

Psalm 37:4

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue 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 Twelve

Read

✓	Date	Day	Text
	4/18	Sunday	Matthew 17-19 Psalm 65
	4/19	Monday	Matthew 20-22 Psalm 66
	4/20	Tuesday	Matthew 23-25 Psalm 67
	4/21	Wednesday	Matthew 26-28 Psalm 68
	4/22	Thursday	Judges 1-3 Psalm 69:1-18
	4/23	Friday	Judges 4-6 Psalm 69:19-36
	4/24	Saturday	<i>Reflection</i>

Reflect

What are the most important things Jesus wanted his disciples to learn just prior to his death and just after his resurrection?

Remember

Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness,

2 Peter 3:11

[illegible]

Week Thirteen

Read

✓	Date	Day	Text
	4/25	Sunday	Judges 7-9 Psalm 70
	4/26	Monday	Judges 10-12 Psalm 71
	4/27	Tuesday	Judges 13-15 Proverbs 18
	4/28	Wednesday	Judges 16-18 Proverbs 19:1-14
	4/29	Thursday	Judges 19-21 Proverbs 19:15-29
	4/30	Friday	Romans 1-3 Proverbs 20:1-15
	5/1	Saturday	<i>Reflection</i>

Reflect

Judges shows a cycle of failure and restoration. What keeps going wrong? What lessons can we learn to avoid a similar cycle?

Remember

Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the Lord and depart from evil.

Proverbs 3:7

[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 answers these questions for you and open your eyes to God’s perspective.

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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

Pastor Jack 626.484.4346 jack.lamb@ouranchorholds.com

Office 626.869.9034 office@ouranchorholds.com

1288 N Bonnie Cove Ave, Covina, CA 91724