

MAY 2022

A photograph of a person's hands holding a cup and reading an open Bible on a wooden table. A smartphone is also visible on the table. The text 'Anchored IN THE WORD' is overlaid on the image.

Anchored IN THE WORD

About this reading plan

The plan that we are using this year has 5 days per week assigned for reading. It provides readings from different portions of Scripture each day. Every day includes a portion from the Old and New Testament with the Psalms sprinkled in.

If you read them all the portions each day, you'll read through the entire Bible in 2022! If that sounds exciting, go for it! If that looks like it will be hard to be consistent, then read the NT portions along with the selections from Psalms. Doing that will only require 1 chapter most days of the year.

Committing to be part of a Discipleship Group is one way to help yourself be consistent. Each week as part of our groups, we'll go over the readings from last week together. Since you'll be reading along with others in our church, it will be easier to discuss what you are reading with other believers.

In this guide you will find the readings for the current month. Also included is a summary plus a question to help you investigate further and/or apply the Word to your life.

Remember to pray before, during and in response to reading. Whether prompted by the questions provided or by the Spirit, think of your time in the Word as time with God Himself, and include prayer as part of your response. Consider doing so with a pen so you can bring what the Lord has been teaching you to your discipleship groups. Journal space is provided.

Week 18 / Day 1

☐ **1 Samuel 18-19; 1 Chronicles 3**

Jonathan and David covenant in friendship. Saul's jealousy grows as David's fame spreads. Saul attempts to kill David, hoping he will die in battle trying to win a bride. However, David fulfills Saul's dowry request. Saul attempts to kill David again, and his wife helps him escape in the night. David flees to Samuel and is safe.

What happened to Saul's men who came to take David?

☐ **Psalms 59**

David pleads with God to defend him from his adversaries while offering praise for the divine deliverance he had received in the past.

What three attributes of God did David say he would sing of?

☐ **Acts 13**

Barnabas and Saul are sent out from Antioch as missionaries. Such work faces opposition in any era, as vividly illustrated by the confrontation with Elymas. While the Gentiles seemed eager to receive the message, the Jews mostly rejected it.

What did the missionaries do in response to the rejection of the Jews?

Week 18 / Day 2

☐ **1 Samuel 20; 1 Chronicles 4**

Jonathan again attempts to persuade Saul to embrace David, but Saul makes it clear he will not. The Lord thwarts Saul's attempt to arrest David, and Jonathan warns David to run for his life. David becomes a fugitive.

How would Jonathan find out if his father was against David?

☐ **Psalms 56, 57, 142**

Each of these psalms are cries to God for deliverance from dangerous situations. The psalmist's comfort was his confidence in God's presence and promises.

What truths do these Psalms teach that can help you through a difficult time?

☐ **Acts 14**

Many Jews and Gentiles believe in Iconium. Opposition forces Paul to flee to Lystra. Here a lame man is healed by Paul. Opposition is relentless, but so is the persistence of their preaching. Before returning home, they revisit the believers and ordain leaders for the churches.

What did the people of Lystra think of Paul and Barnabas?

Week 18 / Day 3

☐ 1 Samuel 21-22; 1 Chronicles 5

David takes consecrated bread and Goliath's sword from the Tabernacle. After faking insanity to escape Gath he flees to a cave in Adullam. Many others in difficult circumstances flee to David. Saul discovers how the priests helped David and executes them. Abiathar is the only one to escape to David.

What did David seek from Ahimelech, the priest?

☐ Psalm 52

David denounces his enemy and pledges himself to God. He focused on the goodness of God, not the badness of men, because he knew that God's justice would ultimately prevail.

What is described as a sharp razor?

☐ Acts 15

False teachers arrive from Judea making circumcision a condition of salvation. Leaders from Antioch journey to Jerusalem to meet this error head on. James clarifies the Gentiles need not become Jews in order to be saved. This message was written and distributed to believers everywhere.

Why did Paul want to revisit the cities where they had preached the word?

Week 18 / Day 4

☐ **1 Samuel 23-24; 1 Chronicles 6**

David saves a city from the Philistines, but Saul seeks to attack him. After fleeing to the wilderness of Ziph, Jonathan comes to strengthen him. Saul pursues David to the wilderness of Engedi and unknowingly enters the cave David is hiding in. When David spares his life, Saul weeps and promises not to pursue David any longer.

What did Jonathan tell David that God intended to do?

☐ **Psalms 54**

This is David's prayer when betrayed. He offers preemptive praise for God's deliverance.

Who is the Lord among according to David?

☐ **Acts 16**

Paul and Silas preach the gospel in Macedonia after Paul receives a vision. Lydia is converted in Philippi and a girl is delivered from a demon, after which Paul & Silas are delivered to prison. That night, the earth shook the jail, and the Lord shook the jailer's heart. He is converted along with his household.

Why did Paul have Timothy circumcised?

Week 18 / Day 5

☐ **1 Samuel 25; 1 Chronicles 7**

Samuel dies. Nabal treats David with shame; David intends to take vengeance but is stopped through the wise actions of Nabal's wife, Abigail. Here the contrast between David and Saul is clear - when God hinders David from evil, he responds with praise; Saul continually pursues evil.

What did God do to Nabal after his wife told him of David's plans?

☐ **Acts 17**

Paul preaches in the synagogue at Thessalonica. The response was partly hostile, so Paul and Silas went by night to Berea where the Jews were more receptive to listen and consider the gospel. Paul is forced to flee to Athens, where he preaches the gospel.

What can we learn about how to share the gospel from Paul's sermon at Athens?

[illegible]

Week 19 / Day 1

☐ **1 Samuel 26-27; 1 Chronicles 8**

Saul seeks David in the wilderness of Ziph. David has opportunity to kill him but refuses. Saul invites David to return in safety. But David seeks refuge with Achish king of Gath. Using Ziklag as a base, David raids other towns claiming the spoils are from cities of Judah.

What did David take from Saul as he slept in his camp?

☐ **Acts 18**

Paul preaches in the synagogue at Corinth. Several are converted and baptized, Paul stays for a lengthy ministry. He begins a journey back to Jerusalem for a feast. Aquilla and Priscilla encounter Apollos and instruct him further. He becomes a mighty preacher of Jesus.

What specific and encouraging signs did God give Paul after he arrived in Corinth?

Week 19 / Day 2

☐ **1 Samuel 28-29; 1 Chronicles 9**

The Philistines prepare for battle against Israel. Saul attempts to speak to the dead prophet Samuel. Samuel relays that Saul and his sons will be dead by the next day. Achish wants David to fight with them against Saul, but the other Philistine lords have doubts about David joining them.

Why did the Philistines send David away from battle against the Israelites?

☐ **Acts 19**

In Ephesus, Paul encounters several men influenced by John's teaching. After hearing Paul, they are converted and baptized. A two-year ministry in Ephesus results in the gospel spreading throughout Asia. Many turned from idolatry and the silversmiths stirred up the people against Paul.

What do you think was the purpose of the special miracles performed by Paul?

Week 19 / Day 3

☐ **1 Samuel 30-31; 1 Chronicles 10**

While David and his men are away, the Amalekites kidnap their families. Guided by the Lord, David defeats them and recovers the kidnapped families. David sent part of the spoils as a gift to various cities in southern Judah. During this time, Saul dies in battle, opening the door for David to take the throne.

How did Saul die?

☐ **Acts 20**

Paul travels through Macedonia strengthening believers along the way. Paul encouraged the elders from Ephesus by commending them to God and the word of his grace.

What two things concerning the gospel did Paul teach the Jews and the Greeks?

Week 19 / Day 4

☐ **2 Samuel 1-2; 1 Chronicles 11**

David mourns the death of Saul and Jonathan. He returns to Hebron and is anointed king by Judah. A civil war is sparked when Abner makes Ishbosheth, son of Saul, king over the other tribes.

What happened to the men of Abner and the men of Joab in a contest?

☐ **Psalms 96, 106**

The psalmist invites all the nations to praise the Lord as the one, true God (96). Israel's badness is made worse by the goodness of God shown to them (106).

Why is Yahweh praised in Psalm 96?

☐ **Acts 21**

Paul greets believers at several stops while headed to Jerusalem. Knowing that arrest and imprisonment await him, Paul responds by affirming his commitment to suffer for the name of Jesus. After arriving, he relates God's work among the Gentiles before being arrested in the Temple.

What did the elders in Jerusalem want Paul to do? Why?

Week 19 / Day 5

☐ **2 Samuel 3-5; 1 Chronicles 12**

As the civil war goes on, it becomes clear that David will prevail. Abner makes peace with David but is assassinated by Joab. David publicly shames Joab and mourns the death of Abner. David anointed king in Hebron again - this time by all Israel. Jerusalem is captured and made the capitol. The Philistines attack and suffer two significant losses to David's army.
What did David do to Rechab and Baanah?

☐ **Psalms 122**

David expresses exuberance upon arriving in Jerusalem in order to enter God's house and calls upon everyone to pray for the city.
What are the people encouraged to pray for Jerusalem?

☐ **Acts 22**

Paul speaks to the crowd in his own defense. They listen while he recounts his conversion, but when he mentions his mission to the Gentiles they riot. Paul is rescued by Romans and held for examination. He will remain in their custody for the rest of Acts.
Why was the Roman commander afraid to beat Paul?

[illegible]

Week 20 / Day 1

☐ **2 Samuel 6; 1 Chronicles 13**

David's first attempt to move the Ark of the Covenant was halted by Uzzah's death. The second attempt was successful and sparked a great celebration. David's enthusiasm is criticized by his wife Michal.

Why did Uzzah die?

☐ **Psalms 60**

In spite of struggles and defeats, David prays that God will defeat their enemies.

Who does David know cannot help them?

☐ **Acts 23**

Paul appears before a Jewish council to clarify the accusations. Paul affirms the resurrection which causes division among the Jews. Paul is taken away by night in order to thwart an attempt to kill him. The Romans send him to the governor Felix.

Who overheard the plot against Paul?

Week 20 / Day 2

☐ **1 Chronicles 14-16**

David brings the ark of God to Jerusalem after defeating the Philistines. This attempt was successful since the Lord was consulted and obeyed. Rejoicing in God's blessings requires listening to God's instructions.

What did David and his people do before the Ark of the Covenant as they brought it into the city?

☐ **Acts 24**

The Jewish leaders bring their accusation against Paul before Felix. Paul presents his defense, but Felix postpones making a judgment in the case. Felix continued listening to Paul but left him bound.

Why did Felix often summon Paul?

Week 20 / Day 3

☐ **2 Samuel 7-8; 1 Chronicles 17**

David desires to build a house for God, but God promises to build David's house. David responds with a prayer of thanksgiving and a request for God to keep His promise. David's conquests bring much into the treasury of the LORD.

What about God's promises to David points to the Messiah?

☐ **Psalms 132**

This Psalm was probably written when the people returned from the Exile. He prays for God's blessing to rest upon his people in fulfillment of his promises to David.

What promise did God make to David?

☐ **Acts 25**

Festus hears Paul's case and considers sending Paul back to Jerusalem. But Paul uses his rights as a Roman citizen and appeals to Caesar. Festus keeps Paul bound and invites King Agrippa to consider Paul's case.

When Festus replaced Felix as governor, what did the Jews ask him to do?

Week 20 / Day 4

☐ **2 Samuel 9-10; 1 Chronicles 18-19**

These chapters describe what is probably the best time of David's reign. He demonstrates kindness in his treatment of Mephibosheth and to Hanun the Ammonite. Sadly, this second attempt to show kindness is met with war.

How did Hanun's advisors perceive David's kindness?

☐ **Psalms 89**

God made a covenant with David that he would always have a descendant on his throne and that the Davidic line would rule forever. The psalmist pleads with God to fulfill it. Trust that God is faithful to His promises no matter our present circumstances.

What two characteristics of Yahweh are constantly referred to in this psalm?

☐ **Acts 26**

King Agrippa wants to hear Paul, who tries to persuade him to become a Christian. Paul affirms that God raises people from the dead, controls history, offers salvation to all, and that Jesus is the risen Christ. Agrippa declares that Paul could have been set free.

How convincing was Paul to King Agrippa?

Week 20 / Day 5

☐ **2 Samuel 11-12; 1 Chronicles 20**

David takes advantage of his power to be with Bathsheba, the wife of one of his military leaders. His initial attempts to cover it up fail, so he arranges for Uriah to be exposed in battle and killed. Bathsheba is taken in as one of David's wives. Nathan confronts the king. David's confession is clear and without excuse.

What does David believe about his son who dies?

☐ **Psalms 51, 32**

These two psalms describe David's guilt, confession, and the blessing of forgiveness. Having experienced God's forgiveness, David instructs others.

What are the consequences of unconfessed sin?

☐ **Acts 27**

Paul sets sail for Rome with other prisoners under the command of Julius. After a fierce storm, the ship is crash landed into an unfamiliar island. Throughout this incident, God demonstrates His sovereignty over nature and His commitment to Paul.

What did Paul tell the people to do before the ship was wrecked?

[illegible]

Week 21 / Day 1

☐ 2 Samuel 13-14

Amnon rapes his half-sister Tamar. David, perhaps seeing himself in the actions of his son, fails to punish Amnon. Another son, Absalom, takes justice into his own hands, murdering Amnon and fleeing the country. While Absalom is eventually allowed to return home to Jerusalem, the relationship between David and Absalom is permanently ruptured.

How long did Absalom remain in Jerusalem before he finally saw his father, David?

☐ Acts 28

On the island Paul performs many miracles. After winter, they board another ship headed for Rome and arrive safely. Paul is able to speak to the Jews in Rome. Some believe and Paul continues in his own rented quarters for 2 years.

What did the Jews in Rome want to know?

Week 21 / Day 2

☐ **2 Samuel 15-17**

Absalom conspires to be king; David flees instead of fighting his son. In his sorrow, David expresses trust and submission to God. Ahithophel counsels an armed pursuit of David to defeat him while he is weak. Hushai counsels the opposite and Absalom listens to this advice, thus sparing David.

How does Absalom gather support for his rebellion?

☐ **Psalms 3, 63**

In the midst of his trials, David turned to the Lord in absolute trust, knowing that faith in God leads to triumphant living. He declares his deep longing to seek God.

Why does David long after God?

☐ **Romans 1**

Paul greets the believers at Rome expressing his desire to preach the gospel there. The gospel is God's way of powerfully saving all who believe (by giving them righteousness through faith). This is necessary because God's wrath is upon all mankind due to their refusal to honor Him as Creator. This rejection leads to idolatry and immorality.

What are the signs of God's wrath against people?

Week 21 / Day 3

☐ **2 Samuel 18-20**

In the fight between David and Absalom, Absalom's army is routed, and he is killed by Joab - against David's instructions. David weeps when he discovers Absalom's death. The king returns to his throne in Jerusalem.

Why did Mephibosheth not go with David when he left the city?

☐ **Psalms 34**

Believers should praise God for his mighty deliverance, recognizing that he rescues his people from their fears and out of their distresses.

How can man have long life and see goodness in his life?

☐ **Romans 2**

The Jews are not exempt from this condemnation. Condemning others is inexcusable because all are condemned. God's judgment is fair and just since He will judge according to the secrets of the heart.

Why is God's name blasphemed among the Gentiles?

Week 21 / Day 4

☐ 2 Samuel 21-23

David appeases the Gibeonites to stop a three year famine. This required 7 descendants of Saul to be executed. David reflects on the reason for his success on the battlefield in a song.

What did David do with the bones of Saul and his descendants?

☐ Psalm 18

David rejoices in God who has rescued him from all his enemies throughout his life. He is able to survive desperate situations with integrity by faith in God his rock.

Why did the Lord save David from his enemies?

☐ Romans 3

Jews have great privilege but this doesn't indicate greater morality. The law can't create righteousness. It actually exposes all as sinners. Righteousness only comes by faith in Jesus.

What reason do we normally give for God sending Jesus to die for us? How is Paul's reason different?

Week 21 / Day 5

☐ **2 Samuel 24; 1 Chronicles 21**

David's actions in conducting a census go against the theme of his song in the previous reading. The whole nation suffers for this foolish decision until David makes a costly sacrifice.

Why did David choose the pestilence (plague) for his punishment?

☐ **Romans 4**

Righteousness that comes by faith is illustrated by Abraham. Righteousness did not come by circumcision and is not restricted to the Jews. It came to Abraham by faith and it will come the same way to us.

What made it hard for Abraham to believe?

[illegible]

Week 22 / Day 1

☐ 1 Chronicles 22-25

David prepared for the construction of Yahweh's house by amassing large quantities of the needed supplies, charging Solomon and the leaders of Israel to build it. He further organizes the priests and Levites.

What were the sons of Asaph, Heman, and Jeduthun used for the in service of the Lord?

☐ Psalm 78

Asaph surveys Israel's history in order to show Israel's rebellion in spite of God's goodness. These failures are recounted to urge the present generation not to make the same mistakes.

Which of Israel's sins in this psalm are we most prone to?

☐ Romans 5

The believer can rejoice in the certainty of future salvation, which is guaranteed by God's proven love for us and by our justification through Christ. Adam and Christ stand as representative heads of two realms/reigns/kingdoms. One of sin and death; one of grace and life.

How does our knowledge about what God has done in the past give us confidence about the future?

Week 22 / Day 2

☐ **1 Kings 1; 1 Chronicles 26-28**

David's strength declines, but he makes preparations for Solomon to succeed him on the throne. Adonijah plots to seize kingdom. Nathan and Bathsheba intercede with David and Solomon is anointed as king.

How many military divisions served David?

☐ **Romans 6**

The believer is united with Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection. Understanding and living based on this is the key to defeating sin daily. Christ breaks the power of sin in the believer's life so that it is now possible to walk in obedience to God instead of being enslaved to the flesh.

How do we become slaves to God? To what will this lead? What will sin lead to?

Week 22 / Day 3

☐ **1 Kings 2; 1 Chronicles 29**

David offers closing advice to Solomon on consolidating his power and eliminating his enemies. David made it clear that the king's obedience to the law was a condition for the blessing of God on the kingdom.

Why did Solomon execute Adonijah?

☐ **Romans 7**

Believers are dead to the law through Christ. The law does not give life, it kills. The law is not bad, it is righteous. It's righteousness exposes our sin, but it does not have the power to cleanse us.

What is the purpose of the law?

Week 22 / Day 4

☐ **1 Kings 3; 2 Chronicles 1**

Solomon is given a remarkable opportunity from God to have a request granted. He asks for wisdom and receives it along with wealth and honor. Sadly, Solomon's alliances demonstrate that he is not heeding his father's final words.

Why did the people sacrifice to God in the high places?

☐ **Psalm 42**

When God seems far away, the psalmist speaks honestly to God and to himself.

What was the food of the psalmist?

☐ **Romans 8**

In Christ, there is no condemnation for the believer. Christ did what the law could never do. He makes us new through His Spirit. Through the Spirit we put to death the flesh, and we wait for the final redemption when the curse is reversed on all creation. Nothing can prevent this final redemption from happening.

How do we put to death the deeds of the body?

Week 22 / Day 5

☐ **1 Kings 4; Proverbs 1-2**

1 Kings 4 narrates Solomon's administrative skill and provides a picture of the benefits that come through wisdom. The book of Proverbs opens with a father passing down wisdom to his son.

How many proverbs did Solomon speak?

☐ **Psalm 43**

The psalmist calls upon God to vindicate him before his enemies while directing him into His holy presence.

What is the psalmist's hope?

☐ **Romans 9**

Paul is burdened for Israel to repent. God specially chose the nation and He will not abandon them. They stumbled over salvation by faith in seeking it by keeping the law.

What does God display through "vessels of wrath"?

[illegible]

[illegible]