AUGUST 2022

# 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 31 / Day 1

❒ **Jonah**

Jonah is the story of God sending the prophet to preach to the city of Nineveh. The book captures Jonah's reluctant attitude to preach which is clearly contrasted with God's merciful heart even for Israel's enemies.

*Did Jonah ever change his attitude about God showing mercy to the city?*

❒ **Matthew 11**

John the Baptist was perplexed about Jesus. John's questions are met with Jesus' reassurance. When you are confused, look to Jesus' word. Jesus announces judgment on unrepentant cities, while also issuing another invitation.

*Why will it be more tolerable for Sodom than Israel in the Day of Judgment?*

## Week 31 / Day 2

**❒ 2 Kings 13-14; 2 Chronicles 25**

Judah and Israel rapidly plunge towards captivity. The only hope for Israel and Judah as they suffer under their sin is God's grace and compassion.

*What did striking the ground with the arrows by Joash represent?*

**❒ Psalm 53**

The foolish are characterized by a disregard for God. David see the depravity and destruction of humanity which makes him long for the deliverance of God's people.

*What have the wicked done to God's people?*

**❒ Matthew 12**

Two controversies about the Sabbath incite hostility toward Jesus. From this point forward, the Pharisees are deliberately trying to destroy Jesus. But the crowds continue to follow Him, and He continues to minister to them.

*What does the prophecy of Isaiah tell us about Jesus?*

## Week 31 / Day 3

❐ **Amos 1-3**

Amos emerges with a message of imminent judgment. He cries out against other nations before hitting his main target - the northern kingdom of Israel. The special treatment Israel had received gave them special responsibility.

*What did God always do before His wrath or judgment came upon His people?*

❐ **Matthew 13**

Here are eight parables, with the text from v. 36 to the end being only directed at the disciples. Jesus explains how God is at work in the world today.

*How is the kingdom of heaven like a treasure in a field?*

## Week 31 / Day 4

❒ **Amos 4-6**

Judgment will come because of idolatrous worship. Even though they did acts of worship to Yahweh, their hearts were not in it. Amos laments over the stubborn refusal of the people to repent. Many arrogantly assume they will escape judgment, but it is coming relentlessly.

*What were the religious leaders of Israel telling the people?*

❒ **Psalm 55**

David mourns over a betrayal by a close friend but expresses confidence that God will deliver him from harm.

*How often did the psalmist pray?*

❒ **Matthew 14**

John the Baptist is killed because of King Herod's brash promise. The crowds follow Jesus and He miraculously feeds everyone with 5 loaves and 2 fish. After sending away the people, Jesus walks on water and calms a storm.

*What was the disciples response to Jesus calming the storm?*

## Week 31 / Day 5

❐ **Amos 7-9**

Amos intercedes for the people even as he confronts them with his preaching. Amos is not all judgment; he affirms that the judgment will not be the end of Yahweh's people. A remnant will survive, the Davidic dynasty will be restored, and Yahweh will bestow boundless blessings on his people.

*Why did Amaziah tell Amos to go to Judah?*

❐ **Matthew 15**

Jesus rejects the traditions of the scribes and Pharisees because they focused on the outside while ignoring the inner person. Many are healed, and 4,000 more are fed.

*What really defiles a person?*

## Week 32 / Day 1

❒ **Hosea 1-3**

Hosea tells of the sorrow of being betrayed by his wife to reveal how Israel has been unfaithful to Yahweh. The severe consequences of unfaithfulness are evident as is the love and mercy that lead to restoration.

*Why did Hosea marry Gomer?*

❒ **Matthew 16**

The religious leaders continue to test Jesus, and He continues to warn His disciples about them. Peter makes his bold confession about Jesus, and Jesus promises to build His church. Disciples are marked by denying.

*What did Jesus begin to teach after Peter's confession?*

## Week 32 / Day 2

❒ **Hosea 4-6**

Yahweh brings a charge against of Israel of her unfaithfulness. The people have exchanged God's glory for idolatry which leads to immorality. Only a true repentance can save the land from devastation.

*Why is Ephraim singled out for God's judgment?*

❒ **Psalm 58**

While the wicked may prosper, they will eventually learn that there is a God who judges. David prays for that day while pleading that the godly will be protected.

*Should we pray the repentance or the judgment of the ungodly?*

❒ **Matthew 17**

Jesus takes three up a mountain where He is transfigured before them. Jesus casts out a demon and laments the lack of belief His disciples show.

*Who was seen speaking to Jesus on the mount?*

## Week 32 / Day 3

❐ **Hosea 7-10**

Israel (Ephraim) refuses to repent; instead, it turns to other nations for help. Their apostasy leads to judgment and captivity.
*What would happen when God departed from Israel?*

❐ **Matthew 18**

Jesus holds up the humility of a child to teach about how to enter and to excel in God's kingdom. When others offend, you should pursue reconciliation. Unforgiveness demonstrates a lack of understanding about forgiveness.
*How many times should we forgive someone who seeks it?*

## Week 32 / Day 4

❐ **Hosea 11-13**

Yahweh uses Israel's history to demonstrate their unfaithfulness and His faithfulness. Yahweh has done more than the covenant demands. The nation will go into captivity, but Yahweh will eventually destroy death and redeem them.

*On what basis will the people be punished?*

❐ **Matthew 19**

Jesus addresses a question about divorce by appealing to God's design in Genesis. Before you run from a difficult relationship, run to God for help. Jesus receives the children, but turns away a rich young man.

*In what way could the rich young ruler find salvation? Why?*

## Week 32 / Day 5

❐ **Hosea 14; 2 Chronicles 26-27**

Hosea prophesied during the days of Uzziah and Jotham. They are a rare example of two kings in a row who did what was right in the eyes of Yahweh. Sadly, the people did not follow. Uzziah's downfall was caused by his pride.

*Why did Jotham become mighty?*

❐ **Psalm 61**

David praises God for hearing his prayer and giving him assurance when overwhelmed.

*What prayer has God answered for you lately?*

❐ **Matthew 20**

The parable of the vineyard explains Jesus' statement that "many who are first will be last, and the last first." Jesus continues towards Jerusalem and tells his disciples about His death again. A request prompts another lesson on servant leadership.

*How did Jesus say we could become great?*

## Week 33 / Day 1

❐ **2 Kings 15-16**

Chapter 15 is a catalog of chaos in the Northern Kingdom - wicked kings briefly grasp for power under the shadow of Assyria. Judah is somewhat better, thanks to Jotham. Ahaz desecrates the Temple and appeals Assyria for help.

*Why was Azariah struck with leprosy by God?*

❐ **Matthew 21**

Jesus enters Jerusalem to great fanfare. The crowds quote from Ps 118:25-26 affirming Jesus as the Messiah. Upon arriving into the city, he purges the temple. The religious leaders challenge His authority in vain, and Jesus uses parables to critique the leaders.

*Why did the priests not answer Jesus about John's baptism?*

## Week 33 / Day 2

❒ **Isaiah 1-3**

Isaiah stands as one of the most significant Old Testament books. He indicts Judah and offers a choice: God would redeem those who repented, but the persistently rebellious would be judged.

*Was God pleased with Judah's sacrifices and festivals?*

❒ **Psalm 9**

David rejoices in the Lord because he rules over all nations, judging ungodly peoples but delivering those who trust in him.

*What is God to those who trust in Him?*

❒ **Matthew 22**

Jesus gives another parable aimed at the religious leaders - judgment will come upon those who reject the Son. The religious leaders continue attempting to ensnare Jesus with questions. The more they asked, the more they learned they had no answers for Jesus.

*How does Jesus prove the resurrection?*

## Week 33 / Day 3

☐ **Isaiah 4-6**

The branch, part of David’s line, serves as God’s instrument to bring in his kingdom. The people were like a vineyard which did not respond to God's care. Isaiah's remarkable vision and calling are recounted in ch. 6.

*How long was Isaiah supposed to preach?*

☐ **Matthew 23**

This chapter begins an extended section about judgment ending in 26:2. The Pharisees were blind to their own sins. They majored on externals and ignored the great principles of God's Word. Jesus weeps over Jerusalem.

*What will the religious leaders do to those Jesus will send to them?*

## Week 33 / Day 4

❒ **Micah 1-4**

God will judge Israel and Judah. The wealthy are taking advantage of the poor and the weak. The leaders in every realm are corrupt. In contrast, Micah reveals Yahweh's coming righteous rule over His people.

*What will be done to swords under Yahweh's rule?*

❒ **Psalm 10**

When confronted by the spread of evil, David called out to God to protect the innocent and to judge the wicked, offering praise that God would eventually make right every wrong.

*Who do the wicked not fear?*

❒ **Matthew 24**

The disciples question Jesus about the end times. They envision the end to occur shortly, but Jesus lays out events that will happen in the distant future. There will be a time of great tribulation followed by the Second Coming.

*What did Jesus predict would happen to the temple in Jerusalem?*

## Week 33 / Day 5

❐ **Micah 5-7**

The coming Messiah will judge Israel's enemies. Micah despairs over the current condition of his nation, but what is current is not permanent. God will save. He will forgive.

*What does God want from us more than any sacrifices we could give Him?*

❐ **Matthew 25**

Jesus gives a parable highlighting the need to be ready for Christ's return - even if it is delayed beyond their expectations. Faithfulness now leads to reward later.

*What does God expect us to do for others?*

## Week 34 / Day 1

☐ **Isaiah 7-10**

There are two remarkable prophecies of the Messiah in this section. He will be born of a virgin (7:14); He will reign as the Prince of Peace (9:6). He will both punish and protect Israel.

*Why would God destroy Assyria?*

☐ **Psalm 22**

Pain and praise alternate in this lament, but praise gets the last word. All the world, even future generations will honor God for how he responds to his people's afflictions (including the innocent suffering of Jesus).

*How does David respond when God seems distant?*

☐ **Matthew 26**

The plot to kill Jesus is conceived and commences. Jesus continues to prepare His disciples for this event. Judas betrays, Peter denies, and the disciples abandon Jesus. The religious leaders hold a late night trial seeking grounds for a legitimate accusation.

*What does Jesus show us about repeated prayer?*

## Week 34 / Day 2

❒ **Isaiah 11-13**

Assyria will fall and Israel will be restored, leading to a song of thanksgiving. The Davidic royal line will rule by the Spirit of the Lord, bringing worldwide peace and redemption. The day of the Lord will come by the hand of Babylon, but Babylon itself will be finally broken.

*What will be the people's attitude toward God in the day of salvation?*

❒ **Psalm 118**

The psalmist calls upon all God's people to offer thanks to the Lord for his goodness in delivering them.

*Who was the rejected stone?*

❒ **Matthew 27**

Jesus is led to Pilate for execution. Judas regrets his decision but does not repent. Pilate finds no fault with Jesus, but agrees to release Barabbas and crucify Jesus. The soldiers mock Him and lead Him to Golgotha. Jesus dies with the cry of Psalm 22 on his lips. Shocking events surround His death.

*What happened in the temple when Jesus died? What did this signify?*

## Week 34 / Day 3

❐ **Isaiah 14-16**

Though the nations taunt Israel in the present, this is not the final word. Yahweh will defeat Israel's enemies demonstrating His power and His everlasting kingdom.

*What was Lucifer's sin?*

❐ **Matthew 28**

The tomb is empty. The Lord is risen. Everyone is surprised, but while the disciples respond with worship, the religious leaders try to cover it up. Jesus sends the disciples to the nations to make disciples, to baptize them, and to teach them His commands.

*Who first saw Jesus alive in this chapter?*

## Week 34 / Day 4

❒ **Isaiah 17-19**

Judgments are given against Damascus (Syria), Ethiopia (Cush), and Egypt. Yet God will bring people to Himself from Israel and the other nations that face judgment.

*Why would Damascus and Ephraim be destroyed?*

❒ **Psalm 62**

David professes his confidence in God and encourages himself to wait on God.

*What should we not set our hearts on?*

❒ **1 Corinthians 1**

Paul's greeting and thanksgiving for gospel's work among the Corinthians. He pleads with them not to divide over different leaders. God uses many foolish men for His glory.

*Did God choose the mighty and the noble to do His work?*

## Week 34 / Day 5

❐ **Isaiah 20-22**

Israel's trust in other nations was vain since they too would be carried into captivity. The fate of the nations that do not follow the Lord is darkness and defeat. When Jerusalem refuses to repent and mourn over its sin, the Lord will bring invaders who will sweep away even the honorable men.

*How long did Isaiah walk around stripped and barefoot? Why?*

❐ **1 Corinthians 2**

Paul came humbly, seeking only the prestige of God's power and declaring the wisdom of God. God's truth is revealed by the Spirit not by amazing human leaders.

*How can we know the things of God?*

## Week 35 / Day 1

❐ **Isaiah 23-25**

Tyre will be devastated because the Lord will humble the proud. In the end, Yahweh will bring devastation on the wicked, but He will also bring an end to death and eternal delight to His people.
*What was Tyre's sin?*

❐ **1 Corinthians 3**

Dividing over leaders is fleshly & immature. The best leader is like a farm laborer, dependent on God to bring forth a harvest. Every laborer is responsible for his work & will give an account. The church is the temple of God.
*How does one build on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, or wood, hay, and straw?*

## Week 35 / Day 2

❐ **Isaiah 26-29**

Yahweh will care for those who delight in Him, giving them refuge in the midst of judgment. Yahweh tells His people that He is the sure foundation and only refuge from the unstoppable judgment to come.

*What was the condition of the priests and the prophets?*

❐ **Psalm 65**

Praise is due to God from all the world because of His mighty works - He delivers and provides for His people.

*How will God's people be satisfied?*

❐ **1 Corinthians 4**

Paul shows the leaders are nothing to teach the Corinthians they are nothing. Everything they have received is from God. The apostles were persecuted not exalted. Corinth is full of people who are advancing themselves but lacks spiritually mature examples.

*Why did Paul send Timothy first to the church?*

## Week 35 / Day 3

❒ **Isaiah 30-32**

Israel should turn to the Lord, who exalts himself in judgment so that he might show mercy to those who run to him. Zion will be ruled by a righteous and just king who will govern over a restored nation.

*What type of people had Israel become?*

❒ **1 Corinthians 5**

How should a member living in immorality be treated by the church? Paul addresses this question directly by urging them not to tolerate a lack of repentance.

*Who did Paul tell us not to keep company with?*

## Week 35 / Day 4

❒ **Isaiah 33-35**

Yahweh's coming will lead to a remarkable reversal. Israel's enemies, though presently beautiful lands, will be turned to desert. Israel, though presently a desert, will be turned into a paradise. Yahweh will bring the captives home.

*Who in Zion will not be afraid of the devouring fire?*

❒ **1 Corinthians 6**

Disputes among believers are to be handled within the church by the church. The world will not inherit God’s kingdom so it should not sit in judgment over internal affairs. The church is the temple of the Holy Spirit.

*Why should the brethren not go to court against each other?*

## Week 35 / Day 5

**❒ 2 Kings 17; 2 Chronicles 28**

God judges the Northern Kingdom of Israel for abandoning him for idols by sending them away from his presence into exile in Assyria. The Lord humbles those who promote wickedness.

*What happened to the new residents of Samaria?*

**❒ Psalm 66**

The psalmist offers thanks for God's mighty deliverance in a time of crisis and invites others to join him in this praise.

*Why did God allow affliction and captivity on His people?*

**❒ 1 Corinthians 7**

Various marriage questions discussed, such as: entering into marriage, handling an unbelieving spouse. Marriage is seen to be a life-long mutual devotion to one another.

*Why did Paul say it was better to remain unmarried?*