

ANCHORED

in the Word

March 2023

About Anchored in the Word

Anchored in the Word is a resource to help you read the Bible more consistently and fruitfully. Following this guide will lead you to read thoughtfully through the entire New Testament over the year. You can do this by reading five days per week. If you want to read the whole Bible, appropriate passages from Old Testament are listed.

The guide is organized by week. Each week includes:

- A key verse taken from the week's reading. This is for you to meditate on and try to memorize.
- A brief introduction to the content of the week's reading.
- A space for notes for the week – you might use it for prayer requests, key lessons from the week, key ideas from Sunday's sermon, etc.

Then you will find a page for each day with the passage to read along with three questions. The passages are divided into roughly equal sections. Sometimes you will only read part of a chapter, or you might read parts of two chapters. Our goal was to make each reading about the same length, but make sure we ended at the end of a story or key idea.

Don't let the questions overwhelm you, they are just tools to help you. There are two main goals for the questions: (1) to stimulate our thinking, and (2) to help us discuss what we read together.

Remember to pray before, during and in response to reading. May God bless you as you read His Word!

All quotations are the from the Legacy Standard Bible (LSB) which you can read online at read.lsbible.org or in many Bible apps.

Week 9 (February 27-March 5)

VERSE OF THE WEEK

And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who draws near to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him. (Hebrews 11:6)

Hebrews chapters 9-13 focuses on the superiority of Christ's sacrifice. Christ's death was a once-for-all sacrifice that brings eternal redemption, making the old covenant and its temple sacrifices obsolete. The author exhorts the readers to persevere in their faith despite persecution and to hold fast to the hope of salvation in Christ. This section of Hebrews provides a profound understanding of the significance of Christ's sacrifice and the importance of holding fast to our faith in him. It helps us to understand our identity as Christians, and the eternal benefits that come with that identity. Additionally, the encouragement to persevere in the face of persecution and to hold fast to our hope in Christ provides practical guidance for living out our faith in a challenging world.

NOTES

Week 9 / Day 1

□ Hebrews 9

How often did the high priest enter the second part of the Tabernacle? What did he do?

How does the chapter explain the inadequacy of the sacrifices and offerings of the Old Testament system?

Why does the passage emphasize the necessity of shedding blood?

OT Readings for the day: Leviticus 24-25; Psalm 81

Week 9 / Day 2

□ Hebrews 10

What was the shortcoming of the Law? How is this shortcoming illustrated?

In what ways can you personally relate to the idea of having a high priest?

How could you use this passage to help someone who is struggling with sin and its guilt?

OT Readings for the day: Leviticus 26-27; Psalm 112

Week 9 / Day 3

□ Hebrews 11:1–29

What does the passage say about the creation of the world?

What happened to Enoch and why?

What do the people in this passage confess about their status on earth and what are they seeking?

OT Readings for the day: Numbers 1-2; Psalm 64

Week 9 / Day 4

□ Hebrews 11:30–12:17

What is the significance of the "cloud of witnesses" mentioned in Hebrews 12:1?

How can we avoid growing weary?

In what way does the LORD love His children?

OT Readings for the day: Numbers 3-5

Week 9 / Day 5

□ Hebrews 12:18–13:25

What is the difference between the mountain that the Israelites came to and Mount Zion?

What is the significance of remembering prisoners and the mistreated, and how can we practically apply this to our lives?

Why is hospitality important, and what are practical ways that we can share it?

OT Readings for the day: Numbers 6-7

Week 10 (March 6-12)

VERSE OF THE WEEK

Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men, (Colossians 3:23)

The book of Colossians emphasizes the supremacy of Jesus Christ and the sufficiency of his work on the cross. Paul encourages the Colossian Christians to reject false teachings and to continue in the faith, rooted and built up in Christ. He also instructs them to put to death sinful behaviors and to put on Christ-like virtues. Paul also addresses various practical matters such as relationships between husbands and wives, parents and children, and masters and slaves. The letter concludes with personal greetings and exhortations to prayer and wise conduct towards outsiders. Overall, Colossians emphasizes the preeminence of Christ, the importance of sound doctrine, and the need for holy living in the Christian life.

Luke introduces the story of the birth of John the Baptist and Jesus Christ. He emphasizes the power of God and the fulfillment of His promises. The angel Gabriel visits Zechariah, a priest, to tell him that his wife Elizabeth will bear a son named John who will be filled with the Holy Spirit and will prepare the way for the Lord. Gabriel also appears to Mary, who is betrothed to Joseph, to announce that she will conceive a son named Jesus who will be the Son of the Most High and reign over the house of Jacob forever. Mary visits Elizabeth, and the baby John in her womb leaps at the sound of Mary's voice.

NOTES

Week 10 / Day 1

Colossians 1

What does Paul give thanks for?

What does Paul pray for?

Record at least 5 things Paul says about Jesus.

OT Readings for the day: Numbers 8-11

Week 10 / Day 2

☐ Colossians 2:1–3:11

What does Paul encourage the Colossians, Laodiceans, and others who have not met him to do?

What is the cause of Paul's joy?

How could you use this passage to make changes in your life? or guide someone else who was wanting to change?

OT Reading for the day: Numbers 12-14; Psalm 28

Week 10 / Day 3

☐ Colossians 3:12–4:18

What does it mean to do things "in the name of Jesus"?

What does salt have to do with speech?

Each paragraph of the final chapter is about people close to Paul. Which one would you most like to meet? Why?

OT Reading for the day: Numbers 15-18; Psalm 113

Week 10 / Day 4

Luke 1:1-25

Why did Luke write this passage?

How does Luke describe Zacharias and Elizabeth?

Why was Zacharias unable to speak after meeting with the angel?

OT Readings for the day: Numbers 19-21

Week 10 / Day 5

☐ Luke 1:26–56

Who did the angel say would be the father of Mary's child?

What happened when Mary visited Elizabeth?

Note at least three reasons for Mary's praise.

OT Readings for the day: Numbers 22-25

Week 11 (March 13-19)

VERSE OF THE WEEK

And Jesus answered and said to him, "It is written, 'YOU SHALL WORSHIP THE LORD YOUR GOD AND SERVE HIM ONLY.'" (Luke 4:8)

Luke recounts the birth of John the Baptist and Jesus Christ. Elizabeth gives birth and on the eighth day, the boy is circumcised and named John. Zechariah, John's father, is filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesies about John's future and the salvation of the Lord. Mary and Joseph travel to Bethlehem for the census, and Jesus is born in a manger. An angel announces Jesus' birth to shepherds who go to see Him and spread the good news.

John the Baptist proclaimed that God's salvation of Israel promised in Isaiah had drawn near in the Messiah, so people should turn to God for forgiveness, be baptized, and live a life worthy of God. Jesus was tempted in the wilderness. Afterwards, He announces His mission in the synagogue at Nazareth. Rejected, He hints at the reception of the Gentiles. Devils are cast out and many are healed.

NOTES

Week 11 / Day 1

☐ Luke 1:57–80

How did the neighbors react to John's birth?

What is known about John's upbringing?

How can we deepen our daily awareness of God's tender mercy toward us?

OT Readings for the day: Numbers 26-29

Week 11 / Day 2

☐ Luke 2:1-38

What can we learn from the shepherds in this passage?

How can we maintain fervent devotion to Jesus Christ in the midst of life's pressures?

How can we help people who are apathetic toward the gospel see their desperate need for the Savior?

OT Readings for the day: Numbers 30-33; Psalm 35

Week 11 / Day 3

☐ Luke 2:39–3:20

What is surprising to you about Jesus's visit to the Temple?

Note the key themes of John's preaching ministry.

Should we confront unbelievers who swear or boast of their sin in our presence? If so, when and how?

OT Readings for the day: Numbers 34-36

Week 11 / Day 4

□ Luke 3:21–4:13

Why did God wait so long in human history to send the Savior? What about those who lived before Christ who never heard?

Should Christians fear the devil? If so, in what sense? If not, why not?

What can we learn about temptation and how to respond to it from Jesus' example?

OT Readings for the day: Deuteronomy 1-3; Psalm 36

Week 11 / Day 5

□ Luke 4:14-44

Observe the pairs of two illustrations: Israel, Sidon; and Israel, Syria. What is the main point of Jesus' words?

The demons knew who Christ was. Why didn't Jesus want them to proclaim this?

How is Jesus identified in today's reading?

OT Readings for the day: Deuteronomy 4-5

Week 12 (March 20-26)

VERSE OF THE WEEK

Bless those who curse you, pray for those who disparage you. (Luke 6:28)

This week's reading contains several significant events and teachings of Jesus. In Luke 5, Jesus calls His first disciples, performs several healings, forgives sins, and eats with sinners. In Luke 6, Jesus teaches His disciples about love, mercy, and generosity, and He also chooses His twelve apostles. In Luke 7, Jesus heals a centurion's servant, raises a widow's son from the dead, and forgives a sinful woman. Additionally, Jesus teaches about John the Baptist and the importance of repentance.

NOTES

Week 12 / Day 1

☐ Luke 5:1–26

How did Simon (Peter) become a disciple of Jesus?

What is the scariest aspect of being involved in evangelism for you?

What is the source of Jesus' authority? What does it allow him to do?

OT Readings for the day: Deuteronomy 6-9

Week 12 / Day 2

☐ Luke 5:27–6:19

Should Christians associate with people who live in rebellion to Jesus' teaching?

On what basis did Jesus choose His team of disciples?

What do you most appreciate about Jesus in these encounters?

OT Readings for the day: Deuteronomy 10-14; Psalm 5

Week 12 / Day 3

□ Luke 6:20–49

What reasons and motivations did Jesus give His hearers for following His commands?

Does the command to not judge contradict other Scriptures that tell us to judge (Deut. 16:18; Prov. 31:9; John 7:24)? Why/why not?

What do your words and actions indicate about what is stored up in your heart?

OT Readings for the day: Deuteronomy 15-18; Psalm 115

Week 12 / Day 4

□ Luke 7:1–23

Only twice do the Gospels record that Jesus was stirred by amazement (v. 9, and in Mark 6:6—for the opposite reason). What evidence does He have of the centurion's extraordinary faith?

What do we learn about Jesus from the way He responds to the widow?

Reflect on Jesus' response to John's doubt (vv. 21–23). How does it reveal his sympathy for John's spiritual crisis?

OT Readings for the day: Deuteronomy 19-22; Psalm 6

Week 12 / Day 5

□ Luke 7:24–8:3

Most of the Pharisees refuse to acknowledge Jesus is sent from God, but one is cautiously open. How does Jesus carefully draw out his faith?

What was Jesus' indictment against the unbelieving generation?

How does Jesus relate love to forgiveness?

OT Readings for the day: Deuteronomy 23-26

Week 13 (March 27-April 2)

VERSE OF THE WEEK

And He was saying to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest. (Luke 10:2)

Luke 8-10 recounts several of Jesus' notable teachings and miracles, as well as His interactions with various individuals and groups. In chapter 8, Jesus delivers the parable of the sower and calms a storm on the sea, demonstrating His power over nature. He then heals a demon-possessed man and a woman with a long-term illness. In chapter 9, Jesus sends out His disciples to preach and perform miracles, and He feeds a large crowd with just a few loaves and fish. Later, Jesus predicts His own death and resurrection, and admonishes His followers to take up their own crosses and follow Him. In chapter 10, Jesus sends out 72 disciples to preach and heal in His name, and teaches the parable of the good Samaritan. He also visits the home of Mary and Martha, where Martha is busy with preparations while Mary sits at Jesus' feet and listens to Him teach. This week's reading can deepen your understanding of Jesus' teachings and ministry, as well as provide insight into the nature of discipleship and the importance of showing compassion to others.

NOTES

Week 13 / Day 1

□ Luke 8:4–40

In light of this parable, should we give assurance of salvation to new believers? Why/why not?

When we sow the seed of the gospel, to what extent should we try to be persuasive and to what extent should we fall back on the sovereignty of God (see 1 Cor. 9:19-23; 2 Cor. 5:11)?

How can we guard against worries, riches, and pleasures choking out the Word in our lives?

OT Readings for the day: Deuteronomy 27-31

Week 13 / Day 2

Luke 8:41–9:11

Is it wrong to encourage a person to come to Jesus for the benefits he/she will receive?

Why does God sometimes delay the answers to our prayers?

Check Jesus' commission and instructions to the Twelve. Which do you think are especially relevant for evangelism and world missions today? Why?

OT Readings for the day: Deuteronomy 32-34; Psalm 13

Week 13 / Day 3

□ Luke 9:12–42

Why is Jesus' central question, "Who do you say I am?" the most important one for each of us to answer?

Jesus now offers two hard teachings—the first prediction of His humiliating death (vv. 21–22) and the cost of commitment to Him as Lord (vv. 23–27). But what long-term benefits does He promise for these short-term costs?

What might Jesus' transfiguration have meant to the disciples? How is Jesus' transfiguration also important for Jesus himself?

OT Readings for the day: Joshua 1-4; Psalm 143

Week 13 / Day 4

□ Luke 9:43–10:16

Reflecting on the brief episode in 9:51–56, what can we learn about evangelism according to Jesus?

In 9:57–62 we meet three would-be disciples. What preconditions has each set for following Jesus?

What could you begin doing this week (at least one specific act) to more closely identify yourself as a follower of Jesus?

OT Readings for the day: Joshua 5-8; Psalm 14

Week 13 / Day 5

□ Luke 10:17–42

How did Jesus answer the question about inheriting eternal life?

Was Jesus rebuking Martha's labors, or her over doing these things?

Suppose you asked Jesus, "How can I learn, like Mary, to choose what is better?" What might He say?

OT Readings for the day: Joshua 9-13

