

ANCHORED

in the Word



April 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 14 (April 3-9)

VERSE OF THE WEEK

Consider the ravens, for they neither sow nor reap; they have no storeroom nor barn, and yet God feeds them; how much more valuable you are than the birds! (Luke 12:24)

In Luke 11-13, Jesus teaches His disciples about prayer and evil. Many questioned Jesus' authority and teaching because they failed to discern the divine source of His authority to cast out evil. They also prioritized external appearances at the expense of inward disposition of heart. Jesus promised the Spirit would enable the witness of His persecuted people and assures them God will vindicate them.

Jesus also heals a woman and confronts the Pharisees who were angry with Him for doing so on the Sabbath. Overall, these chapters contain important teachings about prayer, repentance, and the kingdom of God, as well as several miracles and confrontations with the religious leaders. They reveal Jesus' authority and His mission to bring about the kingdom of God, even if it means causing division among people.

NOTES

Week 14 / Day 1

☐ Luke 11:1-28

Consider Jesus' teaching on prayer. What aspect of it do you want to grow in?

How does Jesus contrast earthly fathers with our heavenly Father?

How does Jesus respond to the woman who blesses His mother?

OT Readings for the day: Joshua 14-17

Week 14 / Day 2

□ Luke 11:29-54

Who does Jesus say will rise up in judgment against that generation of Jews? Why would they do that?

How does Jesus challenge the Pharisees' emphasis on external cleanliness?

What lessons can we learn from this passage about how to avoid the hypocrisy and spiritual blindness that characterized the Pharisees?

OT Readings for the day: Joshua 18-21; Psalm 15

Week 14 / Day 3

☐ Luke 12:1-34

Who should we fear? Why?

How does Jesus reassure His followers that God will be with them when they are persecuted?

What is the importance of seeking God's kingdom and how does it relate to our material possessions?

OT Readings for the day: Joshua 22-24; Psalm 116

Week 14 / Day 4

□ Luke 12:35-13:9

How does Jesus bring division instead of peace?

How does the parable of the fig tree illustrate God's patience and mercy?

Why was repentance central to the message of Jesus?

OT Readings for the day: Judges 1-3; Psalm 16

Week 14 / Day 5

☐ Luke 13:10-35

What does Jesus compare the kingdom of God to? Why?

Why will some people who think they are saved actually be lost?

What was Jesus attitude towards those who rejected Him? How should this inform our evangelistic efforts?

OT Readings for the day: Judges 4-6

Week 15 / Day 1

Luke 14

Why were the religious leaders silent when questioned by Jesus?

What does Jesus teach about humility and hospitality?

What prevents some people from being Jesus' disciple?

OT Readings for the day: Judges 7-8

Week 15 / Day 2

Luke 15

What prompted the three parables in this chapter?

What three things were lost?

How does the response of the elder brother conclude Jesus' point to the religious leaders?

OT Reading for the day: Judges 9-11; Psalm 17

Week 15 / Day 3

☐ Luke 16

How can we know where to draw the line on spending on ourselves versus investing in God's kingdom purposes?

What are some implications of the fact that money management is the "little thing" that God uses to test us for our trustworthiness in handling true riches (souls)?

A person might argue that Jesus is teaching here that we are saved by our good deeds. How would you refute this biblically?

OT Reading for the day: Judges 12-16; Psalm 146

Week 15 / Day 4

□ Luke 17

Do we have any right to talk to someone else about a person's sin against us before we have talked to the person himself? If so, when and under what conditions?

What did ten men in a particular village have in common? What made them different?

How would you counsel a believer who excused his disobedience by saying, "I just don't have the faith to do it"?

OT Readings for the day: Judges 17-18; Psalm 21

Week 15 / Day 5

☐ Luke 18:1-27

Is it right to pray once in faith and drop the matter, knowing that God will answer? Do we need to keep bringing it to Him?

Why is justification by faith alone not just a doctrinal fine point for theologians, but a crucial matter for everyone?

What lessons can we learn from Jesus' evangelistic method with the rich young man?

OT Readings for the day: Judges 19-21

Week 16 (March 13-19)

VERSE OF THE WEEK

For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save the lost. (Luke 19:10)

This week's reading includes several notable events in the life of Jesus. The healing of blind Bartimaeus is a powerful example of the power of Jesus to heal. Jesus enters Jericho and meets Zacchaeus, a tax collector, who repents and gives back money he had cheated. Jesus then travels to Jerusalem and enters triumphantly, fulfilling the prophecy of Zechariah. In the temple, Jesus overturns the tables of the moneychangers and teaches about the widow's offering. He predicts the destruction of the temple and the signs of the end times. Jesus also speaks of the signs of the end of the age, including false messiahs, wars, and natural disasters. He then warns His followers that they will face persecution and encourages them to stand firm and bear witness. The Son of Man will come suddenly and unexpectedly; therefore the disciples should be watchful and alert.

NOTES

Week 16 / Day 1

☐ Luke 18:28-19:10

Is forsaking all just for the super-committed or is it the requirement for every believer?

How can we become a friend to sinners without falling prey to the warning of 1 Corinthians 15:33?

Is it right to give a person assurance of salvation before there are any signs of repentance? Why/why not?

OT Readings for the day: Ruth 1-2

Week 16 / Day 2

□ Luke 19:11–48

What should we do if we think the kingdom of God is going to appear immediately?

How does our view of God affect our service for Him?
Where is the balance between seeing His grace and His judgment?

Jesus received two different responses when He taught in the Temple. Describe the response from the leaders and the response from the people.

OT Readings for the day: Ruth 3-4; Psalm 37

Week 16 / Day 3

□ Luke 20:1–26

Why wouldn't the religious leaders answer Jesus' question? How are we prone to be like them in this?

Do Christians need to fear God's judgment? Back your answer with Scripture.

What does Jesus' statement about Caesar teach us about our relationship to government? Where is the line between things that belong to God and things that belong to Caesar?

OT Readings for the day: 1 Samuel 1-2; Psalm 120

Week 16 / Day 4

□ Luke 20:27–21:7

What are some ways that believing false doctrine affects a person's life and behavior?

Can a person truly know Jesus as Savior and yet reject Him as Lord? Give biblical support for your answer.

How do we know when we've given enough? Must we give so much that we live in poverty?

OT Readings for the day: 1 Samuel 3-5; Psalm 23

Week 16 / Day 5

□ Luke 21:8–38

How can Jesus' followers know the difference between His return and the arrival of false messiahs?

What sections seem to be pointing to a future fulfillment for Christ's teaching?

What should we be doing to prepare for the end times according to Jesus?

OT Readings for the day: 1 Samuel 6-8

Week 17 (March 20-26)

VERSE OF THE WEEK

*And said to them, "Why are you sleeping? Rise up and pray that you may not enter into temptation."
(Luke 22:46)*

This week's reading describes the final days of Jesus' life, His crucifixion, and resurrection. In Chapter 22, Jesus shares the last supper with His disciples and is betrayed by Judas. He is then arrested and brought before the high priest and Pilate, who condemns Him to death. Peter denies knowing Jesus three times before the rooster crows, just as Jesus had predicted. In Chapter 23, Jesus is crucified and dies on the cross. He is buried in a tomb, but on the third day, in Chapter 24, the women who had followed Jesus go to the tomb and find it empty. Two men in dazzling apparel appear to them and remind them of Jesus' prediction that He would rise on the third day. The women go back to tell the disciples, but they do not believe them. However, later that day, Jesus appears to two of His disciples on the road to Emmaus, revealing Himself to them in the breaking of bread.

NOTES

Week 17 / Day 1

☐ Luke 22:1–30

Greed was one factor in Judas' fall. How can we detect greed in ourselves and fight against it?

Is it spiritually and emotionally healthy to think often of our own sinfulness? Why/why not?

To what degree should heavenly rewards motivate our service for the Lord? Is it selfish to labor for future rewards?

OT Readings for the day: 1 Samuel 9-10

Week 17 / Day 2

☐ Luke 22:31–62

Where is the balance between God's keeping power and our responsibility to keep ourselves from sin?

What is your biggest hindrance to prayer? How can you overcome it?

Does the fact that believers can sin badly contradict that believers have transformed lives? Why/why not?

OT Readings for the day: 1 Samuel 11-13; Psalm 38

Week 17 / Day 3

□ Luke 22:63–23:25

What lessons can we learn from Jesus' testimony about how to witness before the world?

What are some common ways we are tempted to compromise our integrity and deny Christ? How can we avoid them?

What should we do if we feel that we have violated our conscience? Is the conscience always a good guide?

OT Readings for the day: 1 Samuel 14; Psalm 124

Week 17 / Day 4

□ Luke 23:26–56

What did Jesus say to the daughters of Jerusalem as they were mourning for Him?

Does forgiving others mean that we should extend forgiveness to them whether they repent or not? What does it mean?

What do the thieves being crucified beside Jesus teach us about salvation?

OT Readings for the day: 1 Samuel 15-16; 1 Chronicles 1; Psalm 39

Week 17 / Day 5

☐ Luke 24:1-32

What is most surprising to you about Luke's account of the resurrection?

How can we counter the prevailing cultural notion that spiritual truth is merely subjective?

How would you counsel a person who has been deeply disappointed with God? What should they do first?

OT Readings for the day: 1 Samuel 17; 1 Chronicles 2

