

ANCHORED

in the Word

November 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 44 (October 30-Nov. 5)

VERSE OF THE WEEK

"He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him." (John 3:36)

This week's reading begins with John the Baptist identifying Jesus as the Lamb of God and includes the calling of the first disciples. Jesus performs His first miracle at the Wedding at Cana by turning water into wine, demonstrating His divine authority. He further asserts this authority by cleansing the Temple in Jerusalem. Jesus' nighttime conversation with Nicodemus introduces the concept of being "born again" and highlights His role as the Savior. John the Baptist reiterates Jesus' divine nature, stating that He must increase while John must decrease. Jesus then encounters a Samaritan woman, revealing Himself as the Messiah and breaking cultural barriers. This leads to the conversion of many Samaritans. He also heals an official's son, showcasing His power from a distance. Finally, Jesus heals a man on the Sabbath at the Pool of Bethesda, which leads to confrontations with religious leaders but also serves as an opportunity for Jesus to expound on His unique relationship with God the Father.

NOTES

Week 44 / Day 1

□ John 1:29–2:10

Why did the Spirit come down upon Jesus?

What convinced Nathanael that Jesus was the Son of God?

Why did Jesus turn the water to wine?

OT Readings for the day: Ezekiel 16-18

Week 44 / Day 2

□ John 2:11–3:21

When did the disciples remember what Jesus had said about the temple?

What is required to enter the kingdom of God?

How would you describe what it means to be born again to someone?

OT Readings for the day: Ezekiel 19-21; Psalm 84

Week 44 / Day 3

□ John 3:22–36

Who did John say he was, as well as who he wasn't?

Why is it sometimes hard to give God credit?

What has the Father done for the Son?

OT Readings for the day: Ezekiel 22-24; Psalm 134

Week 44 / Day 4

□ John 4:1-38

Why did Jesus sit down by Jacob's well?

What did Jesus say would be the result of drinking the water He offered?

How is the world's need for salvation and eternal life like thirst?

OT Readings for the day: Ezekiel 25-27; Psalm 85

Week 44 / Day 5

□ John 4:39–5:16

What impact have other people's testimonies had on your life?

What is something specific (and recent) you can thank God for doing in your life?

What did the Jews say to the healed man? Why?

OT Readings for the day: Ezekiel 28-30

Week 45 (November 6-12)

VERSE OF THE WEEK

*"All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will never cast out."
(John 6:37)*

John highlights the growing tension between Jesus and the religious authorities. Jesus defends His actions on the Sabbath, elaborating on His unique relationship with God the Father and His divine authority to give life and judge. He also cites multiple testimonies to His identity, including those of John the Baptist and the Scriptures. In John 6, Jesus performs two significant miracles: the feeding of the 5,000 and walking on water, both of which astonish the crowds and His disciples. He then delivers the Bread of Life discourse, proclaiming Himself as the essential sustenance for eternal life, a teaching that confounds many and leads some followers to abandon Him. In John 7, Jesus attends the Feast of Tabernacles incognito due to threats against His life. His public teachings at the feast cause division among the people and religious leaders. He speaks metaphorically about the Holy Spirit as "living water," further mystifying the crowd. The Pharisees attempt to arrest Him, but even they are divided, with Nicodemus suggesting they need to investigate Jesus more thoroughly.

NOTES

Week 45 / Day 1

□ John 5:17–47

Why did God entrust judgment to Christ?

When have you experienced pressure not to practice or share your faith in Christ?

On what authority can we rest our belief in Jesus?

OT Readings for the day: Ezekiel 31-33

Week 45 / Day 2

□ John 6:1–21

For what reasons do people follow Jesus today?

How and when has God miraculously provided for your needs?

What miraculous event took place once Jesus entered the boat?

OT Reading for the day: Ezekiel 34-36; Psalm 86

Week 45 / Day 3

□ John 6:22–59

What did Jesus say would be the result of coming to Him?

When do you feel secure in your relationship with God?
Why?

What can you do today to rely on God, rather than on things or people, to satisfy your needs?

OT Reading for the day: Ezekiel 37-39; Psalm 87

Week 45 / Day 4

□ John 6:60–7:24

What has kept you from turning away from Christ?

What did Jesus' brothers tell Him to do?

How did Jesus say someone could discover whether or not His teaching came from God?

OT Readings for the day: Ezekiel 40-42

Week 45 / Day 5

□ John 7:25–52

What reason did some of the people give for putting their faith in Jesus?

How has Jesus caused division among groups of people with whom you are associated?

Why do we tend to judge others before we actually get to know them?

OT Readings for the day: Ezekiel 43-45; Psalm 135

Week 46 (November 13-19)

VERSE OF THE WEEK

"I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep." (John 10:11)

Our reading this week begins with the story of the woman caught in adultery, whom Jesus forgives, challenging those without sin to cast the first stone. Jesus then declares Himself the Light of the World and engages in intense dialogues with the Jewish leaders, culminating in His bold claim of pre-existence before Abraham. In John 9, Jesus heals a man born blind, sparking a theological debate among the Pharisees who ultimately excommunicate the healed man. Jesus uses this event to discuss spiritual blindness. John 10 introduces the metaphor of Jesus as the Good Shepherd who lays down His life for His sheep, contrasting His own sacrificial love with the neglect shown by religious leaders. At the Feast of Dedication, Jesus again claims unity with the Father, leading to another attempt to stone Him. Despite the growing tension and threats against Him, many continue to believe in His message. Conflict around Jesus' identity is escalating while His compassion, authority, and divine nature continue to shine.

NOTES

Week 46 / Day 1

□ John 7:53–8:11

Which sins do you think God classifies as “big” sins?

Why did Jesus issue a challenge to the Pharisees?

How can you challenge a friend or family member caught in sin to sin no more?

OT Readings for the day: Ezekiel 46-48

Week 46 / Day 2

□ John 8:12–59

In what way is Jesus a “light”?

What did Jesus say the truth would do for those who knew it?

What points to the fact that you belong to God?

OT Readings for the day: Daniel 1-3; Psalm 88

Week 46 / Day 3

John 9

Why had this man been born blind? How might you use this truth to comfort someone with a physical disability?

How did the blind man respond to the Pharisees?

In what way are people today spiritually blind?

OT Readings for the day: Daniel 4-6

Week 46 / Day 4

□ John 10:1–21

How did Jesus contrast His coming with the coming of a thief?

How can we better hear the voice of Jesus?

What tempts people to follow a stranger? Why?

OT Readings for the day: Daniel 7-9; Psalm 91

Week 46 / Day 5

□ John 10:22–42

Into what kind of inheritance did Peter say his readers had been born?

How have the trials you've been through strengthened and refined your faith?

How can our priorities reflect the fact that our lives are temporary while God's Word is eternal?

OT Readings for the day: Daniel 10-12

Week 47 (November 20-26)

VERSE OF THE WEEK

"By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another." (John 13:35)

This week's reading opens with the dramatic raising of Lazarus from the dead, a miracle that intensifies the Jewish leaders' plot to kill Jesus. In John 12, Mary anoints Jesus with expensive perfume, and Jesus makes a triumphal entry into Jerusalem, fulfilling Messianic prophecies but also foretelling His impending death. Despite His miracles, many still do not believe in Him. John 13 shifts to the intimate setting of the Last Supper, where Jesus washes His disciples' feet, teaching them about humility and service. He also predicts His betrayal by Judas and gives a new commandment to love one another. In John 14, Jesus offers comfort and hope to His troubled disciples, telling them He is going to prepare a place for them in His Father's house. He declares Himself to be the way, the truth, and the life, emphasizing that access to God the Father is exclusively through Him. Both the humanity and divinity of Jesus are emphasized throughout this week.

NOTES

Week 47 / Day 1

□ John 11:1–44

In what way has God used sickness in your life or the life of another to bring someone to Himself?

Why are we sometimes disappointed by God? How should we respond?

When have you had faith in God's ability to work out an impossible situation?

OT Readings for the day: Ezra 1-2

Week 47 / Day 2

□ John 11:45–12:22

What were the different responses of the Jews to Jesus' miracle?

How do you deal with the tension of helping people in need while enjoying your wealth and possessions?

What specific area of your life do you need to submit more consistently to the authority of Jesus? How?

OT Readings for the day: Ezra 3-4; Psalm 92

Week 47 / Day 3

□ John 12:23–50

Why didn't Jesus ask the Father to save Him?

How does Jesus want us to hate our lives?

Why didn't the leaders who did believe in Jesus admit their faith?

OT Readings for the day: Haggai; Zechariah 1; Psalm 138

Week 47 / Day 4

□ John 13:1–20

What did Jesus know and what did this lead Him to do?

In what way are we to wash the feet of others?

What is the difference between servants and masters?

OT Readings for the day: Zechariah 2-5; Psalm 93

Week 47 / Day 5

□ John 13:21-14:7

How can you use this story to help someone who has been hurt by betrayal?

What kind of love reveals Jesus' disciples?

What assurance did Jesus give His disciples that what He said was true?

OT Readings for the day: Zechariah 6-8

Week 48 (November 27-Dec. 3)

VERSE OF THE WEEK

"These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world." (John 16:33)

Now we turn to Jesus' final teachings, prayers, and the beginning of His passion. In John 14, Jesus responds to Philip's request to see the Father by emphasizing His unity with the Father and promises the Holy Spirit as the Helper who will come after His departure. He also leaves His disciples with a peace that transcends worldly understanding. John 15 introduces the metaphor of Jesus as the vine and His followers as the branches, emphasizing the importance of abiding in Him. He also warns of the world's hatred and coming persecution. In John 16, Jesus elaborates on the Holy Spirit's role in convicting the world and guiding believers, and He assures His disciples of the joy and peace they will find in Him despite trials. John 17 captures Jesus' High Priestly Prayer, where He prays for His own glorification, the protection of His disciples, and the unity of all believers. Finally, John 18 recounts the arrest of Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane, His initial hearings before Jewish and Roman authorities, and Peter's denial, setting the stage for the crucifixion.

NOTES

Week 48 / Day 1

□ John 14:8–15:11

How did Jesus characterize His relationship with the Father?

How are we taught by the Holy Spirit?

How should we deal with the fear in our lives?

OT Readings for the day: Zechariah 9-11

Week 48 / Day 2

□ John 15:12–16:15

What is the greatest manifestation of love?

If you were one of Jesus' twelve disciples, how would you have responded to His warning about the world's hatred?

What role do Christians and the church play in prodding the conscience of the world?

OT Readings for the day: Zechariah 12-14; Psalm 94

Week 48 / Day 3

□ John 16:16–17:5

How has God made your joy complete?

What relationship do we have with the Father today?

What was Jesus' prayer for Himself?

OT Readings for the day: Ezra 5-6; Psalm 95

Week 48 / Day 4

□ John 17:6–18:11

Why did Jesus pray for His disciples? What did He ask the Father to do?

Why did the world hate Jesus' disciples?

Why was Jesus going to continue to make the Father known?

OT Readings for the day: Esther 1-3; Psalm 139

Week 48 / Day 5

□ John 18:12–38

Why did Caiaphas think it good that one man die for the people?

Under what circumstances might you be tempted to deny knowing Jesus?

What would the people with whom you talk on a regular basis say about your “teachings”?

OT Readings for the day: Esther 4-6

