



FBC Reading Plan

July 2019

Why a Reading Plan: God speaks to people through His Word. It is what He uses to transform our lives by orienting our minds toward His truth and aligning our heart toward what He loves. The aim of this reading plan is not to merely check a box off a list, but to encourage our church body to spend time hearing from God. Here at FBC we want to provide you with the tools to grow. This reading plan aligns with the Sunday morning message and Life Group times.

How to use this booklet: Each week you will start with the passage that the sermon that coming Sunday will be based on. Each week will have a theme and each reading will compliment that theme. The passages are relatively short to encourage you to spend more time thinking through a passage and writing down a few thoughts. We have provided at least one question to give you something to think through. However, we do encourage the H.E.A.R. method. Because the passages are shorter, the reading is the **highlight**. We encourage you to then write a short **explanation** of what the passage is saying and the big idea the author is trying to communicate. We think **application** is a crucial part of a transformation process. In this section, you are writing down how you can apply the truth from this passage to your life. Application should always be done in a spirit of prayer, as you are asking God to reveal to you how it applies. Finally, it is not enough to settle for knowing some truth or how it might apply to your life without a specific response. So we encourage you to write out a **response**. This can be a response to God or a specific action you will take as a result of your time with the Lord.

Memory Verse: This year, we want to challenge you to memorize a different passage of Scripture each month. That memory verse is provided on the next page in the ESV, NIV, and NLT versions.

July's Memory Verse

28 Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe, 29 for our God is a consuming fire.

Hebrews 12:28-29 (ESV)

28 Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, 29 for our “God is a consuming fire.”

Hebrews 12:28-29 (NIV)

28 Since we are receiving a Kingdom that is unshakable, let us be thankful and please God by worshiping him with holy fear and awe.
29 For our God is a devouring fire.

Hebrews 12:28-29 (NLT)

Week 1: Corporate Worship Values: Biblical Revelation

Starting Date July 1st

Day 1 **Highlight:** Revelation 4:1-11

Explanation:

What does this passage teach us about worship?

Week 1: Corporate Worship Values: Biblical Revelation

Starting Date July 1st

Application:

Response:

Week 1: Corporate Worship Values: Biblical Revelation

Starting Date July 1st

Day 2 Highlight: Revelation 7:9-17

Explanation:

How does God's revelation in Jesus influence our worship?

Week 1: Corporate Worship Values: Biblical Revelation

Starting Date July 1st

Application:

Response:

Week 1: Corporate Worship Values: Biblical Revelation

Starting Date July 1st

Day 3

Highlight: Psalm 119:1-56

Explanation:

God's people worship by cherishing God's word and striving to obey it. Based on this passage, how is God calling you worship him with more intentionality?

Week 1: Corporate Worship Values: Biblical Revelation

Starting Date July 1st

Application:

Response:

Week 1: Corporate Worship Values: Biblical Revelation

Starting Date July 1st

Day 4

Highlight: Psalm 119:57-120

Explanation:

God's people worship by cherishing God's word and striving to obey it. Based on this passage, how is God calling you worship him with more intentionality?

Week 1: Corporate Worship Values: Biblical Revelation

Starting Date July 1st

Application:

Response:

Week 1: Corporate Worship Values: Biblical Revelation

Starting Date July 1st

Day 5

Highlight: Psalm 119:121-176

Explanation:

God's people worship by cherishing God's word and striving to obey it. Based on this passage, how is God calling you worship him with more intentionality?

Week 1: Corporate Worship Values: Biblical Revelation

Starting Date July 1st

Application:

Response:

Week 2: Corporate Worship Values: Gospel Orientation

Starting Date July 8th

Day 1 **Highlight:** Matthew 26:26-35

Explanation:

Why must the gospel be central to every corporate worship service?
How does the Lord's Supper reinforce this?

Week 2: Corporate Worship Values: Gospel Orientation

Starting Date July 8th

Application:

Response:

Week 2: Corporate Worship Values: Gospel Orientation

Starting Date July 8th

Day 2 **Highlight:** Ephesians 3:14-21

Explanation:

What does Paul pray for? How can a corporate worship service help bring this about?

Week 2: Corporate Worship Values: Gospel Orientation

Starting Date July 8th

Application:

Response:

Week 2: Corporate Worship Values: Gospel Orientation

Starting Date July 8th

Day 3 **Highlight:** Psalm 106

Explanation:

The Psalms were Israel's "hymnal." This psalm shows us that Israel often reflected back on the exodus from Egypt and wilderness wandering. How should this inform our corporate worship services today?

Week 2: Corporate Worship Values: Gospel Orientation

Starting Date July 8th

Application:

Response:

Week 2: Corporate Worship Values: Gospel Orientation

Starting Date July 8th

Day 4 **Highlight:** 1 Corinthians 11:17-34

Explanation:

Why is Paul so concerned about the way in which the Lord's Supper was being celebrated by the Corinthian church? How does the Lord's Supper and the way that it is celebrated reflect what we believe as Christians?

Week 2: Corporate Worship Values: Gospel Orientation

Starting Date July 8th

Application:

Response:

Week 2: Corporate Worship Values: Gospel Orientation

Starting Date July 8th

Day 5 **Highlight:** Psalm 139

Explanation:

This psalm invites God to search and test our thoughts. How may God use our weekly reflection on the gospel in the corporate worship gathering to do this?

Week 2: Corporate Worship Values: Gospel Orientation

Starting Date July 8th

Application:

Response:

Week 3: Corporate Worship Values: One Another

Starting Date July 15th

Day 1 Highlight: 1 Corinthians 11:2-16

1 Corinthians 11-14 is the longest passage in Scripture dealing with corporate worship in the church, but it also contains some of the most debated passages in Scripture. Because of the interpretative difficulties, we have provided a short commentary on days one, four, and five to help you in your study in addition to the H.E.A.R Journal outline.

Explanation:

While commenting on this passage, Richard Hays writes, “We should never pretend to understand more than we do.” This is a difficult passage to understand, and therefore is even more difficult to know how to apply. But here is what does seem clear. The context of the passage is how Christians should conduct themselves in the corporate worship gathering (chs. 11-14). Both men and women pray and prophesy (vv. 4-5); Paul’s primary concern seems to be how to maintain a distinction between the sexes while worshipping (praying and prophesying) together. It is clear from earlier passages in the letter that the Corinthians had many misguided ideas about sexuality.

Here are some of the difficulties in this passage. First, the Greek words for “man” and “woman” can be respectively translated as “husband” and “wife” depending on the context. Because there is no explicit mention of marriage and the context pertains to the corporate gathering of all believers, it seems slightly more likely to understand the terms to refer to men and women generally. Second, what does “head” mean? Some argue it means “authority” (cf. Eph. 5:22ff). Others argue that it means “source;” this matches well with v. 8, which refers to Eve being formed from Adam (Gen. 2:22). Whatever view one takes, it must align with vv. 11-12, which expresses the essential equality of men and women “in the Lord.” “Authority” seems more likely, and therefore supports an interpretation that Paul is concerned with maintaining the distinction between the sexes with the implication that women are to submit to men. Third, what is the “covering”? Some argue it could be the woman’s long hair. Others argue

Week 3: Corporate Worship Values: One Another

Starting Date July 15th

that it refers to a veil or shawl of some type. Either view is extremely hard to defend because of our lack of knowledge about Corinthian culture in this area. The latter view seems slightly more likely because Paul refers to a woman's long hair in v. 15. If he was referring to hair earlier, it seems he could have made that clear. Fourth, v. 10 literally reads, "a woman ought to have authority on/over head." Based on the use of the word "authority" elsewhere, it seems most likely that this verse refers to a woman's freedom for authority over her own head or that she should have something on her head that symbolizes her own authority (so ESV & NIV). V. 11 clarifies that although woman has authority over her own head, that does not make her independent from man (nor man from woman) but she still remains distinct. Finally, to what does Paul refer with the use of "nature" in v. 14? Paul seems to be saying that the difference between men and women is part of nature (i.e., biological). These natural differences translate in cultural practices which differentiate between men and women. Thus, Paul's concern with long hair is probably primarily a cultural concern, but it is important because it reflects an essential distinction between male and female. Long hair is not inherently wrong, but could be misinterpreted in that culture (Paul himself probably had long hair while living in Corinth! cf. Acts 18:18).

Interpreting this passage is extremely complex. Much of the interpretation depends on the cultural context, which is impossible for us to determine with confidence. Interpretations of this text are also influenced by one's interpretations of other parts of Scripture. What is clear is that there should be no dishonoring of the other sex within the church while this dishonoring may take place in different ways depending on one's cultural context. It is important to Paul to maintain the distinction between male and female. But he seems to be concerned about this in order to maintain the leadership role that God has given to men in creation. In the end, however we interpret and apply this passage, God has made it abundantly clear that it must be done in love (13:13).

Week 3: Corporate Worship Values: One Another

Starting Date July 15th

Day 1 **Highlight:** 1 Corinthians 11:2-16

Explanation:

How would you summarize the main point of this passage?

Week 3: Corporate Worship Values: One Another

Starting Date July 15th

Application:

Response:

Week 3: Corporate Worship Values: One Another

Starting Date July 15th

Day 2 **Highlight:** 1 Corinthians 12:1-31

Explanation:

Despite the interpretive difficulties in this text, how would you summarize this passage in one sentence?

Week 3: Corporate Worship Values: One Another

Starting Date July 15th

Application:

Response:

Week 3: Corporate Worship Values: One Another

Starting Date July 15th

Day 3

Highlight: 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

Explanation:

Remember that this passage is in the context of a discussion about Christians gathering for worship. How should this passage inform or perhaps change how we worship together?

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Starting Date July 15th

Application:

Response:

Week 3: Corporate Worship Values: One Another

Starting Date July 15th

Day 4 **Highlight:** 1 Corinthians 14:1-25

Explanation:

It is critical to understand that the Apostle Paul is addressing a problem that the church at Corinth was having relative to the practice of tongues. Space does not allow me to dive deeper in the passage, but here are some of the key points to his argument.

1. Love should always accompany the use of spiritual gifts (1 Cor. 14:1).

Regardless of what gift God has given you to use in the church, the exercise of that gift is always to be in the context of love. This is a point that Paul just made in 1 Cor. 13. You can exercise all kinds of amazing gifts, but if you don't have love, it is just noise. This was important to establish and emphasize when addressing a church struggling with unity issues. How you exercise a spiritual gift is more important than the actual gift itself.

2. Spiritual gifts used within the context of a worship service are always used to build up the church (1 Cor. 14:2-17).

One of the main outcomes of a corporate worship gathering is that the church leaves having edified or built up one another. Paul seems very clear on this point in their practice of tongues. If one is seemingly exercising their gift of tongues and neither the individual nor the rest of the church is edified, then something is amiss (1 Cor. 14:26). No one is being edified. This is why Paul talks about order in the church relative to tongues. If tongues are to be exercised in a corporate worship setting, then it should be one at a time and there must be an interpreter (1 Cor. 14:27). Paul seems to argue that the use of words that nobody understands without someone interpreting is unfruitful and to be avoided.

Week 3: Corporate Worship Values: One Another

Starting Date July 15th

3. Tongues were designed as a sign for an unbeliever (1 Cor. 14:21-24).

In what way are tongues a sign for an unbeliever? It seems important to understand that if tongues used in Acts 2 are the same tongues referred to here in this passage (and there is no reason why it would not be), then what we are talking about is not some mystical, heavenly language, but rather a real language... one that the speaker does not naturally know or understand. In Acts 2, there were multiple languages being spoken in tongues, and many heard them in their native language. God would use this gift as a sign to an unbeliever, basically putting His stamp of validation that these people had access to the words of truth. Tongues seems to be a real language spoke to God in the presence of an unbeliever who understood that language and would draw near to God. What was spoken was not new revelation to man, but rather praises directed toward God.

So if this is the issue that Paul was addressing, then the question is, "Have tongues ceased?" In Baptist circles the predominate answer is that yes, they have ceased. However, I do not hold to that understanding for I cannot defend it from the Scriptures. Here is what I will say about it. If it is used, it should align with the teaching of Paul in 1 Cor. 14. That being said, in our almost exclusively monolingual setting, I don't see the necessity of it; therefore, I take the position that it is not normative in a monolingual society, but given the right context, God may use this gift in the church to draw an unbeliever to Himself after hearing the wonders of God being spoken in his or her language and then being interpreted so the rest of the church is built up.

Week 3: Corporate Worship Values: One Another

Starting Date July 15th

Day 4 **Highlight:** 1 Corinthians 14:1-25

Explanation:

What should be the central motivation or goal of any use of a spiritual gift?

Week 3: Corporate Worship Values: One Another

Starting Date July 15th

Application:

Response:

Week 3: Corporate Worship Values: One Another

Starting Date July 15th

Day 5 Highlight: 1 Corinthians 14:26-40

Explanation:

Vv. 33b-35 is perhaps one of the most difficult passages in Scripture, not necessarily because it is difficult to understand but precisely because it is so clear: “the women should keep silent in the churches.” That seems incredibly strict, especially to our modern ears. In fact, some scholars believe this is so contrary to what Paul teaches elsewhere, especially in 11:4-5, that they argue these verses were inserted by later scribes and not actually written by Paul himself. However, the textual evidence for such a view is unconvincing. We must deal with the text as it is. The following interpretative points are drawn primarily from D.A. Carson.

First, there are some things that Paul is *not* saying. Paul does not make complete silence a rule for women. He clearly writes that women can prophesy when the church gathers (11:5). This is in line with Acts 2:18, itself a fulfillment of Joel 2:29, which explains that men *and* women will prophesy, and this is a sign of the outpouring of the Spirit. In addition, Paul cannot be addressing a local issue pertaining solely to the Corinthians. Some scholars argue that there is a local faction of women in Corinth causing trouble, perhaps socially or doctrinally. But to silence *all* women on account of a few women does not make sense. Nor can it be that women in particular are promoting a doctrinal error, perhaps because of a lack of education. If that were the case, it would not make sense to silence *all* women on account of a few. It is clear that what Paul writes here is a rule “in *all* the churches.”

So what *is* Paul saying? First, it is important to remember the context. Chs. 11-14 deal with issues of corporate worship. Ch. 14 in particular deals with the spiritual gifts of prophecy and speaking in tongues. Especially since Paul returns to the issue of prophecy again in v. 37, the silence of women most likely has to do with this topic. Given this context, D.A. Carson writes, “Paul’s point here...is that [women] may

Week 3: Corporate Worship Values: One Another

Starting Date July 15th

not participate in the oral weighing [cf. 11:29] of such prophecies. That is not permitted in any of the churches. In that connection, they are not allowed to speak— ‘as the law says.’” The “law” mentioned here then probably refers to Genesis 2:20b-24. This text is certainly in view in 11:8, as well as in 1 Timothy 2:13 (a similar text that explains that women should not teach or exercise authority over men in the church). This view assumes that New Testament prophecy was not authoritative like Old Testament prophecy and so required “weighing” or evaluation. This evaluation is akin to teaching, both of which are means of exercising authority in the church, a role reserved for men (cf. 1 Timothy 2:13). Similar to ch. 11, in Paul’s thinking there is a distinction between men and women that must be maintained within the church. This is true even while both are equal before God in Christ (Gal. 3:28).

So while Paul does not completely prohibit women from speaking at the corporate gathering, it seems most likely that he prohibits them from evaluating prophecies. This role is reserved for the male leadership of the church. Importantly, although this means nothing about their inherent value and worth, these roles maintain the natural distinction between the sexes.

Week 3: Corporate Worship Values: One Another

Starting Date July 15th

Day 5

Highlight: 1 Corinthians 14:26-40

Explanation:

How would you summarize the main point of this passage?

Week 3: Corporate Worship Values: One Another

Starting Date July 15th

Application:

Response:

Week 4: Corporate Worship Values: Spiritual Authenticity

Starting Date July 22nd

Day 1 Highlight: John 4:1-42

Explanation:

Based on the context of the story, what does it mean to worship “in spirit and in truth”?

Week 4: Corporate Worship Values: Spiritual Authenticity

Starting Date July 22nd

Application:

Response:

Week 4: Corporate Worship Values: Spiritual Authenticity

Starting Date July 22nd

Day 2 **Highlight:** 2 Samuel 6:16-23

Explanation:

What should be our attitude in the corporate worship setting? What should our attitude toward others be?

Week 4: Corporate Worship Values: Spiritual Authenticity

Starting Date July 22nd

Application:

Response:

Week 4: Corporate Worship Values: Spiritual Authenticity

Starting Date July 22nd

Day 3 **Highlight:** Psalm 63

Explanation:

This psalm describes a person intensely seeking after the Lord and expecting to find great satisfaction in him. How does this compare with your own pursuit of God?

Week 4: Corporate Worship Values: Spiritual Authenticity

Starting Date July 22nd

Application:

Response:

Week 4: Corporate Worship Values: Spiritual Authenticity

Starting Date July 22nd

Day 4 **Highlight:** Psalm 15

Explanation:

Based on this psalm, how would you define godly worship?

Week 4: Corporate Worship Values: Spiritual Authenticity

Starting Date July 22nd

Application:

Response:

Week 4: Corporate Worship Values: Spiritual Authenticity

Starting Date July 22nd

Day 5 **Highlight:** Romans 12:1-2

Explanation:

Based on these verses, how would you define godly worship?

Week 4: Corporate Worship Values: Spiritual Authenticity

Starting Date July 22nd

Application:

Response:

Week 5: Corporate Worship Values: God's Kingdom

Starting Date July 29th

Day 1 **Highlight:** Isaiah 6:1-13

Explanation:

What sort of response should we have to God and his revelation?

Week 5: Corporate Worship Values: God's Kingdom

Starting Date July 29th

Application:

Response:

Week 5: Corporate Worship Values: God's Kingdom

Starting Date July 29th

Day 2 **Highlight:** Matthew 5:1-16

Explanation:

What are the qualities of the people who belong to God's kingdom?

Week 5: Corporate Worship Values: God's Kingdom

Starting Date July 29th

Application:

Response:

Week 5: Corporate Worship Values: God's Kingdom

Starting Date July 29th

Day 3

Highlight: 2 Corinthians 5:11-21

Explanation:

How should an experience and understanding of the gospel compel Christians to live differently?

Week 5: Corporate Worship Values: God's Kingdom

Starting Date July 29th

Application:

Response:

Week 5: Corporate Worship Values: God's Kingdom

Starting Date July 29th

Day 4 **Highlight:** Psalm 67

Explanation:

For what purpose is God gracious toward his people?

Week 5: Corporate Worship Values: God's Kingdom

Starting Date July 29th

Application:

Response:

Week 5: Corporate Worship Values: God's Kingdom

Starting Date July 29th

Day 5 **Highlight:** Ephesians 2:1-10

Explanation:

How can you be more open and available to do the good works to which God has called you?

Week 5: Corporate Worship Values: God's Kingdom

Starting Date July 29th

Application:

Response:
