



FBC Reading Plan

September 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.

September's Memory Verse

8 Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. 9 For the commandments, "You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet," and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." 10 Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

Romans 13:8-10 (ESV)

8 Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law. 9 The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery," "You shall not murder," "You shall not steal," "You shall not covet," and whatever other command there may be, are summed up in this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself." 10 Love does no harm to a neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.

Romans 13:8-10 (NIV)

8 Owe nothing to anyone—except for your obligation to love one another. If you love your neighbor, you will fulfill the requirements of God's law. 9 For the commandments say, "You must not commit adultery. You must not murder. You must not steal. You must not covet." These—and other such commandments—are summed up in this one commandment: "Love your neighbor as yourself." 10 Love does no wrong to others, so love fulfills the requirements of God's law.

Romans 13:8-10 (NLT)

Week 1: Witnesses

Starting Date September 2nd

Day 1 Highlight: Acts 1:1-11

Explanation:

Why do you think that Jesus spent the forty days between His resurrection and ascension teaching His disciples about the Kingdom of God?

What is significant about the way Jesus answered His disciples' question in verses 6-8?

What does this passage communicate about the urgency, importance, and movement of the mission that Jesus gave?

Week 1: Witnesses

Starting Date September 2nd

Application:

What needs to happen in your life to become more aligned with Christ's mission?

Response:

Week 1: Witnesses

Starting Date September 2nd

Day 2 Highlight: Luke 24:36-53

Explanation:

How did Jesus give the disciples proof that He was truly raised from the dead?

God has been at work from the very beginning pointing His people toward the death and resurrection of His promised seed... Jesus. Verse 47 is equally significant! What significant movement was to begin after the death and resurrection of Christ according to verse 47?

What does it communicate about the role of the Holy Spirit in this next movement by commanding the disciples to wait in Jerusalem until the promised Holy Spirit is sent?

Week 1: Witnesses

Starting Date September 2nd

Application:

How do you see yourself as a part of this movement to proclaim the Gospel to all nations?

Response:

Week 1: Witnesses

Starting Date September 2nd

Day 3 **Highlight:** Matthew 28:16-20

Explanation:

In what ways is it shocking that some of the eleven still doubted if what they were experiencing was real? In what ways can you sympathize with them?

These seem to represent Jesus last words to His disciples. The command in the original language is “to make disciples” by going (being His witness), baptizing (leading others to identify with Christ), and teaching (leading believers toward obedience to truth). What does this tell you about the significance and process of the command to make disciples?

Week 1: Witnesses

Starting Date September 2nd

Application:

As you engage in this mission, why is it reassuring to know that Jesus promised His presence until the end of the age?

Response:

Week 1: Witnesses

Starting Date September 2nd

Day 4 Highlight: John 21:1-25

Explanation:

What do you notice about Peter's influence over the other disciples in verse 3?

In what ways was Jesus setting up Peter to make a tough decision about going back to fishing or following Jesus' call on his life to be a shepherd of people?

Peter's decision to follow Christ and His mission would come at a great cost. What surprises you about the way Jesus "sells" His mission to Peter?

Week 1: Witnesses

Starting Date September 2nd

Application:

Our love for Christ and His mission is tested when following Him costs us something. What could following Christ and His mission cost you and how does that make you feel?

Response:

Week 1: Witnesses

Starting Date September 2nd

Day 5 Highlight: Acts 9:1-22

Explanation:

Who was Saul before his encounter with Jesus and what does it tell you about Jesus that He would pursue someone like Saul?

When Jesus spoke to Ananias in a vision, he laid out for Him his calling on Saul's life in verse 15-16. In verse 16, Jesus tells Ananias that He was going to show Saul how much he must suffer for the sake of Jesus' name. Do think Jesus is trying to punish Saul or is there another reason Jesus says this? If so what do you think Jesus is trying to communicate?

Week 1: Witnesses

Starting Date September 2nd

Application:

What challenges you about Saul's conversion and immediate actions once he became a follower of Jesus?

Response:

Week 2: Vocation

Starting Date September 9th

Day 1 **Highlight:** Colossians 3:17-4:1

Explanation:

Paul writes that Christians should “do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus.” What does it mean to do something “in the name of” the Lord Jesus?

Week 2: Vocation

Starting Date September 9th

Application:

Immediately following this command, Paul gives specific instructions about the two areas where we spend most of our time: family and work. How is your family and work work an opportunity to act in the name of Jesus?

Response:

This passage makes it clear that our Christianity affects every area of our lives. Is there a part of your life where Jesus is either uninvolved or seems irrelevant? What would it mean to live in that area in the name of the Lord Jesus?

Week 2: Vocation

Starting Date September 9th

Day 2 Highlight: 1 Corinthians 10:23-11:1

Explanation:

Again Paul commands Christians to do *all* to the glory of God. Based on this passage, what does it mean to do something to the glory of God?

What does this passage imply about what type of people believers spend time with?

Week 2: Vocation

Starting Date September 9th

Application:

What principles motivate how believers behave, even in things as simple as eating and drinking?

Response:

What simple, ordinary things can you do in service of your neighbor today?

Week 2: Vocation

Starting Date September 9th

Day 3 **Highlight:** 1 Corinthians 7:17-31

Explanation:

Based on this passage, is there a life circumstance or role in which we cannot please God? Why or why not?

How may the work of Christ be more relevant in different ways to different people based on their circumstances (see esp. vv. 20-23)?

Week 2: Vocation

Starting Date September 9th

Application:

Do you tend to think that God needs to put you in a different role or circumstance in order to please him? How can you “remain with God” and serve in the roles in which he has already placed you?

Response:

Paul writes that everyone should live the life to which God has called them. Based on what Paul writes, how do you know what God has called you to?

Week 2: Vocation

Starting Date September 9th

Day 4 Highlight: Titus 2:1-10

Explanation:

God cares not only about our religious practices but also about how we go about our everyday tasks. How does this change your conception of what pleases God? How does this give more significance to the things you do every day?

Again we see that Christians are called to glorify God in all that they do. What are some things that you do every day? How do these glorify God?

Week 2: Vocation

Starting Date September 9th

Application:

This passage specifically says that our work, when done well with good character, “adorns” the doctrine of our Savior. How does your behavior and attitude make Jesus look great to others?

Response:

Week 2: Vocation

Starting Date September 9th

Day 5 **Highlight:** Matthew 25:14-30

Explanation:

What a does a longing to do “great things for God” reveal about our hearts if we are not faithful in little things?

Week 2: Vocation

Starting Date September 9th

Application:

This parable illustrates how Jesus will judge people when he returns (cf. v. 13; 24:36-51). Jesus expects his followers to invest what he has given them. Based on the readings from this week, how has your view of what it means to be a faithful servant changed? How are you being a faithful servant in your family and at work?

Response:

God is not as concerned about how much we do for him as he is concerned that we serve him faithfully in what he has given us to do, whatever that may be. What “little” things has God called you to do faithfully?

Week 3: Justice

Starting Date September 16th

Day 1 **Highlight:** James 2:1-26

Explanation:

What is the problem with partiality or favoritism in the church? Why are we tempted to show favoritism toward certain people? Why is this favoritism ironic (cf. vv. 5-7)?

James sets up a contrast between having faith in Jesus and showing partiality. You cannot have both at the same time. Instead, those who have faith must also show mercy (v. 13). Why is it a contradiction to profess faith in Christ and yet show favoritism?

Week 3: Justice

Starting Date September 16th

Application:

James explains that we are most prone to show favoritism according to socio-economic status. Are there other ways we show favoritism?

Response:

Works must accompany faith (cf. 1 John 3:17-18). It seems that James is probably using “justify” in a different way that Paul is. He seems to say that works vindicate or prove our faith. What works of mercy do you see in your own life? In response to this passage, how is God calling you to show mercy to your neighbor?

Week 3: Justice

Starting Date September 16th

Day 2 **Highlight:** Luke 10:25-37

Explanation:

This is a culturally shocking parable. The very people who should obey the law (the priest and Levite) fail in the second most important commandment, to love your neighbor. Instead, the most unlikely candidate is the one who shows mercy. Based on the example of the Samaritan, who is our neighbor?

This story illustrates what it means to love your neighbor as yourself. Based on the example of the Samaritan, what does it mean to love?

Week 3: Justice

Starting Date September 16th

Application:

Response:

This passage reminds us that prejudices along the lines of religion and race (or class or gender, etc.) is a tragic consequence of sin that can keep us from obedience to God. What prejudices can you confess to God? (To answer this question, consider this: what type of person would you would not be comfortable loving?)

Week 3: Justice

Starting Date September 16th

Day 3 Highlight: Deuteronomy 15:1-11

Explanation:

These laws are meant to protect the poor (v. 4). Every seven years there was meant to be a forgiveness of all debts (The passage continues to give the opportunity for slaves to be freed in vv. 12-18). God commanded his people to “lend sufficient for [the poor person’s] need” even if the year of forgiveness would come soon. How does God expect his people to treat the poor? What promise does he give to those who are generous to the poor?

What reasons cause our heart to be “grudging” toward the poor? Which of your reasons are justified in God’s eyes?

What is the theological basis for the canceling of debts (v. 2)? How does this connect to what Jesus has done and inform how Christians should treat the poor (cf. Matt. 18:21-35)?

Week 3: Justice

Starting Date September 16th

Application:

Imagine something like this law were enacted today. What effects do you think it would have? What are the similarities and differences between God's "economy" and our culture's economy?

Response:

Week 3: Justice

Starting Date September 16th

Day 4 **Highlight:** Leviticus 19:1-18

Explanation:

This passage ends with the commandment to love your neighbor as yourself (v. 18). The verses that precede give practical examples of what love means and further defines who our neighbor is (vv. 9-18). Based on this passage, who is your neighbor? What sort of actions exhibit love toward them? Do any of these surprise you?

Acts of mercy are not optional for believers. As a *command* or a *law*, to withhold mercy to the vulnerable is unjust according to God. How does this challenge our typical notion of showing mercy to those in need?

Week 3: Justice

Starting Date September 16th

Application:

The phrase “I am the Lord” is repeated throughout this passage. How is the command to love our neighbor connected to God’s character? How then does our love show others who our God is?

Response:

How is God calling you to respond to this command to love the “poor and the immigrant” (v. 10)?

Week 3: Justice

Starting Date September 16th

Day 5 **Highlight:** Ezekiel 18:5-13

Explanation:

These verses describe a “righteous” man who does what is “just and right.” Based on this passage, describe in your own words the characteristics or behaviors of a person who does justice. As a description of a just person, do any of these characteristics surprise you?

Week 3: Justice

Starting Date September 16th

Application:

We hear the word “(social) justice” use a lot today. How does the description here of a person who does justice compare with how justice is used today? How are they similar? How are they different?

Response:

Justice is not reserved only for judges and lawyers. *All* of God’s people are commanded to do justice (cf. Micah 6:8). In what areas of your life are you responsible for ensuring God’s justice happens? In what ways can you be more like the person who does justice as described in this passage?

Week 4: Evangelism

Starting Date September 23rd

Day 1

Highlight: 1 Cor. 15:1-11; Romans 1:1-6; 2 Tim. 2:8-9

Explanation:

Before reading these passages, write out your understanding of the gospel.

These passages contain the most basic summations of the gospel in Scripture. How are these verses similar and how are they different? What is the gospel according to these passages?

Each of these passages show that Jesus is the fulfillment of Israel's hopes. He is the offspring of David, and his life and work were all according to the Hebrew Scriptures. Based on these passages, to what extent can we understand Jesus and his ministry without knowing the Hebrew Scriptures?

Week 4: Evangelism

Starting Date September 23rd

Application:

Response:

After reading and reflecting on these passages, how can you add to or develop your answer from question 1?

Week 4: Evangelism

Starting Date September 23rd

Day 2 **Highlight:** 1 Corinthians 9:19-23

Explanation:

The Jews and Gentiles had very different beliefs and cultural practices. This caused Paul to act differently based on his context. What is the purpose of this cultural adaptation?

What is the extent of our freedom in Christ? How much can we change or adapt to the culture without losing the gospel message?

Week 4: Evangelism

Starting Date September 23rd

Application:

In your experience, has the church copied Paul's example? Has it accommodated itself to culture, separated itself from culture, or something else? Has this been positive or negative?

Response:

How have you followed Paul's example? What steps can you take to enter the world of the non-Christians around you?

Week 4: Evangelism

Starting Date September 23rd

Day 3 Highlight: Acts 13:13-43

Explanation:

Who is Paul's audience in this passage? How does Paul craft his message to be relevant for his audience?

According to Paul's message, what has God done through Jesus? What problem does Jesus solve or what need does he meet for this particular audience?

Week 4: Evangelism

Starting Date September 23rd

Application:

Using the key ideas of Paul's message here, how would you explain the gospel to someone today in a way that is relevant and understandable?

Response:

Week 4: Evangelism

Starting Date September 23rd

Day 4 Highlight: Acts 14:1-16

Explanation:

Who is Paul's audience in this passage? How does Paul craft his message to be relevant for his audience?

What problem do these people have and what false conceptions of God do they have?

What "vain" or "worthless" things were these people following? How is that proved by the way they treat Paul and Barnabas?

Week 4: Evangelism

Starting Date September 23rd

Application:

What vain or worthless things do people follow today? How would you speak to them in such a way as to persuade them to turn to the living God?

Response:

Week 4: Evangelism

Starting Date September 23rd

Day 5 Highlight: Acts 17:16-34

Explanation:

Who is Paul's audience in this passage? How does Paul craft his message to be relevant for his audience?

In v. 28, Paul cites two ancient philosopher-poets in order to support his point. By doing this, he gains credibility with his audience by finding common ground with them about core beliefs. What aspects of our culture today align with a Christian worldview?

Paul uses their own authorities' arguments against them in order to critique their practice of idolatry. How does Paul critique his audience's conception of religion and the gods based on their own beliefs?

Week 4: Evangelism

Starting Date September 23rd

Application:

How is the one true God the answer to what the Athenians were seeking? When you consider the desires of people today, how is Jesus the fulfillment of those desires?

Response:

Week 5: A Blessing to the Nations

Starting Date September 30th

Day 1

Highlight: Genesis 12:1-3; Galatians 3:6-9

Explanation:

This passage lays out for us God's initial promises to Abraham, which were solidified through a formal covenant later in Genesis. According to Gen. 12:2-3, what were the promises God made to Abraham if he were to obey God's calling by faith?

What do you think it means that all the families on earth would be blessed through Abraham? How does Gal. 3:6-9 help you answer that question?

What does this tell you about God's plan to redeem all people from the very beginning?

Week 5: A Blessing to the Nations

Starting Date September 30th

Application:

Response:

In what ways can you be more engaged in God's heart for the entire world?

Week 5: A Blessing to the Nations

Starting Date September 30th

Day 2

Highlight: Genesis 22:1-19

Explanation:

When God tested Abraham, it had everything to do with the promises that God had already made with Abraham. God even told Abraham specifically that the promises would be passed through his son Isaac (Gen. 17:19). What was Abraham's thinking according to verse 8?

Week 5: A Blessing to the Nations

Starting Date September 30th

Application:

Abraham did not know how God would keep his promise or even why God asked him such a difficult thing, but he faithfully obeyed. Hebrews tells us that Abraham reasoned that God could raise the dead, so one way or the other God would keep His promises. How does Abraham's faith challenge you?

Response:

God culminates this test with further affirmation that He would keep His promises to Abraham, including the promise that through him all nations would be blessed. Our inclusion into God's family is in one way as result of Abraham's faithful obedience to God. How can your faithful obedience to Christ and His mission be a blessing to other people?

Week 5: A Blessing to the Nations

Starting Date September 30th

Day 3

Highlight: Psalm 67

Explanation:

What does this Psalm communicate about God's heart for the world?

How has God's heart for the world affected the psalmist's heart?

Week 5: A Blessing to the Nations

Starting Date September 30th

Application:

In what ways does God's heart for the world challenge your heart?

Response:

Week 5: A Blessing to the Nations

Starting Date September 30th

Day 4

Highlight: Luke 2:8-32

Explanation:

How is God's heart for the world expressed through the angel's announcement to the shepherds about the birth of the Christ?

As Simeon held Jesus in his arms and dedicated him, what did he say about Jesus that reiterates God's heart for all people?

Week 5: A Blessing to the Nations

Starting Date September 30th

Application:

Response:

Spend time praising God for His gift of Jesus and His offer of redemption to the entire world, and ask Him to reveal in you ways that you can be engaged in what He is doing around the world.

Week 5: A Blessing to the Nations

Starting Date September 30th

Day 5

Highlight: Acts 3:11-26

Explanation:

What case is Peter making in this passage as he talks to the people who were amazed at the miraculous healing of the lame beggar?

Week 5: A Blessing to the Nations

Starting Date September 30th

Application:

Peter clearly connects the covenantal promise that Abraham's offspring would be a blessing to all people with the person of Jesus, further making the case that God's heart for the nations has always been there. After spending this week reading about God's heart to bless all nations from the very beginning, what is God speaking to you about concerning global missions?

Response: