



FBC Reading Plan
August 2021

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. Reading the Bible is critical to a Christian's growth. But it is especially powerful to read the Bible with others. This reading plan is the basis for all of our D-Groups, and we hope it fosters deeper spiritual conversations in our families and between our members.

How to use this booklet: Each day has a passage of Scripture for you to read. There are also some questions to prompt your reading and reflecting on the passage. We encourage the H.E.A.R. method for reading Scripture, especially if it is a new discipline for you. First, **highlight** a verse or verses that speak to you from the passage. Then, **explain** what those verses mean in relation to the broader context and how they support the big idea the author is trying to communicate. Next, **apply** this verse to your everyday life. For example, how should this change your desires, your behavior, or your relationships? 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 finally **respond**. This can be a prayer or a specific action you will take after hearing this verse or passage.

Memory Verse: Because Scripture is God's Word, it is important that a Christian spend regular time memorizing God's Word so that he or she can always find encouragement and guidance from God. This month's memory passage is provided on the next page in the ESV, NIV, and NLT.

August's Memory Verses

19 So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. 22 In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

Ephesians 2:19-22 (ESV)

19 Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household, 20 built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. 21 In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. 22 And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.

Ephesians 2:19-22 (NIV)

19 So now you Gentiles are no longer strangers and foreigners. You are citizens along with all of God's holy people. You are members of God's family. 20 Together, we are his house, built on the foundation of the apostles and the prophets. And the cornerstone is Christ Jesus himself. 21 We are carefully joined together in him, becoming a holy temple for the Lord. 22 Through him you Gentiles are also being made part of this dwelling where God lives by his Spirit.

Ephesians 2:19-22 (NLT)

Week 1: The Resurrection of Jesus
Starting Date August 2

Day 1 Highlight: Mark 16

Explanation:

It is very unlikely that vv. 9-20 were original to Mark's gospel. It is possible that the original ending is lost, but what is most likely is that Mark ended his gospel with v. 8. Assuming that this is the case, what is the effect of ending an account of the good news with trembling, astonished, and afraid disciples?

Week 5: Thessalonians & Corinthians
Starting Date August 30

Application:

What is the danger of following certain "teachers" (e.g., 3:5-6), and how does that apply to us today?

Response:

The church is God's temple (3:16). Are you dividing it or striving to build it up?

Week 5: Thessalonians & Corinthians

Starting Date August 30

Day 5 Highlight: 1 Corinthians 3-4

Explanation:

What is Paul admonishing the Corinthians to do (4:14)? How does Paul want them to imitate him (4:16)?

Week 1: The Resurrection of Jesus

Starting Date August 2

Application:

Should trembling, astonishment, and fear characterize Jesus's disciples? Why or why not?

Response:

If the resurrection is true, it changes everything; Jesus, the resurrected Lord, demands complete obedience. Are you completely committed to following Jesus?

Week 1: The Resurrection of Jesus
Starting Date August 2

Day 2 Highlight: Luke 24

Explanation:

How do the disciples describe Jesus in v. 18-24? Why do they think he has failed to redeem Israel?

What do v. 27 and v. 44 mean?

Week 5: Thessalonians & Corinthians
Starting Date August 30

Application

The church is a community established by the foolishness of God. How then should we be perceived by the world? What about this might make church life difficult?

Response:

Give thanks for God's Spirit who reveals to us the wisdom of the cross of Jesus Christ.

Week 5: Thessalonians & Corinthians

Starting Date August 30

Day 4 Highlight: 1 Corinthians 1-2

Explanation:

What is the “foolishness” of God? What implications does that have for the local church?

Based on this passage, what is the role of the Holy Spirit?

Week 1: The Resurrection of Jesus

Starting Date August 2

Application:

What does it mean for you that Jesus the resurrected Lord is alive today?

Response:

Praise the Lord for the forgiveness of sins in the name of Jesus.

Week 1: The Resurrection of Jesus
Starting Date August 2

Day 3 Highlight: John 20-21

Explanation:

What things does Jesus teach his disciples after he has risen?

Week 5: Thessalonians & Corinthians
Starting Date August 30

Application:

The disciples' faithfulness to Jesus had serious implications for the city of Ephesus. How might faithfulness to Jesus today undermine or upend our American marketplace, businesses, and economy?

Response:

How is God calling you to respond to what you have read today?

Week 5: Thessalonians & Corinthians

Starting Date August 30

Day 3 Highlight: Acts 18:18-28; 19

Explanation:

In what sense were the people Paul found in Ephesus “disciples” (19:1)?
What were they lacking?

Week 1: The Resurrection of Jesus

Starting Date August 2

Application:

Jesus sends his disciples in the power of the Holy Spirit (v. 21-22). Why does he send us? What is he sending us to do?

Response:

Do you love Jesus?

Week 1: The Resurrection of Jesus
Starting Date August 2

Day 4 Highlight: Matthew 28

Explanation:

What does Jesus command his disciples to do? Why is this something he could only say after his resurrection?

Week 5: Thessalonians & Corinthians
Starting Date August 30

Application:

Paul writes that our desires or loves reveal our true commitments: the wicked are those who refused to love the truth (2:10) and who had pleasure in unrighteousness (2:12). Do you love the truth of the gospel and do you have pleasure in doing what is right in God's eyes?

Response:

"Do not grow weary in doing good" (3:13).

Week 5: Thessalonians & Corinthians

Starting Date August 30

Day 2 Highlight: 2 Thessalonians 1-3

Explanation:

How does Paul comfort the Thessalonians in their afflictions?

Week 1: The Resurrection of Jesus

Starting Date August 2

Application:

Are you striving to observe all that Jesus commanded? How are you helping others to do the same?

Response:

Go and make disciples.

Week 1: The Resurrection of Jesus
Starting Date August 2

Day 5 Highlight: Acts 1

Explanation:

What does it mean to have power from the Holy Spirit?

What were the qualifications for being an apostle? Why were these significant?

Week 5: Thessalonians & Corinthians
Starting Date August 30

Application

What verses stand out to you as especially important to apply to your life?

Response:

Pray that God would sanctify you completely and keep you blameless until Jesus returns (5:23).

Week 5: Thessalonians & Corinthians

Starting Date August 30

Day 1 **Highlight:** 1 Thessalonians 3-5

Explanation:

What is the sort of life that pleases God?

Week 1: The Resurrection of Jesus

Starting Date August 2

Application:

How are you dependent on the Holy Spirit in your witnessing to the resurrection of Jesus?

Response:

How can you bear witness about Jesus today?

Week 2: The Acts of Jesus Christ through the Apostles
Starting Date August 9

Day 1 Highlight: Acts 2-3

Explanation:

What do these chapters (especially Peter's sermon) teach us about the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit?

Twice Peter emphasizes that he and the other disciples are witnesses (2:32; 3:15). To what are they witnesses? And why is this important?

Week 4: Paul's Missionary Journeys
Starting Date August 23

Application:

What can you learn about prayer from Paul's example in 1:1-10?

Response:

Thank God for the work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope that you see in other believers in your life.

Week 4: Paul's Missionary Journeys
Starting Date August 23

Day 5 Highlight: 1 Thessalonians 1-2

Explanation:

Why specifically does Paul thank God for the Thessalonian believers?

Describe Paul's ministry in Thessalonica.

Week 2: The Acts of Jesus Christ through the Apostles
Starting Date August 9

Application:

How does a person properly respond to the gospel message?

Response:

Praise Jesus, whom God has made both Messiah and Lord, and thank God for sending his Holy Spirit.

Week 2: The Acts of Jesus Christ through the Apostles
Starting Date August 9

Day 2 Highlight: Acts 4-5

Explanation:

How do believers show boldness in these chapters? How are they able to be so bold?

Week 4: Paul's Missionary Journeys
Starting Date August 23

Application:

How might following Jesus today lead to conflict with our culture?

Response:

Pray that our church would be wholly absorbed by the word of God (18:5) and the gospel of Jesus Christ so that many would come to believe in him through us.

Week 4: Paul's Missionary Journeys
Starting Date August 23

Day 4 Highlight: Acts 17-18:17

Explanation:

Paul and Silas were proclaiming another king besides Caesar. Why was this disturbing to the whole city?

Was it a good thing or a bad thing that the Athenians were "very religious" (17:22)?

Week 2: The Acts of Jesus Christ through the Apostles
Starting Date August 9

Application:

"We cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard" (4:20). The depth of our relationship with God directly affects our ability to tell others about him. How has God been at work in your heart and life recently? How can you testify about him based on this?

Response:

Pray that God would give you and other believers boldness to speak his word (4:29).

Week 2: The Acts of Jesus Christ through the Apostles
Starting Date August 9

Day 3 Highlight: Acts 6

Explanation:

What problem does the church face and how is this problem resolved?

What was the charge against Stephen?

Week 4: Paul's Missionary Journeys
Starting Date August 23

Application:

Where do you see the Spirit producing fruit in your life?

Response:

"Let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith" (6:10).

Week 4: Paul's Missionary Journeys
Starting Date August 23

Day 3 Highlight: Galatians 4-6

Explanation:

“For freedom Christ has set us free” (5:1). Based on the surrounding context, what is the “freedom” for which Christ has set us free?

What does the Spirit do in and through believers?

Week 2: The Acts of Jesus Christ through the Apostles
Starting Date August 9

Application:

This chapter emphasizes the church's growth (v. 1, 7). This occurs despite disputes, which threatened the church but did not in the end hinder it because they resolved their disputes. Why is church unity so important? How are you striving to resolve disputes and be a peacemaker?

Response:

Pray that God would fill our church with the Holy Spirit that the gospel might spread through us.

Week 2: The Acts of Jesus Christ through the Apostles
Starting Date August 9

Day 4 Highlight: Acts 7

Explanation:

Recall the charges brought against Stephen in 6:11-14. How does he answer those charges in chapter 7?

What is it specifically in Stephen's speech that enrages those who were listening?

Week 4: Paul's Missionary Journeys
Starting Date August 23

Application:

Practically speaking, what does it mean to rely on works of the law (2:16; 3:2, 10, etc.)? If this is contrary to the gospel, how do you avoid relying on these works?

Response:

Those who have been baptized have put on Christ, belong to Christ, and are heirs with an inheritance (3:27-29). Praise God for what he has given us in Christ.

Week 4: Paul's Missionary Journeys
Starting Date August 23

Day 2 Highlight: Galatians 1-3

Explanation:

Paul wrote this letter because the Galatians were abandoning the true gospel (1:6). What is the nature of the false gospel they were starting to believe? How is it different from the true gospel they received from Paul?

Week 2: The Acts of Jesus Christ through the Apostles
Starting Date August 9

Application:

Stephen accuses the Jewish people of idolatry. What idols do you see in your life? How can you identify idols in your life?

Response:

Repent of trusting in the work of your own hands, and rejoice in the salvation that God has brought by his hand.

Week 2: The Acts of Jesus Christ through the Apostles
Starting Date August 9

Day 5 Highlight: Acts 8-9

Explanation:

There are three conversions in these chapters. How are they similar and how are they different?

Week 4: Paul's Missionary Journeys
Starting Date August 23

Application:

How do these chapters apply to your life?

Response:

Pray that God would help you to obey him even during trials and difficulties.

Week 4: Paul's Missionary Journeys
Starting Date August 23

Day 1 Highlight: Acts 15-16

Explanation:

What exactly is the debate that happens in ch. 15? And how is it resolved?

What was God's intention in sending the earthquake? Was Paul aware of this?

Week 2: The Acts of Jesus Christ through the Apostles
Starting Date August 9

Application:

God can save anyone, from a pagan magician to a God-fearing eunuch to the most self-righteous of Pharisees. Do you truly believe that God can save people like this today too?

Response:

Pray for those you know who do not know Jesus that they would come to believe and be baptized.

Week 3: The Acts of Jesus Christ through the Apostles
Starting Date August 16

Day 1 Highlight: Acts 10-11

Explanation:

What does Peter mean when he knows that he should not call any person “common or unclean” (10:28; cf 10:15; 11:9)?

What is so significant about the Holy Spirit falling on Gentiles?

Week 3: The Acts of Jesus Christ through the Apostles
Starting Date August 16

Application:

There is a lot to apply in these three chapters. Which verses particularly stand out to you today? How can you apply them?

Response:

Pray that God would empower you to obey what he has taught through James.

Week 3: The Acts of Jesus Christ through the Apostles
Starting Date August 16

Day 5 Highlight: James 3-5

Explanation:

Why is a person who controls his tongue able to control his whole body (3:2)?

Why does James give such a harsh word to the rich (5:1ff)?

Week 3: The Acts of Jesus Christ through the Apostles
Starting Date August 16

Application:

How do these chapters apply to your life?

Response:

Pray that God would grant repentance to those who are different from you, especially those with whom you would prefer not to associate. Pray also that God would soften your heart toward them.

Week 3: The Acts of Jesus Christ through the Apostles
Starting Date August 16

Day 2 Highlight: Acts 12

Explanation:

Why was Peter imprisoned? How was Peter freed from prison?

Week 3: The Acts of Jesus Christ through the Apostles
Starting Date August 16

Application:

What teachings from these chapters do you need to apply to your life?

Response:

“Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world” (1:27). Is your religion pure and undefiled before God?

Week 3: The Acts of Jesus Christ through the Apostles
Starting Date August 16

Day 4 Highlight: James 1-2

Explanation:

Why is “partiality” (favoritism/prejudice; 2:1) such a serious sin?

Week 3: The Acts of Jesus Christ through the Apostles
Starting Date August 16

Application:

What does this passage teach you about prayer?

Response:

Pray for God to do great, even miraculous, things for his glory.

Week 3: The Acts of Jesus Christ through the Apostles
Starting Date August 16

Day 3 Highlight: Acts 13-14

Explanation:

In these chapters, how do Jews receive the gospel compared to the Gentiles?

How do Paul and Barnabas minister differently to Jews and to Gentiles?

Week 3: The Acts of Jesus Christ through the Apostles
Starting Date August 16

Application:

Paul and Barnabas see great success and face severe opposition. How can you faithfully seek God's kingdom and fulfill your calling despite difficulties you face?

Response:

Be encouraged and strengthened by the gospel and by knowing that we enter the kingdom only after many tribulations (14:22).