



FBC Reading Plan
February 2021

Week 4: Gideon, Samson, & Ruth
Starting Date February 22nd

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.

Application:

How does God send his blessing on the characters of this story? How can you bless others or gratefully receive blessings from others today?

Response:

This story points to Christ in two ways: first, he is our 'kinsman-redeemer,' who bought our freedom from sin with his life; second, he is the messiah, the son of David, the son of Boaz and Ruth. Praise God for the steadfast love that he shows to you in the gospel.

Week 4: Gideon, Samson, & Ruth
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Day 5 Highlight: Ruth 3-4 Memory Verse: Romans 8:17

Explanation:

What is the main point of the story of Ruth?

February's Memory Verses

14 For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. 15 For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!" 16 The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, 17 and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

Romans 8:14-17 (ESV)

14 For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. 15 The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father." 16 The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. 17 Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

Romans 8:14-17 (NIV)

14 For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. 15 So you have not received a spirit that makes you fearful slaves. Instead, you received God's Spirit when he adopted you as his own children. Now we call him, "Abba, Father." 16 For his Spirit joins with our spirit to affirm that we are God's children. 17 And since we are his children, we are his heirs. In fact, together with Christ we are heirs of God's glory. But if we are to share his glory, we must also share his suffering.

Romans 8:14-17 (NLT)

Week 1: Traveling to Canaan
Starting Date February 1st

Day 1 Highlight: Numbers 20, 27:12-23

Memory Verse: Romans 8:14

Sunday's Message: Romans 15:14-21

Explanation:

What common themes throughout the wilderness journey appear again in vv. 2-14?

How is leadership transferred to the next generation? Why is this transition so important?

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Application:

How does Ruth exemplify the command to love your neighbor as yourself?

Response:

Who is suffering bitterly? How can you love them?

Week 4: Gideon, Samson, & Ruth
Starting Date February 22nd

Day 4 Highlight: Ruth 1-2 Memory Verse: Romans 8:17

Explanation:

How is God active in this story?

How should the story's historical context (1:1: "In the days when the judges ruled...") affect how you interpret the story?

Week 1: Traveling to Canaan
Starting Date February 1st

Application:

Consider all that Moses has gone through up to this point. Then, imagine how he may have felt after God tells him that he will not bring the people into the land (20:12). How does this apply to your life and your relationship with God?

Response:

Moses is rebuked for not upholding God as holy before the Israelites (20:12; 27:14). How can you uphold God as holy today?

Week 1: Traveling to Canaan

Starting Date February 1st

Day 2 **Highlight:** Numbers 34-35 *Memory Verse:* Romans 8:14

Explanation:

Try to find a map of the land as defined in Numbers 34. Good study Bibles or Bible atlases should have a map of this, or try a Google search. Can you determine roughly what the width and length of Israel was meant to be in miles? (This exercise is important to familiarize yourself with the geography of the area as well as provide a point of contrast with the land as defined in Joshua and Judges.)

Week 4: Gideon, Samson, & Ruth

Starting Date February 22nd

Application:

What should we learn from this story, in which God saves his people through a person like Samson?

Response:

God used Samson to save his people. Should you strive to be like him?

Week 4: Gideon, Samson, & Ruth
Starting Date February 22nd

Day 3 **Highlight:** Judges 15-16 *Memory Verse:* Romans 8:17

Explanation:

Describe Samson's character.

Week 1: Traveling to Canaan
Starting Date February 1st

Application:

What does chapter 35 teach about part of Israel's justice system? Does this have any relevance for us today?

Response:

How can you show concern for life and justice today?

Week 1: Traveling to Canaan

Starting Date February 1st

Day 3 **Highlight:** Deuteronomy 1-2 *Memory Verse:* Romans 8:14

Explanation:

Deuteronomy is basically one long 'sermon' by Moses addressing the people while they are on the east side of the Jordan River that was given right before Israel entered the land of Canaan. Which parts of Moses's retelling of these stories stands out to you?

Week 4: Gideon, Samson, & Ruth

Starting Date February 22nd

Application:

What should we learn from this story, in which God saves his people through a person like Samson?

Response:

How should you respond to this story?

Week 4: Gideon, Samson, & Ruth
Starting Date February 22nd

Day 2 **Highlight:** Judges 13-14 *Memory Verse:* Romans 8:17

Explanation:

Describe Samson's character.

Week 1: Traveling to Canaan
Starting Date February 1st

Application:

How is God's sovereignty displayed not only over Israel but also over the nations that will surround Israel? How does that apply to your life today?

Response:

Even after their rebellion, even during their forty years in the wilderness, God was with his people (2:7). Are you aware of his presence today?

Week 1: Traveling to Canaan
Starting Date February 1st

Day 4 **Highlight:** Deuteronomy 3-4 *Memory Verse:* Romans 8:14

Explanation:

Why did Israel need to keep the commands that God gave to them?

Week 4: Gideon, Samson, & Ruth
Starting Date February 22nd

Application:

In what ways are you like Gideon and doubt that God is who he says he is?

Response:

For what are you not trusting the Lord?

Week 4: Gideon, Samson, & Ruth
Starting Date February 22nd

Day 1 **Highlight:** Judges 6-7 *Memory Verse:* Romans 8:17

Sunday's Message: Romans 16:17-20

Explanation:

Yahweh had revealed himself to Israel by bringing them out of Egypt and into the land that he promised to their fathers. Despite all that he had done, they refused to trust in him and obey him. How does Gideon exhibit a similar lack of faith in these chapters?

Week 1: Traveling to Canaan
Starting Date February 1st

Application:

The people are command to “keep your soul diligently” and to “watch yourselves very carefully” (4:9, 15). What specifically were they to pay attention to, and why should you do the same thing today?

Response:

What are you doing to make sure you do not forget what God has done for you (4:9)?

Week 1: Traveling to Canaan

Starting Date February 1st

Day 5 **Highlight:** Deuteronomy 6-7 *Memory Verse:* Romans 8:14

Explanation:

Why did God give his commandments to the people of Israel?

Why did God choose Israel as his treasured possession?

Week 3: Victory & Defeat, Commitment & Disobedience

Starting Date February 15th

Application:

Consider how God acts in this story. How does that help you understand how he may be at work today?

Response:

God punishes his people and saves his people. How should you respond to him today?

Week 3: Victory & Defeat, Commitment & Disobedience
Starting Date February 15th

Day 5 Highlight: Judges 4 Memory Verse: Romans 8:16

Explanation:

How does God deliver Israel from the hand of its enemies?

What roles do women have in this narrative? What significance do they have in the story?

Week 1: Traveling to Canaan
Starting Date February 1st

Application:

If following God's commands leads to our good, why do we disobey him (cf. 6:24)?

Response:

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might" (6:5).

Week 2: Preparing to Enter the Land

Starting Date February 8th

Day 1 **Highlight:** Deuteronomy 8-9 *Memory Verse:* Romans 8:15

Sunday's Message: Romans 15:22-33

Explanation:

What was Israel supposed to learn about their relationship with God through their time in the wilderness?

Week 3: Victory & Defeat, Commitment & Disobedience

Starting Date February 15th

Application:

How do you think these chapters apply to Christians today?

Response:

The people of God are constantly in danger of going after other gods. What gods have you gone after or have you been tempted to go after recently?

Week 3: Victory & Defeat, Commitment & Disobedience

Starting Date February 15th

Day 4 Highlight: Judges 2-3 Memory Verse: Romans 8:16

Explanation:

2:11-23 describe a cycle of events that recurs throughout the book of Judges (the first two examples occur with Othniel and Ehud). Summarize that cycle of events in a couple sentences.

Who is the principal agent in Israel's history and circumstances?

Week 2: Preparing to Enter the Land

Starting Date February 8th

Application:

Ch. 9 emphasizes that Israel was stubborn and rebellious against God ever since they left Egypt. To what extent does that also describe your relationship with God? To what extent should that describe your relationship with God as someone who has God's Spirit living with them (cf. Rom. 8:9-17)?

Response:

Rebellion against God ultimately comes from disbelieving God (9:23). Confess any rebellion against God; confess also the disbelief that led to that rebellion.

Week 2: Preparing to Enter the Land

Starting Date February 8th

Day 2 Highlight: Deuteronomy 30-31

Memory Verse: Romans 8:15

Explanation:

Will Israel obey God's commandments? Is Israel able to obey God's commandments?

Week 3: Victory & Defeat, Commitment & Disobedience

Starting Date February 15th

Application:

What can we learn from these chapters about temptation? What are constant temptations for which we must always be watchful?

Response:

"Choose this day whom you will serve." (24:15). Does your life reflect your choice?

Week 3: Victory & Defeat, Commitment & Disobedience
Starting Date February 15th

Day 3 Highlight: Joshua 23-24 *Memory Verse:* Romans 8:16

Explanation:

What is the chief danger to Israel for not driving out all the inhabitants of the land? Why do they once again have to reaffirm their commitment to God's covenant?

Week 2: Preparing to Enter the Land
Starting Date February 8th

Application:

Given a choice, people always choose death, even the people of Israel, who had seen God's mighty works (30:15-20; 31:16-18). What is required if we are to have life?

Response:

Are you living today with a clear sense of your utter need for God's forgiveness and his empowering Spirit?

Week 2: Preparing to Enter the Land

Starting Date February 8th

Day 3 **Highlight:** Deuteronomy 32:48-52, 34

Memory Verse: Romans 8:15

Explanation:

Moses was the greatest prophet in Israel (34:10). But the passage explains that “no one knows the place of his burial to this day” (34:6). Why would the writer include this detail?

Week 3: Victory & Defeat, Commitment & Disobedience

Starting Date February 15th

Application:

How does this passage instill fear and reverence of God in you?

Response:

How should you respond to God today, who brings judgment on those who disobey him and yet delivers his people from their enemies?

Week 3: Victory & Defeat, Commitment & Disobedience
Starting Date February 15th

Day 2 **Highlight:** Joshua 7-8 *Memory Verse:* Romans 8:16

Explanation:

Why does the sin of one man lead to God being angry with all the people, so much so that they are defeated in battle?

Week 2: Preparing to Enter the Land
Starting Date February 8th

Application:

Consider how the author writes about Moses's death. What can we learn from it about how we should view spiritual leaders today?

Response:

Pray for the leadership of FBC.

Week 2: Preparing to Enter the Land

Starting Date February 8th

Day 4

Highlight: Joshua 1-2

Memory Verse: Romans 8:15

Explanation:

On what basis could Joshua be strong and courageous? Why could he be confident that God would be with him?

Week 3: Victory & Defeat, Commitment & Disobedience

Starting Date February 15th

Application:

Despite the whole city being destroyed, Rahab not only was saved but also lived with the Israelites after this. How does her place in this story have relevance for you today?

Response:

How should you respond to God today, who both fulfills his promises to his people and yet destroys his enemies?

Week 3: Victory & Defeat, Commitment & Disobedience
Starting Date February 15th

Day 1 Highlight: Joshua 5:10-15, 6
Memory Verse: Romans 8:16

Sunday's Message: Romans 16:1-16

Explanation:

What is the purpose of the bizarre military strategy used to overthrow Jericho?

Week 2: Preparing to Enter the Land
Starting Date February 8th

Application:

The commands and promises in 1:1-9 are given directly to Joshua, not even to all Israel. To what extent, if any, are those commands and promises relevant to us today as Christians? Why?

Response:

Rahab, a foreign prostitute, is the first non-Israelite to acknowledge Yahweh as God. Pray that those people in your life who are not Christian would come to believe in Jesus, no matter how unlikely it may seem.

Week 2: Preparing to Enter the Land
Starting Date February 8th

Day 5 **Highlight:** Joshua 3-4 *Memory Verse:* Romans 8:15

Explanation:

What similarities are there between this passage and the crossing of the Red Sea?

Week 2: Preparing to Enter the Land
Starting Date February 8th

Application:

What does this passage teach you about God?

Response:

Are you trusting in the God who split the Red Sea and stopped the Jordan River today?