



**FBC Reading Plan**  
January 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.

## Week 4: Journey through the Wilderness

Starting Date January 25th

### Application:

Why do the people keep rebelling against God? How is that applicable to your own life?

### Response:

What are you grumbling about today? How can you stop?

**Week 4: Journey through the Wilderness**  
Starting Date January 25th

**Day 5** Highlight: Numbers 16-17      Memory Verse: Romans 8:4

**Explanation:**

How is Korah and his associates' claim in v. 3 theologically true or accurate? Why is it ironic that these men, who are Levites, are making this claim (16:9-11)?

**January's Memory Verses**

1 There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. 2 For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. 3 For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, 4 in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

**Romans 8:1-4 (ESV)**

1 Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, 2 because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death. 3 For what the law was powerless to do because it was weakened by the flesh, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in the flesh, 4 in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

**Romans 8:1-4 (NIV)**

1 So now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus. 2 And because you belong to him, the power of the life-giving Spirit has freed you from the power of sin that leads to death. 3 The law of Moses was unable to save us because of the weakness of our sinful nature. So God did what the law could not do. He sent his own Son in a body like the bodies we sinners have. And in that body God declared an end to sin's control over us by giving his Son as a sacrifice for our sins. 4 He did this so that the just requirement of the law would be fully satisfied for us, who no longer follow our sinful nature but instead follow the Spirit.

**Romans 8:1-4 (NLT)**

## Week 1: The Exodus from Egypt

Starting Date January 4th

**Day 1** **Highlight:** Exodus 8-9 *Memory Verse:* Romans 8:1

*Sunday's Message:* Romans 14:1-12

### **Explanation:**

What key ideas or phrases are repeated throughout these chapters?

The purpose of the plagues is that people (especially Pharaoh) may know that Yahweh is the one true God (8:10, 22; 9:16). What does this knowledge consist of?

## Week 4: Journey through the Wilderness

Starting Date January 25th

### **Application:**

In what ways do you respond to God or exhibit similar emotions as the Israelites?

### **Response:**

Repent of your sin, and trust that God is as powerful as he has promised, powerful enough to show steadfast love to you and forgive your sin (14:17-19).

**Week 4: Journey through the Wilderness**  
Starting Date January 25th

**Day 4** **Highlight:** Numbers 13-14    *Memory Verse:* Romans 8:4

**Explanation:**

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In what ways do the people sin against God?

**Week 1: The Exodus from Egypt**  
Starting Date January 4th

**Application:**

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How is what is revealed about God's character in these chapters relevant to your life today?

**Response:**

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Above all else, God wants his glory to be known to all people. How can you respond to that reality today?

## Week 1: The Exodus from Egypt

Starting Date January 4th

**Day 2** **Highlight:** Exodus 10-11      *Memory Verse:* Romans 8:1

### **Explanation:**

Throughout the account of the plagues, there has been a tension between Pharaoh hardening his heart and Yahweh hardening Pharaoh's heart. How do you explain this?

## Week 4: Journey through the Wilderness

Starting Date January 25th

### **Application:**

How have you acted like the Israelites in your own life?

### **Response:**

Would you prefer to be a slave in a land of prosperity or free with God in the desert?

## Week 4: Journey through the Wilderness

Starting Date January 25th

**Day 3** **Highlight:** Numbers 11-12     *Memory Verse:* Romans 8:4

### **Explanation:**

Israel has now left Mount Sinai (10:11) to travel to the land of Canaan.  
Why do the people want to go back to Egypt?

For what reasons does God become angry in these chapters?

## Week 1: The Exodus from Egypt

Starting Date January 4th

### **Application:**

Using Pharaoh's actions as an illustration, what makes repentance genuine?

### **Response:**

In what situations in your life are you acting stubbornly? How can you change that?

## Week 1: The Exodus from Egypt

Starting Date January 4th

**Day 3** Highlight: Exodus 12      *Memory Verse:* Romans 8:1

### **Explanation:**

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The Lord makes a distinction between the Egyptians and his people (10:7). How does the Passover sacrifice distinguish the two peoples?

## Week 4: Journey through the Wilderness

Starting Date January 25th

### **Application:**

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Christians are not under the covenant given at Sinai. How then, if at all, are God's promises (both for obedience and disobedience) in this chapter applicable to Christians today?

### **Response:**

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Love is the necessary result of true belief, and love is the essence of obedience to God's law (cf. Gal. 5:6; Rom. 13:8, 10; James 2:14-17). Have you been striving for obedience to God recently? How must you be obedient to him today?



## Week 4: Journey through the Wilderness

Starting Date January 25th

**Day 2** Highlight: Leviticus 26

*Memory Verse:* Romans 8:4

### **Explanation:**

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Do you actually believe that our God is capable of vv. 14-39? How do these verses critique your thinking about God and the way in which you interact with him?

## Week 1: The Exodus from Egypt

Starting Date January 4th

### **Application:**

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Why was Israel commanded to celebrate the Passover festival every year? How should Christians regularly commemorate how God has delivered us?

### **Response:**

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Jesus Christ is our Passover Lamb. Because of him, God passes over us and does not punish us as our sins deserve. Are you rejoicing in the gospel today?

## Week 1: The Exodus from Egypt

Starting Date January 4th

**Day 4** **Highlight:** Exodus 13:17-14 *Memory Verse:* Romans 8:1

### **Explanation:**

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How is God glorified in this story?

## Week 4: Journey through the Wilderness

Starting Date January 25th

### **Application:**

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Israel had weekly and yearly rhythms for repentance and celebration. Why do you think both are important? And why is it important they occur regularly year after year?

### **Response:**

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Do you have any regular ways of celebrating God's goodness and blessing year after year intentionally built into your calendar?

## Week 4: Journey through the Wilderness

Starting Date January 25th

**Day 1** **Highlight:** Leviticus 23      *Memory Verse:* Romans 8:4

*Sunday's Message:* Romans 15:1-13

### **Explanation:**

What seems to be the purpose of these “appointed feasts” and “holy convocations” (“appointed festivals” and “sacred assemblies” in NIV) of the Lord (e.g., v. 2)?

## Week 1: The Exodus from Egypt

Starting Date January 4th

### **Application:**

How does this passage help you understand what it means, as a Christian, to “be saved”?

### **Response:**

What thoughts and emotions stir in you when you meditate on God’s salvation for you?

## Week 1: The Exodus from Egypt

Starting Date January 4th

**Day 5** **Highlight:** Exodus 16-17      *Memory Verse:* Romans 8:1

### **Explanation:**

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Why do the people grumble? How does God respond?

## Week 3: God's Glory in the Tabernacle

Starting Date January 18th

### **Application:**

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How does this passage help you understand the gravity of your sin?

### **Response:**

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Ask God to search your heart, confess your sins to him, and trust that Christ has carried all of them away.

**Week 3: God's Glory in the Tabernacle**  
Starting Date January 18th

**Day 5** **Highlight:** Leviticus 16-17     *Memory Verse:* Romans 8:3

**Explanation:**

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What makes the Day of Atonement a special day? How is it different from other days and other sacrifices offered on other days?

Most Bible scholars think Leviticus 16 is the central, most important chapter of the book; some even argue that this is the center of the Pentateuch, the first five books of the Bible. Why do you think that they would argue that?

**Week 1: The Exodus from Egypt**  
Starting Date January 4th

**Application:**

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What are you grumbling about? How might God be testing you through that?

**Response:**

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God strengthens our faith by testing it, by leading us through the desert. How can you trust in him more today?

## Week 2: Building the Tabernacle

Starting Date January 11th

**Day 1** **Highlight:** Exodus 19-20      *Memory Verse:* Romans 8:2

### **Explanation:**

Israel is called to be a kingdom of priests and a holy nation (19:6). What does that mean? How does it relate to what you know about other parts of Scripture?

## Week 3: God's Glory in the Tabernacle

Starting Date January 18th

### **Application:**

What do these chapters emphasize about God's character?

### **Response:**

Give thanks that you have ready access to God through Jesus Christ, our great high priest who offered himself as a sacrifice for our sin.

**Week 3: God's Glory in the Tabernacle**  
Starting Date January 18th

**Day 4** **Highlight:** Leviticus 8-9      *Memory Verse:* Romans 8:3

**Explanation:**

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What is the significance of the various rituals involved for consecrating the high priest?

**Week 2: Building the Tabernacle**  
Starting Date January 11th

**Application:**

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Reflect on the 10 commandments in 20:1-17. How have you recently obeyed and how have you recently disobeyed these commands?

**Response:**

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Confess any sin to God, and pray for his Spirit to strengthen you to live obediently to his commands.

## Week 2: Building the Tabernacle

Starting Date January 11th

**Day 2** **Highlight:** Exodus 24-25      *Memory Verse:* Romans 8:2

### **Explanation:**

Keeping in mind the narrative thus far, but especially ch. 24, how do you think the Israelites felt about being commanded to make a sanctuary for God that he might dwell among them (25:8)?

## Week 3: God's Glory in the Tabernacle

Starting Date January 18th

### **Application:**

What are the similarities and differences between God dwelling among the Israelites and God dwelling among his Church?

### **Response:**

God dwells with his people, and yet his very presence prevents Moses from entering the sanctuary. God is near and yet still in a sense unapproachable. How does this affect the way you interact with God?



**Week 3: God's Glory in the Tabernacle**  
Starting Date January 18th

**Day 3** **Highlight:** Exodus 40 *Memory Verse:* Romans 8:3

**Explanation:**

Finally, Exodus 25:8 has been fulfilled. God's glory moves from Sinai to the tabernacle. How has the Israelites' situation changed from the beginning of Exodus to the end of Exodus?

**Week 2: Building the Tabernacle**  
Starting Date January 11th

**Application:**

What attributes of God are emphasized here? Does your daily life reflect a trust in that God?

**Response:**

Give thanks that, because of Jesus, you can approach God, who is a "devouring fire" (24:17).

## Week 2: Building the Tabernacle

Starting Date January 11th

**Day 3** **Highlight:** Exodus 26-27      *Memory Verse:* Romans 8:2

### **Explanation:**

The “tabernacle” or “sanctuary” consisted of an outer court with a tent inside divided into two sections, the Holy Place and the Most Holy Place. The movement from outside to the Most Holy Place is symbolized in a variety of ways: increasing ornateness in material, decreasing light, and greater restrictions about who could enter. What is the tabernacle and its furniture meant to communicate or symbolize?

## Week 3: God’s Glory in the Tabernacle

Starting Date January 18th

### **Application:**

How does this passage illustrate how we ought to give?

### **Response:**

Consider how good our God is. Does your life reflect gratitude for his blessings, or are you giving your time and resources to idols?

### Week 3: God's Glory in the Tabernacle

Starting Date January 18th

**Day 2** **Highlight:** Exodus 34-36:1 *Memory Verse:* Romans 8:3

#### **Explanation:**

Who is Yahweh?

If Yahweh has made a covenant with Israel (34:10, 27), why would they be tempted to make a covenant with the people in Canaan and serve their gods (34:15-16)?

### Week 2: Building the Tabernacle

Starting Date January 11th

#### **Application:**

If the tabernacle no longer exists, and as Christians we do not need the tabernacle, why is it important for us to read these chapters in Exodus?

#### **Response:**

Do you approach God reverently? How do you approach him?

## Week 2: Building the Tabernacle

Starting Date January 11th

**Day 4**

**Highlight:** Exodus 28-29

*Memory Verse:* Romans 8:2

### **Explanation:**

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Why do you think there was an official priesthood in Israel when the whole people was called to be a “kingdom of priests” (19:6)?

## Week 3: God’s Glory in the Tabernacle

Starting Date January 18th

### **Application:**

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How have you been tempted by idolatry recently?

### **Response:**

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Ask God to reveal to you any idols in your life, and ask him to destroy them.

### Week 3: God's Glory in the Tabernacle

Starting Date January 18th

**Day 1** **Highlight:** Exodus 32-33      *Memory Verse:* Romans 8:3

*Sunday's Message:* Romans 14:13-23

#### **Explanation:**

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Based on this story, what is the essence of idolatry?

### Week 2: Building the Tabernacle

Starting Date January 11th

#### **Application:**

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What does this passage teach about what is required to be a priest?

How does this passage help you understand 1 Peter 2:4-5 and how you are called to live as a Christian?

#### **Response:**

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Are you trusting in Jesus, your high priest, who has made a way for you to be accepted by God?

## Week 2: Building the Tabernacle

Starting Date January 11th

**Day 5** **Highlight:** Exodus 30-31      *Memory Verse:* Romans 8:2

### **Explanation:**

Who were Bezalel and Oholiab and why were they important?

What is the Sabbath and why is it important?

## Week 2: Building the Tabernacle

Starting Date January 11th

### **Application:**

Should Christians keep the Sabbath today? Why or why not?

### **Response:**

Even when building God's dwelling place, Israelites were commanded to rest once a week. Are you content, rested, and at peace? Or are you striving and discontent?