



FBC Reading Plan

July 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.

July's Memory Verse

18 And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Matthew 28:18-20 (ESV)

18 Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Matthew 28:18-20 (NIV)

18 Jesus came and told his disciples, "I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. 19 Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. 20 Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

Matthew 28:18-20 (NLT)

Week 1: The Ministry of Jesus

Starting Date July 5

Day 1 Highlight: Luke 9:10-62

Explanation:

Why do people have so many different opinions about who Jesus is?

Week 1: The Ministry of Jesus

Starting Date July 5

Application:

Following Jesus means suffering. How have you and how can you take up your cross daily (v. 23)?

Response:

“For he who is least among you all is the one who is great” (v. 48). Denying yourself will require humility. How can you exhibit humility today?

Week 1: The Ministry of Jesus

Starting Date July 5

Day 2 Highlight: Mark 9

Explanation:

What is the significance of vv. 30-32 contrasted with the account of the transfiguration?

Week 1: The Ministry of Jesus

Starting Date July 5

Application:

Which verses stand out to you as especially relevant to your life today?

Response:

Cut off that which causes you to sin.

Week 1: The Ministry of Jesus

Starting Date July 5

Day 3 Highlight: Luke 12

Explanation:

Jesus teaches us to “fear” God (v. 5). Why? How does that help us to “fear not” (v. 7)?

Week 1: The Ministry of Jesus

Starting Date July 5

Application:

Jesus gives several warnings in this chapter (v. 1, 5, 9-10, 15, 40, 46, 49). Which of these stand out to you as most important for you to hear today and why?

Response:

Are you doing the master's will (v. 47-48)?

Week 1: The Ministry of Jesus

Starting Date July 5

Day 4 Highlight: John 3-4

Explanation:

What does it mean to be born again?

How do people respond to Jesus (Nicodemus, the Samaritan woman, and others)?

Week 1: The Ministry of Jesus

Starting Date July 5

Application:

For those who believe in Jesus and have eternal life, what should such a person's life be like?

Response:

"He must increase, but I must decrease" (3:30).

Week 1: The Ministry of Jesus

Starting Date July 5

Day 5 Highlight: Luke 14

Explanation:

Who is welcome in the kingdom of God? Who is great in the kingdom of God?

What does it cost to follow Jesus?

Week 1: The Ministry of Jesus

Starting Date July 5

Application:

What excuses might you make to avoid going to the great banquet?

Response:

What can you renounce today for Jesus' sake?

Week 2: The Ministry of Jesus

Starting Date July 12

Day 1 Highlight: John 6

Explanation:

Who is Jesus and what does he do?

Week 2: The Ministry of Jesus

Starting Date July 12

Application:

How do we work for the food that endures to eternal life (v. 27)?

Response:

Are you truly feeding on the bread of life?

Week 2: The Ministry of Jesus

Starting Date July 12

Day 2 Highlight: Matthew 19:16-30

Explanation:

Why do the rich enter the kingdom “only with difficulty” (v. 23)?

Week 2: The Ministry of Jesus

Starting Date July 12

Application:

What sort of “investment strategy” do Jesus’ followers have? To what extent is it yours?

Response:

What must you leave behind for the sake of Jesus?

Week 2: The Ministry of Jesus

Starting Date July 12

Day 3 Highlight: Luke 15-16

Explanation:

Why do the religious leaders grumble against Jesus? How do the parables that Jesus gives in response answer their grumbling?

Week 2: The Ministry of Jesus

Starting Date July 12

Application:

Jesus receives sinners and seeks out the lost. Do you really see yourself as a lost sinner apart from Christ? Do you really believe that God rejoices over you despite your sin?

Response:

Do you receive sinners like Jesus did?

Week 2: The Ministry of Jesus

Starting Date July 12

Day 4 **Highlight:** Luke 17:11-37; 18

Explanation:

Based on these chapters, what qualities or characteristics will characterize those that belong to the kingdom?

Week 2: The Ministry of Jesus

Starting Date July 12

Application:

Based on 18:1-8, what should we pray for?

Response:

Based on your previous answer, pray.

Week 2: The Ministry of Jesus

Starting Date July 12

Day 5 Highlight: Mark 10

Explanation:

What is God's intention for marriage?

Why would the disciples prevent children from coming to Jesus?

Week 2: The Ministry of Jesus

Starting Date July 12

Application:

Consider James and John's request in v. 35. Is it right for us to ask Jesus for whatever we want? How does Jesus respond? How does this interaction inform how we pray and how God responds?

Response:

How can you become "great" (vv. 43-44)?

Week 3: Jesus' Final Teachings

Starting Date July 19

Day 1

Highlight: John 11, Matthew 21:1-13

Explanation:

What does it mean that Jesus is “the resurrection and the life” (John 11:25)?

Why is Jesus a threat to the religious leaders (John 11:45ff) but praised by the people (Matt. 21:8ff)?

Week 3: Jesus' Final Teachings

Starting Date July 19

Application:

Is the Jesus of John 11 the same Jesus that you interact with on a daily basis?

Response:

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?" (vv. 25-26)

Week 3: Jesus' Final Teachings

Starting Date July 19

Day 2

Highlight: John 13

Explanation:

In what way is Jesus' command in v. 34 "new"?

Week 3: Jesus' Final Teachings

Starting Date July 19

Application:

Based on v. 15, how can you follow the example that Jesus has set?

Response:

Love one another.

Week 3: Jesus' Final Teachings

Starting Date July 19

Day 3 **Highlight:** John 14-15

Explanation:

What do these chapters teach about Jesus and what he has done?

Week 3: Jesus' Final Teachings

Starting Date July 19

Application:

What does it mean to abide in Jesus? How are you doing that?

Response:

Is your joy full today because of Jesus (15:11)?

Week 3: Jesus' Final Teachings

Starting Date July 19

Day 4

Highlight: John 16

Explanation:

Why is it to the disciple's advantage that Jesus go away and they receive the Helper instead?

Week 3: Jesus' Final Teachings

Starting Date July 19

Application:

What does the Holy Spirit do for Jesus' disciples? What relevance does he have then for your daily life?

Response:

What do you want to ask of the Father in Jesus' name today?

Week 3: Jesus' Final Teachings

Starting Date July 19

Day 5 Highlight: Matthew 24:1-31

Explanation:

Based on what Jesus teaches here, how will people be led astray?

Will Jesus' return be obvious? Why or why not?

Week 3: Jesus' Final Teachings

Starting Date July 19

Application:

How do these verses apply to your life?

Response:

"But the one who endures to the end will be saved" (v. 13). Pray that God would give you endurance to make it to the end.

Week 4: The Arrest and Crucifixion

Starting Date July 26

Day 1

Highlight: Matthew 24:32-51

Explanation:

Why is it important that we know when Jesus' return is near but we do not know when it will actually happen?

What happens to the faithful and wise servant? What happens to the wicked servant? (vv. 45-50)

Week 4: The Arrest and Crucifixion

Starting Date July 26

Application:

What does it mean to stay awake? How do you do that?

Response:

Stay awake!

Week 4: The Arrest and Crucifixion

Starting Date July 26

Day 2

Highlight: John 17

Explanation:

Why is church unity something Jesus must pray for? What effect will church unity have on the world?

If Jesus himself says in v. 15, “I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one,” how should we pray?

Week 4: The Arrest and Crucifixion

Starting Date July 26

Application:

How do you presently experience eternal life?

Response:

How can you pray in line with how Jesus himself prays in this chapter?

Week 4: The Arrest and Crucifixion

Starting Date July 26

Day 3

Highlight: Matthew 26:35-27:31

Explanation:

What leads to the death of Jesus, who was an innocent man?

Week 4: The Arrest and Crucifixion

Starting Date July 26

Application:

In what ways is Jesus an example that we should follow in these chapters?

Response:

Reflect on the evil that Jesus faced even before his crucifixion. How do you respond to such love and patience on your behalf?

Week 4: The Arrest and Crucifixion

Starting Date July 26

Day 4

Highlight: Matthew 27:32-66, Luke 23:26-56

Explanation:

What are the similarities and differences between Matthew's and Luke's crucifixion accounts?

Week 4: The Arrest and Crucifixion

Starting Date July 26

Application:

How does the cross reveal both the horror of your sin and the extent of God's love for you?

Response:

Praise God for the death of Jesus, by which he forgives us of all our sin.

Week 4: The Arrest and Crucifixion

Starting Date July 26

Day 5

Highlight: John 19

Explanation:

What is the significance of Jesus' interactions with Pilate?

Week 4: The Arrest and Crucifixion

Starting Date July 26

Application:

What is “finished” (v. 30)? What relevance does that have for you today?

Response:

How do you respond when you look on him whom they have pierced?