



# **FBC Reading Plan**

**June 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.

## June's Memory Verse

7 Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. 8 Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. 9 In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. 10 In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. 11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

**1 John 4:7-11 (ESV)**

7 Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. 8 Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. 9 This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. 10 This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. 11 Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

**1 John 4:7-11 (NIV)**

7 Dear friends, let us continue to love one another, for love comes from God. Anyone who loves is a child of God and knows God. 8 But anyone who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

9 God showed how much he loved us by sending his one and only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through him. 10 This is real love—not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins.

11 Dear friends, since God loved us that much, we surely ought to love each other.

**1 John 4:7-11 (NLT)**

# Week 1: Recommitting to God

## Starting Date June 7

**Day 1** Highlight: Nehemiah 7-8

### **Explanation:**

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Which groups of people does Nehemiah focus on? Why this emphasis?

What is the connection between holiness and joy in 8:9-12?

# **Week 1: Recommitting to God**

**Starting Date June 7**

## **Application:**

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8:1-8 show that God's law not only needs to be read but understood by God's people with the help of skilled and knowledgeable teachers. Who does that for you and why is this important?

## **Response:**

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Ask God to not only give you the discipline to regularly read God's word but also the Spirit to help you understand his word.

# Week 1: Recommitting to God

## Starting Date June 7

**Day 2** Highlight: Nehemiah 9

### **Explanation:**

In this prayer, the Levites retell the history of Israel. Which part of Israel's history do they highlight? How do the Levites connect their own present experience with Israel's past?

# Week 1: Recommitting to God

## Starting Date June 7

### **Application:**

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How does this passage teach you to read Scripture? How is your own story wrapped up in the history of God's people?

### **Response:**

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How can you respond to God in prayer after reading this passage?

# Week 1: Recommitting to God

## Starting Date June 7

**Day 3** Highlight: Nehemiah 10

### **Explanation:**

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The people recommit themselves to follow God's law. Which parts of the law in particular do they commit to following?



# Week 1: Recommitting to God

Starting Date June 7

## **Application:**

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How are the laws focused on in this passage relevant for us today as Christians?

## **Response:**

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Are you committed to obeying God's law?

# Week 1: Recommitting to God

Starting Date June 7

**Day 4**

**Highlight:** Nehemiah 11

## **Explanation:**

It seems that there was hesitation to live in Jerusalem. That is why lots had to be cast and those who offered to live there were blessed. Why would people have been hesitant to live in Jerusalem?

# **Week 1: Recommitting to God**

**Starting Date June 7**

## **Application:**

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This chapter intricately details Jerusalem being once again inhabited by the Jewish people because it is a fulfillment of God's promise to bring his people back to the land and restore Jerusalem. How does the fulfillment of this promise give you hope today?

## **Response:**

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Praise God for his power and faithfulness by which he keeps all of his promises.

# Week 1: Recommitting to God

Starting Date June 7

**Day 5** Highlight: Nehemiah 12

## Explanation:

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What are the people celebrating in this chapter?

# **Week 1: Recommitting to God**

## **Starting Date June 7**

### **Application:**

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For what reasons should Christians regularly have times of celebration like this?

### **Response:**

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If God made his people rejoice with great joy (v. 43) over a rebuilt city and temple, how much more should we rejoice today who have heard and received the good news of Jesus Christ!

## **Week 2: The Messenger of the Lord**

**Starting Date June 14**

**Day 1** **Highlight:** Nehemiah 13

### **Explanation:**

In what ways do the people sin in this chapter? How does Nehemiah address these sins?

## **Week 2: The Messenger of the Lord**

### **Starting Date June 14**

#### **Application:**

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Should we take these sins as seriously as Nehemiah did? Why or why not?

#### **Response:**

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Pray that God would help you to fight against temptation to sin.

## Week 2: The Messenger of the Lord

Starting Date June 14

**Day 2** Highlight: Malachi 1

### **Explanation:**

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With what particular sin is God displeased in this chapter? Why is this so displeasing to him?



## **Week 2: The Messenger of the Lord**

### **Starting Date June 14**

#### **Application:**

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This chapter echoes the third commandment (v. 11): Do not take the name of the Lord your God in vain. What are other ways that we profane God's name today?

#### **Response:**

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It was the priests in particular who were profaning God's name. This was a problem not only with God's people, but with those who should have been most devout. How can you protect yourself from profaning God's name?

## Week 2: The Messenger of the Lord

Starting Date June 14

**Day 3** Highlight: Malachi 2

### **Explanation:**

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How have the priests failed in their priestly duties? How have the people of Judah been faithless?

## **Week 2: The Messenger of the Lord**

### **Starting Date June 14**

#### **Application:**

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Based on 2:1-9, what is the role of spiritual leaders today?

#### **Response:**

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Pray for your own marriage — or, if you are not married, for marriages in our church — to be filled with love and faithfulness out of reverence to God.

## **Week 2: The Messenger of the Lord**

**Starting Date June 14**

**Day 4**   **Highlight:** Malachi 3

### **Explanation:**

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How have God's people robbed God? What does that mean?

## **Week 2: The Messenger of the Lord**

**Starting Date June 14**

### **Application:**

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Describe God's character based off of this chapter. How should we live in light of who God is?

### **Response:**

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Are you one who serves God? How so?

## Week 2: The Messenger of the Lord

Starting Date June 14

**Day 5**

**Highlight:** Malachi 4

### **Explanation:**

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What is the difference between evildoers and those who fear God's name?

In English Bibles, Malachi is the last book of the Old Testament. How does its special place fit with the rest of the story of Israel? After all that has happened, how has Israel changed? What still remains to be done (either by God or Israel)?

## **Week 2: The Messenger of the Lord**

**Starting Date June 14**

### **Application:**

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What is the difference between those who are “set ablaze” and those who “leap like calves”? How does that affect how you ought to live?

### **Response:**

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Fear the Lord's name.

# Week 3: The Gospel of Jesus Christ

Starting Date June 21

**Day 1**

**Highlight:** Luke 1

## **Explanation:**

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Of what will John's ministry consist? How does this fit with what we read in the Old Testament?

Based on Mary's song and Zechariah's prophecy, what do they expect God is going to do for Israel through John and Jesus?



## **Week 3: The Gospel of Jesus Christ**

### **Starting Date June 21**

#### **Application:**

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According to v. 4, it seems that Luke wrote his gospel so that Theophilus may know for certain the truth about the faith that he has already professed. Why is reading (and rereading) the gospel accounts so important for someone who already believes in Jesus?

#### **Response:**

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Use Mary's and/or Zechariah's words and form your own response to God praising him for deliverance through Jesus.

# **Week 3: The Gospel of Jesus Christ**

## **Starting Date June 21**

**Day 2**   **Highlight:** Luke 2

### **Explanation:**

This is a very familiar part of the gospel. How does reading it in context with the Old Testament (and not only during the Christmas season) deepen your understanding of this chapter?

## **Week 3: The Gospel of Jesus Christ**

### **Starting Date June 21**

#### **Application:**

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Who is Jesus (or who will he be)? How does that affect your life today?

#### **Response:**

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Glory to God in the highest for the Savior has been born!

# Week 3: The Gospel of Jesus Christ

## Starting Date June 21

**Day 3** Highlight: Matthew 1-2

### Explanation:

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What is Matthew's purpose in recounting the genealogy of Jesus?

These opening chapters are filled with references to Old Testament passages. What is Matthew's purposes in making all of these references?

## **Week 3: The Gospel of Jesus Christ**

### **Starting Date June 21**

#### **Application:**

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Matthew's gospel in large part is concerned with showing that Jesus is the true Israelite ("the son of Abraham" v. 1) and the Messiah ("the son of David" v. 1). These are particularly Jewish concerns. What relevance do they have for you?

#### **Response:**

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Praise God for the birth of Jesus our King!

# Week 3: The Gospel of Jesus Christ

## Starting Date June 21

**Day 4** Highlight: Mark 1

### **Explanation:**

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Describe Jesus's ministry. What did he teach? What did he do? Why did he say and do these things?

## **Week 3: The Gospel of Jesus Christ**

### **Starting Date June 21**

#### **Application:**

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Which part of this chapter stands out to you as having relevance for your life today?

#### **Response:**

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The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent and believe in the gospel.

## **Week 3: The Gospel of Jesus Christ**

### **Starting Date June 21**

**Day 5**   **Highlight:** John 1

#### **Explanation:**

What are the similarities and differences between the beginning of John's gospel and the beginning of Matthew's, Mark's, and Luke's gospels?



## **Week 3: The Gospel of Jesus Christ**

### **Starting Date June 21**

#### **Application:**

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How does believing that you are born again by the will of God affect how you live today?

#### **Response:**

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Praise God for sending the lam of God to take away your sins.

# Week 4: Jesus's Temptation & Teaching

## Starting Date June 28

**Day 1**

**Highlight:** Matthew 3-4

### **Explanation:**

Before Jesus begins his public ministry, he is baptized and tempted. Why are each of these significant, especially before beginning his public ministry?

## **Week 4: Jesus's Temptation & Teaching**

### **Starting Date June 28**

#### **Application:**

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John's and Jesus's messages were the same (3:2; 4:17). John also taught that good deeds must follow true repentance (3:8). How are you striving to "bear fruit in keeping with repentance"?

#### **Response:**

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Celebrate how the Spirit has been at work in you and in our church recently, and pray that God would continue to produce fruit appropriate for our repentance.

# Week 4: Jesus's Temptation & Teaching

Starting Date June 28

**Day 2** Highlight: Matthew 5

## **Explanation:**

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Describe how those who seek God's kingdom live.

## **Week 4: Jesus's Temptation & Teaching**

**Starting Date June 28**

### **Application:**

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Are you blessed? Why or why not?

### **Response:**

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Who needs to see your good works today (v. 16)?

## Week 4: Jesus's Temptation & Teaching

Starting Date June 28

**Day 3** Highlight: Matthew 6

### **Explanation:**

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What sort of behaviors eliminate rewards in heaven?

Why is acting "in secret" so important? How does that fit with what Jesus commands in 5:14-16?

## **Week 4: Jesus's Temptation & Teaching**

**Starting Date June 28**

### **Application:**

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Do you do the things commanded in this chapter? Why or why not?

### **Response:**

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Give. Pray. Fast.

## Week 4: Jesus's Temptation & Teaching

Starting Date June 28

**Day 4** Highlight: Matthew 7

### **Explanation:**

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What does Jesus mean when he commands his disciples, "Judge not, that you not be judged" (v. 1)?

The whole sermon on the mount (chs. 5-7) explain the "will of the Father." Why is doing his will essential to entering the kingdom (v. 21-23)?



## **Week 4: Jesus's Temptation & Teaching**

**Starting Date June 28**

### **Application:**

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What would need to happen for you to truly apply v. 12 in your own life?

### **Response:**

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The way that leads to life is difficult; few find it (vv. 13-14). Are you one of the few?

## **Week 4: Jesus's Temptation & Teaching**

**Starting Date June 28**

**Day 5**   **Highlight:** Matthew 8

### **Explanation:**

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What sort of people come to Jesus? Does he welcome everyone? Does everyone welcome Jesus?

## **Week 4: Jesus's Temptation & Teaching**

**Starting Date June 28**

### **Application:**

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Which of these short episodes of Jesus's ministry stirs your heart? How is God speaking to you through it?

### **Response:**

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Go to Jesus today for healing, deliverance, and peace.