



FBC Reading Plan

March 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.

March's Memory Verse

5 May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, 6 that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. 7 Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

Romans 15:5-7 (ESV)

5 May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had, 6 so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. 7 Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God.

Romans 15:5-7 (NIV)

5 May God, who gives this patience and encouragement, help you live in complete harmony with each other, as is fitting for followers of Christ Jesus. 6 Then all of you can join together with one voice, giving praise and glory to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. 7 Therefore, accept each other just as Christ has accepted you so that God will be given glory.

Romans 15:5-7 (NLT)

Week 1: From Judges to Kings

Starting Date March 1

Day 1

Highlight: 1 Samuel 1-2

Memory Verse: Romans 15:5

Explanation:

Why is Hannah no longer sad after praying (v. 18) but before she knows that her prayer will be answered?

Week 1: From Judges to Kings

Starting Date March 1

Application:

Hannah exemplifies humble devotion to the Lord while Phinehas's sons exemplify disregard for God, even while "serving" him. How do these examples teach you to live faithfully to God today?

Response:

Use Hannah's words in 2:1-10 to praise God and pray for yourself and others.

Week 1: From Judges to Kings

Starting Date March 1

Day 2

Highlight: 1 Samuel 3, 8

Memory Verse: Romans 15:5

Explanation:

God spoke directly to Eli in chapter 2. What then is the effect of God speaking to Eli again in chapter 3, but this time through the “boy” Samuel (3:1)?

Why does Israel want a king? What does this desire reveal about their belief about God?

Week 1: From Judges to Kings

Starting Date March 1

Application:

How are you tempted to put your trust in a person rather than God?

Response:

“Do not put your trust in princes, in human beings, who cannot save” (Psalm 146:3).

Week 1: From Judges to Kings

Starting Date March 1

Day 3

Highlight: 1 Samuel 9-10

Memory Verse: Romans 15:5

Explanation:

How does Saul react to being made the king of Israel?

Week 1: From Judges to Kings

Starting Date March 1

Application:

Israel rejected God by asking for a king, and yet God still chose a king for his people. How might that describe how God still interacts with us today?

Response:

God is the only one who can save you from your troubles (10:19). What is troubling you today? Are you entrusting those things to God?

Week 1: From Judges to Kings

Starting Date March 1

Day 4

Highlight: 1 Samuel 13-14 *Memory Verse:* Romans 15:5

Explanation:

What does the difference in military technology between the Philistines (13:5-7) and the Israelites (13:19-22) tell you about the historical circumstances of Israel at this time?

Why is Israel's defeat of the Philistines not as great as it could have been?

Week 1: From Judges to Kings

Starting Date March 1

Application:

Saul acts foolishly in this narrative. Why does he act foolishly? What happens as a result of his folly?

Response:

How can you use your words wisely rather than foolishly today?

Week 1: From Judges to Kings

Starting Date March 1

Day 5

Highlight: 1 Samuel 15-16 *Memory Verse:* Romans 15:5

Explanation:

Why did Saul think he had been obedient to God? Why did God condemn his actions as disobedience?

What does God's choice of David reflect about his character?

Week 1: From Judges to Kings

Starting Date March 1

Application:

How does 15:22-23 apply today? What would it mean for a Christian today to offer “burnt offerings and sacrifices”? How would these things fail to be complete obedience to God?

Response:

“For the Lord sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart” (16:7). Based on your answer to the application question and the truth about God in this verse, how do you need to respond to God today?

Week 2: The Rise of David, the Warrior

Starting Date March 8th

Day 1

Highlight: 1 Samuel 17-18 *Memory Verse:* Romans 15:6

Explanation:

Describe the character traits of the Israelites and Saul based on these chapters. Describe also the character of David.

Week 2: The Rise of David, the Warrior

Starting Date March 8th

Application:

The main point of the Goliath story is not that you should be like David. Rather, it is that you (and Israel) need a champion, a “David,” to fight for you. How then does this story apply to you?

Response:

What are you afraid of? How does knowing God’s deliverer, Jesus, affect your fears and anxieties?

Week 2: The Rise of David, the Warrior

Starting Date March 8th

Day 2

Highlight: 1 Samuel 19-20 *Memory Verse:* Romans 15:6

Explanation:

How does jealousy influence Saul's behavior and cloud his judgment?

What does Jonathan's love for David cost Jonathan?

Week 2: The Rise of David, the Warrior

Starting Date March 8th

Application:

How is jealousy at work in your heart? How has loving others cost you something recently?

Response:

Ask God to keep you from the sin of jealousy and to cause you to love those around you.

Week 2: The Rise of David, the Warrior

Starting Date March 8th

Day 3

Highlight: 1 Samuel 21-22 *Memory Verse:* Romans 15:6

Explanation:

How do other people in this story view David? How do they view Saul?

Week 2: The Rise of David, the Warrior

Starting Date March 8th

Application:

Is it permissible for Christians to be deceitful in any circumstances? Why or why not?

Response:

Where is God in these chapters, and how should you respond to him?

Week 2: The Rise of David, the Warrior

Starting Date March 8th

Day 4

Highlight: Psalm 22, 1 Samuel 24-25:1

Memory Verse: Romans 15:6

Explanation:

Why does David not avenge himself against Saul?

Week 2: The Rise of David, the Warrior

Starting Date March 8th

Application:

Christians are called to love our neighbor, even our enemies, and submit to the authorities in place over us. How do these chapters illustrate that? How might you do that today?

Response:

“Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good” (Romans 12:21).

Week 2: The Rise of David, the Warrior

Starting Date March 8th

Day 5

Highlight: 1 Samuel 28; 31 *Memory Verse:* Romans 15:6

Explanation:

Summarize and describe the reign of Saul, Israel's first king.

Week 2: The Rise of David, the Warrior

Starting Date March 8th

Application:

God gave Israel what they asked for. Their king became more and more depraved, God left him, and Israel was conquered by the Philistines. Why would God give his people what they asked for?

Response:

No king could deliver Israel from its enemies. Only God could do that. How are you trusting in him today?

Week 3: The Downfall of David, the King

Starting Date March 15th

Day 1

Highlight: 2 Samuel 1, 2:1-7

Memory Verse: Romans 15:7

Explanation:

How does David respond to hearing about Saul's and Jonathan's deaths?

Week 3: The Downfall of David, the King

Starting Date March 15th

Application:

David lamented the death of his enemy, Saul. How could he do that?

Response:

This passage, like many psalms, frees us to lament death and loss. What grief do you need to bring to God, or whom can you pray for in the midst of their loss?

Week 3: The Downfall of David, the King

Starting Date March 15th

Day 2

Highlight: Matthew 25

Memory Verse: Romans 15:7

Explanation:

David's first actions as king over all Israel were to fight. First, he conquered Jebusites. Then, he defeated the Philistines twice. All of this fighting occurred right in the center of the land God promised to Israel against foreign peoples. What does this tell you about Israel's power and position in the world compared to other peoples and nations?

Week 3: The Downfall of David, the King

Starting Date March 15th

Application:

Finally, seven years after the death of Saul, David becomes king over all Israel as God has promised David through Samuel. What do you think enabled David to wait all of these years to become king over all Israel?

Response:

Reflect on and pray through Psalm 23. How is God comforting you? Are there any circumstances in which you doubt God is present and leading you?

Week 3: The Downfall of David, the King

Starting Date March 15th

Day 3

Highlight: 2 Samuel 6-7

Memory Verse: Romans 15:7

Explanation:

There is a play on the word “house” in ch. 7. What does the word “house” refer to in vv. 5, 11, and 13?

How would you describe God’s reaction to David’s desire to build a temple for God?

Week 3: The Downfall of David, the King

Starting Date March 15th

Application:

Jesus is the descendant of David who built a house for God's name, a house built not out of stone but made of the people of God (1 Peter 2:4-7). How did David respond to this promise? And how should we respond to what Jesus has done in us?

Response:

Praise God for this faithfulness, and give thanks for his presence within his Church.

Week 3: The Downfall of David, the King

Starting Date March 15th

Day 4

Highlight: Psalm 18, 2 Samuel 9

Memory Verse: Romans 15:7

Explanation:

Why is David still concerned to show kindness to the descendants of Saul?

Week 3: The Downfall of David, the King

Starting Date March 15th

Application:

What does Psalm 18 teach you about prayer? Do your own prayers reflect this psalm in any way?

Response:

God rescued you in Christ “because he delighted” in you (Psalm 18:19). How does your heart respond to this truth?

Week 3: The Downfall of David, the King

Starting Date March 15th

Day 5

Highlight: 2 Samuel 11-12 *Memory Verse:* Romans 15:7

Explanation:

Try to list all the ways in which David sinned in this narrative.

Week 3: The Downfall of David, the King

Starting Date March 15th

Application:

Often when people in power sin, they and those around them try to cover it up from the public. Why then is David's horrible moral failure preserved for us in Scripture?

Response:

How should you respond when you sin?

Week 4: The Psalms of David

Starting Date March 22

Day 1

Highlight: Psalm 51

Memory Verse: Romans 15:5-7

Explanation:

How does David demonstrate what true repentance is in this psalm?

What does he confess? What does he ask for?

Week 4: The Psalms of David

Starting Date March 22

Application:

Jesus taught us to repent every day: “Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors” (Matthew 6:12). How does Psalm 51 teach you to confess and repent?

Response:

Confess your sins to God, and ask that he would create in you a clean heart and renew a right spirit within you (v. 10).

Week 4: The Psalms of David

Starting Date March 22

Day 2

Highlight: 2 Samuel 24, Psalm 24

Memory Verse: Romans 15:5-7

Explanation:

After his sin against Bathsheba and Uriah, David's reign is marked by further sin, conflict, grief, and turmoil. It culminates here with a sin that results in 70,000 dead Israelite men. Why is counting the people of Israel such a great sin?

Week 4: The Psalms of David

Starting Date March 22

Application:

The second king of Israel proves again the danger of putting our hope in human leaders. Why is this the case for all leaders, even one as famous as David?

Response:

Yahweh alone is king, the king of glory (Psalm 24:8). Are you putting your trust in him today?

Week 4: The Psalms of David

Starting Date March 22

Day 3

Highlight: Psalm 1, 19

Memory Verse: Romans 15:5-7

Explanation:

What is the difference between the person who is blessed and the person who is not?

How has God revealed himself?

Week 4: The Psalms of David

Starting Date March 22

Application:

Both of these psalms use vivid language to describe God's law. To what extent does your experience match that of the psalmists?

Response:

How can you pursue God's blessing today? (Psalm 1:1-2)

Week 4: The Psalms of David

Starting Date March 22

Day 4

Highlight: Psalm 103, 119:1-48

Memory Verse: Romans 15:5-7

Explanation:

What is God like? And what has he done?

What is God's law like?

Week 4: The Psalms of David

Starting Date March 22

Application:

Based on Psalm 119, what is the psalmist's greatest desire? Do your priorities match his?

Response:

How do the psalmists' responses to God and his law teach you to respond to God and his law?

Week 4: The Psalms of David

Starting Date March 22

Day 5

Highlight: Psalm 119:49-128

Memory Verse: Romans 15:5-7

Explanation:

Why does the psalmist love God's law so much?

Week 4: The Psalms of David

Starting Date March 22

Application:

How is your attitude similar to or different from that of the psalmist?

Response:

How is God calling you to respond to him today?

Week 5: Solomon & the Building of the Temple

Starting Date March 29

Day 1

Highlight: Psalms 119:129-176; 139

Memory Verse: Romans 15:5-7

Explanation:

Why does the psalmist love God's law so much?

Week 5: Solomon & the Building of the Temple

Starting Date March 29

Application

How is your attitude similar to or different from that of the psalmist?

Response:

How is God calling you to respond to him today?

Week 5: Solomon & the Building of the Temple

Starting Date March 29

Day 2 Highlight: Psalms 148-150

Memory Verse: Romans 15:5-7

Explanation:

What does it mean to praise the Lord? Why is the Lord worthy of praise?

Week 5: Solomon & the Building of the Temple

Starting Date March 29

Application:

How have you been praising the Lord?

Response:

"Praise the Lord!"

Week 5: Solomon & the Building of the Temple

Starting Date March 29

Day 3

Highlight: 1 Kings 2

Memory Verse: Romans 15:5-7

Explanation:

How is the kingdom “established in the hand of Solomon” (v. 46)?

Week 5: Solomon & the Building of the Temple

Starting Date March 29

Application:

How do you evaluate both David's and Solomon's character based on this chapter?

Response:

How do you respond to this story in light of Jesus's teaching to "turn the other cheek" (Matthew 5:38-42)?

Week 5: Solomon & the Building of the Temple

Starting Date March 29

Day 4

Highlight: 1 Kings 3, 6

Memory Verse: Romans 15:5-7

Explanation:

Why is wisdom such an important quality? Why is it especially important for a ruler?

How does God respond to the building of the temple (6:11-13)?

Week 5: Solomon & the Building of the Temple

Starting Date March 29

Application

After Solomon's request for wisdom and after his building of the temple, God emphasizes the need for obedience to his commandments (3:14; 6:12). Why do you think God keeps reminding Solomon of this?

Response:

Pray. "If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him" (James 1:5).

Week 5: Solomon & the Building of the Temple

Starting Date March 29

Day 5 Highlight: 1 Kings 8, 9:1-9

Memory Verse: Romans 15:5-7

Explanation:

What is the importance of the temple for worship in Israel?

How does God respond to Solomon's prayer?

Week 5: Solomon & the Building of the Temple

Starting Date March 29

Application:

What does this passage teach you about God?

Response:

“Let your heart therefore be wholly true to the LORD our God, walking in his statutes and keeping his commandments” (8:61).