



FBC Reading Plan

September 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.

September's Memory Verse

4 Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant 5 or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; 6 it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. 7 Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

1 Corinthians 13:4-7 (ESV)

4 Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. 5 It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. 6 Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. 7 It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

1 Corinthians 13:4-7 (NIV)

4 Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud 5 or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged. 6 It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. 7 Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance.

1 Corinthians 13:4-7 (NLT)

Week 1: The Letter of 1 Corinthians

Starting Date September 6

Day 1

Highlight: 1 Corinthians 5-6

Explanation:

What are some of the problems in the church in Corinth? How does Paul want this church to address these problems?

Week 1: The Letter of 1 Corinthians

Starting Date September 6

Application:

How are your interactions with both those inside and outside the church consistent with what God teaches us in these chapters?

Response:

“Glorify God in your body” (6:19).

Week 1: The Letter of 1 Corinthians

Starting Date September 6

Day 2

Highlight: 1 Corinthians 7-8

Explanation:

What is Paul's overall concern in ch. 7?

Explain 7:29-31 and how it fits within Paul's argument in ch. 7.

Week 1: The Letter of 1 Corinthians

Starting Date September 6

Application:

How does this section of Scripture apply to your life?

Response:

What is keeping you from “undivided devotion” to the Lord (7:35)?

Week 1: The Letter of 1 Corinthians

Starting Date September 6

Day 3

Highlight: 1 Corinthians 9-10

Explanation:

Ch. 9 continues Paul's argument from ch. 8. Should Christians make use of the rights that they have in Christ? Why or why not?

How does 10:13 fit in the rest of Paul's argument in ch. 10?

Week 1: The Letter of 1 Corinthians

Starting Date September 6

Application:

Based on Paul's overall argument in chs. 8-10, how can you apply 10:31 in your life?

Response:

"Whatever you do, do all to the glory of God" (10:31).

Week 1: The Letter of 1 Corinthians

Starting Date September 6

Day 4

Highlight: 1 Corinthians 11-12

Explanation:

Why is it that when the church in Corinth gathered to eat the Lord's Supper it was not really the Lord's Supper that they were eating (11:20)?

What does Paul teach us about the gifts of the Spirit in ch. 12?

Week 1: The Letter of 1 Corinthians

Starting Date September 6

Application:

The underlying theme of these chapters is how the church should behave especially when it gathers corporately. How can you apply these things in your own life as a member of a local church?

Response:

Pray that our church would not have any division and that we would have equal concern for all members (12:25).

Week 1: The Letter of 1 Corinthians

Starting Date September 6

Day 5

Highlight: 1 Corinthians 13-14

Explanation:

How does ch. 13 connect with ch. 12? In what specific context is Paul saying that such love should be evident?

What is Paul's overall concern in ch. 14?

Week 1: The Letter of 1 Corinthians

Starting Date September 6

Application:

Reflect on ch. 13. In what ways is your love lacking?

Response:

Ask God to reveal to you ways in which your love falls short of what God expects, and ask him to make you more loving.

Week 2: The Letter of 2 Corinthians

Starting Date September 13

Day 1

Highlight: 1 Corinthians 15-16

Explanation:

Apparently some Corinthian Christians were saying that there was no such thing as resurrection from the dead (15:12). Why does Paul say it is absolutely essential to believe in the resurrection, both of Jesus and of all those who follow him?

Week 2: The Letter of 2 Corinthians

Starting Date September 13

Application:

According to Paul, what relevance does the reality of our future resurrection have for our daily lives?

Response:

Do you long above all for the day when “we shall all be changed” and put on our imperishable, resurrected bodies?

Week 2: The Letter of 2 Corinthians

Starting Date September 13

Day 2

Highlight: 2 Corinthians 1-2

Explanation:

It seems that Paul wrote a severe letter of instruction to the Corinthians that we no longer have (2:9; this would have been written after 1 Corinthians). He is now writing this letter in part because, although it was a hard letter to write, the Corinthians respond to his letter in repentance (7:8-9; cf. 2:4); he wrote 2 Corinthians to express his gratitude and joy over their obedience in the midst of his own personal afflictions and to share his plans of visiting them soon. How does knowing this background help you understand these opening chapters?

Week 2: The Letter of 2 Corinthians

Starting Date September 13

Application:

How does God comfort Christians?

Response:

In this letter we see very clearly Paul's pastoral heart for his churches. Although he previously wrote to rebuke the Corinthians, he now readily forgives them and affirms his love for them. Are you someone who is open to rebuke and correction? Are you someone who quickly forgives others when they repent for sin they committed against you?

Week 2: The Letter of 2 Corinthians

Starting Date September 13

Day 3

Highlight: 2 Corinthians 3-4

Explanation:

What is the ministry that Paul has received? How does Paul's message also shape the way in which he does ministry?

Week 2: The Letter of 2 Corinthians

Starting Date September 13

Application:

How is God's sufficiency (3:5) and his power (4:7) and the life of Jesus (4:11) made clear in Paul's life? How is it made clear in your life?

Response:

Pray that God would continue to transform you and our church into the image of Jesus (3:18).

Week 2: The Letter of 2 Corinthians

Starting Date September 13

Day 4

Highlight: 2 Corinthians 5-6

Explanation:

How does Paul commend his ministry to the Corinthians, that is, what behaviors or actions prove that he is an honest servant of God?

Week 2: The Letter of 2 Corinthians

Starting Date September 13

Application:

How do you sin by boasting about outward appearances rather than about what is in the heart (5:12)?

Response:

What in your life commends you as a servant of God (6:4ff)?

Week 2: The Letter of 2 Corinthians

Starting Date September 13

Day 5

Highlight: 2 Corinthians 7-8

Explanation:

Why is Paul overflowing with joy (7:4)?

Paul was grieved that his harsh letter grieved the Corinthians. But he does not regret it. Why?

Week 2: The Letter of 2 Corinthians

Starting Date September 13

Application:

How does grief lead to repentance (7:9)? How does that apply to your relationships with other Christians?

Response:

Are you more prone to “worldly grief” or “godly grief” (7:9-10)?

Week 3: The Letter of 2 Corinthians & Romans

Starting Date September 20

Day 1 **Highlight:** 2 Corinthians 9-10

Explanation:

What does Paul teach about giving in ch. 9?

Week 3: The Letter of 2 Corinthians & Romans

Starting Date September 20

Application:

Which of these ideas about giving do you have a difficult time believing?

Response:

Can you give more generously out of gratitude for God's inexpressible gift to you in Christ?

Week 3: The Letter of 2 Corinthians & Romans

Starting Date September 20

Day 2

Highlight: 2 Corinthians 11-13

Explanation:

Starting in chapter 10, Paul defends his ministry to the Corinthians in contrast to the “super-apostles” that they are tempted to follow. What marks Paul’s ministry and how is this different than the ministry of these “super-apostles”? What makes Paul a better servant of Christ than them (11:23)?

Week 3: The Letter of 2 Corinthians & Romans

Starting Date September 20

Application:

Based on the context of these chapters, what is a “weakness”? How does one boast in them?

Response:

In what do you boast?

Week 3: The Letter of 2 Corinthians & Romans

Starting Date September 20

Day 3 **Highlight:** Romans 1-2, Acts 20:1-3

Explanation:

How and why is God's wrath "revealed from heaven" (1:18)?

How would you summarize or explain 2:6-16?

Week 3: The Letter of 2 Corinthians & Romans

Starting Date September 20

Application:

How do these chapters apply to your life?

Response:

Where might there be hypocrisy in your life?

Week 3: The Letter of 2 Corinthians & Romans

Starting Date September 20

Day 4 Highlight: Romans 3-4

Explanation:

What is “the righteousness of God” (3:21ff)?

How does Abraham support Paul’s overall argument in these chapters?

Week 3: The Letter of 2 Corinthians & Romans

Starting Date September 20

Application:

Based on this passage, what precisely has God done for you? How does that affect your everyday life?

Response:

Give thanks to God for the gracious gift of justification through Jesus's sacrifice.

Week 3: The Letter of 2 Corinthians & Romans

Starting Date September 20

Day 5 Highlight: Romans 5-6

Explanation:

What sets God's love apart?

What is the Christian's relationship to sin?

Week 3: The Letter of 2 Corinthians & Romans

Starting Date September 20

Application:

Based on these chapters, how should you live? To what extent are these chapters true of your experience as a Christian?

Response:

“Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires” (6:12).

Week 4: The Letter to the Romans

Starting Date September 27

Day 1

Highlight: Romans 7-8

Explanation:

Scholars are generally divided over how to interpret 7:7-25. Do you think Paul is describing life before or after knowing Christ? Give reasons for your interpretation.

Week 4: The Letter to the Romans

Starting Date September 27

Application:

There are many precious truths in these chapters. Which do you most need to hear and believe today?

Response:

Pray that we would be a church that suffers patiently with Christ in order that we might be glorified with him.

Week 4: The Letter to the Romans

Starting Date September 27

Day 2 Highlight: Romans 9-10

Explanation:

Summarize Paul's argument in these chapters in your own words.

God ultimately chooses those who will be his children. Salvation comes to those who have faith. How can both of these statements be true at once?

Week 4: The Letter to the Romans

Starting Date September 27

Application:

How do these chapters challenge or deepen your understanding of who God is?

Response:

How do you need to respond to God today after hearing his word?

Week 4: The Letter to the Romans

Starting Date September 27

Day 3

Highlight: Romans 11-12

Explanation:

Is God's treatment of the Gentiles different than his treatment of the Jews? Why or why not?

What is the connection between ch. 12 and the first half of the letter (chs. 1-11)?

Week 4: The Letter to the Romans

Starting Date September 27

Application:

What does it mean to present your body as a living sacrifice? How do you do that?

Response:

Ask God to reveal patterns and habits in your life that are shaped by the world and to instead conform you to his will.

Week 4: The Letter to the Romans

Starting Date September 27

Day 4 Highlight: Romans 13-14

Explanation:

What has God given government the authority to do?

How were the Christians in Rome passing judgment on one another?

Week 4: The Letter to the Romans

Starting Date September 27

Application:

How are you fulfilling the law?

Response:

“Put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires” (13:14).

Week 4: The Letter to the Romans

Starting Date September 27

Day 5

Highlight: Romans 15-16

Explanation:

What does the example of Christ compel us to do with other believers with whom we disagree?

Week 4: The Letter to the Romans

Starting Date September 27

Application:

What are you doing to watch out for those who cause divisions within the church (16:17)?

Response:

Pray for the health and unity of our church.