



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

CHRIST-CENTERED, KINGDOM-FOCUSED HOMES



Bible Reading Plan Journal

August 2022

Why we have a church-wide Bible reading plan: God speaks to people through His Word. It is what He uses to transform our lives by revealing truth to us 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 you can use this booklet: Each day has a passage of Scripture for you to read. There are one to two questions to prompt your study of 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 main idea the author is trying to communicate. Next, apply this verse to your everyday life. What does this passage teach us about God? How does this passage point you to your need for Jesus? How do your thoughts, emotions, or actions need to change in light of this passage? Application should always be done in a spirit of prayer, as you are asking God to reveal to you how it applies. Finally, respond. This may be a specific action God is leading you to do. Very often it will be a prayer, either of thanksgiving, of confession of sin, or of petition asking for God's help.

Each new section in the biblical book is preceded by an introduction to help you focus on some key ideas of that book. There is also a general outline to that section to help you keep the overall context in mind as you read each day. This is important for every book of Scripture, but it is especially important for the larger books in the Bible.

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.

Proverbs 3:5-7**ESV**

- 5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart,
and do not lean on your own understanding.
6 In all your ways acknowledge him,
and he will make straight your paths.
7 Be not wise in your own eyes;
fear the LORD, and turn away from evil.

NIV

- 5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart
and lean not on your own understanding;
6 in all your ways submit to him,
and he will make your paths straight.
7 Do not be wise in your own eyes;
fear the LORD and shun evil.

NLT

- 5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart;
do not depend on your own understanding.
6 Seek his will in all you do,
and he will show you which path to take.
7 Don't be impressed with your own wisdom.
Instead, fear the LORD and turn away from evil.

Samuel: The Rise of David and the Downfall of Saul

Day 1 | **1 Samuel 26-27**

Explain:

Ch. 26 is very similar to ch. 24. Why do you think we have two stories from David's life that are so similar?

Why does David think he will be destroyed by Saul despite how ch. 26 ends?

Day 1 | **1 Samuel 26-27**

Apply:

Respond:

Samuel: The Rise of David and the Downfall of Saul

Day 2 | **1 Samuel 28-29**

Explain:

In what ways does ch. 28 summarize how Saul has failed as king?

Do you think David really intended to go and fight against his fellow Israelites?

Day 2 | **1 Samuel 28-29**

Apply:

Respond:

Samuel: The Rise of David and the Downfall of Saul

Day 3 | **1 Samuel 30-31**

Explain:

Compare David in ch. 30 with Saul in ch. 31. How are they similar? How are they different?

Day 3 | **1 Samuel 30-31**

Apply:

Saul's reign ends in defeat. What does his story as a whole teach you about God and how you should live before him?

Respond:

Introduction to the book of 2 Samuel

Although two books in our Bibles, 1-2 Samuel actually are one book. David is the primary figure throughout 2 Samuel. 2 Samuel continues the narrative of Saul's death by beginning with David's sorrowful response to hearing of Saul's and Jonathan's deaths. It then details how David eventually came to power, first as king of Judah and ultimately as king over all Israel.

Central to this book, and ultimately all of Scripture, is God's promise to David in 2 Samuel 7. Here God promises to make David's kingdom everlasting. This is a radically new development in salvation history, and it sets up the central tension throughout 2 Samuel into 1-2 Kings. How will God keep his promise to the dynasty of David despite his people's sin and rebellion?

Book Outline: 2 Samuel

I. David Consolidates his Power (1:1-4:12)

A. David's lament over Saul's and Jonathan's deaths (1:1-27)

B. David made king over Judah (2:1-7)

C. War between David and Saul's descendants (2:8-4:12)

II. David's Reign (5:1-24:25)

A. David's Victories (5:1-10:19)

1. David becomes king over all Israel and conquers Jerusalem (5:1-6:23)

2. The Davidic Covenant (7:1-29)

3. David as victorious, noble king (8:1-10:19)

B. David's Sin and Decline (11:1-24:25)

1. David commits adultery with Bathsheba and kills Uriah (11:-12:31)

2. Absalom's Rebellion (13:1-19:43)

3. Sheba's Rebellion (20:1-22)

III. Conclusion/Appendix (21:1-24:25)

A. David's Song and Final Words (22:1-23:7)

B. David's census (24:1-25)

Explain:

How does David respond to Saul's and Jonathan's deaths? What does this reveal about David?

Day 4 | **2 Samuel 1-2**

Apply:

Respond:

Explain:

Who is Abner? Why does he defect to join David's forces? How does this help David?

In what other ways is David's power in Israel strengthened in these chapters?

Day 5 | **2 Samuel 3-4**

Apply:

These chapters are filled with betrayal and bloodshed. How does the biblical author expect us to see God at work? Is he causing these things to happen? Is he not present? Are these things according to his will? Or something else? What implication does that have for your life?

Respond:

Explain:

David finally becomes king over all Israel and Judah. What are his first actions as king and why are they significant?

Day 1 | 2 Samuel 5-6

Apply:

Consider everything that happened between David being anointed king over Israel and actually becoming king over all Israel. What does that teach us about God and his promises?

Respond:

Explain:

What does God promise to do for David? How does David respond to God?

Day 2 | **2 Samuel 7-8**

Apply:

This promise is ultimately fulfilled in the person of Jesus Christ, who is the true Son of David and who establishes an eternal “house” for God, the church. How is this connection to the gospel significant for your own life?

Respond:

Explain:

Why does David want to show kindness to some from “the house of Saul”?

What sort of king is David based off of the narrative in ch. 10?

Day 3 | **2 Samuel 9-10**

Apply:

Respond:

Explain:

In what ways does David sin in this chapter? What happens or will happen to David because of his sin?

If God took away David's sin (12:13), why does the child still die? Why can David still be king after this sin?

Day 4 | **2 Samuel 11-12**

Apply:

Respond:

Explain:

Is Absalom in the right or in the wrong in this story?

Is David in the right or in the wrong in this story?

Day 5 | **2 Samuel 13-14**

Apply:

Respond:

Explain:

What is Absalom trying to do in vv. 1-6? Does he succeed?

Various people approach David as he flees Jerusalem. What does David ask the various people to do and why?

Day 1 | **2 Samuel 15**

Apply:

Respond:

Explain:

This is a story of raw, unvarnished political maneuvering for power after David is chased out of Jerusalem. What is the point of these chapters? How are we to understand a story like this being in Scripture?

Day 2 | **2 Samuel 16-17**

Apply:

Why and how does David respond to Shimei the way that he does (2 Sam. 16:10-12)? How would you respond in such a situation?

Respond:

Explain:

Should Joab have “dealt gently” with Absalom as David commanded?

Day 3 | **2 Samuel 18**

Apply:

Respond:

Explain:

Why does Joab rebuke David?

How would you describe David's character based on his actions as he returns to Jerusalem?

Day 4 | **2 Samuel 19**

Apply:

Respond:

Explain:

What are the similarities and differences between Absalom's rebellion and Shimei's rebellion?

Why is David responsible for addressing Saul's wrongdoing?

Day 5 | **2 Samuel 20-21**

Apply:

Respond:

Explain:

This chapter begins the conclusion of this long book of the Bible. What themes from 1-2 Samuel recur in this song?

Day 1 | **2 Samuel 22**

Apply:

Through the words of this song, how is David an example of what it means to trust and follow God?

Respond:

Explain:

Why do you think the story in ch. 24 is placed here at the end of the book rather than somewhere else?

Day 2 | 2 Samuel 23-24

Apply:

Respond:

Introduction to the book of Kings

Like 1-2 Samuel, 1-2 Kings is really one book, and it is a clear continuation of 2 Samuel. Unlike 1-2 Samuel, Kings covers a long span of time in Israel's history, roughly 400 years. The book of Kings continues to evaluate the monarchy from the time of Solomon through the division of the kingdom to the conquest of the Israel by Assyria and the conquest of Judah by Babylon.

It is critical to understand that Kings was written (or compiled) by someone living in exile, who is looking back on Israel's and Judah's history and trying to make sense of it. Here he is living in exile, and God's chosen people, both Israel and Judah, have been nearly wiped out. How could such a disaster happen to God's people?

The narrator answers that question by retelling Israel's history in light of the Mosaic covenant. Much like Joshua, Judges, and Samuel, the Mosaic covenant is the basis by which Israel and Judah are judged. The covenant was clear: God would reward obedience, but he would punish disobedience. The horrible outcome of Israel's and Judah's align with God's promise to judge.

So like all history, 1-2 Kings was written with a purpose. So although it is a historical book, it only includes events relevant to its purpose. It does not primarily focus on the kings' military victories or wealth or political success or failure. Rather, the book pays closest attention to the kings' religious actions and interprets all of their actions through that. And the conclusion of the book is bleak: there has been no king who can bring lasting change to the heart of God's people.

Book Outline: 1-2 Kings

- I. The Reign of Solomon (1:1-11:43)
 - A. Solomon's rise to power (1:1-2:46)
 - B. Solomon's wisdom (3:1-4:34)
 - C. Building the temple and palace in Jerusalem (5:1-9:9)
 - D. Solomon's Sin and Decline (11:1-43)
- II. The Divided Kingdoms of Israel and Judah (12:1-16:34)
 - A. The kingdom divides (12:1-24)
- III. Stories of the Prophets: Elijah and Elisha (1 Kings 17:1-2 Kings 8:15)
 - A. Ministry of Elijah (1 Kings 17:1-2 Kings 2:12)
 - B. Ministry of Elisha (2 Kings 2:13-8:15)
- IV. The Late Divided Kingdom (8:16-17:41)
 - A. The Destruction of Israel (17:1-41)
 - B. The Babylonian Exile (25:1-30)

Explain:

What are the differences between how David responds to Absalom's rebellion in 2 Samuel and how he responds here to his son Adonijah?

Day 3 | 1 Kings 1

Apply:

Respond:

Explain:

What is David essentially telling Solomon to do in vv. 5-9?

Day 4 | **1 Kings 2**

Apply:

The heading for 2:13ff in the ESV and NIV is “Solomon’s Reign/Throne Established.” How is his power secured in this chapter? Should we approve or disapprove of Solomon’s actions here?

Respond:

Explain:

Why does Solomon feel he needs wisdom? What is the purpose of his wisdom? How does God answer Solomon's request?

If God is going to give a "wise and discerning mind" (3:12), why does God still need to command Solomon to keep his commands (3:14)?

Day 5 | **1 Kings 3-4**

Apply:

How is wisdom the same as and different from obedience to God?

Respond:

Explain:

Why can Solomon now build a temple for the Lord?

Does the building of the temple change God's relationship with Israel in any way?

Day 1 | **1 Kings 5-6**

Apply:

Respond:

Explain:

What similarities do you notice between the tabernacle and its furnishings and those of the temple?

.....
: Much like the tabernacle, Solomon's temple had a three-part division of :
: increasing holiness: courtyard —> Holy Place —> Most Holy Place. The further :
: one went, the more access was restricted. Scholars have also found that :
: Solomon's temple was very similar to other nations' temples. This is not too :
: surprising since Solomon conscripted the help of foreign labor and supplies (1 :
: Kings 5:6). So was Israel's temple just a copy of pagan temples, or was there :
: something unique about it? The similarities highlight the most significant :
: difference: Israel's temple had no idol. And that ultimately is what separated :
: Israelite worship from pagans; they did not worship idols. :
:

Day 2 | **1 Kings 7**

Apply:

Respond:

Explain:

This chapter is one of the more important speeches in the Bible and biblical history. What is the essence of Solomon's speech?

Day 3 | **1 Kings 8**

Apply:

What attributes of God are especially prominent in this chapter? How does that affect how you relate with him?

Respond:

Explain:

What does it mean that God puts “his name” in the temple (9:3)? How can God promise to put his name there forever and yet the temple's existence be dependent upon the kings' obedience (9:6-9)?

Day 4 | **1 Kings 9-10**

Apply:

Respond:

Explain:

How specifically does Solomon do what is evil in the sight of God? What does God do as a result?

Day 5 | **1 Kings 11**

Apply:

What can you learn from the reign of Solomon to apply to your own life?

Respond: