



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

CHRIST-CENTERED, KINGDOM-FOCUSED HOMES



Bible Reading Plan Journal

December 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.

Jeremiah 31:33-34

ESV

33 For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

34 And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the Lord. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more."

NIV

33 "This is the covenant I will make with the people of Israel after that time," declares the Lord.

"I will put my law in their minds
and write it on their hearts.

I will be their God,
and they will be my people.

34 No longer will they teach their neighbor,
or say to one another, 'Know the Lord,'
because they will all know me,
from the least of them to the greatest,"
declares the Lord.

"For I will forgive their wickedness
and will remember their sins no more."

Jeremiah: God's Judgment on Judah

Day 1 | **Jeremiah 24-25**

Explain:

What do the figs represent?

How are those prophecies against who or what described?

Day 1 | **Jeremiah 24-25**

Apply:

How can we take these words of wrath and use them?

Respond:

Jeremiah: God's Judgment on Judah

Day 2 | **Jeremiah 26**

Explain:

What is the initial response to Jeremiah's words?

How does Jeremiah respond to the people requesting his death sentence?

Day 2 | **Jeremiah 26**

Apply:

What are some ways we can publicly declare the word of God?

Respond:

Jeremiah: God's Judgment on Judah

Day 3 | **Jeremiah 27-28**

Explain:

What will happen if nations do not serve the king of Babylon?

How is Hananiah's prophecy different from Jeremiah's?

Day 3 | **Jeremiah 27-28**

Apply:

What can we take from the confrontation of Hananiah and Jeremiah and implement it into our own lives?

Respond:

Jeremiah: God's Judgment on Judah

Day 4 | **Jeremiah 29**

Explain:

What are some things God tells His people to do in Babylon?

Day 4 | **Jeremiah 29**

Apply:

How can we serve God by making the best of our situations?

Respond:

Jeremiah: God's Judgment on Judah

Day 5 | **Jeremiah 30**

Explain:

What must come before the yoke is broken?

Day 5 | **Jeremiah 30**

Apply:

How can we look at the struggles in our lives considering what God is able to do in verse 17?

Respond:

Jeremiah: God's Judgment on Judah

Day 1 | **Jeremiah 31**

Explain:

What are some things Israel does in response to being returned?

What is part of the New Covenant?

Day 1 | **Jeremiah 31**

Apply:

How can we rejoice in the Lord when he has brought us out of iniquity?

Respond:

Jeremiah: God's Judgment on Judah

Day 2 | **Jeremiah 32**

Explain:

Why does Jeremiah tell Baruch to have the deed for the land preserved?

Day 2 | **Jeremiah 32**

Apply:

What does it mean for us when we understand that the Lord promises are what will happen?

Respond:

Jeremiah: God's Judgment on Judah

Day 3 | **Jeremiah 33-34**

Explain:

What is the response to those that claim God has broken His covenant in chapter 33?

How did the Israelites fail after setting the slaves free?

Day 3 | **Jeremiah 33-34**

Apply:

What are some things that you do righteously and then miss the mark later?

Respond:

Jeremiah: God's Judgment on Judah

Day 4 | **Jeremiah 35-36**

Explain:

Why are the sons of Rechab used as an example?

Why does God prepare all this scroll for the Israelites?

Day 4 | **Jeremiah 35-36**

Apply:

What are some things that we struggle to accept that we try to “burn” like King Jehoiakim did with the scroll?

Respond:

Jeremiah: God's Judgment on Judah

Day 5 | **Jeremiah 37**

Explain:

Who did the people in Judah hope would save them?

Day 5 | **Jeremiah 37**

What does the king ask for when he is alone with Jeremiah in verse 17?

How can we do the same thing?

Respond:

Jeremiah: God's Judgment on Judah

Day 1 | **Jeremiah 38-40**

Explain:

What is the reasoning for putting Jeremiah to death in chapter 38?

What happens to Jeremiah after Jerusalem falls?

Day 1 | **Jeremiah 38-40**

Apply:

How is the contrast between what happens to King Zedekiah and Jeremiah a warning to us?

Respond:

Jeremiah: God's Judgment on Judah

Day 2 | **Jeremiah 41-42**

Explain:

What must the men in these passages do to avoid suffering?

Day 2 | **Jeremiah 41-42**

Apply:

How can we be content in our current “place” despite there seeming to be better places out there according to chapter 42?

Respond:

Jeremiah: God's Judgment on Judah

Day 3 | **Jeremiah 43**

Explain:

What was the response to the word of God?

Day 3 | **Jeremiah 43**

Apply:

Respond:

Jeremiah: God's Judgment on Judah & God's Judgment of the Nations

Day 4 | **Jeremiah 44-46**

Explain:

What did God do before sending disaster on Jerusalem and Judah in chapter 44?

How is Egypt described in chapter 46?

Day 4 | **Jeremiah 44-46**

Apply:

How can we have encouragement when we see that God can do great things despite there being very little to work with?

Respond:

Jeremiah: God's Judgment of the Nations

Day 5 | **Jeremiah 47-48**

Explain:

What is different in who the message is for in these chapters from previous chapters?

What is significant about this shift?

Day 5 | **Jeremiah 47-48**

Apply:

How can we understand God's justice more thoroughly after looking at these passages?

Respond:

Jeremiah: God's Judgment of the Nations

Day 1 | **Jeremiah 49**

Explain:

What are some descriptions that stand out in depicting the power of God's wrath?

Day 1 | **Jeremiah 49**

Apply:

We see fear in the nations in their destruction, who should we fear that they did not? (observe the questions in verse 19)

Respond:

Jeremiah: God's Judgment of the Nations

Day 2 | **Jeremiah 50**

Explain:

What is Israel compared to in this passage?

Week 4 – December 26-January 3

Day 2 | **Jeremiah 50**

Apply:

How can we have confidence in the power of God when we see His dealing with Babylon?

Respond:

Jeremiah: God's Judgment of the Nations

Day 3 | **Jeremiah 51**

Explain:

What is Babylon to God in this passage?

Week 4 – December 26-January 3

Day 3 | **Jeremiah 51**

Apply:

Respond:

Jeremiah: God's Judgment of the Nations

Day 4 | **Jeremiah 52**

Explain:

What are some major events in this passage?

Week 4 – December 26-January 3

Day 4 | **Jeremiah 52**

Apply:

How can we look at history like this and see the governance of God?

Respond:

Introduction to Lamentations

Lamentations is another book that is attributed fittingly to Jeremiah the weeping prophet. He wrote this book following the fall of Jerusalem in 586 B.C. The book contains prophecy, ritual, and wisdom all contained into five poems that are written in a Jewish funeral song/chant rhythmic style. In the Hebrew text it's written in 22 verses each poem except the 3rd poem which is 66. Also, the first 4 chapters are an acrostic poem of the Hebrew alphabet, with the final chapter breaking that pattern. Despite its small size the book does a great job of depicting the disaster of disobeying God and shows the anguish that God experiences when His people suffer.

Lamentations Outline

Poems

1. Jeremiah mourns for Jerusalem (1:1-22)
2. God's anger at sin (2:1-22)
3. Hope in midst of affliction (3:1-66)
4. God's anger is satisfied (4:1-22)
5. Jeremiah pleads for restoration (5:1-22)

Lamentations: Jeremiah Mourns for Israel & God's Anger at Sin

Day 5 | **Lamentations 1-2**

Explain:

Who is the female figure in these passages?

What are some descriptions of this figure?

Day 5 | Lamentations 1-2

Apply:

The sorrow in these passages is beautifully written. What sorrows can you bring to the Lord in a genuine and descriptive way?

Respond: