



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

CHRIST-CENTERED, KINGDOM-FOCUSED HOMES



Bible Reading Plan Journal

November 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.

Isaiah 53:7-9

ESV 7 He was oppressed, and he was afflicted,
yet he opened not his mouth;
like a lamb that is led to the slaughter,
and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent,
so he opened not his mouth.
8 By oppression and judgment he was taken away;
and as for his generation, who considered
that he was cut off out of the land of the living,
stricken for the transgression of my people?
9 And they made his grave with the wicked
and with a rich man in his death,
although he had done no violence,
and there was no deceit in his mouth.

NIV 7 He was oppressed and afflicted,
yet he did not open his mouth;
he was led like a lamb to the slaughter,
and as a sheep before its shearers is silent,
so he did not open his mouth.
8 By oppression and judgment he was taken away.
Yet who of his generation protested?
For he was cut off from the land of the living;
for the transgression of my people he was punished.
9 He was assigned a grave with the wicked,
and with the rich in his death,
though he had done no violence,
nor was any deceit in his mouth.

Isaiah: Words of Comfort

Day 1 | **Isaiah 48-50**

Explain:

What are some comforting promises to God's nation that stood out?

Day 1 | Isaiah 48-50

Apply:

What ways can we look at Isaiah's acts in response to God in verses 4-9 in chapter 50 and apply it to the way we should live?

Respond:

Isaiah: Words of Comfort

Day 2 | **Isaiah 51-52**

Explain:

What does the beginning of chapter 51 say about what God does with small things?

What are the words that are repeated in these passages?

Day 2 | **Isaiah 51-52**

Apply:

What steps can we take to awaken that these passages tell us to?

Respond:

Isaiah: Words of Comfort

Day 3 | **Isaiah 53-54**

Explain:

What are some beautiful depicts that we see in Christ as well in chapter 53?

Day 3 | **Isaiah 53-54**

Apply:

What ways can we joyfully prepare for the great magnitude of blessings God offers like the barren women in chapter 54?

Respond:

Isaiah: Words of Comfort

Day 4 | **Isaiah 55-56**

Explain:

What are some statements that show we can have faith in God's proper government over His creation?

Day 4 | **Isaiah 55-56**

Apply:

What is the significance of a eunuch? How does that apply to us even if we aren't eunuchs?

Respond:

Isaiah: Words of Comfort

Day 5 | **Isaiah 57-58**

Explain:

How would the opening statement of chapter 57 answer the question, “Why do good people die and the wicked live prosperously?”

Why is the fasting not accepted?

Day 5 | Isaiah 57-58

Apply:

What practices in your life are you doing well, and what are some things you are lacking in?

Respond:

Isaiah: Words of Comfort

Day 1 | **Isaiah 59-61**

Explain:

Despite the people's sin and God hiding his face from his people, what does he still give to his people?

What does God promise to eventually do for the Israelite that maintains His covenant?

Week 2 – November 14-20

Day 1 | **Isaiah 59-61**

Apply:

Sometimes it feels like we experience our own exile in relation to God, what can we take from these passages for those times?

Respond:

Isaiah: Words of Comfort

Day 2 | **Isaiah 62-64**

Explain:

What is the response that starts in verse 7 of chapter 62?

Day 2 | **Isaiah 62-64**

Apply:

What reveals God's kindness so that we can celebrate it?

Respond:

Day 3 | Isaiah 65-66

Explain:

What are some amazing pieces of imagery that show what God is capable of?

Day 3 | Isaiah 65-66

Apply:

In looking back at this book how can we look at our lives and be humble in seeing our sin, and be comforted in the promises of God by reflecting?

Respond:

Introduction to the book of Jeremiah

Just like the book's name we attribute the authorship to Jeremiah that many nickname the weeping prophet as he makes it quite evident to God and in his writing his lament filled struggle. This story follows the downward slope that is occurring due to Judah's last five kings. This would inevitably lead to the fall of Judah to Babylon. There were three major deportations that took place that progressively sent more and more of the people of Judah into exile. The first happened in 597 B.C. through the conquering of Jerusalem as a punishment to King Josiah's son Jehoiakim for his rebellion. Then in the same occurred with his son Jeconiah. Finally, opposite to Jeremiah's suggestion King Zedekiah rebelled as well in 587. Following this King Nebuchadnezzar set out to kill the priests of Judah, leaving Jeremiah as he was a spokesperson against these rebellions.

Jeremiah's main mission from God was to confront Judah with its sin as is common with a prophet of God. The word *shub* in Hebrew meaning to return or to turn encompasses the message Jeremiah is trying to get across. The success of this goal plays a huge part in what else this book conveys as we see Jeremiah's response to the apathy of those in Judah as discouraged and bitter. Also in the end Jeremiah is a firsthand witness to the punish that occurs as a result of the sin of Judah. This is all depicted by Jeremiah through history, poetry, biography, and the symbolism he uses.

This book is not just filled with doom and gloom, because God still uses Jeremiah to display his promises of future restoration. Specifically in chapter 33 we see a promise that one day there will be a branch of David that will come to fulfill the good word concerning the house of Israel and Judah.

Book Outline: Jeremiah

1. God's Judgment on Judah (1:1-45:5)
 - a. The call of Jeremiah (1:1-1:19)
 - b. Jeremiah condemns Judah for its sins (2:1-10:25)
 - c. Jeremiah prophesies destruction (11:1-20:18)
 - d. Jeremiah accuses Judah's leaders (21:1-29:32)
 - e. Restoration is promised (30:1-33:26)
 - f. God's promised judgment arrives (34:1-45:5)
2. God's Judgment of the Nations (46:1-52:34)
 - a. Prophecies about foreign nations (46:1-51:64)
 - b. The fall of Jerusalem (52:1-34)

Jeremiah: God's Judgment on Judah

Day 4 | **Jeremiah 1-2**

Explain:

What show God's planning in these passages?

Day 4 | **Jeremiah 1-2**

Apply:

The Israelites have begun to worship things made of wood and stone. What are some lifeless materials that we put our faith in?

Respond:

Jeremiah: God's Judgment on Judah

Day 5 | **Jeremiah 3-4**

Explain:

What do we see about God's character in verses 12-14 in chapter 3?

Day 5 | Jeremiah 3-4

Apply:

Jeremiah feels anguish when looking at the world around him. What are things that we can bring to the Lord we see around us?

Respond:

Jeremiah: God's Judgment on Judah

Day 1 | **Jeremiah 5**

Explain:

How are wicked men defined in this chapter?

Day 1 | **Jeremiah 5**

Apply:

What should make us fear the Lord in our hearts like in verse 24?

Respond:

Jeremiah: God's Judgment on Judah

Day 2 | **Jeremiah 6-7**

Explain:

What is truly executing justice based on these passages?

Day 2 | **Jeremiah 6-7**

Apply:

Are there moments when God in some way rescues you then you turn away
after you've gotten what you wanted?

Respond:

Jeremiah: God's Judgment on Judah

Day 3 | **Jeremiah 8-9**

Explain:

How is spiritual blindness depicted in chapter 8?

Day 3 | **Jeremiah 8-9**

Apply:

What are some ways we can have a new perspective on what we are doing for the Lord to make sure we are doing so righteously?

Respond:

Jeremiah: God's Judgment on Judah

Day 4 | **Jeremiah 10-11**

Explain:

What differences do we see when we compare idols to the one true God?

How is God's grace and mercy shown toward His covenant people in chapter 11?

Day 4 | **Jeremiah 10-11**

Apply:

The Israelites struggled with idols despite God's constant call to repentance, can you think of any sin that constantly struggles for you?

Respond:

Jeremiah: God's Judgment on Judah

Day 5 | **Jeremiah 12-13**

Explain:

What are some of the images God uses in these passages?

Day 5 | **Jeremiah 12-13**

Apply:

Respond:

Jeremiah: God's Judgment on Judah

Day 1 | **Jeremiah 14-15**

Explain:

What are things that deceive the Israelites in these passages?

Day 1 | **Jeremiah 14-15**

Apply:

What are some instances where we need the reassurance offered to Jeremiah in chapter 15?

Respond:

Jeremiah: God's Judgment on Judah

Day 2 | **Jeremiah 16-17**

Explain:

How do these passages talk about what man can make and are capable of when trusting in themselves?

Week 4 – November 28-December 5

Day 2 | **Jeremiah 16-17**

Apply:

How can we bear fruit while a drought is around us?

Respond:

Jeremiah: God's Judgment on Judah

Day 3 | **Jeremiah 18-19**

Explain:

How does a potter and clay depict God?

Day 3 | **Jeremiah 18-19**

Apply:

When we realize that how much control God has over His clay what does that mean for us?

Respond:

Jeremiah: God's Judgment on Judah

Day 4 | **Jeremiah 20-21**

Explain:

What does Jeremiah do right after he is publicly humiliated?

Day 4 | **Jeremiah 20-21**

Apply:

Does any of Jeremiah's complaint in chapter 20 resonant with you and need to be brought to the Lord?

Respond:

Jeremiah: God's Judgment on Judah

Day 5 | **Jeremiah 22-23**

Explain:

What are some of the instructions to the sons of Josiah?

Day 5 | **Jeremiah 22-23**

Apply:

What opportunities do we have to be like the shepherds described in chapter 23?

Respond: