



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
CHRIST-CENTERED, KINGDOM-FOCUSED HOMES



Bible Reading Plan Journal
April 2026

Memory Verses

John 1:6-8

(Witness to the Word)

English Standard Version (ESV)

⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.

⁷ He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him.

⁸ He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

New International Version (NIV)

⁶ There was a man sent from God whose name was John.

⁷ He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe.

⁸ He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

New Living Translation (NLT)

⁶ There was a man sent from God whose name was John.

⁷ He came to tell what he knew about the Light so that all men might believe through him.

⁸ John was not the Light, but he was sent to tell about the Light.

Memory Verses, plan for 2026

This year, we will be memorizing the first 18 verses of the Gospel of John. Our method will be a few verses each month, with several “review” months. The objective is to keep these verses at the center of our heart, use them in our daily fellowship and influence those around us.

These verses provide a “lens” by which you can read the entire Gospel of John. This prologue is consistent with the writings of the first century, in which the content of the narrative is provided at the start.

John begins with what appears to be a retelling of creation, but then quickly moves into the news that is as important, if not more, than all of creation; the incarnation of the Word: “And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us” (1:14). RC Sproul refers to this verse as one of the most profound verses in all of God’s Word.

John introduces many themes in this prologue: “light”, witness, true/genuine, world, glory, truth. John also introduces how the “Word”, whom was with God from eternity past, came into space and time to become the Jesus of history. This disclosed the glory, grace and love of God.

Prologue (John 1:1-18). The Revelation of the Word

- a. Introduction to the Word (1:1-5)
- b. Witness to the Word (1:6-8)
- c. Manifestation of the Word (1:9-14)
- d. Uniqueness of the Word (1:15-18)

Week 1 – April 6-10

Monday | 2 Kings 23

Highlight (Principle, Promise, Command, or Characteristic about God that the Lord brings to you)

Implication (What impact does this have on my life?)

Apply (How can I respond practically to this in my life?)

Tuesday | 2 Kings 24

Highlight (Principle, Promise, Command, or Characteristic about God that the Lord brings to you)

Implication (What impact does this have on my life?)

Apply (How can I respond practically to this in my life?)

Week 1 – April 6-10

Wednesday | 2 Kings 25

Highlight (Principle, Promise, Command, or Characteristic about God that the Lord brings to you)

Implication (What impact does this have on my life?)

Apply (How can I respond practically to this in my life?)

Thursday | 2 Chronicles 36

Highlight (Principle, Promise, Command, or Characteristic about God that the Lord brings to you)

Implication (What impact does this have on my life?)

Apply (How can I respond practically to this in my life?)

Israel exiled by Assyrian Empire (2 Kings 17). Around 752-722 BC. This was when 10 of the tribes lost their identity with individual tribes of Israel



(ESV Study Bible. <https://www.esv.org/resources/esv-global-study-bible/map-12-10/>)

Judah exiled by Babylonian Empire (2 Chronicles 36). Around 797-582 BC. These were the tribes of Judah, Benjamin and some of Levi that eventually merged into what is known today as the Jewish people



(ESV Study Bible. <https://www.esv.org/resources/esv-global-study-bible/map-14-16/>)

The Books of Ezra and Nehemiah

video: <https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/ezra-nehemiah/>

The books of Ezra and Nehemiah can be considered one narrative.

Ezra begins, literally, where 2 Chronicles ends; with some repetition. The first chapters recount the return of the Jews from exile. Zerubbabel (governor) and Jeshua (priest) lead rebuilding the temple altar, for festival sacrifices, followed by the temple itself.

Zerubbabel, after losing morale, gets encouragement from Haggai and Zechariah to return and complete the task. Keep in mind, the Jews were still under Persian rule and returning to a land that was destroyed by the Assyrians. With little money to rebuild their homes, lives and religious ceremonies to Yahweh, it was understandable that morale would suffer.

Ezra chapter 7 shifts to Ezra's (priestly scribe) arrival and confrontation on obedience; including marriage to pagan women.

Nehemiah returned with the objective of rebuilding the walls, thereby re-establishing their protection and homes (many home are contained in the walls). Nehemiah also encountered opposition yet persevered in his leadership. Again, Ezra emerges in Nehemiah as the priestly leader of the rededication of the temple.

The significance of Ezra and Nehemiah is that God is active with power over His dominion. The theological concern of Ezra and Nehemiah was the restoration of the Jewish community to covenant purity and faithfulness. The narratives of Ezra and Nehemiah show the rebuilt community structure that existed during the events of the New Testament.

Ezra Topical Outline

- 1) First Return (1-2)
- 2) Restoration of the Temple (3-6)
- 3) Second Return (7-8)
- 4) Intermarriage Condemned (9)
- 5) Confession and Separation (10:1-44)

Nehemiah Topical Outline

- 1) The Report and Nehemiah's Prayer (1)
- 2) Nehemiah's Commissioning (2)
- 3) Building Jerusalem's Wall and Gates (3-7)
- 4) The Exiles and Spiritual Renewal (7-10)
Residents, Priests, and Levites, and Dedication (11-13)

Week 1 – April 6-10

Friday | Ezra 1

Highlight (Principle, Promise, Command, or Characteristic about God that the Lord brings to you)

Implication (What impact does this have on my life?)

Apply (How can I respond practically to this in my life?)

Week 2 – April 13-17

Monday | Ezra 2

Highlight (Principle, Promise, Command, or Characteristic about God that the Lord brings to you)

Implication (What impact does this have on my life?)

Apply (How can I respond practically to this in my life?)

Tuesday | Ezra 3

Highlight (Principle, Promise, Command, or Characteristic about God that the Lord brings to you)

Implication (What impact does this have on my life?)

Apply (How can I respond practically to this in my life?)

Week 2 – April 13-17

Wednesday | Ezra 4

Highlight (Principle, Promise, Command, or Characteristic about God that the Lord brings to you)

Implication (What impact does this have on my life?)

Apply (How can I respond practically to this in my life?)

Thursday | Ezra 5

Highlight (Principle, Promise, Command, or Characteristic about God that the Lord brings to you)

Implication (What impact does this have on my life?)

Apply (How can I respond practically to this in my life?)

Week 2 – April 13-17

Friday | Ezra 6

Highlight (Principle, Promise, Command, or Characteristic about God that the Lord brings to you)

Implication (What impact does this have on my life?)

Apply (How can I respond practically to this in my life?)

Week 3 – April 20-24

Monday | Ezra 7

Highlight (Principle, Promise, Command, or Characteristic about God that the Lord brings to you)

Implication (What impact does this have on my life?)

Apply (How can I respond practically to this in my life?)

Tuesday | Ezra 8

Highlight (Principle, Promise, Command, or Characteristic about God that the Lord brings to you)

Implication (What impact does this have on my life?)

Apply (How can I respond practically to this in my life?)

Week 3 – April 20-24

Wednesday | Ezra 9

Highlight (Principle, Promise, Command, or Characteristic about God that the Lord brings to you)

Implication (What impact does this have on my life?)

Apply (How can I respond practically to this in my life?)

Thursday | Ezra 10

Highlight (Principle, Promise, Command, or Characteristic about God that the Lord brings to you)

Implication (What impact does this have on my life?)

Apply (How can I respond practically to this in my life?)

Week 3 – April 20-24

Friday | Nehemiah 1

Highlight (Principle, Promise, Command, or Characteristic about God that the Lord brings to you)

Implication (What impact does this have on my life?)

Apply (How can I respond practically to this in my life?)

Week 4 – April 27-May 1

Monday | Nehemiah 2

Highlight (Principle, Promise, Command, or Characteristic about God that the Lord brings to you)

Implication (What impact does this have on my life?)

Apply (How can I respond practically to this in my life?)

Tuesday | Nehemiah 3

Highlight (Principle, Promise, Command, or Characteristic about God that the Lord brings to you)

Implication (What impact does this have on my life?)

Apply (How can I respond practically to this in my life?)

Week 4 – April 27-May 1

Wednesday | Nehemiah 4

Highlight (Principle, Promise, Command, or Characteristic about God that the Lord brings to you)

Implication (What impact does this have on my life?)

Apply (How can I respond practically to this in my life?)

Thursday | Nehemiah 5

Highlight (Principle, Promise, Command, or Characteristic about God that the Lord brings to you)

Implication (What impact does this have on my life?)

Apply (How can I respond practically to this in my life?)

Week 4 – April 27-May 1

Friday | Nehemiah 6

Highlight (Principle, Promise, Command, or Characteristic about God that the Lord brings to you)

Implication (What impact does this have on my life?)

Apply (How can I respond practically to this in my life?)

Reading Plan for 2026

Our reading plan for 2026 will continue through the OT narrative of God's chosen people as God honors His covenant by blessing them and building them into a sovereign nation. Like all of God's covenants, God promises blessing for obedience and punishment for disobedience. The children of Israel were punished by losing their independence many times. They were finally exiled thereby losing much of their individual tribal identity (II Kings 25; II Chronicles 36). Even to this day, we know them as the children of Israel; as opposed to ones from the tribe of Reuben, Simeon, Levi, etc. (see extra notes in this booklet after the reading form II Chronicles 36). God restored them to Jerusalem (Ezra, Nehemiah) but never restored their national independence.

We will then pick up in the NT with Luke and Acts, God's chosen people under Roman rule. This narrative will trace the incarnation of Jesus, His ministry, death, burial, resurrection, and ascension. We will trace through the narrative and birth of the early church. We will see God's hand upon both the Jews and Gentiles. The Gentiles being blessed through God's chosen people with Christ.

We will next read through the epistles that were written, primarily to the Jews (1&2 Peter, Hebrews), followed by Pauline letters written to the Gentiles (Romans, et al). All contain rich salvation theology.

FBC Transformational Bible Reading Plan

(one pillar in FBC's Discipleship Pathway)

FBC 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 FBC reading plan is an essential guided and systematic tool to facilitate hearing from God.

Memorization:

Scripture is God's Word. It is important to spend regular time memorizing God's Word for encouragement and guidance from God.

Reading plan options:

(Available at the Faith@Home display and FBC Reading Plan Webpage)

- **"Transform" Booklet**: This booklet serves as a handy journal of how God moved you during the reading. The booklet format fits inside most Bibles.
- **"Transform" Booklet Large Format**: Available each month at the Faith@Home display. This booklet identical to the "Transform Booklet", but in a format larger and easier to take notes.
- **"Transform" eBooklet**: Available online for ease of access and printing. It is the same as the "Transform" Booklet.

Reading plan extras:

(Available at the Faith@Home display and FBC Reading Plan Webpage)

- **Reading Plan schedule**: Available on the FBC Reading Plan webpage and on the back of the blue sermon notes. It's easy to read, as a month at a glance.
- **Reading Plan Bookmark**: Available each month at the Faith@Home display. It's a month at a glance and can be placed in your Bible.
- **Memory Verse Cards**: Available each month at the Faith@Home display. A small card that can be taken anywhere for quick practice.
- **D-Group Accountability Prayer Sheet**: This sheet provides an excellent tool for D-Group member accountability and consistent inter-group prayer.

Link to the FBC Website Reading Plan webpage:

<http://www.fbclowell.org/>

Select: "**Ministry**" dropdown menu item

Select: "**Adult Ministry**" dropdown menu item

Select: "**FBC Reading Plan**" dropdown menu item