



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

CHRIST-CENTERED, KINGDOM-FOCUSED HOMES



Bible Reading Plan Journal May 2026

Guiding Questions Update

Previous Reading Plan Daily Action

- 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?)

Updated Reading Plan Daily Action

- Highlight (What Promise, Command, Characteristic about God is presented?)
- Context (How does this passage contribute to the Biblical Narrative?)
- Theology (What does this passage teach me about God?)
- Application (How should I apply message this today?)

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)

Memory Verses

Review from March

John 1:1-5

(The Word became Flesh: Introduction to the Word)

English Standard Version (ESV)

1. In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
2. He was in the beginning with God.
3. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.
4. In him was life, and the life was the light of men.
5. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

New International Version (NIV)

1. In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
2. He was with God in the beginning.
3. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.
4. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind.
5. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

New Living Translation (NLT)

1. In the beginning the Word already existed. The Word was with God and the Word was God.
2. He existed in the beginning with God.
3. God created everything through him, and nothing was created except through him.
4. The Word gave life to everything that was created, and his life brought light to everyone.
5. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it.

Week 1 – May 4-8

Monday | Nehemiah 7

Highlight (What Promise, Command, Characteristic about God is presented?)

Context (How does this passage contribute to the Biblical Narrative?)

Theology (What does this passage teach me about God?)

Application (How should I apply message this today?)

Tuesday | Nehemiah 8

Highlight (What Promise, Command, Characteristic about God is presented?)

Context (How does this passage contribute to the Biblical Narrative?)

Theology (What does this passage teach me about God?)

Application (How should I apply message this today?)

Week 1 – May 4-8

Wednesday | Nehemiah 9

Highlight (What Promise, Command, Characteristic about God is presented?)

Context (How does this passage contribute to the Biblical Narrative?)

Theology (What does this passage teach me about God?)

Application (How should I apply message this today?)

Thursday | Nehemiah 10

Highlight (What Promise, Command, Characteristic about God is presented?)

Context (How does this passage contribute to the Biblical Narrative?)

Theology (What does this passage teach me about God?)

Application (How should I apply message this today?)

Up to this point in the Biblical narrative:

- Israel exiled by Assyrian Empire (2 Kings 17). Around 752-722 BC, the period when 10 of the tribes lost their identity with individual tribes of Israel
- Judah exiled by Babylonian Empire (2 Chronicles 36). Around 797-582 BC. The tribes of Judah, Benjamin and some of Levi eventually merged into what is now known as the Jewish people
- Inter-testament period
 - Around 330 BC: Greeks defeated the Persians (end of Ezra and Nehemiah's time), under Alexander the Great.
 - Around 164 BC: Judah (Maccabeus) won independence, temple was cleansed, and daily offerings and ceremonies resumed (celebrated as Hanukkah).
 - Around 63 BC: Pompey took Jerusalem. Despite freedoms granted by Romans, the Jews deeply resented the Roman rule. This provides the "back-story" for the setting of Luke.

The Book of Luke

video: <https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/luke/>

Luke states his purpose for writing the Gospel to which he is credited: to document that faith in Jesus is rooted in historical facts that will withstand the most severe scrutiny, because they are based on first-hand testimony.

Luke begins with God's universal work in the sending of Jesus as a concrete fact of human history. Luke places Jesus' birth within the context of historically verifiable Roman rulers and John the Baptist (Josephus). The coming of Jesus is for all to see and realize as message to them, including the Gentiles.

Luke brings focus to Jesus as the Savior of the world, from His birth to His last appearances. The Jesus' first teaching in Nazareth's synagogue, in the reading from the book of Isaiah, was consistent to His last. The theme being good news and favor to be realized through His death and resurrection that provides the salvation to the entire World.

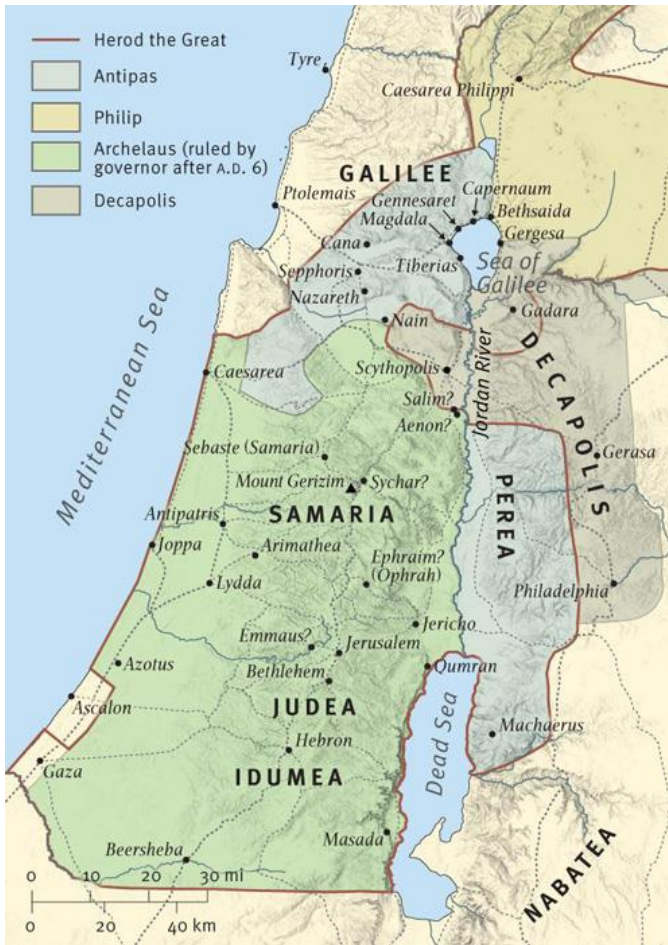
Luke, unique from the other three Gospels, writes of the events of Jesus' early life, Mary (His mother), and the birth and parents of John the Baptist.

Luke seems to emphasize the place of women in Jesus' ministry, exceptional to the culture of His day. All Gospels record Jesus' welcoming attitude toward women, but Luke provides the most.

Luke shows a special interest in the ministry of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit's work is shown very notably in the first several chapters; though consistent throughout. In the book of Acts, Luke continues to show the Holy Spirit as the guide for the believers' lives, empowering them for service.

Critical to Luke's Gospel are the theological ideas of salvation, the apostleship of the twelve disciples and the proclamation of the Kingdom of God.

Source Material: Encountering the New Testament (Elwell, Yarbrough; Baker, 2022); ESV Study Bible (Crossway, 2008)



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

The Book of Luke

video: <https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/luke/>

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Topical Outline

1. Preparation for Jesus' Ministry (1:1-4:13)
2. Proclamation of Salvation, by Jesus (4:14-9:50)
3. Discipleship, Galilee to Jerusalem (9:51-19:27)
4. Destiny: Death and Resurrection in Jerusalem (19:28-24:53)

Week 1 – May 4-8

Friday | Nehemiah 11

Highlight (What Promise, Command, Characteristic about God is presented?)

Context (How does this passage contribute to the Biblical Narrative?)

Theology (What does this passage teach me about God?)

Application (How should I apply message this today?)

Week 2 – May 11-15

Monday | Nehemiah 12

Highlight (What Promise, Command, Characteristic about God is presented?)

Context (How does this passage contribute to the Biblical Narrative?)

Theology (What does this passage teach me about God?)

Application (How should I apply message this today?)

Tuesday | Nehemiah 13

Highlight (What Promise, Command, Characteristic about God is presented?)

Context (How does this passage contribute to the Biblical Narrative?)

Theology (What does this passage teach me about God?)

Application (How should I apply message this today?)

Week 2 – May 11-15

Wednesday | Luke 1

Highlight (What Promise, Command, Characteristic about God is presented?)

Context (How does this passage contribute to the Biblical Narrative?)

Theology (What does this passage teach me about God?)

Application (How should I apply message this today?)

Thursday | Luke 2

Highlight (What Promise, Command, Characteristic about God is presented?)

Context (How does this passage contribute to the Biblical Narrative?)

Theology (What does this passage teach me about God?)

Application (How should I apply message this today?)

Week 2 – May 11-15

Friday | Luke 3

Highlight (What Promise, Command, Characteristic about God is presented?)

Context (How does this passage contribute to the Biblical Narrative?)

Theology (What does this passage teach me about God?)

Application (How should I apply message this today?)

Week 3 – May 18-22

Monday | Luke 4

Highlight (What Promise, Command, Characteristic about God is presented?)

Context (How does this passage contribute to the Biblical Narrative?)

Theology (What does this passage teach me about God?)

Application (How should I apply message this today?)

Tuesday | Luke 5

Highlight (What Promise, Command, Characteristic about God is presented?)

Context (How does this passage contribute to the Biblical Narrative?)

Theology (What does this passage teach me about God?)

Application (How should I apply message this today?)

Week 3 – May 18-22

Wednesday | Luke 6

Highlight (What Promise, Command, Characteristic about God is presented?)

Context (How does this passage contribute to the Biblical Narrative?)

Theology (What does this passage teach me about God?)

Application (How should I apply message this today?)

Thursday | Luke 7

Highlight (What Promise, Command, Characteristic about God is presented?)

Context (How does this passage contribute to the Biblical Narrative?)

Theology (What does this passage teach me about God?)

Application (How should I apply message this today?)

Week 3 – May 18-22

Friday | Luke 8

Highlight (What Promise, Command, Characteristic about God is presented?)

Context (How does this passage contribute to the Biblical Narrative?)

Theology (What does this passage teach me about God?)

Application (How should I apply message this today?)

Week 4 – May 25-29

Monday | Luke 9

Highlight (What Promise, Command, Characteristic about God is presented?)

Context (How does this passage contribute to the Biblical Narrative?)

Theology (What does this passage teach me about God?)

Application (How should I apply message this today?)

Tuesday | Luke 10

Highlight (What Promise, Command, Characteristic about God is presented?)

Context (How does this passage contribute to the Biblical Narrative?)

Theology (What does this passage teach me about God?)

Application (How should I apply message this today?)

Week 4 – May 25-29

Wednesday | Luke 11

Highlight (What Promise, Command, Characteristic about God is presented?)

Context (How does this passage contribute to the Biblical Narrative?)

Theology (What does this passage teach me about God?)

Application (How should I apply message this today?)

Thursday | Luke 12

Highlight (What Promise, Command, Characteristic about God is presented?)

Context (How does this passage contribute to the Biblical Narrative?)

Theology (What does this passage teach me about God?)

Application (How should I apply message this today?)

Week 4 – May 25-29

Friday | Luke 13

Highlight (What Promise, Command, Characteristic about God is presented?)

Context (How does this passage contribute to the Biblical Narrative?)

Theology (What does this passage teach me about God?)

Application (How should I apply message this today?)

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 Isreal 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 Isreal; as opposed to ones from the tribe of Rueben, 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.