



FBC Reading Plan
August 2020

Why a Reading Plan: God speaks to people through His Word. It is what He uses to transform our lives by orienting our minds toward His truth 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 to use this booklet: Each day has a passage of Scripture for you to read. There are also some questions to prompt your reading and reflecting on 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 big idea the author is trying to communicate. Next, **apply** this verse to your everyday life. For example, how should this change your desires, your behavior, or your relationships? Application should always be done in a spirit of prayer, as you are asking God to reveal to you how it applies. Finally, it is not enough to settle for knowing some truth or how it might apply to your life without a specific response. So finally **respond**. This can be a prayer or a specific action you will take after hearing this verse or passage.

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.

August's Memory Verse

31 What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? 32 He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? 33 Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. 34 Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.

Romans 8:31-34 (ESV)

31 What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? 32 He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? 33 Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. 34 Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.

Romans 8:31-34 (NIV)

31 What shall we say about such wonderful things as these? If God is for us, who can ever be against us? 32 Since he did not spare even his own Son but gave him up for us all, won't he also give us everything else? 33 Who dares accuse us whom God has chosen for his own? No one—for God himself has given us right standing with himself. 34 Who then will condemn us? No one—for Christ Jesus died for us and was raised to life for us, and he is sitting in the place of honor at God's right hand, pleading for us.

Romans 8:31-34 (NLT)

Week 1: The Beginning of the Gospel of John
Starting Date August 3rd

Day 1

Memory Verse: Romans 8:31

Sunday's Message: Romans 8:12-17

Explanation:

What does Peter want to remind his readers about? Why does he want to remind them of these things?

Week 5: The Gospel and Letters of John

Starting Date August 31st

Application:

Does your relationship with sin and your obedience to God's command reflect what is taught in this passage? Why or why not?

Response:

Meditate on v. 8b: "The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil." Jesus died to destroy sin in your life. How should you respond to that truth today?

Week 5: The Gospel and Letters of John
Starting Date August 31st

Day 5 **Highlight:** 1 John 3 *Memory Verse:* Luke 6:43-45

Explanation:

Summarize in your own words vv. 4-10.

What is God's commandment?

Week 1: The Beginning of the Gospel of John
Starting Date August 3rd

Application:

For what reason should we strive to live holy and godly lives?

Response:

How can you wait for and even hasten the coming of God to bring a new heavens and new earth?

Week 1: The Beginning of the Gospel of John
Starting Date August 3rd

Day 2 Highlight: John 1

Memory Verse: Romans 8:31

Explanation:

How does the author describe Jesus in vv. 1-18? How do others describe Jesus throughout the rest of the chapter?

Week 5: The Gospel and Letters of John
Starting Date August 31st

Application

How are you walking in the same way that Jesus walked (v. 6)?

Response:

Reflect on the danger of loving the world — “the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life” (v. 16; “wanting your own way, wanting everything for yourself, wanting to appear important” [The Message].), and ask God to purify and increase your love for him instead.

Week 5: The Gospel and Letters of John
Starting Date August 31st

Day 4 Highlight: 1 John 2 Memory Verse: Luke 6:43-45

Explanation:

What does it mean to know Jesus?

How could John write that many antichrists had already come by the time he wrote his letter? How was he living in the last hour nearly two thousand years ago (v. 18)?

Week 1: The Beginning of the Gospel of John
Starting Date August 3rd

Application:

How does Jesus make the Father known (v. 18)? What relevance does that have for your life and your relationship with God?

Response:

Thank the Father for sending his Son to dwell among us and to take away our sins.

Week 1: The Beginning of the Gospel of John
Starting Date August 3rd

Day 3 **Highlight:** John 2 *Memory Verse:* Romans 8:31

Explanation:

What do the two events in this chapter teach you about Jesus?

Week 5: The Gospel and Letters of John
Starting Date August 31st

Application:

How are you walking in the light?

Response:

Confess your sins to God. If you have none, are you deceived?

Week 5: The Gospel and Letters of John
Starting Date August 31st

Day 3 **Highlight:** 1 John 1 *Memory Verse:* Luke 6:43-45

Explanation:

How does John describe the “eternal life” that was made manifest

What does it mean that “God is light” (v. 5)?

Week 1: The Beginning of the Gospel of John
Starting Date August 3rd

Application:

How do you show the same concern for sacred things as Jesus did?

Response:

How does God want you to respond to this chapter?

Week 1: The Beginning of the Gospel of John
Starting Date August 3rd

Day 4 **Highlight:** John 3 *Memory Verse:* Romans 8:31

Explanation:

What does it mean to be born again?

What characterizes the darkness and what characterizes the light?

Week 5: The Gospel and Letters of John
Starting Date August 31st

Application:

How would you respond to Jesus today if he again commanded you,
“Follow me”?

Response:

Confess any wavering that you have experienced in your faith, and ask
God to strengthen you to continue to follow Jesus.

Week 5: The Gospel and Letters of John
Starting Date August 31st

Day 2 Highlight: John 21

Memory Verse: Luke 6:43-45

Explanation:

Peter had already decided to follow Jesus and had in fact done so for a few years at this point. Jesus also knew the love Peter had for him. Why then does Jesus question Peter's devotion? Why does he command Peter to follow him?

Week 1: The Beginning of the Gospel of John
Starting Date August 3rd

Application:

V. 36 says, "Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him." What is the connection between believing in the Son and obeying the Son?

Response:

Where in your life must Jesus increase and you decrease (v. 36)?

Week 1: The Beginning of the Gospel of John
Starting Date August 3rd

Day 5 Highlight: John 4

Memory Verse: Romans 8:31

Explanation:

How does Jesus use the image of water to describe his purpose? How does he use the image of food to describe his ministry? How do both of these illustrate his mission?

Week 5: The Gospel and Letters of John
Starting Date August 31st

Application

What does it mean to believe that “Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God” (v. 30)? What is “life in his name,” which comes from that believing?

Response:

How is the Father sending you today?

Week 5: The Gospel and Letters of John
Starting Date August 31st

Day 1 Highlight: John 20

Memory Verse: Romans 8:31-34

Sunday's Message: Romans 8:31-39

Explanation:

What does Jesus mean when he says, "As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you" (v. 21)?

What purpose does John give for writing his account of Jesus's ministry, death, and resurrection?

Week 1: The Beginning of the Gospel of John
Starting Date August 3rd

Application:

In what ways have you been "thirsty" recently? Have you brought these longings to Jesus or gone elsewhere for refreshment? (see vv. 7-15)

Response:

Bring your "thirsts," your longings and desires, to Jesus today in prayer.

Week 2: The Gospel of John

Starting Date August 10th

Day 1 Highlight: John 5

Memory Verse: Romans 8:32

Sunday's Message: Romans 8:18-25

Explanation:

If Jesus does only what the Father does and thus perfectly reflects the character of God, what do Jesus' actions teach us about God the Father? (v. 19)

The Son gives life. To whom does he give life? On what authority does he give this life? What is this life like?

Week 4: The Gospel of John

Starting Date August 24th

Application:

What is Jesus's perspective on Pilate's authority? How does that affect the way you submit to authorities in your own life?

Response:

Meditate on Jesus's words, "It is finished." All that is required for your forgiveness and salvation has been accomplished. Are you resting in that today?

Week 4: The Gospel of John
Starting Date August 24th

Day 5 Highlight: John 19 Memory Verse: Romans 8:34

Explanation:

What stands out to you about John's account of Jesus's crucifixion?

Week 2: The Gospel of John
Starting Date August 10th

Application:

Twice Jesus says that he can do nothing on his own (v. 19, 30). What things are you trying to do on your own?

Response:

Ask God to reveal to you things that you are trying to do on your own apart from him. Pray that he would help you to entrust those things to him.

Week 2: The Gospel of John
Starting Date August 10th

Day 2 Highlight: John 6

Memory Verse: Romans 8:32

Explanation:

What does it mean that Jesus is the bread of life? How is this teaching related to the manna given to the Israelites during their wilderness wanderings? Why is it significant that Jesus teaches this to the same crowd that was present in vv. 1-14?

Week 4: The Gospel of John
Starting Date August 24th

Application:

Jesus, the true king, is contrasted with other leaders, Annas and Caiaphas as well as Pilate. What does this tell you about what God's kingdom is like? How does that affect your life in today's "kingdoms"?

Response:

Reflect on Jesus's determination to drink the cup the Father had given him all for your sake. Give thanks to him for his endurance through suffering for you.

Week 4: The Gospel of John
Starting Date August 24th

Day 4 **Highlight:** John 18 *Memory Verse:* Romans 8:34

Explanation:

What stands out to you about John's account of Jesus's betrayal and arrest?

Week 2: The Gospel of John
Starting Date August 10th

Application:

How does a person "eat" the living bread that comes down from heaven?
Is this a one-time event or something that must happen repeatedly?

Response:

Pray for the Father to draw unbelievers in your life to come to the living bread and find eternal nourishment for their souls (v. 37, 44, 65).

Week 2: The Gospel of John
Starting Date August 10th

Day 3 Highlight: John 7

Memory Verse: Romans 8:32

Explanation:

What are the different opinions people have about Jesus in this chapter?
On what evidence do they make those judgments about him?

Week 4: The Gospel of John
Starting Date August 24th

Application:

What does Jesus do for his followers, and how does that comfort you today?

Response:

Ask God to reveal to you whether you have been a force for unity or division within the church, and pray that God's love would permeate your relationships with others and the life of our church body.

Week 4: The Gospel of John
Starting Date August 24th

Day 3 Highlight: John 17 Memory Verse: Romans 8:34

Explanation:

What is eternal life?

What does it mean to be “not of this world”? What then does it mean to be sent into the world? (vv. 14-19)

Week 2: The Gospel of John
Starting Date August 10th

Application:

There are many different opinions about Jesus today as well. On what basis can you remain firm in your faith in Jesus even in the face of the world's opposition?

Response:

What “thirsts” do you need to bring to Jesus to find satisfaction? (v. 37)

Week 2: The Gospel of John
Starting Date August 10th

Day 4 Highlight: John 8

Memory Verse: Romans 8:32

Explanation:

How does Jesus speak to the Jews who believed in him (v. 30ff)? Does this surprise you in any way?

Week 4: The Gospel of John
Starting Date August 24th

Application:

How should you expect the Holy Spirit to work in your life and in the world based on this passage?

Response:

What do you need to ask your Father for today?

Week 4: The Gospel of John
Starting Date August 24th

Day 2 **Highlight:** John 16 *Memory Verse:* Romans 8:34

Explanation:

Based on this passage, what does the Holy Spirit do?

Week 2: The Gospel of John
Starting Date August 10th

Application:

Who is your 'father' (vv. 39-47)? Do your actions confirm this claim?

Response:

How are you abiding in Jesus's word (v. 31)?

Week 2: The Gospel of John
Starting Date August 10th

Day 5 Highlight: John 9

Memory Verse: Romans 8:32

Explanation:

How does Jesus answer the disciples' question in v. 2?

Describe how the Pharisees resist believing the truth about Jesus throughout this chapter.

Week 4: The Gospel of John
Starting Date August 24th

Application:

Abiding in Jesus is essential to our spiritual flourishing. Is abiding in Jesus a daily practice for you? Why or why not?

Response:

Spend a few moments in silence this morning abiding in Jesus's love (v. 9), trusting and rejoicing in his love for you.

Week 4: The Gospel of John
Starting Date August 24th

Day 1 Highlight: John 15

Memory Verse: Romans 8:34

Sunday's Message: Romans 8:28-30

Explanation:

What does it mean to abide in Jesus?

Week 2: The Gospel of John
Starting Date August 10th

Application:

Throughout this passage, the Pharisees act irrationally; despite the evidence, they reject Jesus. What does that teach you about the nature of faith and what is required for a person to believe in Jesus?

Response:

How does God want to display his work through you today (v. 3)?

Week 3: The Gospel of John

Starting Date August 17th

Day 1 Highlight: John 10

Memory Verse: Romans 8:33

Sunday's Message: Romans 8:26-27

Explanation:

What does it mean that Jesus is the door for the sheep? What does it mean that Jesus is the good shepherd of the sheep?

Week 3: The Gospel of John

Starting Date August 17th

Application:

Based on what this passage teaches, how do you show your love for Jesus?

Response:

Pray that God would work through you and our church in such a way that more people would come to know Jesus and thus come to know the Father.

Week 3: The Gospel of John
Starting Date August 17th

Day 5 Highlight: John 14 Memory Verse: Romans 8:33

Explanation:

How does one get to God? How does Jesus reveal the Father?

What is the difference between those who follow Jesus and the world?

Week 3: The Gospel of John
Starting Date August 17th

Application:

What are the qualities of a 'sheep'? Do you see them reflected in your own life?

Response:

Are you experiencing life abundantly?

Week 3: The Gospel of John
Starting Date August 17th

Day 2 Highlight: John 11 Memory Verse: Romans 8:33

Explanation:

What does this passage teach you about Jesus?

Week 3: The Gospel of John
Starting Date August 17th

Application:

Jesus washed his disciples' feet as an example we are to follow. Are you willing to humble or even humiliate yourself in order to love someone else? What service is "beneath you"? Is that right?

Response:

Can others clearly tell that you are a follower of Jesus (v. 35)?

Week 3: The Gospel of John
Starting Date August 17th

Day 4 Highlight: John 13

Memory Verse: Romans 8:33

Explanation:

What does v. 7 mean? The disciples are clearly shocked that Jesus would wash their feet. What then do you they not yet understand, and how will this become clear only later?

Week 3: The Gospel of John
Starting Date August 17th

Application:

How can Jesus weep even when he knows he is going to raise Lazarus?
How does this teach you to mourn?

Response:

If you have a Lord who can raise the dead, how should you live today?

Week 3: The Gospel of John
Starting Date August 17th

Day 3 Highlight: John 12 Memory Verse: Romans 8:33

Explanation:

What are different ways people respond to Jesus in this chapter?

What does it mean to serve Jesus (v. 25-26)?

Week 3: The Gospel of John
Starting Date August 17th

Application:

Are you trusting in the light so much that you are becoming a child of light (v. 36)? In what ways specifically do you see this?

Response:

It is a dangerous temptation to love the glory from others more than glory from God. Ask God to reveal ways in which you value the opinion of others more than his, and ask for his help to fight against this sin.