



FBC Reading Plan

December 2019

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. Here at FBC we want to provide you with the tools to grow. This reading plan aligns with the Sunday morning message and Life Group times.

How to use this booklet: Each week you will start with the passage that the sermon that coming Sunday will be based on. Each week will have a theme and each reading will compliment that theme. The passages are relatively short to encourage you to spend more time thinking through a passage and writing down a few thoughts. We have provided at least one question to give you something to think through. However, we do encourage the H.E.A.R. method. Because the passages are shorter, the reading is the **highlight**. We encourage you to then write a short **explanation** of what the passage is saying and the big idea the author is trying to communicate. We think **application** is a crucial part of a transformation process. In this section, you are writing down how you can apply the truth from this passage to your life. 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 we encourage you to write out a **response**. This can be a response to God or a specific action you will take as a result of your time with the Lord.

Memory Verse: This year, we want to challenge you to memorize a different passage of Scripture each month. That memory verse is provided on the next page in the ESV, NIV, and NLT versions.

December's Memory Verse

20 And he lifted up his eyes on his disciples, and said:

“Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. 21

“Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you shall be satisfied.

“Blessed are you who weep now, for you shall laugh. 22 “Blessed are you when people hate you and when they exclude you and revile you and spurn your name as evil, on account of the Son of Man! 23 Rejoice in that day, and leap for joy, for behold, your reward is great in heaven; for so their fathers did to the prophets.

Luke 6:20-23 (ESV)

20 Looking at his disciples, he said: “Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. 21 Blessed are you who hunger now, for you will be satisfied. Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh. 22 Blessed are you when people hate you, when they exclude you and insult you and reject your name as evil, because of the Son of Man. 23 “Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, because great is your reward in heaven. For that is how their ancestors treated the prophets.

Luke 6:20-23 (NIV)

20 Then Jesus turned to his disciples and said, “God blesses you who are poor, for the Kingdom of God is yours. 21 God blesses you who are hungry now, for you will be satisfied. God blesses you who weep now, for in due time you will laugh. 22 What blessings await you when people hate you and exclude you and mock you and curse you as evil because you follow the Son of Man. 23 When that happens, be happy! Yes, leap for joy! For a great reward awaits you in heaven. And remember, their ancestors treated the ancient prophets that same way.

Luke 6:20-23 (NLT)

Week 1: Jesus's Ministry in Galilee

Starting Date December 2nd

Day 1

Highlight: Luke 6

Memory Verse: Luke 6:20

Explanation:

What is the purpose of the Sabbath?

How does Jesus's teaching contrast with the values of our culture?

Week 1: Jesus's Ministry in Galilee

Starting Date December 2nd

Application:

How is the Holy Spirit convicting you to live differently based on the teaching of Jesus?

Response:

Take some time to confess the ways that you have failed to follow Jesus's ways, and then ask God to help you keep Jesus's commands.

Week 1: Jesus's Ministry in Galilee

Starting Date December 2nd

Day 2

Highlight: Luke 7

Memory Verse: Luke 6:20

Explanation:

Jesus interacts with people from several different social standings in this chapter. What does this tell you about Jesus and his ministry?

What was a common complaint about Jesus? What does this tell you about who Jesus is?

Week 1: Jesus's Ministry in Galilee

Starting Date December 2nd

Application:

Do you relate more with Simon or with the sinful woman in vv. 36-50?
Why is that?

Response:

Jesus ministered to all sorts of people, both the powerful and the poor, as long as they came to him with their needs. Are you trusting that Jesus came for you in the same way? Why or why not?

Week 1: Jesus's Ministry in Galilee

Starting Date December 2nd

Day 3

Highlight: Luke 8

Memory Verse: Luke 6:20

Explanation:

It was not customary for women to follow rabbis, and yet many women were Jesus's disciples. What does that tell you about Jesus and the Church?

What characteristics about Jesus and his ministry stand out to you in this chapter?

Week 1: Jesus's Ministry in Galilee

Starting Date December 2nd

Application:

How does Jesus change how we deal with the difficulties and storms of life?

Response:

What in your life do you need to bring before Jesus so that he can heal it?

Week 1: Jesus's Ministry in Galilee

Starting Date December 2nd

Day 4

Highlight: Luke 9

Memory Verse: Luke 6:20

Explanation:

In this chapter, we hear several different perspectives about Jesus. What are those perspectives and from whom do they come?

V. 53 is a significant turning point in Luke's narrative because Jesus's "face was set toward Jerusalem." Why do you think this transition comes at this point, based on what has happened earlier in ch. 9?

Week 1: Jesus's Ministry in Galilee

Starting Date December 2nd

Application:

Is following Jesus easy or difficult? Why?

Response:

How should this chapter change your approach to discipleship or to evangelism?

Week 1: Jesus's Ministry in Galilee

Starting Date December 2nd

Day 5

Highlight: Luke 10

Memory Verse: Luke 6:20

Explanation:

What did the disciples see (v. 23-24)? Why are the disciples blessed to see what they saw?

Based on vv. 25-42, what are the most important things in God's kingdom?

Week 1: Jesus's Ministry in Galilee

Starting Date December 2nd

Application:

Do you feel more like Mary or Martha? Are you doing the one thing that is necessary?

Response:

What is keeping you from communing with Jesus (i.e., the one thing necessary)? What can you do to change that?

Week 2: The Journey to Jerusalem

Starting Date December 9th

Day 1

Highlight: Luke 11

Memory Verse: Luke 6:21

Explanation:

How should we pray and what should we ask for?

Why were people opposed to Jesus?

Week 2: The Journey to Jerusalem

Starting Date December 9th

Application:

How does your prayer life compare to what Jesus describes in vv. 1-13?

Response:

Pray through the Lord's Prayer (vv. 2-4), letting each line or phrase guide what you ask God for.

Week 2: The Journey to Jerusalem

Starting Date December 9th

Day 2

Highlight: Luke 12

Memory Verse: Luke 6:21

Explanation:

In this chapter, Jesus challenges people's priorities. What are the priorities of Jesus and his people?

Week 2: The Journey to Jerusalem

Starting Date December 9th

Application:

Jesus says many difficult things in this chapter. Which one is most convicting to you today?

Response:

Take some time to review your priorities. Do they reflect those of someone who is a part of God's kingdom?

Week 2: The Journey to Jerusalem

Starting Date December 9th

Day 3

Highlight: Luke 13

Memory Verse: Luke 6:21

Explanation:

Based on vv. 1-5, is there a correlation between how sinful someone is and the amount of suffering they go through? Why or why not?

What do vv. 22-30 teach you about following Jesus?

Week 2: The Journey to Jerusalem

Starting Date December 9th

Application:

The door is narrow that leads into the kingdom of God. Are you striving to enter through that door?

Response:

Jesus was intent on finishing his work on your behalf (v. 32-33). Jesus suffered intentionally and willingly for his people. Have you been rejoicing in your salvation?

Week 2: The Journey to Jerusalem

Starting Date December 9th

Day 4

Highlight: Luke 14

Memory Verse: Luke 6:21

Explanation:

Jesus eats often at the house of a Pharisee. This happens again in ch. 14, and vv. 1-24 all happen at this banquet. The Pharisees were the most religious people in Israel. What do these verses teach you about how Jesus interacts with 'religious' people?

Week 2: The Journey to Jerusalem

Starting Date December 9th

Application:

Following Jesus should be difficult. Do you see this in your own life? Why or why not?

Response:

Jesus often challenged 'religious' people. If you are 'religious,' that is, if you've been a Christian for at least a few years, when was the last time Jesus challenged you?

Week 2: The Journey to Jerusalem

Starting Date December 9th

Day 5

Highlight: Luke 15

Memory Verse: Luke 6:21

Explanation:

In ch. 14, Jesus challenges religious types, but in ch. 15 we see his reception of “sinners.” Based on these parables, what gives God joy?

Week 2: The Journey to Jerusalem

Starting Date December 9th

Application:

Based on the parable of the prodigal son, do you relate more with the older brother or the younger brother? Based on your answer, what does this parable say to you?

Response:

When was the last time you saw a lost person repent and thus be found? If your joy over one sinner repenting matched God's joy over one sinner repenting, how would your life be different?

Week 3: The Journey to Jerusalem

Starting Date December 16th

Day 1

Highlight: Luke 16

Memory Verse: Luke 6:22

Explanation:

How should you use your money?

What is the importance of the law for believers?

Week 3: The Journey to Jerusalem

Starting Date December 16th

Application:

What source of warning is sufficient for a person to repent? Do you believe that? (v. 31)

Response:

Are you serving God or money?

Week 3: The Journey to Jerusalem

Starting Date December 16th

Day 2

Highlight: Luke 17

Memory Verse: Luke 6:22

Explanation:

What do you learn about the kingdom of God in this passage?

Week 3: The Journey to Jerusalem

Starting Date December 16th

Application:

Do you tend to relate to God as if he owes you something or do you see yourself as an “unworthy servant” who has the privilege of serving a great master?

Response:

Are you concerned enough about sin to rebuke it in others? If a person repents, are you quick to forgive him or her time and again?

Week 3: The Journey to Jerusalem

Starting Date December 16th

Day 3

Highlight: Luke 18

Memory Verse: Luke 6:22

Explanation:

How should a person approach God?

How does a person inherit eternal life or enter the kingdom of God?

Week 3: The Journey to Jerusalem

Starting Date December 16th

Application:

What do you need to leave behind in order to follow God?

Response:

There are two powerful but simple prayers in this passage: “God, be merciful to me, a sinner!” (v. 13), and, “Son of David, have mercy on me!” (v. 39). Use these as the basis for your prayers today.

Week 3: The Journey to Jerusalem

Starting Date December 16th

Day 4

Highlight: Luke 19

Memory Verse: Luke 6:22

Explanation:

How does Jesus interact with sinners? How do sinners respond after experiencing Jesus?

In what ways are the people and the Pharisees mistaken about Jesus and what he is doing or going to do?

Week 3: The Journey to Jerusalem

Starting Date December 16th

Application:

Based on the story of Zacchaeus, what is required of us when we repent?

Response:

Pray that many people like Zacchaeus would come to know Jesus through the people of our church.

Week 3: The Journey to Jerusalem

Starting Date December 16th

Day 5

Highlight: Luke 20

Memory Verse: Luke 6:22

Explanation:

This chapter gives several examples of Jesus responding to various religious leaders. Why do the religious leaders challenge Jesus? How does he respond to their questions?

Week 3: The Journey to Jerusalem

Starting Date December 16th

Application:

What are the things that are 'Caesar's,' and what are the things that belong to God?

Response:

Vv. 9-18 retell the history of Israel through a parable. How should the response of Israel to God warn us today?

Week 4: Jesus's Death, Resurrection, and Ascension

Starting Date December 23rd

Day 1

Highlight: Luke 21

Memory Verse: Luke 6:23

Explanation:

Vv. 5-36 are difficult to understand. Jesus seems primarily to be prophesying about the destruction of the Jerusalem temple, which happened in 70 AD (vv. 5-6, 20, 24, 32). However, Jesus seems to also refer to something even more earth-shattering than the fall of Jerusalem. Remember that Luke most likely wrote his gospel after the fall of Jerusalem. How then do you think Luke intended his original audience to interpret and apply this teaching of Jesus?

Week 4: Jesus's Death, Resurrection, and Ascension

Starting Date December 23rd

Application:

What things are weighing you down (vv. 34-36)?

Response:

How is this passage convicting you to evaluate and perhaps reorder your life's priorities?

Week 4: Jesus's Death, Resurrection, and Ascension

Starting Date December 23rd

Day 2

Highlight: Luke 22

Memory Verse: Luke 6:23

Explanation:

How does Jesus exhibit and teach humility in this passage? How does he exhibit a confidence that God's plan will be accomplished?

Week 4: Jesus's Death, Resurrection, and Ascension

Starting Date December 23rd

Application:

V. 26 teaches that Jesus's disciples are to mimic Jesus. How should this chapter change the way you live?

Response:

Jesus ate with the one who would betray him, came as a servant, suffered betrayal from his closest friends, was falsely arrested and convicted, was blasphemed, mocked, and beaten, all for *you*. Meditate on what Jesus did for you, and respond in prayer.

Week 4: Jesus's Death, Resurrection, and Ascension

Starting Date December 23rd

Day 3

Highlight: Luke 23

Memory Verse: Luke 6:23

Explanation:

How do you see evil manifested in this chapter?

Week 4: Jesus's Death, Resurrection, and Ascension

Starting Date December 23rd

Application:

What does the suffering and death of Jesus teach us about ourselves?
How should a person respond to the suffering and death of Jesus?

Response:

Reflect on Jesus suffering evil and bearing sin and death for you. Having seen such love, how should you respond?

Week 4: Jesus's Death, Resurrection, and Ascension

Starting Date December 23rd

Day 4

Highlight: Luke 24

Memory Verse: Luke 6:23

Explanation:

The suffering, death, and resurrection of the Messiah for the forgiveness of sins is the central message of all Scripture (v. 25-27, 44-47). How does that influence the way you read Scripture, especially the Old Testament?

Why is Jesus so concerned about proving he is not a spirit (vv. 36-43)?

Week 4: Jesus's Death, Resurrection, and Ascension

Starting Date December 23rd

Application:

If Jesus rose from the grave, what does that mean for you?

Response:

The disciples respond with joy and worship. Is that your response as well?

Week 4: Jesus's Death, Resurrection, and Ascension

Starting Date December 23rd

Day 5

Highlight: Acts 1

Memory Verse: Luke 6:23

Explanation:

What similarities and differences do you see between Luke 24 and Acts 1?

Week 4: Jesus's Death, Resurrection, and Ascension

Starting Date December 23rd

Application:

What is an essential part of your calling as a Christian?

Response:

How are you fulfilling this calling in your life?

Week 5: The Early Church in Jerusalem

Starting Date December 30th

Day 1

Highlight: Acts 2

Memory Verse: Luke 6:20-23

Explanation:

How would you summarize Peter's gospel message in a few sentences?

Week 5: The Early Church in Jerusalem

Starting Date December 30th

Application

The early church was a community centered on the apostle's teaching, prayer, and generous hospitality. Through this, God added to their number those who were being saved (v. 47). To what extent would you say that seeing new converts is a mark of a healthy church?

Response:

Could your life be described in terms similar to vv. 42-47? What can you do to more closely follow the early church's example?

Week 5: The Early Church in Jerusalem

Starting Date December 30th

Day 2

Highlight: Acts 3

Memory Verse: Luke 6:20-23

Explanation:

How did the Jewish people and rulers respond to Jesus? Why should this be shocking to us?

Week 5: The Early Church in Jerusalem

Starting Date December 30th

Application:

The man was not healed by the apostle's "power or piety" but by the name of Jesus (v. 12, 16). What are ways that you can trust in your own power or piety rather than the name of Jesus?

Response:

God blesses us by turning us from our wickedness (v. 26). Pray that God would reveal to you any wickedness in your life and ask for him to turn you away from it.

Week 5: The Early Church in Jerusalem

Starting Date December 30th

Day 3

Highlight: Acts 4

Memory Verse: Luke 6:20-23

Explanation:

How did God use the signs and wonders done by the apostles?

Week 5: The Early Church in Jerusalem

Starting Date December 30th

Application:

How are you using your time and resources to care for people in our church (vv. 32-37)?

Response:

Pray that God would give you and the people in our church boldness to speak God's word to others (v. 29).

Week 5: The Early Church in Jerusalem

Starting Date December 30th

Day 4

Highlight: Acts 5

Memory Verse: Luke 6:20-23

Explanation:

What exactly do Ananias and Sapphira lie about in this story? Why did they lie?

Why did the early church have such a good reputation among the people, so much so that officers were afraid to arrest them publicly (v. 26)?

Week 5: The Early Church in Jerusalem

Starting Date December 30th

Application

Based on this chapter, how do you need to grow spiritually?

Response:

What could you change in your life in order to begin working on what you mentioned above?

Week 5: The Early Church in Jerusalem

Starting Date December 30th

Day 5

Highlight: Acts 6

Memory Verse: Luke 6:20-23

Explanation:

Vv. 1-6 are typically understood as the institution of the office of deacon. Similarly, the office of elder is understood to be somewhat analogous to the role of the apostles. What then is the role of elders and deacons in the local church?

Week 5: The Early Church in Jerusalem

Starting Date December 30th

Application:

Why were people so concerned about what Stephen was teaching?

Response:

Pray for our elders and deacons and ask that our church would be faithful to prayer, the ministry of the Word, and caring for the people in our church.