



FBC Reading Plan

January 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. 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.

January's Memory Verses

24 “But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation. 25 Woe to you who are full now, for you shall be hungry. Woe to you who laugh now, for you shall mourn and weep. 26 Woe to you, when all people speak well of you, for so their fathers did to the false prophets.”

Luke 6:24-26 (ESV)

24 “But woe to you who are rich, for you have already received your comfort. 25 Woe to you who are well fed now, for you will go hungry. Woe to you who laugh now, for you will mourn and weep. 26 Woe to you when everyone speaks well of you, for that is how their ancestors treated the false prophets.”

Luke 6:24-26 (NIV)

24 “What sorrow awaits you who are rich, for you have your only happiness now. 25 What sorrow awaits you who are fat and prosperous now, for a time of awful hunger awaits you. What sorrow awaits you who laugh now, for your laughing will turn to mourning and sorrow. 26 What sorrow awaits you who are praised by the crowds, for their ancestors also praised false prophets.”

Luke 6:24-26 (NLT)

Week 1: The Church Spreads Beyond Jerusalem

Starting Date January 6th

Day 1

Highlight: Acts 7

Memory Verse: Luke 6:24

Explanation:

Remember that this speech is in response to the charge that Stephen was speaking blasphemously against Moses and God. By retelling the story of the people of Israel, Stephen argues his accusers are actually the blasphemers. “As your fathers did, so do you” (v. 51). What similarities do you think Stephen meant to imply between how Israelites had acted in the past and how Israelites treated Jesus?

Week 1: The Church Spreads Beyond Jerusalem

Starting Date January 6th

Application:

How can you become as bold as Stephen?

Response:

Pray for persecuted Christians around the world to remain faithful to Jesus.

Week 1: The Church Spreads Beyond Jerusalem

Starting Date January 6th

Day 2

Highlight: Acts 8

Memory Verse: Luke 6:24

Explanation:

Why does Peter condemn Simon? What do Simon's actions reveal about his heart?

Week 1: The Church Spreads Beyond Jerusalem

Starting Date January 6th

Application:

Write down how you would answer the eunuch's question in v. 34.

Response:

It was persecution that caused the church to spread the gospel beyond Judea. Identify what is keeping you back from sharing the good news with others, and pray that God would give you and the members of our church boldness to share.

Week 1: The Church Spreads Beyond Jerusalem

Starting Date January 6th

Day 3

Highlight: Acts 9

Memory Verse: Luke 6:24

Explanation:

What does it tell you about God that he chose Saul to be one of his greatest instruments in spreading the gospel?

Week 1: The Church Spreads Beyond Jerusalem

Starting Date January 6th

Application:

Imagine being Ananias. How would you respond to the vision from the Lord in vv. 11-12?

Response:

Who in your life do you believe cannot be converted? Pray for that person.

Week 1: The Church Spreads Beyond Jerusalem

Starting Date January 6th

Day 4

Highlight: Acts 10

Memory Verse: Luke 6:24

Explanation:

At first, it may seem that Peter's vision is unrelated to his visit with Cornelius. Why did God give Peter this particular vision right before he was invited to Cornelius's house?

Why were the Jews with Peter amazed in v. 45?

Week 1: The Church Spreads Beyond Jerusalem

Starting Date January 6th

Application:

It was shocking to early Jewish believers that God would include the Gentiles in his promises. What relevance does this have for you today?

Response:

Pray that God would continue to amaze us today by giving the gift of the Holy Spirit to more people in our city.

Week 1: The Church Spreads Beyond Jerusalem

Starting Date January 6th

Day 5

Highlight: Acts 11

Memory Verse: Luke 6:24

Explanation:

What was the determining factor that forced the Church to conclude that God had also granted repentance to the Gentiles? What would this sign have looked like (cf. v. 15)?

God spoke to Cornelius in a vision. He could have revealed to him the gospel and given him the Holy Spirit. But instead he worked through Peter. Why did God use Peter in this process of bringing Cornelius to repentance?

Week 1: The Church Spreads Beyond Jerusalem

Starting Date January 6th

Application:

Try to imagine yourself as one of the Jews criticizing Peter's actions (v. 2). How would you have felt about God changing some of your most beloved and important traditions?

Response:

After reading about the Church spreading in its earliest days, to what extent are you desiring that the Church today continues to spread and grow?

Week 2: The Church Spreads & the Letter of James

Starting Date January 13th

Day 1

Highlight: Acts 12

Memory Verse: Luke 6:25

Explanation:

In the same chapter, two of the apostles suffer completely different fates. James is killed by Herod, but Peter is miraculously delivered from Herod. Why would God save one and not the other?

Week 2: The Church Spreads & the Letter of James

Starting Date January 13th

Application:

How do the words of Herod compare to the word of God? Whose word is more powerful and therefore more important, the words of rulers or the word of God? How does your own life reflect that reality?

Response:

Seemingly god-like men will perish while God's word will be established forever. Are you trusting that today?

Week 2: The Church Spreads & the Letter of James

Starting Date January 13th

Day 2

Highlight: Acts 13

Memory Verse: Luke 6:25

Explanation:

This is the beginning of Paul's first missionary journey (which ends at the end of ch. 14). How did Paul and his companions go about spreading the gospel in new areas?

Summarize Paul's "word of encouragement" in your own words (vv. 16-41).

Week 2: The Church Spreads & the Letter of James

Starting Date January 13th

Application:

Paul's words are quite harsh in v. 10. Would you be confident saying something so boldly today in the name of Jesus? Why or why not?

Response:

Pray that you and our church would be bold in speaking about Jesus and his kingdom.

Week 2: The Church Spreads & the Letter of James

Starting Date January 13th

Day 3

Highlight: Acts 14

Memory Verse: Luke 6:25

Explanation:

Just like in ch 13, wherever Paul and Barnabas preach, two things happen: some people believe, and some people reject them and their message (or worse). What then do you think it was like to be a member of one of these early Gentiles churches?

Week 2: The Church Spreads & the Letter of James

Starting Date January 13th

Application:

Reflect on v. 22. What does discipleship consist of based on this verse?

Response:

Paul's message in v. 15 is a reminder for us today. Are there any vain (or perhaps even good) things that you are prioritizing above God? Ask God to help you turn away from them.

Week 2: The Church Spreads & the Letter of James

Starting Date January 13th

Day 4

Highlight: James 1

Memory Verse: Luke 6:25

Explanation:

The same Greek word is repeated throughout James 1, but in some verses the English translators translate this Greek word as “trials” (v. 2, 12) and in other places as “temptation” or “tempted” (vv. 13-14). What is the difference between a trial and temptation? What is the cause of temptation and what can it lead to?

Week 2: The Church Spreads & the Letter of James

Starting Date January 13th

Application:

Is your religion pure and undefiled before God? Why or why not?

Response:

Pray that God would give you and our church members strength to remain steadfast under trial/temptation (v. 12).

Week 2: The Church Spreads & the Letter of James

Starting Date January 13th

Day 5

Highlight: James 2

Memory Verse: Luke 6:25

Explanation:

Why would “partiality” or “prejudice” (v. 1) be such a huge problem within a Christian community?

How important are good works in the life of a Christian?

Week 2: The Church Spreads & the Letter of James

Starting Date January 13th

Application:

What sort of people do you have prejudice toward? What sort of people are you prone to show favoritism?

Response:

Reflect on your life over the past two weeks. What good works have resulted from your faith?

Week 3: The Letter of James & the First Church Council

Starting Date January 20th

Day 1

Highlight: James 3

Memory Verse: Luke 6:26

Explanation:

What does our speech reveal about our soul (cf. 1:26)?

Week 3: The Letter of James & the First Church Council

Starting Date January 20th

Application:

In what ways have you failed to tame your tongue in the past few days?

Response:

Confess any recent sin of cursing another person made in the image of God (v. 9), and ask God to give you self-control for your speech.

Week 3: The Letter of James & the First Church Council

Starting Date January 20th

Day 2 Highlight: James 4

Memory Verse: Luke 6:26

Explanation:

Based on this chapter, what does a person who is a “friend of the world” do (v. 4)?

Based on this chapter, list some things that are sinful or evil. How can it be that Christians would be participating in these sorts of things? (Remember James is writing to Christians.)

Week 3: The Letter of James & the First Church Council

Starting Date January 20th

Application:

What in this chapter condemns some of your own thinking or behavior?

Response:

In what ways do you need to submit yourself to God?

Week 3: The Letter of James & the First Church Council

Starting Date January 20th

Day 3 **Highlight:** James 5

Memory Verse: Luke 6:26

Explanation:

For what reasons specifically should the rich “weep and howl” because of their coming miseries?

Week 3: The Letter of James & the First Church Council

Starting Date January 20th

Application:

What should motivate us to be patient and steadfast until the Lord comes again?

Response:

How is God calling you to respond after reading vv. 13-18?

Week 3: The Letter of James & the First Church Council

Starting Date January 20th

Day 4

Highlight: Acts 15

Memory Verse: Luke 6:26

Explanation:

What was the reason for the “dissension and debate” within the Church?
Why did the Church decide what it did?

Week 3: The Letter of James & the First Church Council

Starting Date January 20th

Application:

What stipulations do you think the Church today puts on the new believers that may be an unnecessary burden?

Response:

We live in a time when there is much dissension among Christians and denominations. Pray that the Church would be united in faith.

Week 3: The Letter of James & the First Church Council

Starting Date January 20th

Day 5

Highlight: Acts 16

Memory Verse: Luke 6:26

Explanation:

Paul's second missionary journey begins in 15:36 and concludes in 18:23. Having read Acts 15 yesterday, it is quite surprising that Paul makes sure that Timothy is circumcised. Why did he do this?

Of what are Paul and Silas accused while in Philippi? What is the reason Luke (the narrator) gives for the persecution they suffered?

Week 3: The Letter of James & the First Church Council

Starting Date January 20th

Application:

How did Paul and Silas stay focused on their mission even while undergoing suffering?

Response:

Paul and Silas's suffering becomes an opportunity to share Jesus with their persecutors. How can God use your suffering to do something similar?

Week 4: Countering a False Gospel in Galatia

Starting Date January 27th

Day 1

Highlight: Galatians 1

Memory Verse: Luke 6:24-26

Explanation:

What is Paul's concern for the churches in Galatia?

What is the purpose of Paul's autobiographical comments in vv. 11-24?

Week 4: Countering a False Gospel in Galatia

Starting Date January 27th

Application:

Paul was concerned that Christians seemed to be turning away from the true gospel. What then should be an important priority for you based on Paul's concern here?

Response:

Give thanks to God for the good news that Jesus gave himself for our sins to deliver us from the present evil age (v. 4).

Week 4: Countering a False Gospel in Galatia

Starting Date January 27th

Day 2

Highlight: Galatians 2

Memory Verse: Luke 6:24-26

Explanation:

What was Paul's problem with Peter? Why was Peter's behavior "out of step with the truth of the gospel"?

Week 4: Countering a False Gospel in Galatia

Starting Date January 27th

Application:

If Peter, the most prominent of the Church's apostles, could act out of step with the gospel out of a desire to please others, how important is it for you to watch your own heart and behavior? Is there any way in which you are acting out of step with the gospel?

Response:

How has your very identity changed if you have been crucified and it is now Christ who is alive in you? How does that self-understanding change your behavior?

Week 4: Countering a False Gospel in Galatia

Starting Date January 27th

Day 3

Highlight: Galatians 3

Memory Verse: Luke 6:24-26

Explanation:

Based on this chapter, what are the results of faith?

Week 4: Countering a False Gospel in Galatia

Starting Date January 27th

Application:

Based on vv. 2-3, how are you made holy? Who is the primary power involved in your sanctification?

Response:

If you have been baptized, you have “put on” Christ. How then should you live?

Week 4: Countering a False Gospel in Galatia

Starting Date January 27th

Day 4

Highlight: Galatians 4

Memory Verse: Luke 6:24-26

Explanation:

Why would submitting again to the law be so problematic for the Galatian churches?

Week 4: Countering a False Gospel in Galatia

Starting Date January 27th

Application:

Throughout Galatians, Paul is concerned that these churches have abandoned the gospel, so much so that he fears he may have labored in vain (v. 11). What does it mean for you to stay faithful to the true gospel today?

Response:

Are you in anguish over others, desiring that Christ be formed in them (v. 19)? How are you involved in the formation of others?

Week 4: Countering a False Gospel in Galatia

Starting Date January 27th

Day 5

Highlight: Galatians 5

Memory Verse: Luke 6:24-26

Explanation:

Ironically, Paul writes that those who accept circumcision will not be able to keep the law while those walk by the Spirit fulfill the law without being circumcised. Why would accepting circumcision have been contrary to the law of love?

Describe the connections between the flesh, the law, and the Spirit.

Week 4: Countering a False Gospel in Galatia

Starting Date January 27th

Application:

What does it mean for you to walk in step with the Spirit today?

Response:

Give thanks for the fruit of the Spirit you see in your life and in the lives of believers you know.