



FBC Reading Plan

March 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.

March's Memory Verse

32 “If you love those who love you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. 33 And if you do good to those who do good to you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. 34 And if you lend to those from whom you expect to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to get back the same amount. 35 But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil. 36 Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.

Luke 6:32-36 (ESV)

32 “If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them. 33 And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do that. 34 And if you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, expecting to be repaid in full. 35 But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. 36 Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

Luke 6:32-36 (NIV)

32 “If you love only those who love you, why should you get credit for that? Even sinners love those who love them! 33 And if you do good only to those who do good to you, why should you get credit? Even sinners do that much! 34 And if you lend money only to those who can repay you, why should you get credit? Even sinners will lend to other sinners for a full return. 35 “Love your enemies! Do good to them. Lend to them without expecting to be repaid. Then your reward from heaven will be very great, and you will truly be acting as children of the Most High, for he is kind to those who are unthankful and wicked. 36 You must be compassionate, just as your Father is compassionate.

Luke 6:32-36 (NLT)

Week 1: The Letter of First Corinthians

Starting Date March 2nd

Day 1

Highlight: 1 Corinthians 9

Memory Verse: Luke 6:32

Explanation:

What are Paul's rights? How does he make use of them?

Week 1: The Letter of First Corinthians

Starting Date March 2nd

Application:

What would it mean to apply v. 19 in your own life?

Response:

Are you running to obtain an “imperishable wreath”?

Week 1: The Letter of First Corinthians

Starting Date March 2nd

Day 2

Highlight: 1 Corinthians 10

Memory Verse: Luke 6:32

Explanation:

According to Paul, how were the things that happened to the Israelites in the wilderness examples for the Corinthian Christians? What do they teach us?

Week 1: The Letter of First Corinthians

Starting Date March 2nd

Application:

How can you flee from idolatry today?

Response:

Consider your schedule for the day. How can you “do all to the glory of God”?

Week 1: The Letter of First Corinthians

Starting Date March 2nd

Day 3

Highlight: 1 Corinthians 11

Memory Verse: Luke 6:32

Explanation:

Vv. 2-16 are very difficult to understand. How would you summarize Paul's general point in these verses?

What is wrong with how the Corinthians were celebrating the Lord's Supper?

Week 1: The Letter of First Corinthians

Starting Date March 2nd

Application:

Why is it important for Christians to regularly celebrate the Lord's Supper together?

Response:

Based on this passage, how do you "examine" yourself before participating in the Supper (v. 28)?

Week 1: The Letter of First Corinthians

Starting Date March 2nd

Day 4

Highlight: 1 Corinthians 12

Memory Verse: Luke 6:32

Explanation:

What is the significance of the Holy Spirit in this passage?

In what way is the church diverse? In what way is it united?

Week 1: The Letter of First Corinthians

Starting Date March 2nd

Application:

Which of the following do you tend to think: “I have no need of other people,” or, “I am not important nor needed by anyone”? How does the Spirit correct both of those wrong beliefs?

Response:

To what extent do you see yourself as an integral part of the body of Christ? How are you living that out?

Week 1: The Letter of First Corinthians

Starting Date March 2nd

Day 5

Highlight: 1 Corinthians 13

Memory Verse: Luke 6:32

Explanation:

How is it possible to do the things listed in vv. 1-3 without love?

Week 1: The Letter of First Corinthians

Starting Date March 2nd

Application:

Do vv. 4-7 describe you? Why or why not?

Response:

Pray that God's Spirit would make you and our church abound in love for others.

Week 2: The Letters of First and Second Corinthians

Starting Date March 9th

Day 1

Highlight: 1 Corinthians 14

Memory Verse: Luke 6:33

Explanation:

Why is prophesying better than speaking in tongues?

Week 2: The Letters of First and Second Corinthians

Starting Date March 9th

Application:

This is a difficult passage to understand. How do you make sense of it?

Response:

Pray that all that our church does would be done to build one another up in the Lord.

Week 2: The Letters of First and Second Corinthians

Starting Date March 9th

Day 2

Highlight: 1 Corinthians 15

Memory Verse: Luke 6:33

Explanation:

What does it mean to be resurrected? What is the connection between Jesus's resurrection and Christians' resurrections?

Week 2: The Letters of First and Second Corinthians

Starting Date March 9th

Application:

What does the existence of death mean? Why then is not only Jesus's resurrection but every believer's resurrection so central to God's purposes?

Response:

How does the hope of a future resurrection motivate you to "be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord"?

Week 2: The Letters of First and Second Corinthians

Starting Date March 9th

Day 3

Highlight: 1 Corinthians 16

Memory Verse: Luke 6:33

Explanation:

Paul writes that while he has been in Ephesus “a wide door for effective work has opened to me” *and* “there are many adversaries.” How does this change the way you evaluate a person’s, church’s, or ministry’s “effectiveness”?

Week 2: The Letters of First and Second Corinthians

Starting Date March 9th

Application:

As is usual in his letters, we get a glimpse of all the people the Paul worked alongside in ministry. How is your Christian life one in which you are always serving alongside of or with someone else?

Response:

How can you obey the commands in vv. 13-14?

Week 2: The Letters of First and Second Corinthians

Starting Date March 9th

Day 4

Highlight: 2 Corinthians 1

Memory Verse: Luke 6:33

Explanation:

How does God comfort us? What is the purpose of this comfort?

Week 2: The Letters of First and Second Corinthians

Starting Date March 9th

Application:

What does this passage teach you about suffering?

Response:

Whom can you “help by prayer” (v. 11)? Pray for that person.

Week 2: The Letters of First and Second Corinthians

Starting Date March 9th

Day 5

Highlight: 2 Corinthians 2

Memory Verse: Luke 6:33

Explanation:

How does Paul describe his relationship with the church in Corinth?

Week 2: The Letters of First and Second Corinthians

Starting Date March 9th

Application:

How is God using you to spread the fragrance of the knowledge of him everywhere?

Response:

Is there anyone that you need to forgive?

Week 3: The Letter of Second Corinthians

Starting Date March 16th

Day 1

Highlight: 2 Corinthians 3

Memory Verse: Luke 6:34

Explanation:

According to this passage, what does the Spirit do?

Week 3: The Letter of Second Corinthians

Starting Date March 16th

Application:

What should your life be like if it is characterized by the glory of the ministry of the Spirit?

Response:

Praise God today for the gift of the Spirit and his power at work in you transforming you into the image of Christ.

Week 3: The Letter of Second Corinthians

Starting Date March 16th

Day 2

Highlight: 2 Corinthians 4

Memory Verse: Luke 6:34

Explanation:

How did Paul and his ministry partners make God the Father and God the Son the centerpiece of their message and mission? How was it clear that their ministry was not about them but about God?

Week 3: The Letter of Second Corinthians

Starting Date March 16th

Application:

How can a person be always being given over to death and yet not lose heart (v. 11, 16)?

Response:

In what way do you feel afflicted, perplexed, persecuted, or struck down today? How is the gospel sufficient to help you endure?

Week 3: The Letter of Second Corinthians

Starting Date March 16th

Day 3

Highlight: 2 Corinthians 5

Memory Verse: Luke 6:34

Explanation:

Paul writes that our current body is like a tent, which is temporary, and compares it to our future resurrected body, which is like a permanent house. Why does the hope of being clothed in a resurrection body give Paul “good courage”? How does this motivate him to persuade others (v. 11ff)?

The phrase “love of Christ” in v. 14 could mean either “our love for Christ” or “Christ’s love for us.” Which interpretation do you think fits the context better?

Week 3: The Letter of Second Corinthians

Starting Date March 16th

Application:

How does God's work in Christ influence and motivate you to live your life as a Christian?

Response:

How can you be a part of the ministry of reconciliation today?

Week 3: The Letter of Second Corinthians

Starting Date March 16th

Day 4

Highlight: 2 Corinthians 6

Memory Verse: Luke 6:34

Explanation:

The idea of Paul “commending” himself is repeated throughout the letter (3:1; 4:2; 5:12). Based on this passage, what things commend Paul’s ministry? That is, what things show that Paul and his partners are true servants of God with no fault in their ministry?

What does it mean to be “unequally yoked” with unbelievers?

Week 3: The Letter of Second Corinthians

Starting Date March 16th

Application:

How are the things listed in vv. 3-10 evidence not that God is against a person but actually working through a person?

Response:

Pray that God would make you a more faithful servant of his.

Week 3: The Letter of Second Corinthians

Starting Date March 16th

Day 5

Highlight: 2 Corinthians 7

Memory Verse: Luke 6:34

Explanation:

How did God comfort Paul?

Week 3: The Letter of Second Corinthians

Starting Date March 16th

Application:

What is the connection between grief and repentance?

Response:

Consider whether you need to repent of something. Have you grieved it appropriately?

Week 4: The Letter of Second Corinthians

Starting Date March 23rd

Day 1

Highlight: 2 Corinthians 8

Memory Verse: Luke 6:35

Explanation:

Based on Paul's argument in this passage, how did Paul expect the example of the Macedonian churches and the example of Jesus to motivate generosity in the Corinthian church?

Week 4: The Letter of Second Corinthians

Starting Date March 23rd

Application:

How can your abundance supply another's need?

Response:

Is there any good work that you have desired to do or have even started, you but have not completed it? What can you do to bring it to completion or bring it about?

Week 4: The Letter of Second Corinthians

Starting Date March 23rd

Day 2

Highlight: 2 Corinthians 9

Memory Verse: Luke 6:35

Explanation:

What does this passage teach you about giving and generosity?

Week 4: The Letter of Second Corinthians

Starting Date March 23rd

Application:

It is God's generosity (vv. 8-9) and his gift (v. 15) that creates a heart that gives cheerfully. What then does that teach you about yourself when you do not freely and cheerfully give?

Response:

Do you sow sparingly or bountifully? What does this reveal about your trust in the gospel?

Week 4: The Letter of Second Corinthians

Starting Date March 23rd

Day 3

Highlight: 2 Corinthians 10

Memory Verse: Luke 6:35

Explanation:

There are people in Corinth criticizing Paul's ministry. How does he respond to and deal with these critiques?

Week 4: The Letter of Second Corinthians

Starting Date March 23rd

Application:

What arguments against the knowledge of God are waging war against you or those around you? How can you combat those?

Response:

Reflect on ways in which you have failed to take every thought captive to obey Christ, and ask God to help you fight against such thoughts today.

Week 4: The Letter of Second Corinthians

Starting Date March 23rd

Day 4

Highlight: 2 Corinthians 11

Memory Verse: Luke 6:35

Explanation:

What seems to be Paul's concern about what was going on in the Corinthian church?

What is the difference between Paul and these super-apostles? In what does Paul boast? What do you think these false apostles would have boasted in?

Week 4: The Letter of Second Corinthians

Starting Date March 23rd

Application:

If Paul boasted in his weaknesses and Jesus himself humbled himself by becoming a man in order to serve others, how may God want to use your weakness to show his greatness?

Response:

Pray that God would give you and other believers the wisdom to avoid people today who masquerade as servants of righteousness.

Week 4: The Letter of Second Corinthians

Starting Date March 23rd

Day 5

Highlight: 2 Corinthians 12

Memory Verse: Luke 6:35

Explanation:

Why was Paul given a thorn in the flesh?

How is Paul different from the super-apostles?

Week 4: The Letter of Second Corinthians

Starting Date March 23rd

Application:

Are you more like Paul or like the super-apostles? Why should God's grace toward you in Christ cause you to boast in your weakness?

Response:

Thank God for your weaknesses and ask him to work through them to glorify his power.

Week 5: The Gospel According to Mark

Starting Date March 30th

Day 1

Highlight: 2 Corinthians 13

Memory Verse: Luke 6:36

Explanation:

How does Paul plan to use his authority when he visits the Corinthians again?

Week 5: The Gospel According to Mark

Starting Date March 30th

Application

What do Paul's commands in v. 5 teach you about your own heart?

Response:

Examine yourself and ask God to give you insight into your own heart and life.

Week 5: The Gospel According to Mark

Starting Date March 30th

Day 2

Highlight: Mark 1

Memory Verse: Luke 6:36

Explanation:

In this opening chapter, there are four different witnesses to Jesus' identity. Who are they and what do they say? (Mark himself is one of them). Does Jesus try to make it clear to everyone who he is?

Why did Jesus come?

Week 5: The Gospel According to Mark

Starting Date March 30th

Application:

Based on this chapter, what does it mean to be a disciple of Jesus?

Response:

People were constantly seeking out Jesus. Are you seeking Jesus?
What do you want from him?

Week 5: The Gospel According to Mark

Starting Date March 30th

Day 3

Highlight: Mark 2

Memory Verse: Luke 6:36

Explanation:

What does the healing of the paralytic reveal about Jesus?

Week 5: The Gospel According to Mark

Starting Date March 30th

Application:

Why did Jesus' disciples not fast? Why should we Christians fast now?

Response:

Are you truly aware of your need of *the* Physician today?

Week 5: The Gospel According to Mark

Starting Date March 30th

Day 4

Highlight: Mark 3

Memory Verse: Luke 6:36

Explanation:

This chapter begins to show the rising conflict between Jesus and the religious leaders. What are some reasons for the conflict between the two?

Week 5: The Gospel According to Mark

Starting Date March 30th

Application

The religious leaders are clearly mistaken about who Jesus is. What are some ways we can mistake who Jesus is today?

Response:

Are you a brother, sister, or mother to Jesus? Are you doing the will of God?

Week 5: The Gospel According to Mark

Starting Date March 30th

Day 5

Highlight: Mark 4

Memory Verse: Luke 6:36

Explanation:

How is the parable of the different soils key to understanding all of Jesus' other parables (v. 13)?

What is Jesus' purpose in always speaking in parables?

Week 5: The Gospel According to Mark

Starting Date March 30th

Application:

Are you afraid in the midst of life's storms, or are you trusting in Jesus?

Response:

Pray that we would see God's kingdom grow and spread throughout our neighborhoods and community.