



# **FBC Reading Plan**

**May 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.

## May's Memory Verses

39 He also told them a parable: "Can a blind man lead a blind man? Will they not both fall into a pit? 40 A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone when he is fully trained will be like his teacher. 41 Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? 42 How can you say to your brother, 'Brother, let me take out the speck that is in your eye,' when you yourself do not see the log that is in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take out the speck that is in your brother's eye.

**Luke 6:39-42 (ESV)**

39 He also told them this parable: "Can the blind lead the blind? Will they not both fall into a pit? 40 The student is not above the teacher, but everyone who is fully trained will be like their teacher. 41 Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? 42 How can you say to your brother, 'Brother, let me take the speck out of your eye,' when you yourself fail to see the plank in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye."

**Luke 6:39-42 (NIV)**

39 Then Jesus gave the following illustration: "Can one blind person lead another? Won't they both fall into a ditch? 40 Students are not greater than their teacher. But the student who is fully trained will become like the teacher. 41 And why worry about a speck in your friend's eye when you have a log in your own? 42 How can you think of saying, 'Friend, let me help you get rid of that speck in your eye,' when you can't see past the log in your own eye? Hypocrite! First get rid of the log in your own eye; then you will see well enough to deal with the speck in your friend's eye."

**Luke 6:39-42 (NLT)**

# Week 1: The Letter to the Romans

## Starting Date May 4th

**Day 1**

**Highlight:** Romans 9

*Memory Verse:* Luke 6:39

### **Explanation:**

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Why is there no injustice on God's part for hating Esau and loving Jacob?

Based on Paul's argument in this chapter, how does God glorify himself?

# Week 1: The Letter to the Romans

Starting Date May 4th

## **Application:**

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What effect should God's free, unmerited mercy have on you and your life today?

## **Response:**

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How do you respond in worship to a powerful, merciful, glorious God?

# Week 1: The Letter to the Romans

Starting Date May 4th

**Day 2**

**Highlight:** Romans 10

*Memory Verse:* Luke 6:39

## **Explanation:**

How is a person declared righteous? How is a person saved? (Note that righteousness/justify is parallel to saved/salvation throughout this chapter).

What is the primary or ultimate motivation for sending someone to preach the gospel to those who have not heard it?

# **Week 1: The Letter to the Romans**

**Starting Date May 4th**

## **Application:**

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If salvation comes from a simple confession and righteousness by faith, why is Paul concerned that some have not obeyed the gospel? Do you obey the gospel?

## **Response:**

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Praise God today for the people in your life who have taught you the gospel.

# Week 1: The Letter to the Romans

Starting Date May 4th

**Day 3**

**Highlight:** Romans 11

*Memory Verse:* Luke 6:39

## **Explanation:**

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What is the nature of grace? Why is this important when it comes to salvation?

What warning does Paul give to Gentile believers? What should they learn from Israel?

# Week 1: The Letter to the Romans

Starting Date May 4th

## **Application:**

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God will not spare anyone who does not stand firm in faith; he will cut off anyone who does not continue in his kindness. Are you in any way in danger of being cut off from the root that supports you?

## **Response:**

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“How impossible it is for us to understand his decisions and his ways!” (11:33 NLT). Why should our inability to fully understand God’s ways be a reason to worship him?

# Week 1: The Letter to the Romans

Starting Date May 4th

**Day 4**

**Highlight:** Romans 12

*Memory Verse:* Luke 6:39

## **Explanation:**

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“Therefore” in v. 1 connects the discussion in chapters 1-11 to the commands given in 12:1-15:13. What is the connection between these two main parts? That is, why should chapters 1-11 cause us to present ourselves as living sacrifices?

# Week 1: The Letter to the Romans

Starting Date May 4th

## **Application:**

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Christian obedience and the Christian life is fundamentally sacrificial (v. 1). We cannot do any of the commands in this chapter apart from being living sacrifices. What do you need to give up to God today in order to be obedient to his commands?

## **Response:**

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Based on these verses, what is God calling you to do today?

# Week 1: The Letter to the Romans

Starting Date May 4th

**Day 5**

**Highlight:** Romans 13

*Memory Verse:* Luke 6:39

## **Explanation:**

Paul emphatically writes that all governing authorities are God's servants ("servant" twice in v. 4; "ministers" in v. 6). How is that true if not all authorities are Christian (which they certainly were not in Paul's day nor in ours)?

# **Week 1: The Letter to the Romans**

**Starting Date May 4th**

## **Application:**

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Paul spends a large portion of this lettering arguing that justification before God does not come by doing works of the law. Why then is he so emphatic that Christians must “fulfill the law” by loving others?

## **Response:**

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Pray for our governmental authorities and politicians to be agents of justice against wrongdoers and protectors of the innocent (see also 1 Timothy 2:1-4).

## Week 2: Romans & Paul's Journey to Jerusalem

Starting Date May 11th

**Day 1**

**Highlight:** Romans 14

*Memory Verse:* Luke 6:40

*Sunday's Message:* Romans 3:27-31

### **Explanation:**

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In what matters should we not judge other Christians (cf. 1 Corinthians 5:12)? For what reason should we not judge others based on these matters?

## **Week 2: Romans & Paul's Journey to Jerusalem**

**Starting Date May 11th**

### **Application:**

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What would be some of these matters today about which Christians can disagree?

### **Response:**

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Have you recently passed judgment on another one of God's servants?

## Week 2: Romans & Paul's Journey to Jerusalem

Starting Date May 11th

**Day 2**

**Highlight:** Romans 15

*Memory Verse:* Luke 6:40

### **Explanation:**

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Why is Paul proud of his work before God?

## **Week 2: Romans & Paul's Journey to Jerusalem**

**Starting Date May 11th**

### **Application:**

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How should Christ shape and form our lives as Christians? How is that evident in your life?

### **Response:**

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Spend time striving in prayer to God on behalf of other brothers and sisters in Christ (v. 30).

## Week 2: Romans & Paul's Journey to Jerusalem

Starting Date May 11th

**Day 3**

**Highlight:** Romans 16

*Memory Verse:* Luke 6:40

### **Explanation:**

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Paul began the letter by stating that the preaching of the gospel brings about “the obedience of faith.” He ends the letter in the same way, praising God who brings about the obedience of faith through the preaching of the gospel for his own glory. Where do you see gospel-inspired and gospel-shaped obedience in your life? How does that bring glory to God?

## **Week 2: Romans & Paul's Journey to Jerusalem**

### **Starting Date May 11th**

#### **Application:**

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It is easy to forget how many “fellow-workers” Paul had in preaching the gospel and in planting churches, but clearly they were key helpers and supporters of his ministry. How are you actively involved in the work of ministry?

#### **Response:**

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Give thanks for the fellow workers in ministry with whom you serve.

## Week 2: Romans & Paul's Journey to Jerusalem

Starting Date May 11th

**Day 4**

**Highlight:** Acts 20

*Memory Verse:* Luke 6:40

### **Explanation:**

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What motivated Paul to boldly follow God's Spirit into suffering?

What are the elders ("overseers") of the church called to do? What dangers constantly threaten the church?

## **Week 2: Romans & Paul's Journey to Jerusalem**

**Starting Date May 11th**

### **Application:**

Paul's life was a life of service to the Lord (v. 19) constrained by the Holy Spirit (v. 23) for the good of others (v. 20). In what ways does your life reflect the truth, "It is more blessed to give than to receive"?

### **Response:**

If it is more blessed to give than to receive, whom can you serve today?

## Week 2: Romans & Paul's Journey to Jerusalem

Starting Date May 11th

**Day 5**

**Highlight:** Acts 21

*Memory Verse:* Luke 6:40

### **Explanation:**

Three times Paul is warned of the danger in going to Jerusalem (20:23; 21:4, 11-12). How could it be the will of the Lord that his servant would suffer so much? Why does Paul insist on going?

## **Week 2: Romans & Paul's Journey to Jerusalem**

**Starting Date May 11th**

### **Application:**

Paul's message was offensive to the Jews, and they falsely accused him of defaming the temple. How is the message of the gospel offensive today?

### **Response:**

Are you ashamed of the gospel or are you to content to accept mistreatment from others because of the offensiveness of the gospel?

# Week 3: Paul's Imprisonment & Journey to Rome

Starting Date May 18th

**Day 1**

**Highlight:** Acts 22

*Memory Verse:* Luke 6:41

*Sunday's Message:* Romans 4:1-12

## **Explanation:**

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At what point in Paul's testimony does the crowd become enraged?

What is the reason they are so upset by Paul and his ministry?

## **Week 3: Paul's Imprisonment & Journey to Rome**

**Starting Date May 18th**

### **Application:**

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Imagine knowing Paul while being brought up in Jerusalem and living as a strict Pharisee and then seeing him return to Jerusalem years later a completely different person. What sort of changes has Christ made in your life that others can see?

### **Response:**

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How is God calling you to respond to this passage?

# Week 3: Paul's Imprisonment & Journey to Rome

Starting Date May 18th

**Day 2**

**Highlight:** Acts 23

*Memory Verse:* Luke 6:41

## **Explanation:**

Paul caused much commotion in Jerusalem. His testimony at the council became violent, and a group of 40 men vowed to kill him. Why was there such hostility against Paul?

## **Week 3: Paul's Imprisonment & Journey to Rome**

**Starting Date May 18th**

### **Application:**

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Luke does not specifically describe God being at work, and yet he does tell us that he promised to bring Paul to Rome. What means does God use to begin to fulfill that promise in this chapter? How does that influence the way you understand how God works in your own life?

### **Response:**

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Pray for persecuted Christians around the world to have boldness to proclaim the gospel in the midst of strong opposition.

# Week 3: Paul's Imprisonment & Journey to Rome

Starting Date May 18th

**Day 3**

**Highlight:** Acts 24

*Memory Verse:* Luke 6:41

## **Explanation:**

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In what ways does Paul agree with Judaism? Does that surprise you at all?

## **Week 3: Paul's Imprisonment & Journey to Rome**

**Starting Date May 18th**

### **Application:**

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We get a short glimpse of the summary of Paul's message of faith in Jesus Christ. It concerns "righteousness and self-control and the coming judgment" (v. 25). How are each of these important in your own life and your own understanding of Christianity?

### **Response:**

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Felix clearly had mixed motives when constantly asking to hear Paul. Do you take every opportunity you have to talk to anyone who will listen about Jesus?

# Week 3: Paul's Imprisonment & Journey to Rome

Starting Date May 18th

**Day 4**

**Highlight:** Acts 25

*Memory Verse:* Luke 6:41

## **Explanation:**

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It is remarkable how much injustice Paul suffered despite having no substantial claim against him. What stands out to you about Paul during his multiple defenses?

## **Week 3: Paul's Imprisonment & Journey to Rome**

**Starting Date May 18th**

### **Application:**

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Paul was completely above reproach, and yet that still did not keep him from being falsely accused. As we live in a world that is increasingly hostile to Christianity, why is it so important that we live lives that are totally above reproach?

### **Response:**

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Are there any legitimate charges people could bring against you regarding your character or conduct? If so, what do you need to do to make that right?

# Week 3: Paul's Imprisonment & Journey to Rome

Starting Date May 18th

**Day 5**

**Highlight:** Acts 26

*Memory Verse:* Luke 6:41

## **Explanation:**

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What stands out to in Paul's retelling of his testimony?

How does Paul think that his ministry is in complete agreement with the teaching of the Hebrew scriptures?

## **Week 3: Paul's Imprisonment & Journey to Rome**

### **Starting Date May 18th**

#### **Application:**

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We live in a culture in which it is offensive to “push” your values onto other people. Yet Paul’s conviction and desire was that others would be just like him. Being a Christian is better than not being a Christian. How can you live faithfully in a world that is so opposed to such a belief?

#### **Response:**

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Pray that God would turn the non-Christians in your life into his devout followers.

# Week 4: Paul in Rome & Colossians

Starting Date May 25th

**Day 1**

**Highlight:** Acts 27

*Memory Verse:* Luke 6:42

*Sunday's Message:* Romans 4:13-25

**Explanation:**

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How does God use Paul even while he is a prisoner?

## **Week 4: Paul in Rome & Colossians**

**Starting Date May 25th**

### **Application:**

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Once again we see Paul glorifying God no matter the circumstance. Is this your mindset? Why or why not?

### **Response:**

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Ask God to show you how you can glorify him before others today.

# Week 4: Paul in Rome & Colossians

Starting Date May 25th

**Day 2**

**Highlight:** Acts 28

*Memory Verse:* Luke 6:42

## **Explanation:**

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What was the essence of Paul's message?

## **Week 4: Paul in Rome & Colossians**

**Starting Date May 25th**

### **Application:**

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Even while under house arrest, Paul preached “without hindrance.” Even while shipwrecked, he continued to serve others. Do you tend to see your circumstances as limiting your ability to serve God, or do you believe that no matter the circumstances God has placed you there to serve him?

### **Response:**

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Ask God to reveal to you opportunities in which you can share the good news of the kingdom of God with others.

## Week 4: Paul in Rome & Colossians

Starting Date May 25th

**Day 3**

**Highlight:** Colossians 1

*Memory Verse:* Luke 6:42

### **Explanation:**

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What does it mean to “walk in a manner worthy of the Lord”?

## **Week 4: Paul in Rome & Colossians**

**Starting Date May 25th**

### **Application:**

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Who is God's Son and what has he done?

### **Response:**

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Pray vv. 9-12 for yourself, your family, and for your fellow brothers and sisters in Christ.

## Week 4: Paul in Rome & Colossians

Starting Date May 25th

**Day 4**

**Highlight:** Colossians 2

*Memory Verse:* Luke 6:42

### **Explanation:**

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What has happened through Jesus Christ? How does that affect those who are united to him?

## **Week 4: Paul in Rome & Colossians**

**Starting Date May 25th**

### **Application:**

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Are you striving to “reach all the riches of full assurance of understanding and the knowledge of God’s mystery”? Are you striving to help others do the same as well?

### **Response:**

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How can you “walk in Christ” today?

## Week 4: Paul in Rome & Colossians

Starting Date May 25th

**Day 5**

**Highlight:** Colossians 3

*Memory Verse:* Luke 6:42

### **Explanation:**

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What are the things of the earth? What are the things above?

## **Week 4: Paul in Rome & Colossians**

**Starting Date May 25th**

### **Application:**

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What needs to be put to death in your life? What do you need to put on?

### **Response:**

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Pray that God would give you urgency to kill sin in your life as well as to strive to do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus.