

Explore *the* Book

Bible Reading Guide

January - March 2024

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Dear friend,

This resource is designed to help you read the Bible more consistently and fruitfully. Following this guide will lead you to read thoughtfully through the entire Bible over the course of three years. There are selections to read five days per week. One day per week is devoted to the New Testament, three to the Old, and one to the Psalms.

For each day of the quarter this guide includes a passage to read, a one sentence summary of the day's reading, and a question to help you notice the text. As you consider the provided questions, think carefully about how the truths in these passages apply to your life.

- What does this teach me about God? Reflect on what the passage reveals about God's character, will, and ways.
- How can I apply this to my life? Think about practical ways the passage's teachings can be lived out in your daily life.
- Is there a command to obey or an example to follow? Look for direct instructions or examples set by biblical figures.
- What does this teach me about human nature or the world? Consider insights the passage offers about humanity and the world around you.
- Is there a promise to claim? Identify promises in the passage and reflect on their relevance to your life.
- How does this passage challenge or encourage me?
- What prayer points emerge from this reading? Use insights from the passage to guide your prayer life.
- How can I share this with others? Think about ways to discuss or demonstrate the lessons learned with those around you.

Remember to pray before, during and in response to reading. May God bless you as you read His Word! The goal is to let the Scripture speak into your life, guiding and transforming you according to its truth.

VISIT EXPLORETHEBOOK.COM TO READ ARTICLES THAT ACCOMPANY EACH DAY'S READING!

All Scripture quotations are the from the Legacy Standard Bible (LSB) which you can read online at read.lsbible.org or in many Bible apps.

Week 1 (January 1-5)

VERSE OF THE WEEK

And God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. (Genesis 1:27)

☐ **JANUARY 1: MARK 1**

The arrival and authority of Jesus as the promised Messiah.

Pay attention to the responses of individuals in Mark 1. How do their reactions reveal different perspectives on Jesus and His message?

☐ **JANUARY 2: GENESIS 1-2**

The creation of the world by God, highlighting His power, purposeful design, and the special creation of humanity in His image.

Look for specific responsibilities given to humanity in Genesis 1–2. How do these responsibilities shape our role in God's creation?

☐ **JANUARY 3: GENESIS 3-4**

The fall of humanity into sin through disobedience, illustrating the consequences of sin and the destructive effects within the family.

Examine the dialogue between Eve and the serpent in Genesis 3. What tactics does the serpent use, and how does Eve respond?

☐ **JANUARY 4: GENESIS 5**

Genealogy from Adam to Noah, emphasizing the continuity of human history, mortality, and paving the way for the events of the flood.

Examine the ages of the individuals mentioned in the genealogy. What trends or notable points can be observed in their lifespans?

☐ **JANUARY 5: PSALM 19**

God's revelation through both the natural world (general revelation) and His written Word (special revelation), celebrating the perfection of His law and the beauty of His creation.

Pay attention to the attributes and effects of God's law as described in Psalm 19. What characteristics are highlighted, and how are they intended to impact the reader?

Week 2 (January 8-12)

VERSE OF THE WEEK

How numerous are Your works, O Yahweh! In wisdom You have made them all; The earth is full of Your possessions. (Psalm 104:24)

JANUARY 8: MARK 2-3

Jesus heals, forgives sins, calls disciples, and confronts the Pharisees about their understanding of the Sabbath and the law.

How does Jesus' interaction with different groups reveal His authority and understanding of the law?

JANUARY 9: GENESIS 6-7

God decides to send a flood due to humanity's wickedness, instructs Noah to build the ark, and destroys life on Earth, sparing only Noah, his family, and the animals on the ark.

What aspects of Noah's character and actions show his faith and obedience to God amidst a corrupt world?

JANUARY 10: GENESIS 8:1-9:17

The floodwaters recede, Noah exits the ark, offers a sacrifice to God, and God makes a covenant with Noah symbolized by the rainbow.

How does God's promise to never again curse the ground or destroy all living creatures reflect His mercy and faithfulness?

JANUARY 11: GENESIS 9:18-10:32

Noah's folly after the flood is revealed, setting the stage for the dispersion of nations from his descendants.

What are the consequences of Noah's sons' actions, and how do they set the stage for the future distribution of peoples?

JANUARY 12: PSALM 104

A hymn of praise to God, celebrating His creation, providence, and sovereignty over the natural world.

What aspects of creation mentioned in Psalm 104 highlight God's power, wisdom, and ongoing care for His creation?

Week 3 (January 15-19)

VERSE OF THE WEEK

The voice of Yahweh is upon the waters; The God of glory thunders, Yahweh is over many waters. (Psalm 29:4)

☐ **JANUARY 15: MARK 4**

Jesus teaches in parables about the kingdom of God, explaining them to His disciples, and demonstrates His power by calming a storm.

In what ways do the parables in Mark 4 reveal the nature of the kingdom of God and the response it requires from listeners?

☐ **JANUARY 16: GENESIS 11**

The Tower of Babel story where humanity's pride leads to God confusing their language and scattering them across the earth.

How does the Tower of Babel incident reflect human pride and God's intervention to limit it?

☐ **JANUARY 17: JOB 1-2**

Job, a righteous man, faces severe trials allowed by God, losing his wealth, children, and health, yet he does not curse God.

What do Job's responses to his trials reveal about his character and understanding of God?

☐ **JANUARY 18: JOB 3-4**

Job laments his birth and misery, questioning the meaning of suffering, while Eliphaz begins to counsel him, suggesting that suffering is a result of sin.

How do Job's lament and Eliphaz's response address the complexities and perceived reasons for suffering?

☐ **JANUARY 19: PSALM 29**

A psalm of David that ascribes glory and strength to the Lord, depicting His power and majesty as displayed in a thunderstorm.

What descriptions of the storm in Psalm 29 illustrate God's power and majesty in creation?

Week 4 (January 22-26)

VERSE OF THE WEEK

I will give thanks to You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Wonderful are Your works, And my soul knows it very well. (Ps. 139:14)

☐ **JANUARY 22: MARK 5**

Jesus performs miracles, including exorcising demons, healing a woman with chronic bleeding, and raising a girl from the dead.

How does Jesus' interaction with different groups reveal His authority and understanding of the law?

☐ **JANUARY 23: JOB 5-6**

Eliphaz continues his speech, insisting on God's discipline, while Job responds, expressing his pain and pleading for understanding.

What do Eliphaz's arguments and Job's response reveal about their perspectives on suffering and divine justice?

☐ **JANUARY 24: JOB 7-8**

Job expresses his anguish & the seeming injustice of his suffering, while Bildad argues that God rewards the righteous & punishes the wicked.

How does the dialogue between Job and Bildad illustrate different views on the relationship between suffering and righteousness?

☐ **JANUARY 25: JOB 9-10**

Job acknowledges God's greatness and justice, yet laments his own situation and pleads for mercy, feeling powerless against God.

In what ways does Job's speech reflect his struggle to reconcile his understanding of God's justice with his own suffering?

☐ **JANUARY 26: PSALM 139**

A psalm expressing God's omniscience & omnipresence, reflecting on His intimate knowledge & involvement in the psalmist's life.

What aspects of God's character are highlighted through the psalmist's reflections on God's knowledge, presence, and involvement in human life?

Week 5 (January 29-February 2)

VERSE OF THE WEEK

Though He slay me, I will hope in Him. Nevertheless I will argue my ways before Him. (Job 13:15)

☐ **JANUARY 29: MARK 6**

Jesus faces rejection in His hometown, sends out the twelve disciples, feeds the five thousand, and walks on water.

How do the various events in Mark 6 showcase the diverse responses to Jesus' ministry and His divine authority?

☐ **JANUARY 30: JOB 11-12**

Zophar criticizes Job, insisting on God's inscrutable wisdom, while Job responds, affirming God's power but questioning His justice.

How do Zophar's critique and Job's response address the themes of God's wisdom and the mystery of human suffering?

☐ **JANUARY 31: JOB 13-14**

Job expresses a desire to plead his case directly with God and laments the brevity and struggles of human life.

What do Job's heartfelt pleas and reflections reveal about his faith and his struggle with the transient nature of human existence?

☐ **FEBRUARY 1: JOB 15**

Eliphaz accuses Job of impiety and insists that the wicked, like Job, suffer due to their own sins.

How does Eliphaz's argument about the fate of the wicked challenge Job's understanding of his own righteousness and suffering?

☐ **FEBRUARY 2: PSALM 33**

A call to praise God for His righteousness, creation, and providential care over His people.

In what ways does Psalm 33 encourage trust in God's righteous character, creative power, and loving care for His people?

Week 6 (February 5-9)

VERSE OF THE WEEK

But He knows the way I take; When He has tested me, I shall come forth as gold. (Job 23:10)

FEBRUARY 5: MARK 7:1-8:10

Jesus teaches about inner purity over external rituals, heals a Gentile woman's daughter and a deaf man, and feeds four thousand people.

How does Jesus challenge traditional religious practices and demonstrate His compassion across cultural boundaries?

FEBRUARY 6: JOB 16-17

Job responds to his friends' accusations with a plea for empathy, expressing despair yet maintaining a flicker of hope in God.

What do Job's responses in these chapters reveal about his enduring faith amidst despair and his longing for vindication?

FEBRUARY 7: JOB 18-19

Bildad describes the fate of the wicked as inevitable doom, while Job declares his faith in a Redeemer & his hope for vindication after death.

How does the contrast between Bildad's view of the wicked's fate and Job's proclamation of his Redeemer highlight the themes of despair and hope?

FEBRUARY 8: JOB 20

Zophar speaks of the swift punishment of the wicked, implying that Job's suffering is a result of his sin.

What does Zophar's insistence on the immediate retribution of the wicked reveal about his understanding of justice and suffering?

FEBRUARY 9: PSALM 141

A psalm of David asking for God's help in maintaining righteousness and for protection from the wicked.

In what ways does Psalm 141 reflect a desire for personal holiness & reliance on God for protection & guidance in the midst of adversity?

Week 7 (February 12-16)

VERSE OF THE WEEK

How numerous are Your works, O Yahweh! In wisdom You have made them all; The earth is full of Your possessions. (Psalm 104:24)

☐ FEBRUARY 12: MARK 8:11-9:29

Jesus warns against the Pharisees' demand for a sign, predicts His death and resurrection, transfigures before His disciples, and heals a boy with an unclean spirit.

How do these events demonstrate the growing opposition to Jesus and His disciples' deepening understanding of Him?

☐ FEBRUARY 13: JOB 21-22

Job challenges the traditional belief that suffering is always a punishment for sin, while Eliphaz accuses Job of great wickedness.

What do Job's views on the wicked's prosperity and Eliphaz's accusations indicate about their perspectives on divine justice?

☐ FEBRUARY 14: JOB 23-24

Job expresses his desire to present his case before God and discusses the prevalence of injustice and suffering in the world.

How do Job's pleas for justice and observations of suffering show his quest for understanding amid trials?

☐ FEBRUARY 15: JOB 25-27

Bildad speaks of God's dominance over mankind; Job mocks his friends' advice, asserting his own integrity & confidence in God's justice.

How does Bildad's view of God and Job's integrity contrast their beliefs on righteousness and divine justice?

☐ FEBRUARY 16: PSALM 73

A psalm expressing a struggle with the prosperity of the wicked and a renewed understanding of God's ultimate justice and goodness.

How does Psalm 73 depict the journey from envy of the wicked to a deeper understanding of God's righteous judgement and presence?

Week 8 (February 19-23)

VERSE OF THE WEEK

Looking at them, Jesus said, "With people it is impossible, but not with God; for all things are possible with God." (Mark 10:27)

☐ FEBRUARY 19: MARK 9:30-10:27

Jesus predicts His death and resurrection again, teaches about true greatness and the cost of discipleship, blesses children, and discusses the challenge of wealth for entering the kingdom of God.

How do these teachings of Jesus challenge conventional views of greatness, wealth, and what it means to follow Him?

☐ FEBRUARY 20: JOB 28

A poem about the elusiveness of wisdom, emphasizing that it cannot be found by human endeavor but is known only by God.

What does this chapter suggest about the nature of true wisdom and the human inability to fully grasp it?

☐ FEBRUARY 21: JOB 29-30

Job reminisces about his past honor & current misery, contrasting his former respect & prosperity with his present humiliation & suffering.

How do Job's reflections on his past and present conditions deepen the narrative of his struggle and his longing for vindication?

☐ FEBRUARY 22: JOB 31

Job makes a final protest of his innocence, listing the moral and ethical standards he has maintained and inviting God to judge him.

What does Job's self-defense indicate about his understanding of righteousness and his desire for a fair judgment from God?

☐ FEBRUARY 23: PSALM 26

A psalm of David asserting his integrity and pleading for God's judgment while distancing himself from the deceitful and evildoers.

How does this psalm reflect a commitment to personal integrity and trust in God's righteousness in the midst of a corrupt world?

Week 9 (February 26-March 1)

VERSE OF THE WEEK

Cause my heart to incline to Your testimonies and not to dishonest gain. (Psalm 119:36)

☐ FEBRUARY 26: MARK 10:28-11:33

Peter discusses sacrifice for the kingdom, Jesus predicts His death a third time, heals blind Bartimaeus, enters Jerusalem triumphantly, and challenges the authority of the religious leaders.

How do these events illustrate the nature of discipleship and Jesus' authority?

☐ FEBRUARY 27: JOB 32-33

Elihu, a younger speaker, criticizes Job's self-righteousness and argues that God communicates in various ways, including through suffering.

What perspective does Elihu introduce regarding God's communication and the purpose of suffering?

☐ FEBRUARY 28: JOB 34

Elihu asserts God's justice, challenging Job's claim of innocence and arguing that God does not act wickedly.

How does Elihu's discourse on divine justice challenge Job and contribute to the ongoing debate about suffering and righteousness?

☐ MARCH 1: JOB 35-36

Elihu continues his speech, suggesting that Job's suffering might be disciplinary and emphasizing God's greatness and justice.

What arguments does Elihu present about the nature of suffering and God's use of it to discipline and instruct?

☐ MARCH 2: PSALM 119:33-48

This expresses a deep desire to understand and live according to God's law, with commitments to obedience and declaration of God's statutes.

How do these verses in Psalm 119 highlight the psalmist's longing for and commitment to obedience to God's law and teachings?

Week 10 (March 4-8)

VERSES OF THE WEEK

"And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength." The second is this, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." There is no other commandment greater than these. (Mark 12:30-31)

MARCH 4: MARK 12

Jesus teaches with parables, addresses commandments, and praises a widow, highlighting true faith understanding and practice.

How do Jesus' teachings in this chapter expose law misconceptions and reveal true faith and understanding?

MARCH 5: JOB 37

Elihu concludes his speech by highlighting God's majesty and power as demonstrated through nature and weather phenomena.

What does Elihu's final speech suggest about the relationship between God's power and human understanding of divine wisdom?

MARCH 6: JOB 38-39

God finally speaks, questioning Job from the whirlwind and pointing to the wonders of creation to demonstrate His wisdom and power.

How do God's questions and descriptions of creation in these chapters challenge Job's understanding of divine power and wisdom?

MARCH 7: JOB 41-42

God questions Job, emphasizing His power and sovereignty, & describes Behemoth & Leviathan, showcasing His unfathomable creation.

What do God's continued questions reveal about His sovereignty and the limitations of human understanding?

MARCH 8: PSALM 117-118

These psalms praise God's steadfast love and faithfulness, focusing on gratitude for deliverance and trust in the Lord.

How do these psalms encourage a response of praise and trust in God's enduring love and faithfulness?

Week 11 (March 11-15)

VERSE OF THE WEEK

And I will make you a great nation, And I will bless you, And make your name great; And so you shall be a blessing; (Genesis 12:2)

☐ **MARCH 11: MARK 13:1-14:21**

Jesus predicts the destruction of the temple, gives teachings about the end times, and institutes the Lord's Supper, while betrayal plots against Him unfold.

How do Jesus' predictions and actions in these chapters highlight His foreknowledge of events and His role in God's redemptive plan?

☐ **MARCH 12: JOB 42**

Job acknowledges God's sovereignty and repents, and God restores Job's fortunes, blessing his latter days more than his beginning.

What does Job's response to God and his subsequent restoration reveal about the nature of repentance and divine restoration?

☐ **MARCH 13: GENESIS 12-14**

These chapters describe Abram's journey of faith, including God's call and promises to him, his time in Egypt, and his rescue of Lot.

How do Abram's actions and experiences in these chapters reflect his developing relationship with God and the challenges of faith?

☐ **MARCH 14: GENESIS 15-16**

God makes a covenant with Abram, promising him a son, while Sarai and Abram, doubting, take matters into their own hands with Hagar.

What do these chapters reveal about the nature of God's promises and the human struggle with doubt and impatience?

☐ **MARCH 15: PSALM 105:1-20**

This section of Psalm 105 recounts God's faithfulness to Israel, focusing on His covenant with Abraham and the story of Joseph.

How does the recounting of God's dealings with Abraham and Joseph highlight His faithfulness and providential care for His people?

Week 12 (March 18-22)

VERSE OF THE WEEK

Is anything too difficult for Yahweh? At the appointed time I will return to you, at this time next year, and Sarah will have a son. (Genesis 18:14)

MARCH 18: MARK 14:22-72

Jesus institutes communion, predicts Peter's denial, prays in Gethsemane, is arrested, and Peter denies Him as Jesus faces trial.

How do these events reflect the fulfillment of Jesus' predictions and the depth of His commitment to His mission?

MARCH 19: GENESIS 17-18

God establishes His covenant with Abram, renaming him Abraham, promises a son to Sarah, and Abraham intercedes for Sodom.

What do these chapters reveal about God's covenant relationship with Abraham and His responsiveness to intercessory prayer?

MARCH 20: GENESIS 19

Lot's life in Sodom culminates in the city's destruction, while Lot and his daughters are spared but later make morally dubious choices.

How do these events illustrate the consequences of sin and the complexities of moral choices in a fallen world?

MARCH 21: GENESIS 20-21

Abraham's faith is tested through interactions with Abimelech and the birth of Isaac, leading to the expulsion of Hagar and Ishmael.

What do these chapters reveal about the challenges to Abraham's faith and God's faithfulness in fulfilling His promises?

MARCH 22: PSALM 105:21-45

This portion continues recounting God's faithfulness, focusing on Joseph's rise to power in Egypt, the Israelites' sojourn there, and their eventual deliverance.

How God's providence and faithfulness evident through the story of Joseph and the deliverance of the Israelites from Egypt?

Week 13 (March 25-29)

VERSE OF THE WEEK

And he said to them, "Do not be amazed; you are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who has been crucified. He has risen; He is not here; behold, the place where they laid Him." (Mark 16:6)

☐ **MARCH 25: MARK 15-16**

Jesus is crucified, dies, and is buried; He then rises from the dead.

How do the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus in these chapters fulfill His mission and offer hope to believers?

☐ **MARCH 26: GENESIS 22-23**

Abraham's faith is profoundly tested with God's command to sacrifice Isaac, followed by God providing a ram instead; Sarah dies, and Abraham buys a burial site.

What do these chapters reveal about Abraham's faith and obedience, and how do they set the stage for future events in the narrative?

☐ **MARCH 27: GENESIS 24**

Abraham sends his servant to find a wife for Isaac, leading to the providential meeting and marriage of Isaac and Rebekah.

How does the story of finding a wife for Isaac demonstrate God's guidance and the continuation of His covenant promises?

☐ **MARCH 28: GENESIS 25**

The chapter narrates Abraham & Ishmael's deaths, and Esau & Jacob's birth, highlighting the beginning of the brother's rivalry.

What do these events reveal about the continuation of God's promises and the complexities within the family of the patriarchs?

☐ **MARCH 29: PSALM 23-24**

Psalm 23 portrays the Lord as a shepherd providing and caring for His people, while Psalm 24 celebrates His kingship and holiness.

How do these psalms collectively depict God's intimate care for His people and His supreme authority and holiness?