

Reading the Bible Together



Bible Reading Plan 2015

Introduction to Luke

“Many have undertaken to draw up an account of the things that have been fulfilled among us, just as they were handed down to us by those who from the first were eyewitnesses and servants of the word. With this in mind, since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I too decided to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught.” (Luke 1:1-4)

Right at the start Luke tells us that his gospel is an orderly account based on eye-witness testimony. As we read his gospel Luke wants us to be certain that what we are reading about Jesus is true so that we will not just believe it for ourselves but also share it with others.

Introduction to Colossians

“So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him,” (Colossians 2:6)

Colossians is a letter that is all about Jesus! It's all about who Jesus is as the Son of God and the great news of what he has done for us through his death on the cross. Paul wants us to see how great the gospel is so that we will never more away from it.

Introduction to Psalms 22 and 110

“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” (Psalm 22:1)

In the run up to Easter these Psalms remind us of how Jesus' coming, death, resurrection and ascension were repeatedly prophesied in the Old Testament.

Week Beginning	Luke				
5th Jan	1:1-25	1:26-56	1:57-80	2:1-20	2:21-39
12th Jan	2:40-52	3:1-20	3:21-4:13	4:14-30	4:31-44
19th Jan	5:1-11	5:12-26	5:27-6:11	6:12-36	6:37-49
26th Jan	7:1-17	7:18-35	7:36-50	8:1-21	8:22-39

2nd Feb	8:40-56	9:1-17	9:18-36	9:37-50	9:51-62
9th Feb	10:1-24	10:25-42	11:1-13	11:14-36	11:37-54
16th Feb	12:1-12	12:13-34	12:35-59	13:1-17	13:18-35
23rd Feb	14:1-24	14:25-35	15:1-32	16:1-13	16:14-31

2nd Mar	17:1-19	17:20-37	18:1-17	18:18-34	18:35-19:10
9th Mar	19:11-27	19:28-44	19:45-20:26	20:27-21:4	21:5-38
16th Mar	22:1-13	22:14-30	22:31-46	22:47-65	22:66-23:25
23rd Mar	23:26-43	23:44-56	24:1-12	24:13-35	24:36-53

	Colossians				Psalms
30th Mar	1:1-13	1:15-23	1:24-2:5	2:6-15	22
6th Apr	2:16-23	3:1-17	3:18-4:1	4:2-18	110

Introduction to Genesis

"... And through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed." (Genesis 22:18)

The message of Genesis is that the one and only Creator God has a plan to rescue humanity from sin and the judgment we deserve. In chapters 1-11 we see why we need rescuing as we see the terrible consequences of humanity's sin and the resulting judgment of God that we deserve. Then in chapter 12 God announces his rescue plan for humanity through Abraham and his family. The rest of Genesis is the story of how this rescue plan began to be fulfilled.

Introduction to Psalms 93-100

*"The LORD reigns, let the earth be glad;
Let the distant shores rejoice."* (Psalm 97:1)

These Psalms celebrate the truth that the LORD is King! He is the universal King of Creation and so he reigns over the nations. These Psalms remind God's people that their God reigns but they also help God's people to praise and celebrate the LORD's kingship. In addition these Psalms repeatedly call the nations to join God's people in praising the LORD who is king over all.

Week Beginning	Genesis				Psalms
13th Apr	1:1-2:3	2:4-25	3	4	93
20th Apr	5:1-6:8	6:9-7:24	8:1-22	9	94
27th Apr	10	11	12	13	95

4th May	14	15	16	17	96
11th May	18	19	20	21	97
18th May	22	23	24	25	98

Introduction to Jonah

“Salvation comes from the LORD” (Jonah 2:9)

The book of Jonah shows us that the LORD is the great missionary God as we see him graciously offering salvation to the pagan world. As we read Jonah we will see that God is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love not just to Israel but to all who will repent and humbly turn back to him.

Introduction to Psalms 120-150

“His love endures forever” (Psalm 136)

Throughout these Psalms we are called to give thanks to God for his covenant love. There are a variety of Psalms in this section. Some are personal while others are corporate. Some are laments whilst others are Psalms of thanksgiving. In the Psalms we find Psalms for every season of life which help us to express ourselves and bring praise to God through it all.

Introduction to Acts

“In my former book... I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach until the day he was taken up to heaven...” (Acts 1:1-2)

Acts is Luke's second volume in which he tells us all that Jesus continued to do after he ascended into heaven. It is the story of how Jesus empowers his followers to be his witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, and Samaria and to the ends of the earth. As Christians we are part of this ongoing mission to continue to take the gospel out to the ends of the earth.

	Jonah				Psalms
25th May	1	2	3	4	99

	Acts				Psalms
1st Jun	1:1-11	1:12-26	2:1-13	2:14-41	100
8th Jun	2:42-47	3:1-26	4:1-22	4:23-37	120
15th Jun	5:1-16	5:17-42	6:1-7	6:8-15	121
22nd Jun	7:1-53	7:54-60	8:1-25	8:26-40	122
29th Jun	9:1-19	9:20-31	9:32-43	10:1-23	123

6th Jul	10:23-40	11:1-18	11:19-30	12:1-24	124
13th Jul	12:25-13:12	13:13-41	13:42-52	14:1-28	125

	Genesis				Psalms
20th Jul	26	27:1-28:9	28:10-22	29:1-30	126
27th Jul	29:31-30:24	30:25-43	31	32	127

3rd Aug	33	34	35	36	128
10th Aug	37	38	39	40	129
17th Aug	41:1-40	41:41-57	42	43	130
24th Aug	44	45	46	47:1-12	131
31st Aug	47:13-31	48	49:1-28	49:29-50:26	132

Introduction to Ephesians

"... He made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure... to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ." (Ephesians 1:9-10)

Ephesians is all about God's master plan for the universe to unite everything under Christ. It tells us how the church is the place where this plan is seen as all sorts of diverse people are united together in Christ to love and serve one another.

Week Beginning	Ephesians				Psalms
7th Sept	1:1-14	1:15-23	2:1-10	2:11-22	133
15th Sept	3:1-13	3:14-21	4:1-16	4:17-5:4	134
22nd Sept	5:5-20	5:21-33	6:1-9	6:10-24	135

	Acts				Psalms
28th Sept	15:1-21	15:22-35	15:36-16:10	16:11-40	136
5th Oct	17:1-15	17:16-34	18:1-22	18:23-19:7	137
12th Oct	19:8-22	19:23-41	20:1-12	20:13-38	138
19th Oct	21:1-16	21:17-40	22:1-21	22:22-30	139
26th Oct	23:1-11	23:12-35	24:1-27	25:1-22	140

2nd Nov	25:23-26:32	27:1-44	28:1-16	28:17-30	141
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Introduction to Nehemiah

"... Our God, the great God, mighty and awesome, who keeps his covenant of love." (Nehemiah 9:32)

The book of Nehemiah takes place in the 5th century BC. God has kept his promise and brought his people back to Jerusalem, but both the city and the people are a mess. Nehemiah is not just about rebuilding the walls (chapters 1-6) it is also about re-establishing the people as God's people, living in God's place, under God's rule (chapters 7-13.) As we read Nehemiah it will show us how without Jesus we will keep on making the same old mistakes. It should also make us long for our true home, the New Jerusalem, the city of God.

Introduction to Matthew 1-4

"She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

(Matthew 1:21)

As we prepare to celebrate the birth of Christ the beginning of Matthew's gospel reminds us who it is who is lying in the manger. He is the Christ, God's chosen King, the great Son of David and Son of Abraham. Yet more than that Jesus is God's Son and servant who will succeed where Adam and Israel failed and who will die to rescue his people from their sins.

Introduction to Matthew 24-25

"So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him." (Matthew 24:44)

The season of advent is not just about looking back to Christ's first coming. It is also a time to look forward to and prepare for his second coming. In Matthew 24-25 Jesus tells four parables that help to prepare us for his coming again.

Introduction to 2 Peter

“His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his glory and goodness.” (2 Peter 1:3)

As Christians we are to live in the light of Christ’s return. Peter writes to counter those who say you can know God and live as you please. Through the gospel handed down to us by the Apostles we have all we need to remain faithful to Christ and live fruitful lives for him.

Week Beginning	Nehemiah				Psalms
9th Nov	1:1-11	2:1-10	2:11-20	3:1-32	142
16th Nov	4:1-23	5:1-19	6:1-14	6:15-7:73	143
23rd Nov	8:1-18	9:1-37	9:38-10:39	11:1-36	144
30th Nov	12:1-26	12:27-47	13:1-14	13:15-31	145

	Matthew 1-4				Psalms
7th Dec	1:1-17	1:18-25	2:1-12	2:13-23	146
14th Dec	3:1-12	3:13-17	4:1-11	4:17-25	147

	Matthew 24-25				Psalms
21st Dec	24:36-51	25:1-13	25:14-30	25:31-46	148

	2 Peter				Psalms
28th Dec	1:1-11	1:12-21	2:1-22	3:1-18	149-150

Bible Reading Questions

1. What do you learn about God?
2. What do you learn about yourself?
3. What do you need to repent of and change?
4. Is there a promise to believe or a warning to heed?
5. Does this passage help you see what you love more than God? Is there something that will help you love God more?
6. Is there something in this passage that will help you love your church family or your community more?

The Swedish Method

- 1) **The Lightbulb** – What stands out? What are the big ideas?
- 2) **The question mark** – What don't you understand?
- 3) **The cross** – What does this passage show us about Jesus?
(It might be a contrast or a comparison)
- 4) **The arrow** – How does this apply to you? What behaviour or way of thinking needs to change?
- 5) **The speech bubble** – Who do you know who would benefit from knowing what you have discovered in this passage?
(They could be Christian or non-Christian.)










