

JANUARY 2023



The first baby of the New Year always gets a lot of attention. The media may show pictures of the newborn baby receiving gifts. What a fortunate child! Do we realize that all we who believe in Christ are likewise blessed as children of God?

We actually belong to the very family of God! "But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name:" (John 1:12)

This divine forever family of God is characterized by the limitless love of our Lord. The apostle John puts it this way: "See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. ... Beloved, we are God's children now" (1 John 3:1-2).

As we move into this new year, let us remember this amazing truth: we are cherished children of God! Let us gratefully serve Him and joyfully please Him in everything that we do! We are treasured by our Savior Who gave everything to bring us into His eternal Kingdom. To be His chosen children means we have access to the Presence of our Heavenly Father at all times. Won't you come before Him now? He longs to put His calming Hand upon you. He yearns to tell you how much He loves you.

Pray: "Father God, for the gift of new life in Christ we give You thanks. For the endless possibilities of new beginnings in Your Holy Spirit, we give You praise. For the privilege of telling others of Your love, we give You ourselves. Open our eyes to see your glory. Amen."

I love being family with you! I love you, and so do all your friends and family at Cowee Baptist Church.

May God bless you! Pastor Ronnie

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Mashburn, Presley 01/01
Bingham, Mike 01/02
Apel, Stephen 01/03
Baldwin, Vicki 01/04
Anderson, Kaitlyn 01/05
Baldwin, Jack 01/06
Jennings, Stephanie 01/06
Owenby, Patricia 01/06
Fouts, Jon 01/08
Snyder, Rick 01/08
Green, Michelle 01/10
Kurimay, Lynne 01/10
Trammel, Hannah 01/10
Parker, Peggy 01/11
Robison, Robbie 01/11
Ashe, Savannah 01/12
McGaha, Joshua 01/12
Daniels, Mason 01/13
Bourke, Bob 01/14
Hoffman, Evy 01/15
Horton, Jack 01/15
Riles, Tara 01/15
Johnson, Sydney 01/16
Whitley, Charlie 01/17
Jones, Wanda 01/18
Breedon, Emma 01/19
Baldwin, Harvey 01/22
Greenwood, Kathy 01/22
Perry, Case 01/23
Railsback, Stan 01/24
Shuler, Stetson 01/24
Ensley, Taylor 01/25

Cabe, Patrick 01/26
Crabtree, Abel 01/27
Hawkins, Russell 01/28
Holbrook, Diane 01/28
Patterson, Clairene 01/28
Jamison, Judy 01/29
McGaha, Bill 01/30
Baldwin, Stephen 01/31
Brogden, Mack 01/31

If you know of an omission or error on this list please contact the church office.

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

Anderson, Margaret 01/06 *
Jones, Mary 01/20 *

**widow*

Wednesday Night Meals

1/4: Pizza, Salad & Dessert

**Limited menu*

11/11: Fried Chicken, Green Beans, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy & Dessert

1/18: Scalloped Potatoes with Ham, Salad & Dessert

1/25: Spaghetti with Meat Sauce, Salad & Dessert

Bagged/sandwich meals available.

All meals are subject to change depending on availability and kitchen staff necessity.

New Year's Day, January 1, 2023

Scripture Reading: Ecclesiastes 3:1-13

The object of a New Year is not that we should have a new year. It is that we should have a new soul. —Gilbert K. Chesterton



When you were a child, your parents probably made you take their hands before crossing a street, and they reminded you to “look both ways.”

New Year's Day is a good time to look both ways — backwards and forwards. What do you see when you look back on the past 365 days?

Perhaps the year 2022 seemed to go by rather quickly. As oldsters, this is a common impression. It doesn't seem to matter how we spend the time. We can waste it or put it to good use. One day, we wake up and it's a new year, and just like that — we're speeding forward into a new year!

Tempus fugit. Yes, time flies, but, as someone said, fortunately, you're the pilot.

Maybe. Often, I feel as though I don't have much control as to the course I am flying and that, when flying into the future, I find that the destination is always changing. Truth is, usually I am not certain about where the flight is going to end up, and I am a bit nervous about it..

This is what it is like when we try to look forward into the coming year. The writer of Ecclesiastes tells us that we can expect almost anything to happen.

As we gaze into 2023, let's remember to put the controls in the hands of the only Pilot who knows the way, who in fact once said, “I am the way, the truth and the life” (John 14:6).

Edward Hopper, the 19th-century hymnwriter and pastor of the Church of Sea and Land, a church for sailors, wrote a hymn that might be in your hymnal:

*Jesus, Savior, pilot me, / Over life's tempestuous sea:
Unknown waves before me roll, / Hiding rocks and treach'rous shoal;
Chart and compass come from Thee – / Jesus, Savior, pilot me!*

*When at last I near the shore, / And the fearful breakers roar
'Twixt me and the peaceful rest – Then, while leaning on Thy breast,
May I hear Thee say to me, / “Fear not– I will pilot thee!”*

May 2023 be a year of God's richest blessings for you and those you love!

—Timothy Merrill

Prayer: Lord Jesus, thank you for being at the controls, for knowing the way, for charting my course and for being my Pilot “over life's tempestuous seas.” Amen.

Daily Bible Readings

Sunday: Genesis 1-5

Monday: Genesis 6-12

Tuesday: Genesis 13-18

Wednesday: Genesis 19-23

Thursday: Genesis 24-28

Friday: Genesis 29-32

Saturday: Genesis 33-36

READ
THROUGH
THE BIBLE
IN ONE
YEAR!

Each week, *HomeTouch* will provide daily readings from the Bible that will take you through the Bible in one year. Sometimes, we will suggest a **Verse to Remember**. Many *HomeTouch* readers try to memorize these verses; memorization stimulates both the mind and the heart!

Find the missing words using the code below:

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

Z Y X W V U T S R Q P O N M L K J I H G F E D C B A

"As a _____ looks after his

H S V K S V I W

H X Z G G V I V W

flock when he is _____ them, so will I look after my

D R G S

sheep. I will _____ them and _____ them. I

I V H X F V

K Z H G F I V

will _____ for the lost and bring back the _____.

H V Z I X S

H G I Z B

I will bind up the _____ and strengthen the _____.

R M Q F I V W

D V Z P

You are my _____, the sheep of my pasture, and I am your

H S V V K

God, says the Lord God." □ Based on Ezekiel 34



Sunday, January 8, 2023

Scripture Reading: Matthew 3:13-17

Words express what's on your mind, but your actions say what's in your heart.
—Frank Sonnenberg

There is an old Spanish saying which goes, “Por la boca muere el pez.” Literally, this means “the fish dies by its mouth.” If the fish had kept its mouth shut, he would not have ended up in the frying pan or mounted on a wall.

We can get into a lot of trouble sometimes because we open our big mouths. Truth is, it is more important that we *do* the right thing, than say the right thing. We are defined by what we do, not what we say.

Let's say that a man comes home one day, and his wife, who had arrived from her job only minutes earlier, notices that the expression on his face is grim. He marches past her on his way to the kitchen. He opens a cupboard and slams it shut. He rattles a drawer looking for something. He kicks at the dog. She asks him, “What's the matter?”

“Nothing.”

“How was your day at the office?”

“Fine!”

Do you suppose the wife believes the *words* her husband chooses, or the *behavior* he has acted out since he came home? *The behavior*. The *non-verbal action* will always be believed rather than the verbal when the two are in conflict. Truly, actions do indeed speak louder than words.

Francis of Assisi once invited a young monk to join him on a trip to preach in a nearby town. The monk was honored and readily accepted the invitation. All day, the two monks walked through the streets and alleys of the town and even ventured into the suburbs. They rubbed shoulders with hundreds of people.

At the end of the day, the two headed to a monastery for the night. The young monk was puzzled that Francis had not even once addressed a crowd, nor had he talked to anyone about the gospel. Greatly disappointed, his young companion finally said to Francis, “I thought we were going into town to preach.”

Francis responded, “Oh, but we have preached. We were preaching while we were walking. Many saw us and our behavior was closely watched. It is of no use to walk anywhere to preach unless we preach everywhere as we walk!”

—Timothy Merrill

Prayer: May my life, O God, be a living witness to your love, grace and mercy. Help me to act out the good news so that both my words and my life are in harmony. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Daily Bible Readings

Sunday: Genesis 37-39

Monday: Genesis 40-42

Tuesday: Genesis 43-46

Wednesday: Genesis 47-50

Thursday: Matthew 1-4

Friday: Matthew 5-7

Saturday: Psalms 1-3

Verse to Remember

Happy are those ... [whose] delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law they meditate day and night. They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither. —Psalm 1:1-3

ANAGRAM ADVENTURE!

An *anagram* is a word made of the same letters as another word. In the lists below, find each word's anagram by rearranging the letters in each of these real words to form a new real word. Example: LISTEN = SILENT (SILENT is an anagram of LISTEN).

Master = _____	Ignores = _____
Generate = _____	Abroad = _____
Weather = _____	Diaper = _____
Earnest = _____	Scared = _____
Glean = _____	Alerted = _____
Outside = _____	Gallery = _____
Nerve = _____	Praised = _____
Direct = _____	Beard = _____
Priest = _____	Ideals = _____
Roasting = _____	Lameness = _____
Reveals = _____	Lament = _____
Strut = _____	Decimal = _____
Forest = _____	Serpents = _____
Resist = _____	Observe = _____
Grown = _____	Petals = _____

ANAGRAM ADVENTURE: Left column — master=stream; generate=teenager;

weather=

wreath; earnest=eastern or nearest; glean=angel or angle; outside=tedious; nerve=never; direct=credit; priest=stripe; roasting=organist; reveals=several; strut=trust; forest=softer or foster; resist=sister; grown=wrong. Right column — ignores=regions; abroad=aboard; diaper=repaid; scared=sacred; alerted=treadle, altered or related; gallery=allergy or largely; praised=despair; beard=bread or bared; ideals=ladies; lameness=salesmen; lament=mental or mantle; decimal=medical; serpents=presents; observe=verbose; petals=staple.

Sunday, January 15, 2023

Scripture Reading: Psalm 40:1-11

Patience is not simply the ability to wait; it's how we behave while we're waiting. —Joyce Meyer



Look at the first three words of this psalm. The first two are fine: “I waited.”
The third word is a problem: “Patiently.”

Why is it important that when one waits on the Lord, that she or he waits patiently? What’s the big deal? What difference does it make if you are patient or impatient?

Perhaps it should not matter. The thing is, if waiting is necessary, one might as well wait patiently rather than impatiently. It’s much better for one’s blood pressure.

The amount of time we invest in waiting often is a telling sign of the value we place on the object for which we are waiting. This doesn’t apply to situations in which waiting is thrust upon us — situations in which we have no choice ... like having to wait in a dentist’s office for an appointment in which your teeth will be introduced to the drill.

But if we’re willing to order a book and wait for delivery, this means we value the book.

If we order a new, special wheelchair and wait for delivery, we clearly value the wheelchair we want.

If we order an electric, weighted blanket, we need to wait for delivery. We don’t mind because we value the blanket.

If we wait upon the Lord, we do so, because there’s value in doing so.

There is value in waiting when the object of waiting has value. Waiting with patience expresses 1) utmost confidence in the outcome, 2) our trust in God, 3) that we’re at peace with the process and 4) that we are unafraid (v. 3).

No wonder that David, the psalm writer, could cry with joy, “I waited patiently for the LORD; he inclined to me and heard my cry ... He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God ... Happy are those who make the LORD their trust” (vv. 1,3-4). Amen!

—Timothy Merrill

Prayer: Increase my patience, O Lord, so that like David of old, I too might have a song in my mouth and peace in my heart. Amen.

Daily Bible Readings

Sunday: Matthew 8-11

Monday: Matthew 12-15

Tuesday: Matthew 16-19

Wednesday: Matthew 20-22

Thursday: Matthew 23-25

Friday: Matthew 26-28

Saturday: Psalms 4-6

Verse to Remember

He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God."

□ Matthew 16:15-16

Can you do this in two minutes?

Here are 10 short words, all with the letter F in them. Can you unscramble them in two minutes? That's about 11 seconds per word. Try it!

yfl _____

tefe _____

hsfi _____

gofr _____

ofx _____

nfa _____

rouf _____

rokf _____

evfi _____

fcea _____

EMPTY BOXES

Arrange the numbers 2 through 10 in the boxes so that each column, row and long diagonal add up to 18. One number is already given.

	6	

Can you do this in two minutes?

fly, feet or fete, fish, frog, fox, fan, four, fork, five, face.

EMPTY BOXES: Top

row: 9,2,7; Middle

row: 4,6,8; Bottom

row: 5,10,3.

"I Have a DREAM..."

MLK DAY

Monday,
January 16, 2023

Sunday, January 22, 2023

Scripture Reading: Matthew 4:12-23

Do what you can, with what you have, where you are. — Theodore Roosevelt



I was born on the southern plains of Saskatchewan, but also lived in Minnesota and Colorado. What do these locales have in common? They get a ton of snow in January and all of the winter months. No wonder I have numerous memories of walking through deep snow with a parent or friends.

Did you ever do that — walk through deep snow?

Perhaps you learned quickly that there is a simple solution to the problem of pushing through knee-deep snow: *you place your feet into the steps of the person ahead of you!* Of course! Why go to all the trouble of creating a new path, when you can walk in the impressions already left by others?

Only a few weeks ago we were singing Christmas carols, one of which might have been “Good King Wenceslas.” The carol relates the story of the medieval Bohemian King Wenceslas. On a cold and snowy night, according to online sources, the good King Wenceslas is enjoying the Feast of Saint Stephen. He looks out over his land, illuminated by moonlight, and notices a poor man gathering firewood for his home. He asks a page if he knows who the man is. The page responds that the man lives a long distance from here at the base of a mountain.

King Wenceslas immediately wishes to share the warmth of his own home and the food of the holiday with him. He orders the servants of his household to bring him food and firewood, that he may bring them into the poor man’s home. Thus begins the king’s journey of goodwill through the wintery night with one of his servants. Off they go together, carrying a heavy load and trudging through heavy snowfall and cold wind.

The page soon tells the king, “Sire, I cannot go any further.” Good King Wenceslas, replies, “Mark my footsteps, good my page. / Tread thou in them boldly. / Thou shalt find the winter’s rage / freeze thy blood less coldly.”

In today’s Bible reading, Jesus calls his disciples. “Follow me,” he says.

What he means is, “Follow in my footsteps. Tread thou in them boldly.”

—Timothy Merrill

Prayer: O Lord, you have called me to be one of your followers. But too often I struggle. Now I realize I too easily forget the first rule of discipleship: “Follow the Leader.” Amen.

Daily Bible Readings

Sunday: Job 1-4
Monday: Job 5-7
Tuesday: Job 8-10
Wednesday: Job 11-13
Thursday: Job 14-17
Friday: Job 18-20
Saturday: Psalms 7-9

What well-known
expression do you
see here?

*littl**littl*

latelate

Answer: Too little, too

Answer: Ma has a ham;
Euston saw I was not Sue.

PALINDROME PUZZLE

Directions: A *palindrome* is a word that reads the same backward or forward, like *radar*, *sis*, *Bob* or *racecar*. But here are short sentences with the words mixed up. Rearrange **the words** so that the sentence is the same spelled forward or backward. Write your answer on the line provided.

has ham Ma a

was Sue I Euston saw not

UNSCRAMBLE THE MINOR PROPHETS

Our readings this week take us into the Minor Prophets, so called because most of them are short books. The list below contains all 12 of the Minor Prophets. Unscramble their names to discover their identities!

OJEL _ _ _ _

AZAEHINPH _ _ _ _

M CIAH _ _ _ _

NJHAO _ _ _ _

ABKUKKAH _ _ _ _

AGIAGH _ _ _ _

DHAIABO _ _ _ _

OASM _ _ _ _

MUNAH _ _ _ _

AHRIZAHCE _ _ _ _

OAESH _ _ _ _

IHCMALA _ _ _ _

Unscramble the circled letters to reveal the secret word (the first letter is provided).

K _ _ _ _ _

Answer key to UNSCAMBLE: Joel, Zephaniah, Micah, Jonah, Habakkuk, Haggai, Obadiah, Amos, Nahum, Zechariah, Hosea, Malachi. Secret word: KINDNESS.

Sunday, January 29, 2023

Scripture Reading: Matthew 5:1-12

***Blessed are those who can give without remembering
and take without forgetting. —Elizabeth Bibesco***

The Bible reading for today is from what is popularly called “The Sermon on the Mount.” The preacher is Jesus, and the congregation are farmers, mothers with their children, some curious onlookers, his disciples and perhaps some other, early followers of Jesus.

The sermon covers three chapters in Matthew, chapters 5-7. The first 12 verses which comprise today’s lesson are known as “The Beatitudes.” This word comes from a Latin word which literally means “blessed” or “happy.”

There are nine beatitudes in these verses, or nine “happies,” as I like to call them. As you read this paraphrased list, watch for *paradoxes*.

Happy are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Happy are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Happy are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

Happy are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

Happy are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

Happy are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

Happy are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

Happy are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Happy are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Elsewhere in the Bible, we learn that when we are weak, we are strong. That a soft answer turns away anger. That God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise (1 Corinthians 1:27). That in dying, there is life, as when a seed falls to the ground, or when the cross gives way to an empty tomb.

Living the life of a Christian is not for the fainthearted, because it is full of paradox. A godly life is a counterintuitive life. But it is also a blessed life. It is the ultimate happy life.

—Timothy Merrill

Prayer: O God, help me to lean into the paradoxes of godly living ... loving, not hating; mercy, not judgment; peace rather than anger; kindness, not spite. This is the life I truly want. Amen.

Daily Bible Readings

Sunday: Job 21-24
Monday: Job 25-27
Tuesday: Job 28-31
Wednesday: Job 32-34
Thursday: Job 35-37
Friday: Job 38-42
Saturday: Psalms 10-12

Verse to Remember

For I know that my Redeemer lives, and that at the last he will stand upon the earth.

—Job 19:25

COMPOUND INTEREST

Take all of these words and create compound words using all the words once! 32 words = 16 compound words. EXAMPLE: flower + pot = flowerpot.

TUB

FOOT

FIRE

MOON

BOY

DOG

MAN

GRASS

BUTTER

BRUSH

BALL

SHINE

FLY

HOUSE

SUN

LIGHT

COW

GROUND

TOOTH

FISH

KEY

PLAY

BOARD

SHOE

BOWL

JELLY

BATH

HOPPER

BEAN

PAN

HORSE

CAKE

WRITE THE COMPOUND WORDS
HERE:

ANSWERS:
 doghouse,
 fireman,
 fishbowl,
 toothbrush,
 football,
 sunshine (OR
 sunlight),
 moonlight (OR
 moonshine),
 keyboard,
 cowboy,
 playground,
 horseshoe,
 bathtub,
 jellybean.
 butterfly
 grasshopper
 pancake

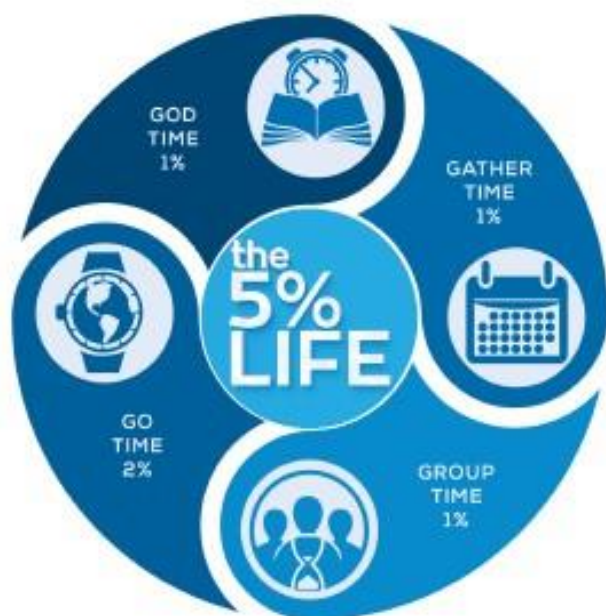
A note from Pastor Jason...

We are so excited about our 2023 reading plan! Over the last few years, we have read through the New Testament twice and in 2022 through the main storyline of the Bible. This year, we are embarking on reading the whole Bible together. When you read that, it may have felt overwhelming. But what if I told you that you can accomplish this task by setting aside just 1% of your day? For most readers, setting aside 15 minutes per day and giving yourself to the task, will allow you to read the whole Bible this year! Whether it is first thing in the morning, during a break at work, or spread out through the day- you will be so glad you did. Also, did you know there are even free apps that will read to you? I know, amazing, right! You can download those apps and even read in community with others at Cowee by visiting cowee.church/disciple.

Reading the Bible more than four times per week has incredible tangible benefits. According to a 2019 study by Lifeway Research: feeling lonely drops 30%, anger issues drop 32%, bitterness in relationships drops 40%, sharing your faith jumps 200%, and discipling others jumps 230%! Studies have shown that simply reading the Bible on a regular basis helps us mature in measurable discipleship attributes such as obeying God, serving others, and living unashamed of our faith.

Reading the Scriptures is a critical part of what we call the 5% Life. At Cowee, we recognize that the life of a Jesus follower is all about relationships, and relationships take time. As you start this new year, we believe by investing your time in four specific ways you will deepen your walk with God, grow in community with your brothers and sisters in Christ, and engage in God's global mission in greater ways!

We are confident that if you will embrace the 5% Life as the starting point, the other 95% of your life will be greatly impacted and used for the glory of God.



1% of your day (approx. 15 minutes) in God Time (reading your Bible).

1% of your week (approx. an hour and a half) in Gather Time (joining in worship).

1% of your month (approx. 7 hours) in Group Time (attending a discipleship group).

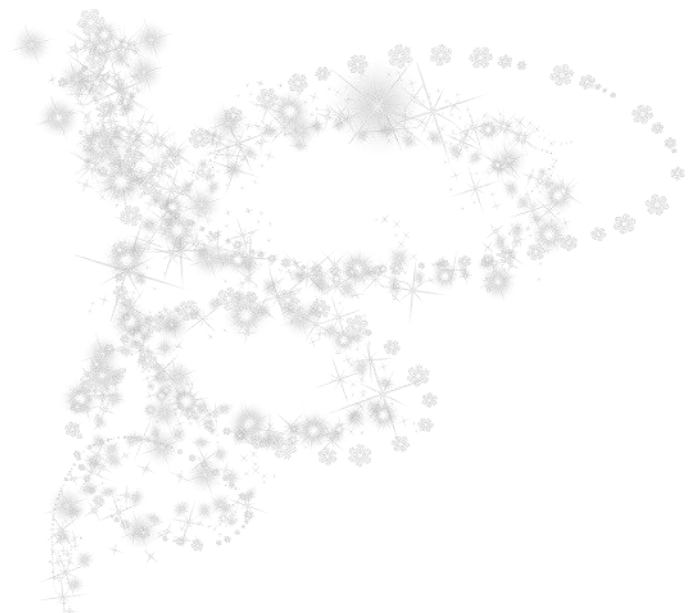
2% of your year (approx. 7 days) in Go Time (going on mission locally or globally).

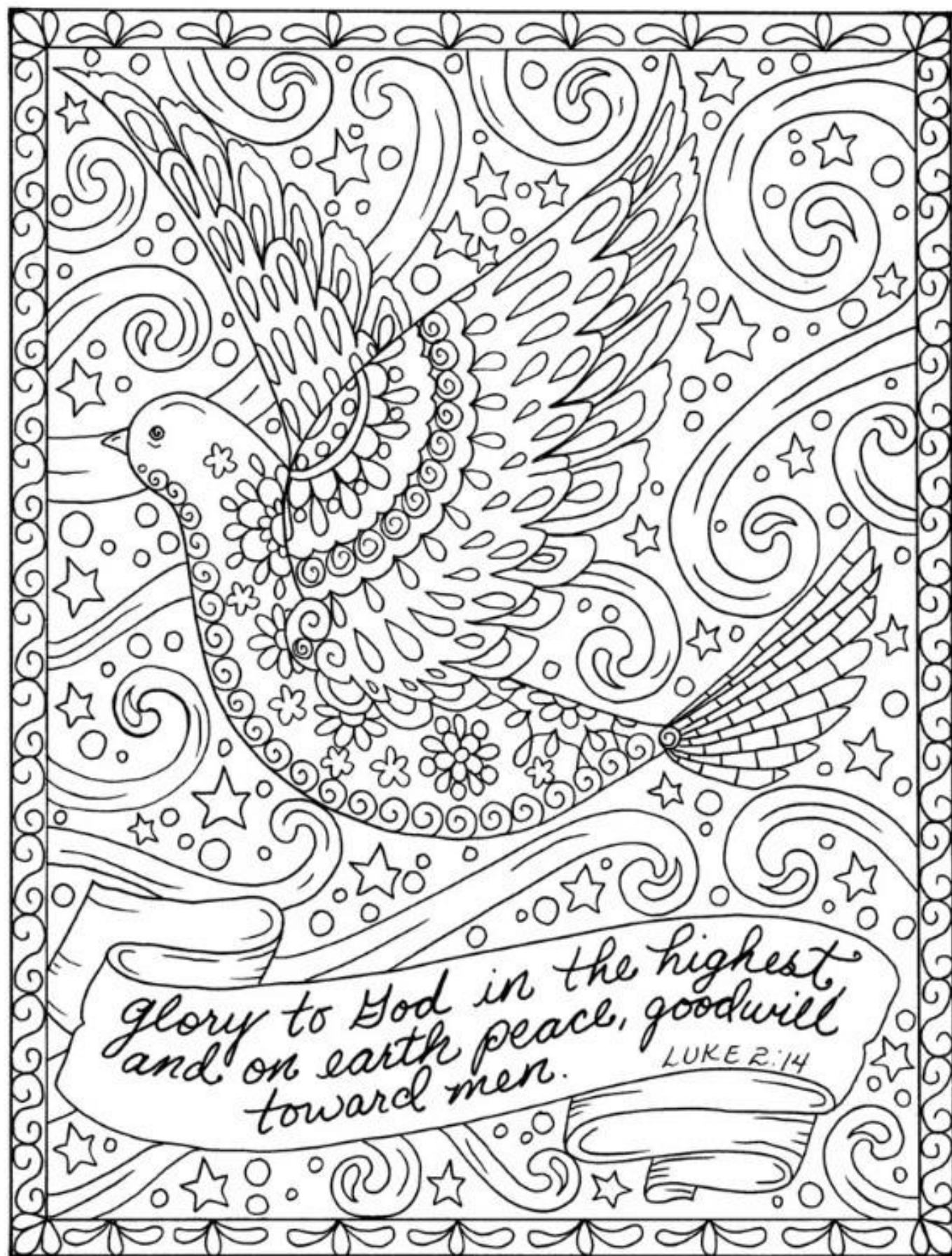


2023 BIBLE READING PLAN

1/18	18	Exodus	1-3	
1/19	19		4-6	
1/20	20		7-9	
1/21	21		10-12	
1/22	22		13-15	
1/23	23		16-18	
1/24	24		19-21	
1/25	25		22-24	
1/26	26		25-27	
1/27	27		28-29	
1/28	28		30-32	

Date	Day #	Book	Chap. Read	✓
1/1	1	Genesis	1-3	
1/2	2		4-7	
1/3	3		8-11	
1/4	4		12-15	
1/5	5		16-18	
1/6	6		19-21	
1/7	7		22-24	
1/8	8		25-26	
1/9	9		27-29	
1/10	10		30-31	
1/11	11		32-34	
1/12	12		35-37	
1/13	13		38-40	
1/14	14		41-42	
1/15	15		43-45	
1/16	16		46-47	
1/17	17		48-50	





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