



2023 BELMONT CHURCH BIBLE STUDY READING MEMORIZATION REFLECTION JOURNALING PLAN



BELMONT 2023 READING PLAN OVERVIEW

We are excited that you are walking with us through the Bible this year.

At Belmont, we are committed to being Anchored in the Word and Led by the Spirit.

Our goal is love and joy as promised by Jesus in John 15:9-11 - *As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.*

This is our hope in learning to abide in His love:

1. We want to invest in **reading** the whole context of the Bible.
2. We want to **memorize** Scripture so we can apply it to our life situations.
3. We want to **reflect** on Scripture so we can pray and abide.
4. We want to **journal** about what the Lord is teaching us in His word..
5. We want to summarize the week in a **magnificat** by combining verses.

Here is how this reading plan is organized:

1. There are **eight sessions** laid out in approximately 40-day sections.
2. Each week includes **five days of reading**. There is an optional Psalm to read on Psalm Saturday that relates to the readings that week.
3. Each week has a **theme** that will include Old and New Testament readings with key verses to reflect on and a passage to memorize as a church family.

READING PLAN SCHEDULE

There are eight sessions:

1. Jan 2 - Feb 21 - **In the Beginning** - An Overview of the Old Testament
2. **Feb 26 - April 7 - Follow Me - The Life of Jesus in the Gospels**
3. April 10 - May 28 - **We are Witnesses** - The study of Acts and Connected Letters
4. May 29 - July 16 - **I Shall not Want** - Poetry and Praise
5. July 17 - Sept 3 - **For Such a Time as This** - Stories of Trust
6. Sept 4 - Oct 22 - **Be Careful**- Old Testament Exhortations to Trust
7. Oct 23 - Dec 2 - **The Time is Near**- The End and the New Beginning
8. Dec 3- Dec 31 - **Consider Jesus** - The Beginning of Grace

If you complete all eight sessions, you will have read most of the Old Testament and the entire New Testament. Each week will have bonus readings, which if read, will complete the entire Bible.

REFLECTION & PRAYER

Each week will include a reflection section to ponder and pray through scriptures. Since we will be reading solely out of the gospels this session, each reflection section will include a passage from a correlated passage from the Old Testament law, poetry, and prophets.

We encourage you to pray through each passage, personalizing each truth and asking God to empower you to live out these words. Praying the Scriptures is one of the most powerful ways to pray.

We can be confident that God will always answer his word because it glorifies the Father to fulfill his promises.

MEMORIZE

Each week includes a passage to memorize that connects to the theme. Our hope is that these short verses will be both practical and helpful in your walk with Jesus. We encourage a consistent rhythm of reviewing and meditating on the verses.

PRAYER

The prayer section provides a space to worship, give thanks, confess and/or present your requests to God. We encourage you to use this section to pray for your family, Belmont Church and our community.

JOURNALING

How is God speaking to you and how do you need to obey? What insights is the Spirit showing you? Take time to journal your thoughts on the Scriptures. Journaling is a powerful tool for growth in your relationship with God.

WRITE A MAGNIFICAT

We encourage you to put together a "magnificat" of verses at the end of each week. A Magnificat can be described as a song or a prayer to God using Scripture. The concept of the Magnificat came from Mary, the mother of Jesus in Luke 2.

In response to the news from Elizabeth, who through the Spirit acknowledged the baby in her womb, Mary's heart overflowed with praise. In this Magnificat, she prayed and sang Scripture from memory from 15 different passages from the law, history, major and minor prophets and poetry. She also praised God for six of His attributes. We hope you use this area to summarize, highlight the attributes of God you saw revealed, and pray the Scriptures you compiled back to God.

BELMONT 2023 READING PLAN

SESSION 2: WEEK 1 (Feb 26) - Early Judean Ministry

BIBLE STUDY READING PLAN

NOTE: If you are reading Online, each reference is hyperlinked.

FINISHED

We are starting our Lent season looking at the early Judean ministry of Jesus. We will read about his baptism, temptation in the desert, and the ministry of John the Baptist.

Matthew 3-4

Luke 3

Each week will endeavor to paint the story of Jesus as we chronologically examine the gospels. While some of the stories may be similar, it is often insightful to catch the differences between the authors.

Luke 4

Mark 1

Extra Reading: Psalm 34, 40

John 1-3

REFLECTION

Psalm 34:4-5, 8 I sought the LORD, and he answered me and delivered me from all my fears. Those who look to him are radiant, and their faces shall never be ashamed. 8 Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him!

Deuteronomy 8:3 And he humbled you and let you hunger and fed you with manna, which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that he might make you know that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD.'

Isaiah 61:1-2 The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor...

MEMORIZE

John 12:26 If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there will my servant be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him.

PRAYER

JOURNAL

WRITE A MAGNIFICAT

BELMONT 2023 READING PLAN

SESSION 2: WEEK 2 (March 5) - Public Ministry in Galilee

BIBLE STUDY READING PLAN

After Jesus is commissioned and confirmed, he began his ministry in Galilee. Throughout the gospels, Jesus exhorts his disciples to "Follow Me." You will see this eight times in the passages that you read this week. Follow Him and you will make fishers of men. Follow Him and sell everything. Follow Him and you will be His disciples!

There is a noticeable increase in reading this week due to the amount of teaching and ministry that happens during this season in his ministry. Make some time this week to finish the reading. It will be worth it!

Extra Reading: Psalm 2, 68

FINISHED

Matt 5-9

Matt 10-13

Mark 1-6

Luke 4-8

John 4-5

REFLECTION & PRAYER

Hosea 6:6 For I desire steadfast love and not sacrifice, the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings.

Psalms 68:18-19 You ascended on high, leading a host of captives in your train and receiving gifts among men, even among the rebellious, that the LORD God may dwell there. Blessed be the Lord, who daily bears us up; God is our salvation. *Selah*

Leviticus 19:18 You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the sons of your own people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD.

MEMORIZE

Matthew 5:16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

PRAYER

JOURNAL

WRITE A MAGNIFICAT

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SESSION 2: WEEK 3 (March 12)- Private Ministry around Galilee

BIBLE STUDY READING PLAN

	FINISHED
The reading this week has it all. Miracles! Teaching! Transfiguration! Pharisees! And the cost of Discipleship couldn't be any more clear. You will read about the feeding of the 5000 in all four gospels this week.	Matthew 14-15 <input type="checkbox"/>
	Matthew 16-18 <input type="checkbox"/>
Again, Jesus says "Follow Me!" Three times you will read a version of this discipleship call: "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself, take up his cross daily and follow me!"	Mark 7-10 <input type="checkbox"/>
Will we hear and respond to Jesus? Will we follow Him?	Luke 9 <input type="checkbox"/>
"We believe! Help us in our unbelief!"	
Extra Reading: Psalms 89, 45	John 6-7 <input type="checkbox"/>

REFLECTION & PRAYER

Isaiah 29:13 And the Lord said: "Because this people draw near with their mouth and honor me with their lips, while their hearts are far from me, and their fear of me is a commandment taught by men..."

Mark 9:23-24 And Jesus said to him, "If you can! All things are possible for one who believes." Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, "I believe; help my unbelief!"

Psalms 2:7 I will tell of the decree: The LORD said to me, "You are my Son; today I have begotten you."

Exodus 20:12 Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

MEMORIZE

Luke 9:23-24 And he said to all, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it.

PRAYER

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WRITE A MAGNIFICAT

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SESSION 2: WEEK 4 (March 19) - Later Judean Ministry

BIBLE STUDY READING PLAN

This week we will be taught by Jesus to "Follow Me!" The Apostle John writes that those who follow Jesus will not walk in darkness as well as that His sheep will hear His voice and follow Him. We learn in Luke what it means to follow Jesus. We must ask, we seek and we knock.

We have no need to fear so we should not fear. We are not to be anxious. God will care for His sheep. Our following Jesus will also bring with it the call to be dressed for action.

But fear not! God is with us!

Extra Reading: Psalm 118, 16

FINISHED

Luke 11-12

Luke 13

John 8

John 9

John 10

REFLECTION & PRAYER

Jonah 3:10 When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil way, God relented of the disaster that he had said he would do to them, and he did not do it.

Psalms 118:26 Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD! We bless you from the house of the LORD.

1 Samuel 16:7 But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the LORD sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart."

MEMORIZE

John 8:12 Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

PRAYER

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SESSION 2: WEEK 5 (March 26) - Ministry in and around Perea

BIBLE STUDY READING PLAN

This week we are exhorted through parables and strong words to not let anything keep us from following Jesus, especially money. The story of the rich young ruler echoes in eternity.

FINISHED

Matthew 19-20

Will we love money more than Jesus? Jesus says that it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the Kingdom of God.

Luke 14-15

Luke 16-17

Is it worth following Jesus? Jesus promises that all who follow Him will receive a hundredfold and will inherit eternal life. Jesus is faithful to care for those who follow Him. Who will we follow?

Luke 18-19

John 11

Extra Reading Psalm 69, 35, 102

REFLECTION & PRAYER

Ezekiel 34:16 I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, and the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them in justice.

Proverbs 25:6-7 Do not put yourself forward in the king's presence or stand in the place of the great, for it is better to be told, "Come up here," than to be put lower in the presence of a noble.

Deuteronomy 32:28-29 For they are a nation void of counsel, and there is no understanding in them. If they were wise, they would understand this; they would discern their latter end!

MEMORIZE

Luke 16:13 No servant can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.

PRAYER

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SESSION 2: WEEK 6 (April 2) - Passion Week

BIBLE STUDY READING PLAN

It is Passion Week. We encourage you to set aside time for the extra reading this week and reflect on the painful and glorious walk towards the cross. Even to the end, the words of Jesus continue to implore His disciples to follow Him to the cross and follow Him even to their own crosses.

It is never easy to relive the rejection and torture that was foreplanned from long ago. But, as we celebrate in communion each week, it was for the joy that was set before Him that he endured the cross and despised the shame.

Extra Reading: Psalm 41, 109, 22

FINISHED

Matthew 21-27

Mark 11-15

Luke 20-23

John 12-15

John 16-19

REFLECTION & PRAYER

Psalm 118:22–24 The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone. This is the LORD's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes. This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Deuteronomy 6:5–6 You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart.

Isaiah 53:5–6 But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

MEMORIZE

Matthew 22:37–39 And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.

PRAYER

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