



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 when He says, "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 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 IN THE BELMONT READING PLAN:

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.

BONUS RESOURCES:

We have included a map of the missionary journeys and a chronological outline for Paul's letters at the end of this session to help you put into context the locations and timing of the book of Acts.

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. We have included a reference sheet for all the memory verses in this session at the end to help your review.

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 3: WEEK 1 (April 10)

BIBLE STUDY READING PLAN

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

FINISHED

We start our third session with good news.

Matt 28

Mark 16

Luke 24

John 20

Jesus is not dead. HE IS RISEN! We start off with a bang, reading all four gospels.

Acts 1-3

In session three, we start with the first 40 days after Jesus is resurrected from the dead. Jesus reveals Himself to the disciples and commissions them to make disciples in all the world.

Acts 4-6

In Acts, the disciples are baptized by the Holy Spirit and empowered by the power of the Spirit to heal and preach the gospel all over Israel.

Acts 7-9

Extra Reading: Psalm 119:1-24

Acts 10-12

REFLECTION

Joel 2:28–29 And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions. Even on the male and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit. *(Cross reference from Acts 1:20)*

Psalm 16:7-8, 11 I bless the LORD who gives me counsel; in the night also my heart instructs me. I have set the LORD always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken. You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore. *(CR: Acts 2:25-28)*

Genesis 12:1–3 Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." *(CR: Acts 7:3)*

MEMORIZE

Mark 16:15 And (Jesus) said to them, "Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation."

PRAYER

JOURNAL

WRITE A MAGNIFICAT

BELMONT 2023 READING PLAN

SESSION 3: WEEK 2 (April 17)

BIBLE STUDY READING PLAN

The reading this week are some of the most significant in all the Bible. The Spirit sets apart Paul and Barnabas to begin the first of three missionary journeys. Because the Jews reject the teachings of Jesus, Paul announces that they are turning to the Gentiles with the gospel.

We will also be reading the letter written by Paul to the church in Galatia and the letter of James because they fit into the chronological timing of the book of Acts.

Prepare to be exhorted, encouraged, and emboldened this week.

Extra Reading: Psalm 119:25-48

FINISHED

Acts 13-14

Gal.1-3

Gal. 4-6

James 1-3

James 4-6

REFLECTION & PRAYER

Habakkuk 1:5 Look among the nations, and see; wonder and be astounded. For I am doing a work in your days that you would not believe if told. (*Acts 13:51*)

Proverbs 3:34–35 He mocks proud mockers but gives grace to the humble. The wise inherit honor, but fools he holds up to shame. (*James 4:6*)

Leviticus 19:17–18 "You shall not hate your brother in your heart, but you shall reason frankly with your neighbor, lest you incur sin because of him. 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." (*James 2:8*)

MEMORIZE

James 4:6–7 "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."
Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

PRAYER

JOURNAL

WRITE A MAGNIFICAT

BELMONT 2023 READING PLAN

SESSION 3: WEEK 3 (April 24)

BIBLE STUDY READING PLAN

FINISHED

The Holy Spirit continues to have a direct role in expanding the gospel. Signs, wonders, and miracles open doors to share about Jesus.

Acts 15-16

We also see how the Spirit works through major disagreement between Paul and Barnabas that leads to new disciples being chosen and more people being reached.

Acts 17-18

1 Thess. 1-3

We will be reading through Paul's letters to the Thessalonians which chronologically fit into the book of Acts at this point.

1 Thess. 4-5

Extra Reading: Psalm 119:49-80

2 Thess. 1-3

REFLECTION & PRAYER

Isaiah 45:21–22 Declare and present your case; let them take counsel together! Who told this long ago? Who declared it of old? Was it not I, the LORD? And there is no other god besides me, a righteous God and a Savior; there is none besides me. Turn to me and be saved, all the ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other. (*Acts 15:16-18*)

Ezekiel 36:26–27 And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules. (*1 Thess 4:8*)

Proverbs 20:22 Do not say, "I will repay evil"; wait for the LORD, and he will deliver you. (*1 Thess 5:15*)

Deuteronomy 33:12 Of Benjamin he said, "The beloved of the LORD dwells in safety. The High God surrounds him all day long, and dwells between his shoulders." (*2 Thess 2:4*)

MEMORIZE

1 Thessalonians 5:15-16 Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

PRAYER

JOURNAL & PROCESS

WRITE A MAGNIFICAT

BELMONT 2023 READING PLAN

SESSION 3: WEEK 4 (May 1)

BIBLE STUDY READING PLAN

The Apostle Paul continues his ministry throughout Asia and into Corinth. He teaches, performs miracles, heals a dead boy, and courageously confronts the culture.

FINISHED

Acts 18-21

When Paul is in prison in Corinth, he is visited by an angel who says to him in a vision, "Do not be afraid, but go on speaking and do not be silent, for I am with you, and no one will attack you to harm you, for I have many in this city who are my people." And he stayed a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them.

1 Cor. 1-4

1 Cor. 5-8

1 Cor. 9-12

Extra Reading: Psalm 119:81-104

1 Cor. 13-16

REFLECTION & PRAYER

Jeremiah 9:24 Let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the LORD who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth. For in these things I delight, declares the LORD. *(1 Cor 1:31)*

Isaiah 64:4 From of old no one has heard or perceived by the ear, no eye has seen a God besides you, who acts for those who wait for him. *(1 Cor 2:9)*

Psalms 24:1-2 The earth is the LORD's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein, for he has founded it upon the seas and established it upon the rivers. *(1 Cor 10:26)*

Acts 20:35 In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'

MEMORIZE

Acts 20:24 But I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.

PRAYER

JOURNAL & PROCESS

WRITE A MAGNIFICAT

BELMONT 2023 READING PLAN

SESSION 3: WEEK 5 (May 8)

BIBLE STUDY READING PLAN

	FINISHED	Y
Paul is brought before the kings, governors, and officials in Jerusalem to defend his faith in Acts 22-26. King Felix keeps Paul in prison for two years!	2 Cor. 1-4	<input type="checkbox"/>
In second letter to the church in Corinth, Paul shares his heart on his suffering, his heavenly visions and how the reality of heaven should shape our perspective here on earth.	2 Cor. 5-8	<input type="checkbox"/>
Paul shares the words of Jesus to him in his trial, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Paul responds and says, "Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong."	2 Cor. 9-12 Acts 22-24	<input type="checkbox"/>
Extra Reading	Psalm 119:105-128	<input type="checkbox"/>

REFLECTION & PRAYER

Leviticus 19:15 You shall do no injustice in court. You shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great, but in righteousness shall you judge your neighbor. (Acts 23:3)

Isaiah 52:7 How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns." (Acts 10:36)

Psalm 34:19 Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the LORD delivers him out of them all. (2 Cor. 5:20)

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... (Acts 26:18)

MEMORIZE

2 Corinthians 5:6-7 So we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, for we walk by faith, not by sight.

PRAYER

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WRITE A MAGNIFICAT

BELMONT 2023 READING PLAN

SESSION 3: WEEK 6 (May 15)

BIBLE STUDY READING PLAN

Paul survived a shipwreck and finally makes it to Rome. After he arrived, he spent two more years in prison, but he was able to meet with people and write letters. Paul taught and wrote to many churches all over the world to encourage and instruct them.

FINISHED

Acts 27-28

Philemon

Some of the most significant letters ever written were when Paul was imprisoned, hence the name: The Prison Epistles. Philemon, Colossians, Ephesians, and Philippians are the four letters written while he was in prison.

Colossians

Ephesians 1-3

May your faith be encouraged as you read these letters of faith and joy.

Ephesians 4-6

Extra Reading: Psalm 119:129-152

REFLECTION & PRAYER

Psalm 4:4-5 Be angry, and do not sin; ponder in your own hearts on your beds, and be silent. *Selah* Offer right sacrifices, and put your trust in the LORD. (*Eph 4:26*)

Isaiah 52:7 How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns." (*Eph 5:14*)

Deuteronomy 10:17 For the LORD your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great, the mighty, and the awesome God, who is not partial and takes no bribe. (*Eph 6:9*)

MEMORIZE

Ephesians 2:10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

PRAYER

JOURNAL & PROCESS

WRITE A MAGNIFICAT

BELMONT 2023 READING PLAN

SESSION 3: WEEK 7 (May 22)

BIBLE STUDY READING PLAN

We finish this session reading Philippians, one of the four prison epistles, and the three Pastoral letters written by Paul.

FINISHED

Phil. 1-2

Philippians is written to encourage and thank this church in Phillipi. Paul encourages them to rejoice in the Lord always, strive for unity, and live for life beyond this earth.

Phil. 3-4

1 Tim. 1-3

The letters to Paul's disciples, Timothy and Titus, are practical letters to help these young men along with all pastors and elders to shepherd the church in the years to come.

1 Tim. 4-6

Extra Reading: Psalm 119:153-176

Titus

REFLECTION & PRAYER

Psalm 2:11 Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling. (Phil 2:12)

Isaiah 26:3-4 You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you. Trust in the LORD forever, for the LORD GOD is an everlasting rock. (Phil 4:7)

Deuteronomy 32:4-5 The Rock, his work is perfect, for all his ways are justice. A God of faithfulness and without iniquity, just and upright is he. They have dealt corruptly with him; they are no longer his children because they are blemished; they are a crooked and twisted generation. (Phil 2:15)

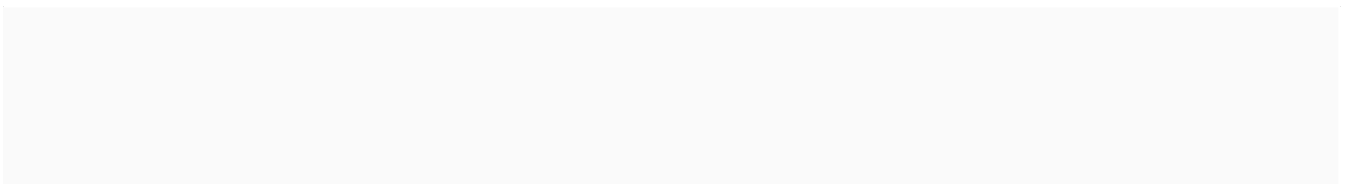
MEMORIZE

Philippians 2:3-4 Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.

PRAYER

JOURNAL & PROCESS

WRITE A MAGNIFICAT

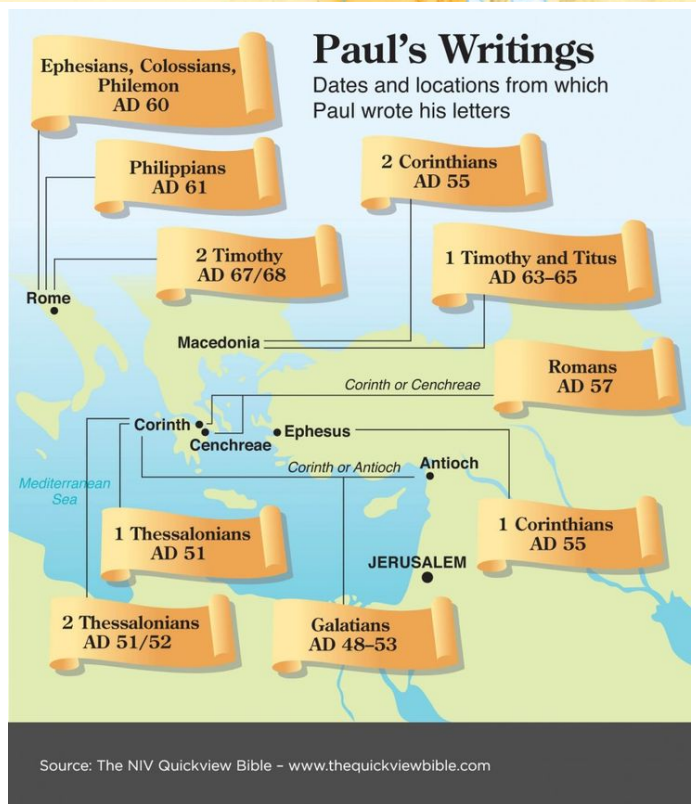


Memory Verses - Session Three

1. Mark 16:15 And (Jesus) said to them, "Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation."
2. James 4:6–7 "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.
3. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-17 Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.
4. Acts 20:24 But I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.
5. 2 Corinthians 5:6–7 So we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, for we walk by faith, not by sight.
6. Ephesians 2:10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.
7. Philippians 2:3–4 Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.



Epistle	Date written	In Book of Acts	Gifts mentioned
Galatians	AD 47-55	End of Acts 14	Miracles (GAL 3:5)
1 Thessalonians	AD 50-51	Acts 18	Prophecy (1 Thess 5:20)
2 Thessalonians	AD 51	Acts 18	
1 Corinthians	AD 53-54	Acts 19 While Paul was in Ephesus	Apostles, Prophets, Teachers, Wisdom, Knowledge, Discerning spirits, Faith, Healings, Miracles, Helps, Governments, Tongues, Interpretation of Tongues
2 Corinthians	AD 54-55	Acts 20:2	2 Cor 12:12 The signs of a true apostle were performed among you with all perseverance, by signs and wonders and miracles.
Romans	AD 57	Acts 20:3 While Paul was in Corinth	Prophecy, Service, Teaching, Exhorting, Giving, Leading, Mercy
Ephesians	AD 61-62	Shortly after Acts - prison epistle	Apostle, prophet, evangelist, pastor-teacher
Colossians	AD 60-61	Prison Epistle	
Philemon	AD 60-61	Prison Epistle	
Philippians	AD 62	Prison Epistle	
Titus	AD 62-63		
1 Timothy	AD 62-63		
2 Timothy	AD 64		



2023

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