



2023 BELMONT CHURCH BIBLE STUDY READING MEMORIZATION REFLECTION JOURNALING PLAN



BELMONT 2023 READING PLAN OVERVIEW

We are excited that you are walking through the Bible with us 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 said, "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 lives.
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 from His word.
5. We want to summarize the week in a **magnificat** by combining verses.

READING PLAN SCHEDULE

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 reading that relates to the theme of the 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:
 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 30 - **I Shall not Want** - Poetry and Praise
 5. **JULY 31 - SEPT 24 - For Such a Time as This** - Stories of Courage
 6. **Sept 25 - Oct 22 - BE CAREFUL - Old Testament Exhortations to WALK CAREFULLY IN THE LORD**
 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

SESSION THEME - "BE CAREFUL"

BE CAREFUL! How often do we parents use those words to our kids? How many times have we said, "Drive Carefully!" "Walk carefully!" "Choose carefully!"? Being careful matters what we are doing and in what we are handling. Being careful in a china shop and being careful with a baby are very much needed and important. It requires that we be attentive, move slowly and think before we act.

Over 450 times, God has commanded his people to be careful of their spiritual lives, be careful to obey His law and be careful what comes out of your lips. **The word careful in the Hebrew scriptures mean to keep, to preserve, to guard and watch over carefully.** Adam and Eve were to watch over the garden. The verb also indicates caring for sheep. We will spend the next four weeks learning to be careful for eternal things, namely our souls, the Word of God and things that matter forever.

MEMORIZE

Each week includes a passage to memorize that connects to the theme of the week. 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.

TAKING TIME TO P.R.A.Y.

We share this acronym as a model for how to engage in prayer and hear from God. We have added it to the weekly rhythm of our Bible Reading Plan.

Pause: This represents setting aside time to worship and silence in adoration of God. It involves acknowledging God's greatness, goodness, and sovereignty.

Rejoice: This refers to centering your heart with rejoicing and gratitude for all that God has and will continue to bless you with. Find your joy in God.

Ask: This refers to making requests or supplications to God. It involves bringing our needs, desires, and concerns before Him in prayer.

Yield: This means surrendering to God's will and guidance. It's about aligning our desires and actions with God's purposes. This involves confessing and turning away from sins. It's about seeking forgiveness and a change of heart towards God and others.

JOURNAL & REFLECTION

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. We are also asking a reflection question at the end of each week.

OUTLINE AND BOOK NOTES

We have provided some outline and bible notes adapted from the MacArthur Study Bible, ChatGPT notes and Wiersbe commentaries.

BELMONT 2023 READING PLAN

SESSION 6: WEEK 1 (SEPTEMBER 25)

BIBLE STUDY READING PLAN - DEUTERONOMY

What do you find you are most careful with in your life? Your time? Your decisions? Your possessions? Moses spent a month preaching to his people in the book of Deuteronomy about the importance of being careful about their holiness.

"Only take care, and keep your soul diligently"
"Therefore watch yourselves very carefully."
"Take care lest you forget the LORD your God by not keeping his commandments"
"Be careful to guard your heart."

May we have our hearts exhorted so, we too, will be careful to only love, fear and worship only God.

FINISHED

Deut 1-3

Deut 4-6

Deut 7-9

Deut 10-13

Deut 14-17

Extra Reading: Number 6-9

DEUTERONOMY: AN OVERVIEW AND TIMELINE

Deuteronomy does not advance historically, but takes place entirely in one location over about one month of time (cf. Deut. 1:3 and 34:8 with Josh. 5:6–12). Israel was encamped in the central rift valley to the East of the Jordan River (Deut. 1:1). This location was referred to in Num. 36:13 as "the plains of Moab," an area North of the Arnon River across the Jordan River from Jericho. It had been almost 40 years since the Israelites had exited Egypt.

The book of Deuteronomy concentrates on events that took place in the final weeks of Moses' life. The major event was the verbal communication of divine revelation from Moses to the people of Israel (1:1–30:20; 31:30–32:47; 33:1–29).

The only other events recorded were: 1) Moses' recording the law in a book and his commissioning of Joshua as the new leader (31:1–29); 2) Moses' viewing of the land of Canaan from Mt. Nebo (32:48–52; 34:1–4); and 3) his death (34:5–12).

MEMORIZE

Deuteronomy 5:32–33 You shall be **careful** therefore to do as the LORD your God has commanded you. You shall not turn aside to the right hand or to the left. You shall walk in all the way that the LORD your God has commanded you, that you may live, and that it may go well with you, and that you may live long in the land that you shall possess.

P.R.A.Y - PAUSE-REJOICE-ASK-YIELD

PRAY

REJOICE

ASK

YIELD

JOURNAL AND REFLECTIONS

BELMONT 2023 READING PLAN

SESSION 6: WEEK 2 (OCTOBER 2)

BIBLE STUDY READING PLAN - DEUTERONOMY

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Deuteronomy 32:46–47 says “Take to heart all the words by which I am warning you today, that you may command them to your children, that they may be **careful** to do all the words of this law. For it is no empty word for you, but your very life, and by this word you shall live long in the land that you are going over the Jordan to possess.”

Deut 18-21

Deut 22-25

Deut 26-29

May we continue to be careful to care for the Words of God. May it be no empty word to us and our church!

Deut 30-32

Extra Reading: Ps 130-132

Deut 33-34

OUTLINE OF THE BOOK OF DEUTERONOMY

The people whom Moses addressed were those who had survived the plague that the Lord brought in punishment for the sins of the people (4:3). In light of this experience, Moses pleaded with this new generation to be faithful to God's laws. He frequently used the word today in order to emphasize that this new generation could start anew (for example, 1:10, 39; 4:4, 40; 5:1, 3; 6:6, 7:11); they did not have to focus on their rebellious past.

Moses concluded his exhortations to the Israelites with a description of the covenant renewal ceremony that would take place between Mount Ebal and Mount Gerizim. He instructed the Levites to recite on the barren mountaintop of Ebal the curses for those who rejected God's Law. On the lush slopes of Gerizim, the rich blessings for those who obeyed God's law would be recited. With these instructions, Moses anticipated the renewal of the covenant on the other side of the Jordan River. There, the people would gather for the grand moment when they would renew the covenant once again, but this time as inhabitants of the Promised Land (11:29, 30; 27:1–8, 12, 13; Josh. 8:30–35). After describing this future covenantal renewal, Moses himself challenged the people to renew their commitment to God (30:11–20).

MEMORIZE

Deuteronomy 30:19–20 I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Therefore choose life, that you and your offspring may live, loving the LORD your God, obeying his voice and holding fast to him, for he is your life...

P.R.A.Y - PAUSE-REJOICE-ASK-YIELD

PRAY

REJOICE

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JOURNAL AND REFLECTION

BELMONT 2023 READING PLAN

SESSION 6: WEEK 3 (October 9)

BIBLE STUDY READING PLAN - MINOR PROPHETS

The Minor Prophets are a collection of twelve shorter prophetic books in the Old Testament of the Bible.

FINISHED

Mal 1-2

They are considered "minor" not because they are less important, but because they are shorter in length compared to the Major Prophets.

Mal 3-4

We are spending this week doing a short overview of five of the different books (and one next week) and how they also exhort Israel to be careful how they live by repenting and humbling themselves before the Lord by keeping the word, guarding your mouths, and watching over their lives.

Amos 1-2

Micah 6-7

Extra Reading Zech 3, 11

Hosea 4,12

OVERVIEW OF THE BOOK OF MINOR PROPHETS

Here is a single sentence summary of each of the 12 Minor Prophet books:

Hosea: Hosea is called by God to marry a promiscuous woman as a symbol of God's relationship with Israel, conveying a message of God's faithful love despite human unfaithfulness.

Joel: Joel prophesies about a locust plague as a warning of a coming "Day of the Lord" and calls for repentance and restoration.

Amos: Amos, a shepherd and dresser of sycamore trees, denounces social injustice and calls for repentance, while also prophesying God's judgment on Israel and neighboring nations.

Obadiah: Obadiah pronounces judgment on Edom for its pride and violence, declaring their ultimate downfall.

Jonah: Jonah is sent by God to prophesy to the wicked city of Nineveh, but initially attempts to flee; after being swallowed by a great fish, he eventually delivers God's message of repentance to the city.

Micah: Micah speaks against social injustice, corruption, and idolatry, while also foretelling the birthplace of the Messiah, Bethlehem.

Nahum: Nahum prophesies the fall of Nineveh, providing comfort to the oppressed and affirming God's justice.

Habakkuk: Habakkuk questions God's justice in the face of rampant evil and violence, receiving a response that calls for faith and trust in God's ultimate plan.

Zephaniah: Zephaniah warns of the "Day of the Lord" and calls for repentance, while also offering hope of restoration for a remnant.

Haggai: Haggai encourages the people to rebuild the temple in Jerusalem, promising God's blessing and presence among them.

Zechariah: Zechariah provides visions and messages of hope for the restoration of Jerusalem and the coming of the Messiah, emphasizing God's sovereignty.

Malachi: Malachi confronts the people's spiritual apathy and unfaithfulness, while also foretelling the coming of Elijah before the "great and dreadful Day of the Lord."

MEMORIZE

1 Timothy 4:16 Give **careful** attention to your spiritual life and every cherished truth you teach, for living what you preach will then release even more abundant life inside you and to all those who listen to you. (NIV)

P.R.A.Y - PAUSE-REJOICE-ASK-YIELD

PRAY

REJOICE

ASK

YIELD

JOURNAL AND REFLECTIONS

BELMONT 2023 READING PLAN

SESSION 6: WEEK 4 - (OCTOBER 16)

BIBLE STUDY READING PLAN -JONAH & THE PSALMS

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If there was an epitaph of the life and times of Jonah it would have to be something like, "Be careful to obey!" Not only did Jonah spend three days in the belly of a fish, he also spent the end of the book pouting over God's mercy and forgiveness towards a city that he despised. He wasn't careful to care about the things of God.

Jonah 1-2

Jonah 3-4

What a clear reminder to keep our hearts and lives pointing Godward in all that we say or think.

Ps 86, 91

We have also added a few Psalms at the end of this week that serve as prayers and reminders to be careful about how we live, speak and spend our time.

Ps 16-17

Ps 106-107

Extra Reading: Ezek 36-40

AN OUTLINE OF THE BOOK OF JONAH

The book of Jonah - Named after the main character, Jonah, who is swallowed by a great fish. The book shows God's concern and grace to all peoples. Repentance and forgiveness are significant themes. These come through in Jonah's relationship with the Lord, in the repentance shown by those living in Nineveh, and in Yahweh's response to their repentance. The book concludes with God's question to Jonah, asking if he has a right to be angry about the sparing of Nineveh. It leaves the reader pondering the broader theme of God's mercy and compassion, even towards those whom we might view as deserving of judgment.

In relation to the idea of being careful, the Book of Jonah serves as a powerful reminder to be cautious about our own judgments and preconceptions. Jonah's initial reluctance to obey God and his harsh judgment of Nineveh reflect our tendency to make hasty assumptions about people or situations. It encourages us to approach situations with openness, humility, and a willingness to consider perspectives different from our own. Additionally, it highlights the importance of recognizing God's capacity for mercy and forgiveness, even when it challenges our own notions of justice.

MEMORIZE

Titus 3:8 The saying is trustworthy, and I want you to insist on these things, so that those who have believed in God may be **careful** to devote themselves to good works. These things are excellent and profitable for people.

P.R.A.Y - PAUSE-REJOICE-ASK-YIELD

PRAY

REJOICE

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JOURNAL AND REFLECT



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