



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 session 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 22 - Nov 19 - **The Time is Near** - The End and the New Beginning
 8. **Nov 26 - Dec 31 - CONSIDER JESUS - A LIFE OF GRACE**



CONSIDER JESUS! We finish our year reading through the Bible by considering Jesus! This theme comes straight from Hebrews 3.1 which says, *"You who share in a heavenly calling, consider Jesus, the apostle and high priest of our confession."* We will be reading through the books of Hebrews and Romans and other key chapters which show us the divinity and Lordship of Jesus Christ. During this holiday season, it will be helpful for us to have a thorough grasp of the plan, purpose and presence of Jesus in all of scripture.

We will look at Old Testament and New Testament passages where Jesus is revealed and exalted. In addition we have two resources at the end which provide scriptural references to the divinity of Jesus. We hope these passages will grow your love and gratitude for Immanuel.



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. I encourage you to write these verses on a card or use an app too memorize and meditate on these chosen scriptures.




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.



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.



C **BOOK NOTES**

We have provided some outline and bible notes adapted from Chat GPT.

The study of Romans this week is shorter in terms of reading length but it is intentional because we want you to read it slowly and soak it in. The Book of Romans is considered by many to be the greatest letter ever written.

The Book of Romans is a letter written by the apostle Paul to the believers in Rome. It is a profound theological work that explores key Christian doctrines and addresses practical issues in the Christian life.

Here's an overview and breakdown of the chapters in Romans:

Overview:

1. Chapters 1-3: The Universality of Sin and the Need for Righteousness:

- Paul begins by establishing the universal sinfulness of humanity, whether Jew or Gentile.
- He argues that all have fallen short of God's glory and are in need of righteousness.

2. Chapters 3-4: Justification by Faith:

- Paul introduces the concept of justification by faith, emphasizing that righteousness comes through faith in Jesus Christ.
- He uses Abraham as an example of justification by faith rather than works.

3. Chapters 5-8: Life in Christ:

- Paul discusses the benefits of justification, including peace with God and reconciliation.
- He contrasts Adam's sin with Christ's righteousness and delves into the role of the law.
- The chapter concludes with a powerful declaration of God's love and assurance of salvation.

FINISHED

Rom 1-2

Rom 3-4

Rom 5-6

Rom 7

Rom 8

Romans 5:1-2 - Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

PAUSE

REJOICE

ASK

YIELD

WEEKLY READING PLAN - ROMANS 9-16

Chapters 9-11: God's Plan for Israel:

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- Romans 9-11 addresses the intricate relationship between God's sovereignty, human responsibility, and the inclusion of both Jews and Gentiles in His redemptive plan. It emphasizes the unchanging nature of God's promises and His ultimate plan for the salvation of all who believe. Rom 9-10
- Rom 11

Chapters 12-16: Practical Christian Living:

- Paul shifts from theology to practical application, urging believers to live transformed lives. Rom 12
- He covers topics such as love, humility, submission to authorities, and the importance of unity. Rom 13
- The final chapters include greetings to various individuals in the Roman church. Rom 14-16

Extra Reading Ps. 14 Ps. 53

WEEK AND TIMELINE: ROMANS

Chapter Breakdowns:

- Chapter 1: Introduction and Thesis: Greetings, Paul's desire to visit Rome, and the Gospel's power.
- Chapter 2: The Righteous Judgment of God: Addressing hypocrisy and the impartial judgment of God.
- Chapter 3: All Have Sinned: Emphasizing the universality of sin and the need for righteousness.
- Chapter 4: Justification by Faith: Using Abraham as an example of justification through faith.
- Chapter 5: Peace with God Through Faith: Exploring the benefits of justification, emphasizing grace.
- Chapter 6: Dead to Sin, Alive in Christ: Addressing the
- Chapter 7: Released from the Law: Discussing the believer's relationship with the law.
- Chapter 8: Life in the Spirit: The transformative power of the Holy Spirit and assurance of salvation.
- Chapters 9-11: God's Plan for Israel: Paul's concern for Israel and God's sovereign choice.
- Chapters 12-16: Practical Christian Living: Various exhortations on Christian living and relationships.

Romans 8:1-2 There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death.

PAUSE-REJOICE-ASK-YIELD



PAUSE

REJOICE

ASK

YIELD

AND REFLECTIONS



PLAN - ISAIAH AND PSALMS PROPHETIC

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The Book of Isaiah, a profound work of prophetic literature in the Old Testament, remarkably foretells the coming of the Messiah through vivid and evocative imagery. It paints a compelling portrait of a figure who would be born of a virgin (Isaiah 7:14) and referred to as Immanuel, signifying 'God with us.' Further, Isaiah prophesies the emergence of a child destined for greatness, endowed with divine titles like "Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9:6). This child's reign is envisioned as one of eternal justice and righteousness, rooted in the lineage of David, indicating a royal and kingly character (Isaiah 11:1-5).

Is 7-9

Is 42-43

Is 52-53

Is 60-61

Ps 2,110

Extra Reading: Ps 45, 72

3: AN OVERVIEW AND TIMELINE

Isaiah introduces the concept of a Servant of the Lord, whose mission is to bring justice to the nations, embodying gentleness, wisdom, and a deep connection with the divine (Isaiah 42:1-4). This Servant is depicted as one who will not waver in his quest for justice and will ultimately establish righteousness on earth.

The book delves into the profound suffering that this Servant would undergo, offering a poignant portrayal of a figure who would bear the iniquities of humanity, ultimately bringing redemption through his own sacrifice (Isaiah 52:13-53:12).

Through poetic and powerful language, Isaiah masterfully captures the multifaceted nature of the Messiah - a divinely appointed leader, a suffering servant, and a bringer of everlasting righteousness and peace.

Isaiah 9:6 - "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

RISE-REJOICE-ASK-YIELD



RISE

REJOICE

ASK

YIELD

AND REFLECTIONS



FINISHED

Timothy Keller (from "Hidden Christmas"): "The birth of Jesus is not just heartwarming, it is heart-burning; the coming of Jesus was the beginning of the end for sin and death."

Luke 1-2

Luke 3-4

N.T. Wright (from "Simply Jesus"): "In the birth of Jesus, we see God breaking into our world, bringing hope and light to the darkest corners of human existence."

Matt 1-3

Max Lucado (from "God Came Near"): "The birth of Jesus is God's way of saying, 'I am with you.' It's the ultimate act of love, the Creator stepping into His creation to be close to us."

Mark 1-2

Dietrich Bonhoeffer (from "God Is in the Manger"): "The celebration of Advent is possible only to those who are troubled in soul, who know themselves to be poor and imperfect, and who look forward to something greater to come."

1 John 1-2

C.S. Lewis (from "Mere Christianity"): "The Son of God became a man to enable men to become sons of God. The divine birth we celebrate at Christmas is the means by which we can be reborn into God's family."

Frederick Buechner (from "Whistling in the Dark"): "The birth of Jesus is the intersection of the divine and the human—a reminder that God is not distant but intimately involved in the messy and beautiful tapestry of human existence."

John Piper (from various writings): "The birth of Jesus is the hinge of history, the moment when God's plan for redemption began to unfold, a plan that culminated in the cross and resurrection."

A.W. Tozer (from "The Knowledge of the Holy"): "The wonder of Christmas is not just in the birth of a baby but in the incarnation of the eternal Son of God, who took on flesh to redeem fallen humanity."

John 1:14 - And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

PAUSE-REJOICE-ASK-YIELD



PAUSE

REJOICE

ASK

YIELD

AND REFLECTIONS



2023 READING PLAN - HEBREWS

The Book of Hebrews is a New Testament book in the Bible that is both unique and significant in its theological content. It is an epistle, or letter, written to Jewish Christians, likely in the first century AD. The authorship of Hebrews is uncertain, and the letter does not identify its author. Throughout Christian history, various individuals have been suggested as possible authors, including Paul, Barnabas, Apollos, or others, but the true author remains unknown. Here's an overview of the Book of Hebrews and how it describes Jesus: The primary purpose of Hebrews is to encourage Jewish Christians to persevere in their faith in Christ. The author addresses a community facing challenges, potential persecution, and a temptation to revert to Judaism. The letter emphasizes the superiority of Christ and His covenant over the old covenant.

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Heb 1-2

Heb 3-4

Heb 5-7

Heb 8-10

Extra Reading: Ps. 45 Ps. 95

Heb 11-13

3: AN OVERVIEW AND TIMELINE

The Book of Hebrews emphasizes the superiority of Jesus Christ in various aspects:

Supremacy of Jesus:

Hebrews underscores that Jesus is superior to angels, Moses, and the Levitical priesthood. He is the ultimate revelation of God and the mediator of a new and superior covenant.

High Priesthood of Jesus:

Jesus is presented as the perfect High Priest, whose priesthood is eternal and not based on human descent. His role as a sympathetic and understanding High Priest emphasizes His ability to intercede for believers.

Sacrifice and Atonement:

The book explains that Jesus' sacrifice on the cross is the ultimate atonement for sin. His death fulfills the Old Testament sacrificial system, providing forgiveness and access to God for those who believe in Him.

Faith:

Hebrews places a strong emphasis on faith, using examples from the Old Testament to illustrate the importance of trusting in God's promises. Faith in Christ is presented as the means by which believers are justified and receive salvation.

Hebrews 12:1–2 - Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.



PAUSE

REJOICE

ASK

YIELD



There are several passages in the Old Testament (Hebrew Bible) that are believed by Christians to foretell the coming of the Messiah, who they identify as Jesus Christ. Here are some of the key passages and their corresponding chapters:

Genesis 3:15 - Known as the Protoevangelium, this verse is often seen as the first prophecy of the Messiah. It speaks of the offspring of the woman who will crush the head of the serpent (Satan).

Isaiah 7:14 - This verse prophesies that a virgin will conceive and give birth to a son whose name will be Immanuel, which means "God with us."

Isaiah 9:6-7 - This passage refers to a child who will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace. It speaks of his eternal kingdom.

Micah 5:2 - This verse predicts that the Messiah will be born in Bethlehem, a small town in Judah.

Isaiah 53 - Often referred to as the "Suffering Servant" passage, this chapter vividly describes the suffering and atoning work of the Messiah.

Zechariah 9:9 - This verse prophesies that the Messiah will come riding on a donkey, symbolizing his peaceful nature.

Psalms 22 - This psalm provides a detailed account of the suffering and crucifixion of the Messiah, including the famous line, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

Isaiah 61:1-3 - This passage speaks of the Messiah's mission to bring good news to the poor, bind up the brokenhearted, and proclaim freedom for captives.

Malachi 3:1 - This verse speaks of a messenger who will prepare the way for the Lord, which is often associated with John the Baptist preparing the way for Jesus.

Psalms 110:1 - This psalm speaks of the Messiah being seated at the right hand of God, indicating his exalted position.





Here are a few titles given to Jesus in the Bible, along with the passages where they can be found:

Emmanuel (Immanuel):

Verse: Matthew 1:23 - "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means 'God with us').

Son of God:

Verse: Matthew 3:16-17

Passage: "As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, 'This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.'"

Messiah (Christ):

Verse: Matthew 16:16

Passage: "Simon Peter replied, 'You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.'"

Savior:

Verse: Luke 2:11

Passage: "Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord."

Lord:

Verse: Acts 10:36

Passage: "You know the message God sent to the people of Israel, announcing the good news of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all."

Lamb of God:

Verse: John 1:29

Passage: "The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, 'Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!'"

Alpha and Omega:

Verse: Revelation 1:8

Passage: "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty."

Bread of Life:

Verse: John 6:35

Passage: "Then Jesus declared, 'I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.'"

Light of the World:

Verse: John 8:12

Passage: "When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.'"



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