

© CHRIST COMMUNITY

field guide

A NINETY DAY DISCIPLESHIP JOURNEY

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the christian life is *not easy*.

It involves discipline, perseverance, and hard work. Often, Christians want to follow Jesus but don't know where to begin. To help, we have created the *Christ Community Field Guide*, a ninety day discipleship journey.

The goal of this resource is to come alongside believers, encouraging them in four key components of Christian discipleship: [gathering](#), [growing](#), [giving](#), and [going](#).

As you walk through this discipleship journey, we hope this resource equips you to live for Jesus every day. May the next ninety days of intentional prayer, fasting, and time in God's word bear spiritual fruit in your life.

“We exhorted each one of you and encouraged you and charged you to walk in a manner worthy of God, who calls you into His own glory and kingdom.”

1 thessalonians 2:12

*core***four**

gather

Since its inception, the church has gathered corporately for the purpose of glorifying God. Hebrews 10:24-25 says:

“let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.”

We were not designed to do life on our own. The story of scripture teaches that gathering together corporately in worship to God is vital to our spiritual health. It is essential for each one of us to regularly sing praises to God, sit under the preaching of his word, and fellowship with his people.

As Christians, we should always seek to prioritize the things that God prioritizes. We are asking you to make Sunday mornings a non-negotiable for you and your family.

Commit to worshipping with your church family every week for the next ninety days.

grow

Spiritual growth is an expectation of walking with Jesus. In 2 Peter 3:18, the Apostle Peter encourages us to:

“grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”

Growth in spiritual maturity isn't just a good idea, it's a mark of true faith! No matter how long you have been a Christian, don't miss out on the calling of God for you: your sanctification.

As Christians, we know that spiritual growth is important. However, we don't always know how to grow spiritually. Just like a relationship with a friend or a spouse, our relationship with God is strengthened as we spend time with Him. That's why it's so important for Christians to spend daily time with God in prayer and in his word.

We are encouraging you to spend the next ninety days fully committed to your spiritual growth through bible reading, prayer, and fasting. We have created a reading plan for the next ninety days that will walk you through the entire New Testament, as well as a prayer and fasting guide.

Commit to meeting with the Lord daily for the next ninety days.

give



Jesus made it clear:

“it is more blessed to give than to receive.”

At Christ Community, we desire to be radically generous. This means that we are generous with our time, our talent, our resources, and our finances. Everything that we have is a gift from God, which is why we should freely give back to him.

Not only is our giving to be viewed as an act of worship, it is also an act of obedience. When we are stingy with our finances, we are not living in dependence on God or obedience to God. In the Gospels, Jesus talked about money more than almost any other topic. The reason for that is simple: how we handle our finances is a major indicator of the quality of our faith.

The biblical principle for giving begins at 10% of our income, but that is just the starting point. Throughout the New Testament, we see a call to sacrificially and generously give of our resources with joy. Consider your own financial generosity.

Commit to giving 10% of your income to the Lord and his Church for the next ninety days. If you are already tithing faithfully, take a step toward going above and beyond that.



scan this QR code or visit
christcommunity.com/give

go

The gospel is the message of life and redemption to a lost and dying world. It is not only up to the “spiritually elite” to spread the gospel; it is the responsibility of every single Christian! We are called to make disciples everywhere we go. Think about the place that you live. Have you ever considered that God has you there as a missionary to reach your neighbors? The same is true for the place that you work! We are to view ourselves as God’s messengers to a world that desperately needs the hope of the gospel of Jesus Christ (2 Cor. 5:17-20).

Over the next ninety days, increase your focus on the mission of God. Who are three people that you know who don’t know the hope that Jesus brings? Maybe God has placed you in their life as the person who he will use to reach them with the gospel.

The message of the gospel is a “go and tell” message! How can you spread this message? Maybe God is calling you to share his message of salvation outside of your community by joining us on an international mission trip.

Commit to sharing the gospel or inviting at least three people to church over the next ninety days.



scan this QR code or visit
christcommunity.com/missions

how to read the bible

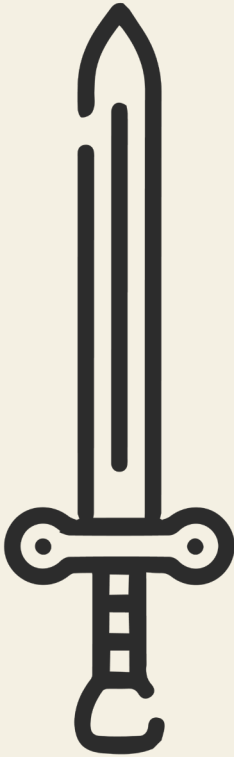
Hebrews 4:12 tells us,

“The word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.”

Ephesians 6 calls the Bible “the sword of truth.”

In light of these vivid descriptions of God’s word, we are to take the study of God’s word seriously and read it regularly. It is important to have a regular time and place where you read your bible and pray.

However, reading the Bible can be a challenging and intimidating task. That’s why we have provided a simple tool to help you read your bible called the “Sword Method”. Use this tool as you dive into this intentional time of study in the New Testament.



**what do I learn
about God?**

**what do I learn
about man?**

**is there a sin
to avoid?**

**is there a promise
to trust?**

**is there a command
to obey?**

**is there an example
to follow?**

sword **method**

how to fast

what is fasting?

Fasting is giving up something that we need (food) for something that we need more (God). Fasting is a spiritual practice that God calls us to do to help us remember our dependence on him. When you are fasting and feel hungry, let that hunger remind you that God has provided for your greatest need through his Son, Jesus. Use this simple guide as you prepare to fast.

plan

Plan a time to fast once a week throughout the course of this guide. You can pick one day or one meal a week to fast; just aim to be consistent and have a specific time-period. If you have health challenges, consider fasting from something other than food.

prepare

Don't go into a fast just trying to check a box. Prepare your heart and your mind for a time of reflection and prayer. Philippians 4 is a good passage to read as you prepare to fast.

fast

While you fast, don't try to distract yourself from your hunger. Instead, whenever you feel hungry, reflect on God's presence in your life. Reflect on things like your dependence on God and how God has provided for you. Spend 15-30 minutes of the time you would normally be eating to pray to God and submit your needs, desires, and anxieties to him.

what to pray for

personal

Pray for your own spiritual health

1 Timothy 4:7-8

Pray for opportunities to give sacrificially

Mark 12:41-44

Pray for opportunities to share the gospel

Matthew 28:19-20

Pray that you would love God and his people

Matthew 22:37-40

Pray that you would honor God in the role in which He has you

Ephesians 5:22-6:9

corporate

Pray that we would be devoted to the Bible

Psalms 1

Pray that we would be dependent on prayer

1 Thessalonians 5:17

Pray for the unity of the Church

Romans 12:5

Pray that God would send laborers into the harvest

Matthew 9:37-38

Pray that the Spirit would convict the lost and lead them to repentance and faith in Christ

2 Peter 3:9



90 days in the
new testament

matthew

book overview

The Gospel according to Matthew, written by the Apostle Matthew, is the first account of Jesus' life that we find in the New Testament. As you work your way through this book, you will find that Matthew tells his story through recording the deeds and words of Jesus, with a heavy emphasis on how Christ fulfills Old Testament promises. In doing so, Matthew paints the picture that Jesus is the promised Messiah who has come to bring about the kingdom of heaven.

reading plan

- Day 1:** *Matthew 1-3*
- Day 2:** *Matthew 4-6*
- Day 3:** *Matthew 7-9*
- Day 4:** *Matthew 10-12*
- Day 5:** *Matthew 13-15*
- Day 6:** *Matthew 16-18*
- Day 7:** *Matthew 19-21*
- Day 8:** *Matthew 22-24*
- Day 9:** *Matthew 25-28*

reflection questions

- *Throughout Matthew we find a focus on the kingdom of heaven. How does the reality of the kingdom of heaven shape your decision-making in all aspects of life? (Refer to Romans 12:2).*
- *How do you notice the sovereignty of God in the entire genealogy and birth narrative of Jesus?*
- *Why is it so important that Jesus was born to a virgin?*
- *Spend time reflecting on chapters 27-28 where we find the death and resurrection of Jesus. How does this event impact your daily life?*
- *Read Matthew 28:17-20. How can you respond to this command from Jesus this week?*

gospel focus

Throughout the Gospel of Matthew we find the remarkable account of the Son of Man, born to a virgin, living a sinless life, dying a sinner's death on the cross, being raised back to life, and then ascending into heaven. Why? So that sinners might be welcomed into the kingdom of heaven. A kingdom which is already here and present through the first coming of Christ, yet will also not be fully realized until the second coming of Christ. This is why we live with urgency under the Great Commission found in Matthew 28, making gospel-centered disciples among all people for the glory of God.

mark

book overview

The Gospel according to Mark was written by John Mark, an associate of the Apostle Peter, who recorded and compiled Peter's teachings about Jesus into this book. This book shows the ministry of Jesus and highlights themes like the character of God, the mystery of Jesus, salvation, and discipleship. This book also highlights opposition and failure to understand the teaching of Jesus. These themes help Mark with his main purpose in writing this gospel, which is to demonstrate that the Messiah's reign would be marked by suffering and defeat, not political triumph.

reading plan

- Day 10:** *Mark 1-3*
- Day 11:** *Mark 4-6*
- Day 12:** *Mark 7-9*
- Day 13:** *Mark 10-12*
- Day 14:** *Mark 13-16*

reflection questions

- *According to the book of Mark, what does it look like to be a disciple of Jesus?*
- *Throughout Jesus' ministry, the Jews and even Jesus' disciples often failed to understand Jesus' teaching. Reflect on your own life. Do you understand and obey Jesus' teaching?*
- *Why do you think people failed to believe and obey Jesus, even after he performed miracles? How have you failed to rightly respond to how God has worked in your own life?*
- *Read Mark 8:34-38. What are some ways that you can "take up your cross" and follow Jesus?*
- *Why do you think that Jesus was so secretive about him being the Messiah until his death and resurrection?*

gospel focus

Some make the claim that the Christian life is full of prosperity on this earth. Central to the Christian life, however, is our Savior, Jesus Christ, dying on the cross for our sins. As Christians, we are told that we will also suffer and be rejected like Jesus was, but praise God that our hope is not in this earth, but in eternity with our Savior.

luke



book overview

The Gospel of Luke, written by the Apostle Luke, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, is one of the most carefully researched and orderly accounts that we have of the life of Jesus. Luke wrote his Gospel so that any reader would know that the gospel of Jesus Christ is for all people. Luke pays special attention to how Jesus fulfills the Old Testament prophecies in his life, death, and resurrection.

reading plan

- Day 15:** *Luke 1-3*
- Day 16:** *Luke 4-6*
- Day 17:** *Luke 7-9*
- Day 18:** *Luke 10-12*
- Day 19:** *Luke 13-15*
- Day 20:** *Luke 16-18*
- Day 21:** *Luke 19-21*
- Day 22:** *Luke 22-24*

reflection questions

- *What did you learn about the life of Jesus before he started his ministry?*
- *According to Luke, what are three big takeaways from Jesus' ministry?*
- *What is one command of Jesus that convicted you? How will you apply that command to your life this week?*
- *How does the reading of the final week of Jesus' life before his death impact you? Why should you strive to remember these details on a regular basis?*

gospel focus

The book of Luke as a whole comes from the story of Christ's life, death, and resurrection. Jesus came as the messianic King to deliver the poor, the needy, and the downcast. Jesus fulfills the whole Old Testament, especially its promise of everlasting salvation. The fulfillment of King Jesus' mission was in his crucifixion and resurrection so that you could be saved from sin.

key verses

Luke 4:18-19

“*The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.*”

john

book overview

After reading the first three Gospel accounts, John seems very different. From the start, we find no birth narrative, and as we read on we find that the Apostle John focuses less on what Jesus does and more on who he is as the Son of God. And that is exactly the point of this book: that we would know and believe that Jesus is the Son of God who came down to earth to save us from our sin.

reading plan

- Day 23:** *John 1-3*
- Day 24:** *John 4-6*
- Day 25:** *John 7-9*
- Day 26:** *John 10-12*
- Day 27:** *John 13-15*
- Day 28:** *John 16-18*
- Day 29:** *John 19-21*

reflection questions

- *Meditate on John 1:10-13. What does this teach us about who Jesus is, why he came, who he came for, and why that matters?*
- *What is the significance of Jesus being described as the Word who became flesh?*
- *Throughout the book of John, Jesus makes several “I am” statements. Which one stands out to you the most and why?*
- *Think back to the previous three Gospel accounts that you read. What, in your mind, makes John so different?*
- *Read John 20:30-31. Why did John write this book and what impact have the past seven days had on your own faith?*

gospel focus

All of us, who “like sheep have gone astray” (Is. 53:6), are now invited into the family of God by the Good Shepherd. Though we were living in darkness, the Light of the world came to dwell among us. While we were trapped in the bondage of sin, God became man so that we might know him. Praise God for eternal life through the life, death, and resurrection of the Son of God!

acts

book overview

The book of Acts provides us with a mere glimpse into the first three decades of the early Church as it multiplied and spread after the ascension of Jesus Christ. The book of Acts is considered a history book written by the Apostle Luke. You will notice similarities in detail and writing style to the Gospel of Luke. Acts follows Peter's ministry to the Jews and Paul's ministry to the Gentiles but has one unified storyline: the spread of the gospel and the building of the local church, all for the glory of God.

reading plan

Day 30: Acts 1-3

Day 38: Acts 25-27

Day 31: Acts 4-6

Day 39: Acts 28

Day 32: Acts 7-9

Day 33: Acts 10-12

Day 34: Acts 13-15

Day 35: Acts 16-18

Day 36: Acts 19-21

Day 37: Acts 22-24

reflection questions

- *Acts 1:8 is Jesus speaking to his disciples, saying, “...you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth”. Who are you witnessing to in your local context? What are you doing to support the gospel-witness to the ends of the earth?*
- *A central theme throughout the book of Acts is the preaching of God’s word. What is one big takeaway from one of the sermons?*
- *Acts 9 is the account of Saul’s conversion on the Damascus road. Spend some time today reflecting on the work of God’s grace in your life, bringing you from eternal death to abundant life.*
- *What similarities do you see between the book of Acts and the Gospel of Luke?*

gospel focus

The book of Acts is the glue that binds the rest of the New Testament together. It achieves this by providing the rest of the story after the Gospels. The gospel-message does not end with Jesus. The gospel has been faithfully carried on, preserved, and lived out for millennium by Christ-followers. The book of Acts puts on display the words, works, and promises of Jesus in the local church by the power of the Holy Spirit. Just as the gospel did not end with Jesus, the gospel-work displayed in Acts does not end with Acts 28. We are called to this gospel-work today.

romans

book overview

Written by the Apostle Paul, the book of Romans is a beautifully comprehensive theological masterpiece that encompasses the core aspects of the Christian faith. Paul outlines the foundation of the faith: our salvation by grace through faith in Jesus Christ alone, all for his glory. As you read Romans, take time to meditate on the rich gospel-truths of who you are in Christ.

reading plan

- Day 40:** *Romans 1-3*
- Day 41:** *Romans 4-6*
- Day 42:** *Romans 7-9*
- Day 43:** *Romans 10-12*
- Day 44:** *Romans 13-16*

reflection questions

- *What is one takeaway you can apply to your life today from Romans 3:21-26?*
- *What do you learn about your new life in Christ from chapters 6-7?*

- *Read Romans 8. What truths do you need to apply to your life from this text? How can you meditate on these truths this week?*
- *Read Romans 12:1-2. Where do you need to transform and renew your mind to be more like Christ this week?*
- *After reading Romans, spend some time meditating on the example of Christ in Romans 15 and consider how you can live more like Christ this week.*

gospel focus

Romans is a profound letter about God's grace, offering a framework to better understand the reality of the gospel in your everyday life. As a child of God, you have been called to saving faith in Christ Jesus. You have been justified (made right) before a holy God through Jesus' substitutionary death. You are currently being sanctified (being made more and more like Jesus) in your everyday life because of the work of God's grace in your life. One day, you will be glorified (you will be made perfect) and spend all of eternity in heaven with your Savior.

key verses

Romans 12:1-2

“I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. *Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.*”

1 corinthians

book overview

1 Corinthians, penned by Paul to the church in Corinth, is written in response to numerous challenges reported in the church. This first letter to the Corinthians reveals that the church was struggling with division, a lack of clarity over the gospel, doctrinal confusion, and various sexual and moral issues. Paul responds to each of these issues at length, appealing to the gospel-truth that he preached when he was with them. As you walk through this book, pay special attention to how the gospel shapes every aspect of your life in the local church.

reading plan

- Day 45:** *1 Corinthians 1-3*
- Day 46:** *1 Corinthians 4-6*
- Day 47:** *1 Corinthians 7-9*
- Day 48:** *1 Corinthians 10-12*
- Day 49:** *1 Corinthians 13-15*
- Day 50:** *1 Corinthians 16*

reflection **questions**

- *How does Paul's discussion of godly wisdom and foolishness challenge what you accept from the world?*
- *How does this book shape how you think about contentment and serving the Lord in your current stage of life?*
- *Go back and read chapters 12-14. What are some ways that the Holy Spirit has gifted you to serve your local church?*
- *In chapter 15, Paul reminds the church about the necessity of Christ's resurrection. Spend some time today meditating on the resurrection of Christ and how it changes every aspect of your life.*

gospel **focus**

Throughout the book of 1 Corinthians, we come across several commands given by Paul to the local church. Rather than acting as additional prerequisites for salvation, these commands serve as a reminder of the life we have been saved into by Christ. As Christians, we can walk away from this letter with a renewed focus on the gospel's impact on our local church and encouraged by the fact that God has equipped us through the Holy Spirit to be one body under the lordship of Jesus Christ.

2 corinthians

book overview

Paul, the author of 2 Corinthians, writes again to the church at Corinth with what seems to be a more positive letter. However, Paul's tone shifts as the letter progresses. Throughout 2 Corinthians, you will see a defense of Paul's apostolic authority against the rising "super-apostles" and a defense of his call to ministry. Next, Paul admonishes the church to give generously toward God's mission. The letter will ultimately culminate in Paul preparing them for him to come again.

reading plan

- Day 51:** *2 Corinthians 1-3*
- Day 52:** *2 Corinthians 4-6*
- Day 53:** *2 Corinthians 7-9*
- Day 54:** *2 Corinthians 10-13*

reflection questions

- *How does Paul's challenge to the church regarding generosity challenge you today as you think about giving to the church and funding God's mission?*

- *How does Paul's discussion of the New Covenant and ministry impact the way you think about serving the local church?*
- *How can you strive to display God's strength in the areas that you are weak?*
- *What can you apply to your life this week from 2 Corinthians and its themes of perseverance, faith, ministry, and hope?*

gospel focus

While we do not deal with super-apostles in our day and age, the temptation is always lurking to put on a front that we know more than we do, we are something that we are not, or think that we are better than others. Paul reminds us in 2 Corinthians that we all stand equal at the foot of the cross. Praise God that the gospel is available to anyone. While we are called to a life of integrity, we are all tempted and tried in this life. Thankfully, we are all met with the same answer as Paul when we cry out to God: "My grace is sufficient for you" (2 Cor. 12:9).

*key*verses

2 Corinthians 12:9-10

“But he said to me, *“My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.”* 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.”*

galatians

book overview

The book of Galatians, authored by the Apostle Paul, is a defense of the gospel to the church in Galatia. The Galatians were trying to add works to the gospel, which fundamentally alters its message. The gospel is salvation by grace through faith in Jesus Christ alone. Nothing more. Nothing less. As you read the book of Galatians, you will see Paul's harsh rebuke and strong correction of the Galatians. Salvation is not found in the Law but solely in Jesus Christ's finished work on the cross.

reading plan

- Day 55:** *Galatians 1-3*
- Day 56:** *Galatians 4-6*

reflection questions

- *Read Galatians 2:15-21. Do you have this peace with God today?*
- *Paul appeals three times throughout the letter not to abandon the gospel. Are there any areas in your life that you are tempted to believe something less than the gospel?*
- *In chapters 5 and 6, Paul describes the practical effects of the gospel. How does your life line up with these?*

gospel focus

Galatians is perhaps one of Paul's most passionate letters. However, it is for good reason because we all need a strong daily reminder of the gospel. The cross of Jesus Christ decisively dealt with sin, not only so that we could be made right before a holy God, but also so that we could continue to become more like Jesus. God has not given up on you. He has already done everything necessary for salvation. There is nothing you bring to the cross of Christ except for the sin that made it necessary. You are already as known and as loved as you will ever be by your Heavenly Father because of Jesus. So, instead of working for your salvation, rest in Christ today.

key concept

Justification (*jus·ti·fi·ca·tion*) noun

Dictionary definition:

The action of showing something to be right or reasonable.

Theological definition:

The action of declaring or making right before God.

ephesians

book overview

While imprisoned, the Apostle Paul wrote this letter to the church in Ephesus, but likely meant it to be read by Christians everywhere. Paul wrote this letter to explain who the church is, how it came about, how it must act, and what its mission is. At the center of this letter is God's saving work through each member of the Trinity. From these central ideas flow the themes of reconciliation, unity with Christ, and unity within the church.

reading plan

Day 57: *Ephesians 1-3*

Day 58: *Ephesians 4-6*

reflection questions

- *Read Ephesians 2:1-10. How are we saved?*
- *What are some ways that people try to earn their salvation, contrary to what is taught in Ephesians?*
- *Read Ephesians 4:11-13. What are the roles of leaders in the church? What is your role? What is the ultimate goal of the church?*
- *Read Ephesians 5:21-6:9. How does this passage instruct you as a spouse, parent, child, employee, and/or employer?*

gospel focus

It is because of our sin that we are spiritually dead and separated from God. On our own, we have no hope of being saved. But, praise be to God that he sent his Son to die in our place! So now, through faith, we can be made alive and live united to Christ and the rest of the church. We are all called to follow Jesus' example, and live in love and obedience to God.

key verses

Ephesians 2:4-10

*“But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. **For by grace you have been saved through faith.** And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.”*

philippians

book overview

In his letter to the church in Philippi, Paul writes that he has found the secret of being content in every circumstance. These are profound words coming from Paul, given that he was in prison and knew that it was likely he would be killed soon after he wrote this letter. Paul was a man who had faced times of abundance, but who had also faced beatings, shipwrecks, imprisonments, and other hardships. Throughout every situation, Paul knew how to be content and full of joy. In this letter, Paul shares this secret with the church in Philippi.

reading plan

- Day 59:** *Philippians 1-2*
- Day 60:** *Philippians 3-4*

reflection questions

- *Are you currently content with your life? What do you need to have in your life to feel content?*
- *Read Philippians 2 and meditate on the humility of Christ. How can you better love and serve those around you this week?*
- *Go back to Philippians 3 and see the surpassing worth of knowing Christ. What do you need to let go of this week to be closer to Jesus?*
- *How can you live out Philippians 4:8 this week?*

gospel focus

The “Hymn of Christ” in Philippians 2:6-11 is a beautiful picture of what Christ did for us. The secret to how Paul could always be so joyful and content was not based on his circumstances, but because of what Christ had done for him. “I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord” (Phil. 3:8).

key verses

Philippians 3:7-11

“*But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith—that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.*”

colossians

book overview

While he was imprisoned, Paul wrote this letter to the church at Colossae to address false teaching in the church. These false teachers questioned Christ's supremacy and salvation through him while promoting the need for additional spiritual practices. The result of Paul addressing these false teachings is a thorough defense of the supremacy of Christ.

reading plan

- Day 61:** *Colossians 1-2*
- Day 62:** *Colossians 3-4*

reflection questions

- *Read Colossians 1:9-14 and meditate on the reality of being transferred from the domain of darkness and into the kingdom of Jesus Christ.*
- *Go to Colossians 1:15-20 and spend time summarizing, in your own words, what Paul is teaching us about who Jesus is.*
- *How can you live according to Colossians 3:1-2?*
- *Read Colossians 3:16-17. How can you practically surround yourself with the word of God this week?*

- *Revisit Colossians 4:2-6. How can you better practice prayer, gratitude, gospel-ministry, wisdom, or gracious speech this week?*

gospel focus

The fullness of God dwells in Christ, Christ has power over everything, and Christ takes the punishment we deserve. Because of this, we are saved by Christ alone through faith alone. There is nothing that we can do to add to our salvation, but since we have been made alive with Christ, we are to set our minds on heavenly things.

key verses

Colossians 3:1-4

“If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. *For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.* When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.”

1 thessalonians

book overview

One thing you may notice as you read Paul's letter to the church at Thessalonica is just how pleased he is with them. He even goes as far as to say that they are his glory and his joy! Because of this, his main purpose in writing is to provide encouragement, remind them of everything they have been taught, and to point them toward the promised return of Christ.

reading plan

Day 63: *1 Thessalonians 1-2*

Day 64: *1 Thessalonians 3-5*

reflection questions

- *Read 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8. Why does Paul care so much about sanctification?*
- *What kind of outlook does Paul encourage us to have about the end times?*
- *Read 1 Thessalonians 5:18. Spend 10 minutes writing everything that you are thankful for and then respond to God in prayer.*

gospel focus

Paul's primary praise for the Thessalonians is that they are indeed living life in light of the gospel. This becomes our challenge as we pursue sanctification (becoming more like Christ), because while we have been covered by Christ's righteousness through his death, we look forward to the day of being made wholly righteous through his return.

2 thessalonians

book overview

In Paul's second letter to the church at Thessalonica, we find his main concern is with instructing his readers about the end times. There are three key takeaways: 1) judgment is coming, 2) there will be misinformation about the end times, and 3) Christ wins in the end. Therefore, despite the suffering and persecution that will come, we can rejoice because our hope and life is secure in Christ.

reading plan

Day 65: *2 Thessalonians 1-3*

reflection questions

- *Why do you believe Paul begins this letter by talking about God's future judgment and glory?*
- *Paul asks for prayer in chapter 3. How can you be more intentional in both presenting your own prayer needs and seeking the needs of others?*

gospel focus

Paul promises God's judgment in the last days. This would be an absolutely terrifying prospect apart from the salvation of Christ. Therefore, as Christians we must carry the gospel message with urgency, proclaim it from the rooftops, and stand firm in any and every season because of the finished work of Christ.

1 timothy

book overview

1 Timothy is the first of what is commonly known as the “Pastoral Epistles,” which consists of 1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, and Titus. This is noteworthy because all other New Testament letters are written to churches, whereas in these next three letters, the Apostle Paul writes to individual pastors. While Paul does write to instruct Timothy and Titus on church structure and pastoral ministry, the main goal is to teach godly living in response to the gospel.

reading plan

Day 66: *1 Timothy 1-3*

Day 67: *1 Timothy 4-6*

reflection questions

- *Paul begins by warning against false teachers and reminding Timothy of how glorious the gospel is. Read 1 Timothy 1:12-20 and meditate on the richness of the gospel today.*
- *One phrase that will come up throughout the pastoral epistles is, “the saying is trustworthy.”. What is one truth you can cling to from one of these “trustworthy” sayings this week?*
- *Paul emphasizes the importance of a response of holiness to God’s act of salvation in Christ Jesus. Read 1 Timothy 4:12 and reflect on how you can better exemplify Jesus this week.*

- *Paul concludes with a charge to fight the good fight. Read 1 Timothy 6:11 and meditate on which characteristic you need to pursue this week.*

gospel focus

God's active plan of redemption is being carried out through the blessings of Christ and his redeemed people through the means of the local and universal church and their ministries. 1 Timothy is a clear call to the church to tangibly live out the gospel in every aspect of life. Simply put, the goal of 1 Timothy and our goal today is that the true gospel of Jesus Christ would lead to true godliness in all who claim to follow Jesus.

key verses

1 Timothy 6:13-16

“I charge you in the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in his testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, *to keep the commandment unstained and free from reproach until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, which he will display at the proper time he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone has immortality, who dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see. To him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen.*”

2 timothy

book overview

2 Timothy is the second pastoral epistle written by Paul to Timothy. Paul writes this letter from prison after many have abandoned him due to persecution. Chronologically, this is the last letter Paul writes. It is evident that Paul believes he is at the end of his life. Therefore, 2 Timothy is a clear and bold call for perseverance in the gospel in spite of suffering.

reading plan

Day 68: *2 Timothy 1-4*

reflection questions

- *Which trustworthy saying stuck out to you in 2 Timothy?*
- *What can you learn from Paul and Timothy's relationship about discipleship?*
- *Reflect on the importance of guarding the good deposit. Who entrusted you with it and who can you entrust with it?*
- *Read 2 Timothy 3:16-17 and meditate on the sufficiency of scripture. How can you have a higher view of scripture?*

gospel focus

In this final charge, Paul equips Timothy with the contents of the message that he is to preach: nothing less than Jesus Christ. The focus of 2 Timothy is just that: the gospel. Paul dedicated his life to the gospel and is telling Timothy that it is worth it. We are called to the same gospel-mission.

key verses

2 Timothy 4:1-5

“I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: *preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching. For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths. As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.*”

titus

book overview

Titus is Paul's third and last pastoral epistle. However, this time, the recipient is a different co-laborer in the faith, Titus. The theme of Titus is the inseparable link between faith and practice. The rich theological foundation built throughout the book is its basis for its rebuke of false teachers as well as its instruction for godly living in response to the gospel.

reading plan

Day 69: *Titus 1-3*

reflection questions

- *Reflect on the significance of the instructions for different members of the community. How can you better invest and be invested in your brothers and sisters?*
- *Take time to trace the idea of grace through the book of Titus and meditate on it today.*

gospel focus

Titus is saturated with the gospel. It links knowledge with the truth of godliness. The very reason that Christ died was to redeem us from our sins. We were totally and completely unattractive to God in our sinful state; however, being rich in grace and mercy, God, in his loving-kindness, saved us through Christ Jesus.

philemon

book overview

The book of Philemon drops us into the middle of a saga where Onesimus, a slave of a Christian named Philemon, had run away and met Paul. Paul led Onesimus to Christ and sent him back to Philemon with this letter. The purpose of the letter is to encourage Philemon to grant Onesimus freedom and receive him with love as a fellow brother in Christ.

reading plan

Day 70: *Philemon*

reflection questions

- *What did you learn about forgiveness and reconciliation in Philemon?*
- *How has this letter shaped your view of the universal church? What does it reveal about what it means to belong to the family of God?*

gospel focus

The gospel redefines our identity. There are people in the family of God who have different roles and positions of authority, but all of these are secondary to our identity as followers of Christ. This book is the application of Paul's previous writing: "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus" (Gal. 3:28).

hebrews

book overview

The book of Hebrews was written to encourage believers with the reality that Jesus Christ is the Messiah. While the author is unknown, it is evident that he is exhorting his persecuted audience to endure for the sake of the gospel of Jesus Christ. He does so by continuously pointing them to the supremacy of Christ through the exposition of the Old Testament. The author wants the reader to know that compared to anything and everything else, Jesus Christ is superior.

reading plan

- Day 71:** *Hebrews 1-4*
- Day 72:** *Hebrews 5-7*
- Day 73:** *Hebrews 8-10*
- Day 74:** *Hebrews 11-13*

reflection questions

- *How did you see Christ as supreme throughout the book of Hebrews?*
- *How have you been encouraged to persevere?*
- *Read Hebrews 11 again. Hebrews 11 is commonly referred to as the “Hall of Faith.” How has this chapter challenged or inspired your faith in God?*

- *Hebrews warns against drifting away from your faith. In what areas of your life can you tend to be spiritually complacent?*
- *Spend time today reflecting on the power of Jesus' sacrifice as laid out in Hebrews.*

gospel focus

Jesus Christ, the Son of Man, is far greater than any angel, priest, Old Testament law, or covenant. Therefore, let anyone who reads this book cling to the hope that their salvation is found in Jesus Christ and Jesus Christ alone. This book reminds us that by grace through faith we have all the strength and endurance needed to run the race before us and proclaim the gospel of Jesus in our daily lives.

*key*verses

Hebrews 12:1-2

“Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. *And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.*”

james

book overview

The book of James was written by James, the brother of Jesus. The primary theme of James is living out your faith. His book has strong echoes of Jesus' teachings against the religious hypocrites. James' main goal is that by the end of the book, you will be both a hearer and a doer of the word. This book, while theologically rich, is also a book of exhortation and comfort, reproof and encouragement.

reading plan

Day 75: *James 1-3*

Day 76: *James 4-5*

reflection questions

- *How does the book of James challenge or encourage your understanding of faith in action?*
- *How does James 1:2-4 help you better understand trials?*
- *What is one way this week that you can apply James' teaching on taming the tongue?*
- *What are three practical ways you can live out your faith this week?*

gospel focus

The book of James is like a New Testament version of Proverbs. The letter from James may seem to contrast some of the other ideas in the New Testament because of the emphasis on works, but this is not the case. James understands that saving faith in Jesus will inevitably produce good works. The call of the book of James is simple: if we have faith in Jesus, we must live like it.

key concept

Faith & Works

- The relationship between faith and good works may be distinguished but never separated. Let us be clear: good works add no merit to our faith before God; the only thing we are saved by is our faith in Jesus.*
- Martin Luther has been credited with saying “We are justified by faith alone, but not by a faith that is alone”. This simply means that if good works do not follow our profession of faith, we do not possess justifying faith. True justifying faith leads to works of obedience out of love, knowledge, and desire to serve God because of all he has done for us.*

1 peter

book overview

1 Peter is a letter written from the Apostle Peter to the “elect exiles.” These two words set up the themes of the entire letter. Peter is writing to the “elect,” who are the people of God and who are meant to live differently from the world. They are also “exiles” living in a world that is not their home, where they will face persecution and temptation.

reading plan

Day 77: *1 Peter 1-2*

Day 78: *1 Peter 3-5*

reflection questions

- *Are you living as an “elect exile”? Or do you find yourself living as the world lives?*
- *Read 1 Peter 4:12-13. How do these verses show how Christians are to view suffering?*

gospel focus

The gospel changes how we are to live. No longer are we to live seeking pleasure, but instead obedience to Christ. Instead of avoiding suffering, we are to accept suffering that comes as a result of our obedience. Our inheritance in heaven is far greater than anything this world can offer.

2 peter

book overview

The Apostle Peter, knowing that he will likely die soon, wrote this letter to warn Christians about the danger of the false teachers. These false teachers claimed that Jesus would not return and that God would not judge people's sin. Peter knew that these teachings could be destructive for the church, so he refutes their claims and encourages them to grow in knowledge of the truth as they wait for Jesus to return.

reading plan

Day 79: *2 Peter 1-3*

reflection questions

- *What are the dangers of listening to false teachers?*
- *Read 2 Peter 3:10-13. Are you comforted or frightened by these verses? Why?*

gospel focus

2 Peter makes it clear that their teaching is dangerous, leading others to stray and sin against God. In light of knowing this, follow Peter's closing words: "take care that you are not carried away with the error of lawless people and lose your own stability. But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen" (2 Pet. 3:17-18).

1 john

book overview

This letter, being the first of three by John, includes several direct purpose statements intended for a local church struggling through various issues. Take note of each statement as you read through 1 John and consider how they contribute toward a letter that affirms sound doctrine, provides a roadmap for how we discern our own salvation, and encourages its readers to live as loving brothers and sisters in Christ.

reading plan

Day 80: *1 John 1-3*

Day 81: *1 John 4-5*

reflection questions

- *How many different purpose statements did you find in 1 John? What are they?*
- *Go back and read 1 John 3:1-10. What does this passage reveal about the importance of looking like Christ? How does the gospel give us hope in this?*
- *What does it mean that Christians are children of God? (Consider Romans 8:1-25).*

- *1 John 4:16 says “God is love”. What does that mean? How has God shown you his love?*
- *John lists several identifiers of a Christian: acknowledges sin, obeys God’s commands, loves one another, produces evidence of the Spirit, knows God’s word, etc. Did you find that these markers were encouraging or convicting? Why?*

gospel focus

Do I love others? Do I walk in a pattern of sin? Do I acknowledge my sinfulness? Do I follow and desire the things of God or this world? Do I love God’s word? Is there evidence of the Holy Spirit living within me? Each of these questions contributes to this letter’s overall message of asking the question, “How can I know that I am saved?”.

key verses

1 John 3:1-3

■ *“See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God’s children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.”*

2 & 3 John

book overview

John's primary focus in his second letter is to steer us toward truth and away from deception. We are encouraged in the life that comes from Christ's teachings and warned of the death that comes from false teachings. John's third letter is written to a church leader named Gaius. John encourages Gaius by reminding him of the importance of supporting the gospel.

reading plan

Day 82: 2 & 3 John

reflection questions

- *John speaks of a love marked by obedience, or action, in 2 John 6. How can you practically love a fellow believer this week?*
- *Reflect on 3 John. How can you more faithfully support the ministry of your local church?*

gospel focus

John equates love with obedience in 2 John 6. This is a reminder of the ultimate example set forth by Jesus in submitting fully to the will of the Father, even to the point of death on a cross, for the sins of many (Phil. 2:8).

jude

book overview

Although the author doesn't directly say it, the Jude who wrote this letter was a brother of Jesus. Instead of sharing this fact, the author decided to humbly highlight that he is a servant of Jesus Christ. This letter, while short, shows both God's judgment and his mercy.

reading plan

Day 83: *Jude*

reflection questions

- *What can you learn about God's judgment and mercy from this book?*
- *What is the balance of showing mercy but also standing firm on the truth?*

gospel focus

There is so much evil and sin in the world and inside of ourselves. This letter highlights the judgment that we all deserve because we have turned to our own evil desires. In light of our sin and the judgment of God, the grace and mercy of God shines even brighter!

revelation

book overview

Written by John, Revelation is perhaps one of the most mysterious and debate-sparking books in all of the Bible. In this apocalyptic letter, John presents us with a vision he receives from Christ wherein he prophetically addresses seven churches of his day and sheds light on the end times. In doing so, John warns the non-believer of coming judgment, offers hope to the Christian, and affirms the eternal reign of Christ over all of creation.

reading plan

- Day 84:** *Revelation 1-3*
- Day 85:** *Revelation 4-6*
- Day 86:** *Revelation 7-9*
- Day 87:** *Revelation 10-12*
- Day 88:** *Revelation 13-15*
- Day 89:** *Revelation 16-18*
- Day 90:** *Revelation 19-22*

reflection questions

- *Where do you find hope in the book of Revelation?*
- *Take a moment to meditate on the picture of the New Heaven and a New Earth. How does this excite you and how does this challenge you?*
- *How does the picture of the “Lamb of God” contrast with our traditional human understanding of power?*
- *How might the book of Revelation change your everyday life?*
- *What is one big takeaway from this study?*

gospel focus

“He who testifies about these things says, ‘Yes, I am coming soon.’ Amen! Come, Lord Jesus!” (Rev. 22:20). The second-to-last verse of the Bible is a sweet reminder of Christ’s victory over death.

A victory which brings assurance that Jesus will return for his Bride, the Church, and that upon his return he will establish a New Heaven and New Earth for his people to live forever in the presence of God.

key verses

Romans 12:1-2

“Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, saying with a loud voice, “Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!””



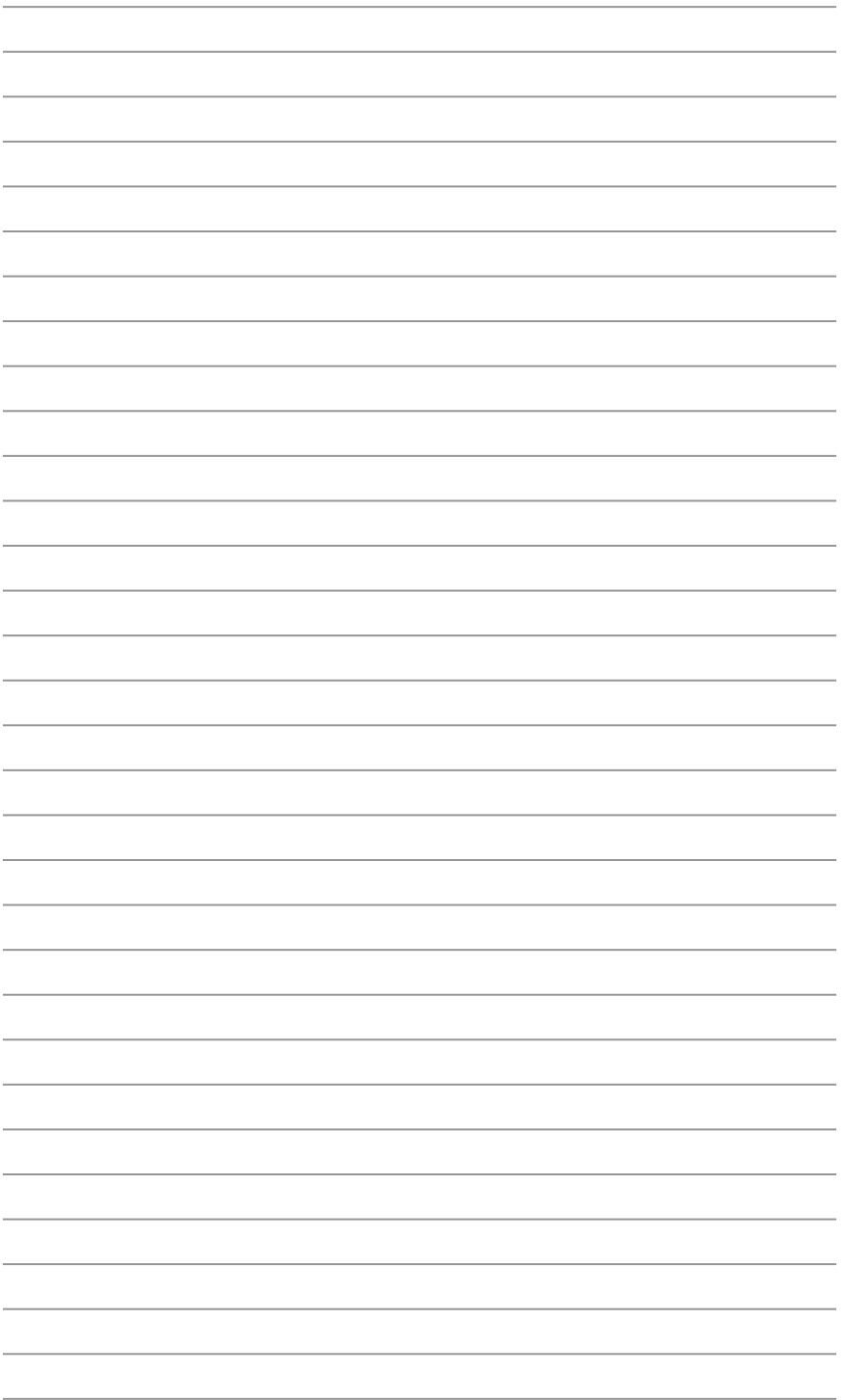
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