

Read the Bible in a Year

Week 1 - June 6, 2021

Read on Your Own this Week:

Psalms 1-3

Matthew 1-4

Readings in Class:

Genesis 1 - 18

Introduction and Goals

What are we doing here? Why are we reading the Bible together in Bible class for the next year? There are a few reasons.

"All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work." (2 Timothy 3:16-17). We often have a tendency in our own Bible readings to skip over the 'boring' parts, which for many means they have never read most of the Old Testament. But to fully understand the New Testament, you need to understand the Old. All of the Bible is useful and reading it will grow your faith.

"So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ." (Romans 10:17). Did you know the Bible is meant to be read out loud? It can be awkward sometimes to read it out loud alone, so that is another good reason to read it together.

Reading together (even if you are following along at home) is a great way to learn and grow together. Since everyone is reading the same thing, you can talk about it and ask questions.

So how is Bible Class going to work?

After service we will gather in the Fellowship Hall. If you are interested in reading a chapter, please sign-up on the white board next to the chapter you want to read. We will have printed sheets available that will contain the readings, a brief overview so you know what to watch for while reading, and answers to questions.

If Pastor is running late, the class can get started without him. He'll catch up.

We will just be doing the main readings. The four chapters of the Gospel and the three Psalms should be read during the week (perhaps as your morning devotion). No questions or comments will be done during class (though you are welcome to gather afterwards to talk). As we are reading, please write down any comments or questions and turn them in if you want.

Which brings us to: Asking and Answering Questions

If you have questions or comments, write them down, email us, message us on Facebook, or call us.

Every Monday afternoon we will be doing a video on Facebook (and posting it to YouTube later). We will try to be on at a regular time unless something comes up that Pastor needs to take care of. In the video we will briefly cover the readings and then get to any questions or comments that we have received in the past week. The questions will also be answered via written format that will be passed out during Bible Class. Questions received by Sunday night will be included in the video and the document.

Pastor Belt would also love to sit down and talk with you about any questions you have.

Accountability

We know how hard it is to keep up the habit of reading every week. Try to pair up with someone in Bible Class (or another friend) to keep each other accountable. It may be that if you notice your friend isn't in class, you call them up and make sure they are doing okay. Or you talk once a week about the readings. If you get behind, don't worry! Just jump back in wherever we are at and keep going.

A Brief Overview of Genesis 1-18

The first 18 chapters of Genesis cover everything from creation through Abraham interceding for Sodom. Genesis 1-11 are sort of the foundational chapters for the rest of the Bible.

Genesis 1 and 2 are the accounts of creation. Genesis 1 is a general overview, Genesis 2 is a more detailed account of Day 6 and the creation of man.

Genesis 3 is the account of the fall of man. Notice in verse 15 the protoevangelium, the first Gospel.

Genesis 4 illustrates the consequences of the fall and Genesis 5 covers the genealogy from Adam to Noah.

Genesis 6-9 is the account of the flood. 1 Peter 3:18-22 compares the flood to Baptism. Keep that in mind as you read these chapters.

Genesis 10-11 have to do with the Tower of Babel and how we get the different nations. This also illustrates that man is still sinful. The flood was not a complete restart.

Genesis 12, then, picks up the story that will dominate the rest of the Old Testament: the chosen people and the covenant God made with them. We start this week with Abraham and will continue next week with Isaac and Jacob.