

A YEAR IN THE BIBLE

DEVOTIONAL GUIDE



Daily reading companion
(Weeks 19–36)

aVINEYARDresource

Week 19

Day 1

Read Romans 16

Notice what Paul complements people for, what he commands, and who he warns about.

Reflect

What in these people causes harm and what causes growth?

Respond

Who has helped you grow in your relationship with Jesus? How can you imitate them? How can you be “wise as to what is good and innocent as to what is evil (v. 19).

Pray

Praise Jesus for those who have helped you and are good models. Ask him to teach you to imitate them in preserving the unity of the church.

Day 2

Read 1 Corinthians 1:1-17

Notice Christ’s provision for the church and how being one in mind with Christ brings unity.

Reflect

What kinds of arguments and ideas divide us? How does the gospel unite us?

Respond

What gifts can you use to bind the church together as a family? Where do you find in yourself the attitude displayed here and how will you change that?

Pray

Thank God for what unites the church and pray that he will use you to enhance that unity.

Day 3

Read 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

Notice people’s reactions or responses when they encounter the young Jesus (e.g. shepherds, Simeon, Anna, the teachers).

Reflect

What do all of those people say about Jesus’ purpose on earth? What does Jesus Himself say?

Respond

How have you seen Jesus continue His mission in the present time we live in? How can you be a part of that work?

Pray

Imagine yourself as a shepherd who encounters the angels and then sees Jesus. Praise Jesus in response.

Day 4

Read 1 Corinthians 2

Notice the two kinds of wisdom. Which one is powerful?.

Reflect

Try to notice everything the Spirit of God does to bring us understanding. Why must we be weak and fearful in order for him to work (v. 3)?

Respond

Look at the contrast between the natural person and the spiritual person in verses 14-16. Open your heart for the Spirit to teach you spiritual truth.

Pray

Ask the Spirit of God to instruct you and give you the mind of Christ.

Day 5

Read 1 Corinthians 3

Notice in what way these Christians are acting like babies and how Paul describes God’s human temple.

Reflect

God’s temple, the church, can merely survive, it can be built up, and it can be destroyed. What destroys us and what moves us as a community beyond survival.

Respond

What will you do to build up God’s family?

Pray

Ask Jesus to build his church, using you in any way he wishes.

Week 20

Day 1

Read 1 Corinthians 4

Notice how Paul portrays himself in contrast to the Corinthians here and try to discern what his purpose is in doing this.

Reflect

What words does Paul use to describe himself in verses 1, 9-13, and 15? Think about the fact that he doesn't pronounce judgment on himself (v. 5) but is ready to pronounce judgment on them (v. 19).

Respond

What can you find in Paul to imitate and how will you do it?

Pray

Ask God to give you the same kind of tough love for others he gave to Paul.

Day 2

Read 1 Corinthians 5

Notice the problem here and how Paul deals with it. Discover the surprising principle he shares.

Reflect

Why is it important that the church is not compromised by sin (v. 6)? How should we apply this practice of church discipline today? What is the purpose behind delivering this person to Satan (v. 5)?

Respond

Notice verses 8 and 11 for other issues in the church and in our lives that must be dealt with. Which ones do you need to deal with in your life?

Pray

Ask Jesus to give you a humble heart and convict you of wrongdoing that needs to be purged from your life.

Day 3

Read 1 Corinthians 6:1-11

Notice how we are to deal with those who do us wrong and which lifestyles will not be found in the kingdom of God.

Reflect

How has Jesus transformed your life (v. 11)? What still needs changing?

Respond

Choose to give up the right to defend yourself and become a peacemaker for others.

Pray

Praise Jesus for leading you into selfless living. Ask him to pour His Spirit into you so you can grow in his love and selflessness.

Day 4

Read 1 Corinthians 6:12-20

Notice how Paul argues for sexual purity.

Reflect

What is the general principle here (v. 12) and how might you apply it? Notice the image of a temple is used here in a different way than in chapter 3.

Respond

Does this idea that your body is incredibly important and to be kept holy change your viewpoint on how God sees you and how you should see yourself?

Pray

Praise Jesus for his gift of a physical body and ask him to help you keep it holy.

Day 5

Read 1 Corinthians 7

Notice the principles that apply to marriage, divorce, and singleness.

Reflect

How do you distinguish between eternal principles here and what Paul applies to their specific situation? If you are not married, what do you need to consider before you make a commitment?

Respond

Try to be a realistic and down-to-earth as Paul is here as you choose how to apply all this to your life.

Pray

Ask God to give you honest wisdom as you attempt to live by the principles you've found here.

Week 21

Day 1

Read 1 Corinthians 8

Notice how these verses contrast greatness and humility (authority, Christ, glory / death, a child, the cross, dependence).

Reflect

Is there anything you are doing that might cause others who are weak in their faith to stumble? When must we yield to the conscience of another person?

Respond

Are there any areas that are all head knowledge and not love for you? How can you apply Paul's emphasis on living holy for the sake of others to that area?

Pray

Praise Jesus for the victory he has won to give us freedom. Ask him to continue to grow you in love for others.

Day 2

Read 1 Corinthians 9

Notice how Paul gives up his personal rights to serve others.

Reflect

What principles does Paul apply to the way he lives, and why? How does Paul's example of being a disciplined runner shed light on how we are to live?

Respond

How will you apply Paul's choices to the way you choose to live? How difficult will that be?

Pray

Ask Jesus to discipline you to run well and fight fair (vv. 24-27). Ask him for insight on how to meet people in love.

Day 3

Read 1 Corinthians 10

Look carefully for the principles Paul applies (cf. vv. 6, 9-10, 23-24, 31-33).

Reflect

What situations do you face where it is important to apply these principles of obedience and love? When do you need to say "I ought to" rather than "I can" (v. 23)? How can you be motive by the truth about the Lord's Supper.

Respond

Apply verses 12-13 to your determination to do what is right in God's sight and loving towards others and "flee" (v. 14).

Pray

Pray that you will be guided and able to do everything for God's glory (v. 31).

Day 4

Read 1 Corinthians 11:1-16

Notice what Paul's arguments are.

Reflect

How can we honor this spiritual insight even if it may not fit our culture? What should our attitude be towards those who apply more or fewer of these commandments than you do? Are you missing something here?

Respond

In what ways does this passage challenge your worldview? How will you apply this to your own life? How will you respect those whose culture calls for different applications?

Pray

Thank God for beautiful variety and that he can be honored in any culture.

Day 5

Read 1 Corinthians 11:17-24

Notice both the meaning of the Lord's Supper and the way they were desecrating it.

Reflect

Are there other ways we might eat the Lord's Supper while ignoring the needs or feeling of his body? What are the serious consequences of not doing this (v. 30)?

Respond

What actions will you take to be sure everyone can be included in worship and ministry?

Pray

Prayer to Jesus to give you a heart of love and unity of spirit with all God's people..

Week 22

Day 1

Read 1 Corinthians 12:1-11

Notice how we can hear the Spirit of God speaking through others and when we can tell he is not speaking.

Reflect

How would you describe the way you experience the Holy Spirit serving the church through you? Do any of these words help you describe your personal giftedness?

Respond

Ask others what gifts they see in you and determine to use the gifts you know or believe you have in faith that God will guide you.

Pray

Thank God for the spiritual gifts he has given you. Ask him for power and guidance to serve the church and your community in other ways.

Day 2

Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-31

Find at least three ways Paul uses the illustration of a body to teach us how to get along as we do the unique things we are enabled by the Spirit to do.

Reflect

Did you find any new words here to help you describe your gifts? Who do you consider weak or silly? What special gifts might they have that you need?

Respond

Show respect and gratitude to others for the gifts they give and be humble enough to admit you need them.

Pray

Ask God to enable you to accept and appreciate the gifts others give you and humbly give your own.

Day 3

Read 1 Corinthians 13

Notice Paul's description of what love does and how he asserts its centrality and permanence.

Reflect

What do you do that you tend to think is more important than love? What actions and attitudes of love do you most need to apply? Meditate on how childish everything we do now will appear in eternity.

Respond

In humility practice this love with all the gifts you use.

Pray

Praise Jesus for his amazing love. Ask him to increase his love in you.

Day 4

Read 1 Corinthians 14:1-25

Notice the effects of prophecy (vv. 3-5, 24-25) that cause Paul to value this gift over others.

Reflect

How does Paul describe prophecy? What is its purpose in the church? What is the purpose of tongues? Do you find new words here (v. 3) to help you describe your gifts?

Respond

How is the Spirit empowering you to build up, encourage, or console? What words is he giving you?

Pray

Seek God concerning how he wishes to speak by his Spirit to you through others and through you to others.

Day 5

Read 1 Corinthians 14:26-40

Notice Paul's emphasis on peace and order and his appeal to us to hear God's word from others.

Reflect

Imagine what the worship service might have been like at Corinth. What principles do we need to apply when we meet with others in small groups?

Respond

As you continue to hear God speak to you through this personal study of his word be open to hear his voice in worship and his word spoken to you by others.

Pray

Thank Jesus for all the ways he speaks to you.

Week 23

Day 1

Read 1 Corinthians 15:1-34

Notice Paul's emphatic point that Christ must be resurrected as a cornerstone of Christian belief.

Reflect

What did Jesus' mercy produce in Paul?

Respond

How did Jesus make himself known and real in your life? What has he produced in you?

Pray

Thank Jesus for his amazing Act of love, dying and being resurrected. Ask him to continue to reveal his resurrected power in life to you.

Day 2

Read 1 Corinthians 15:35-58

Notice the difference between heavenly bodies and earthly bodies.

Reflect

Paul is clearly speaking from a place of Revelation here, what are some of the insights on how we will differ when we have transformed bodies?

Respond

How does this passage on our transformation move you?

Do you have a clear understanding on this or is there room to grow in Jesus and his revelation?

Pray

Thank God he gives us victory over sin and death through Jesus. Ask him to lead you to a transformed life that leads to a transform body. Ask him for understanding for those things that are beyond your understanding today.

Day 3

Read 1 Corinthians 16

Notice how Paul focuses not just on the spiritual, but also the practical in this letter.

Reflect

How does Paul end strong in love even after some hard-hitting parts in his letter?

Respond

Do you find God keeps a good balance of physical and spiritual in your life?

Pray

Thank Jesus and praise him for life and for Life abundant. Thank him for those ways that he has poured into you. Ask him how you can continue to live a generous and giving life. Thank him for the strength to stand firm in faith being courageous and loving.

Day 4

Read 2 Corinthians 1:1-14

Noticed this is the second letter to the same church

Notice Paul's unfailing love for God and Jesus and the church and that it is still pouring out even after so long.

Reflect

How has the hardships Paul has gone through affected his relationship with God?

Respond

How does Paul's example of troubles bringing him closer to God strike you?

Do you want that kind of Integrity that honors God over your own circumstances just like Paul?

Pray

Praise Jesus for his faithfulness and unfailing love. Ask him to keep your focus on him in the face of trials.

Day 5

Read 2 Corinthians 1:15-2:13

Notice how Paul is willing to humble himself and appeal to this church even though he doesn't have to.

Reflect

What is the encouraging conclusion to Paul's "yes no" section?

What was Paul's ultimate purpose in how he treated them?

Respond

Have there been areas in your life where you didn't understand what was a yes or no from God? Does Paul's writing help to clarify God's heart towards you?

Pray

Praise God and thank him for his resounding yes. Ask him to help you understand how to believe and live in that place of yes and amen.

Week 24

Day 1

Read 2 Corinthians 2: 14-3:6

Notice how Paul's describes his life and ministry and what authority he claims.

Reflect

How can the gospel, be either the smell of death or the fragrance of life to others? Why doesn't Paul need a letter of recommendation? Why should we and the Corinthians listen to Paul?

Respond

How can you spread the aroma of Christ in your community and at home? How much of the message of the Gospel would others understand through knowing you?

Pray

Ask God to help you to know and live out your faith in Jesus confidently through the power of the Holy Spirit spreading the aroma of Christ more and more.

Day 2

Read 2 Corinthians 3: 7-18

Notice how the apostle Paul is contrasting the old and the new covenants.

Reflect

Why did the covenant of Moses have to be replaced by the everlasting covenant of Christ?

Respond

What is our basis for your hope and boldness? What gets in the way to keep you from seeing the glory of God in Jesus?

Pray

Thank God for His Spirit and for the freedom that he has given us. Ask the Holy Spirit to continue to transform you into the likeness of Christ with His glory.

Day 3

Read 2 Corinthians 4

Notice the contrasts in these verses. What keeps Paul going so that he doesn't lose heart?

Reflect

How does Paul's struggle show God's power and reflect Jesus' life? How is this true in your life?

Respond

What is one way you could be a better servant? How do verses 7-12 and 16-18 help you face your current fears?

Pray

Ask God to teach you to fix your eyes on Jesus and stand strong in your daily struggles.

Day 4

Read 2 Corinthians 5:1-6:2

Consider what it means to be reconciled to God through Christ and how this can give us courage for living and for sharing the gospel.

Reflect

What does "reconciliation" mean? What is our ministry of reconciliation? If we are reconciled, why must we still stand before Jesus for judgment?

Respond

What motivates you to share your faith? What hinders you? Where will you find courage?

Pray

Thank God that we are a new creation in Christ. Ask God to help you to walk in His grace and love in greater ways as God's ambassador.

Day 5

Read 2 Corinthians 6:3-7:4

Notice what Paul is asking the Corinthians to do in 6:11-13, and why we should purify ourselves out of reverence to God.

Reflect

What does success mean to you? How does that compare with 6:4-10? Why does Paul want the church to open their hearts to him?

Respond

What does it mean that you are the dwelling place of God? What contaminants can affect your body and spirit?

Pray

Ask God in prayer to open wide your hearts to Him, and to help you live purely.

Week 25

Day 1

Read 2 Corinthians 7:5-16

Notice the two kinds of sorrow or grief Paul mentions and which one is the true repentance that motivates Paul to comfort these believers.

Reflect

What in the response of the Corinthians leads Paul to take pride in them and rejoice?

Respond

From Paul's example, do you think it is more loving to confront someone with their sin than to overlook it? How would you confront someone in a loving manner? Is there something in your life you need to repent of? How will you apply the example of this passage to your repentance?

Pray

Thank Jesus for His grace to us sinners and for the Holy Spirit who leads us to Godly sorrow; bringing repentance that leads to salvation. Ask the Holy Spirit for discernment to know when to confront someone in love.

Day 2

Read 2 Corinthians 8

What do you learn about the Macedonians from their giving? Why does Paul use their example?

Reflect

Even though the Corinthians are struggling, what would this test of generosity reveal? Why is this gift from Paul to the Jerusalem church so important?

Respond

To become more generous, what would you need to change? What principles in verse 5 and verses 13-14 should you apply to your giving?

Pray

Ask Jesus to help you walk according to his example, in love and generosity.

Day 3

Read 2 Corinthians 9

Consider how "sowing and reaping" effects our righteousness and why this can make us cheerful.

Reflect

How does giving reflect God's grace? What are the three "all"s in verse 8 talking about? Why is God generous to us?

Respond

What have you reaped by being generous to others? How can God's promise in verse 8 help you to be more generous?

Pray

Thank God for His grace and generosity to you. Ask God to help you walk in this way with others more and more.

Day 4

Read 2 Corinthians 10

Consider why Paul defends his ministry.

Reflect

How is Paul's gentleness and meekness being misunderstood? How is Paul's authority and the exercise of it different from the so called "super apostles"?

Respond

Do you see it as strength or weakness when a person admits their limitations? Why?

Pray

Ask God to help you work on areas in your life to help show your interest in building others up.

Day 5

Read 2 Corinthians 11:1-15

Notice how Paul refused to be supported by the Corinthians, yet accepted help from the Macedonian churches. Why?

Reflect

How is Paul's servant heart being distorted by the false apostles? How do their motives compare with his?

Respond

Spiritually, in verse 2, you have been promised to one husband; to Christ. How are you getting ready for that upcoming wedding?

Pray

Pray that God would help you to keep your motives pure and to give you the wisdom to know and avoid Satan's schemes.

Week 26

Day 1

Read 2 Corinthians 11:16-33

The false teachers in these verses were apparently Palestinian Jews preaching a distorted gospel. Notice how Paul's concern for the churches leads him to appeal to them, as well as to "boasting", as the false apostles were doing.

Reflect

How does Paul's boasting differ from the boasting of the false teachers? How is his suffering a greater witness to his authority than fine speech?

Respond

How do you need to grasp Paul's attitude considering the pressures and challenges in your daily life?

Pray

Thank Jesus for his gentleness and for the suffering that he endured to save us. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you walk as Jesus did with His strength.

Day 2

Read 2 Corinthians 12:1-10

Notice how Paul validates his apostleship in these verses.

Reflect

Why did God give Paul a thorn in his flesh? How has it affected his life?

Respond

How has God worked in and through you during a time of weakness? Is your attitude like Paul's during these times?

Pray

Thank God for his power and love. Ask God for His strength and power in your areas of weakness; with greater trust in Him.

Day 3

Read 2 Corinthians 12:11-21

Consider why Paul wrote this letter and how Paul distances himself from the "super apostles".

Reflect

What do Paul's questions show about his intentions versus the Corinthian's perception of him? (vv. 17-19)

Respond

How would you feel about visiting a church you love which is behaving like verses 20-21? Would you continue to love them?

Pray

Ask God to help you to persevere in love despite how others behave or treat you.

Day 4

Read 2 Corinthians 13

Notice how Paul's letter of warning before his third visit to Corinth is written to build the church up, not to tear it down.

Reflect

Paul prefers to visit Corinth in gentleness and humility. What does he hope for as he visits the third time?

Respond

The Corinthian church misunderstood gentleness and compassion as negative traits. How is the same problem true in your community?

Pray

Ask God to help you this week to aim for "perfection" in your areas of weakness, with His strength.

Day 5

Read Galatians 1

As you read, think about what messages people preach today that distort the gospel.

Reflect

What is the revelation that Paul received from Jesus Christ (see Acts 22:6-8)? How did the revelation change Paul's life? Does seeking approval from others (v. 10) keep you from talking about or living for Jesus?

Respond

Do you express your personal experience of Christ changing your life to others as you share your faith?

Pray

Ask God to help you receive his forgiveness in areas from your past that still affect you now.

Week 27

Day 1

Read Galatians 2:1-10

Notice how these false teachers tried to take away freedom and bring people into slavery.

Reflect

What encouragement did Paul receive from others? How can we ask others to help us live in freedom?

Respond

Do you remember the poor in proclaiming the Gospel? Would you have accepted someone who used to persecute the church into your group?

Pray

Ask God to give you the courage and grace to remember the poor and to stand for the truth of the gospel.

Day 2

Read Galatians 2:11-21

Consider why Paul opposed Peter. How did it relate to being justified by faith?

Reflect

Why is our faith not about following customs? What does it mean to have Christ living in us and to live by faith (v. 20)?

Respond

How would you explain verse 16 to a non-Christian? How does this Gospel of undeserved grace affect you?

Pray

Thank Jesus for dying for you and for his undeserving grace. Ask God to help you to receive his grace daily and to stand firm in your justification through faith in Christ.

Day 3

Read Galatians 3:1-22

Consider why Paul uses the example of Abraham to teach the Galatians and us about faith and righteousness.

Reflect

What is the promise that God gave to Abraham? Who is the Seed through whom the promise to Abraham will be fulfilled?

Respond

What kinds of legalism do Christians fall for? How is your faith helping you to escape this kind of spiritual prison?

Pray

Thank God for giving you his Spirit because you believed in what you heard about Jesus. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you in your daily walk to receive the promise that "all nations will be blessed through you."

Day 4

Read Galatians 3:23-4:7

Notice how God intervened to alter our history making us all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.

Reflect

In verse 28 it states, "you are all one in Christ Jesus." What are some social and cultural obstacles to the unity of followers of Jesus in our time? How would that change if we all put on Christ (3:27)?

Respond

How can you help to restore and build unity within the body of Christ and beyond? What does being "in Christ" and the knowledge that you are his full heir mean to you?

Pray

Thank God that he has adopted you. Ask the Holy Spirit to open up your spiritual eyes, ears and heart to understand what it means to belong to Christ.

Day 5

Read Galatians 4:8-31

Notice Paul's concern for the Galatians and how they are turning back to wrong principles.

Reflect

How does a relationship with God based on "performance" rather than promise, take the joy out of the Christian life?

Respond

Have you resorted back to old ways from which Christ delivered you? How can you change that?

Pray

Thank God for his promise being fulfilled in Jesus. Ask God to help you walk in the freedom and grace that has been given to you.

Week 28

Day 1

Read Galatians 5: 1-15

Notice what it means to be free in Christ and how Paul opposes those who are leading the Galatians astray.

Reflect

Why does Paul oppose circumcision? Since our own efforts don't bring us to God, what does (vv. 5-6)?

Respond

How have you abused your freedom in Christ or seen others abuse it?

Pray

Pray that God would help you to use your freedom in Christ to serve one another in love.

Day 2

Read Galatians 5:16-26

Notice what two things are opposed in verse 17 and how each is lived out.

Reflect

How does God's Spirit remove the sinful nature and grow the fruit of the Spirit? Why do we still struggle with sin?

Respond

How is God calling you to change your way of life? Which spiritual fruits do you need in your life?

Pray

Thank God for His Spirit and ask God to help you to live by the Spirit daily.

Day 3

Read Galatians 6

Notice how Paul applies what he has taught to our relationships with others.

Reflect

How does verse 5 relate to verse 2? What have you learned about sowing to the Spirit (v. 8)?

Respond

How will you help friends and family with their burdens? What lesson must you apply?

Pray

Ask God to help you this week and throughout the year, to "sow to please the Spirit".

Day 4

Read Ephesians 1

Notice God's plan and purpose for us. How can we understand it?

Reflect

What are our spiritual blessings in Christ? What does being "chosen" mean to you?

Respond

Why has God made Jesus head over everything? How does knowing that you are marked with the seal of the Holy Spirit change how you will live?

Pray

Thank God for His grace, redemption, and forgiveness. Pray that God would give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better.

Day 5

Read Ephesians 2

Notice what it means to be made alive in Christ and to be one in Christ.

Reflect

If we are "dead" due to sin, how are we made alive (vv. 4-5)? How has Christ destroyed the barriers of hatred and conflict and made peace possible for all people?

Respond

What has God's grace meant to you in your journey? What relationships in your life do you need to work on?

Pray

Thank God for his free gift of grace to us. Ask God to help you receive his grace daily and do the good works and peacemaking he has called you to.

Week 29

Day 1

Read Ephesians 3

Look for the mystery God revealed to Paul and his prayer for the Ephesians.

Reflect

What was Paul's feeling about the mission that God had given to him? What benefit of being in Christ is mentioned in verse 12?

Respond

Paul prays verses 14-21 when he is in pain (v. 13). How is the love of God described here and how do we know it in times of trouble?

Pray

Pray that God would help those you care about to be rooted and established in His love with His power, and filled to the fullness of God.

Day 2

Read Ephesians 4:1-16

In this passage, notice that God gave gifts to all men; and how they enable us to live in harmony.

Reflect

Can you identify any of these gifts? How are you gifted to show love? What does speaking "the truth in love" mean (v. 15)?

Respond

Are you walking in the "calling you have received" in verse 1? How can you develop your gifts? How do you avoid "speaking the truth in love"?

Pray

Thank Jesus for the gifts he poured out on us at His ascension? Ask the Spirit to teach you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received.

Day 3

Read Ephesians 4:17-32

Notice how we "put off the old self" (vv. 22) and "put on the new self" (vv. 24) in this passage?

Reflect

Why must we deal with anger and bitterness quickly (vv. 26-27)? How do we grieve the Holy Spirit (v. 30)?

Respond

Confess to God times when you have been unkind or failed to forgive, and make it right.

Pray

Praise God for the new self he has given you and ask help for the items you still need to put on.

Day 4

Read Ephesians 5:1-20

Notice what standards Paul is speaking about that should be practiced for Christian living.

Reflect

What qualities should be lived out in the Spirit-filled life? We should avoid "deeds of darkness"; but what else should we do about them?

Respond

What positive changes have you seen in your motives and actions since becoming a follower of Jesus? How can you improve?

Pray

Thank God for His love and ask God to help you live a life of love, just as Christ loved us.

Day 5

Read Ephesians 5:21-6:9

Consider what God is saying to you in this passage about your family or work situations?

Reflect

What other relationships is marriage symbolic of in this passage? How does the present day view of work, marriage and family compare to this passage?

Respond

How can you be a Godly reflection and honor God in your family, marriage and workplace?

Pray

Ask God to give you the desire and strength to respect and honor others out of reverence and respect for God.

Week 30

Day 1

Read Ephesians 6:10-24

Notice the nature of our spiritual enemy and what we are given from God's armory to fight him.

Reflect

How does each item of armor help us to stand against Satan's schemes? Why is prayer basic in arming ourselves?

Respond

What have you been struggling with recently? How does this passage encourage you and equip you? Have you been fighting the wrong battle?

Pray

Thank God for his mighty power and love for us. Ask God to help you stand firm against Satan's schemes with His armor in place.

Day 2

Read Philippians 1:1-26

Notice how many times the words "joy" or "rejoicing" appear. Keep looking in the rest of the letter.

Reflect

What about this church makes Paul happy? How does the promise of verse 6 relate to the prayer in verses 9-11?

Respond

Who introduced you to Jesus Christ and helped you with your spiritual growth? How have you found joy in difficult things in your life?

Pray

Pray that God's "love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight" in your heart and mind and use this prayer for others.

Day 3

Read Philippians 1:27-2:11

You've noticed Paul wrote this letter in jail. How is the experience of this church like that of Paul and how should it be like Jesus?

Reflect

Do you think some problems in the church led Paul to write this? How does this passage challenge society's idea of success?

Respond

What would have to change in you to help build unity in your church and community? How do you balance caring for others needs with your own needs?

Pray

Thank Jesus Christ for his glorious name and obedience to death. Ask God to bring unity in the body of Christ and to help you walk in humility and joy daily.

Day 4

Read Philippians 2:12-30

Notice what Paul tells them to do, why he rejoices, and what stories he tells.

Reflect

What does it mean to "work out your salvation" (v. 12, and vv. 2:1-4)? Reflect on what Paul is saying in verse 21.

Respond

What area in your life is a challenge for you to do without complaining? Do you give praise easily or do you find this difficult for you?

Pray

Pray that the Lord will work in you and others in the church, "to will and act according to his good purpose".

Day 5

Read Philippians 3:1-4:1

Consider why Paul expressed concern that the Philippians avoid confidence in the flesh and press on towards the goal in Christ Jesus.

Reflect

What does "confidence in the flesh" mean? According to Paul, what's the secret to success?

Respond

What is keeping you from becoming a new creation in Christ? What does it mean to you to be an heir of God's kingdom?

Pray

Pray that the Holy Spirit would help you forget "what is behind" and strain "toward what is ahead" standing firm in the Lord.

Week 31

Day 1

Read Philippians 4:2-23

Think about how this passage might help Euodia and Syntyche to get along. What should they be thinking about?

Reflect

How can the disagreement between these two women affect the unity of the whole body of Christ? What does Paul say to do? How does Paul remain content (vv. 10-13)?

Respond

Why are joy and reasonableness both necessary for a good life? Are you facing stress? How does Paul say you should deal with it?

Pray

Thank God for his gift of peace. Ask God to guard your thoughts and meet your need with thanksgiving, bringing you His peace.

Day 2

Read Colossians 1:1-14

Notice that Paul hasn't met the Colossae church. How does he care for them?

Reflect

Why is faith and love the outflow of hope (v. 5)? What truth about grace is seen in verses 12-14?

Respond

When did you first come to grasp hope through Jesus Christ? Is the fruit of the Spirit growing in your life?

Pray

Pray that you and others would overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit and mature in the fruit of the Spirit (vv. 9-12).

Day 3

Read Colossians 1:15-23

Notice how Jesus is described and how we are described.

Reflect

Why does Paul highlight Jesus as Lord of the universe and head of the church? How did Jesus reconcile us to God?

Respond

Do you identify with verse 21? How do you feel when you read that you have been reconciled by Christ's physical death and you are holy in his sight (v. 22)?

Pray

Ask God to strengthen you to stand firm in your faith, "not moved from the hope" in the gospel.

Day 4

Read Colossians 1:24-2:5

Notice what we need to know so that people will not deceive us.

Reflect

What hope do we need (v. 27)? What wisdom do you think we need to hang onto this hope of salvation and be united in love?

Respond

Are you able to rejoice when you go through suffering (1:24)? Is the purpose Paul stated in 2:2 true in your life each day?

Pray

Pray that God would help you to embrace and understand what it means to have Christ in you and to avoid deceptive arguments.

Day 5

Read Colossians 2:6-23

Notice all we have when we have Jesus and what He has done for us. Why doesn't just keeping rules help us?

Reflect

What does "living in Christ" and being "rooted and built up" in Him mean (vv. 6-7)? How does Jesus give us victory over the powers of darkness?

Respond

What causes you to follow religious rules instead of letting Christ change you on the inside?

Pray

Thank God for His freedom in Christ. Pray that you will continue to live in him, strengthened and abounding with thankfulness.

Week 32

Day 1

Read Colossians 3:1-4:1

Paul has been discussing rules others place on believers. Notice how different his instructions are! What are we to put off or put to death and put on?

Reflect

Where is our life hidden? How does everything here describe the life of Jesus in us?

Respond

According to what Paul writes here, who is the real you? How does that knowledge help you live for Jesus?

Pray

Pray for forgiveness where the person you used to be has kept you from living the life God has planned for you. Ask the Spirit of God to live the life of Jesus in you with thankfulness in your heart (vv. 16-17)

Day 2

Read Colossians 4:2-18

Look for models among those he greets. Notice the brief prayer request and instruction.

Reflect

How will you apply the instructions concerning wise speech among nonbelievers?

Respond

How can we pray for those who are spreading the Gospel today? How can we imitate Tychicus and Onesimus?

Pray

Pray for the church workers and missionaries you know using verses 2-4. How can you share their burdens?

Day 3

Read 1 Thessalonians 1

Notice what Paul appreciates about this church. Pay special attention to what the Holy Spirit has done?

Reflect

Why are these Christians good examples for us? What has their experience been? How has the Spirit changed their lives?

Respond

Are your circumstances anything like those of these believers? Have you experienced the power of the Holy Spirit in your walk with Jesus? Do others see the change?

Pray

Pray for the spread of the gospel around the world through what He is doing in you and in the church.

Day 4

Read 1 Thessalonians 2:1-16

Notice how Paul describes his work among them and who he compares himself with in verses 7 and 11.

Reflect

When do we need to act like nursing mothers? When should we act like fathers? What does each do? Who have been your fathers and nursing mothers, and how can you imitate them?

Respond

What is God saying to us about our trials and challenges? How can we “live in a way that proves you belong to the God who calls you into his kingdom and glory”? (v.12)

Pray

Pray for the same heart of faithfulness and strength God gave the Thessalonians. Ask God to show you how to be mother and father to others.

Day 5

Read 1 Thessalonians 2: 17–3:13

Notice what Paul has been struggling with, what he did about it, and what report he received.

Reflect

Can you identify with Paul’s struggle here and feel the pain love gave him? How do you think these words encouraged this church?

Respond

To whom will you write a love letter or send an affirmative text today? Do you also need to spend personal time with them?

Pray

Ask God to help you develop a heart of thankfulness for His church and give you an increase in love for others around you.

Week 33

Day 1

Read 1 Thessalonians 4:1-12

Notice references to holiness and what it requires. What does true love do?

Reflect

How do God's commands for sexual purity compare to popular views? Why should believers behave in ways that set them apart?

Respond

How would your life look if you lived to "win respect from those outside the church" (v. 12)?

Pray

Thank God for setting you apart as one of His children and giving you His Holy Spirit. Ask Him to help you "excel in love even more" and live in obedience to His commands.

Day 2

Read 1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:11

Notice how Paul describes our resurrection and the return of Christ.

Reflect

How are we to live our lives as we wait for Jesus to come for us? Why won't we be surprised when he returns? How do faith, love and hope defend us (v. 8)?

Respond

How do you assume your identity as a child of the light, one who belongs to the day (vv. 5, 8)? How is God awakening you to live in the light?

Pray

Praise God for the hope, that "whether we are awake in this life or asleep in death, we will live together with him."

Day 3

Read 1 Thessalonians 5:12-28

Notice all the action verbs and the blessing at the end.

Reflect

Which actions do you need to practice so you will "not put out the Spirit's fire" (v. 19)?

Respond

Take time today to "show your appreciation for those leaders who work among you and instruct you."

Pray

Ask God to keep your whole being – spirit, soul, and body – blameless until the day our Lord Jesus Christ returns. Thank Him for the ways He has been faithful in your life.

Day 4

Read 2 Thessalonians 1

Notice the three parts of this chapter: praise for spiritual growth (vv. 3-4), comfort in suffering (vv. 5-10), and prayer for God's work (vv. 11-12).

Reflect

What could other Christians boast about you? How can judgment be comfort? How does God's future judgment and relief compare to our desire for revenge and vengeance today?

Respond

In what way can you encourage believers around you who are suffering?

Pray

Use the prayer in verses 11-12 to pray for others, including the persecuted church.

Day 5

Read 2 Thessalonians 2

There are things difficult to understand here, so notice what is clear concerning the punishment of Satan. What should we be doing while we wait for that time?

Reflect

Did you notice why they were confused about Jesus' return (v. 2)? What things confuse you in what you have heard or read? What basic truth and principles will you hold on to?

Respond

Those who do "not believe the truth ... will be condemned." Allow God to break your heart for those who are lost.

Pray

Thank God that He chose you to be saved from the future judgment and accept the promise of verses 16 & 17.

Week 34

Day 1

Read 2 Thessalonians 3

Notice the instructions and words of encouragement.

Reflect

What difference do you suppose it made to these Christians that Paul was confident about them? What positive example does he provide for his instructions concerning work?

Respond

Do you need to apply any of these instructions to yourself? Does verse 13 point out a difficulty you have?

Pray

Most of the missionaries of this church need the prayer in verses 1-2. Thank God for the peace he gives them and you.

Day 2

Read 1 Timothy 1: 1-17

Notice the job Paul gave Timothy, the proper way to use the law, and Paul's personal testimony.

Reflect

What is Paul's target in this letter (v. 5)? What kinds of teaching fail to help us to this goal? How will you determine if teaching you hear is "without understanding" (v. 7)?

Respond

How does Paul's example help you to accept God's love and show it to others?

Pray

Sing praise to Jesus for his mercy in your life based on verses 13-15. Use verse 17 in that prayer.

Day 3

Read 1 Timothy 1:18 - 2:15

Notice the instructions on prayer and try to determine how we might apply them in our culture.

Reflect

Have you been obedient to the prophecies you have received, including the convictions the Spirit has given you as you've studied the Bible or heard it taught? Recall also that some of the leaders Paul speaks of here persecuted the church. What is the goal of our prayer for leaders?

Respond

Evaluate what you are sure you must do as you obey these words and...

Pray

...ask God to work in governments that Christians may live in peace and that many will be saved.

Day 4

Read 1 Timothy 3:1-13

Notice the expectations Paul has for church leaders and determine if you should also apply them to yourself.

Reflect

Why is personal integrity important for leadership in the church? How would you apply verse 4 to the way you should do business and how would you not apply it?

Respond

What can you do to grow in these characteristics in your own life, whether or not God has called you to lead a specific ministry?

Pray

Pray for the leaders of our church and other churches in the area.

Day 5

Read 1 Timothy 3:14 - 4:5

Notice a further purpose for this letter and the predictions concerning future happenings.

Reflect

How is the church like a household? How can our church be more of a home for the despised and rejected? Is there a connection between rooting out sins and exhibiting good character, and being kept safe from deceiving spirits?

Respond

Prepare yourself to resist lying spirits and godless teachers according to the instructions Paul has been giving in his letters. How does verse 16 help?

Pray

Ask God to keep you from being deceived and to protect God's Church.

Week 35

Day 1

Read 1 Timothy 4: 6 – 16

Notice the encouragements to action and the ways those actions help others mature in faith.

Reflect

What does it mean to live a godly life? What ways is it more than just "sin management"?

Respond

What is one area of your spiritual life that you've neglected recently? What steps can you take to move back towards God in that area?

Pray

Ask God to point out any people that are looking to you as an example. Ask for help in pursuing a godly life..

Day 2

Read 1 Timothy 5: 1 – 16

Notice Paul's concept of church as family. Consider the depth of care the early church gave widows.

Reflect

In what areas could we improve our care of the desolate? What principles should we apply?

Respond

What has God given you that you can share with others in need? How will you do that?

Pray

Ask God to reveal to you those around you in need, and give you creative ideas for meeting those needs.

Day 3

Read 1 Timothy 5:17 – 6:2

Notice the two categories of people who are in authority over us and how we should relate to them.

Reflect

What specifically does Paul say about provision for and respect towards church leaders? How can we assure our church has good leadership (vv. 20, 22)? How should you treat your boss?

Respond

Using the principles in this letter, examine yourself instead of your church leaders and those in authority. How can you model what you expect from others?

Pray

Pray for insight into places you can begin to bless and minister to others, even as you yourself are healed and blessed.

Day 4

Read 1 Timothy 6: 3 – 21

Notice the fight we should avoid and the one we should engage in. Also notice the best attitude towards money.

Reflect

Who is Lord of your life, God or money? Are you content? Are you pursuing the things in verse 11?

Respond

How will you seek contentment (vv. 6-7)? Are worldly goods your primary goal or merely means to a godly end? Why is faith needed for this, and how is it a battle (v. 12)?

Pray

Praise God for all he has given you and for our coming reward. Ask him for the qualities you need to fight the fight of faith.

Day 5

Read 2 Timothy 1

Notice how Paul describes his relationship with Timothy and what strengths and weaknesses he points out. Also notice the example he gives from his own life.

Reflect

Do you need the same kind of encouragement Timothy is given here? In what specific ways? How can you follow the example of Paul?

Respond

Choose how you will obey verses 13 and 14 today and in the future.

Pray

Turn the choices you made to follow Paul's guidance into a prayer for power, love, and self-control (v. 7).

Week 36

Day 1

Read 2 Timothy 2:1-14

Pay attention to how God will respond to our actions and the ways in which we endure for the Gospel.

Reflect

What are some similarities between the soldier, the athlete and the farmer? How are the models different?

Respond

When you reflect on the models Paul gives, what insight is God giving you about your own calling and discipline?

Pray

Pray that you may endure your hardships so you can be someone God can rely on to share the Gospel with others.

Day 2

Read 2 Timothy 2: 15-26

Pay attention to what we should pursue and what we should avoid in order to be an honorable vessel.

Reflect

Focus on verses 15-16 and 22-25. Why are these things so necessary?

Respond

Review the values and practices Paul presents here. Choose those exhortations that you will apply to your life.

Pray

Ask God to keep reminding you to endure and do the things that are noble or honorable.

Day 3

Read 2 Timothy 3: 1-9

Pay attention to what Paul is warning Timothy about and how it could affect his ministry.

Reflect

What are the dangers for people in the last days before Jesus comes again according to Paul? What are the consequences?

Respond

What in your own heart and life should you be watching out for so that you remain Godly?

Pray

Ask God to help you keep learning about your faith and His truth.

Day 4

Read 2 Timothy 3: 10-17

Focus on the positive things Paul encourages in Timothy and how you might apply these in your life.

Reflect

What can we expect if we want to live a Godly life (both the bad and the good)? How will the Bible help us?

Respond

Think about what would foster more purpose, faith, patience, love and endurance in your own life.

Pray

Ask God to guide you through your times in scripture so it can continue to build your faith.

Day 5

Read 2 Timothy 4

Focus on how Paul has been faithful in his life and fought the good fight.

Reflect

Why will Paul be judged as righteous and share in the heavenly kingdom? How does that affect the advice and instructions he is giving Timothy about his own ministry?

Respond

Are there times when you have "itchy ears", when you want to hear only things that fulfill your own desires rather than God's desires for you?

Pray

Pray that God would use truthful preaching and teaching to give you strength during hard times, like Paul experienced.

	DAY 1	DAY 2	DAY 3	DAY 4	DAY 5
Week 1 (Sept 11–17)	Luke 1:1–38	Luke 1:39–80	Luke 2	Luke 3	Luke 4
Week 2 (Sept 18–24)	Luke 5:1–26	Luke 5:27–6:16	Luke 6:17–49	Luke 7	Luke 8
Week 3 (Sept 25–Oct 1)	Luke 9:1–48	Luke 9:49–10:24	Luke 10:25–42	Luke 11:1–36	Luke 11:37–12:12
Week 4 (Oct 2–8)	Luke 12:13–34	Luke 12:35–13:9	Luke 13:10–35	Luke 14	Luke 15
Week 5 (Oct 9–15)	Luke 16	Luke 17	Luke 18:1–17	Luke 18:18–43	Luke 19:1–27
Week 6 (Oct 16–22)	Luke 19:28–48	Luke 20	Luke 21	Luke 22:1–38	Luke 22:39–71
Week 7 (Oct 23–29)	Luke 23:1–49	Luke 23:50–24:35	24:36–53 • Acts 1:1–11	Acts 1:12–2:13	Acts 2:14–47
Week 8 (Oct 30–Nov 5)	Acts 3	Acts 4:1–22	Acts 4:23–5:11	Acts 5:12–42	Acts 6
Week 9 (Nov 6–12)	Acts 7	Acts 8	Acts 9:1–31	Acts 9:32–43	Acts 10
Week 10 (Nov 13–19)	Acts 11:1–18	Acts 11:19–12:5	Acts 12:6–25	Acts 13	Acts 14
Week 11 (Nov 20–26)	Acts 15	Acts 16:1–15	Acts 16:16–40	Acts 17	Acts 18
Week 12 (Nov 27–Dec 3)	Acts 19:1–22	Acts 19:23–41	Acts 20	Acts 21:1–26	Acts 21:27–40
Week 13 (Dec 4–10)	Acts 22:1–29	Acts 22:30–23:35	Acts 24	Acts 25:1–22	Acts 25:23–26:32
Week 14 (Dec 11–17)	Acts 27:1–26	Acts 27:27–28:10	Acts 28:11–31	Romans 1:1–17	Rom 1:18–32
Week 15 (Dec 18–24)	Rom 2:1–16	Rom 2:17–3:8	Rom 3:9–31	Rom 4	Rom 5:1–11
Week 16 (Dec 25–31)	Rom 5:12–21	Rom 6	Rom 7:1–13	Rom 7:14–8:17	Rom 8:18–39
Week 17 (Jan 1–7)	Rom 9:1–29	Rom 9:30–10:4	Rom 10:5–21	Rom 11:1–24	Rom 11:25–12:2
Week 18 (Jan 8–14)	Rom 12:3–21	Rom 13	Rom 14	Rom 15:1–13	Rom 15:14–33
Week 19 (Jan 15–21)	Rom 16	1 Corinthians 1:1–17	1 Cor 1:18–31	1 Cor 2	1 Cor 3
Week 20 (Jan 22–28)	1 Cor 4	1 Cor 5	1 Cor 6:1–11	1 Cor 6:12–20	1 Cor 7
Week 21 (Jan 29–Feb 4)	1 Cor 8	1 Cor 9	1 Cor 10	1 Cor 11:1–16	1 Cor 11:17–34
Week 22 (Feb 5–11)	1 Cor 12:1–11	1 Cor 12:12–31	1 Cor 13	1 Cor 14:1–25	1 Cor 14:26–40
Week 23 (Feb 12–18)	1 Cor 15:1–34	1 Cor 15:35–58	1 Cor 16	2 Corinthians 1:1–14	2 Cor 1:15–2:13
Week 24 (Feb 19–25)	2 Cor 2:14–3:6	2 Cor 3:7–18	2 Cor 4	2 Cor 5:1–6:2	2 Cor 6:3–7:4
Week 25 (Feb 26–Mar 4)	2 Cor 7:5–16	2 Cor 8	2 Cor 9	2 Cor 10	2 Cor 11:1–15
Week 26 (Mar 5–11)	2 Cor 11:16–33	2 Cor 12:1–10	2 Cor 12:11–21	2 Cor 13	Galatians 1
Week 27 (Mar 12–18)	Galatians 2:1–10	Gal 2:11–21	Gal 3:1–22	Gal 3:23–4:7	Gal 4:8–31
Week 28 (Mar 19–25)	Gal 5:1–15	Gal 5:16–26	Gal 6	Ephesians 1	Eph 2
Week 29 (Mar 26–Apr 1)	Eph 3	Eph 4:1–16	Eph 4:17–32	Eph 5:1–20	Eph 5:21–6:9
Week 30 (Apr 2–8)	Eph 6:10–24	Philippians 1:1–26	Phi 1:27–2:11	Phi 2:12–30	Phi 3:1–4:1
Week 31 (Apr 9–15)	Phi 4:2–23	Colossians 1:1–14	Col 1:15–23	Col 1:24–2:5	Col 2:6–23
Week 32 (Apr 16–22)	Col 3:1–4:1	Col 4:2–18	1 Thessalonians 1	1 Thes 2:1–16	1 Thes 2:17–3:13
Week 33 (Apr 23–29)	1 Thes 4:1–12	1 Thes 4:13–5:11	1 Thes 5:12–28	2 Thessalonians 1	2 Thes 2
Week 34 (Apr 30–May 6)	2 Thes 3	1 Timothy 1:1–17	1 Tim 1:18–2:15	1 Tim 3:1–13	1 Tim 3:14–4:5
Week 35 (May 7–13)	1 Tim 4:6–16	1 Tim 5:1–16	1 Tim 5:17–6:2	1 Tim 6:3–21	2 Timothy 1
Week 36 (May 14–20)	2 Tim 2:1–14	2 Tim 2:15–26	2 Tim 3:1–9	2 Tim 3:10–17	2 Tim 4
Week 37 (May 21–27)	Titus 1	Titus 2	Titus 3	Philemon	Hebrews 1
Week 38 (May 28–June 3)	Heb 2	Heb 3	Heb 4:1–13	Heb 4:14–5:10	Heb 5:11–6:12
Week 39 (June 4–10)	Heb 6:13–20	Heb 7:1–14	Heb 7:15–28	Heb 8	Heb 9:1–10
Week 40 (June 11–17)	Heb 9:11–28	Heb 10:1–18	Heb 10:19–39	Heb 11	Heb 12:1–13
Week 41 (June 18–24)	Heb 12:14–29	Heb 13	James 1:1–18	James 1:19–27	James 2:1–13
Week 42 (June 25–July 1)	James 2:14–26	James 3	James 4	James 5	1 Peter 1:1–12
Week 43 (July 2–8)	1 Pet 1:13–2:3	1 Pet 2:4–17	1 Pet 2:18–3:7	1 Pet 3:8–22	1 Pet 4
Week 44 (July 9–15)	1 Pet 5	2 Peter 1:1–11	2 Pet 1:12–21	2 Pet 2	2 Pet 3
Week 45 (July 16–22)	1 John 1	1 John 2:1–17	1 John 2:18–29	1 John 3:1–10	1 John 3:11–24
Week 46 (July 23–29)	1 John 4:1–6	1 John 4:7–21	1 John 5	2 John	3 John
Week 47 (July 30–Aug 5)	Jude 1–16	Jude 17–25	Revelation 1	Rev 2:1–17	Rev 2:18–3:6
Week 48 (Aug 6–12)	Rev 3:7–22	Rev 4	Rev 5	Rev 6	Rev 7
Week 49 (Aug 13–19)	Rev 8:1–5	Rev 8:6–13	Rev 9:1–12	Rev 9:13–21	Rev 10
Week 50 (Aug 20–26)	Rev 11:1–14	Rev 11:15–19	Rev 12	Rev 13:1–10	Rev 13:11–18
Week 51 (Aug 27–Sept 2)	Rev 14:1–13	Rev 14:14–15:4	Rev 15:5–16:21	Rev 17	Rev 18
Week 52 (Sept 3–9)	Rev 19:1–10	Rev 19:11–21	Rev 20	Rev 21	Rev 22

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