



# **oak park baptist church**

**B I B L E  
R E A D I N G &  
D E V O T I O N A L  
G U I D E**

**January, February, & March 2014**

Dear Reader,

Christians should read their Bibles. That's not going to be the most profound statement you'll come across this week, but the simplest statements are often the truest. Regardless of how many good books we may recommend, there is only one truly "must-read" book for Christians, the Bible. Many people, including you I'd wager, find themselves frustrated and disappointed about how regularly they spend time reading God's word. Life is busy, and good intentions get crowded out by the demands of the day. Maybe the most basic reason, however, is that you don't have a plan. If that's the case, we're ready to help you in 2014.

We invite you to begin a two-year journey that will help you read the Bible regularly, on a schedule, and completely. We didn't set out to reinvent the proverbial wheel. The daily passages referenced in this guide are part of a tried and tested Bible reading plan that we think you'll find very manageable. Most days, you'll only need to read two chapters a day. Over the course of two years, you will read the entire Bible, including the New Testament and Psalms twice. Think of the value to your spiritual life in Christ when you get in the habit of consistently reading the Bible daily, book by book.

There is help for the journey. The short writings in this booklet comment on at least one of the daily readings. They have been written by men here at Oak Park with the hopes that they help you focus your thoughts. If you want a more thorough devotional guide to these passages, I'd encourage you to secure copies of the books "For the Love of God" (2 volumes) by D.A. Carson. Dr. Carson developed this reading guide as a modification of the well-known M'Cheyne Bible reading plan.

We trust that immersing yourself into God's word consistently will be a great blessing to you.

Jody

## **Devotions by Mike Bauslaugh**

### **WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 1**

*Read Genesis 1; Matthew 1*

This first day of the year we start out reading about many “new beginnings.” In Genesis 1, God creates the universe. The creation story teaches us much about God and ourselves. God is eternal and distinct from His creation and, since God chose to create us, we are valuable in His eyes.

### **THURSDAY, JANUARY 2**

*Read Genesis 2; Matthew 2*

In Matthew 2 Herod was afraid that this newborn king would one day take away his throne. He completely misunderstood the reason for Christ's coming. Jesus didn't want Herod's throne, He wanted to be king of Herod's life. He wants to be king of your life, too. Is Jesus on the throne of your life today?

### **FRIDAY, JANUARY 3**

*Read Genesis 3; Matthew 3*

Adam and Eve chose their course of action (disobedience) and then God took His. As a holy God, He could respond only in a way consistent with His perfect moral nature. He could not allow sin to go unchecked. He had to punish it. The consequences of their sin seems extreme but look what sin has done!

## SATURDAY, JANUARY 4

*Read Genesis 4; Matthew 4*

Yesterday we read about man submitting to temptation. Today we read about Jesus resisting temptation. Jesus was able to resist because He knew Scripture, and obeyed it. Satan knew Scripture but didn't obey it. Knowing and obeying the Bible helps us to follow God's desires rather than the devil's.

## SUNDAY, JANUARY 5

*Read Genesis 5; Matthew 5*

In Matthew 5, we read the first portion of Jesus' famous discourse referred to as The Sermon on the Mount. In it, Jesus proclaimed His attitude toward the law. Position, authority and money are not important in the kingdom – what matters is faithful obedience from the heart. It's more important than legalistic observance.

## MONDAY, JANUARY 6

*Read Genesis 6; Matthew 6*

The ark was no canoe – it was 1 ½ football fields long and four stories high! It was six times longer than it was wide - the same ratio used by modern shipbuilders. The ark was built by Noah and his sons miles from a body of water. But they were faithful men who believed God's promises and obeyed Him.

***Devotions by Brennan Webb***

## TUESDAY, JANUARY 7

*Read Genesis 7; Matthew 7*

You have most likely heard it said, "Say what you mean and mean what you say." As Jesus finishes preaching to the crowds, there is no doubt that Jesus "means what He says" as Matthew records the crowd's response to His teaching. Jesus was to them "as one having authority". Spend time recounting Jesus' sermon and ask yourself, "Do these words have authority in my life?"

## **WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8**

*Read Genesis 8; Matthew 8*

Genesis 7 may have ended with the crashing waves of the Lord's justice, but Chapter 8 opens with an act of God's faithfulness. The odds of Noah's family surviving such a tempest would have left even the most high-stake bettor bowing out. However, just as Psalm 89:8 states, "O Lord God of hosts, who is mighty as you are, O Lord, with your faithfulness all around you?" Faithfulness and might are two unmistakable traits of our Master and Lord no matter the storms of life. Consider these truths as you also read of Jesus' power over death, demons, and disease in Matthew 8.

## **THURSDAY, JANUARY 9**

*Read Genesis 9-10; Matthew 9*

You may have heard it said, "Might doesn't make right". When it concerns the Lord, however, might most definitely makes right. In Matthew 9, Jesus' sovereign might is on display as he performs miracles that turn quite a few heads. As you read the awe inspiring miracles of this chapter, don't overlook the spiritual miracle of v2 (forgiveness of sins) which goes along with the piercing question of v28 which still rings loudly today. "Do you believe that I am able to do this?"

## FRIDAY, JANUARY 10

*Read Genesis 11; Matthew 10*

"Hey, it's all Greek to me!" No doubt this is how the tower builders felt after the Lord confused their tongues. The institution of new languages may make us wonder about God's good purposes, but as you read this chapter, think about how the Lord used the differences of language in all of scripture, not just as an instrument of divine judgment but also of His love, of His perfect might, and to magnify His great name.

## SATURDAY, JANUARY 11

*Read Genesis 12; Matthew 11*

C.H. Spurgeon once said "It seems as if doubt were doomed to be the perpetual companion of faith." For us, there is a natural relationship between faith and doubt. John the Baptist, who was filled with the Spirit from the womb, sends his doubting disciples to Jesus to ask a very telling question in which Jesus shows much love and wisdom towards them. We all struggle with doubt, but as Jesus said in v 19, "wisdom is vindicated by her deeds." Look to the deeds that Jesus did while on this earth and trust that he did what we could not.

## SUNDAY, JANUARY 12

*Read Genesis 13; Matthew 12*

Hebrews 11 records that Abraham (Abram) had been "seeking a country of [his own]" and the country he ultimately desired was a "heavenly one" (Hebrews 11:15-16). It should not leave us wondering why Abraham had peace in taking the less preferable land. Abraham's humility, patience and heavenly minded attitude brought a blessing from the Lord that would provide much more than what Lot saw. It required faith for Abraham to believe the promises of v14-17, since much of the fulfillment would not happen until after Abraham

died. It was this faith that pleased the Lord (Hebrews 11:6). Do you have the same faith as Abraham?

## MONDAY, JANUARY 13

*Read Genesis 14; Matthew 13*

The love of a good story starts early. Whether it be reading a good book or listening to grandpa, a story that expands our understanding of the world always seems to captivate us. However, some stories are not so easy to understand, as in the case of Jesus and the many parables he taught. In the mystery of the parables, Jesus had a two fold plan, so that in these parables he would "utter things hidden since the foundation of the world." (v35) Read carefully the parables from Matthew 13 in light of the full counsel of scripture, knowing that for Christians "it has been granted to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven." (v11)

### **Devotions by Cory Bledsoe**

## TUESDAY, JANUARY 14

*Read Genesis 15; Matthew 14*

God's covenant with Abram possesses both immediate and future promises requiring instant and continual belief. In the immediate sense Genesis 15 teaches Abram's "very own son" will be his heir but also, in the future sense, after 400 years of affliction and captivity Abram's offspring "shall come out with great possessions." Abram's faith was "counted to him as righteousness" and unwavering (Rom. 4) so too should our faith not waver but grow strong immediately and continually as we trust in the redeeming promises of God in Christ.

## WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15

*Read Genesis 16; Matthew 15*

Contextually speaking in Matthew 15 Pharisees and scribes are trying to hold Jesus' disciples accountable to the washing of hands prior to eating, a "tradition of the elders." However, Jesus minimizes this and presumably other inconsequential traditions as of the utmost of importance is addressing issues of the heart where true defiance arises. By God's grace we should constantly examine our own hearts, purging sin that so easily entangles and run with endurance the race set before us (Heb. 12).

## THURSDAY, JANUARY 16

*Read Genesis 17; Matthew 16*

In Matthew 16 Peter has rightly identified Jesus as the Son of the Living God and now the Christ, at the right time, will suffer, die and be raised. Peter responds to these claims of Jesus with a zeal that is quickly extinguished and almost diverted to the call seen in vs. 24-28. Here, Jesus says if you wish to come after him take up his cross and follow. If we truly want to pursue Jesus we must daily deny ourselves, take up the death Jesus died and follow him.

## FRIDAY, JANUARY 17

*Read Genesis 18; Matthew 17*

Is anything too hard for the Lord? Sarah (Sarai), Abraham's (Abram) wife scoffed at the claim that within a year she would bear a child, a child of promise, as she and Abraham were "advanced in years." Obviously nothing is too hard for the Lord but the covenant relationship with Abraham should offer us great hope in that God can and will accomplish his purposes no matter how far-fetched or unrealistic his promises may seem at the time (Gen 18).

## SATURDAY, JANUARY 18

*Read Genesis 19; Matthew 18*

The gospel calls believers to a life of humility. Matthew 18 is filled with examples of how believers are to be characterized by humility. Jesus' teachings on becoming like children, responding to temptation, going astray, addressing sin issues with a brother, and the work of forgiveness all carry the necessity of humility. We all are undeserving and utterly dependent upon the grace of God and this truth should humble us as we battle temptation, seek restoration and enact forgiveness in our daily lives.

## SUNDAY, JANUARY 19

*Read Genesis 20; Matthew 19*

God's purposes cannot be thwarted by man's action or inaction. In Genesis 20 Abraham handed over his wife, Sarah, to Abimelech under the guise of his 'sister' out of fear. But before Abimelech could touch Sarah God divinely intervened through a dream and ultimately returned Sarah, gave Abraham livestock and servants as well as silver in order to vindicate Sarah before the people. God had a greater purpose and sovereignly controls all circumstances in order to accomplish that purpose.

## MONDAY, JANUARY 20

*Read Genesis 21; Matthew 20*

The sons of Zebedee wanted to be great and yet Jesus redefines greatness in Matthew 20:20-28. Jesus came "not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." The believer should seek to be great, or first, through servanthood to the Lord Jesus. Jesus bore the wrath of God for our sake and as such we are now bond-servants to the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. I pray our allegiance is forever unwavering.

## Devotions by Doug Broady

### TUESDAY, JANUARY 21

*Read Genesis 22; Matthew 21*

These verses remind us what our faith should look like. Consider Genesis 22:9 - Isaac allows himself to be bound and put on the altar without resistance. In Matthew 21 Jesus uses a fig tree to explain what real faith is and explains that the social outcasts who accepted Jesus will enter the kingdom in contrast to the Jews who rejected him.

### WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 22

*Read Genesis 23; Matthew 22*

Commitment is exemplified in today's chapters. Abraham has just lost his wife and needs a place to bury her. Being committed to God's promises he purchases a field/cave that indicates Canaan is now his home. In Matthew we see the running battle between Jesus and the temple leaders continue. He spars with them about heaven, taxes, commandments, and who he is. All of these parables illustrate different facets of commitment as well as obedience.

### THURSDAY, JANUARY 23

*Read Genesis 24; Matthew 23*

What a contrast we see in these chapters. Abraham and his servant reflect the faith that has grown in them as a result of trusting God in all things. Conversely, Jesus points out to the people around him that they should not be like teachers and Pharisees who are all pretense and show. Can he be any more direct? Where are you in your faith walk?

## **FRIDAY, JANUARY 24**

*Read Genesis 25; Matthew 24*

Today we see that God's plan is not thwarted by death, deception or destruction. Abraham's story is finished and he is buried with Sarah in the cave he purchased in chapter 23. Isaac and Rebekah have twin sons Esau and Jacob who begin their struggle in the womb. In Matthew Jesus gives what is known as the Olivet discourse which predicts the destruction of the temple in Jerusalem, the tribulation believers will suffer, and his triumphal second coming.

## **SATURDAY, JANUARY 25**

*Read Genesis 26; Matthew 25*

How much do you trust God? Isaac didn't trust God enough to tell Abimelech that Sarah was his wife yet God continued to honor his promises to Isaac. Will you trust him enough to live ready for when he returns for the "wedding banquet"? Will you trust God enough use the "talents" he has given to build his kingdom? And when all is said and done will you be a "sheep" or a "goat"?

## **SUNDAY, JANUARY 26**

*Read Genesis 27; Matthew 26*

Betrayal. We have all done it and had it done to us. We certainly have done it to God. Today's chapters illustrate that God can use the worst things in our lives to accomplish his purpose if we will let him. Jacob and Rebekah stole Esau's birthright. Judas was complicit in Jesus's arrest. Peter denied him. The Sanhedrin falsely convicted him. God was able to use Jacob and Peter because they repented. Can God use you or is repentance needed?

## MONDAY, JANUARY 27

*Read Genesis 28; Matthew 27*

Jacob submitted to his father's command and went to Laban's house to find a wife. He also encountered God in a dream and vowed to submit to him. Likewise Jesus continued to submit himself to the will of God the father. He became the atoning sacrifice for mankind's sins. Submission is a difficult thing. How's it going with you?

### **Devotions by Nick Weaver**

## TUESDAY, JANUARY 28

*Read Genesis 29; Matthew 28*

The truth of Christianity is found in the facts of Matthew 28. Our Lord is not in the grave, He is risen! The following verses call those who had seen the risen Lord to respond by telling others all that they had seen and heard. This is our calling too, to bear witness to who Jesus is!

## WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29

*Read Genesis 30; Mark 1*

"...the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe the gospel." Coming of Jesus was physical, but it was also much more. Jesus physical presence ushered in a spiritual reality in which the Kingdom of God was present on the earth. It was as if the whole of the United States military was invading Jeffersonville, IN.

## THURSDAY, JANUARY 30

*Read Genesis 31; Mark 2*

God made a promise to Jacob's grandfather and to his father that he would bless them. In this strange story of speckled and spotted sheep, we see how God directly intervenes to bring his promise to pass. Jacob was not blessed simply by his hard work, but he was also not blessed apart from his hard work.

## FRIDAY, JANUARY 31

*Read Genesis 32; Mark 3*

In Mark 3, we see the end of a strain of stories and questions regarding Jesus' miracles and his interaction with the religious leaders of his day. These stories may seem unrelated, but Mark was already pointing people to the cross. These interactions culminate with Mark telling his readers that the Pharisees immediately plotted "how to destroy him."

## SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1

*Read Genesis 33; Mark 4*

Jacob fled from his brother, Esau, after he had stolen the birthright because he feared for his life. Now at least 20 years have passed and Jacob prepares to meet his brother. He prepares for the worst, but God does not repay him for his deceit. Instead, Esau was gracious to his brother, realizing God's blessing on his own life.

## SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2

*Read Genesis 34; Mark 5*

Christ has ushered in the Kingdom, and a spiritual battle is being waged. He has calmed the storm with a word and now by the power of his word he vanquishes a legion of demons and makes death look as

though it is an afternoon nap. He has come to take back what is his!

## MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3

*Read Genesis 35-36; Mark 6*

"Put away the foreign gods...I may make an altar to the God who answers me in the day of my distress and has been with me wherever I have gone." The faithfulness of God is continually displayed in the life of Jacob, even in light of Jacob's sin God keeps his promises.

### **Devotions by Jody Thomas**

## TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4

*Read Genesis 37; Mark 7*

In the New Testament, the religious leaders usually come off as the "bad guys." They are people who were tied to their traditions. Perhaps because of that, we often think of traditions in a negative way. But traditions can be good or bad, good if they draw us toward God, bad if they don't. What good traditions should you embrace?

## WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5

*Read Genesis 38; Mark 8*

Within one chapter, even within a few verses, we see Peter at perhaps his best and his worst. From making the boldest, truest declaration of all about Jesus (the Christ!) to be compared to Satan himself by Jesus. Take heart that Jesus has as much compassion on us as he does the crowds in verse 2, giving us second chances.

## THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6

*Read Genesis 39; Mark 9*

"No good deed goes unpunished" goes the cynical saying. Joseph works hard, becomes the trusted head of an important household, but ends up in jail on trumped up, false charges. Sometimes God blesses us and sometimes He stresses us, but in all things our circumstances are designed to conform us to His likeness, making us people of integrity.

## FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7

*Read Genesis 40; Mark 10*

Ponder two points about Joseph in Genesis 40: Although he could have taken credit for the amazing ability to interpret dreams, he defers that credit to God alone. Also, although forgotten and mistreated (again) he doesn't allow bitterness to take root in his heart, blaming God. Joseph consistently shows himself to be a man worthy of our consideration and imitation.

## SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8

*Read Genesis 41; Mark 11*

The account of Jesus cleansing the temple in Mark 11:15-19 introduces the reader to a Jesus unconsidered by many today. This is not "lowly Jesus, meek and mild," but rather a fierce combatant, fueled with anger. Yet, Jesus did all without sinning, perfectly assessing and appropriately responding to any situation. What things should elicit a similar response to you today?

## SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9

*Read Genesis 42; Mark 12*

In Mark 12 Jesus makes statements anyone should fear and others anyone would envy. Who would want to be told "is this not the reason you are wrong...?" (v 24). Who wouldn't want said of them, "you are not far from the kingdom of God?" (v 34). Better still, "you are of the kingdom of God!" Which describes you?

## MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10

*Read Genesis 43; Mark 13*

The exact meanings of the events in Mark 13 are hard to understand. The lesson, though, is clear. At the start of the chapter, a disciple is impressed by their opulent surrounding. By chapter's end, the lesson is "Be on guard, keep awake." Resist the urge to be distracted by impressive but unimportant things instead of eternal matters.

### Devotions by Fielding Poe

## TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11

*Read Genesis 44; Mark 14*

As Jesus approached the darkest moment of his ministry, he was let down by those closest to him. Judas betrayed him. The disciples would not stay awake and pray for him in the garden. Later, they fled from him at the time of his arrest. Peter denied him three times. And yet Jesus remained faithful to those who failed him.

## WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12

*Read Genesis 45; Mark 15*

Joseph finally reveals himself to his brothers, who sold him into slavery. Notice Joseph's warm reception and forgiving spirit toward those who once hated him and put his life in danger. Joseph realizes God's

purposes in the evil actions of others. We must follow Joseph's example in receiving those who have wronged us.

## THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13

*Read Genesis 46; Mark 16*

As Christians, we have no hope apart from the resurrection. Most of the time we tend to emphasize the death of Christ on the cross for our sins, but we reflect less on the resurrection. Christ's bodily resurrection is no less important than his death on our behalf. Here, we have eye witnesses who testified to the empty tomb.

## FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14

*Read Genesis 47; Luke 1:1-38*

Gabriel brings wonderful news of the miraculous births of John the Baptist and Jesus. Zechariah receives discipline for his unbelief, while Mary believes the word. John will go before Jesus to prepare the people for the coming king of Israel. Jesus will acquire the throne of David and reign forever. God's people will realize the fulfillment of His promises in Christ.

## SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15

*Read Genesis 48; Luke 1:39-80*

Joseph assumes his firstborn son, Manasseh, will receive a special blessing according to customary practice. He is not pleased when his father extends the greater blessing to Ephraim, and Joseph tries to remedy the situation. In this instance, Joseph has a narrow, preconceived idea of how God will carry out his purposes. God's often works in unexpected ways.

## SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16

*Read Genesis 49; Luke 2*

The Son of God, worthy of all glory and praise, is born into the world in the most humble of circumstances. Notice that the best news ever revealed was given to lowly shepherds. God humbles himself by becoming man, and he is pleased to reveal himself to the humble. Is your reaction to the birth of Christ similar to the shepherds? They glorified and praised God.

## MONDAY, FEBRUARY 17

*Read Genesis 50; Luke 3*

Joseph's brothers were fearful that he would seek revenge once their father died. So they manufacture a message from their father in order to secure their safety. The brothers soon learned that they had nothing to worry about. We often assume the worst about others, when in reality they are filled with grace and willing to receive us.

### ***Devotions by Brian Joines***

## TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18

*Read Exodus 1; Luke 4*

In Luke 4 we read that three times Satan tempted Jesus, and three times Jesus resisted. Jesus hid God's Word in his heart so that he could keep his way pure (Psalm 119:9,11). Because He was tempted and yet without sin, we have both an example to follow and a Great High Priest who knows our weakness (Hebrews 4:15)!

## WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19

*Read Exodus 2; Luke 5*

“God saw the people of Israel – and God knew” (Exodus 2:25). Whatever it is that you may be going through right now, God sees it and knows it. And if you're His, He is going to use it for your good and His glory. That's a promise (Romans 8:28)!

## THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20

*Read Exodus 3; Luke 6*

“Blessed are the poor...” (Luke 6). According to Jesus' logic, if you are satisfied with this world, you have your consolation (vs. 24). This world can't fulfill you ultimately. You were meant for a greater purpose: to worship and enjoy God! Don't be satisfied with less than Jesus.

## FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21

*Read Exodus 4; Luke 7*

“He who is forgiven little, loves little” (Luke 7). Should this make us want to go back and be a worse sinner before asking Jesus for forgiveness? Or should it drive us to understand just how great of sinners we were/are? The deeper your understanding of your own depravity, the richer His grace becomes. Be enamored with Jesus!

## SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22

*Exodus 5; Luke 8*

“Why did you ever send me” (Exodus 5)? In every journey of faith God brings us to a point of questioning. For without this crucial moment, the journey is not one of faith. This is where the world is watching. This is where God is watching. “The testing of your faith

produces steadfastness" (James 1:3). Persevere!

## SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23

*Read Exodus 6; Luke 9*

"If anyone would come after me, let him...take up his cross daily" (Luke 9). The cross of Jesus = the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus. Your cross = your death, burial, and resurrection. Die to your sinful desires, bury your old self, and raise to walk in newness of life! (Cf. Gal. 2:20 & Eph. 4:22-24).

## MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24

*Read Exodus 7; Luke 10*

"Do not rejoice in this...but rejoice that your names are written in heaven" (Luke 10). It is easy to get distracted from Jesus. Satan is a master at these distractions and even uses good things as distractions. Do you rejoice at knowing Christ or at receiving His benefits? God is not a vending machine!

### Devotions by Gary Boggs

## TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25

*Read Exodus 8; Luke 11*

Have the scripture we read so many times made us take for granted how great and powerful our God really is? Seeing the works through Exodus should remind us that we not only serve a loving God, but a God who is willing to correct when wrong has been

done to the people who trust and love Him!

## WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26

*Read Exodus 9; Luke 12*

We can learn so much from todays reading compared to our daily lives now. Pharaoh would become "scared" at the sign of trouble, and so easily turn when the situation was relieved. We too must be on guard for difficult times, and when we make it through them, give God the glory he deserves.

## THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27

*Read Exodus 10; Luke 13*

Our flesh will make today difficult. The desires of this world will make today a distraction. The price of sin has been paid! We no longer have to live in bondage! In all of your ways acknowledge God and he will direct your path. Who will you help today?

## FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28

*Read Exodus 11:1-12:20; ; Luke 14*

It is amazing how many times we look forward to certain events in our life. Anticipation, at its best, is right before you go on a long vacation. Sometimes it is difficult to wait. We must have that same enthusiasm when it comes to knowing that Heaven is in our future. With excitement, tell someone about your future vacation today!

## SATURDAY, MARCH 1

*Read Exodus 12:21-51 ; Luke 15*

Amazing Grace! We all know the song and have sang it many times, but take a moment to look at those two words. It is amazing that the creator of the world and everything in existence knows you and loves you. His grace really is sufficient for your life. Enjoy his amazing grace today.

## SUNDAY, MARCH 2

*Read Exodus 13 ; Luke 16*

The fact that you are reading this should bring excitement to your life today. We are fortunate to live in a country where God can be served. It is easy for us to forget about those in this world that cannot. Be in prayer today as we remember our brothers and sisters around the globe that will chance death today to worship God tomorrow.

## MONDAY, MARCH 3

*Read Exodus 14 ; Luke 17*

How precious is the love of a person who puts the thoughts of their self aside for the opportunity to help another? If there is one thing Jesus spoke that should echo through our minds, this should be it. Love one another.

**Devotions by Nathan Hunter**

## TUESDAY, MARCH 4

*Read Exodus 15; Luke 18*

Exodus 15 gives us Israel's response to a special moment in their history. Israel has been miraculously rescued from the Egyptians, so they sing. Music is a wonderful gift from God that we can use to honor and glorify Him. Hopefully, as we see God at work in our lives, we respond in spontaneous acts of worship such as singing.

## WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5

*Read Exodus 16; Luke 19*

In Luke 19 we see the small towns of Bethany and Bethphage receive Christ gladly, while Jerusalem and its leaders are persisting in their rejection of Christ as Lord. In the face of this rejection, we see Christ's heart for the lost: "When He drew near and saw the city, He wept over it." That's loving your enemies, in action.

## THURSDAY, MARCH 6

*Read Exodus 17; Luke 20*

Exodus 16 and 17 bring out two themes that are repeated often in the Old Testament: God's provision and Israel's complaining. Israel continually grumbles in doubt, but God always provides day after day. How easy is it for us to take His daily provision for granted? May we be people of gratitude and faith.

## FRIDAY, MARCH 7

*Read Exodus 18; Luke 21*

Luke 21 puts together several episodes and teachings of Jesus that share the theme of understanding what is valuable, in light of the temporal nature of this world. The widow gives, because money is not eternal. The beauty of the Temple would only last until its destruction. Jesus warns to be prepared for eternity, which is drawing

nigh.

## **SATURDAY, MARCH 8**

*Read Exodus 19; Luke 22*

Peter is one of the foundational fathers of the church, yet one of his most famous moments is his denial of Christ in Luke 22. Verse 32 shows that in spite of his failure, God still had a plan for him. God would use Peter to strengthen the brothers when Peter "turned again." We will fail, but God keeps us.

## **SUNDAY, MARCH 9**

*Read Exodus 20; Luke 23*

When reading the Old Testament Law (like the Ten Commandments), the application may be different, but they still serve to show us some of God's character. We see in Exodus 20 many things that God values: contentment, sanctity of life, and honesty. Above all things, He desires His people to honor and worship Him as He is worthy.

## **MONDAY, MARCH 10**

*Read Exodus 21; Luke 24*

Luke concludes his Gospel account with some very interesting accounts of Jesus' resurrection and ascension. Notice how he repeats that the people's eyes were opened to the truth. The two disciples are walking with Christ Himself, yet they do not see it until He opens their eyes! I pray God opens our eyes as we read the Word!

## **Devotions by Joshua Page**

### **TUESDAY, MARCH 11**

*Read Exodus 22; John 1*

The light was there from the beginning, but it was veiled. We all stumble around in the darkness until God lifts the veil from our eyes and the light smacks us in the face. Now we play the role of John, who could not contain his excitement with those still in the dark (John 1:6-8,23).

### **WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12**

*Read Exodus 23; John 2*

"The zeal for your house will consume me" (John 2:17). Christ was so passionate that the things of God be kept holy that he was consumed with a raw expression of emotion. Do you share an overwhelming zeal for the holiness of yourself, your Christian relationships, and your pastors?

### **THURSDAY, MARCH 13**

*Read Exodus 24; John 3*

Two words often appear together: Covenant and Blood. God had chosen his people, rescued them, and told them how he expected them to live. The people responded with a commitment back to God (Exodus 24:7) and the blood was thrown on them. We now have a "New Covenant," but our promise to God is the same and likewise the blood covers us.

## FRIDAY, MARCH 14

*Read Exodus 25; John 4*

Two words often appear together: Covenant and Blood. God had chosen his people, rescued them, and told them how he expected them to live. The people responded with a commitment back to God (Exodus 24:7) and the blood was thrown on them. We now have a "New Covenant," but our promise to God is the same and likewise the blood covers us.

## SATURDAY, MARCH 15

*Read Exodus 26; John 5*

Two words often appear together: Covenant and Blood. God had chosen his people, rescued them, and told them how he expected them to live. The people responded with a commitment back to God (Exodus 24:7) and the blood was thrown on them. We now have a "New Covenant," but our promise to God is the same and likewise the blood covers us.

## SUNDAY, MARCH 16

*Read Exodus 27; John 6*

Two words often appear together: Covenant and Blood. God had chosen his people, rescued them, and told them how he expected them to live. The people responded with a commitment back to God (Exodus 24:7) and the blood was thrown on them. We now have a "New Covenant," but our promise to God is the same and likewise the blood covers us.

## MONDAY, MARCH 17

*Read Exodus 28; John 7*

You thought your wife was particular with how she looks; God decided that to stand in his presence you had to be dressed in perfection down to the smallest detail "for glory and beauty" (Exodus 28:40). Though our best is like filthy rags to God, we stand before him wearing the perfection of Christ.

### **Devotions by Eddie Arraya**

## TUESDAY, MARCH 18

*Read Exodus 29; John 8*

In our Exodus passage today we see some reoccurring concepts throughout this chapter - consecration, washing and separation. Each is important to grow in the Lord, but at the end of verse 43 we see the most important variable required for spiritual purity— God's glory. Our efforts, while required for sanctification, are secondary to the powerful working of God's glory.

## WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19

*Read Exodus 30; John 9*

One of the tragedies of contemporary Western Christianity is the pre-occupation with a self-centered faith. Anytime faith in Christ leads to a central-focus on us, we have missed the whole point. John 9:38 provides us the answer to this dilemma...belief in Christ must lead to worship of Christ which will lead to the ultimate purpose of mankind — God's glorification.

## THURSDAY, MARCH 20

*Read Exodus 31; John 10*

Are you living with concerns or fear due to the uncertainties of life? Friend, don't hesitate to run to Jesus now. Don't seek a temporary fix through the things this world offers. God is the only one that is able to meet our deepest needs. How can you be assured of this? Read John 10:29 - God is supreme.

## FRIDAY, MARCH 21

*Read Exodus 32; John 11*

There are many instances in which we sin. Some examples are greed, gossip or adultery. Exodus 32:8 goes a little deeper and defines for us the ultimate root of sin — a rebellion from God's revealed standards. The Israelites primary sin was not the worship of the golden calf but their disregard of God's commandments.

## SATURDAY, MARCH 22

*Read Exodus 33; John 12*

Do you ever feel like life is filled with more evil than good? Regardless of what reports may trouble your heart, don't let despair control your emotions. John 12:28 gives us a window into the certainty of God's current and future victory. Despite what evil we see around us, be assured that God's name will continually be glorified.

## SUNDAY, MARCH 23

*Read Exodus 34; John 13*

One of the greatest needs a man, women or child has is to be loved. People look to fulfill this need in an increasing number of ways, all of

which are disappointingly short-sighted. In John 13:1 we see that Jesus' love for us is wide-ranging. He loved us when we were unlovable and continues to love us unto the end.

## **MONDAY, MARCH 24**

*Read Exodus 34; John 14*

Exodus 35 is a refreshing reminder that all we need to serve the Lord is a heart that is moved by God (v. 21-22, 29). Our availability to resources or perceived abilities is not a requirement. The key condition to contribute is an affectionate heart. Don't ever dismiss how "little" you have to offer. Need further proof? Read Luke 21:1-4.

### ***Devotions by Norman Leach***

## **TUESDAY, MARCH 25**

*Read Exodus 36; John 15*

In Exodus 35 the people of Israel were told to bring contributions to the building of the temple out of the generosity of their hearts. In chapter 36 they're told to quit bringing the contributions because they had too much. The response of God's people to his generosity towards us should be one of generosity back to him and to those around us.

## **WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26**

*Read Exodus 37; John 16*

The Bible (Exodus 37) tells us how beautiful and costly the items in the temple were. Solid gold, cherubim facing each other...it would

have been a sight. The New Testament tells us that as beautiful these things were, they were a pale shadow compared to the beauty of Christ. His beauty is beyond comparison or description.

## THURSDAY, MARCH 27

*Read Exodus 38; John 17*

Did you know that Jesus prayed for you? John 17 is one long prayer by Jesus. In it he prays for his disciples...that they would be guarded by the Father, that the Father would sanctify them, that the Father would unify them. Down in verse 20 Jesus says (paraphrase) "But not just these here, but for everyone who will believe in me because of their teaching." That's you.

## FRIDAY, MARCH 28

*Read Exodus 39; John 18*

John 18:11 - The men who came to get Jesus were already frightened (verse 6). I think Peter sought to use that to their advantage and attacked. This was a time Jesus and the disciples could have fought. Instead, Jesus rebukes Peter with an acknowledgement of the Father's authority and plan. Jesus came to do the Father's will....and his torture and death were the Father's will.

## SATURDAY, MARCH 29

*Read Exodus 40; John 19*

In Exodus 40 the glory of Yahweh filled the tabernacle. It was perceived as a cloud that covered the tabernacle, hiding it; Moses wasn't able to enter. In the new heaven and the new earth we, like the Israelites, will see the glory of God. But unlike the cloud that obscured, we will see it as glorious light that illuminates everything that exists (Revelation 21:23). We will see God as never before.

## SUNDAY, MARCH 29

*Read Leviticus 1; John 20*

If we're honest, a lot of us start a yearly bible reading plan, hit Leviticus.....and stop. It can be a hard book to read. But Leviticus helps set up for us the immensity of God's standard and our complete inability to meet it. As you read through God's requirement and are faced with your sin and your failure to keep it, remember our hope is in Christ who fulfilled it for us (Matt 5:17-18) and that all of these things serve as a shadow to point us to the Substance (Col 5:16-19)

## MONDAY, MARCH 31

*Read Leviticus 2-3; John 21*

In John 21:18 Jesus tells Peter that when he is old someone was going to make him go where he didn't want to go and in so doing foretold his death. In verse 19 Jesus tells Peter "Follow me." Quite the recruitment strategy. We know we're going to face trials, we pray God gives us strength during those, but Peter's ultimate hope was getting the one standing before him. We endure trials here for the joy that is set before us.











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