

New Testament

101

Daily readings with
study questions

by
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All scripture quotations are from the New King James version.

How to use this book

New Testament 101 is a complete one year study through the New Testament and is suitable for all ages from middle school through adults.

You will not only read the New Testament in its entirety by reading one chapter per day, five days a week, but you will read in approximate chronological order. At the end of your study you will have a much stronger understanding and appreciation of the New Testament.

There is great benefit in studying the Bible in an orderly way, as opposed to a random passage each day or even a needs-based study (for example, helping you through a particularly difficult situation). If you learn to study the Bible in a sequential way, you will eventually find what God's Word says about every conceivable human situation.

In this study you will have five days of readings each week. Only in the first lesson and the last two lessons will there be exceptions. In lesson one, the first chapter of Luke is divided into two days of readings since it is eighty verses long. And in lessons fifty-one and fifty-two, there are six days of readings in order to finish Revelation in the fifty-two weeks. Every other week will have five days of one chapter per day. This leaves the weekends to catch up on anything that was missed during the week.

Each lesson begins with an overview of the week's readings. Sometimes there are questions to consider in the overview that will help your general understanding of the lesson for that week. You may skip the overview, but it can be very beneficial to your understanding of the chapters for the week.

The questions are very straightforward and are designed to be answered in the simplest way. The goal is not primarily application to your particular circumstances, but rather to learn exactly what God's Word says. Practice letting the Holy Spirit apply your day's reading as you meditate throughout the day on what His Word says. Then, "For Further Study", there is a selected verse for memory work, and blank lines in which you may write other passages that may have stood out to you, a prayer, or some other aspect of the study that you may want to remember.

If you are confused by any of the passages that you read, there are many available resources for answering your questions. I would encourage everyone who wants to study the Bible to find a Bible-believing church and become involved. Your church leaders should be your best resource for understanding God's Word. There are also many online helps, such as, biblos.com, as well.

May God bless you as you seek to know Him more through the study of His Word.

Jodi Green

Lesson 1

Overview

We begin our New Testament study with the first three books of the New Testament - Matthew, Mark and Luke. The first four books of the New Testament are known as gospels. The word "gospel" means "good news". They are called the gospels, or good news books, because they are about the life of Jesus. God chose to give us 4 different accounts of Jesus' life with 4 different writers and 4 different views of our Savior.

The first three gospels are known as the "synoptic" gospels because they are similar (think "synonym"). In a later lesson we will see why John's gospel is different.

You will notice that we will not read the gospels in the order of their chapters. We will read them in the order that the events happened. Chronological order can often help us to understand Jesus' life a little better.

So...Merry Christmas! Our first week of readings is about Jesus' birth. Notice that only Matthew and Luke wrote about this event. Don't be discouraged in reading the long list of names in Matthew 1. See how many you actually recognize. Keep in mind that God is concerned with individuals as well as groups. The Jews were special, even known as God's chosen people, because they were the family of the Messiah. But they were each individually important to God as well.

Lesson 1 - Bible Study Questions

Day 1 - Read Luke 1:1-38

Who did Luke write to and why? (v. 1-4) _____

Give several descriptive terms for Zacharias and Elizabeth. (v. 5-10) _____

What did Gabriel tell Zacharias, and why was Zacharias mute? (v. 11-20) _____

What did Gabriel say about Mary and about Jesus? (v.21-33) _____

How did Mary respond to this news? (v. 34-38)

Day 2 - Read Luke 1:39-80

What 3 things did Elizabeth say about Mary? (v. 39-45)

From Mary's song, describe how she felt during her pregnancy. (v. 46-56) _____

Why was Zacharias' voice restored? (v. 57-66)

What did Zacharias believe about his son? (67-80)

Day 3 - Read Matthew 1

Tell who this genealogy begins and ends with. (v. 1-17)

Can you name at least 3 women mentioned in these verses? (v. 1-17) _____

What do you learn about Joseph from these verses? (v.18-25) _____

Day 4 - Read Luke 2

Why did Mary and Joseph go to Bethlehem? (v. 1-7) _____

How did the shepherds respond to the angel's news? (v. 8-20) _____

Name the 2 people at the temple who saw Jesus and tell at least one thing you learn from each. (v. 21-38) _____

Give the 2 verses that describe Jesus as a boy. Tell how these qualities could relate to you. (v. 39-52) _____

Day 5 - Read Matthew 2

Who did Herod call to ask about the Christ child, and what did they tell him? (v. 1-6) _____

Where did the wise men find Jesus? (v. 7-12) _____

Why did Joseph take Mary and Jesus to Egypt? (v. 13-15) _____

Where did Joseph settle with his family and why? (v. 16-23) _____

Lesson 2 Overview

You will notice some differences as you read these 3 books together. Part of the reason for this is that we are reading whole chapters, and some of the events are only part of a chapter. Some of the differences have to do with the different purpose of each book, and the viewpoint of the writer.

This is a good time to remind ourselves of 2 Timothy 3:16, "All scripture is given by inspiration of God...". So even though God chose men to write down His message, He is the Author of it all.

Last week we read about John the Baptist's birth. This week we will read about his ministry. We see Jesus' baptism by John, and we also read about the temptations of Jesus in the wilderness. Notice that Jesus knew the scriptures well and used them to resist temptation.

A popular slogan some years back was, "What would Jesus do?", and it was abbreviated with the letters, WWJD. In our study of the life of Jesus, we are more concerned with WDJD...What Did Jesus Do? It is of far greater benefit to read and understand what Jesus actually did while He was on earth than to sit around imagining what He would do.

Lesson 2 - Bible Study Questions

Day 1 - Read Matthew 3

What did Isaiah say about John? (v. 1-4) _____

Why did John talk like this to the religious leaders? (v. 5-10) _____

Give several interesting facts about Jesus' baptism (v. 11-17) _____

Day 2 - Read Mark 1

How is the beginning of Mark different from Matthew and Luke? _____

Give 3 miracles from this chapter. _____

In verse 35, what did Jesus do and why? _____

In verses 44-45, why do you think Jesus said this?

Day 3 - Read Luke 3

What was John the Baptist's message? (v. 1-6)

What specific ways did John the Baptist say people could be like Jesus? (v. 7-14) _____

What did John the Baptist say Jesus would do? (v. 15-20) _____

Who does this genealogy begin and end with? (v. 21-38)

Day 4 - Read Matthew 4

How does the Bible say Jesus felt before Satan tempted Him with bread? (v. 1-4) _____

How did Jesus resist temptation each time? (v. 5-11)

What was Jesus' message? (v. 12-17)) _____

Who were the first 4 disciples? (v. 18-25) _____

Day 5 - Read Luke 4

Why do you think this was repeated by Luke? (v. 1-13)

What did people think of Jesus? (v. 14-15) _____

What did Jesus tell them? (v. 16-21) _____

Why were the people angry? (v. 22-30) _____

What did the people think of this miracle? (v. 31-37)

What did the demons say about Jesus? (v. 38-44) _____

Lesson 3 Overview

We have already mentioned that we are reading about Jesus' life in chronological order. You will notice that we actually read Mark in the order of the chapters. Most Bible scholars agree that the book of Mark is in chronological order.

So, what do you already know about the gospel writers? Which ones were Jesus' disciples?

Do you know anything about the other 2 writers?

We read this week about Jesus' calling of the twelve disciples. Write a dictionary definition of disciple:

Do you consider yourself to be a disciple? From the definition, you see that all believers should be disciples. As Jesus' ministry begins, we see the religious leaders questioning His identity. They are the very ones who should have known exactly who Jesus was.

Lesson 3 - Bible Study Questions

Day 1 – Read Luke 5

What did Jesus mean by “catch men”? (v. 1-11)

Why do you think Jesus needed time to pray? (v. 12-16)

What 2 things did Jesus do for the paralyzed man? (v. 17-26)

What did Jesus say He came to do? (v. 27-32)

Who did Jesus mean the bridegroom and the new wine to symbolize? (v. 33-39)

Day 2 – Read Mark 2

Do you notice anything different in this story and the one in Luke? (v. 1-12)

Why were the scribes and Pharisees upset? (v. 13-17)

What does “fast” mean here? (v. 18-22)

What did Jesus say the Sabbath was made for? (v. 23-28)

Day 3 - Read Matthew 8

What did Jesus tell the leper to do? (v. 1-4)

How did the centurion show great faith? (v. 5-13)

What did Isaiah say about Jesus? (v. 14-17)

What do you think Jesus meant in verse 22? (v. 18-22) _____

Day 4 – Read Matthew 9

Did the multitude understand who Jesus was? (v. 1-8) _____

Why were the Pharisees upset? (v. 9-17) _____

What 2 miracles happened here? (v. 18-25) _____

How did the Pharisees say Jesus performed miracles? (v. 27-34) _____

What did Jesus say the disciples should pray for? (v. 35-38) _____

Day 5 – Read Luke 6

Why did the Pharisees want to “catch” Jesus? (v. 1-11) _____

Why did Jesus need to pray? (v. 12-16) _____

Why should we rejoice when people make fun of us for loving Jesus? (v. 17-23) _____

Give the 3 most difficult things for you to do without God’s love. (v. 24-36) _____

What do you think the “speck” (or splinter) and the “plank” (or board) stand for? (v. 37-42) _____

What should we build our lives on? (v. 43-49) _____

Lesson 4

Overview

We have not yet mentioned anything about the prophecies from the Old Testament. Much of Jesus' life and ministry was written about by the Old Testament prophets. One example from Isaiah is found in Matthew 12.

This week we will read Jesus' famous Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5, 6, and 7. We read Luke's version last week. Read carefully through these chapters. They describe what our lives will be like if we follow close to Jesus. It is impossible to live this lifestyle without the power of the Holy Spirit in our lives. Notice that Jesus emphasized what we are to be like on the inside. It is so easy for us to get into a habit of concentrating on our outward appearance. Our society focuses far too much attention on outward looks, and it is especially sad when Christians get caught in that trap.

The teachings in the Sermon on the Mount were as difficult for people of that day to understand as they are for us today. They too had learned to focus on outward appearances. They were religious on the outside, but ungodly on the inside. That happens today as well. Many people go to church and look like Christians, but they do not have Jesus in their hearts. Work hard to avoid that mistake in your life. Remember that Jesus is much more concerned about what is in your heart than in the outward things you do.

Lesson 4 - Bible Study Questions

Day 1 - Read Matthew 12

Why were the Pharisees angry? (v. 1-8) _____

What did the Pharisees want to do to Jesus? (v. 9-14) _____

What was Isaiah saying? (v. 15-21) _____

What was Jesus' response? (v. 22-30) _____

What is the unpardonable sin? (v. 31-32) _____

What did Jesus accuse them of? (v. 33-37) _____

Who did Jesus say were His family? (v. 38-50) _____

Day 2 - Read Mark 3

How did Jesus feel and why? (v. 1-6) _____

Why do you think Jesus did not want to be known? (v. 7-12) _____

Why did Jesus choose the disciples? (v. 13-19) _____

What does this mean? (v. 20-27) _____

Who is subject to eternal condemnation and why? (v. 28-35) _____

Day 3 - Read Matthew 5

How are these the opposite of the world's ways? (v. 1-12) _____

What does it mean to be salt and light? (v. 13-16) _____

Explain what Jesus said to do if someone is angry with us. (v. 17-26) _____

What does this mean? (v. 27-30) _____

Why does God want us to just say yes or no? (v. 31-37) _____

Give at least 4 ways God wants us to treat those who are mean to us. (v. 38-48) _____

Day 4 - Read Matthew 6

How does Jesus say we should give? (v. 1-4) _____

Give several subjects in this prayer example. (v. 5-15) _____

What kind of treasure should we seek? (v. 16-24) _____

Give 5 things we should not worry about and why. (v. 25-34) _____

Day 5 - Read Matthew 7

Why should we not judge others? (v. 1-6) _____

How does God want to give to us? (v. 7-11) _____

Why is this the golden rule and what does it mean? (v.12) _____

Can you give examples of good fruit and bad fruit? (v. 13-20) _____

Who will be able to enter the kingdom of heaven? (v. 21-29) _____

Lesson 5 Overview

Hopefully as we read further into Jesus' life and teachings, you are seeing the similarities as well as the differences in Matthew, Mark and Luke. Keep in mind that God had different purposes for each one of the gospel writers. Matthew wrote mainly for the Jews and presented Jesus as the Messiah/King, fulfilling Old Testament prophecies. He wanted to be sure the Jewish people understood that Jesus really was the long-awaited Messiah.

Mark wrote mainly to Gentiles (anyone not a Jew) and presented Jesus as the Servant of God. Notice that Mark often explains Jewish customs and lands, realizing that these things would not be understood by his readers. Luke seemed to write to everyone and called Jesus the Son of Man. This was how Jesus often referred to Himself. Luke wanted to show that Jesus came to be the Savior of the world, not just the Jews.

Hopefully reading all three gospels together will help you to understand Jesus' life better. We all need to read and understand for ourselves exactly what Jesus taught.

As you read this week, notice the religious leaders' response to Jesus. Why do you think this was their response? _____

Lesson 5 - Bible Study Questions

Day 1 - Read Luke 7

Why did Jesus show surprise? (v. 1-10) _____

Why did Jesus bring this man back to life? (v. 11-17) _____

What did Jesus say about John? (v. 18-29) _____

What exactly did the Pharisees reject? (v. 30-35) _____

How did this woman show love to Jesus, and why were the people upset? (v. 36-50) _____

Day 2 - Read Matthew 11

Did Jesus answer John's question? (v. 1-6) _____

What do you think is the most confusing part of what Jesus said about John? (v. 7-19) _____

Why did Jesus rebuke these cities? (v. 20-24) _____

What kind of rest is Jesus talking about? (v. 25-30) _____

Day 3 - Read Luke 8

What was Jesus preaching about? (v. 1-3) _____

What does the seed represent in this parable? (v.4-15) _____

Did the disciples understand who Jesus was? (v.16-25) _____

Briefly explain this miracle. (v. 26-39) _____

Can you name an important difference in these 2 miracles? (v. 40-56) _____

Day 4 - Read Luke 11

Name at least 3 things you learn about prayer from these verses. (v. 1-13) _____

Whom did Jesus say was blessed? (v. 14-28) _____

What do you think light and dark mean here? (v. 29-36) _____

Name at least 3 things Jesus said the Pharisees were doing wrong. (v. 37-54) _____

Day 5 - Read Luke 12

Whom should you fear and whom should you not fear? (v. 1-7) _____

When you speak out for Jesus, who gives you the words? (v. 8-12) _____

What does it mean to be rich toward God? (v. 13-21) _____

How does Jesus say we should deal with fear and worry? (v. 22-34) _____

What do you think is the main thing Jesus wants us to do here? (v. 35-48) _____

Why do you think Jesus said He would divide people? (v. 49-59) _____

A Step Further

Scripture Memory:

"In this manner, therefore, pray: 'Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.' "

Matthew 6:9-13

Lesson 6 Overview

This week we will read many of Jesus' parables.
Write the definition of the word "parable": _____

Why do you think Jesus used parables so much in His teaching? _____

Many preachers today use parables in modern sermons. Like Jesus, a preacher may use a story to get our attention, and then show us a deeper meaning. Next time you hear a sermon, take notes on any story that might be told, and try to write what it means. If you are not already taking notes during sermons, now is a good time to start. Taking notes helps us to concentrate more on the message and remember it better.

We also read many more miracles this week. Why do you think Jesus performed miracles? _____

Lesson 6 - Bible Study Questions

Day 1 – Read Luke 13

What will happen to those who do not repent? (v. 1-5) _____

What do you think fruit stands for in this parable? (v. 6-9) _____

Why was the synagogue ruler angry over this miracle? (v. 10-17) _____

What 2 things did Jesus compare the kingdom of heaven to? (v. 18-21) _____

Why do you think so many will be left out of heaven? (v. 22-35) _____

Day 2 – Read Matthew 13

What do you think the seed represents in this parable? (v. 1-9) _____

Why do you think some people understand who Jesus is and some do not? (v. 10-17) _____

Which type of soil are you most like? (v. 18-23) _____

What kingdom is Jesus talking about in these parables? (v. 24-33) _____

What will happen to the good seed? (v. 34-43) _____

Name 4 of Jesus' brothers. (v. 44-58) _____

Day 3 – Read Mark 4

Can you give any details from this account that were left out of Matthew’s account? (v. 1-20) _____

Day 4 – Read Luke 9

What did Jesus send the disciples to do? (v. 1-6)

Did Herod want to see Jesus? (v. 7-9) _____

What did Jesus do? (v. 10-17) _____

What 3 things must a person do to follow Jesus? (v. 18-26) _____

Who was the voice and what did He say? (v. 27-36)

What did Jesus tell the disciples would happen to Him? (v. 37-45) _____

Why did Jesus say He came? (v. 46-62) _____

Day 5 – Read Mark 5

What did the healed man want to do? (v. 1-20) _____

What did Jesus tell the man to do? (v. 1-20) _____

What did Jesus say had made the woman well? (v. 21-34) _____

How old was the little girl? (v. 35-43) _____

Lesson 7 Overview

This week's readings are really action-packed because Jesus' ministry is at its peak. We read last week in Luke about the feeding of the 5,000. This week we will read about that same miracle in Matthew and Mark. Later, when we read John's gospel, we will read it again! This is one of only 2 miracles that were recorded in all 4 gospels. Do you know what the other one is?

(Hint: we have not read about it yet, but it is the greatest miracle of all.) Apparently the feeding of the 5,000 was very important and made a big impression on the gospel writers.

We will also read about John the Baptist's death. Keep in mind that John was Jesus' cousin, so Jesus had more than one reason to sorrow over his death.

Something else interesting in this week's reading is Jesus' instructions to His disciples as He prepared them for their missionary work. Some of His instructions were meant only for the disciples of that day, while some things are for us as well. (Compare Matthew 10:8 and Matthew 10:31.) A valuable part of Bible study is asking God to show us which things were for a particular place and time, and which things are applicable to everyone through the ages.

Lesson 7 - Bible Study Questions

Day 1 – Read Mark 6

Why did Jesus not do mighty works in His hometown? (v. 1-6) _____

What things did the disciples do when Jesus sent them out? (v. 7-13) _____

Why did Herod behead John the Baptist? (v. 14-29) _____

How were so many baskets filled with crumbs for the 2 fish and 5 loaves? (v. 30-44) _____

Why had the disciples not understood about the bread? (v. 45-56) _____

Day 2 – Read Matthew 10

Who did Jesus tell the disciples to go to? (v. 1-6) _____

What does “shaking the dust from your feet” mean? (v. 7-15) _____

Who should a disciple be like? (v. 16-26) _____

Who should we not fear? (v. 27-31) _____

Who will find life? (v. 32-42) _____

Day 3 - Read Matthew 11

Who did Jesus say was blessed? (v. 1-6) _____

Who did Jesus compare John the Baptist to? (v. 7-15) _____

How is wisdom justified? (v. 16-19) _____

Why did Jesus rebuke these cities? (v. 20-24) _____

Why should we come to Jesus when we are
burdened? (v. 25-30) _____

Day 4 – Read Matthew 14

Why did Herod's wife want John the Baptist dead?
(v.1-12) _____

What was Jesus trying to do when 5000 people
followed Him? (v. 13-21) _____

Why did Peter begin to sink? (v. 22-33) _____

How were some of the people healed? (v. 34-
36) _____

Day 5 – Read Matthew 15

What did Isaiah say about the Pharisees' mouths
and hearts? (v. 1-9) _____

What things defile a person (make them unclean
before God)? (v. 10-20) _____

Why did Jesus heal the Canaanite woman's
daughter? (v. 21-28) _____

How was this miracle different from the feeding of
the 5000? (v. 29-39) _____

Lesson 8 Overview

Jesus' transfiguration is the highlight of this week's readings. This was a great miracle that only Peter, James and John witnessed. These three men particularly needed to understand who Jesus was to prepare them for the future. They were also able to see Moses and Elijah. Have you ever thought about the fact that they recognized Moses and Elijah even though those Old Testament saints had been dead for hundreds of years? Maybe they had seen some snapshots or videos of them :). Actually this is another clue about heaven for us - apparently we may be able to recognize people we have never met.

Hopefully as we approach the midpoint of the gospels, you have come to a greater understanding of who Jesus was and what His message was. We hope to understand our own salvation better through Jesus' teachings. You may have already accepted Jesus as your Savior, or you may still be thinking over your decision for Christ. Either way, reading the gospel message is urgent for all of us.

Please be sure to ask any questions you have about your Bible study, salvation, baptism or whatever. If you wonder about something, probably others have the same questions. So questions are beneficial for all.

Lesson 8 - Bible Study Questions

Day 1: Read Mark 7

Why were the Pharisees upset this time? (v. 1-5)

How did Jesus respond? (v. 9) _____

What did Jesus say defiles a person? (v. 10-23) _____

Was the woman a Jew? Who was she? (v. 24-30)

How did the people feel toward Jesus? (v. 31-37)

Day 2: Read Mark 8

How is this different from feeding the 5,000? (v. 1-10) _____

What was Jesus trying to show His disciples? (v. 11-21) _____

Did the disciples truly understand who Jesus was? (v. 22-30) _____

Why did Jesus rebuke Peter? (v. 31-33) _____

Write one of the four parts Jesus gave for following Him. (v. 34-38) _____

Day 3: Read Matthew 16

How did Jesus feel toward the Pharisees? (v. 1-4)

What was Jesus telling them to watch out for? (v. 5-12) _____

Write at least one thing Jesus said to Peter. (v. 13-20) _____

Write a different aspect of being a Christian. (v. 21-28) _____

Day 4: Read Mark 9

Briefly describe Jesus' transfiguration. (v. 1-13)

How did Jesus say this miracle could be performed? (v. 14-29) _____

What was Jesus trying to teach them? (v. 30-32)

How did Jesus say a person could be first? (v. 33-37) _____

In what 3 ways might a person sin? (v. 38-50) _____

Day 5: Read Matthew 17

When did Jesus say the disciples could tell about this experience? (v. 1-13) _____

What did Jesus say about faith? (v. 14-21) _____

What should the disciples have understood? (v. 22-23) _____

Why did Jesus pay the tax? (v. 24-27) _____

Lesson 9

Overview

Most of Jesus' teachings were completely new to the people of that day. Even though the Old Testament shows the same teachings, God's people had become obsessed with keeping the law outwardly while having ungodly attitudes on the inside. In other words, they followed the letter of the law without the spirit of the law.

The Jewish religious leaders had even added a lot of rules that God did not intend. And since the scribes and Pharisees (religious leaders) were the only ones with copies of the Old Testament, the people had to depend on them for their teaching. As Jesus taught, many of the people realized that their religious leaders had distorted God's message.

Today we must be equally careful to be sure that everything we believe is based on God's Word. We have the privilege of having our own copies of God's Word, but this brings a responsibility to learn what it says. The more you study and learn, the more you will recognize when someone is giving you the wrong message.

So, read and study for yourself. Learn and know God's Word in your own heart. Do not depend only on what you hear others say about the Bible.

Lesson 9 - Bible Study Questions

Day 1 – Read Matthew 18

What was the question the disciples asked, and how did Jesus answer? (v. 1-5) _____

What do you think this means? (v. 6-9) _____

What important point did Jesus make? (v. 10-14)

Describe the steps to take when someone wrongs you. (v.15-20) _____

Write what you learn about forgiveness from verses 21- 35) _____

Day 2 – Read Luke 17

What kinds of offenses do you think Jesus is talking about in verses 1-4? _____

What do you learn about faith in verses 5-10? _____

What do you learn about being thankful in verses 11-19? _____

Verses 20-37 are sometimes difficult to understand. Write the main thing you think Jesus is saying.

Day 3 – Read Matthew 19

What is Jesus' teaching on marriage and divorce? (v. 1-12) _____

How did Jesus feel about children? (v. 13-15) _____

Why did the rich young ruler go away sad? (v. 16-22) _____

Read verses 23-30 and tell what verse 30 means.

Day 4 – Read Mark 10

What does verse 9 imply? (v. 1-12) _____

What does “coming to God as a child” mean? (v. 13-16) _____

Can you give one fact that Mark mentions that Matthew did not? (v. 17-22) _____

Why is it difficult for the rich to be saved? (v. 23-31)

What is Jesus’ main message in verses 32-45? _____

Why did Jesus ask him what he wanted? (v. 46-52)

Day 5 – Read Luke 10

Why were these 70 sent out? (v. 1-12) _____

What was the result of their mission? (v. 13-20) _____

What did the disciples see? (v. 21-24) _____

What did the lawyer learn? (v. 25-37) _____

What did Martha learn? (v. 38-42) _____

Lesson 10

Overview

As Jesus nears the end of His earthly ministry, He concentrates a lot of teaching in parables. In this week's readings we find many great lessons from parables.

One of these lessons is the story of the prodigal son. Write the definition of prodigal: _____

One important thing for us to notice in this story is that, no matter how far away the son went from his father, he was still that man's son. A lesson for us is that we are always a child of God after we have received Jesus into our hearts. That's why salvation is referred to as being "born again" - born into God's family. Even when we sin like the prodigal son, God is always ready to forgive us when we come back. But notice that the son did have to return to the father, just as we must come back to our heavenly Father and ask His forgiveness when we sin. And the way we know we have been born into God's family is that the Holy Spirit lives in us, causing us to desire to please our heavenly Father. This is not based on a one-time prayer of salvation that yields no fruit in your life.

Something else to notice is that the son was not happy living the carefree life he thought he wanted. Like him, we cannot be happy in this life apart from our Father. No worldly pleasures can compare to our relationship with God, as the prodigal son learned.

Lesson 10 - Bible Study Questions

Day 1 – Read Luke 14

How did Jesus explain Sabbath healing? (v. 1-6)

Why should we seek the lowly place? (v. 7-14) _____

What is the message of this parable? (v. 15-24) _____

What does He mean by “counting the cost?” (v. 25-35) _____

Day 2 – Read Luke 15

What brings joy in heaven? (v. 1-7) _____

What is Jesus comparing to finding a lost coin? (v. 8-10) _____

What did the prodigal son do to restore fellowship with his father? (v. 11-24) _____

Why was the older brother angry? (v. 25-32) _____

Day 3 – Read Luke 16

Try to explain the meaning of the story in verses 1-13. _____

What is Jesus saying in verse 15? (v. 14-18) _____

Will people in hell be aware of people in heaven? (v. 19-31) _____

What does verse 25 teach us about earthly wealth?

Day 4 – Read Luke 18

What is Jesus' main point? (v. 1-8) _____

Which verse tells the reason for the parable? (v. 9-14) _____

Why does God want us to come to Him as children? (v. 15-17) _____

Why did the rich man go away sad? (v. 18-30) _____

How did Jesus prepare them for His death? (v. 31-34) _____

What did Jesus ask, and what can we learn from His question? (v. 35-43) _____

Day 5 – Read Matthew 20

What do you think this parable means? (v. 1-16)

How many times do you think Jesus said this? (v. 17-19) _____

How did Jesus say we could become great? (v. 20-28) _____

How did Luke tell this differently from Matthew? (v. 29-34) _____

Lesson 11

Overview

All 3 of the synoptic gospels give us the account of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem just one week before His crucifixion. The triumphal entry was when the people praised Jesus as their King. We celebrate this event every year the week before Easter, and we call it Palm Sunday. This is because the people waved palm branches as they sang in celebration of King Jesus.

However, these same people screamed "Crucify Him!" just a few days after they waved palm branches and sang praises to Him. There are at least 2 lessons for us in this. The first one is that it is very easy to get caught up in something that everyone is in favor of. Popular opinion is very shaky ground to build our responses on. Just as everyone was shouting praises on Sunday, and by Thursday they were screaming curses, public opinions today can change with the wind. Our own responses must have a greater foundation than what everyone else thinks or does.

A second lesson is that we must all guard against hypocrisy. Write the definition of a hypocrite: _____

We must not just go along with the crowd; we must follow only Truth.

Lesson 11 - Bible Study Questions

Day 1 – Read Luke 19

How did receiving Jesus change Zacchaeus' life?
(v. 1-10) _____

What do you think the minas represent? (v. 11-27)

Which verse shows that Jesus knows everything?
(v. 28-40) _____

What was the "time of your visitation?" (v. 41-44)

What is God's house supposed to be? (v. 45-48)

Day 2 – Read Matthew 21

What two Old Testament passages are quoted
here? (v. 1-11) _____

Why did Jesus drive people out of the temple? (v.
12-17) _____

What lesson in prayer did Jesus teach here? (v. 18-
22) _____

What is the answer to Jesus' question? (v. 23-27)

Who does each son represent? (v. 28-32) _____

Who do you think the servants were? (v. 33-46) _____

Day 3 – Read Mark 11

How did the people receive Jesus? (v. 1-11) _____

What did Jesus say the temple had become? (v. 12-
19) _____

What do we need for answered prayer? (v. 20-24)

How does God forgive us? (v. 25-26) _____

What is the answer to the religious leaders' question? (v. 27-33) _____

Day 4 – Read Luke 20

Why did Jesus not answer their question? (v. 1-8)

Why were the chief priests angry? (v. 9-19) _____

How do people pretend to be righteous today? (v. 20-26) _____

What did the Sadducees not believe? (v. 27-40) _____

Why would the scribes receive greater condemnation? (v. 41-47) _____

Day 5 – Read Mark 12

Who were the wicked vinedressers? (v. 1-12) _____

Why did they ask Jesus about taxes? (v. 13-17) _____

What were the Sadducees mistaken about? (v. 18-27) _____

Was Jesus pleased with this scribe? (v. 28-34)

Why did Jesus say to beware of these scribes? (v. 35-40) _____

Why did Jesus commend this woman? (v. 41-44)

Lesson 12

Overview

We begin this week's readings with more warnings against the religious leaders. The people of Jesus' day, just like people today, needed to learn to put their trust in God rather than men. We can be thankful for church leaders who are Godly people who follow closely after Him.

We move next into some teachings on prophecy and end times. What is prophecy? _____

Some of Jesus' words were about events that would happen during the disciples' lifetime. Some were about events that still have not happened 2,000 years later. If you read carefully and think about your world history classes, you can understand which is which. For example, from world history you know that the Romans destroyed Jerusalem, including the temple, in 70 A.D. But the "abomination of desolation" spoken of by Daniel (Matthew 24:15) refers to the 7-year tribulation period that still has not happened. We will learn more about the fascinating study of prophecy later in the New Testament.

Be sure to note any questions you may have as you read and study. It is very helpful if you are involved in a regular, on-going Bible study class in which you can ask any questions you may have. If you try to do your own Bible research with commentaries or the internet, be sure to choose wisely which scholars you read.

Lesson 12 - Bible Study Questions

Day 1 – Read Matthew 22

What does the wedding garment represent? (v. 1-14) _____

Can you explain verse 16? (v. 15-22) _____

Describe this situation in one sentence. (v. 23-33)

What are the two greatest commandments? (v. 34-40) _____

Why could they not answer? (v. 41-46) _____

Day 2 – Read Matthew 23

Which verse gives Jesus' main message? (v. 1-12)

What does verse 13 mean? _____

What does verse 24 mean? (v. 14-24) _____

Put the main message in your own words. (v. 25-28)

What did the Jews miss or lack? (v. 29-39) _____

Day 3 – Read Luke 21

How did the widow give more? (v. 1-4) _____

Give several events that signal the end of the age. (v. 5-19) _____

Read verses 20-24. This happened in 70 A.D.

Read verses 25-28. This is Jesus' second coming.

Does Jesus want us to learn about end times? (v. 29-33) _____
What did Jesus say is important? (v. 34-38) _____

Day 4 – Read Matthew 24

What time period is Jesus going to tell about? (v. 1-4) _____

Write several things that are signs of the end. (v. 5-14) _____

What will false christs and prophets be able to do? (v. 15-25) _____

What sound will we hear at Jesus' second coming? (v. 26-31) _____

How is Jesus' second coming like the days of Noah? (v. 32-44) _____

What is the difference between the wise and evil servants? (v. 45-51) _____

Day 5 – Read Mark 13

Give any other signs of end times. (v. 1-8) _____

Who did Jesus say would be saved? (v. 9-13) _____

How bad will God's judgment be? (v. 14-23) _____

What will Jesus do when He returns? (v. 24-27) _____

How will we know that the end is near? (v. 28-31) _____

What two things should we do? (v. 32-37) _____

Lesson 13

Overview

Matthew 25 continues on the subject of future times. Be sure to remember that the Bible speaks of several different judgments. The judgment of the sheep and the goats refers to those who were saved or not saved during the tribulation period. The great white throne judgment occurs after the millennium. The millennium is the one thousand year reign of Christ on the earth, referred to in the book of Revelation, which we will read last.

Next we turn our attention to the events leading up to the crucifixion. Reading these accounts together should help us to understand what Jesus went through for us. For example, He experienced the sorrow and loneliness of being betrayed and denied by those who had been His friends. We learn that Jesus really does understand our pain when our friends treat us badly.

Another example is the loneliness He felt when His disciples could not stay awake and pray with Him in His darkest hours. How often do we fall asleep when we should be praying? Praying as we go to sleep at night is a great way to end our day, but hopefully it was not the only time we talked to God that day.

Lesson 13 - Bible Study Questions

Day 1 – Read Matthew 25

What was the difference between the wise and foolish virgins? (v. 1-13) _____

Explain what Jesus meant in this parable. (v. 14-30)

Did Jesus mean that those who do good works will go to Heaven? Explain. (v. 31-46) _____

Day 2 – Read Matthew 26

Did Jesus prepare the disciples for His death? (v. 1-5) _____

Why did Jesus compliment this woman? (v. 6-16)

Would Jesus have died if Judas had not betrayed Him? (v. 17-25) _____

What was Peter's bold statement of faith? (v. 26-35)

What did Jesus specifically pray? (v. 36-46) _____

Why did Jesus say things happened as they did? (v.47- 56) _____

How did Peter feel after betraying Jesus? Why do you think he did it? (v. 57-75) _____

Day 3 – Read Mark 14

Write anything that you notice that is different from Matthew 26. Give verses. _____

Day 4 – Read Luke 22

Write anything you notice that is different from Matthew 26 and Mark 14. Give verses. _____

Day 5 – Read Matthew 27

Did Judas ask God’s forgiveness? (v. 1-10) _____
(Did the religious leaders know the Jeremiah passage? _____

Why did Pilate say the religious leaders wanted Jesus crucified? (v. 11-26) _____

Name several ways Jesus suffered. (v. 27-44) _____

Name at least 3 things that happened away from the cross at Jesus’ death. (v. 45-56) _____

Why did they seal the tomb? (v. 57-66) _____

A Step Further

Scripture Memory:

"Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit is indeed willing, but the flesh is weak."

Mark 14:38

Lesson 14

Overview

We have read all about Jesus' life in Matthew, Mark and Luke more or less chronologically. This week is the climax of everything we have read so far - the crucifixion and resurrection of our Lord. Of course all the writers recorded this most important event of the entire Bible. Indeed, the message of the entire Bible, God's immeasurable love for us displayed in Christ's sacrifice for our sin, is presented in the following chapters. We see the horror and the suffering that Jesus endured to make atonement (payment) for our sin. We realize that this is why He came to earth. We know that neither the Jews nor the Romans took Jesus' life. He gave it willingly to make the way for us to know God.

Reading the details of Jesus' death, burial and resurrection in all of the synoptic gospels together gives us such a vivid and complete view of exactly what He did for us. It also helps us to have the facts in our minds when we are faced with questions about our faith. Answer the questions thoughtfully as you let the intensity of our Savior's love sink into your heart.

And then came Sunday morning! Jesus died, but on Sunday morning He rose from the grave, conquering death and Satan. God's plan of salvation was complete. Our response can only be to believe it, accept it, and follow Him.

Lesson 14 - Bible Study Questions

Day 1 - Read Mark 15

What did Jesus say to Pilate? (v. 1-5) _____

Why did Pilate release Jesus to the crowd? (v. 6-15)

Why do you think Simon had to carry Jesus' cross?
(v. 16-23) _____

What are some of the ways the crowd mocked
Jesus? (v. 24-32) _____

What did the Roman guard say about Jesus? (v. 33-
41) _____

Who was Joseph and what did he do? (v. 42-47)

Day 2 - Read Luke 23

Why did Herod want to see Jesus? (v. 1-12) _____

Why did Pilate actually sentence Jesus? (v. 13-25)

How do we know baptism is not a requirement for
heaven? (v. 26-43) _____

What day was it when they put Jesus' body in the
tomb? (v. 44-56) _____

Day 3 - Read Matthew 28

Who were the women, and who spoke to them? (v.
1-8) _____

Who spoke and what did He say? (v. 9-10) _____

What did the religious leaders tell the guards? (v.11-15) _____

What did Jesus tell them to do? (v. 16-20) _____

Day 4: Read Mark 16

How did the women feel about all of this? (v. 1-8)

Did the disciples believe Mary Magdalene? (v. 9-11)

Why did Jesus rebuke them? (v. 12-18) _____

Where did Jesus go? (v. 19-20) _____

Day 5: Read Luke 24

Which disciple went first to the tomb? (v. 1-12) _____

What specifically did Jesus teach these people? (v. 13-27) _____

What happened as soon as they knew who Jesus was? (v.28-35) _____

What did Jesus eat? (v. 36-43) _____

Why did He open their understanding? (v. 44-53)

Lesson 15

Overview

Now we turn our attention to the fourth gospel, John. John's account of the life of Jesus is different from the other three gospels. One reason for this difference is that John was closer to Jesus when Jesus was on earth than Matthew, Mark or Luke. John also wrote his book later than the others. It is likely that he had read the other gospel accounts. So he was able to "sum up" the meaning of Jesus' life. He was able to fill in more that needed to be learned about Jesus.

John gives his purpose for writing in 20:31. You will notice as you read that John does not write about as many miracles and parables as the others do. John chooses seven signs that show Jesus as Messiah.

John also shows more clearly the way of salvation. The story of Nicodemus is told only in John. It gives us a very clear picture of Jesus' life and message. In these first few chapters we have Jesus' very first miracle (sign), as well as the ways that His first disciples became believers. We also read the wonderful story of the woman at the well. Hopefully, you will enjoy reading John straight through and seeing the whole story from his perspective.

Lesson 15 - Bible Study Questions

Day 1: Read John 1

Who is the Word? (v. 1-4) _____

Which John was this? (v. 5-8) _____

Who were "His own"? (v. 9-13) _____

Who did John the Baptist quote and why? (v. 14-28)

Did John know who Jesus was before this? (v. 29-34) _____

Who did Andrew believe Jesus to be? (v. 35-42)

Which two disciples were added here? (v. 43-51)

Day 2: Read John 2

Was Jesus disrespectful to His mother? Explain your answer. (v. 1-5) _____

What happened in this miracle? (v. 6-11) _____

Why did Jesus drive out the money-changers? (v. 12-17) _____

What did Jesus mean in verse 19? (v. 18-25) _____

Day 3: Read John 3

Why do you think Nicodemus came at night? (v.1-4)

Explain what Jesus meant by being “born again”.
(v. 5-8) _____

What do you think Jesus was trying to teach
Nicodemus? (v. 9-15) _____

Why did Jesus come? (v. 16-21) _____

What did John think of Jesus? (v. 22-36) _____

Day 4: Read John 4

Why do you think Jesus asked for a drink? (v. 1-9)

What did Jesus mean by “living water”? (v. 10-15)

How are we to worship God? (v. 16-26) _____

Who are the laborers and what is the harvest? (v.
27-38) _____

How did the people become Christians? (v. 39-42)

What gave the nobleman his faith? (v. 43-54) _____

Day 5: Read John 5

Why did Jesus ask him if he wanted to be made
well? (v. 1-9) _____

For what 2 reasons were the religious leaders
upset? (v. 10-18) _____

What did Jesus say about His own will? (v. 19-30)

What did Jesus say about Moses' writings? (v. 31-
47) _____

A Step Further

Scripture Memory:

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. (And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.)"

John 1:1-5

and:

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."

John 3:16

Lesson 16

Overview

We begin this week's readings with the feeding of the 5,000. Remember that this is one of only two miracles that is written in all four gospels. (Did you figure out what the other one is?)

Chapter six gives the first of seven statements that Jesus made about Himself. All seven statements begin with "I am". Write down these statements in your "A Step Further" spaces as you come to them. These statements give us the true picture of exactly who Jesus said He is. As you read these, you will see that Jesus was not just a good teacher, a prophet or a miracle-worker. He is the unique Son of God.

Some of these chapters are fairly long. Just read what you can each day. Remember, you have two extra days each week to catch up.

John shows us in these chapters that many people who had been following Jesus began to turn away. They realized that they were being asked to trust that Jesus was the Messiah, the Son of God. They had to make the decision whether to believe or not, and this belief would cost them their very lives. This is also the decision each of us is asked to make. Is it hard to follow Christ? (See Matthew 7:14) Should you count the cost before deciding to follow Him? (See Luke 14:28) Is it worth it? (See Revelation 22:14)

Lesson 16 - Bible Study Questions

Day 1 – Read John 6

Why did Jesus ask Philip to feed the crowd? (v. 1-14) _____

What 2 miracles happened? (v. 15-21) _____

What is the will of God? (v. 22-40) _____

What does eating and drinking of Jesus mean? (v. 41-59) _____

How did Jesus explain what He meant? (v. 60-71) _____

Day 2 – Read John 7

Did Jesus' brothers believe Who He was? (v. 1-9)

After reading this section, what does v. 24 mean? (v. 10-24) _____

Why did the religious leaders not believe? (v. 25-36)

What does v. 38 mean? (v. 37-39) _____

What is the controversy here? (v. 40-53) _____

Day 3 – Read John 8

Why did Jesus not condemn the woman? (v. 1-12)

Why did the Pharisees not take Jesus? (v. 13-20)

How can anyone be Jesus' disciple? (v. 21-36)

Who did Jesus say was their true father? (v. 37-59)

Day 4 – Read John 9

Did the blind man know who had healed him? (v. 1-12) _____

Did his parents know who had healed him? (v. 13-23) _____

How do you know if the man was beginning to understand who had healed him? (v. 24-34)

What blindness was Jesus talking about here? (v. 35-41) _____

Day 5 – Read John 10

What do you think Jesus' illustration means? (v. 1-6)

How do we know that Jesus is the way to God? (v. 7-21) _____

Who can take Jesus' followers away from Him? (v. 22-29) _____

Why were the Jews so angry? (v. 30-39) _____

Why did many believe? (v. 40-42) _____

Lesson 17 Overview

This week we come to the end of Jesus' public ministry. Beginning with chapter 13, John gives us five chapters of what happened during private time between Jesus and His disciples. Immediately following this, the soldiers come to arrest Jesus.

Chapter 11 (which has another "I am" statement) gives us the story of Lazarus' death. There is so much to learn from this story. We see Jesus teaching His disciples, as well as Mary and Martha, some very important lessons in faith. He did this by delaying His journey to them. They all knew that Jesus could have healed His friend Lazarus. They had no idea that Jesus would work it out the way He did.

This is a great lesson for us. We must learn to trust God even when we cannot understand how it could possibly work out. So many things happen in our lives that we do not understand. Name something that has disappointed you: _____

When things like this happen, we have the opportunity to trust God. Many times we want to stay angry and hurt when things do not go our way. God wants us to trust Him to heal our hurts in His own way. This makes our faith stronger.

Lesson 17 - Bible Study Questions

Day 1: Read John 11

Why did Thomas think they would all die? (v. 1-16)

What "I Am" statement did Jesus say in these verses? (v.17-27) _____

Why did Jesus cry? (v. 28-37) _____

What happened? (v. 38-44) _____

Why did the religious leaders want to kill Jesus? (v. 45-57) _____

Day 2: Read John 12

Why was Judas upset? (v. 1-8) _____

Why were the people praising Jesus? (v. 9-19)

What happens to someone who loves this life? Why? (v. 20-26) _____

What did the people not understand? (v. 27-36)

Why did some believers not confess Christ? (v. 37-50) _____

Day 3: Read John 13

Why did Jesus wash the disciples' feet? (v. 1-17)

What did Jesus know about Judas? (v. 18-30)

How will people know we are Jesus' disciples? (v. 31-35) _____

What did Jesus say Peter would do that night? (v. 36-38) _____

Day 4: Read John 14

How do we get to heaven? (v. 1-6) _____

How are prayers answered? (v. 7-14) _____

How do we prove we love God? (v. 15-24) _____

What do you think Jesus was saying to His disciples? (v.25-31) _____

Day 5: Read John 15

What does it mean to abide (or live) in Christ? (v. 1-8) _____

What is Jesus' command, and why should we obey? (v. 9-17) _____

What does it mean to be hated by the world? (v. 18-25) _____

Who is the "Helper"? (v. 26-27) _____

Lesson 18

Overview

In John 16, Jesus warns the disciples what they will face after He is gone. He tells them that things are not going to turn out exactly like they think. But He gives them the promise of the Holy Spirit for encouragement. We know that the disciples were not as attentive as they should have been. They quickly forgot Jesus' words after the soldiers came. Let us be attentive to understand everything Jesus wants to say to us.

John 17 is the real Lord's Prayer. Most of us think of "Our Father who art in heaven..." (Matthew 6:9-13) when we think of the Lord's Prayer. But that was the way Jesus taught us to pray, not Jesus' prayer. Notice that Jesus even prays for us in His prayer. That should give us great comfort every day.

After this the action really picks up as Jesus is betrayed and arrested. John gives us a few more details than the other gospels since he was an eyewitness to most of the proceedings. Notice that John seems to be the only disciple at the cross.

Try to spend some time this week imagining how the disciples must have felt when Jesus died. They had to give up their ideas that Jesus would have an earthly kingdom during their lifetime. We are reminded again to trust God even when things do not turn out the way we hope.

Lesson 18 - Bible Study Questions

Day 1: Read John 16

What did Jesus say was going to happen? (v. 1-4)

Name 2 things the Holy Spirit does. (v. 5-15) _____

Why would the disciples have sorrow, then joy?
(v. 16-24) _____

How would they have peace? (v. 25-33) _____

Day 2: Read John 17

When did Jesus first have God's glory? (v.1-5) _____

Who is Jesus praying for? (v.6-11) _____

What does He ask God to do? (v.12-19) _____

Who does Jesus pray for here, and what does He
ask? (v.20-26) _____

Day 3: Read John 18

Why did Jesus not resist arrest? (v.1-11) _____

What did Peter do? (v.12-18) _____

Why did Peter deny following Jesus? (v.19-27) _____

Why did Pilate want to free Jesus? (v.28-40) _____

Day 4: Read John 19

Why was Pilate afraid? (v.1-8) _____

What did Pilate do? (v.9-16) _____

Why did Pilate put the sign up? (v.17-22) _____

How did Jesus care for His mother? (v.23-30) _____

What 2 men took care of Jesus' body? (v.31-42) _____

Day 5: Read John 20

Name the first 3 people to see the open tomb. (v.1-10) _____

What did Jesus tell Mary Magdalene to do? (v.11-18) _____

Who does Jesus say will be blessed? (v.19-29) _____

Why did John write this book? (v.30-31) _____

Lesson 19

Overview

We come to the end of John and move into Acts this week. Acts is the story of what happened to the disciples after Jesus returned to heaven. It begins with Jesus talking to the disciples and other believers just before He ascended back to heaven.

Chapter 2 gives us the great coming of the Holy Spirit. Notice that these first Christians were filled with the Holy Spirit after they believed. A similar event happens one other time in Acts. After these two events, the Holy Spirit comes to live in each Christian's heart as soon as he or she accepts Jesus as Savior. So if someone asks you whether you are Spirit-filled, you should say "yes" if you have trusted Jesus as Savior.

Notice also the boldness and power that the Holy Spirit brought to the disciples. Remember, it had only been a few weeks since Peter had denied knowing Jesus. Now he was preaching boldly to thousands about Jesus. We continue to see the religious leaders of that day rejecting Jesus as the Messiah. These were the orthodox Jewish leaders who, to this day, do not believe Jesus is the Messiah. More on this subject will come later.

Lesson 19 - Bible Study Questions

Day 1: Read John 21

Why do you think the disciples did not recognize Jesus at first? (v. 1-14) _____

Why do you think Jesus gave Peter 3 chances to say he loved Him? (v. 15-19) _____

What did Jesus tell Peter about John? (v. 20-25)

Day 2: Read Acts 1

Who did Luke write this account for? (v. 1-3) _____

Where did Jesus say the disciples would be witnesses? (v. 4-8) _____

Of the list of believers who were gathered in Jerusalem, which ones are the most interesting to you? (v. 9-14) _____

What had happened to Judas? (v. 15-20) _____

How was Matthias chosen? (v. 21-26) _____

Day 3: Read Acts 2

What did the coming of the Holy Spirit look like and sound like? (v. 1-4) _____

How did the crowd respond? (v. 5-13) _____

Give at least 3 things that you learn from Peter's sermon. (v. 14-39) _____

What happened after Peter's sermon? (v. 40-47)

Day 4: Read Acts 3

What was the crowd's response to this miracle? (v. 1-9) _____

What did Peter instruct the crowd to do? (v. 10-26)

Day 5: Read Acts 4

How many had believed in Jesus at this time? (v. 1-4) _____
How did Peter refer to Jesus? (v. 5-12) _____

Why did the rulers not punish Peter and John at this time? (v. 13-22) _____

What did the believers pray for? (v. 23-31) _____

What did Barnabas do? (v. 32-37) _____

Lesson 20

Overview

Acts is an easy book to read. There are lots of stories and action as the early church begins. Read carefully in chapter 5 about Ananias and Sapphira. Take some time to consider why you think God punished them with death.

Acts also has a number of miracles. These were a great encouragement for the early believers as they were "going against the grain" of their Jewish religious leaders. The miracles also served to reinforce the fact that God Himself was the power behind their zeal for the gospel message.

Chapters 6 and 7 tell the interesting story of Stephen. Chapter 7 is a good summary of the Old Testament as Stephen tried to show the people that Jesus really is the fulfillment of the prophecies.

In chapters 8 and 9, we have the first mention of Saul, who later became known as the great apostle, Paul. Chapter 9 tells how Saul becomes a Christian. This story shows God's forgiveness and the power of His Word. Notice that Saul's name was not changed by God in the way Abraham's and Peter's were. Saul was his Jewish name. Later, his ministry turned more to the Gentiles, who knew him as Paul. In all of his writings, he calls himself Paul.

Lesson 20 - Bible Study Questions

Day 1: Read Acts 5

Why did Ananias and Sapphira die? (v. 1-11) _____

What should Ananias and Sapphira have done? (v. 1-11) _____

Why were the apostles arrested? (v. 12-21) _____

What was Peter's main defense for the charges against them? (v. 22-32) _____

What was Gamaliel's advice? (v. 33-42) _____

Day 2: Read Acts 6

Why did they set apart these seven men? (v. 1-7)

Who wanted to silence Stephen's message and why? (v. 8-15) _____

Day 3: Read Acts 7

What was Stephen's message about? (v. 1-8) _____

Why do you think he talked about this? (v. 1-8) _____

What was this section of Stephen's sermon about? (v. 9-16) _____

Do you notice anything about Moses that was not included in Exodus? (v. 17-36) _____

What do these verses say the Israelites did in their hearts? (v. 37-43) _____

What did Stephen accuse his audience of doing? (v. 44-53) _____

What was the audience's response? (v. 54-60) _____

Day 4: Read Acts 8

Who was Saul? (v. 1-3) _____

Who was Philip? (v. 4-8) _____

What was wrong with Simon the sorcerer? (v. 9-25) _____

What happened with Philip and the eunuch? (v. 26-40) _____

Day 5: Read Acts 9

What happened to Saul? (v. 1-9) _____

Why was Ananias afraid to obey God? (v. 10-19) _____

What two things happened next for Saul? (v. 20-25) _____

Why did Saul have to move from Jerusalem? (v. 26-31) _____

What two people were healed and who healed them? (v. 32-43) _____

Lesson 21

Overview

This week we return to Peter's ministry. We begin with a story of Gentiles becoming Christians. Write the definition of a Gentile: _____

Now keep in mind that almost all of the early believers were Jews. Most of these Jewish Christians believed themselves to be God's only chosen people. They had no idea that salvation through Christ would be offered to anyone except themselves. We can see from chapter 10 how difficult it was for them to accept the fact that salvation is meant for everyone who believes. We can be thankful that God gave us this message throughout the Bible - that Jesus died for the sin of the world, not just for one group. (See John 3:16)

Bonus: Can you explain why the Jews were known as God's chosen people throughout the Bible, even though salvation would be offered to all people? _____

Paul returns to the scene in chapter 11. Barnabas wants Paul to join him in his ministry. Chapter 13 really begins the story of Paul's great missionary ministry.

Lesson 21 - Bible Study Questions

Day 1: Read Acts 10

Why did Cornelius send his men to Joppa? (v. 1-8)

Describe Peter's vision (v. 9-16) _____

How did the men describe Cornelius? (v. 17-23)

Was Cornelius meeting with Peter alone? (v. 24-33)

What did Peter say to Cornelius? (v. 34-43) _____

What two things happened after Peter's message?
(v. 44-48) _____

Day 2: Read Acts 11

What 2 things did the apostles say to Peter about
Cornelius? (v. 1-18) _____

Where were the disciples first called Christians? (v.
19-26) _____

What did the disciples do for their friends in Judea?
(v. 27-30) _____

Day 3: Read Acts 12

Who did Herod seize and why? (v. 1-4) _____

What happened to Peter? (v. 5-19) _____

What happened to Herod and why? (v. 20-25) _____

Day 4: Read Acts 13

Who was sent from Antioch and why? (v. 1-3) _____

What happened to Elymas the sorcerer and why?
(v. 4-12) _____

What did Paul talk about in these verses and why?
(v. 13-23) _____

What was Paul's main message in these verses? (v.
24-41) _____

Why did the Jews want to silence Paul's message?
(v. 42-45) _____

Why were the Gentiles glad? (v. 46-52) _____

Day 5: Read Acts 14

Why did Paul and Barnabas go to Lystra and
Derbe? (v. 1-7) _____

Why did Paul and Barnabas get so upset in Lystra?
(v. 8-18) _____

How did Paul and Barnabas feel about their trials?
(v. 19-28) _____

A Step Further

Scripture Memory:

"And those of the circumcision who believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because the gift of the Holy spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also."

Acts 10:45

Lesson 22

Overview

This week we will read more about the problem the Jews were having in accepting Gentile believers. The Jews wanted the Gentiles to be circumcised as the Jews were. Circumcision was a symbol of the original covenant between Abraham and God. Every Jewish male was to be circumcised as a sign of the covenant. So really, the Jews wanted the Gentiles to become Jews in order to be saved. But we learn from Acts 15 and the book of Galatians that this was not a requirement for God's plan of salvation. We are saved simply by accepting Jesus as our Savior. We do not have to do anything to earn salvation or pay for it. The price was already paid by Jesus' death on the cross.

Remember from the beginning of our New Testament study that we are reading in chronological order. The reason we are reading Galatians now is that around the time of the events of Acts 15 and 16, Paul wrote the letter to the church at Galatia. The letter is called Galatians in the Bible. Galatians gives us even more information about the salvation of the Gentiles (us). Read carefully and learn the important lessons here. Many letters written by Paul are given in the New Testament because we can learn so much from them. Try to apply something from every chapter to help you grow closer to God and live for Him.

Lesson 22 - Bible Study Questions

Day 1: Read Acts 15

What was the controversy about? (v. 1-5) _____

What did Peter, Paul and Barnabas believe? (v. 6-21) _____

What did the elders and apostles do? (v. 22-29)

Which of the messengers stayed in Antioch? (v. 30-35) _____

Why did Paul and Barnabas go separate ways? (v. 36-41) _____

Day 2: Read Galatians 1

Who is Paul writing to and why? (v. 1-5) _____

What was wrong with their new beliefs? (v. 6-10)

Why did Paul feel qualified to correct them? (v. 11-17) _____

Who glorified God because of Paul and why? (v. 18-24) _____

Day 3: Read Galatians 2

What was the wrong belief about the gospel? (v. 1-5) _____

Who were the circumcised and uncircumcised? (v. 6-10) _____

Why did Paul reprimand Peter? (v. 11-14) _____

How are we justified? (v. 15-21) _____

Day 4: Read Galatians 3

Who are the sons of Abraham? (v. 1-9) _____

What does the law bring? (v. 10-14) _____

Who was the "Seed of Abraham"? (v. 15-18) _____

What was the purpose of the law? (v. 19-25) _____

How are we made sons of God? (v. 26-29) _____

Day 5: Read Galatians 4

What new thing do you learn about being a child of God? (v. 1-7) _____

What did Paul believe the Galatians would have done for him? (v. 8-20) _____

What did Paul give as a symbol for the flesh? (v. 21-25) _____

Why should they "cast out the bondwoman"? (v. 26-31) _____

Lesson 23

Overview

This week's reading is packed with great lessons and interesting stories about Paul's ministry. By now you should realize just what Paul was doing as he traveled around (see Acts 15:41).

In Galatians, you may recognize many memory verses you have had over the years. Notice particularly the fruit of the Spirit (5:22-23). Does this fruit describe your life and attitude? If you are a Christian, then the Holy Spirit lives in you, and these qualities should grow stronger every day in your life.

Back in Acts, we read about many familiar people and events. We see Timothy and Lydia, Priscilla and Aquilla, and Apollos. We read the familiar story of the Philippian jailer. In that story we find one of the simplest invitations to accept Christ (see 16:31). We see Paul having a meeting with the cultural elite of Athens. We realize that they accepted Paul because of his impressive education. We also see that Paul was able to speak to them about God because he was willing to connect with them in a way they could understand. We learn that God uses each of us and our particular abilities to accomplish His plan. Peter the fisherman had different abilities, but God used both Peter and Paul in mighty and different ways. God has a plan for our lives no matter what our abilities may be.

Lesson 23 - Bible Study Questions

Day 1: Read Galatians 5

What does Paul want them to do? (v. 1-6) _____

What does he mean by "bite and devour one another"? (v. 7-15) _____

What 3 works of the flesh do you have trouble understanding? (v. 16-21) _____

How can we walk in the Spirit of God? (v. 22-26) _____

Day 2: Read Galatians 6

How are we to restore those caught in sin? (v. 1) _____

What is the difference in verse 2 and verse 5? (v. 2-5) _____

What does sowing to the flesh and sowing to the Spirit mean? (v. 6-10) _____

What is the only thing that matters in Christ? (v. 11-18) _____

Day 3: Read Acts 16

Who joined Paul and Silas' missionary journey? (v. 1-5) _____

Why did they go to Macedonia? (v. 6-10) _____

How did they meet Lydia? (v. 11-15) _____

Why were Paul and Silas put in prison? (v. 16-24) _____

What happened with the Philippian jailer? (v. 25-34) _____

Why were the city leaders upset? (v. 35-40) _____

Day 4: Read Acts 17

How long did Paul preach in Thessalonica, and what did he say? (v. 1-5) _____

What did the unbelieving Jews accuse Paul and Silas of? (v. 6-9) _____

What was one characteristic of the Bereans? (v. 10-15) _____

Where is Athens and how did the Athenians spend their time? (v. 16-21) _____

What stands out to you about Paul's response? (v. 22-34) _____

Day 5: Read Acts 18

How did Paul actually earn his living? (v. 1-6) _____

What was God's message to Paul and why? (v. 7-17) _____

Why did Paul go back to Galatia? (v. 18-23) _____

What exactly did Aquila and Priscilla teach Apollos? (v. 24-28) _____

Lesson 24

Overview

This week we read Paul's first letter to the Thessalonians. We will see through these letters that Paul really cared about the people he ministered to. Often he spent a year or more with a group of new Christians before he moved on to the next place. During the time he spent in each city he would preach and teach about Jesus. He made close friends in every town, and he wrote letters of encouragement after he left. Often he was able to return and teach the people again.

Each letter we will read answered questions for the people of that day and that particular area. These letters answer questions for us also. The letters show the areas in which Paul wanted the people to grow spiritually. Remember that all of these words were given to Paul by the Holy Spirit. That is why they still apply to us today. The Holy Spirit knew what the people needed to hear then, and He knows what we need to hear today.

The Thessalonian Christians apparently had a lot of questions about what happens after death. Maybe they were confused or discouraged because some of the members of their fellowship had died recently. Whatever the situation, Paul gave them lots of encouragement about the death of the saints, the rapture, and the second coming of Jesus. These are subjects we are very interested in today as well.

Lesson 24 - Bible Study Questions

Day 1: Read 1 Thessalonians 1

Who is this letter written to, and who is it from? (v. 1) _____

What 3 things were these people remembered for? (v. 2-5) _____

How were they witnesses in their area? (v. 6-10) _____

Day 2: Read 1 Thessalonians 2

What did Paul most desire for the Thessalonians? (v. 1-12) _____

Who forbade the early believers to speak to Gentiles about salvation? (v. 13-16) _____

What was Paul's hope and joy? (v. 17-20) _____

Day 3: Read 1 Thessalonians 3

How did Paul feel about his suffering? (v. 1-5) _____

What seemed to matter most in life to Paul? (v. 6-10) _____

What 2 things did Paul want for the Thessalonian Christians? (v. 11-13) _____

Day 4: Read 1 Thessalonians 4

What does God call all of us to? (v. 1-8) _____

Which of these instructions do you most need to apply to your life? (v. 9-12) _____

What is most interesting to you about Jesus' coming? (v. 13-18) _____

Day 5: Read 1 Thessalonians 5

What did Paul mean by saying we should not sleep? (v. 1-11) _____

What are some things we must do as members of the body of Christ? (v. 12-15) _____

Of these seven instructions, which 2 do you need to work on the most? (v. 16-22) _____

What did Paul want them to do with his letter? (v. 23-28) _____

Lesson 25

Overview

We are moving on quickly as we continue through Acts and the events of the early church. We easily recognize the important role that God gave Paul in establishing the early church. Here are some interesting things to notice in this week's readings:

(1) 2 Thessalonians chapter 2 gives us some information about the antichrist. He is called the "man of sin" and the "son of perdition" here. Your Bible version may give other names as well. God gave information throughout the Bible about the end of time. Of course most of the information is found in the book of Revelation, which we will be reading soon.

(2) 2 Thessalonians also gives a little insight into God's opinion of our present government welfare system (see 3:10).

(3) Acts 19 has information about speaking in tongues, the miracles of Paul, exorcism, and a riot in Ephesus.

(4) 1 Corinthians 1 begins a theme on the importance of being loving and united as Christian brothers and sisters. We will read more on this subject later.

Lesson 25 - Bible Study Questions

Day 1: Read 2 Thessalonians 1

What 2 reasons was Paul thankful for these people?
(v. 1-3) _____

Why were they counted worthy of God's kingdom?
(v. 4-5) _____

When would they have rest? (v. 6-8) _____

How would the Lord's name be glorified? (v. 9-12)

Day 2: Read 2 Thessalonians 2

What must happen before the second coming of
Christ? (v. 1-5) _____

Do you know another name for this "lawless one"?
(v. 6-8) _____

Who will believe the lies of the "lawless one"? (v. 9-
12) _____

What did Paul want God to do for them? (v. 13-17)

Day 3: Read 2 Thessalonians 3

What are two of Paul's prayer requests? (v. 1-5)

What was Paul's instruction here? (v. 6-9) _____

How should we treat disobedient brothers and
sisters in Christ? (v. 10-18) _____

Day 4: Read Acts 19

Why did these men get baptized again? (v. 1-5)

How long did Paul stay in this area? (v. 6-10) _____

What specifically caused the name of Jesus to be magnified in these verses? (v. 11-20) _____

Why exactly were these silversmiths upset? (v. 21-28) _____

What kind of crowd was this? (v. 29-34) _____

How did the city clerk end the riot? (v. 35-41) _____

Day 5: Read 1 Corinthians 1

What did Paul compliment the Corinthians for? (v. 1-9) _____

What did Paul say was wrong in the Corinthian church? (v.10-17) _____

How did Paul compare God's wisdom to man's wisdom? (v. 18-25) _____

Why did God choose the weak and foolish? (v. 26-31) _____

Lesson 26

Overview

1 Corinthians gives us a lot of God's basic ideas for our Christian living and for the church. Of course we who are believers in Christ are the church, so everything we do affects the whole church, the body of Christ.

Chapter 2 continues the lesson from chapter 1 on God's wisdom and man's wisdom. As you read you will see how superior God's wisdom is to man's wisdom. This is a good lesson for everyone in every stage of life. Don't let anything take the place of Bible study! Whatever else you are studying or reading, even for education or vocation, must not take precedence over God's Word in your life. What good will man's wisdom do in your life if you leave off learning God's wisdom?

Chapter 3 tells us more about trying to get along with each other as Christians. We read here that our bodies are the temple of God. Later, we will look into that subject more.

Chapter 5 gives a stern warning against sexual sin. Paul instructs the Christians to stay away from the Christian who is deliberately sinning against God. But he encourages them to continue to witness to and befriend lost people who are caught in sin.

Chapter 6 gives an interesting word on lawsuits. Tell in your own words God's opinion of lawsuits between Christians: _____

Lesson 26 - Bible Study Questions

Day 1: Read 1 Corinthians 2

What did Paul want their faith to be in? (v. 1-5) _____

What did God reveal to us through His Spirit? (v. 6-10) _____

Why does the natural man not understand the things of the Spirit of God? (v. 11-16) _____

Day 2: Read 1 Corinthians 3

What does "carnal" mean? (v. 1-4) _____

What is the foundation of our life? (v. 5-11) _____

Where is God's temple? (v. 12-17) _____

What is the wisdom of the world to God? (v. 18-23) _____

Day 3: Read 1 Corinthians 4

What two things will be revealed when the Lord comes? (v. 1-5) _____

What are some of the things Paul endured for the sake of Christ? (v. 6-13) _____

Why did Paul send Timothy to Corinth? (v. 14-21) _____

Day 4: Read 1 Corinthians 5

What had this man done and why was he to be removed from their fellowship? (v. 1-5) _____

Specifically who were they not to have fellowship with? (Give two qualities) (v. 6-13) _____

Day 5: Read 1 Corinthians 6

What was their failure in these verses? (v. 1-8) ____

How were they made right before God? (v. 9-14)

What is the main reason that we are to stay pure? (v. 15-20) _____

Lesson 27

Overview

Let's review a little of what we have studied so far this year. We have read the gospels which tell of the earthly life and ministry of Jesus. We have begun the book of Acts, which is the history book for most of the rest of the New Testament. Paul wrote all of his letters while the events of Acts were happening. We know this because in Acts Luke tells about Paul's missionary journeys. On these journeys Paul was starting new churches and writing letters back to the ones already established.

I Corinthians is one of the longest letters Paul wrote. He had spent a lot of time in Corinth helping them become established. We can see from his letter to them that he was very concerned that they follow God's guidelines for the church. Through these guidelines, we too can learn how God wants our churches to function. As you read, think about how these guidelines apply to churches today. And keep in mind that these lessons are not just for the governing of the church, but for how we are to be as individuals.

When we read passages about issues such as eating meat that had been offered to idols, we must realize that there were parts of their culture that we don't have to deal with, as there are parts of our culture that they couldn't even imagine. Ask God to show you how to apply these things in your own life. As eating meat offered to idols was a controversial issue for them, there are many divisive issues for Christians today as well.

Lesson 27 - Bible Study Questions

Day 1: Read 1 Corinthians 7

Write one thing Paul says about marriage. (v. 1-9)

How could an unsaved husband or wife get saved? (v.10-16)_____

What do you think verses 20 and 24 mean? (v. 17-24) _____

Is Paul for or against marriage? (v. 25-40) _____

Day 2: Read 1 Corinthians 8

What did Paul think of food offered to idols? (v. 1-7)

What was Paul willing to do for weaker Christians? (v. 8-13) _____

Day 3: Read 1 Corinthians 9

What is the answer to almost all of the questions in this passage? (v. 1-9) _____

What was Paul's view of being paid for service to the Lord? v. 10-18)_____

Why did Paul discipline his body? (v. 19-27) _____

Day 4: Read 1 Corinthians 10

Why did Paul give examples from the Old Testament? (v. 1-13) _____

What does it mean to “drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons?” (v. 14-22) _____

Give at least 2 specific commands from these verses. (v. 23-33) _____

Day 5: Read 1 Corinthians 11

Why did Paul say a woman should have a symbol of authority? (v. 1-16) _____

Do you think a woman having long hair is another of the cultural issues of that day? (v. 1-16) _____

What are we proclaiming when we take the Lord’s Supper? (v. 17-26) _____

What does it mean to take the Lord’s Supper in an unworthy manner? (v. 27-34) _____

Lesson 28

Overview

As you read each week, be sure to keep in mind that Paul's letters were not just his opinions on different issues. His words were inspired by the Holy Spirit and were God's Word to the people then as well as to us today.

This week's readings deal with the interesting subject of speaking in tongues. The new Christians of that day, as well as many Christians today, wanted to speak in tongues to prove they were filled with the Spirit. This idea apparently came from the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2) when Peter and the other apostles spoke in tongues. That day was the first outpouring of the Holy Spirit on believers. If you look back to Acts 2 though, you find that these "tongues" were given so that all the people in Jerusalem that day could hear the gospel message in their own language.

From these chapters in 1 Corinthians we learn that the early Christians were putting the wrong emphasis on speaking in tongues. This also happens today. We always need to read what the Bible says before we form opinions on controversial issues.

We notice that the early Christians had about as much trouble getting along with each other in the church as we do today. But nowhere in the New Testament does this difficulty suggest that we should abandon the idea of meeting together as believers. In fact, all of our reading reinforces the importance of meeting as a local body of believers and encouraging each other toward Godliness.

Lesson 28 - Bible Study Questions

Day 1: Read 1 Corinthians 12

Which Christians are given spiritual gifts and why?
(v. 1-11) _____

Why is Paul talking about parts of the body? (v. 12-19) _____

Name at least 3 spiritual gifts from these verses. (v. 20-31) _____

Day 2: Read 1 Corinthians 13

What quality does Paul say is most important? (v. 1-3) _____

What is the hardest thing for you to do in these verses? (v.4-7) _____

What do you think "seeing in a mirror dimly" means?
(v.8-13) _____

Day 3: Read 1 Corinthians 14

What 2 things does Paul compare, and which one is greater?(v.1-5) _____

What are 2 things that Paul said are important about speaking in tongues or other languages? (v. 6-25)

Give at least 3 "rules" for speaking in tongues. (v. 26-40) _____

Day 4: Read 1 Corinthians 15

What did Paul say was the most important part of the gospel?(v.1-20) _____

Write one thing from these verses that you would like to remember.(v.21-34) _____

Who are the two who are compared, and what is Paul comparing them to? (v. 35-58) _____

Day 5: Read 1 Corinthians 16

How do you think Paul made all his plans? (v. 1-12)

What does verse 22 mean? (v. 13-24) _____

Lesson 29

Overview

(Note: Read Acts 20:1 before this week's readings. This will keep our chronology in order.)

2 Corinthians begins with an encouraging word about suffering. Paul gives lots of encouragement to help in all kinds of suffering. Some of the ways the early Christians suffered include persecution for their faith and the loss of their loved ones (some of whom were being killed for their faith). Paul offers comfort and hope to them and to us.

We also suffer in some of the same ways the Corinthian Christians did. We may be ridiculed for believing in Jesus or for trying to live a Christian life. Paul shows us that he suffered also. He wanted the Christians in Corinth, as well as Christians today to trust God through suffering.

Paul also gives encouragement to those whose loved ones have died. All of us have lost someone we love in death. We realize through these verses that, for Christians, death means being present with the Lord (see 5:8). We are comforted to realize that our Christian loved ones are with God, and we will see them again one day.

Lesson 29 - Bible Study Questions

Day 1: Read 2 Corinthians 1

What is one reason that God allows Christians to suffer? (v. 1-7) _____

What did Paul seem happy about? (v. 8-14) _____

Who has guaranteed our hearts? (v. 15-24) _____

Day 2: Read 2 Corinthians 2

What is one reason we should be willing to forgive others? (v. 1-11) _____

What do you think the “aroma of death” and “the aroma of life” mean? (v. 12-17) _____

Day 3: Read 2 Corinthians 3

How did Paul feel about the Corinthian people? (v. 1-6) _____

What is Paul comparing in these verses? (v. 7-18) _____

Day 4: Read 2 Corinthians 4

What 2 things are referred to as light? (v. 1-6) _____

What did Paul believe and speak? (v. 7-15) _____

What was Paul’s “light affliction”? (v. 16-18) _____

Day 5: Read 2 Corinthians 5

How are we supposed to walk in our earthly life? (v. 1-8) _____

What did Paul say compelled him to share the gospel? (v. 9-14) _____

What are we supposed to become during our time on earth? (v. 15-21) _____

Lesson 30

Overview

Keep in mind that Paul was still traveling around preaching and teaching about Jesus, and he was sending letters of instruction and encouragement to the churches in different cities. Many of these letters were circulated to several churches, since his words applied to Christians everywhere. They also apply to us today.

Often when we read the Bible, certain verses and chapters are difficult to understand. No one understands everything about God's Word all at once. We must continue to read and study so that we are "hiding His Word in our hearts" (Psalm 119:11). Then God can teach us what He wants us to know in His own time.

It is very important to be involved in a Bible study group with a leader that can help you understand what you are reading each day. As you can see from your New Testament readings, Paul assumed that the early believers were meeting together for study of the scriptures and his letters to them about the doctrines of Christianity. Understanding God's Word is a worthy life-long goal.

The main thing to remember is that you cannot understand if you do not read.

Lesson 30 - Bible Study Questions

Day 1: Read 2 Corinthians 6

Name at least 3 of the conditions that Paul continued his ministry in. (v. 1-10) _____

What does it mean to be "unequally yoked" in verse 14? (v. 11-18) _____

Day 2: Read 2 Corinthians 7

What made Paul rejoice in these verses? (v. 1-7) ____

What is the difference between Godly sorrow and worldly sorrow? (v. 8-15) _____

Day 3: Read 2 Corinthians 8

What are some good things Paul said about the Corinthian church? (v. 1-7) _____

What is the main thing Paul was saying in these verses? (v. 8-15) _____

Day 4: Read 2 Corinthians 9

What should be the attitude of our heart when we give an offering? (v. 1-7) _____

What is God's indescribable gift to us? (v. 8-15)

Day 5: Read 2 Corinthians 10

What should we do with our thoughts? (v. 1-6)

What do you think Paul wants most for the
Corinthians and for us? (v. 7-18)

Lesson 31

Overview

You may have noticed that Paul often instructs the people to be careful about who they listen to and what they believe. Some of the early Christians had already begun to listen to false teachers. These false teachers taught something other than God's Word and Jesus Christ. Often they tried to make people think that Paul's words were not really from God. In this letter Paul spends a lot of time making sure the people know that he stands for God through Christ alone.

We also must beware of false teachers today. There are those who teach things other than what the Bible says. We must take care to believe only what comes from God's Word. The Holy Spirit helps us to tell the difference between what is true and what is false. Our responsibility is to stay close to God's Word by reading it every day.

Next we move on to the letter to the Roman Christians. Read Acts 20:2-3 to see where Romans was written. We will read the rest of Acts 20 after the letter to Rome.

Notice that Paul had not actually been to Rome when he wrote this letter. He wanted to go there to be sure their faith was strong and sure. He spent a lot of time in this letter making sure the Roman Christians understood how to be saved, as well as how to live a Godly life. Obviously Romans is an important book for all believers to read and understand.

Lesson 31 - Bible Study Questions

Day 1: Read 2 Corinthians 11

What was Paul afraid of? (v. 1-11) _____

How did false teachers fool the Corinthians? (v. 12-21) _____

What are some of the ways Paul suffered to continue to preach the gospel? (v. 22-33) _____

Day 2: Read 2 Corinthians 12

How did God encourage Paul in his difficulties? (v. 1-10) _____

Why do you think Paul writes these things to the Corinthians? (v. 11-21) _____

Day 3: Read 2 Corinthians 13

What are we to do to be sure our faith is in Christ? (v. 1-6) _____

Give at least 2 of Paul's final instructions to the Corinthians? (v. 7-14) _____

Day 4: Read Romans 1

What is one reason Paul was thankful for the Roman Christians? (v. 1-8) _____

How did Paul feel about the gospel of Christ? (v. 9-17) _____

Name at least 3 sins that Paul says Christians must
not practice. (v. 18-32) _____

Day 5: Read Romans 2

How does God judge us? (v.1-16) _____

Why did Paul say the name of God was
blasphemed? (v.17-24) _____

Write your understanding of these verses. (v. 25-29)

Lesson 32

Overview

You will find several verses in this week's lessons that are very familiar to you. You may have even memorized them. These include Romans 3:23, 5:8, 6:23 and others. Most people learn these verses when they are discovering how to be saved. There are other salvation verses in Romans that we will read later.

Paul spends a lot of time in these chapters teaching the Romans (and us!) about faith. Sometimes it seems that we are reading the same things over and over. Paul wanted to be sure his message was clearly understood by his readers.

Another main message Paul wanted to get across is that you cannot earn your salvation. No matter how good you are or what kind of family you come from, you are a sinner in need of a Savior. You cannot save yourself by what you suppose are your good works. *Only Jesus saves.* At the same time, Jesus' offer of salvation is extended to all, but the Bible is clear that we have the freedom to choose. And, as we read in Matthew 7, most people do not choose Christ.

We also cannot pay for our salvation after we are saved. But Paul wanted to be sure we understand that God wants us to live in a way to glorify God when we become Christians. The way we live our lives is proof of what has happened in our hearts, for God's glory or for our own.

Lesson 32 - Bible Study Questions

Day 1 – Read Romans 3

Were the Jews innocent of sin just because of their heritage? (v.1-9) _____

What was the purpose of the law? (v.10-20) _____

How is faith in Jesus related to the law of God? (v.21-31) _____

Day 2 – Read Romans 4

Who does Paul say is blessed? (v. 1-8) _____

Who is Abraham the father of? (v. 9-16) _____

Why was Jesus raised up? (v. 17-25) _____

Day 3 – Read Romans 5

What are 2 ways that Paul says we are justified (made right with God)? (v. 1-11) _____

Who is the one man who brought sin into the world? (v. 12-21) _____

Who is the One who brought eternal life? (v. 12-21) _____

Day 4 – Read Romans 6

What should our view of sin be? (v. 1-14) _____

What type of fruit is your life in Christ producing? (v. 15-23) _____

Day 5 – Read Romans 7

How should we serve God? (v. 1-6) _____

What 3 words describe God's commandments? (v. 7-12) _____

How can we be sure we are serving the law of God? (v. 13-25) _____

Lesson 33

Overview

This week's readings are packed full of urgent lessons for every believer. Romans 8 is one of the greatest chapters in the Bible for those who follow Christ. It explains a lot of what the Holy Spirit does for believers. Romans 8:28 is one of the most often quoted verses in the New Testament. Try to understand verses 28 and 29 together.

Chapters 9-11 are a sort of parenthesis for Paul to give a special message to the Jews. Of course many of the Jews then, as well as today, did not accept Jesus as the Messiah. Most Jews, although not all of them, are still looking for the Messiah, not realizing He has already come. This was a particular burden to Paul, so he wrote this special message to try to convince them of the truth. Some of those other salvation verses we mentioned earlier are found in these chapters, such as 10:9,10. Paul wanted them to understand how to be saved.

Chapter 12 is another great chapter. It tells us a lot about how to live for God. Some of you may have already memorized verses 9-13. Verses 1-2 are also good memory verses. Notice what Paul says about getting even with people who do us wrong.

Lesson 33 - Bible Study Questions

Day 1 – Read Romans 8

Specifically, who lives inside the Christian? (v. 1-11)

Who is the main person praying for you? (v. 12-26)

What can separate us from God's love? (v. 27-39)

Day 2 – Read Romans 9

What was the word of promise to Sarah? (v. 1-12)

Why would God endure people (vessels) who do not honor Him? (v. 13-24)

What is one promise to believers? (v. 25-33)

Day 3 – Read Romans 10

What 2 ways do we show we want to be saved? (v. 1-10)

How does God respond to disobedience? (v. 11-21)

Day 4 – Read Romans 11

How did God use Israel's rejection of Jesus for good? (v. 1-12)

Explain the example of the olive tree. (v. 13-24)

Can we completely understand God's ways? (v. 25-36) _____

Day 5 – Read Romans 12

How can we avoid worldly temptations? (v. 1-3)

What does Paul compare the human body to? (v. 4-8) _____

Write at least 2 things Christians should be doing. (v. 9-21) _____

How does God respond to disobedience? (v. 11-21)

Lesson 34

Overview

We have even more great reading from Romans this week. We will finish Romans this week and return to Acts. Here are some things to look for in Romans:

Chapter 13 - this chapter tells us about how a Christian should consider government officials, paying taxes and obeying the law. Keep in mind that Nero was the Roman emperor, and he was very evil and corrupt.

Chapter 14 - this chapter gives us some ideas on those "gray" areas - those things that may not have a clear right and wrong answer. See if you can think of things we face today that might fall into this category. In Paul's day, it was eating meat offered to pagan idols that was later sold in the marketplace. Some Christians felt they should not eat this "unclean" meat, while others felt that it was no big deal. Paul's message is that we should not offend each other in the minor details of life.

Chapters 15-16 - these chapters give Paul's plans for the future. He wanted to preach and teach in Rome as soon as he could.

As we move back into Acts, we will read more about Paul's travels.

Lesson 34 - Bible Study Questions

Day 1 – Read Romans 13

How does Paul say a Christian should respond to the government? (v. 1-7) _____

What is the main quality of all of God's commands? (v. 8-10) _____

How can we avoid worldly desires? (v. 11-14) _____

Day 2 – Read Romans 14

How does what we do affect others? (v. 1-23) _____

What is the most important thing we can do for others? (v. 1-23 *Note: Please read the entire chapter again for this.) _____

Day 3 – Read Romans 15

How does God want us to act toward each other? (v. 1-6) _____

What is one goal of the Christian life? (v. 7-13) _____

What is one thing Paul wanted to do? (v. 14-33) _____

Day 4 – Read Romans 16

Of all of these friends of Paul's, which one is your favorite name? (v. 1-16) _____

What do all Christians need to watch out for? (v. 17-20) _____

How is the church established? (v. 21-27) _____

Day 5 – Read Acts 20

What happened to Eutychus? (v. 1-12) _____

What did Paul want to do? (v. 13-23) _____

What main message did Paul give to the Ephesian
pastors? (v. 24-38) _____

Lesson 35

Overview

Have you noticed that Luke, the writer of Acts, began using "we" as he describes Paul's journeys? Apparently Luke traveled with Paul during this time.

Our reading this week begins with some Christians trying to talk Paul out of going to Jerusalem. They knew that there were still some Jews who believed that anyone who was saved had to go through all of the Jewish rituals. We have already seen that God did not intend those parts of His covenant with the Israelites to be a part of salvation. The gift of salvation is free for those who believe, although we should keep in mind that it cost Jesus His life.

Paul felt that God wanted him to go to Jerusalem. While he was there, a riot broke out over Paul's teaching. Paul was arrested for disturbing the peace. Because of his arrest he was able to speak to the crowd about Jesus. He was also able to witness to several Roman governors and officials. God brought good from the situation (see Romans 8:28).

When we find ourselves in difficult situations, we can follow Paul's example of confidence and faith that God is in control.

Lesson 35 - Bible Study Questions

Day 1 – Read Acts 21

Why did Paul's friends not want him to go to Jerusalem? (v. 1-14) _____

What did the Christians in Jerusalem want Paul to do? (v. 15-26) _____

Why were the Jews so angry? (v. 27-40) _____

Day 2 – Read Acts 22

What did Paul tell the crowd? (v. 1-11) _____

What did God want Paul to do? (v. 12-21) _____

Why was the commander afraid? (v. 22-30) _____

Day 3 – Read Acts 23

Which 2 religious groups was Paul speaking to? (v. 1-11) _____

What was Paul's nephew's message? (v. 11-22) _____

Who was Felix, and what did he do with Paul? (v. 23-35) _____

Day 4 – Acts 24

Who was Paul's accuser and what was Paul's crime? (v. 1-9) _____

How did Paul respond? (v. 10-21) _____

What did Felix do? (v. 22-26) _____

How long was Paul in prison? (v. 27) _____

Day 5 – Read Acts 25

Who was Festus, and what did he do with Paul? (v. 1-12) _____

What was Festus' problem with Paul? (v. 12-27) _____

Lesson 36

Overview

As we begin this week's readings, Paul is still testifying for Christ to the Roman officials. Paul is using every opportunity to tell people about Jesus.

In chapter 26, Paul is speaking before Festus, the governor, and Agrippa, the king. Notice as you read how much these rulers seemed to respect Paul. One reason for this is that Paul had obviously studied for this test. Paul had studied the Bible since he was a boy, even though he was not saved until adulthood. He understood the importance of being prepared to defend his faith. We also need to be prepared for opportunities to speak for Jesus. Studying His Word is of course the best way.

We finish Acts as Paul gets his wish to go to Rome. In fact, he received a free trip, compliments of the Roman government. This was because he was still under arrest. You will see that his voyage was less than pleasant. But no matter what happened, Paul continued to serve God and have faith. Apparently Paul was still under Roman arrest at the end of Acts.

Next we begin a short letter to the Colossians. Even in prison Paul continued to write letters that blessed, encouraged and taught the people of his day and have endured through hundreds of years right down to us today. May we consider Paul's example of using even the circumstances of life that are not pleasant as an opportunity to bring honor and glory to God.

Lesson 36 - Bible Study Questions

Day 1: Read Acts 26

What did Paul do before he was saved? (v. 1-11)

What did Jesus tell Paul to do? (v. 12-18) _____

What was King Agrippa's response? (v. 19-32)

Day 2: Read Acts 27

What was Paul's message to the captain? (v. 1-12)

What happened and what did Paul say? (v. 13-26)

Why do you think the captain wanted to save Paul?
(v. 27-44) _____

Day 3: Read Acts 28

What happened with the snake? (v. 1-10) _____

What was the final destination? (v. 11-16) _____

What was the controversy? (v. 17-31) _____

Day 4: Read Colossians 1

What were some things Paul was thankful for? (v. 1-8) _____

What is one thing Paul wanted the Colossians to understand about Jesus? (v. 9-20) _____

How did Paul feel about his own suffering? (v. 21-29) _____

Day 5: Read Colossians 2

What is one thing Paul wanted the Colossians to do? (v. 1-7) _____

How are we made alive in Christ? (v. 8-14) _____

How did Paul feel about man-made rules for religion? (v. 15-23) _____

Lesson 37

Overview

We finish Colossians this week and read Philemon and part of Ephesians. These three letters were written while Paul was still in prison in Rome. We see that he did not spend time sulking because of his bad situation. He used it to continue the work God had given him to do. We can learn from Paul to make the most of every situation, good or bad.

Notice that in Colossians Paul is teaching the Christians to focus on their lives in Christ instead of earthly things. This is a continuation of Jesus' message that it is not the outward appearance as much as the inward attitude. What looks good to everyone else may not look so good to God.

Philemon is a personal letter to a man whose slave had run away. Apparently after Onesimus ran away, he accepted Jesus. This letter encourages Philemon to forgive Onesimus for running away and to accept him back. Notice that Paul persuaded Onesimus that to return to his life as a slave was the right thing to do, even though slavery is wrong. It would have been dishonest for Onesimus to have remained a runaway slave. We have no record of Philemon's response to Paul's letter. What do you think he did?

Lesson 37 - Bible Study Questions

Day 1: Read Colossians 3

What kinds of things must a Christian not do? (v. 1-11) _____

What kinds of things must a Christian do? (v. 12-17)

How is each Christian member of the family to live? (v. 18-25) _____

Day 2: Read Colossians 4

How should we speak to each other? (v. 1-6) _____

What specifically did Paul want Archippus to do? (v. 7-18) _____

Day 3: Read Philemon

What are some good things Philemon did? (v. 1-7)

Who was Onesimus and what did Paul want Philemon to do with him? (v. 8-16) _____

What did Paul offer to Philemon? (v. 17-25) _____

Day 4: Read Ephesians 1

What exactly are Christians predestined to? (v. 1-12) _____

Give at least 2 phrases that describe the Holy Spirit. (v. 13-14) _____

Who is the head of the church? (v. 15-23) _____

Day 5: Read Ephesians 2

Why did God save us? (v. 1-7) _____

How have we been brought near to God? (v. 8-13)

What is the purpose of the church? (v. 14-22) _____

Lesson 38

Overview

If you are a careful reader, you may have noticed that Paul instructed the churches to pass these letters around to each other. He wanted the Colossian Christians to share their letter with the Laodiceans. He wanted the Ephesians to share their letter with the Colossians. You may have noticed other letters Paul mentions that are not in the Bible, like the letter to the Laodiceans. We know that because the Bible is the inspired Word of God He has preserved the books He wanted us to read, study and apply to our lives.

There is so much information in these letters for us to learn and live by. We must realize that it will take all of our lives to study and learn the lessons God has for us here in His Word. The more we study the more we see how far we have to go. No matter how many times we read the Bible, God still has more to teach us. Memorizing scripture is a good way to be able to meditate on God's truth all the time.

In Ephesians Paul discusses everything from salvation to the armor of God for the Christian. It is easy to see through these letters to the churches that Paul assumed the believers were meeting together. It is a good reminder to us of the importance in scripture of being actively involved with a local body of believers. We also learn about God's order for our homes. Try to write down God's plan for you in your home and in the church.

Lesson 38 - Bible Study Questions

Day 1: Read Ephesians 3

Who are the "fellow heirs" of God's grace? (v. 1-7)

How do we have boldness and confidence? (v. 8-13)

Give at least 2 things Paul prayed for? (v. 14-21)

Day 2: Read Ephesians 4

How did Paul instruct us to walk and why? (v. 1-6)

What are some of the gifts God gave, and why did He give them? (v. 7-16)

How can we walk worthy of Christ? (v. 17-24)

How are we to treat others? (v. 25-32)

Day 3: Read Ephesians 5

Who are we not to associate with? (v. 1-7)

How can we walk in God's light? (v. 8-21)

How must husbands and wives treat each other? (v. 22-33)

Day 4: Read Ephesians 6

What are the responsibilities of children and servants? (v. 1-9) _____

What are the first and last parts of the armor of God? (v. 10-17) _____

What else did Paul want? (v. 18-24) _____

Day 5: Read Philippians 1

What were some of Paul's prayers for the Philippians? (v. 1-10) _____

How did Paul see his suffering as good? (v. 11-18)

How did Paul feel about death and suffering? (v. 19-30) _____

Lesson 39

Overview

Philippians and the letters to Timothy are a little more warm and personal. The Philippian people were especially close to Paul. He had spent quite a while in Philippi and had grown to love them very much. In fact many of the people there were saved when Paul preached in Philippi. Look back to Acts 16 to see some of the happenings in Philippi.

Paul wanted the Philippians to experience joy in their relationship with God. He also wanted them to love each other and to serve each other. Sometimes the simplest lessons are the hardest to put into practice. He wanted them to have a goal of doing God's will for their lives. All of these are great reminders for us as well.

Philippians 4 is another one of those great chapters in the Bible. Verse 8 is an important word for us to examine our thoughts and activities. See how many of today's movies or television programs could stand up to this list. Verses 11, 13 and 19 are also good memory verses. We need to think about how to trust God in everything and to be content with what we have.

Lesson 39 - Bible Study Questions

Day 1: Read Philippians 2

How did Paul want them to treat each other and why? (v. 1-11) _____

How did Paul feel about Timothy? (v. 12-24) _____

Give a few facts about Epaphroditus. (v. 25-30) _____

Day 2: Read Philippians 3

How did Paul feel about his accomplishments? (v. 1-11) _____

What was the goal of Paul's life? (v. 12-16) _____

What will happen to us when Jesus returns? (v. 17-21) _____

Day 3: Read Philippians 4

Paul gives us 7 steps to the peace of God. How many can you name? (v. 1-7) _____

What kinds of things should we think about? (v. 8-9)

How did God take care of Paul? (v. 10-23) _____

Day 4: Read 1 Timothy 1

How did Paul want Timothy to deal with those who strayed from the truth? (v. 1-7) _____

What words did Paul use to describe his salvation? (v. 8-14) _____

What did Paul charge Timothy to do? (v. 15-20) _____

Day 5: Read 1 Timothy 2

What did Paul consider “good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior”? (v. 1-7) _____

What were some of the specific guidelines for men and women in the church? (v. 8-15) _____

Lesson 40

Overview

Timothy and Titus were two of Paul's young associates in the ministry. They traveled with Paul often. Paul also set them as pastors over congregations. The main purpose of Paul's letters to Timothy and Titus was to instruct them as pastors and teachers of the Word.

These letters also have a lot to say to us today. There are things we need to know as a church body and things we need to know for individual Christian living.

Notice particularly 1 Timothy 4:12-16. These verses show some of the main reasons for reading your Bible every day. If you will read and study God's Word from an early age, you will bring glory to God in your own heart and in the lives of others.

1 Timothy 6:6-10 is also an important lesson to learn. So many problems Christians face could be avoided if we understood and applied God's Word from our youth.

Lesson 40 - Bible Study Questions

Day 1 - Read 1 Timothy 3

What are some of the qualifications for pastors (overseers, bishops)? (v. 1-7) _____

What will deacons obtain if they have served well? (v. 8-13) _____

Why did Paul write these things to Timothy? (v. 14-16) _____

Day 2 - Read 1 Timothy 4

What are some ways people might depart from the faith? (v. 1-5) _____

What did Paul want Timothy to command and teach? (v. 6-11) _____

In what ways did Paul want Timothy to be an example to the believers? (v. 12-16) _____

Day 3 - Read 1 Timothy 5

What is a main responsibility for a Godly man? (v. 1-8) _____

What are Paul's instructions for taking care of widows? (v. 9-16) _____

How are church leaders who continue in sin to be treated? (v. 17-25) _____

Day 4 - Read 1 Timothy 6

Name some things Christians must avoid. (v. 1-5)

How should we think about worldly wealth? (v. 6-12)

If someone is rich, what should they do? (v. 13-21)

Day 5 - Read Titus 1

How are church leaders to be chosen? (v. 1-9) _____

What difficult things must a church leader be willing to do? (v. 10-16) _____

Lesson 41

Overview

Titus is similar in tone to 1 and 2 Timothy. Paul is giving the young pastor, Titus, instructions for growing the church and individual Christians in God's way. As you read, try to write some of the ways God wants us to live. For example, Titus 3:2 tells us to speak evil of no one. These are ways we can glorify God after we are saved.

2 Timothy 1 is about Timothy's Godly mother and grandmother. If your parents love God, this would be a good time to thank them for guiding you toward Godliness. If your parents do not love God, this would be a good time to pray for them to know Him.

2 Timothy 2 tells how Christians must have endurance, discipline and diligence. Give the three examples Paul used for these qualities:

2 Timothy 3:16 reminds us that these are not just Paul's words. All of the Bible comes from God. We must always keep in mind that God wrote the Bible by inspiring Godly men to record His words.

Lesson 41 - Bible Study Questions

Day 1 - Read Titus 2

How are the older women to teach the younger women? (v. 1-5) _____

What are young men to learn? (v. 6-8) _____

What are some things Titus was to speak? (v. 9-15)

Day 2 - Read Titus 3

What is a faithful saying? (v. 1-8) _____

What kind of a person is warped and sinning here? (v. 9-11) _____

What are Paul's last 2 instructions? (v. 12-15) _____

Day 3 - Read 2 Timothy 1

Describe the spirit God has given us? (v. 1-7) _____

For what reasons was Paul not ashamed of the gospel? (v. 8-12) _____

Why was Paul thankful for Onesiphorus? (v. 13-18)

Day 4 - Read 2 Timothy 2

How did Paul compare our life in Christ with soldiers, athletes and farmers? (v. 1-7) _____

What things did Hymenaeus and Philetus do that Paul warned them to avoid? (v. 8-19) _____

Write at least 3 more things that Paul warns us to avoid. (v. 20-26) _____

Day 5 - Read 2 Timothy 3

What kinds of people should Christians turn away from? (v. 1-9) _____

How can we be completely prepared for God's service? (v. 10-17) _____

Lesson 42

Overview

We finish Paul's letters to Titus and Timothy this week. These are the last letters from Paul that are recorded in the Bible. We will read Hebrews in a few weeks, and many scholars believe that Paul wrote Hebrews as well.

This week we read the first four chapters of James. The James that wrote this book was probably the half-brother of Jesus. This book, like Paul's letters, contains so much for us to learn. James tells us things like why God allows difficulties in our lives and what our attitude about them should be (1:2-4). We learn the importance of putting into practice what we learn from the Bible (1:22-25). Chapter 2 tells us to treat everyone equally no matter what they look like or how they dress.

Chapter 3 gives us warnings about the things we say. Do any of us always use our words in the best way? This is an important way we can glorify God and grow strong in Christ: practice using your words in a way that would please God.

Lesson 42 - Bible Study Questions

Day 1 - Read 2 Timothy 4

Give at least 3 of Paul's specific instructions for Timothy. (v. 1-5) _____

What was Paul ready to do and why? (v. 6-8) _____

How did Paul deal with the people who had disappointed him? (v. 9-22) _____

Day 2 - Read James 1

How can we avoid being unstable? (v. 1-8) _____

How are we blessed during difficult times? (v. 9-18)

How can we be blessed in all we do? (v. 19-27)

Day 3 - Read James 2

What exactly is Paul talking about? (v. 1-9) _____

What is wrong with faith without works? (v. 10-17)

What is the correct relationship between faith and works of obedience? (v. 18-26) _____

Day 4 - Read James 3

What 2 things does Paul compare with the tongue?
(v. 1-12) _____

How do you know if you have earthly wisdom? (v.
13-18) _____

How do you know if you have heavenly wisdom? (v.
13-18, again!) _____

Day 5 - Read James 4

Who does God give grace to? (v. 1-6) _____

Write at least 5 of the 10 commands in verses 7-10:

How are we supposed to think about future plans
and activities? (v. 11-17) _____

Lesson 43

Overview

This week we finish James and read Jude and 1 Peter. James finishes his book with more practical applications of our faith. We are gaining a lot of information about how God wants us to live as Christians. But notice that God does not instruct us to compare our lives with others. He does not want us to criticize each other. In fact, the last two verses of James tell us to help each other instead.

Jude was also probably written by one of Jesus' half-brothers. Jude wanted to warn his readers of false teaching. False teaching is anything other than the gospel message of Christ.

1 and 2 Peter were written by Jesus' disciple, Peter. We can see a big change in this fisherman from Galilee since the first time we met him in the gospels. We can see how God taught Peter to be a spiritual man. God also has many things to teach us as well, if we are willing to learn as Peter was.

Lesson 43 - Bible Study Questions

Day 1 - Read James 5

What happens to rich people who have treated their workers badly? (v. 1-6) _____

Why should we develop patience? (v. 7-11) _____

What does God do through prayer? (v. 12-20) _____

Day 2 - Read Jude

How would we recognize the ones who are really against the true gospel message? (v. 1-8) _____

Who prophesied specifically about God's judgment on the ungodly? (v. 9-15) _____

What is something we as Christians can do to be faithful followers of Christ? (v. 16-25) _____

Day 3 - Read 1 Peter 1

How can we rejoice in difficult times? (v. 1-9) _____

How can we be holy as God is holy? (v. 10-16) _____

What endures or abides forever? (v. 17-25) _____

Day 4 - Read 1 Peter 2

How can we not stumble in our Christian walk? (v. 1-8) _____

What is one thing we can do to honor God? (v. 9-17) _____

How is being submissive to the authority figures in our lives honoring to God? (v. 18-25) _____

Day 5 - Read 1 Peter 3

Who did Peter give as an example for Christian women to follow? (v. 1-6) _____

Why should we seek righteousness before God? (v. 7-12) _____

How does God feel about Christian suffering? (v. 13-22) _____

Lesson 44

Overview

This week we will finish Peter's books. The main theme of 1 Peter is hope during suffering. In fact, Peter says we should rejoice in suffering because we can bring glory to God in suffering. We can look back and find this teaching in Paul's writings, as well as those of James and the teachings of Jesus. Obviously this is an important part of our Christian life, that is, to trust God in sufferings.

Another teaching common to several New Testament writers is that young people should submit to their elders (1 Peter 5:5). From verses 5-6, give the two results of obedience to this command:

The main theme of 2 Peter is further warning of false teaching. We have read quite a bit about false teaching in the New Testament. Peter also gives us information on the future coming of Jesus. We are getting closer and closer to the end now.

Lesson 44 - Bible Study Questions

Day 1 - Read 1 Peter 4

What does Peter say about parties with alcohol? (v. 1-6) _____

What is the best way to serve God? (v. 7-11) _____

How should we feel about our sufferings? (v. 12-19)

Day 2 - Read 1 Peter 5

How should church leaders act? (v. 1-4) _____

What will happen as a result of our sufferings? (v. 5-11) _____

What is the only way to peace? (v. 12-14) _____

Day 3 - Read 2 Peter 1

Name several things we are to add to our faith. (v. 1-9) _____

What do you think Paul means by these verses? (v. 10-15) _____

How did prophecy come? (v. 16-21) _____

Day 4 - Read 2 Peter 2

Give 2 examples of God's judgment of sin. (v. 1-6)

What kind of people are easily led into ungodliness?
(v. 7-14) _____

What does Peter say about those who know God
and turn away? (v. 15-22) _____

Day 5 - Read 2 Peter 3

Who does God want to be saved? (v. 1-9) _____

How can we avoid being "led away with the error of
the wicked"? (v. 14-18) _____

Lesson 45

Overview

No one except God really knows who wrote Hebrews. There are many different opinions, but it really doesn't matter much for our study. God included it here for us, so we will go on with our reading. There is a lot to learn in the book of Hebrews. Most Bible scholars credit the letter to Paul since the tone is similar to his writings.

Many of the books we have studied have focused on practical guidelines for Christian living. Hebrews has some of that. But Hebrews mostly helps us to understand exactly who Jesus is and what He did for us.

Read carefully and thoughtfully in Hebrews. Sometimes it is easy to skim certain passages, thinking, "I already know this." But Hebrews is a great book to help us when we have questions or are faced with questions about our beliefs. The information found here is the focus of our beliefs about Jesus as Son of God and Priest for believers.

Hebrews begins by showing Jesus' relationship to the angels and to the prophets. Chapter 2 shows some of why He came and what He did. Chapter 4 tells us about the rest God has promised us (an often missed concept in our busy lives). Chapter 5 encourages us to be mature and to grow in faith and knowledge.

Lesson 45 - Bible Study Questions

Day 1 - Read Hebrews 1

How is Jesus better than the prophets? (v. 1-3)

How is Jesus better than the angels? (v. 4-12) _____

What are angels sent for? (v. 13-14) _____

Day 2 - Read Hebrews 2

How did God witness to us of the Holy Spirit? (v. 1-4) _____

Who did Jesus taste death for? (v. 5-9) _____

How does Jesus help us in our temptations? (v. 10-18) _____

Day 3 - Read Hebrews 3

Who built all things? (v. 1-6) _____

What does God warn us of? (v. 7-13) _____

Why could the Old Testament wilderness wanderers not enter God's rest? (v. 14-19) _____

Day 4 - Read Hebrews 4

What do you think the remaining rest for the people of God means? (v. 1-10) _____

How are we able to come before God and why? (v. 11-16) _____

Day 5 - Read Hebrews 5

How were the high priests chosen? (v. 1-4) _____

Why did God say things were hard to explain? (v. 5-11) _____

What do milk and solid food stand for? (v. 12-14)

Lesson 46

Overview

This week's readings are some of the most difficult chapters we have studied. Don't be discouraged if you have a hard time understanding some of these passages.

Chapter 6 begins with a continuation of chapter 5 on growing more mature in our faith. We have studied in many New Testament passages the importance of growing in the Lord. This Hebrews passage shows how growing in faith and knowledge is especially important for believers.

Chapter 7 tells us about the priest Melchizedek. If you want to know just who he was, read Genesis 14:18-20. Not much is known about Melchizedek. He was a priest long before God set up the Levitical priesthood in Exodus. We see in these chapters that God is showing every facet of the priesthood so that we can better understand the priesthood of Christ. God wants to be sure we understand that Jesus' work included our salvation as well as fulfilling the Old Testament sacrifices. That is why we no longer follow the sacrificial system from the Old Testament - Jesus is the final sacrifice.

Lesson 46 - Bible Study Questions

Day 1 - Read Hebrews 6

Why is it impossible to renew someone if they fall away from God? (v. 1-6) _____

What should we do instead of being lazy or sluggish? (v. 7-12) _____

What is our hope and anchor? (v. 13-20) _____

Day 2 - Read Hebrews 7

Write several interesting facts about Melchizedek. (v. 1-10) _____

From these verses, who do you think is the "priest forever", the "better hope"? (v. 11-19) _____

What are some of the ways that Jesus is the perfect High Priest? (v. 20-28) _____

Day 3 - Read Hebrews 8

Who is the "mediator of a better covenant"? (v. 1-6) _____

Describe several parts of the new covenant. (v. 7-13) _____

Day 4 - Read Hebrews 9

How do you think the tabernacle symbolized Jesus?
(v. 1-10) _____

What does the blood have to do with forgiveness
(remission) of sin? (v. 11-22) _____

How is Jesus' second coming described? (v. 23-28)

Day 5 - Read Hebrews 10

How are we sanctified or set apart? (v. 1-10) _____

How can we "enter the holiest" or be in relationship
to God? (v. 11-22) _____

How could it be fearful to fall into the hands of God?
(v. 23-31) _____

What do you think it means to "draw back"? (v. 32-
39) _____

Lesson 47

Overview

This week's readings will be a lot easier to follow than what we read last week. In fact, these chapters are some of the best and most inspiring for us.

Chapter 11 is the great "Hall of Faith" chapter. It gives us a whole list of Old Testament saints and tells how they lived lives of faith. Notice what verse one says about faith. Chapter 12 gives us more about our own faith. Chapter 13 goes on to give us more practical application for our faith. These are practices that all Christians should have in our daily living. From all of our study in the New Testament, who do you think wrote Hebrews?

Next we begin John's letters. We have already read John's gospel. Now we will read 1, 2, and 3 John and Revelation, all of which were written by John, the disciple of Jesus. These first two chapters are packed full of lessons that would be easy to skip over in our daily living. John gives a bold message about the importance of a Godly lifestyle. He wants to be sure we understand our sin and Christ's forgiveness. Notice from 1 John 2:4 the strong language John uses to get his point across. We will notice John's urgency all through his writing.

Lesson 47 - Bible Study Questions

Day 1 - Read Hebrews 11

Name several people who lived by faith and how it affected them. (v. 1-12) _____

Where is the country and city of the faithful? (v. 13-16) _____

Name some things Moses and Abraham did because of their faith. (v. 17-29) _____

What are some other remarkable things people did because of their faith? (v. 30-40) _____

Day 2 - Read Hebrews 12

What is the good result of God's disciplining His children? (v. 1-11) _____

What is the one quality of those who will see God, and how do we get it? (v. 12-21) _____

How can we serve God? (v. 22-29) _____

Day 3 - Read Hebrews 13

How can we not fear what people might do to us? (v. 1-6) _____

Why are we to submit to those who are over us? (v. 7-17) _____

How are we made complete or perfect? (v. 18-25)

Day 4 - Read 1 John 1

Why did John want to declare what he had seen?
(v. 1-4) _____

How could we deceive ourselves? (v. 5-8) _____

What should we do when we sin? (v. 9-10) _____

Day 5 - Read 1 John 2

How do we prove we love God? (v. 1-7) _____

Give the 2 reasons John wrote to the children. (v. 8-14) _____

Who lives forever? (v. 15-17) _____

How do we know if we are born of God? (v. 18-29)

Lesson 48

Overview

In this week's reading John wants to show us the relationship between our love for God and our obedience to Him. Disobedience to God and His Word is sin. The verses in chapter 3 do not mean that a Christian is perfect and never does anything wrong. Only Jesus lived a perfectly sinless life. These verses are to show that a true believer cannot live a lifestyle of sin, or disobedience to God's Word. Notice how everything to do with obedience is connected to the theme of loving God and loving each other. Do you remember what commandments Jesus said were the greatest and second greatest?

Chapter 4 gives us yet another warning against false teaching. By now we should all realize how important it is to follow only the true teaching found in God's Word.

Chapter 5 gives us some great verses on how to know for sure we are saved.

The book of 2 John is further warning against false teachers. 3 John 4 shows how happy John was when he knew God's people were walking in the truth of God's Word.

Lesson 48 - Bible Study Questions

Day 1 - Read 1 John 3

What do those who are born of God do? (v. 1-9)

What does John say about someone who hates a Christian brother? (v. 10-15) _____

How do we know the Holy Spirit lives in us? (v. 16-24) _____

Day 2 - Read 1 John 4

How can we know the spirit of truth from the spirit of error? (v. 1-6) _____

Why should we love each other? (v. 7-11) _____

What does John say about a person who claims to love God but hates his Christian brother? (v. 12-20)

Day 3 - Read 1 John 5

Who is the one who overcomes the world? (v. 1-5)

How do we know that we have eternal life? (v. 6-13)

What is John's final warning? (v. 14-21) _____

Day 4 - Read 2 John

What commandments does John mean? (v. 1-6)

What was John most concerned about? (v. 7-13)

Day 5 - Read 3 John

What is John's greatest joy? (v. 1-4) _____

How can we be "fellow workers for the truth"? (v. 5-8) _____

What is the name of the man who had a good testimony? (v. 9-14) _____

Lesson 49

Overview

Most people avoid the book of Revelation because they think it will be too confusing. It is the only book of the Bible that promises a special blessing to those who read it. There are many symbols - some that are fairly easy to understand and some that are more difficult. Try to avoid getting too bogged down in figuring out every symbol. There are many fine Christian people who disagree on the interpretation of this book. However, the main message of the book is clear: Jesus is revealed (that's what the word "revelation" means) as the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

Ask yourself as you read about the seven churches discussed in this week's reading whether the problem areas that God points out in these churches could be areas that you need to work on in your life. Remember that God's purpose in pointing out problem areas is to give us the opportunity to let Him help us with them. He knows that when we do this we will be drawn closer to Him and will experience the joy of being right with Him.

Lesson 49 - Bible Study Questions

Day 1 - Read Revelation 1

What is said about those who read this book? (v. 1-3) _____

What did Jesus say about Himself? (v. 4-8) _____

What did John see and what did it stand for? (v. 9-20) _____

Day 2 - Read Revelation 2

What did God have against the church at Ephesus, and what were they to do about it? (v. 1-7) _____

What was the church in Smyrna supposed to do? (v. 8-11) _____

What would the church of Pergamos receive if they repented? (v. 12-17) _____

What was wrong with Thyatira? (v. 18-29) _____

Day 3 - Read Revelation 3

What was wrong with Sardis, and what were they to do? (v. 1-6) _____

How did God describe the church of Philadelphia? (v. 7-13) _____

How did God feel about the church of the Laodiceans? (v. 14-22) _____

Day 4 - Read Revelation 4

Describe the throne room of heaven. (v. 1-6) _____

What did the 4 creatures and the 24 elders say? (v. 7-11) _____

Day 5 - Read Revelation 5

What happened with the scroll? (v. 1-7) _____

Who was singing, and what was their message? (v. 8-14) _____

Lesson 50

Overview

This section is about the beginning of three sets of judgments. The first set of judgments is known as the seal judgments because each one is unleashed when the Lamb opens a seal on the book you read about in chapter 5. The second set of judgments is known as the trumpet judgments and the third set is known as the bowl judgments.

It is never enjoyable to read about judgment. These judgments seem to be particularly horrible because they are God's final judgment against sin. Remember that God has an absolute hatred for sin. Remember also that God has an absolute love for every sinner. That's why Jesus took the judgment for our sins on Himself at Calvary. Those sinners who accept Jesus' sacrifice will not have to face His judgment. However, those who refuse to accept Him as Savior will someday be judged by Him.

Again, keep in mind that there is a lot of symbolism in Revelation, as well as descriptions of future events that John could not completely understand. Try to keep the big picture in mind as you work your way through each verse.

Lesson 50 - Bible Study Questions

Day 1 - Read Revelation 6

What was the result of opening the seals? (v. 1-8)

Did any of the seals contain good news on earth?
(v. 9-17) _____

Day 2 - Read Revelation 7

How many Israelites from each tribe received a seal
of protection? (v. 1-8) _____

Where was this multitude from, and what did they
say? (v. 9-10) _____

What had the multitude done? (v. 11-17) _____

Day 3 - Read Revelation 8

What happened with the seventh seal? (v. 1-5) ____

What were the results of the first 4 trumpet
judgments? (v. 6-13) _____

Day 4 - Read Revelation 9

What did the locusts do and for how long? (v. 1-5) _

Describe these locusts. What do you think they
represent? (v. 6-12) _____

Describe the 6th trumpet judgment. After this, do the people repent of their sin? (v. 13-21) _____

Day 5 - Read Revelation 10

Was John supposed to describe the 7 thunders? (v. 1-4) _____

What will happen in the days of the seventh angel? (v. 5-7) _____

What happened with the little book? (v. 8-11) _____

Lesson 51

Overview

In this section, the trumpet judgments are completed and the bowl judgments - the worst of all - occur. This section also discusses two witnesses that God will send during this time to preach the Gospel. The Antichrist is also discussed in this section. He is known as the Beast. Hang in there through this section. The next one is much more pleasant to read and think about!

As you read about some of the bizarre things that John describes, keep something in mind. God took John forward in time to show him what would happen. To get an idea of the difficulty John may have faced in describing what he saw, try to imagine yourself bringing George Washington forward in time and showing him the type of life we lead and then having him go back and explain it to the people of his day and time. Airplanes and cars would probably seem pretty unbelievable to people in Washington's day, but they could at least be described fairly accurately. But how would you explain television, telephones, or the internet to them? That will give you some idea of what John was up against in describing what he saw. Just keep in mind that every word of the Bible is inspired by God, and He has a purpose in instructing us to study all of it.

Remember we will read for six days on these last two lessons in order to finish the New Testament in one year. You are almost finished!

Lesson 51 - Bible Study Questions

Day 1 - Read Revelation 11

What kind of power do the two witnesses have? (v. 1-6) _____

What happened to the two witnesses? (v. 7-14) _____

What happened when the 7th angel sounded? (v. 15-19) _____

Day 2 - Read Revelation 12

Can you state who the woman's child was and who the dragon was? (v. 1-6) _____

Why will there be rejoicing? (v. 7-12) _____

Who were the rest of the woman's children? (v. 13-17) _____

Day 3 - Read Revelation 13

How long did the beast blaspheme against God? (v. 1-5) _____

Who worships this beast? (v. 6-10) _____

What is the mark of the beast and what does it mean? (v. 11-18) _____

Day 4 - Read Revelation 14

Describe these 144,000 redeemed ones. (v. 1-5)

Why will the ones who die in the Lord be blessed?
(v. 6-13) _____

What do you think the earth's harvest is? (v. 14-20)

Day 5 - Read Revelation 15

Why were they singing this song of praise? (v. 1-4)

Why was no one able to enter the temple? (v. 5-8)

Day 6 - Read Revelation 16

What 2 words describe God's judgments? (v. 1-7) _

Who will be blessed? (v. 8-16) _____

What was the result of these judgments? (v. 17-21)

Lesson 52

Overview

You will enjoy reading this section. Although it does contain more details about God's final judgment of sin, it also contains details about some of the things that God has prepared for those of us who have accepted Him as Savior. As you read, notice some of the things that won't be in Heaven. There won't be any sadness or tears in Heaven. Can you imagine that? There are some other things that John says won't be there. How many can you find?

As you read about Heaven, remember that God created the earth and everything in it in six days. In John 14 Jesus told us that He is personally preparing a place for us in heaven. Let these chapters remind you to thank God for what He has prepared for you. This message should also remind us that great comfort comes from considering that the troubles of this earth will dissolve away when we see the glorious home we will have for all eternity. Let them also remind us to invite as many people as possible to experience Heaven with us.

This brings us to the end of our New Testament study. I hope you have gained a much greater understanding of God's New Covenant with us as believers. I would encourage you to study through the Old Testament as well. There will be more books in this series to help you focus, but you can learn so much from simply opening the Bible and reading it. Read the New Testament again and again. God's Word is "living and powerful" (Hebrews 4:12), and we can never have too much of its power in our lives. God bless you.

Lesson 52 - Bible Study Questions

Day 1 - Read Revelation 17

Why was John amazed? (v. 1-6) _____

What is the main thing to understand about these kings? (v. 7-13) _____

What does the woman represent? (v. 14-18) _____

Day 2 - Read Revelation 18

What happens to Babylon? (v. 1-8) _____

Who were sad at Babylon's fall and who were happy? (v. 9-20) _____

Why was this great city destroyed? (v. 21-24) _____

Day 3 - Read Revelation 19

What are the two reasons for this great worship? (v. 1-10) _____

What is written on Jesus' thigh? (v. 11-16) _____

Who were the two who were cast into the lake of fire? (v. 17-21) _____

Day 4 - Read Revelation 20

What is the main thing that happens during the 1,000 year time? (v. 1-6) _____

What ultimately happens to Satan? (v. 7-10) _____

Specifically who are cast into the lake of fire? (v. 11-15) _____

Day 5 - Read Revelation 21

What do you like most about the new heaven and the new earth? (v. 1-8) _____

Briefly describe the new Jerusalem. (v. 9-21) _____

Who is enjoying the new Jerusalem? (v. 22-27) _____

Day 6 - Read Revelation 22

Why will we not need lamp or sunshine? (v. 1-5) _____

Why was John not supposed to worship the angel? (v. 6-11) _____

Give at least 4 of the titles Jesus calls Himself. (v. 12-17) _____

What warning does He give us? (v. 18-21) _____

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The Old Testament Bible study books should be ready by summer, 2014.