



BRING IT HOME... and Highlight it! WEEK 1

Get out your Bible and highlighter. Use the daily reading guide to apply the Bible to your life by focusing on one book each day. Watch and see God's Word at work!

GENESIS - day one

Highlight Genesis 1:1. You aren't just an accident of nature. Now **look up and highlight Genesis 1:26-27** and see what he called his creation after each day.

You aren't an accident. God intentionally created men and women. The Hebrew word for image means something more than mere physical resemblance. Adam and Eve represented God's character. They were His representative, His caretakers in the world. What does this verse tell you about YOUR worth in God's eyes?

Now **look up and highlight 3:15** in your Bible.

The entire third chapter describes how Adam and Eve fell into sin. Verse 15 is God's very first promise that he would send a Savior who would take care of sin once and for all. This verse is talking about Jesus Christ. God has a plan for you. Despite our sins and failures, He forgives. How does that change your outlook on life?

Prayer - Heavenly Father, you have a plan for my life, found in the person and work

of Jesus Christ, my Savior and Lord. Thank you for creating the world and giving me life. Amen.

EXODUS - day two

Look up and Highlight chapter 20 vs 1-17.

This is where God gives us the Ten Commandments, the law of God. As Christians, God's law not only shows us our sins and our need for a Savior, it also serves as a guide for living and honoring Him.

When we compare our conduct to the demands of the Ten Commandments, we come up horribly short. Yet God, in His mercy has sent his son Jesus to pay for our sins. This forgiveness is a life changer. The 10 Commandments are a guide for us for better living. How might you, in the power of God's mercy, use the 10 commandments in a way that honors Him?

Now look up and highlight chapter 34:6-7. God points out how our relationship with Him is not just private, but it extends out into our family, through their behavior and lifestyle. How do you pass on the



BRING IT HOME... and Highlight it! WEEK 1

Get out your Bible and highlighter. Use the daily reading guide to apply the Bible to your life by focusing on one book each day. Watch and see God's Word at work!

GENESIS - day one

Highlight Genesis 1:1. You aren't just an accident of nature. Now **look up and highlight Genesis 1:26-27** and see what he called his creation after each day.

You aren't an accident. God intentionally created men and women. The Hebrew word for image means something more than mere physical resemblance. Adam and Eve represented God's character. They were His representative, His caretakers in the world. What does this verse tell you about YOUR worth in God's eyes?

Now **look up and highlight 3:15** in your Bible.

The entire third chapter describes how Adam and Eve fell into sin. Verse 15 is God's very first promise that he would send a Savior who would take care of sin once and for all. This verse is talking about Jesus Christ. God has a plan for you. Despite our sins and failures, He forgives. How does that change your outlook on life?

Prayer - Heavenly Father, you have a plan for my life, found in the person and work

of Jesus Christ, my Savior and Lord. Thank you for creating the world and giving me life. Amen.

EXODUS - day two

Look up and Highlight chapter 20 vs 1-17.

This is where God gives us the Ten Commandments, the law of God. As Christians, God's law not only shows us our sins and our need for a Savior, it also serves as a guide for living and honoring Him.

When we compare our conduct to the demands of the Ten Commandments, we come up horribly short. Yet God, in His mercy has sent his son Jesus to pay for our sins. This forgiveness is a life changer. The 10 Commandments are a guide for us for better living. How might you, in the power of God's mercy, use the 10 commandments in a way that honors Him?

Now look up and highlight chapter 34:6-7. God points out how our relationship with Him is not just private, but it extends out into our family, through their behavior and lifestyle. How do you pass on the

faith to those you love?

Prayer - Lord God, heavenly Father, teach us to fear, love and trust in you with all our heart, soul, mind and strength. Give us opportunity to pass this faith on to those we love. In Jesus name we pray. Amen

LEVITICUS - day three

The theme of Leviticus is “What it means to live as God’s holy people.” The God of Leviticus is the awesome creator of the universe, the Holy God, the merciful God in Jesus Christ. With this in mind, let’s **look up and highlight Leviticus 11:45.**

God set Israel apart so that He might sanctify them (make them holy) and be their God. You have been set apart to be God’s people through the forgiveness of sins found in Jesus Christ. How does that set you apart and change your life?

Now **look up and highlight Leviticus 16:30-34.**

On the “Day of Atonement” the people of Israel were cleansed from their sins through ritual sacrifices. These sacrifices points us to the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross. Take a moment to silently confess your sins to God, trusting that Jesus paid for ALL of them. Today is a new day for you, because of Jesus.

Prayer - Heavenly Father, you set us apart through the Sacrifice of Your Son Jesus Christ, our Savior. Thank for for Your grace in my life. Every day is a new day because of you. Amen.

NUMBERS - day four

God is always faithful, even when we aren’t. In His Word, God is at work in us leading us to repentance and faith. **Look up and highlight 6:24-27.** Because of the work of Jesus, our Heavenly Father looks upon us the same way - with grace and peace. How might your day change knowing that God IS on your side?

Prayer - Gracious God, Your Word brings grace and peace to our lives. Keep us ever mindful of Your powerful love for us. Give us opportunity to get Your message of love out. Amen.

DEUTERONOMY - day five

Deuteronomy was written to people who constantly had to struggle with things that would try to replace their trust in God. **Look up and highlight Deuteronomy 6:4-7.**

Why do you think it is important to pass the faith on to our children and grandchildren? List some specific ways you might do this better?

Prayer - Father, work within me so that I might bold and courageous in my witness to those who are my family. Give me the conviction of heart to pass the faith on to them. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

faith to those you love?

Prayer - Lord God, heavenly Father, teach us to fear, love and trust in you with all our heart, soul, mind and strength. Give us opportunity to pass this faith on to those we love. In Jesus name we pray. Amen

LEVITICUS - day three

The theme of Leviticus is “What it means to live as God’s holy people.” The God of Leviticus is the awesome creator of the universe, the Holy God, the merciful God in Jesus Christ. With this in mind, let’s **look up and highlight Leviticus 11:45.**

God set Israel apart so that He might sanctify them (make them holy) and be their God. You have been set apart to be God’s people through the forgiveness of sins found in Jesus Christ. How does that set you apart and change your life?

Now **look up and highlight Leviticus 16:30-34.**

On the “Day of Atonement” the people of Israel were cleansed from their sins through ritual sacrifices. These sacrifices points us to the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross. Take a moment to silently confess your sins to God, trusting that Jesus paid for ALL of them. Today is a new day for you, because of Jesus.

Prayer - Heavenly Father, you set us apart through the Sacrifice of Your Son Jesus Christ, our Savior. Thank for for Your grace in my life. Every day is a new day because of you. Amen.

NUMBERS - day four

God is always faithful, even when we aren’t. In His Word, God is at work in us leading us to repentance and faith. **Look up and highlight 6:24-27.** Because of the work of Jesus, our Heavenly Father looks upon us the same way - with grace and peace. How might your day change knowing that God IS on your side?

Prayer - Gracious God, Your Word brings grace and peace to our lives. Keep us ever mindful of Your powerful love for us. Give us opportunity to get Your message of love out. Amen.

DEUTERONOMY - day five

Deuteronomy was written to people who constantly had to struggle with things that would try to replace their trust in God. **Look up and highlight Deuteronomy 6:4-7.**

Why do you think it is important to pass the faith on to our children and grandchildren? List some specific ways you might do this better?

Prayer - Father, work within me so that I might bold and courageous in my witness to those who are my family. Give me the conviction of heart to pass the faith on to them. In Jesus’ name. Amen.



BRING IT HOME... and HIGHLIGHT it! WEEK 2

Get out your Bible and highlighter. Use the daily reading guide to apply the Bible to your life by focusing on one book each day. Watch and see God's Word at work!

JOSHUA - day one

Look up Joshua 24:14-15 and highlight this very famous section of the Bible.

It starts out with the command to "fear the Lord". In this context, the word "fear" means "respect". He is our God, our Creator and Savior. How might you show this proper "fear of God" in your life?

Joshua calls upon them to make a choice to serve the one true God. People make choices all the time as to whom they will trust. How might it be reflected in their morals or lifestyles? Name some ways your family can "serve the Lord"?

Prayer - Lord God, heavenly Father, we are called to fear, love and trust in you in all things. Give us faith, Lord, and keep our eyes fixed on the promises we have in Your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

JUDGES - day two

Look up and highlight Judges 21:25.

The people of Israel did whatever they thought was right in their own eyes. It was terrible. In spite of this, God did not give up on them. It hasn't changed for us today. God does not give up on us, because He sent Jesus to be our Savior. He keeps on calling us to repent (say we are sorry and turn away from sin) and trust in Him for forgiveness. Take a moment and renew your relationship with God through repentance and faith in Him.

Prayer - Lord God, you know my thoughts, words and deeds. I confess my sin to you today. I need your mercy. Thank you for sending Jesus to rescue me from my sin. Make today a new day for my soul! Amen.

RUTH - day three

The book of Ruth tells us about God's love for all people and about His



BRING IT HOME... and HIGHLIGHT it! WEEK 2

Get out your Bible and highlighter. Use the daily reading guide to apply the Bible to your life by focusing on one book each day. Watch and see God's Word at work!

JOSHUA - day one

Look up Joshua 24:14-15 and highlight this very famous section of the Bible.

It starts out with the command to "fear the Lord". In this context, the word "fear" means "respect". He is our God, our Creator and Savior. How might you show this proper "fear of God" in your life?

Joshua calls upon them to make a choice to serve the one true God. People make choices all the time as to whom they will trust. How might it be reflected in their morals or lifestyles? Name some ways your family can "serve the Lord"?

Prayer - Lord God, heavenly Father, we are called to fear, love and trust in you in all things. Give us faith, Lord, and keep our eyes fixed on the promises we have in Your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

JUDGES - day two

Look up and highlight Judges 21:25.

The people of Israel did whatever they thought was right in their own eyes. It was terrible. In spite of this, God did not give up on them. It hasn't changed for us today. God does not give up on us, because He sent Jesus to be our Savior. He keeps on calling us to repent (say we are sorry and turn away from sin) and trust in Him for forgiveness. Take a moment and renew your relationship with God through repentance and faith in Him.

Prayer - Lord God, you know my thoughts, words and deeds. I confess my sin to you today. I need your mercy. Thank you for sending Jesus to rescue me from my sin. Make today a new day for my soul! Amen.

RUTH - day three

The book of Ruth tells us about God's love for all people and about His

faithfulness to His promise to send a Savior. Ruth grew up in the idol worshipping land of the Moabites, yet God brought Ruth to faith. In fact, Ruth is included in the family tree of our Savior Jesus Christ. (See Matthew 1:5).

Look up Ruth 1:16-17 and highlight this important verse.

The old saying goes “the family that prays together, stays together.” Can you name some blessings/benefits from having your family praying and worshipping together? How about keeping a list of things to pray for, to help you better organize your prayer life? Who/what might you include on that list?

Prayer - Heavenly Father, be with me and those I love. Keep our eyes fixed on Your love. Give us opportunity to let Your love and forgiveness flow out to those we know and hold dear. In Jesus Name I pray, amen.

1 SAMUEL - day four

Look up and highlight 1 Samuel 17:45-47 about the famous account of David and Goliath in your Bible.

This great account of David and Goliath reminds us of the great power of God working through ordinary people. Have you seen God work

extraordinarily in your life or the lives of others? Think about it and give thanks to God!

Prayer - Gracious Lord, so often we rely on our strength to get through tough times in life. Remind us again and again, that “the battle is the Lord’s”. Teach us to hang on to Your powerful grace and mercy. Amen

2 SAMUEL - day five

2nd Samuel is all about King David, one of the most important people in Israelite history. **Look up and highlight 2 Samuel 12:13.**

This entire story is powerful. David sinned terribly, ripping apart a family and costing a man his life. Sorry for his sin, David asked for forgiveness. You just highlighted Nathan’s response. Think about some shameful incident in your life which has been bothering you. Confess it to God. Know that in Christ you are forgiven completely. Today is a NEW day for you. How does that make you feel?

Prayer - Lord, there are things that I live with which are ugly and shameful. You know them. I hand them over to you in repentance and believe in Your mercy, won for me on the cross. Thank you. In Jesus name I pray, Amen.

faithfulness to His promise to send a Savior. Ruth grew up in the idol worshipping land of the Moabites, yet God brought Ruth to faith. In fact, Ruth is included in the family tree of our Savior Jesus Christ. (See Matthew 1:5).

Look up Ruth 1:16-17 and highlight this important verse.

The old saying goes “the family that prays together, stays together.” Can you name some blessings/benefits from having your family praying and worshipping together? How about keeping a list of things to pray for, to help you better organize your prayer life? Who/what might you include on that list?

Prayer - Heavenly Father, be with me and those I love. Keep our eyes fixed on Your love. Give us opportunity to let Your love and forgiveness flow out to those we know and hold dear. In Jesus Name I pray, amen.

1 SAMUEL - day four

Look up and highlight 1 Samuel 17:45-47 about the famous account of David and Goliath in your Bible.

This great account of David and Goliath reminds us of the great power of God working through ordinary people. Have you seen God work

extraordinarily in your life or the lives of others? Think about it and give thanks to God!

Prayer - Gracious Lord, so often we rely on our strength to get through tough times in life. Remind us again and again, that “the battle is the Lord’s”. Teach us to hang on to Your powerful grace and mercy. Amen

2 SAMUEL - day five

2nd Samuel is all about King David, one of the most important people in Israelite history. **Look up and highlight 2 Samuel 12:13.**

This entire story is powerful. David sinned terribly, ripping apart a family and costing a man his life. Sorry for his sin, David asked for forgiveness. You just highlighted Nathan’s response. Think about some shameful incident in your life which has been bothering you. Confess it to God. Know that in Christ you are forgiven completely. Today is a NEW day for you. How does that make you feel?

Prayer - Lord, there are things that I live with which are ugly and shameful. You know them. I hand them over to you in repentance and believe in Your mercy, won for me on the cross. Thank you. In Jesus name I pray, Amen.



BRING IT HOME... and Highlight it! WEEK 3

Get out your Bible and highlighter. Use the daily reading guide to apply the Bible to your life by focusing on one book each day. Watch and see God's Word at work!

1 Kings - day one

The general theme for Kings could be "the Lord's faithful love for an unfaithful people." **Look up and highlight 1 Kings 2:1-4**

Again we see the theme of passing on the faith to our children. What do you think are the most important "Christian principles" that need to be passed on? How do you think a parent can best pass on the faith to their children? What might hold us back?

Now look up and highlight 1 Kings 18:36-39

This entire account (1 Kings 18:20-41) is very powerful because many people were worshipping the false idol (Baal). Elijah asked God to show His power to a people who had rejected Him for Baal. What convinces you that God is more powerful than anything else?

Prayer - Heavenly Father, help me keep the faith. Make me bold and courageous in my witness to those I love, that they may see your mercy. In Jesus name I pray, Amen.

2 Kings - day two

1 & 2 Kings reminds us that God does not break His promises to us. We do it by putting our faith in other things/gods. **Look up and highlight 2nd Kings 17:13-14.**

We can relate to this part of the Bible, as we watch so many turning away from God. Our God still warns us to guard our beliefs and lifestyles, unless we too turn away from Him. How do you think we can prevent turning away from God?

Prayer - Lord, keep me strongly tied to Your Word. Keep my faith strong and focused on Your grace and mercy. Amen.

1 Chronicles - day three

Chronicles is a history book - Israel's history. It reminds them of their past, the glories, the promises from God and the sins that sent them into exile. They needed to hear these stories, so they wouldn't repeat the sins of their ancestors. **Look up and highlight chapter 28 verse 20.**

David handed the plans for the building of the temple to his son Solomon,



BRING IT HOME... and Highlight it! WEEK 3

Get out your Bible and highlighter. Use the daily reading guide to apply the Bible to your life by focusing on one book each day. Watch and see God's Word at work!

1 Kings - day one

The general theme for Kings could be "the Lord's faithful love for an unfaithful people." **Look up and highlight 1 Kings 2:1-4**

Again we see the theme of passing on the faith to our children. What do you think are the most important "Christian principles" that need to be passed on? How do you think a parent can best pass on the faith to their children? What might hold us back?

Now look up and highlight 1 Kings 18:36-39

This entire account (1 Kings 18:20-41) is very powerful because many people were worshipping the false idol (Baal). Elijah asked God to show His power to a people who had rejected Him for Baal. What convinces you that God is more powerful than anything else?

Prayer - Heavenly Father, help me keep the faith. Make me bold and courageous in my witness to those I love, that they may see your mercy. In Jesus name I pray, Amen.

2 Kings - day two

1 & 2 Kings reminds us that God does not break His promises to us. We do it by putting our faith in other things/gods. **Look up and highlight 2nd Kings 17:13-14.**

We can relate to this part of the Bible, as we watch so many turning away from God. Our God still warns us to guard our beliefs and lifestyles, unless we too turn away from Him. How do you think we can prevent turning away from God?

Prayer - Lord, keep me strongly tied to Your Word. Keep my faith strong and focused on Your grace and mercy. Amen.

1 Chronicles - day three

Chronicles is a history book - Israel's history. It reminds them of their past, the glories, the promises from God and the sins that sent them into exile. They needed to hear these stories, so they wouldn't repeat the sins of their ancestors. **Look up and highlight chapter 28 verse 20.**

David handed the plans for the building of the temple to his son Solomon,

encouraging him to be strong and faithful in his work and get it done.

Where in your life is God calling you to be faithful? What have you been putting off in your life which will help you in your walk with God?

Prayer - Lord, strength my faith in You. Be with me and deliver me from those things which would take my eyes off of You. In Jesus name I pray, Amen.

2 CHRONICLES - day four

The theme of this book is a similar one - trust in God because He has Your back. In this section you will be highlighting, Judah (God's people) is about to be attacked by three different countries. With this in mind, **look up and highlight chapter 20 verses 20-22 in your Bible.**

God defeated Judah's enemies while they sang and prayed to Him. Are you facing any battles? They may not be a physical war, but spiritual warfare is very difficult. Fight this spiritual warfare with prayer! Matthew 7:7-8 says "Ask and it will be given to you, seek and you will find...". No matter what challenges you face, God will grant you strength and faith! Who among your family and friends might you partner up in these battles to help you face them united in faith?

Prayer - Gracious Father, You know the things I am facing right now. Give me strength. Increase my faith. Surround me with the faithful, so that we might face these challenges together in the power of Your name. Amen.

Ezra - day five

Ezra shows God at work in the lives of the nations and world leaders to bring good things to His people. Often, when things seem as though they are the absolute worst, God has a way of working through them to bring change into our lives. It's books like Ezra which gives us assurance that God is in control and that He loves us! With that in mind **look up and highlight Ezra 9:6-9**

Ezra felt shame over his sinfulness as well as his nation's sinfulness. He confessed it - all of it - to God. How do you think this made Ezra feel?

Take a moment to think about your life - where you have fallen short with God or with others - and give it to God right now. This is called repentance. Then know this - Jesus died and rose again and paid for all of those sins. What is the first thing you feel after doing this?

Think about one more person who would find comfort in getting rid of their guilt and finding forgiveness in Jesus Christ. Pray for them by name, right now, and ask God for an opportunity to share with them this powerful gift of forgiveness.

Prayer - Lord, You have been so good to me. Your mercy endures forever. I bring before you today _____ who needs You. Give me an opportunity to share Your love with them soon. Amen.

encouraging him to be strong and faithful in his work and get it done.

Where in your life is God calling you to be faithful? What have you been putting off in your life which will help you in your walk with God?

Prayer - Lord, strength my faith in You. Be with me and deliver me from those things which would take my eyes off of You. In Jesus name I pray, Amen.

2 CHRONICLES - day four

The theme of this book is a similar one - trust in God because He has Your back. In this section you will be highlighting, Judah (God's people) is about to be attacked by three different countries. With this in mind, **look up and highlight chapter 20 verses 20-22 in your Bible.**

God defeated Judah's enemies while they sang and prayed to Him. Are you facing any battles? They may not be a physical war, but spiritual warfare is very difficult. Fight this spiritual warfare with prayer! Matthew 7:7-8 says "Ask and it will be given to you, seek and you will find...". No matter what challenges you face, God will grant you strength and faith! Who among your family and friends might you partner up in these battles to help you face them united in faith?

Prayer - Gracious Father, You know the things I am facing right now. Give me strength. Increase my faith. Surround me with the faithful, so that we might face these challenges together in the power of Your name. Amen.

Ezra - day five

Ezra shows God at work in the lives of the nations and world leaders to bring good things to His people. Often, when things seem as though they are the absolute worst, God has a way of working through them to bring change into our lives. It's books like Ezra which gives us assurance that God is in control and that He loves us! With that in mind **look up and highlight Ezra 9:6-9**

Ezra felt shame over his sinfulness as well as his nation's sinfulness. He confessed it - all of it - to God. How do you think this made Ezra feel?

Take a moment to think about your life - where you have fallen short with God or with others - and give it to God right now. This is called repentance. Then know this - Jesus died and rose again and paid for all of those sins. What is the first thing you feel after doing this?

Think about one more person who would find comfort in getting rid of their guilt and finding forgiveness in Jesus Christ. Pray for them by name, right now, and ask God for an opportunity to share with them this powerful gift of forgiveness.

Prayer - Lord, You have been so good to me. Your mercy endures forever. I bring before you today _____ who needs You. Give me an opportunity to share Your love with them soon. Amen.



BRING IT HOME... and HIGHLIGHT it!

WEEK 4

Get out your Bible and highlighter. Use the daily reading guide to apply the Bible to your life by focusing on one book each day. Watch and see God's Word at work!

Nehemiah - day one

In Nehemiah, we read about the comfort God gave to His people as He brought them back to their homeland after they were exiled to a foreign land. They were in exile from their home and their culture so long that many of them no longer knew God's Word. With this in mind, **Look up and highlight Nehemiah 8:7b-8** (*"b" means the 2nd part of the verse*)

Right now, you are reading and thinking about God's Word. You are one of very few people in our nation who are doing this. How might the reading of God's Word help strengthen our homes? What are some ways you could help others in your family or among your friends to get engaged into reading God's Word?

Prayer - Dear Jesus, Your Word gives me life and salvation. It's truth brings me freedom. Lord be with those I love. Make me bold and courageous to live our my life of faith so others may see Your love. Amen.

Esther - day two

Esther faced a tough challenge against enemies who wanted to destroy the Jews. In fact, the Jewish festival of Purim is centered around what happened in Esther. It's an interesting and fairly short read. **Turn to Esther 4:13-17 and highlight these important verses.**

Have you ever experienced a "God moment" where you faced a situation where you needed to stand up for what you believed? Where did you find your strength to face that time? How does God's promise to never leave you or forsake you help you?

Prayer - Gracious heavenly Father, I trust in You. I know you will never leave me nor forsake me. Give me strength and focus to face the difficulties I encounter in the power of Your name. Amen.

Job - day three

Job tackles the world's oldest question: why do God's people suffer? It really never fully answers the question. Instead, we are assured that we can TRUST God. He really does care for us, even when we don't always understand why things are happening in our lives. Despite this - we know that God is always for US! He will never leave us - he always has our back. **Look up and highlight Job 1:21.**

Leading up to this account, Satan has taken away Job's property and children. Instead of complaining, he rejoices. One of the obvious questions is: Does our praise of God only last as long as He is blessing us? Why do you think Job is still thankful, even after all these disasters?

Now look up and highlight Job 19:25-27

Following up to this section, Job's life is getting worse. His body is ravaged and is getting closer to death. Even his friends are abandoning him. Some of them think he must have done something wrong to earn God's wrath. These verses are Job's response to all of this. What is Job's claim for all the hope he has?

Our outward problems don't define God's attitude toward us! Our hope, even in the most bleak of circumstances, always rests on God who sent His son Jesus, to be our Savior



BRING IT HOME... and HIGHLIGHT it!

WEEK 4

Get out your Bible and highlighter. Use the daily reading guide to apply the Bible to your life by focusing on one book each day. Watch and see God's Word at work!

Nehemiah - day one

In Nehemiah, we read about the comfort God gave to His people as He brought them back to their homeland after they were exiled to a foreign land. They were in exile from their home and their culture so long that many of them no longer knew God's Word. With this in mind, **Look up and highlight Nehemiah 8:7b-8** (*"b" means the 2nd part of the verse*)

Right now, you are reading and thinking about God's Word. You are one of very few people in our nation who are doing this. How might the reading of God's Word help strengthen our homes? What are some ways you could help others in your family or among your friends to get engaged into reading God's Word?

Prayer - Dear Jesus, Your Word gives me life and salvation. It's truth brings me freedom. Lord be with those I love. Make me bold and courageous to live our my life of faith so others may see Your love. Amen.

Esther - day two

Esther faced a tough challenge against enemies who wanted to destroy the Jews. In fact, the Jewish festival of Purim is centered around what happened in Esther. It's an interesting and fairly short read. **Turn to Esther 4:13-17 and highlight these important verses.**

Have you ever experienced a "God moment" where you faced a situation where you needed to stand up for what you believed? Where did you find your strength to face that time? How does God's promise to never leave you or forsake you help you?

Prayer - Gracious heavenly Father, I trust in You. I know you will never leave me nor forsake me. Give me strength and focus to face the difficulties I encounter in the power of Your name. Amen.

Job - day three

Job tackles the world's oldest question: why do God's people suffer? It really never fully answers the question. Instead, we are assured that we can TRUST God. He really does care for us, even when we don't always understand why things are happening in our lives. Despite this - we know that God is always for US! He will never leave us - he always has our back. **Look up and highlight Job 1:21.**

Leading up to this account, Satan has taken away Job's property and children. Instead of complaining, he rejoices. One of the obvious questions is: Does our praise of God only last as long as He is blessing us? Why do you think Job is still thankful, even after all these disasters?

Now look up and highlight Job 19:25-27

Following up to this section, Job's life is getting worse. His body is ravaged and is getting closer to death. Even his friends are abandoning him. Some of them think he must have done something wrong to earn God's wrath. These verses are Job's response to all of this. What is Job's claim for all the hope he has?

Our outward problems don't define God's attitude toward us! Our hope, even in the most bleak of circumstances, always rests on God who sent His son Jesus, to be our Savior

and Lord. Despite what is going on in your life - despite the things you don't understand - God is for YOU! Jesus is the proof! Name some challenges you are facing where you could use this reminder that God is for YOU!

Prayer - Lord God, sometimes I don't understand why things happen the way they do. I know that Your love endures forever. I know You have my back. In the midst of things I cannot understand, teach me to hang on to Your assurances of presence and peace. In Jesus name I pray, Amen.

PSALMS - day four

Psalms is a collection of songs and prayers written by many different people over many centuries. Sometimes people call this book "the Psalter", and was the hymnal of sorts that Jesus and his disciples used.

Here's a very practical way to use the Psalms daily in your life. Pick one - any Psalm. Read two verses of the Psalm - pause to think about what God is telling you in these verses - then pray about how it spoke to you. Include anything else in your prayers which may come to mind. It doesn't have to be very long - then read the next two - think about it - and pray. Do that until you finish the Psalm. As was said before, it doesn't have to be long.

Think about it - you are talking to God - listening to Him speak to you in His Word and responding in Prayer. Let's try it this as we **look up and highlight Psalm 23 & 57**

Psalm 23 is often read as a loved one is dying, or at a funeral. Why do you think this Psalm is so comforting at times like these?

Psalm 51 is a very good to pray about when we are struggling with temptation and sin or when facing times of personal struggle. David wrote this Psalm when he was being chased by Saul, who was his King and Father in Law. He's running for his life and had to hide in a cave. In spite of all this - he asks for God to deliver him. In fact, he praises God for rescuing him, even before it happened! (You can read about this in 2 Samuel 22). Who might you know who

needs to hear these words? Pray for them by name, and ask God to give you an opportunity to share this Psalm with them.

Prayer - Gracious Lord, Your Word in the book of Psalms is so comforting to me. It speaks to my life. Today I lift up before you _____ who really needs to know of Your mercy and peace. Give me opportunity to share Your love with them. Amen.

PROVERBS - day five

The book of Proverbs is a collection of wise sayings that describe how God's people can best deal with life's opportunities and problems. It's important to remember that Proverbs does not tell us how to find forgiveness of our sins. Instead, it describes the lifestyle we can follow after we come to know Jesus as our Savior. The other important thing to remember is that Proverbs describes how life usually works here on earth. These verses explain the benefits we are likely to receive by living wisely. But as we all know - we live in a sinful world and things don't always go as planned. This doesn't mean God is lying to us. Rather it is important for us to apply the whole scripture to our lives and find our hope in the One who has given us hope, peace and forgiveness!

Let's go to Proverbs 1:2-7 and highlight this section.

What do you think is the difference between knowledge and wisdom? Why do you think wisdom is often learned through the trials of life? How might we pass on this wisdom to our children and grandchildren?

Look at verse 7 especially. The word "fear" doesn't mean a nail-biting fear - rather a "respect, honor and reverence". How do you think that is being lost in our society today? How do you think we might gain it back? How might we start this in our own homes/lives?

Prayer - Teach me Your Ways, O Lord. Guide me in Your truths. Help me navigate through this sin-filled world. Protect and keep me. In Jesus name I pray, Amen.

and Lord. Despite what is going on in your life - despite the things you don't understand - God is for YOU! Jesus is the proof! Name some challenges you are facing where you could use this reminder that God is for YOU!

Prayer - Lord God, sometimes I don't understand why things happen the way they do. I know that Your love endures forever. I know You have my back. In the midst of things I cannot understand, teach me to hang on to Your assurances of presence and peace. In Jesus name I pray, Amen.

PSALMS - day four

Psalms is a collection of songs and prayers written by many different people over many centuries. Sometimes people call this book "the Psalter", and was the hymnal of sorts that Jesus and his disciples used.

Here's a very practical way to use the Psalms daily in your life. Pick one - any Psalm. Read two verses of the Psalm - pause to think about what God is telling you in these verses - then pray about how it spoke to you. Include anything else in your prayers which may come to mind. It doesn't have to be very long - then read the next two - think about it - and pray. Do that until you finish the Psalm. As was said before, it doesn't have to be long.

Think about it - you are talking to God - listening to Him speak to you in His Word and responding in Prayer. Let's try it this as we **look up and highlight Psalm 23 & 57**

Psalm 23 is often read as a loved one is dying, or at a funeral. Why do you think this Psalm is so comforting at times like these?

Psalm 51 is a very good to pray about when we are struggling with temptation and sin or when facing times of personal struggle. David wrote this Psalm when he was being chased by Saul, who was his King and Father in Law. He's running for his life and had to hide in a cave. In spite of all this - he asks for God to deliver him. In fact, he praises God for rescuing him, even before it happened! (You can read about this in 2 Samuel 22). Who might you know who

needs to hear these words? Pray for them by name, and ask God to give you an opportunity to share this Psalm with them.

Prayer - Gracious Lord, Your Word in the book of Psalms is so comforting to me. It speaks to my life. Today I lift up before you _____ who really needs to know of Your mercy and peace. Give me opportunity to share Your love with them. Amen.

PROVERBS - day five

The book of Proverbs is a collection of wise sayings that describe how God's people can best deal with life's opportunities and problems. It's important to remember that Proverbs does not tell us how to find forgiveness of our sins. Instead, it describes the lifestyle we can follow after we come to know Jesus as our Savior. The other important thing to remember is that Proverbs describes how life usually works here on earth. These verses explain the benefits we are likely to receive by living wisely. But as we all know - we live in a sinful world and things don't always go as planned. This doesn't mean God is lying to us. Rather it is important for us to apply the whole scripture to our lives and find our hope in the One who has given us hope, peace and forgiveness!

Let's go to Proverbs 1:2-7 and highlight this section.

What do you think is the difference between knowledge and wisdom? Why do you think wisdom is often learned through the trials of life? How might we pass on this wisdom to our children and grandchildren?

Look at verse 7 especially. The word "fear" doesn't mean a nail-biting fear - rather a "respect, honor and reverence". How do you think that is being lost in our society today? How do you think we might gain it back? How might we start this in our own homes/lives?

Prayer - Teach me Your Ways, O Lord. Guide me in Your truths. Help me navigate through this sin-filled world. Protect and keep me. In Jesus name I pray, Amen.



BRING IT HOME... and Highlight it! WEEK 5

Get out your Bible and highlighter. Use the daily reading guide to apply the Bible to your life by focusing on one book each day. Watch and see God's Word at work!

Ecclesiastes - day one

peace, won for me by Your Son, Jesus Christ, my Savior and Lord. Amen.

Most Bible scholars agree that Ecclesiastes was written by Solomon, when he was older and a lot more cynical about life. The purpose of Ecclesiastes is simple but profound - Life without God is empty. **Let's look up and highlight chapters 2:9-11.**

Even though he seemed to have everything you would ever want in life, Solomon writes there was "nothing to be gained under the sun." We can have all the "stuff" that makes us look and feel good, but if we don't have God - if we don't take seriously what God has written in His Word, nothing makes sense. Can you list any examples of how life can be futile without God in your life? Where might God be trying to point this out in your life? How can Jesus bring some fulfillment?

Now look up and highlight 3:1-9 in Ecclesiastes.

A very famous song used these words - google them to hear "The Byrds" sing their classic hit. As we read this book (which can be very depressing) remember that you are God's child, baptized and dearly loved! God has a plan and a place for you right now. Your future is in His hands, by the grace and favor won for us by His son Jesus Christ. So as you read these sobering words, trust in God's grace for you and learn what God might be saying to you. How might these famous words of Ecclesiastes 3 help you live "in the moment" powered by God's grace?

Prayer - Heavenly Father, teach me to live in the moment, powered by Your mercy and

SONG OF SOLOMON - day two

Of course, King Solomon likely wrote this book. In 1 Kings 4:32 we find out that Solomon wrote more than a thousand songs. This is the only one to survive - Solomon's "Greatest Hit".

As you read this book, it becomes abundantly clear that he is describing the wonderful gift of love God gives between a man and a woman in marriage. All of it - the emotional, the spiritual and the physical is blessed by God. As you read this - don't miss the direct connection that is Christ's love for His people. This is nothing new - Hosea 2:19-20, 11:1 and Isaiah 54:1-8 and Ezekiel 16:6-14 describe Israel as a bride. Elsewhere in the New Testament (Ephesians 5:23, 25, Colossians 1:18 and Revelation 19:6-9) the church is described as the "Bride of Christ". **With this in mind look up and highlight 8:6-7.**

As you read this passage, it's helpful to keep in mind its two levels: As we read this, we remember and celebrate this precious gift God has given us. If you are married, think about and list some of the blessings God has given you because of your spouse. If you are single, pray for those who are married, that God might keep them strong in their love and know, that you yourself are deeply and eternally loved by God!

Prayer - Heavenly Father, we are so thankful for the gift of LOVE. Teach us to love each other as You have loved us. Bless marriages



BRING IT HOME... and Highlight it! WEEK 5

Get out your Bible and highlighter. Use the daily reading guide to apply the Bible to your life by focusing on one book each day. Watch and see God's Word at work!

Ecclesiastes - day one

peace, won for me by Your Son, Jesus Christ, my Savior and Lord. Amen.

Most Bible scholars agree that Ecclesiastes was written by Solomon, when he was older and a lot more cynical about life. The purpose of Ecclesiastes is simple but profound - Life without God is empty. **Let's look up and highlight chapters 2:9-11.**

Even though he seemed to have everything you would ever want in life, Solomon writes there was "nothing to be gained under the sun." We can have all the "stuff" that makes us look and feel good, but if we don't have God - if we don't take seriously what God has written in His Word, nothing makes sense. Can you list any examples of how life can be futile without God in your life? Where might God be trying to point this out in your life? How can Jesus bring some fulfillment?

Now look up and highlight 3:1-9 in Ecclesiastes.

A very famous song used these words - google them to hear "The Byrds" sing their classic hit. As we read this book (which can be very depressing) remember that you are God's child, baptized and dearly loved! God has a plan and a place for you right now. Your future is in His hands, by the grace and favor won for us by His son Jesus Christ. So as you read these sobering words, trust in God's grace for you and learn what God might be saying to you. How might these famous words of Ecclesiastes 3 help you live "in the moment" powered by God's grace?

Prayer - Heavenly Father, teach me to live in the moment, powered by Your mercy and

SONG OF SOLOMON - day two

Of course, King Solomon likely wrote this book. In 1 Kings 4:32 we find out that Solomon wrote more than a thousand songs. This is the only one to survive - Solomon's "Greatest Hit".

As you read this book, it becomes abundantly clear that he is describing the wonderful gift of love God gives between a man and a woman in marriage. All of it - the emotional, the spiritual and the physical is blessed by God. As you read this - don't miss the direct connection that is Christ's love for His people. This is nothing new - Hosea 2:19-20, 11:1 and Isaiah 54:1-8 and Ezekiel 16:6-14 describe Israel as a bride. Elsewhere in the New Testament (Ephesians 5:23, 25, Colossians 1:18 and Revelation 19:6-9) the church is described as the "Bride of Christ". **With this in mind look up and highlight 8:6-7.**

As you read this passage, it's helpful to keep in mind its two levels: As we read this, we remember and celebrate this precious gift God has given us. If you are married, think about and list some of the blessings God has given you because of your spouse. If you are single, pray for those who are married, that God might keep them strong in their love and know, that you yourself are deeply and eternally loved by God!

Prayer - Heavenly Father, we are so thankful for the gift of LOVE. Teach us to love each other as You have loved us. Bless marriages

and families and keep us strong in the power of Your Love. In Jesus name, Amen.

Israh - day three

Isaiah was a prophet. Prophecy was much like preaching today, proclaiming and applying God's Word. Isaiah called the people to repentance. He told them to get their hearts ready for the coming of the Savior.

Look up and highlight Isaiah 1:18.

What part of your life right now needs to hear this? Where have you faltered in your relationship with God or with others around you? Confess it right now to God and know that you are forgiven. This passage is not only for you, but for someone else in your life. Who might that be? Who in your life needs a little hope right now?

After this section, **look up and highlight these three sections, 7:14, 9:2-7 and 53:4-6. - one right after another.**

These sections of scripture describe the person and work of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Think of it - 700 yrs before Jesus was born, they talked about Jesus' saving work. In fact, there are over 300 prophecies in the Old Testament, that point directly to the person and work of Jesus Christ. We don't follow some imaginary tales made up by people. This is the truth - Jesus is real - he lived, died and rose again to pay for our sins. What an awesome God we have!

Prayer - Lord, thank you for the Bible, which points us to the forgiveness of sins we have in Jesus Christ. You are an awesome God, and we thank you for sending Jesus to be our Savior. Amen.

Jeremiah - day four

Jeremiah was a priest and a prophet, and very unpopular, so much so, that some people in his hometown looked for ways to kill him. Nobody wanted to listen to him because he was telling them to repent. Sin had made their hearts numb. Times were so bad that some people

even burned up their children as part of the worship they offered to their idol called Molech.

Jeremiah called people to repent of their sins. He begged them to return to the true God in faith and obedience. But most of them followed their own path. They were very stubborn. Jeremiah did have a message of hope for the small group of believers who did listen. **Turn to chapter 31:31-34 and highlight the text.**

Much of Jeremiah's world can be seen in our world today. We are stubborn. Some would even say, wicked. As in Jeremiah's day, God's call to turn from these ways is real. Consider your life and your ways. Where do you need to repent of your sins? As you consider them, read out loud the last verse you highlighted. What a great God we have!!!

Prayer - Lord I am not perfect. Daily I fail. I need Your forgiveness. I repent of my sins - all of them. I look to and thank you for Your forgiveness and grace, won for me on the cross. Amen.

Lamentations - day five

Lamentations was written by Jeremiah, basically an extension of his call to repentance for the people of Judah. This book has a lot of sadness in it. But in the middle of all this sadness is a ray of hope! **Look up and highlight chapter 3:21-24** and read if for yourself.

Sometimes we find ourselves in an absolute mess which has been caused by our sins. Even when all the bad stuff in our lives is our own fault, our Savior still loves us. Read vs 22-23 again - out loud. Every day is a new day in the power of God's love and forgiveness in Jesus Christ. What part of your life do you need to hear this today? Whom in your life might need to hear this powerful message?

Prayer - Heavenly Father. Today is a new day. A new chance, made possible by Your powerful grace and forgiveness. Help me take each step by faith. Bring me peace and happiness powered by Your love. Amen.

and families and keep us strong in the power of Your Love. In Jesus name, Amen.

Israh - day three

Isaiah was a prophet. Prophecy was much like preaching today, proclaiming and applying God's Word. Isaiah called the people to repentance. He told them to get their hearts ready for the coming of the Savior.

Look up and highlight Isaiah 1:18.

What part of your life right now needs to hear this? Where have you faltered in your relationship with God or with others around you? Confess it right now to God and know that you are forgiven. This passage is not only for you, but for someone else in your life. Who might that be? Who in your life needs a little hope right now?

After this section, **look up and highlight these three sections, 7:14, 9:2-7 and 53:4-6. - one right after another.**

These sections of scripture describe the person and work of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Think of it - 700 yrs before Jesus was born, they talked about Jesus' saving work. In fact, there are over 300 prophecies in the Old Testament, that point directly to the person and work of Jesus Christ. We don't follow some imaginary tales made up by people. This is the truth - Jesus is real - he lived, died and rose again to pay for our sins. What an awesome God we have!

Prayer - Lord, thank you for the Bible, which points us to the forgiveness of sins we have in Jesus Christ. You are an awesome God, and we thank you for sending Jesus to be our Savior. Amen.

Jeremiah - day four

Jeremiah was a priest and a prophet, and very unpopular, so much so, that some people in his hometown looked for ways to kill him. Nobody wanted to listen to him because he was telling them to repent. Sin had made their hearts numb. Times were so bad that some people

even burned up their children as part of the worship they offered to their idol called Molech.

Jeremiah called people to repent of their sins. He begged them to return to the true God in faith and obedience. But most of them followed their own path. They were very stubborn. Jeremiah did have a message of hope for the small group of believers who did listen. **Turn to chapter 31:31-34 and highlight the text.**

Much of Jeremiah's world can be seen in our world today. We are stubborn. Some would even say, wicked. As in Jeremiah's day, God's call to turn from these ways is real. Consider your life and your ways. Where do you need to repent of your sins? As you consider them, read out loud the last verse you highlighted. What a great God we have!!!

Prayer - Lord I am not perfect. Daily I fail. I need Your forgiveness. I repent of my sins - all of them. I look to and thank you for Your forgiveness and grace, won for me on the cross. Amen.

Lamentations - day five

Lamentations was written by Jeremiah, basically an extension of his call to repentance for the people of Judah. This book has a lot of sadness in it. But in the middle of all this sadness is a ray of hope! **Look up and highlight chapter 3:21-24** and read if for yourself.

Sometimes we find ourselves in an absolute mess which has been caused by our sins. Even when all the bad stuff in our lives is our own fault, our Savior still loves us. Read vs 22-23 again - out loud. Every day is a new day in the power of God's love and forgiveness in Jesus Christ. What part of your life do you need to hear this today? Whom in your life might need to hear this powerful message?

Prayer - Heavenly Father. Today is a new day. A new chance, made possible by Your powerful grace and forgiveness. Help me take each step by faith. Bring me peace and happiness powered by Your love. Amen.



BRING IT HOME... and HIGHLIGHT it!

WEEK 6

Get out your Bible and highlighter. Use the daily reading guide to apply the Bible to your life by focusing on one book each day. Watch and see God's Word at work!

Ezekiel - day one

Ezekiel and all his people were taken captive and moved to Babylon. During his time in exile, a lot of false prophets told the people that soon they would be going back to Jerusalem. Ezekiel told them the truth - that they would return to their homeland only after they returned to the Lord in repentance and faith.

It wasn't until their temple laid in ruins did the people finally repent. **Look up and highlight chapter 36:25-27 to see how God brings comfort to His people.**

It's never too late to turn to the Lord in repentance and faith. No doubt, God hates sin and brings judgement upon this who reject him. But know this - God is so quick at offering forgiveness and new life to those who turn to him. How do you think God's gift of a "new heart" and "spirit" has shown itself in your life?

Prayer - Lord Jesus, You have given me a new heart and a new spirit by the power of your forgiveness. Stay with me, power me by your grace. Keep me close to You. Amen.

Daniel - day two

Daniel was taken from Judah into exile in Babylon most likely when he was a teenager. He never went back home again. He became a high ranking official in the Babylonian government. He was also a prophet of the Lord. His life shows us that

we can serve God and His people in any lawful work. No matter how difficult, joyful, boring, or pleasant our is, we can "Serve the Lord with gladness!" (Psalm 100:2). **Look up and highlight chapter 9:18**

When life takes a bad turn for us, the only thing we can do is to fall on our knees and ask God for His help and presence in our lives. Think about your most recent prayers - what has been your greatest concern?

Now look up and highlight 12:2-3

It seems that people are always trying to determine when "the end of the world" is coming. What we do know from this verse - there is a heaven and a hell. Those who trust in Jesus as Savior have the promise of forgiveness and the hope of everlasting life. Someone you know needs this hope. Pray for them right now, and ask God to give you an opportunity to tell them about Your hope in Jesus Christ!

Prayer - Heavenly Father, someone I know needs Your hope and peace in there life. I bring before you today _____. Give me an opportunity to talk with them about Your forgiveness. Give me an opportunity to bring them to church with me. In Jesus name I pray. Amen.

Hosea - day three

Hosea is sometimes called "Israel's deathbed prophet". During his time, the nation of Israel was very prosperous - some called it



BRING IT HOME... and HIGHLIGHT it!

WEEK 6

Get out your Bible and highlighter. Use the daily reading guide to apply the Bible to your life by focusing on one book each day. Watch and see God's Word at work!

Ezekiel - day one

Ezekiel and all his people were taken captive and moved to Babylon. During his time in exile, a lot of false prophets told the people that soon they would be going back to Jerusalem. Ezekiel told them the truth - that they would return to their homeland only after they returned to the Lord in repentance and faith.

It wasn't until their temple laid in ruins did the people finally repent. **Look up and highlight chapter 36:25-27 to see how God brings comfort to His people.**

It's never too late to turn to the Lord in repentance and faith. No doubt, God hates sin and brings judgement upon this who reject him. But know this - God is so quick at offering forgiveness and new life to those who turn to him. How do you think God's gift of a "new heart" and "spirit" has shown itself in your life?

Prayer - Lord Jesus, You have given me a new heart and a new spirit by the power of your forgiveness. Stay with me, power me by your grace. Keep me close to You. Amen.

Daniel - day two

Daniel was taken from Judah into exile in Babylon most likely when he was a teenager. He never went back home again. He became a high ranking official in the Babylonian government. He was also a prophet of the Lord. His life shows us that

we can serve God and His people in any lawful work. No matter how difficult, joyful, boring, or pleasant our is, we can "Serve the Lord with gladness!" (Psalm 100:2). **Look up and highlight chapter 9:18**

When life takes a bad turn for us, the only thing we can do is to fall on our knees and ask God for His help and presence in our lives. Think about your most recent prayers - what has been your greatest concern?

Now look up and highlight 12:2-3

It seems that people are always trying to determine when "the end of the world" is coming. What we do know from this verse - there is a heaven and a hell. Those who trust in Jesus as Savior have the promise of forgiveness and the hope of everlasting life. Someone you know needs this hope. Pray for them right now, and ask God to give you an opportunity to tell them about Your hope in Jesus Christ!

Prayer - Heavenly Father, someone I know needs Your hope and peace in there life. I bring before you today _____. Give me an opportunity to talk with them about Your forgiveness. Give me an opportunity to bring them to church with me. In Jesus name I pray. Amen.

Hosea - day three

Hosea is sometimes called "Israel's deathbed prophet". During his time, the nation of Israel was very prosperous - some called it

“the golden age”. People had a lot of wealth - but it lead them to all kinds of idolatry and disobedience. (see 2 King 14-17).

Hosea’s wanted people to know the saving, forgiving power of the Lord. But very few listened to him. In the end, most rejected him. But it didn’t stop him from proclaiming his message of repentance, faith and restoration. **Look up and highlight chapter 6:1-3 .**

Hosea tried really hard to lead Israel to repentance and faith in God. The problem is, Israel’s leaders kept on trying to find help from foreign nations like Assyria and Egypt instead of trusting in God. Sometimes we are like that too. We think if we elect just the right person to lead us that life will be better. What is God calling us to do in these verses we just highlighted?

Prayer - Gracious Lord, teach me to trust in You alone. Your way is right and perfect. Your forgiveness and mercy never end. I trust in You alone. Amen.

Joel - day four

We don’t know much about Joel, the person. Neither the Bible nor secular history tell us much about him. We do know that he wrote this book, a terrible drought and locust plague just took place. Since most of the people in that time and place made their living from agriculture of one kind or another, this drought and plague surely cause serious hardships. Joel sees in this disaster a shadow of the coming day of the Lord. He calls everyone to repent, give up their sin and return to the Lord. For a great example of this, **look up and highlight in your Bible chapter 2:12-13.**

Verse 13 is a famous line from the Bible. In Bible times, people demonstrated their sorrow for sin by “tearing (rending) their garments.” God doesn’t need just outward displays. He wants us to be sincere, from the heart. What is God’s promise to those

who repent and turn to Him? (look at the end of vs 13)

Prayer - Father, I come to you this day as a sinner. I need your forgiveness. I trust in Your mercy won for us by Your son, our Savior Jesus Christ. Make today a new day for me, powered by your love. Amen.

Amos - day five

Amos’ message was proclaimed to a nation that was outwardly rich but inwardly rotting. Most people lived in luxury yet they tolerated corruption in the courts, cheated the poor, worshiped idols and expected the Lord to just overlook their self-indulgence. Amos spoke out against all these sins quite strongly. For this reason, Amos’ message really fits into our world today, for obvious reasons. He condemns our self focus, our lack of caring for others in need, our indifference at times to God’s Word. It’s a word of warning - but also of hope, describing the son of David who will restores through repentance and faith. **Look up and highlight chapter 5:21-24.**

So often people seem to look at God as some sort of disinterested white haired old man who occasionally looks down upon us to see how we are doing. These words point a very different picture of God. His is active and interested in our life. And he’s interested in justice. **Now look up and highlight Amos 9:13-15.**

Almost unexpectedly, Amos holds out hope. He speaks of a time coming, a time of hope and restoration by the work of the Messiah, Jesus Christ. The last verse has come true in the person and work of Jesus Christ. How does this change your attitude and outlook?

Prayer - Lord open my eyes to those who are hurting or helpless. Give me opportunity to help those in need. Let Your love be seen in my words and actions. In Jesus name I pray, Amen.

“the golden age”. People had a lot of wealth - but it lead them to all kinds of idolatry and disobedience. (see 2 King 14-17).

Hosea’s wanted people to know the saving, forgiving power of the Lord. But very few listened to him. In the end, most rejected him. But it didn’t stop him from proclaiming his message of repentance, faith and restoration. **Look up and highlight chapter 6:1-3 .**

Hosea tried really hard to lead Israel to repentance and faith in God. The problem is, Israel’s leaders kept on trying to find help from foreign nations like Assyria and Egypt instead of trusting in God. Sometimes we are like that too. We think if we elect just the right person to lead us that life will be better. What is God calling us to do in these verses we just highlighted?

Prayer - Gracious Lord, teach me to trust in You alone. Your way is right and perfect. Your forgiveness and mercy never end. I trust in You alone. Amen.

Joel - day four

We don’t know much about Joel, the person. Neither the Bible nor secular history tell us much about him. We do know that he wrote this book, a terrible drought and locust plague just took place. Since most of the people in that time and place made their living from agriculture of one kind or another, this drought and plague surely cause serious hardships. Joel sees in this disaster a shadow of the coming day of the Lord. He calls everyone to repent, give up their sin and return to the Lord. For a great example of this, **look up and highlight in your Bible chapter 2:12-13.**

Verse 13 is a famous line from the Bible. In Bible times, people demonstrated their sorrow for sin by “tearing (rending) their garments.” God doesn’t need just outward displays. He wants us to be sincere, from the heart. What is God’s promise to those

who repent and turn to Him? (look at the end of vs 13)

Prayer - Father, I come to you this day as a sinner. I need your forgiveness. I trust in Your mercy won for us by Your son, our Savior Jesus Christ. Make today a new day for me, powered by your love. Amen.

Amos - day five

Amos’ message was proclaimed to a nation that was outwardly rich but inwardly rotting. Most people lived in luxury yet they tolerated corruption in the courts, cheated the poor, worshiped idols and expected the Lord to just overlook their self-indulgence. Amos spoke out against all these sins quite strongly. For this reason, Amos’ message really fits into our world today, for obvious reasons. He condemns our self focus, our lack of caring for others in need, our indifference at times to God’s Word. It’s a word of warning - but also of hope, describing the son of David who will restores through repentance and faith. **Look up and highlight chapter 5:21-24.**

So often people seem to look at God as some sort of disinterested white haired old man who occasionally looks down upon us to see how we are doing. These words point a very different picture of God. His is active and interested in our life. And he’s interested in justice. **Now look up and highlight Amos 9:13-15.**

Almost unexpectedly, Amos holds out hope. He speaks of a time coming, a time of hope and restoration by the work of the Messiah, Jesus Christ. The last verse has come true in the person and work of Jesus Christ. How does this change your attitude and outlook?

Prayer - Lord open my eyes to those who are hurting or helpless. Give me opportunity to help those in need. Let Your love be seen in my words and actions. In Jesus name I pray, Amen.



BRING IT HOME... and HIGHLIGHT it! WEEK 7

Get out your Bible and highlighter. Use the daily reading guide to apply the Bible to your life by focusing on one book each day. Watch and see God's Word at work!

Obadiah - day one

Obadiah is the shortest book in the Old Testament. It was written soon after Jerusalem was destroyed by the Babylonians. When they attacked Jerusalem, the country of Edom (descendants of Esau, Jacob's brother in Genesis 27) neither helped Jerusalem nor mourned for them. In fact, they helped round up the people who escaped Jerusalem then looted the city.

God wasn't happy. He was outraged! Even though the people of Judah deserved their punishment they were receiving from God, He still found Edom's pride and greed disgusting and disgraceful. The Edomites thought the were safe because of their fortresses. But within five years of Jerusalem's fall, Babylon came back and took Edom into exile too. With this in mind, **look up and highlight verse 15.**

These words were spoken to the nation of Edom, who didn't help Judah when she was attacked and who looted her after she was conquered. Judgment was coming for them. If we're honest, these words burn in our hearts too. We know we come up short in God's eyes all throughout our lives. Judgement is real - it happens. Yet God's mercy is also very real - purchased for us through His Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. Where you have fallen short with God, confess it to him, right now and trust that His mercy is more than enough for you. Today is a NEW day for you. Live in the freedom of God's grace and forgiveness.

Prayer - Father, nothing we do is hidden from Your eyes. I need your grace to change my

heart and mind. Keep my eyes fixed on the power of Your forgiveness through the work of Your son Jesus Christ. Amen.

Jonah - day two

Jonah was a prophet who was sent to the city of Ninevah, the capital of Assyria, which was a wicked, cruel and powerful enemy of God's people. God sent Jonah there to call them to repent of their sinful ways and turn to the lord. Jonah didn't want to go there - he hated the Assyrians. Jonah didn't want them to repent; he wanted them to go on sinning so that God would punish them. **Turn to chapter 3 and highlight verses 6-9.**

Would the Lord really want the wicked Assyrians to repent and come to faith in Him? Would he really send a prophet there to tell them so? YES!! God loved the Assyrians. In fact, He loves all the people of every nation on earth. God, in mercy wants "all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth (1 Timothy 2:4) . Maybe we are reluctant to share God's love with someone who we don't like - someone who has been hurtful to us. How might God work through us, to reach that person with the good news that God loves and forgives them. Think about it - pray about it and see how God provides an opportunity!

Prayer - Gracious Lord, you want all people to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth. Use me to let Your hope and forgiveness be known to someone I know. Amen.



BRING IT HOME... and HIGHLIGHT it! WEEK 7

Get out your Bible and highlighter. Use the daily reading guide to apply the Bible to your life by focusing on one book each day. Watch and see God's Word at work!

Obadiah - day one

Obadiah is the shortest book in the Old Testament. It was written soon after Jerusalem was destroyed by the Babylonians. When they attacked Jerusalem, the country of Edom (descendants of Esau, Jacob's brother in Genesis 27) neither helped Jerusalem nor mourned for them. In fact, they helped round up the people who escaped Jerusalem then looted the city.

God wasn't happy. He was outraged! Even though the people of Judah deserved their punishment they were receiving from God, He still found Edom's pride and greed disgusting and disgraceful. The Edomites thought the were safe because of their fortresses. But within five years of Jerusalem's fall, Babylon came back and took Edom into exile too. With this in mind, **look up and highlight verse 15.**

These words were spoken to the nation of Edom, who didn't help Judah when she was attacked and who looted her after she was conquered. Judgment was coming for them. If we're honest, these words burn in our hearts too. We know we come up short in God's eyes all throughout our lives. Judgement is real - it happens. Yet God's mercy is also very real - purchased for us through His Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. Where you have fallen short with God, confess it to him, right now and trust that His mercy is more than enough for you. Today is a NEW day for you. Live in the freedom of God's grace and forgiveness.

Prayer - Father, nothing we do is hidden from Your eyes. I need your grace to change my

heart and mind. Keep my eyes fixed on the power of Your forgiveness through the work of Your son Jesus Christ. Amen.

Jonah - day two

Jonah was a prophet who was sent to the city of Ninevah, the capital of Assyria, which was a wicked, cruel and powerful enemy of God's people. God sent Jonah there to call them to repent of their sinful ways and turn to the lord. Jonah didn't want to go there - he hated the Assyrians. Jonah didn't want them to repent; he wanted them to go on sinning so that God would punish them. **Turn to chapter 3 and highlight verses 6-9.**

Would the Lord really want the wicked Assyrians to repent and come to faith in Him? Would he really send a prophet there to tell them so? YES!! God loved the Assyrians. In fact, He loves all the people of every nation on earth. God, in mercy wants "all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth (1 Timothy 2:4) . Maybe we are reluctant to share God's love with someone who we don't like - someone who has been hurtful to us. How might God work through us, to reach that person with the good news that God loves and forgives them. Think about it - pray about it and see how God provides an opportunity!

Prayer - Gracious Lord, you want all people to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth. Use me to let Your hope and forgiveness be known to someone I know. Amen.

MICAH - day three

Micah's message alternates between gloom and hope. He spoke out about the way his people were focused only on themselves and their needs, selfishly ignoring those around them in need. But Micah also offered hope. God is just, but he's also merciful and forgiving. He will forgive and rescue his repentant people.

More than 700 years before Jesus was born, Micah foretold his coming, even adding a really interesting detail. **Look up and highlight chapter 5 verses 2-5a** (the first part of the sentence).

Did you see that? The tiny village of Bethlehem. 700 YEARS before Jesus was born, the prophet Micah points to this little factoid. Then look at what he says about Jesus. What are some of the comforting words Micah uses to describe the work of the Messiah, Jesus Christ?

Now turn to chapter 7 verses 18-20 and highlight them in your Bible.

Micah writes, "Who is a God like You?" Some people say "all roads lead to heaven". But that's a lie. Jesus says "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." (John 14:6). We have the truth - the truth is Jesus Christ. From the verses you just highlighted, what aspect of God's love impresses you the most?

Prayer - Merciful Lord, Your forgiveness and peace is new, every single day of my life. You are the Way, the Truth and the Life! Amen.

NAHUM - day four

Nahum is a short book with one message: the dreaded Assyrian Empire is about to come to an end. Those who fear them - need not fear any longer. Remember that Jonah went to Assyria to tell them to repent? They didn't listen this time. No one repented. About 40 years after Nahum's warning, judgment fell. Ninevah was totally wiped off the earth.

Nahum's words brought comfort to the people of Judah, who lived in fear of Assyria. **Look up and highlight chapter 1, verses 7-8 and 15.**

While we don't fear the Assyrians, we face plenty of other problems and challenges. Some are minor, while others are huge. What is the comfort God offers you in these verses from Micah?

Prayer - Heavenly Father, You are so good to me. You forgive and restore me day after day. Thank you for Your goodness and kindness. Hold me close to You. Amen.

HABAKKUK - day five

Habakkuk's message in a nutshell is "hold on to the Lord, even when you don't understand what He is up to." They were going through very rough times, and didn't understand "why"? God answers these questions in ways that they may not totally understand nor appreciate. But He tells them to trust in Him - because He has their backs.

Look up and highlight chapter 2:2-4.

Do you ever wish you could ask God some hard questions, questions that really bother you? Habakkuk shows us that you can ask God anything. He's not afraid of our questions, but you may not like nor understand his answers. Even so, we can trust in Him, even though we may not always understand what's going on. Is there something in your life right now, you are facing, which you don't really understand. Take some time right now - bring it to God in prayer. Trust in Him, even though you may not always understand what's going on. Jesus is Your assurance that God always has your back.

Prayer - Gracious Father, there are some things going on in my life that I don't really understand. I'm not sure why it happened nor how it will end. But I trust in You. Help me in my moments of doubt to keep my eyes fixed on the hope You sent me - Your son Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.

MICAH - day three

Micah's message alternates between gloom and hope. He spoke out about the way his people were focused only on themselves and their needs, selfishly ignoring those around them in need. But Micah also offered hope. God is just, but he's also merciful and forgiving. He will forgive and rescue his repentant people.

More than 700 years before Jesus was born, Micah foretold his coming, even adding a really interesting detail. **Look up and highlight chapter 5 verses 2-5a** (the first part of the sentence).

Did you see that? The tiny village of Bethlehem. 700 YEARS before Jesus was born, the prophet Micah points to this little factoid. Then look at what he says about Jesus. What are some of the comforting words Micah uses to describe the work of the Messiah, Jesus Christ?

Now turn to chapter 7 verses 18-20 and highlight them in your Bible.

Micah writes, "Who is a God like You?" Some people say "all roads lead to heaven". But that's a lie. Jesus says "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." (John 14:6). We have the truth - the truth is Jesus Christ. From the verses you just highlighted, what aspect of God's love impresses you the most?

Prayer - Merciful Lord, Your forgiveness and peace is new, every single day of my life. You are the Way, the Truth and the Life! Amen.

NAHUM - day four

Nahum is a short book with one message: the dreaded Assyrian Empire is about to come to an end. Those who fear them - need not fear any longer. Remember that Jonah went to Assyria to tell them to repent? They didn't listen this time. No one repented. About 40 years after Nahum's warning, judgment fell. Ninevah was totally wiped off the earth.

Nahum's words brought comfort to the people of Judah, who lived in fear of Assyria. **Look up and highlight chapter 1, verses 7-8 and 15.**

While we don't fear the Assyrians, we face plenty of other problems and challenges. Some are minor, while others are huge. What is the comfort God offers you in these verses from Micah?

Prayer - Heavenly Father, You are so good to me. You forgive and restore me day after day. Thank you for Your goodness and kindness. Hold me close to You. Amen.

HABAKKUK - day five

Habakkuk's message in a nutshell is "hold on to the Lord, even when you don't understand what He is up to." They were going through very rough times, and didn't understand "why"? God answers these questions in ways that they may not totally understand nor appreciate. But He tells them to trust in Him - because He has their backs.

Look up and highlight chapter 2:2-4.

Do you ever wish you could ask God some hard questions, questions that really bother you? Habakkuk shows us that you can ask God anything. He's not afraid of our questions, but you may not like nor understand his answers. Even so, we can trust in Him, even though we may not always understand what's going on. Is there something in your life right now, you are facing, which you don't really understand. Take some time right now - bring it to God in prayer. Trust in Him, even though you may not always understand what's going on. Jesus is Your assurance that God always has your back.

Prayer - Gracious Father, there are some things going on in my life that I don't really understand. I'm not sure why it happened nor how it will end. But I trust in You. Help me in my moments of doubt to keep my eyes fixed on the hope You sent me - Your son Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.



BRING IT HOME... and HIGHLIGHT it! WEEK 8

Get out your Bible and highlighter. Use the daily reading guide to apply the Bible to your life by focusing on one book each day. Watch and see God's Word at work!

ZEPHANIAH - day one

Zephaniah was preaching to a people who thought that God would neither help nor harm them. They did what they pleased and only valued money, real estate and their businesses. Zephaniah railed against their shamelessness. He said a day is coming where God is going to judge. But he also talked about a remnant who were faithful. He was going to restore them. **Go to chapter 3 and highlight verses 16-17.**

So often, we can almost feel the judgement of God beating down upon us for our thoughtless and sinful ways. Yet God in His mercy is ready and willing to forgive those who repent and trust in His mercy. In our highlighted verses, we are told to "Fear not..." According to these verses, list some of the reasons why we need not fear.

Prayer - Dear Father in Heaven, You promised that You would be near us. Save us by Your grace and remind us to rejoice in Your promises. In Jesus' name, Amen.

HAGGAI - day two

Haggai is a prophet who preached to God's people when they were let out of captivity and were able to go back to their homeland. They went home and started to rebuild the temple, but their neighbors kept opposing them. God sent Haggai to encourage the people to finish what they had started. With this in mind, **look up and highlight chapter 2:4-5.** (note, Zerubbabel was the Governor of Judah during this time)

While some were scared that their neighbors hated them and wouldn't like them rebuilding the temple, others were scared that this temple wouldn't measure up to the awesome one built by King Solomon, years ago. What words of encouragement did God give them in these verses? How might this help you when you get discouraged because of your life's battles?

Prayer - Lord, sometimes I wonder why things happen the way they do. My life doesn't always go the way I planned. But I trust in You. I lean on Your grace to guide me. Amen.



BRING IT HOME... and HIGHLIGHT it! WEEK 8

Get out your Bible and highlighter. Use the daily reading guide to apply the Bible to your life by focusing on one book each day. Watch and see God's Word at work!

ZEPHANIAH - day one

Zephaniah was preaching to a people who thought that God would neither help nor harm them. They did what they pleased and only valued money, real estate and their businesses. Zephaniah railed against their shamelessness. He said a day is coming where God is going to judge. But he also talked about a remnant who were faithful. He was going to restore them. **Go to chapter 3 and highlight verses 16-17.**

So often, we can almost feel the judgement of God beating down upon us for our thoughtless and sinful ways. Yet God in His mercy is ready and willing to forgive those who repent and trust in His mercy. In our highlighted verses, we are told to "Fear not..." According to these verses, list some of the reasons why we need not fear.

Prayer - Dear Father in Heaven, You promised that You would be near us. Save us by Your grace and remind us to rejoice in Your promises. In Jesus' name, Amen.

HAGGAI - day two

Haggai is a prophet who preached to God's people when they were let out of captivity and were able to go back to their homeland. They went home and started to rebuild the temple, but their neighbors kept opposing them. God sent Haggai to encourage the people to finish what they had started. With this in mind, **look up and highlight chapter 2:4-5.** (note, Zerubbabel was the Governor of Judah during this time)

While some were scared that their neighbors hated them and wouldn't like them rebuilding the temple, others were scared that this temple wouldn't measure up to the awesome one built by King Solomon, years ago. What words of encouragement did God give them in these verses? How might this help you when you get discouraged because of your life's battles?

Prayer - Lord, sometimes I wonder why things happen the way they do. My life doesn't always go the way I planned. But I trust in You. I lean on Your grace to guide me. Amen.

Zechariah - day three

Zechariah's ministry took place around Jerusalem as people moved back to their homes and re-started their lives. Except for the book of Isaiah, no other Old Testament book has as many detailed descriptions of what the Savior Jesus Christ's life and work would be like. In fact, Zechariah's prophecies are very precise and fulfilled in Jesus.

You can read a great example of this by **looking up and highlighting chapter 9 verse 9**.

God remembers us, all the time. His plan for us is found in His son Jesus Christ, whom we get a glimpse of from the prophet Zechariah, some 550 years before He was born. In this section, Zechariah describes Jesus's triumphant Entry into Jerusalem, riding on a colt, the foal of a donkey. Think about it - centuries before Jesus was born, the Old Testament writers were writing about Him in detail! God keeps his promises - all of them.

Prayer - God, I am so grateful that you keep all Your promises. Your Son Jesus is my Savior and He has changed my life forever. Thank you. Amen.

Malachi - day four

Malachi is another prophet who served God's people after their return from exile in Babylon. Malachi was the last prophet in Old Testament times. The time between Malachi's

writings and the work of John the Baptist was 400 years. He also wrote about Jesus' first coming as our Savior and His second coming as the world's judge. A good example of this is **chapter 3:1-3. Look it up and highlight it in your Bible.**

The entire message of Malachi feels as though he's speaking to us today. He tells them (and us) to 1) Make your worship heartfelt, not an empty ritual, 2) stop robbing God - bring to him the offerings He deserves as an act of worship from the heart, 3) care for those in need - show your compassion by really helping them and 4) Live in love - for those in your families, church, community and world.

This is a lot of law, and it reminds us of how far short we come, even when we try our hardest to please God. But we know that God is for us! His Son Jesus is our Savior. He rescues us from sin, death and the power of the devil. What a God we have!! From the very beginning of time, He has been for US!

Prayer - Heavenly Father, I come before You today as one who is a sinner. I need Your mercy. Thank you for the Holy Spirit's work in my life, calling me to faith in Your Son, my Savior, Jesus Christ, who gives me mercy and forgiveness. It changes me. Amen.

Zechariah - day three

Zechariah's ministry took place around Jerusalem as people moved back to their homes and re-started their lives. Except for the book of Isaiah, no other Old Testament book has as many detailed descriptions of what the Savior Jesus Christ's life and work would be like. In fact, Zechariah's prophecies are very precise and fulfilled in Jesus.

You can read a great example of this by **looking up and highlighting chapter 9 verse 9**.

God remembers us, all the time. His plan for us is found in His son Jesus Christ, whom we get a glimpse of from the prophet Zechariah, some 550 years before He was born. In this section, Zechariah describes Jesus's triumphant Entry into Jerusalem, riding on a colt, the foal of a donkey. Think about it - centuries before Jesus was born, the Old Testament writers were writing about Him in detail! God keeps his promises - all of them.

Prayer - God, I am so grateful that you keep all Your promises. Your Son Jesus is my Savior and He has changed my life forever. Thank you. Amen.

Malachi - day four

Malachi is another prophet who served God's people after their return from exile in Babylon. Malachi was the last prophet in Old Testament times. The time between Malachi's

writings and the work of John the Baptist was 400 years. He also wrote about Jesus' first coming as our Savior and His second coming as the world's judge. A good example of this is **chapter 3:1-3. Look it up and highlight it in your Bible.**

The entire message of Malachi feels as though he's speaking to us today. He tells them (and us) to 1) Make your worship heartfelt, not an empty ritual, 2) stop robbing God - bring to him the offerings He deserves as an act of worship from the heart, 3) care for those in need - show your compassion by really helping them and 4) Live in love - for those in your families, church, community and world.

This is a lot of law, and it reminds us of how far short we come, even when we try our hardest to please God. But we know that God is for us! His Son Jesus is our Savior. He rescues us from sin, death and the power of the devil. What a God we have!! From the very beginning of time, He has been for US!

Prayer - Heavenly Father, I come before You today as one who is a sinner. I need Your mercy. Thank you for the Holy Spirit's work in my life, calling me to faith in Your Son, my Savior, Jesus Christ, who gives me mercy and forgiveness. It changes me. Amen.



BRING IT HOME... and HIGHLIGHT it! WEEK 9

Get out your Bible and highlighter. Use the daily reading guide to apply the Bible to your life by focusing on one book each day. Watch and see God's Word at work!

Matthew - day one

The four Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke & John) are biographies of Jesus. They tell the story of His earthly life and mission.

Matthew concentrates on Jesus' power and authority, which reaches its peak in the final chapter. **Look up and highlight chapter 28:5-7.**

Jesus is so powerful that even death could not hold Him down. This had to be a surreal experience to see. Look at the verses you just highlighted. What was the first thing the angel said to the women? Then what did he tell the women to do in verse 7? Why do you think the angel wanted the message to get out so quickly? What does Jesus' resurrection from the dead mean to you?
Now look up and highlight 28:18-20.

Everybody knows someone who either doesn't go to church, or doesn't know Jesus as their Savior. Who do you know that fits that description? Pray for them, right now, and start thinking of how you might "make disciples" of that someone you know.

Prayer - Lord Jesus Christ, even death could not hold you down. You are triumphant over sin, death and the devil. Use me to lead someone I know to Your forgiveness, that they may be saved! Amen.

Mark- day two

The Gospel of Mark is the shortest of all four Gospels. He uses a crisp, fast-paced style of writing. With this style, Mark communicates his urgency to proclaim the Good News. **Look up and highlight chapter 1:14-15.**

When Jesus speaks about the "kingdom of God," He isn't talking about a piece of land or territory. The Kingdom of God is Jesus' rule and reign in our hearts by faith. What does Jesus call us to do?

Repentance means to acknowledge our sin before God and turn away from it. Faith is turning TO the forgiveness of sins we have in Jesus.

Now look up and highlight 9:23-24. Mark recounts the time when Jesus healed a boy with an unclean spirit. (chapter 9:14-29; it's a good one, you should read it!).

In this account, the boy's father believed everything is possible, but needed his faith strengthened. His son was going through tough times and the father had doubts.

We all go through times of doubt, don't we? When this happens, turn to God's Word. It will strengthen your faith. Try opening your Bible to the middle, to the book of Psalms. Do it right now, and see how letting God's Word speak to you will strengthen your faith.

Prayer - Dear Father, sometimes I experience moments where my faith is weak. Keep my eyes focused on Your Word and promise, that



BRING IT HOME... and HIGHLIGHT it! WEEK 9

Get out your Bible and highlighter. Use the daily reading guide to apply the Bible to your life by focusing on one book each day. Watch and see God's Word at work!

Matthew - day one

The four Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke & John) are biographies of Jesus. They tell the story of His earthly life and mission.

Matthew concentrates on Jesus' power and authority, which reaches its peak in the final chapter. **Look up and highlight chapter 28:5-7.**

Jesus is so powerful that even death could not hold Him down. This had to be a surreal experience to see. Look at the verses you just highlighted. What was the first thing the angel said to the women? Then what did he tell the women to do in verse 7? Why do you think the angel wanted the message to get out so quickly? What does Jesus' resurrection from the dead mean to you?
Now look up and highlight 28:18-20.

Everybody knows someone who either doesn't go to church, or doesn't know Jesus as their Savior. Who do you know that fits that description? Pray for them, right now, and start thinking of how you might "make disciples" of that someone you know.

Prayer - Lord Jesus Christ, even death could not hold you down. You are triumphant over sin, death and the devil. Use me to lead someone I know to Your forgiveness, that they may be saved! Amen.

Mark- day two

The Gospel of Mark is the shortest of all four Gospels. He uses a crisp, fast-paced style of writing. With this style, Mark communicates his urgency to proclaim the Good News. **Look up and highlight chapter 1:14-15.**

When Jesus speaks about the "kingdom of God," He isn't talking about a piece of land or territory. The Kingdom of God is Jesus' rule and reign in our hearts by faith. What does Jesus call us to do?

Repentance means to acknowledge our sin before God and turn away from it. Faith is turning TO the forgiveness of sins we have in Jesus.

Now look up and highlight 9:23-24. Mark recounts the time when Jesus healed a boy with an unclean spirit. (chapter 9:14-29; it's a good one, you should read it!).

In this account, the boy's father believed everything is possible, but needed his faith strengthened. His son was going through tough times and the father had doubts.

We all go through times of doubt, don't we? When this happens, turn to God's Word. It will strengthen your faith. Try opening your Bible to the middle, to the book of Psalms. Do it right now, and see how letting God's Word speak to you will strengthen your faith.

Prayer - Dear Father, sometimes I experience moments where my faith is weak. Keep my eyes focused on Your Word and promise, that

during my toughest times, I might trust in
Your mercy. In Jesus name I pray. Amen.

LUKE - day three

Luke was a physician by trade. His writing style is very polished. His one main theme is the mission of Jesus. He described it this way, “The Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost” (Luke 19:10). With this in mind, **look up and highlight chapter 2:10-14.**

Why do you think the angels were SO happy about the birth of Jesus? How does His birth change the world as we know it?

Now look up and highlight chapter 15:1-7. Notice the response of the person who found the lost sheep. Why do you think he was so happy about finding ONE sheep, when he had 99 others? That’s how God thinks about us. He LOVES us - he never gives up on us. Look at verse seven again. What is the attitude in heaven about the lost who come to faith in Jesus? Now put yourself in that spot. You are THAT loved by God. How does that make you feel?

Prayer - Dear Jesus, I don’t think I could ever fully understand how much you love me. I am so thankful for your mercy and so grateful for your forgiveness. Thank you for finding and rescuing me. Amen.

JOHN - day four

The Gospel of John was written sometime after Matthew, Mark and Luke. John doesn’t repeat much of what the other Gospel writers recorded. His focus is more on what Jesus taught than what He did.

Surveys have asked Christians this question: “If you were to die tonight, would you go to heaven? Why or why not?” Among Christians taking the survey, around 1/2 think salvation depends on good works. **Look up and highlight 3:16-17.** According to these verses, from where does your salvation come? Never, ever forget this important message.

Now look up and highlight 14:6. Salvation comes only through Jesus Christ. You can be sure that You will live forever in heaven because Jesus died and rose again to pay for your sins. If you know someone who has doubts about their eternity, show them these highlighted verses. This is the best news of all!

Prayer - Dear Jesus, you alone are my life and salvation. You have paid for my sins once and for all. You rose again in victory over sin, death and the devil. Thank you for saving me! Amen.

ACTS- day five

Luke also wrote the book of Acts. Think of it like a two-volume history. The Gospel of Luke is the life and mission of Jesus. The book of Acts focuses on the start of the New Testament Church. **Look up and highlight 1:8.** God wants his message of hope and forgiveness to go to everybody, including people who were not Jewish, which was a very foreign thought for the average Jew of that day.

For example, God called Paul, a very devout Jew, to be a missionary to the Gentile people. He hated those who didn’t uphold the Jewish faith. He did whatever he could to stop Christians from spreading their faith. **Look up and highlight 26:15-18.** This is Paul describing how God worked to call him to faith and become a great missionary to all nations.

God can use anybody. There is no one too bad, too sinful, or too far gone that God cannot forgive and use them to get His message out! How might God use you to get this message out? Who do you know that needs Jesus in their life?

Prayer - Heavenly Father, without Your mercy I am nothing. Thank You for bringing Jesus into my life. Use me to make a difference in getting Your message of forgiveness out! In Jesus name I pray, Amen.

during my toughest times, I might trust in
Your mercy. In Jesus name I pray. Amen.

LUKE - day three

Luke was a physician by trade. His writing style is very polished. His one main theme is the mission of Jesus. He described it this way, “The Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost” (Luke 19:10). With this in mind, **look up and highlight chapter 2:10-14.**

Why do you think the angels were SO happy about the birth of Jesus? How does His birth change the world as we know it?

Now look up and highlight chapter 15:1-7. Notice the response of the person who found the lost sheep. Why do you think he was so happy about finding ONE sheep, when he had 99 others? That’s how God thinks about us. He LOVES us - he never gives up on us. Look at verse seven again. What is the attitude in heaven about the lost who come to faith in Jesus? Now put yourself in that spot. You are THAT loved by God. How does that make you feel?

Prayer - Dear Jesus, I don’t think I could ever fully understand how much you love me. I am so thankful for your mercy and so grateful for your forgiveness. Thank you for finding and rescuing me. Amen.

JOHN - day four

The Gospel of John was written sometime after Matthew, Mark and Luke. John doesn’t repeat much of what the other Gospel writers recorded. His focus is more on what Jesus taught than what He did.

Surveys have asked Christians this question: “If you were to die tonight, would you go to heaven? Why or why not?” Among Christians taking the survey, around 1/2 think salvation depends on good works. **Look up and highlight 3:16-17.** According to these verses, from where does your salvation come? Never, ever forget this important message.

Now look up and highlight 14:6. Salvation comes only through Jesus Christ. You can be sure that You will live forever in heaven because Jesus died and rose again to pay for your sins. If you know someone who has doubts about their eternity, show them these highlighted verses. This is the best news of all!

Prayer - Dear Jesus, you alone are my life and salvation. You have paid for my sins once and for all. You rose again in victory over sin, death and the devil. Thank you for saving me! Amen.

ACTS- day five

Luke also wrote the book of Acts. Think of it like a two-volume history. The Gospel of Luke is the life and mission of Jesus. The book of Acts focuses on the start of the New Testament Church. **Look up and highlight 1:8.** God wants his message of hope and forgiveness to go to everybody, including people who were not Jewish, which was a very foreign thought for the average Jew of that day.

For example, God called Paul, a very devout Jew, to be a missionary to the Gentile people. He hated those who didn’t uphold the Jewish faith. He did whatever he could to stop Christians from spreading their faith. **Look up and highlight 26:15-18.** This is Paul describing how God worked to call him to faith and become a great missionary to all nations.

God can use anybody. There is no one too bad, too sinful, or too far gone that God cannot forgive and use them to get His message out! How might God use you to get this message out? Who do you know that needs Jesus in their life?

Prayer - Heavenly Father, without Your mercy I am nothing. Thank You for bringing Jesus into my life. Use me to make a difference in getting Your message of forgiveness out! In Jesus name I pray, Amen.



BRING IT HOME... and HIGHLIGHT it! WEEK 10

Get out your Bible and highlighter. Use the daily reading guide to apply the Bible to your life by focusing on one book each day. Watch and see God's Word at work!

ROMANS - day one

Paul wrote this letter to the church in Rome which had both Gentile and Jewish believers. Through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, St. Paul wrote Romans to teach the basics of the faith. **Look up and highlight 1:16** which is the theme verse for the entire book.

There's power in the Gospel! We do not follow some wishful thinking. The forgiveness of sins changes our past and present and gives us hope for the future.

Now look up and highlight 8:38-39.

Here's even more proof of the Gospel's power. Nothing can "separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord." It's a life changer and an attitude adjuster. What sort of challenges and fears are you facing right now? Do you realize that God promises to always be by your side? He loves you and will never let you go.

Prayer - Gracious Lord, fill me with Your peace and presence, especially when I am facing tough times. Keep me strong and focused on Your love for me. In Jesus name, Amen.

1 CORINTHIANS - day two

Paul wrote this letter in response to reports he had received about immorality, arguments and divisions among believers in Corinth. He also wrote it to answer some questions. Paul starts his letter by reminding us who we are and what Christ has accomplished for us. **Look up and highlight 1:26-2:2.**

None of us are perfect. No one can brag about how great a Christian they are. We all come to Jesus with baggage from our past and dirt under our nails from what we have done or left undone. Do you ever feel less than adequate when it comes to your relationship with God? In the very last verse of this section what does Paul say?

And here's why Jesus Christ is so important to you, even when you are living through some messy times. **Look up and highlight 15:56-57.**

No matter where you are in life, no matter what is going on or what has happened to you in the past, God is for YOU! You have victory through the Lord Jesus Christ. Enjoy His victory for you!

Prayer - Gracious Father, the work of Your Son has changed my life forever. Keep me ever mindful of Your promises and fill me with Your peace. In Jesus name, Amen.



BRING IT HOME... and HIGHLIGHT it! WEEK 10

Get out your Bible and highlighter. Use the daily reading guide to apply the Bible to your life by focusing on one book each day. Watch and see God's Word at work!

ROMANS - day one

Paul wrote this letter to the church in Rome which had both Gentile and Jewish believers. Through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, St. Paul wrote Romans to teach the basics of the faith. **Look up and highlight 1:16** which is the theme verse for the entire book.

There's power in the Gospel! We do not follow some wishful thinking. The forgiveness of sins changes our past and present and gives us hope for the future.

Now look up and highlight 8:38-39.

Here's even more proof of the Gospel's power. Nothing can "separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord." It's a life changer and an attitude adjuster. What sort of challenges and fears are you facing right now? Do you realize that God promises to always be by your side? He loves you and will never let you go.

Prayer - Gracious Lord, fill me with Your peace and presence, especially when I am facing tough times. Keep me strong and focused on Your love for me. In Jesus name, Amen.

1 CORINTHIANS - day two

Paul wrote this letter in response to reports he had received about immorality, arguments and divisions among believers in Corinth. He also wrote it to answer some questions. Paul starts his letter by reminding us who we are and what Christ has accomplished for us. **Look up and highlight 1:26-2:2.**

None of us are perfect. No one can brag about how great a Christian they are. We all come to Jesus with baggage from our past and dirt under our nails from what we have done or left undone. Do you ever feel less than adequate when it comes to your relationship with God? In the very last verse of this section what does Paul say?

And here's why Jesus Christ is so important to you, even when you are living through some messy times. **Look up and highlight 15:56-57.**

No matter where you are in life, no matter what is going on or what has happened to you in the past, God is for YOU! You have victory through the Lord Jesus Christ. Enjoy His victory for you!

Prayer - Gracious Father, the work of Your Son has changed my life forever. Keep me ever mindful of Your promises and fill me with Your peace. In Jesus name, Amen.

2 CORINTHIANS - day three

After the church in Corinth received Paul's 1st letter they repented of their sins, but a new problem arose. Some within the church started to say Paul wasn't a real apostle and you couldn't rely on him. Paul wrote 2nd Corinthians to commend them for the changes they made and to defend his ministry. **Look up and highlight 5:17-21.**

Do you live with regrets? Do you wish you would have NOT said that, done that, or thought that? What is God saying to you in these verses? How does this section of the Bible help you get through tough times? How might your attitude change by knowing that in Christ you are a new creation?

Prayer - Lord Jesus Christ, You have made me a new creation. Help me to live in the power of Your forgiveness. Let Your love shine through me to others! Amen.

GALATIANS - day four

Paul penned 13 of the epistles (letters) in the New Testament. Galatians was probably the first one he wrote. The church in Galatia was dealing with people who wanted to add things to your salvation. According to some from that church in Galatia, you weren't a true Christian until you followed certain Jewish laws, avoided certain foods or celebrated certain Jewish festivals. Paul dealt with this false teaching in the first couple of chapters. **Look up and Highlight 3:27-39.**

We don't have to do anything extra to earn God's gift of forgiveness. Simply trust that Jesus paid for all your sins. Dump all your sins and guilt at the foot of the cross

and trust that Jesus is enough for you. Through baptism and faith, you are connected to Christ. It's all taken care of. Don't let Satan fill you with shame. Ask God to replace the shame and guilt with joy and excitement because Jesus is enough! Today is a NEW day!

Prayer - Heavenly Father, I give all that guilt and shame in my life to you right now. Remind me again and again that Your grace is enough for me. In Jesus name I pray. Amen.

EPHESIANS - day five

Paul founded the church in Ephesus and was its pastor for three years. When he was arrested and imprisoned in Rome, Paul wrote this letter to the church in Ephesus. But he wasn't writing in order to correct anything wrong. Paul was writing to build them up, reminding them of the blessings we have in Christ and urging them to live out their faith with the strength God provides. **Look up and highlight 2:8-10.**

From start to finish, Christianity is the real deal. God pays for your sins, calls you to faith, fills you with His Spirit and empowers you to make a difference in this life, through opportunities He gives you every single day. Take a moment to think about all the ways God's grace and presence impacts your life - the way you view your present and future - the way it impacts your marriage and/or family - how it adjusts your attitude and lifestyle - etc. God is really great, isn't he?

Prayer - Lord, Your mercy and grace are beyond compare. Thank you for loving and saving me. Teach me to live each day in the power of Your love. Amen.

2 CORINTHIANS - day three

After the church in Corinth received Paul's 1st letter they repented of their sins, but a new problem arose. Some within the church started to say Paul wasn't a real apostle and you couldn't rely on him. Paul wrote 2nd Corinthians to commend them for the changes they made and to defend his ministry. **Look up and highlight 5:17-21.**

Do you live with regrets? Do you wish you would have NOT said that, done that, or thought that? What is God saying to you in these verses? How does this section of the Bible help you get through tough times? How might your attitude change by knowing that in Christ you are a new creation?

Prayer - Lord Jesus Christ, You have made me a new creation. Help me to live in the power of Your forgiveness. Let Your love shine through me to others! Amen.

GALATIANS - day four

Paul penned 13 of the epistles (letters) in the New Testament. Galatians was probably the first one he wrote. The church in Galatia was dealing with people who wanted to add things to your salvation. According to some from that church in Galatia, you weren't a true Christian until you followed certain Jewish laws, avoided certain foods or celebrated certain Jewish festivals. Paul dealt with this false teaching in the first couple of chapters. **Look up and Highlight 3:27-39.**

We don't have to do anything extra to earn God's gift of forgiveness. Simply trust that Jesus paid for all your sins. Dump all your sins and guilt at the foot of the cross

and trust that Jesus is enough for you. Through baptism and faith, you are connected to Christ. It's all taken care of. Don't let Satan fill you with shame. Ask God to replace the shame and guilt with joy and excitement because Jesus is enough! Today is a NEW day!

Prayer - Heavenly Father, I give all that guilt and shame in my life to you right now. Remind me again and again that Your grace is enough for me. In Jesus name I pray. Amen.

EPHESIANS - day five

Paul founded the church in Ephesus and was its pastor for three years. When he was arrested and imprisoned in Rome, Paul wrote this letter to the church in Ephesus. But he wasn't writing in order to correct anything wrong. Paul was writing to build them up, reminding them of the blessings we have in Christ and urging them to live out their faith with the strength God provides. **Look up and highlight 2:8-10.**

From start to finish, Christianity is the real deal. God pays for your sins, calls you to faith, fills you with His Spirit and empowers you to make a difference in this life, through opportunities He gives you every single day. Take a moment to think about all the ways God's grace and presence impacts your life - the way you view your present and future - the way it impacts your marriage and/or family - how it adjusts your attitude and lifestyle - etc. God is really great, isn't he?

Prayer - Lord, Your mercy and grace are beyond compare. Thank you for loving and saving me. Teach me to live each day in the power of Your love. Amen.



BRING IT HOME... and HIGHLIGHT it! WEEK 11

Get out your Bible and highlighter. Use the daily reading guide to apply the Bible to your life by focusing on one book each day. Watch and see God's Word at work!

PHILIPPIANS - day one

Believe it or not, Paul wrote Philippians while in prison, although it would be hard to discover just by reading this letter. It's full of joy, in spite of the struggles he was going through at the time.

Look up and highlight 4:4-7.

If you ever need a pick me up when you are feeling down, go back and read this highlighted section of Philippians in your Bible. Paul tells us to rejoice IN THE LORD. Why do you think that's important when you are feeling down?

Paul goes on and gives us help for dealing with anxiety. What are some things that make you feel anxious? According to these verses, what is the antidote for being anxious? What does Paul say about the peace of God?

Prayer - O Lord, there are things which drag me down from time to time. When I'm feeling down, help me to remember the Bible verses I just highlighted in Philippians. Remind me of your constant love and care. Amen.

COLOSSIANS - day two

Paul wrote this letter because some leaders in the church started to teach

falsehoods. They were telling people to worship angels, look for mystical experiences, force them to observe certain religious feasts and telling them what they could eat and drink. They also started to teach things about Jesus which were untrue. Some said Jesus didn't have a real body. Some of their leaders made it seem as though they had new, secret knowledge of God that no one else had.
Look up and highlight 1:15-20.

Everybody has an opinion about Jesus. Colossians makes it very clear - Jesus is God's Son. Martin Luther explained it this way, "I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord" (Small Catechism, explanation of the 2nd article of the Apostles' Creed). Colossians reminds our hearts and minds who Jesus really is! It's a great book to read when you are feeling weak, uncertain, confused or guilty.

Prayer - Gracious Father, the world is full of people who want to distract from what Jesus means to me. Keep my eyes fixed on Your Word and constantly remind me who You are! In Jesus name I pray. Amen.

1 THESSALONIANS - day three

A few weeks after Paul arrived in the city of Thessalonica, serious persecution



BRING IT HOME... and HIGHLIGHT it! WEEK 11

Get out your Bible and highlighter. Use the daily reading guide to apply the Bible to your life by focusing on one book each day. Watch and see God's Word at work!

PHILIPPIANS - day one

Believe it or not, Paul wrote Philippians while in prison, although it would be hard to discover just by reading this letter. It's full of joy, in spite of the struggles he was going through at the time.

Look up and highlight 4:4-7.

If you ever need a pick me up when you are feeling down, go back and read this highlighted section of Philippians in your Bible. Paul tells us to rejoice IN THE LORD. Why do you think that's important when you are feeling down?

Paul goes on and gives us help for dealing with anxiety. What are some things that make you feel anxious? According to these verses, what is the antidote for being anxious? What does Paul say about the peace of God?

Prayer - O Lord, there are things which drag me down from time to time. When I'm feeling down, help me to remember the Bible verses I just highlighted in Philippians. Remind me of your constant love and care. Amen.

COLOSSIANS - day two

Paul wrote this letter because some leaders in the church started to teach

falsehoods. They were telling people to worship angels, look for mystical experiences, force them to observe certain religious feasts and telling them what they could eat and drink. They also started to teach things about Jesus which were untrue. Some said Jesus didn't have a real body. Some of their leaders made it seem as though they had new, secret knowledge of God that no one else had.
Look up and highlight 1:15-20.

Everybody has an opinion about Jesus. Colossians makes it very clear - Jesus is God's Son. Martin Luther explained it this way, "I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord" (Small Catechism, explanation of the 2nd article of the Apostles' Creed). Colossians reminds our hearts and minds who Jesus really is! It's a great book to read when you are feeling weak, uncertain, confused or guilty.

Prayer - Gracious Father, the world is full of people who want to distract from what Jesus means to me. Keep my eyes fixed on Your Word and constantly remind me who You are! In Jesus name I pray. Amen.

1 THESSALONIANS - day three

A few weeks after Paul arrived in the city of Thessalonica, serious persecution

started. Believers in that city sent Paul away to be safe. Later, Paul sent Timothy back to Thessalonica to see how the new believers were doing. Paul wrote 1 Thessalonians to encourage the believers to stay close to Jesus despite the persecutions they faced. **Look up and highlight 4:13-18.**

“Those who are asleep” means those who died. What does verse 14 say about those who “have fallen asleep” (died) as believers? Now notice how Paul describes Jesus’ second coming at the end of time. What promise does Paul give us in verse 17? In this world, Christians will face trouble. But God will never let us go. He will give us the victory in Jesus!

Prayer - Lord Jesus Christ, nothing can separate us from You. When we go through difficult times, remind us of Your promises and keep us strong in the faith. Amen.

2 THESSALONIANS- day four

Paul wrote his second letter to the church in Thessalonica when he had heard they were being taught false notions about Jesus’ second coming. Some people were actually quitting everything in order to sit and wait for the end. Others were getting very scared, because they thought in the end, they would be judged and destroyed, not saved. **Look up and highlight 2:15.**

Not much has changed since Paul wrote this letter two thousand years ago. We live in troubled times as well. We need a spiritual toolbox of truths we can hang on to when times are tough. For this spiritual toolbox to work, it needs to be GOOD tools, built solidly from God’s Word of truth. What are some truths you need to keep on hand for your “Spiritual

Toolbox”? Write them down and find the supporting Bible verses to back them up. Highlight them in your Bible so you will always have them handy.

Prayer - Lord Jesus Christ, we face tough and difficult days. Help me to build a “Spiritual Toolbox” based on Your Word so that I may face these days with confidence. Amen.

1 TIMOTHY- day five

The early church did not have schools like our seminaries where they trained pastors. Paul mentored several young men to be pastors, including Timothy and Titus. When they couldn’t be with Paul in person, he wrote letters of advice and encouragement to them. When we read the books of 1 & 2 Timothy and Titus, we are reading Paul’s mail to them. **Look up and highlight 1:15-16.**

Remember Paul is writing to the pastors he is mentoring. He explains that effectiveness with the Gospel is not based on personality or sinlessness. On the contrary, how does Paul describe himself in these verses? How does God continue to use your pastor (who is also a sinner) to impact others with the Gospel? How does God continue to use you (a sinner)?

Prayer - Lord Jesus Christ, I am a sinner like everybody else. I trust in Your mercy to make me right. Use me to make a difference in someone’s life with the Gospel. Amen.

started. Believers in that city sent Paul away to be safe. Later, Paul sent Timothy back to Thessalonica to see how the new believers were doing. Paul wrote 1 Thessalonians to encourage the believers to stay close to Jesus despite the persecutions they faced. **Look up and highlight 4:13-18.**

“Those who are asleep” means those who died. What does verse 14 say about those who “have fallen asleep” (died) as believers? Now notice how Paul describes Jesus’ second coming at the end of time. What promise does Paul give us in verse 17? In this world, Christians will face trouble. But God will never let us go. He will give us the victory in Jesus!

Prayer - Lord Jesus Christ, nothing can separate us from You. When we go through difficult times, remind us of Your promises and keep us strong in the faith. Amen.

2 THESSALONIANS- day four

Paul wrote his second letter to the church in Thessalonica when he had heard they were being taught false notions about Jesus’ second coming. Some people were actually quitting everything in order to sit and wait for the end. Others were getting very scared, because they thought in the end, they would be judged and destroyed, not saved. **Look up and highlight 2:15.**

Not much has changed since Paul wrote this letter two thousand years ago. We live in troubled times as well. We need a spiritual toolbox of truths we can hang on to when times are tough. For this spiritual toolbox to work, it needs to be GOOD tools, built solidly from God’s Word of truth. What are some truths you need to keep on hand for your “Spiritual

Toolbox”? Write them down and find the supporting Bible verses to back them up. Highlight them in your Bible so you will always have them handy.

Prayer - Lord Jesus Christ, we face tough and difficult days. Help me to build a “Spiritual Toolbox” based on Your Word so that I may face these days with confidence. Amen.

1 TIMOTHY- day five

The early church did not have schools like our seminaries where they trained pastors. Paul mentored several young men to be pastors, including Timothy and Titus. When they couldn’t be with Paul in person, he wrote letters of advice and encouragement to them. When we read the books of 1 & 2 Timothy and Titus, we are reading Paul’s mail to them. **Look up and highlight 1:15-16.**

Remember Paul is writing to the pastors he is mentoring. He explains that effectiveness with the Gospel is not based on personality or sinlessness. On the contrary, how does Paul describe himself in these verses? How does God continue to use your pastor (who is also a sinner) to impact others with the Gospel? How does God continue to use you (a sinner)?

Prayer - Lord Jesus Christ, I am a sinner like everybody else. I trust in Your mercy to make me right. Use me to make a difference in someone’s life with the Gospel. Amen.



BRING IT HOME... and Highlight it! WEEK 12

Get out your Bible and highlighter. Use the daily reading guide to apply the Bible to your life by focusing on one book each day. Watch and see God's Word at work!

2 Timothy - day one

For all practical purposes, this is Paul's last will and testament. At the time of this letter, Paul is alone in prison awaiting execution for his faith in Christ. He encourages Timothy to preserve the Gospel, be ready to defend it and train people to get that pure and wonderful message out. **Look up and highlight 3:16-17.**

This is a very important section you just highlighted. The Bible is "God-Breathed" (NIV translation). This is God speaking to us through these various authors. So many people are looking for God to respond to them. But here it is - God's response to US! His very words! Think of all the verses you highlighted in the past weeks with "Bring it Home and Highlight It." Seek them out again. This is God, speaking directly to you. What a great God we have.

Prayer - Dear God, Your Word speaks to my heart. It shows my sin and points me to my Savior Jesus Christ. Thank you for Your Word. Amen.

Titus - day two

Titus and Timothy were Paul's most prominent pastoral students. Titus was Greek and an important leader in the first-century Church. When Paul couldn't be

with Titus, he wrote him this letter of advice and encouragement. At this point in his ministry, Titus was on the island of Crete, helping to organize the church and teaching people to live Christ-honoring lives. **Look up and highlight 3:4-7.**

Here is a GO TO passage in the Bible when you are talking to someone about the way of salvation. Look at verse five. Why are we saved? What DOESN'T save us? This section is a beautiful statement on the benefits of Holy Baptism. God does it all! He loves you THAT MUCH!

Prayer - Gracious Lord, Your mercy is so very abundant in my life. Thank you for Your never-ending grace. Amen.

Philemon - day three

Philemon was a Christian and a friend of Paul. Onesimus (pronounced "o-NES-i-mus") was a slave of Philemon. Slavery was legal during this time. He escaped slavery and, in the process, robbed Philemon. Onesimus came under Paul's influence and had become a believer. Now, Paul was sending him back to Philemon.

Paul wanted Philemon to forgive Onesimus. Not only that, Paul hints that he'd like to see Philemon go even further and free Onesimus. He didn't demand it; Paul wanted Philemon to act willingly. This is the power of the Gospel. It



BRING IT HOME... and Highlight it! WEEK 12

Get out your Bible and highlighter. Use the daily reading guide to apply the Bible to your life by focusing on one book each day. Watch and see God's Word at work!

2 Timothy - day one

For all practical purposes, this is Paul's last will and testament. At the time of this letter, Paul is alone in prison awaiting execution for his faith in Christ. He encourages Timothy to preserve the Gospel, be ready to defend it and train people to get that pure and wonderful message out. **Look up and highlight 3:16-17.**

This is a very important section you just highlighted. The Bible is "God-Breathed" (NIV translation). This is God speaking to us through these various authors. So many people are looking for God to respond to them. But here it is - God's response to US! His very words! Think of all the verses you highlighted in the past weeks with "Bring it Home and Highlight It." Seek them out again. This is God, speaking directly to you. What a great God we have.

Prayer - Dear God, Your Word speaks to my heart. It shows my sin and points me to my Savior Jesus Christ. Thank you for Your Word. Amen.

Titus - day two

Titus and Timothy were Paul's most prominent pastoral students. Titus was Greek and an important leader in the first-century Church. When Paul couldn't be

with Titus, he wrote him this letter of advice and encouragement. At this point in his ministry, Titus was on the island of Crete, helping to organize the church and teaching people to live Christ-honoring lives. **Look up and highlight 3:4-7.**

Here is a GO TO passage in the Bible when you are talking to someone about the way of salvation. Look at verse five. Why are we saved? What DOESN'T save us? This section is a beautiful statement on the benefits of Holy Baptism. God does it all! He loves you THAT MUCH!

Prayer - Gracious Lord, Your mercy is so very abundant in my life. Thank you for Your never-ending grace. Amen.

Philemon - day three

Philemon was a Christian and a friend of Paul. Onesimus (pronounced "o-NES-i-mus") was a slave of Philemon. Slavery was legal during this time. He escaped slavery and, in the process, robbed Philemon. Onesimus came under Paul's influence and had become a believer. Now, Paul was sending him back to Philemon.

Paul wanted Philemon to forgive Onesimus. Not only that, Paul hints that he'd like to see Philemon go even further and free Onesimus. He didn't demand it; Paul wanted Philemon to act willingly. This is the power of the Gospel. It

changes people's hearts and minds. **Look up and highlight verses 4-6.**

On a side note: wherever Christianity has spread, slavery has eventually disappeared.

At its core, Philemon is about forgiveness. What do we do with those who hurt us? Knowing we should forgive and wanting to forgive are two different things. Paul never tells Philemon he should forgive. Instead he points Philemon back to the Gospel, back to God's love in Jesus Christ. That's where Philemon's ability to forgive - and ours too - begins. Whom do you have trouble forgiving? Let God continue His work in you as you soak up His love and rely on His strength.

Prayer - Heavenly Father, in Your great mercy You sent Jesus as my Savior. I am forgiven through His sacrifice. Teach me to lavishly forgive those who wrong me. In Jesus name I pray. Amen.

Hebrews - day four

Hebrews was addressed to a group of Jewish Christians during a time of persecution. They were most likely new converts from Judaism to Christianity. But they were tempted to go back to Judaism because of all the persecution they faced. It was likely that Christianity was illegal in the Roman Empire during this time; Judaism was allowed. **Look up and highlight 12:1-3.**

You can summarize the book of Hebrews with this phrase - "don't abandon your relationship with Jesus!" Christianity will not always be in agreement with how society chooses to live or believe. If people judge your Christian beliefs or lifestyle choices, don't give up. Ask the Holy Spirit to use His Word to help you face these issues head on. Ask God to give you a deeper confidence in God's love and

the courage to stand up against the pressures you face. God wants to help you!

Prayer - Lord Jesus Christ, keep my eyes fixed on Your promises, especially when I face challenges to my faith in You. Keep me strong and courageous in the faith. Amen.

James - day five

James was written to Jewish Christians who had been chased off to many different areas due to persecution. The first readers were literally "on the run." Some had their homes taken away. Others were threatened with physical harm or even death. They had to escape. James writes to encourage and comfort them.

James is a lot like the Old Testament book of Proverbs. It focuses on the "how-tos" of the faith rather than on doctrines like the Trinity or Baptism or how God saves us. In fact, it's been called "the Proverbs of the New Testament" because of its practical tone. **Look up and highlight 2:14-17.**

It's challenging for us to sort out our relationship between our faith in Christ and how we act. What is the connection between faith and works? Here's a great summary of this relationship: "Faith (trust) alone saves, but faith is never alone." The Gospel changes our lives - how we think and how we act. We aren't perfect, but we are forgiven and that has an impact in our lives. Where can God's love for you impact how you live out your life through your words and actions?

Prayer - Lord Jesus Christ, lead and guide me in such a way that I might honor You and let Your love shine though all I say and do. Amen.

changes people's hearts and minds. **Look up and highlight verses 4-6.**

On a side note: wherever Christianity has spread, slavery has eventually disappeared.

At its core, Philemon is about forgiveness. What do we do with those who hurt us? Knowing we should forgive and wanting to forgive are two different things. Paul never tells Philemon he should forgive. Instead he points Philemon back to the Gospel, back to God's love in Jesus Christ. That's where Philemon's ability to forgive - and ours too - begins. Whom do you have trouble forgiving? Let God continue His work in you as you soak up His love and rely on His strength.

Prayer - Heavenly Father, in Your great mercy You sent Jesus as my Savior. I am forgiven through His sacrifice. Teach me to lavishly forgive those who wrong me. In Jesus name I pray. Amen.

Hebrews - day four

Hebrews was addressed to a group of Jewish Christians during a time of persecution. They were most likely new converts from Judaism to Christianity. But they were tempted to go back to Judaism because of all the persecution they faced. It was likely that Christianity was illegal in the Roman Empire during this time; Judaism was allowed. **Look up and highlight 12:1-3.**

You can summarize the book of Hebrews with this phrase - "don't abandon your relationship with Jesus!" Christianity will not always be in agreement with how society chooses to live or believe. If people judge your Christian beliefs or lifestyle choices, don't give up. Ask the Holy Spirit to use His Word to help you face these issues head on. Ask God to give you a deeper confidence in God's love and

the courage to stand up against the pressures you face. God wants to help you!

Prayer - Lord Jesus Christ, keep my eyes fixed on Your promises, especially when I face challenges to my faith in You. Keep me strong and courageous in the faith. Amen.

James - day five

James was written to Jewish Christians who had been chased off to many different areas due to persecution. The first readers were literally "on the run." Some had their homes taken away. Others were threatened with physical harm or even death. They had to escape. James writes to encourage and comfort them.

James is a lot like the Old Testament book of Proverbs. It focuses on the "how-tos" of the faith rather than on doctrines like the Trinity or Baptism or how God saves us. In fact, it's been called "the Proverbs of the New Testament" because of its practical tone. **Look up and highlight 2:14-17.**

It's challenging for us to sort out our relationship between our faith in Christ and how we act. What is the connection between faith and works? Here's a great summary of this relationship: "Faith (trust) alone saves, but faith is never alone." The Gospel changes our lives - how we think and how we act. We aren't perfect, but we are forgiven and that has an impact in our lives. Where can God's love for you impact how you live out your life through your words and actions?

Prayer - Lord Jesus Christ, lead and guide me in such a way that I might honor You and let Your love shine though all I say and do. Amen.



BRING IT HOME... and HIGHLIGHT it! WEEK 13

Get out your Bible and highlighter. Use the daily reading guide to apply the Bible to your life by focusing on one book each day. Watch and see God's Word at work!

1 Peter - day one

1st and 2nd Peter were letters to Jewish Christians who had been scattered into many different areas due to persecution. During the time of Peter's 1st letter, Nero was emperor of the Roman Empire and was making life very difficult for Christians. **Look up and highlight 2:9-10.**

This is who you are "in Christ." Read out loud in verse 9 the way Peter describes you as a believer. Whenever you need to be more confident, more steady in your faith, remember these words from Peter. You can stand firm like a rock when you know the new identity you have in Jesus Christ. Ask God to continue to work that same hope, confidence, boldness and peace into your life so you might be able to face all the challenges of life.

Prayer - Lord, Your love has made me into a new person, completely changed and empowered by Your grace. Fill me with strength and purpose so I might face those times of trial with Your power! Amen.

2 Peter - day two

This 2nd letter of Peter was written to help Jewish Christians who had been scattered due to persecution. Second Peter focuses on the danger posed by false teachers. He encourages Christians

to grow up in the faith. **Look up and highlight 1:19-21.**

If you want to be strong, you need to find the source for your strength - God's Word. Notice how Peter describes "prophecy" (God's Word). The Bible is not just fairytales made up by men. It is God's Word! In verse 19, how does Peter describe God's Word? Name some ways God's Word has been like a "light shining in a dark place"?

Prayer - Heavenly Father, Your Word is a light in a dark world. Teach me Your truth and keep me steadfast in the faith. In Jesus name I pray, Amen.

1, 2 & 3 JOHN - day three

John was one of the disciples closest to Jesus during His earthly ministry. He wrote the Gospel of John, these three epistles and the Book of Revelation. False teachers had risen in the Church. They claimed authority and had denied the full humanity of Jesus. They denied Jesus was the Christ, the Son of God and that he had "come into the flesh." These were very troubling teachings which confused many believers. John encouraged them to stick to the truth. **Look up and highlight 1 John 1:7-9, 2 John 9-11 and 3 John 4.**



BRING IT HOME... and HIGHLIGHT it! WEEK 13

Get out your Bible and highlighter. Use the daily reading guide to apply the Bible to your life by focusing on one book each day. Watch and see God's Word at work!

1 Peter - day one

1st and 2nd Peter were letters to Jewish Christians who had been scattered into many different areas due to persecution. During the time of Peter's 1st letter, Nero was emperor of the Roman Empire and was making life very difficult for Christians. **Look up and highlight 2:9-10.**

This is who you are "in Christ." Read out loud in verse 9 the way Peter describes you as a believer. Whenever you need to be more confident, more steady in your faith, remember these words from Peter. You can stand firm like a rock when you know the new identity you have in Jesus Christ. Ask God to continue to work that same hope, confidence, boldness and peace into your life so you might be able to face all the challenges of life.

Prayer - Lord, Your love has made me into a new person, completely changed and empowered by Your grace. Fill me with strength and purpose so I might face those times of trial with Your power! Amen.

2 Peter - day two

This 2nd letter of Peter was written to help Jewish Christians who had been scattered due to persecution. Second Peter focuses on the danger posed by false teachers. He encourages Christians

to grow up in the faith. **Look up and highlight 1:19-21.**

If you want to be strong, you need to find the source for your strength - God's Word. Notice how Peter describes "prophecy" (God's Word). The Bible is not just fairytales made up by men. It is God's Word! In verse 19, how does Peter describe God's Word? Name some ways God's Word has been like a "light shining in a dark place"?

Prayer - Heavenly Father, Your Word is a light in a dark world. Teach me Your truth and keep me steadfast in the faith. In Jesus name I pray, Amen.

1, 2 & 3 JOHN - day three

John was one of the disciples closest to Jesus during His earthly ministry. He wrote the Gospel of John, these three epistles and the Book of Revelation. False teachers had risen in the Church. They claimed authority and had denied the full humanity of Jesus. They denied Jesus was the Christ, the Son of God and that he had "come into the flesh." These were very troubling teachings which confused many believers. John encouraged them to stick to the truth. **Look up and highlight 1 John 1:7-9, 2 John 9-11 and 3 John 4.**

Read each one aloud; it will help you catch the common theme. Hold to the TRUTH. Jesus is the Son of God who takes away our sin. Avoid those who would teach falsehoods, who would draw us away from the forgiveness of sins we have in Jesus Christ. Are there any ideas or teachings which are trying to take your focus off Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord? Get rid of it right now and ask God to keep you in the truth.

Prayer - Lord Jesus Christ, You are my Savior and Lord. Keep me from those things which would take my eyes off You. Amen.

Jude - day four

Jude is the half-brother of Jesus and the brother of James. Jude writes to warn the Church about teachers who were introducing dangerous errors. They were teaching that the freedom Christ won for them was not a freedom from sin, but rather the freedom to sin. Jude wraps up his little epistle with these comforting words: **look up and highlight in verse 20-23.**

What is Jude's antidote for keeping yourself in God's love? Now notice what Jude encourages us to do. Think about an opportunity God is giving you to show mercy to someone. How might you do that? Who do you know that does not believe in Jesus as Savior? How might God work through you to "snatch them from the fire" (NIV translation)? Pray and ask God to give you opportunities soon!

Prayer - Dear Lord, keep me steadfast in the one, true faith. Fill my heart with Your peace and love and grant me opportunities to let Your love shine to those around me. Amen.

Revelation - day five

The apostle John wrote the Book of Revelation from the Island of Patmos in AD 95. He had been exiled there because of his faith in Jesus. At the time of this writing, Christians were enduring terrible persecution under the Roman Emperor Domitian. Those who refused to give up their faith in Jesus were thrown to the lions and other wild animals while onlookers cheered. Some were set on fire, thrown off a cliff, skinned alive or endured other terrible atrocities.

Believers watched friends and family members go through this. It would have been easy to give up hope and deny their faith. The Book of Revelation helps God's people stand firm despite all the persecution they face. Revelation has one focused message: Jesus is victorious, and He is coming soon! **Look up and highlight 2:10 and 7:15-17.**

Satan has not stopped hating the Church. People still face terrible times of persecution across the world. You probably aren't facing lions or dungeons, at least not right now. But you may be called to stand up for Jesus. You may face ridicule for what you believe or how you choose to act. When that happens, remember you are in good company - the company of your Savior, the company of the saints and martyrs. Someday soon, you will join the company of the angels around the throne in endless joy. God is for YOU! The victory has been won!

Prayer - Dear Jesus, keep me strong in the faith, especially when I face challenges to what I believe about You. Let me find strength in Your never-ending love and grace. Amen.

Read each one aloud; it will help you catch the common theme. Hold to the TRUTH. Jesus is the Son of God who takes away our sin. Avoid those who would teach falsehoods, who would draw us away from the forgiveness of sins we have in Jesus Christ. Are there any ideas or teachings which are trying to take your focus off Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord? Get rid of it right now and ask God to keep you in the truth.

Prayer - Lord Jesus Christ, You are my Savior and Lord. Keep me from those things which would take my eyes off You. Amen.

Jude - day four

Jude is the half-brother of Jesus and the brother of James. Jude writes to warn the Church about teachers who were introducing dangerous errors. They were teaching that the freedom Christ won for them was not a freedom from sin, but rather the freedom to sin. Jude wraps up his little epistle with these comforting words: **look up and highlight in verse 20-23.**

What is Jude's antidote for keeping yourself in God's love? Now notice what Jude encourages us to do. Think about an opportunity God is giving you to show mercy to someone. How might you do that? Who do you know that does not believe in Jesus as Savior? How might God work through you to "snatch them from the fire" (NIV translation)? Pray and ask God to give you opportunities soon!

Prayer - Dear Lord, keep me steadfast in the one, true faith. Fill my heart with Your peace and love and grant me opportunities to let Your love shine to those around me. Amen.

Revelation - day five

The apostle John wrote the Book of Revelation from the Island of Patmos in AD 95. He had been exiled there because of his faith in Jesus. At the time of this writing, Christians were enduring terrible persecution under the Roman Emperor Domitian. Those who refused to give up their faith in Jesus were thrown to the lions and other wild animals while onlookers cheered. Some were set on fire, thrown off a cliff, skinned alive or endured other terrible atrocities.

Believers watched friends and family members go through this. It would have been easy to give up hope and deny their faith. The Book of Revelation helps God's people stand firm despite all the persecution they face. Revelation has one focused message: Jesus is victorious, and He is coming soon! **Look up and highlight 2:10 and 7:15-17.**

Satan has not stopped hating the Church. People still face terrible times of persecution across the world. You probably aren't facing lions or dungeons, at least not right now. But you may be called to stand up for Jesus. You may face ridicule for what you believe or how you choose to act. When that happens, remember you are in good company - the company of your Savior, the company of the saints and martyrs. Someday soon, you will join the company of the angels around the throne in endless joy. God is for YOU! The victory has been won!

Prayer - Dear Jesus, keep me strong in the faith, especially when I face challenges to what I believe about You. Let me find strength in Your never-ending love and grace. Amen.