



NEW TESTAMENT IN A YEAR



READING
PLAN

“For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.”

Hebrews 4:12



QUARTER 4 (OCT. 4 - DEC. 31)

- 10/4 **WEEK 1** *John 1-5*
- 10/11 **WEEK 2** *John 6-10*
- 10/18 **WEEK 3** *John 11-15*
- 10/25 **WEEK 4** *John 16-20*
- 11/1 **WEEK 5** *John 21; Philippians 1-4*
- 11/8 **WEEK 6** *Colossians 1-4; Philemon 1*
- 11/15 **WEEK 7** *Hebrews 1-5*
- 11/22 **WEEK 8** *Hebrews 6-10*
- 11/29 **WEEK 9** *Hebrews 11-13; Revelation 1-2*
- 12/6 **WEEK 10** *Revelation 3-7*
- 12/13 **WEEK 11** *Revelation 8-12*
- 12/20 **WEEK 12** *Revelation 13-17*
- 12/27 **WEEK 13** *Revelation 18-22*



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Each week, we want you to develop the rhythm **pray, read, and reflect** in your time with God.

PRAY

John 15:5

"... apart from me, you can do nothing"

It may sound like an elementary act, but don't forget that the Bible is God's Word to us. Therefore, ask Him to speak to you through His Word. Ask Him to give you eyes to see, a mind to understand, and a willing heart to respond in obedience to what He is calling you to do.

READ

Hebrews 4:12

"For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword..."

Each week there are five chapters to read. Whether you read one chapter a day, read them all in one day, or read a chapter multiple times in different Bible translations, the point is to spend time reading the Bible.

As you do this, remember the goal in reading Scripture is not simply to get through the Bible, but to allow the Bible to get into you. Let it penetrate your thoughts, emotions, and actions. That's the reason why this next step is so important.

REFLECT¹

Psalms 139:23

"Search me, God, and know my heart..."

Take time each week (or more often) to reflect on what you're learning from God's Word. Each week, **journal** your answers to these questions to help you slow down and consider what you've read and what God may be calling you to do. The first questions help you better understand what you've read: ***What do we learn about God? What do we learn about people? What do we learn about relating to God? What do we learn about relating to others?***

Once you've answered those questions, move on to applying the Scriptures by asking: ***What does God want me to understand? What does God want me to believe? What does God want me to desire? What does God want me to do?***

While these first eight questions may not apply to every passage you read, they will apply to most.

And these last three questions will help you summarize and reflect on everything you learned that week: ***What did you learn this week? What are you going to do about it? Who could benefit from hearing about something you learned this week?***

¹The eight questions on understanding and applying the Bible were adapted from *Asking the Right Questions* by Matthew Harmon.

ADDITIONAL SECTIONS

DEVOTIONAL

Each week you'll find a devotional to help you reflect on a passage from that week's reading written by our very own Heart & Soul members.

Watch a short video from the Bible Project to give you an overview of the book you are beginning to read that week. These videos are only 5-10 minutes and will help you gain a better understanding of the big picture for each book before you start reading the individual chapters

Study a chapter or section of Scripture that you read. If there's a passage you read during the week that you had questions about, take time to study it in depth by using a good study Bible such as the ESV Study Bible or online resources such as ***Enduring Word*** or ***Desiring God***.

OUR GOAL

Through the 4:12 Reading Plan, we want to:

- Help every person in our church develop a consistent, life-giving rhythm of reading God's Word.
- Encourage daily time with God through Scripture, prayer, and reflection.
- Move what we read from personal quiet time into meaningful discussion in our Connect Groups.
- Create a culture where we share what God is teaching us and grow together in community.
- Shape our lives by the truth of God's Word, not just information but transformation.

WEEK 1

PRAY

Invite God to speak to you through His Word.

WATCH AN OVERVIEW
OF JOHN 1-12



Scan the code to watch

READ **JOHN** ① ② ③ ④ ⑤

If you have time, try reading or listening to the chapter in more than one translation.

Takeaways

REFLECT: What did you learn this week?

About God?

About people?

What does God want you to believe and desire?

What does God want you to do?

RESPOND

What are you going to do about it?

Who is someone you could share this with?

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WEEK 1
Devotional
BY PAYTON AND KINSLEY PHILLIPS

It is possible to acknowledge Jesus without truly believing in Jesus. Someone can know the stories, recite John 3:16, attend church, and know the right things to say about Jesus without ever truly surrendering their life to Him. Knowing about Jesus and knowing Jesus are not the same thing. True belief involves genuine faith and repentance, being born again by the Spirit and beginning a new life in Christ.

In John 3, Jesus is speaking with a religious leader named Nicodemus, who acknowledges Jesus in verse 2 when he says, "We know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him." Jesus immediately responds by saying, "Unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God." This statement about being born again puzzles Nicodemus. Jesus makes it clear that religious knowledge and acknowledgment are not enough. A person's heart must be transformed by God. We need the new life that only He can give.

Jesus wraps up this conversation by talking about light and darkness. Those who practice evil hate the light, but whoever does what is true comes to the light. Jesus is the Light, and those who have been born again are called to walk in His light. It's worth asking ourselves the same question raised by this conversation with Nicodemus: Are we simply acknowledging Jesus, or have we truly believed in Him? Have we been born again by His Spirit and begun walking in the light?

Reflection Questions:

- Do I simply know things about Jesus, or do I truly know and trust Him?
- What evidence of new life in Christ can I see in my life?
- Is there anything I am keeping in darkness that needs to be brought into His light?

WEEK 2

PRAY

Invite God to speak to you through His Word.

WATCH AN OVERVIEW
OF JOHN 1-12



Scan the code to watch

READ **JOHN** ⑥ ⑦ ⑧ ⑨ ⑩

If you have time, try reading or listening to the chapter in more than one translation.

Takeaways

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About people?

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What does God want you to do?

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WEEK 2

Devotional

BY CHERYL METZLER

"I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me - just as the Father knows me and I know the Father - and I lay down my life for the sheep." - John 10:14-15

When you were a child, were you ever lost? What did you do? Did you call out for your parents? Did your parents call your name? If so, did you recognize their voice? I'm sure you recognized your parents' voice because you knew them so well.

That's how it is when we separate ourselves from God. God is always seeking us because He's the Good Shepherd who laid down His life for us, His sheep. The way we know God's voice is through spending time with Him - in prayer, time alone with God (just listening), and studying His Word, the Bible. If we don't engage in these study and quiet times with God, we won't know God intimately, and we won't hear Him when He speaks to us concerning His will for our lives.

Knowing God intimately doesn't happen without effort and planning. It takes time to develop a personal relationship with the Good Shepherd.

The time we spend daily in prayer, Bible study, and meditation is a wonderful investment in drawing closer to God and continually deepening our relationship.

Reflection Questions:

- What are some ways you can ensure you spend time alone with God daily?
- Why is it important to spend time with God daily?
- Are you trusting His timing or trying to take control yourself?
- God knows you intimately - do you know God intimately?

WEEK 3

PRAY

Invite God to speak to you through His Word.

WATCH AN OVERVIEW
OF JOHN 13-21



Scan the code to watch

READ

JOHN

11 12 13 14 15

If you have time, try reading or listening to the chapter in more than one translation.

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WEEK 3

Devotional

BY JIM AND RACHELLE CAMPBELL

The last couple weeks of Jesus's life were some of the most eventful of His ministry. Lazarus had been raised from the dead, the Pharisees were plotting to kill Jesus, crowds had welcomed Him into Jerusalem with cries of "Hosanna," and Jesus had warned of His coming death. By the time Jesus and His disciples reached the upper room for their last Passover together, emotions were surely high with anxiety and anticipation. In His final hours with them, Jesus encouraged them not to let their hearts be troubled (14:1), reminded them that He is the Way, the Truth, and the Life (14:6), and promised them a Helper who would never leave them. Then He gave them the key to facing what was ahead: abiding in Him. "I am the true Vine, and my Father is the vinedresser...Remain in me, and I in you...for apart from me you can do nothing" (15:1, 4-5).

How many times do life's events distract us from focusing our lives on Jesus? Not necessarily sin, but just life. An aging parent's health issues, a milestone birthday, children's busy schedules, a growing business, or just keeping a healthy marriage. It can all feel overwhelming, and somewhere in the hustle and bustle, it's easy to take our eyes off Jesus. Miss a quiet time here. Throw out a quick prayer there. Before we know it, the daily nourishment isn't there, and we feel the withering taking place. Just like a vine that has lost its water source, we begin to shrivel inside. Jesus gave us the key to staying green and fruitful regardless of life's stresses: we must remain in Him!

So how do we "abide" in Christ? We stay connected to Him. We rely on Him daily for strength, peace, and direction. We trust His Word and allow His teachings to guide our decisions. We spend time in prayer and allow the love and character of Jesus to show up in our actions, words, and attitudes. Jesus said, "My Father is glorified and honored by this, when you bear much fruit, and prove yourselves to be My true disciples" (15:8).

Reflection Questions:

- What has been distracting me from staying connected to Jesus?
- What would intentionally abiding in Christ look like for me this week?

WEEK 4

PRAY

Invite God to speak to you through His Word.

WATCH AN OVERVIEW
OF JOHN 13-21



Scan the code to watch

READ **JOHN** ①⑥ ①⑦ ①⑧ ①⑨ ②①

If you have time, try reading or listening to the chapter in more than one translation.

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WEEK 4
Devotional
BY TIM AND SAVANNA FOWLER

Life gets busy fast. Work, kids, marriage, bills, schedules, serving, trying to be there for other people—the list never really ends. These things are good things! Some of them may even be things we prayed for at one point. But if we aren't careful, we can get so busy taking care of everything God has given us that we stop spending much time with God Himself. We tell ourselves we'll get back to praying, reading our Bible, or spending time with Jesus when things calm down. But there always seems to be something else that needs our attention.

In John 20, Mary is standing outside the tomb crying. She is hurt, confused, and trying to understand what has happened to Jesus. Then Jesus is standing right there in front of her, and she doesn't recognize Him. She thinks He's the gardener. Then Jesus simply says her name: "Mary." That's when she knows. The Jesus she thought was gone is standing right in front of her. He is alive. While Mary's circumstances are different than ours, her encounter reminds us how easy it is for our attention to become consumed by what's happening around us.

The good news is that Jesus didn't walk away from Mary because she didn't recognize Him. He called her by name. And He doesn't walk away from us when we get distracted either. And when we get distracted, we don't have to get everything straightened out before we come back to Him. That's what the cross and the empty tomb are all about. Jesus has already done for us what we could never do for ourselves. He took our sin, died in our place, and rose again. Our hope isn't in how well we can hold everything together. Our hope is in Him. Maybe we don't need to wait for life to slow down. Maybe we just need to look up and put Jesus back where He belongs. The work will still be there. The kids will still need us. The responsibilities won't disappear. But those things were never meant to carry the weight that only Jesus can carry. He is alive. He is with us. And He is enough.

Reflection Questions

- What has been taking most of your attention lately?
- Have some good things slowly started taking the place that belongs to Jesus?

WEEK 5

PRAY

Invite God to speak to you through His Word.

WATCH AN OVERVIEW
OF PHILIPPIANS



Scan the code to watch

READ

JOHN
PHILIPPIANS

21

1

2

3

4

If you have time, try reading or listening to the chapter in more than one translation.

Takeaways

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WEEK 5
Devotional
BY AILEX AND HOLLY POINDEXTER

While reading John 21, we were amazed by how human the disciples were. After everything they had been through, they went back to what they knew best. They went fishing and spent the whole night catching absolutely nothing. We think most of us know what that empty net feels like, whether we're exhausted from trying to fix a situation on our own or just feeling burnt out.

But then Jesus appears on the shore and tells them to drop their net on the other side. When the net comes up overflowing, it's a gentle reminder that our best efforts fall short when we rely on our own strength. Instead of giving them a lecture about their doubts or past mistakes, Jesus builds a fire and cooks them breakfast. He meets them right in their weariness with grace.

The moment that stands out to us the most is when Jesus pulls Peter aside. Peter had denied Jesus three times and may have wondered whether he had ruined his chance to ever be used by God again. But three times Jesus asks him, "Do you love me?" With every question, Jesus isn't trying to guilt Peter. He's restoring him, giving Peter the opportunity to affirm his love three times. Then He tells him, "Feed my sheep." Jesus didn't write Peter off because of his worst mistake. It's a powerful picture of God's grace when we feel we've messed up too badly to be useful.

John 21 ends with Peter questioning Jesus about John: "What about him?" Jesus quickly directs Peter back to where he is supposed to be with one simple statement: "You follow me." It's easy to take our eyes off God's path for us and start looking at everyone else's. But we aren't being asked to measure up to anyone else. Jesus calls us to keep our eyes on Him and faithfully follow wherever He leads.

To end we invite you to reflect on John 21 and ask yourself, do you rely on your strength to get through the hard times or do you lean on God's strength?

WEEK 5
Devotional
BY AILEX AND HOLLY POINDEXTER

As humans we feel as though we have our lives mapped out and we know exactly where we want to be. When things do not go our way we find ourselves being angry or anxious over it. Paul reminds us throughout about Philipppans 1-4 that God is in control and we have to rely on him rather than ourselves.

Paul is writing from a prison cell in Rome, shackled and treated in ways that we could not imagine, yet he still finds joy in the Lord and never waivers from it. We are taught through 4 short chapters that we have to give our lives to God and stop looking and measuring our lives through a worldly lens. Paul's life was changed when he was arrested for spreading the gospel, yet he writes this letter with happy intentions to the Philippian church. He teaches us that the little things don't matter and joy is found when the Holy spirit is truly in your heart.

We spend our time worrying about what other people think about where we are in life rather than seeing that God has us right where he wants us to be. It is not about the material things in life - God does not care how big your house is or how much money you have in the bank, He only cares about the faith that you have in your heart and that we have the desire to live like Christ everyday.

Philippians is a letter to remind us that joy is not in the material or worldly possessions. Joy and contentment is found in God.

Reflection Questions

- Do you think more about your worldly possessions or do you spend more time worrying about your relationship with God?
- How can you choose to trust God and find joy in Him when your circumstances don't go the way you planned?

WEEK 6

PRAY

Invite God to speak to you through His Word.

WATCH AN OVERVIEW
OF COLOSSIANS



Scan the code to watch

WATCH AN OVERVIEW
OF PHILEMON



Scan the code to watch

READ

COLOSSIANS

1 2 3 4

PHILEMON

1

If you have time, try reading or listening to the chapter in more than one translation.

Takeaways

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WEEK 6

Devotional

BY BLAKE AND BRANDI HARDIMAN

The whole Bible points us to one person: Jesus Christ! (Luke 24:27)
In Philippians chapter 2:1-11, Paul shows us Christ's humility. In John chapter 4:6, John shows us Christ's humanity. But here, in Colossians 1:15-20, we see Christ's supremacy! This is not baby-in-a-manger Jesus; this is the center of it all: Jesus! Verse 16 tells us that all things have been created through Him and for Him. He is before all things, and He is above all things! Part of "all things" includes you and me!

Verse 17 states that in Him all things hold together. If this is true - that all things are created by Him and for Him, and that in Him all things hold together - then that means that we were created on purpose, for a purpose, and that purpose is found in Jesus Christ!

It also shows us that if all things were created through Him and for Him, then nothing else that we try to find life in will truly satisfy us, because we're trying to find purpose in something that can't give it to us. Creation finds its purpose in Christ! Jesus is what life is all about. And if He is the firstborn over all creation, then He cannot be our one of many; He has to become our one and only! Simply put, Jesus is first place. But is He first place in my life? He can be! He died to make it possible.

Verses 19-20 show us that Jesus is God in the flesh, the exact imprint of God's nature! (Hebrews 1:1-3) And this Jesus reconciles (brings back together) all things by making peace through the shedding of His blood on the cross. Two thousand years ago, the real Jesus died on a real cross for the real you. And if the world was created through Him, surely He can make you a new creation through faith in His finished work in your place!

Don't just tip your hat to Jesus; bow your knee! You will not find your place in life until you first find yourself in God!

Reflection Questions:

- How is it a comfort to know that Jesus is before all things and that in Him all things hold together?
- If you truly believed that you were created through Christ and for Christ, how would that change the way you live?

WEEK 7

PRAY

Invite God to speak to you through His Word.

WATCH AN OVERVIEW
OF HEBREWS



Scan the code to watch

READ

HEBREWS



If you have time, try reading or listening to the chapter in more than one translation.

Takeaways

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WEEK 7

Devotional

BY WILL AND ASHLEY THOMAS

Have you ever found it hard to understand Jesus being fully man and fully God? Many Christians today struggle comprehending that concept just like many of the believers in the early Church did. It's one of the hardest parts of Christianity to grasp and one that we will not completely understand until we stand in God's glory in Heaven one day, but it's also one of the most vital parts of the Gospel. Hebrews reminds us just how important it is that Jesus filled both roles; Son of God, and Son of Man.

Hebrews 4:14-15 - So then, since we have a great High Priest who has entered heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to what we believe. This High Priest of ours understands our weaknesses, for he faced all of the same testings we do, yet he did not sin.

Hebrews explains that Jesus is the "perfect High Priest" (5:9). A title of immense importance for the Israelites. Their traditional High Priest was considered to be the highest religious authority in the land. He would enter the Most Holy Place in the Temple to make atonement for the sins of the entire nation. The go-between for a sinful people and a holy God. He would be a revered figure that the Jews would rely on completely for their continued renewal before God. The author of Hebrews uses this example to explain how Jesus has become superior to all High Priests as the greatest savior who mediates between God and us. Because he is both fully God and fully man, he understands us compassionately and has the ultimate authority to redeem us with mercy and grace as we come boldly to his throne in prayer.

Hebrews 4:16 - So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most.

As you go to the Lord in prayer today, take some time to marvel at our Savior's glory. Let us bring ourselves to Jesus completely, with reverence, trust, and boldness, as we would a dearly beloved friend. Let him transform us day by day as we abide in him and elevate him as Lord of our life.

Reflection Questions:

- Have you ever struggled to come boldly before God? What has been a barrier for you?
- How can we encourage one another to remember that Jesus is both our mediator and the Lord of our life who desires to be close to us?

WEEK 8

PRAY

Invite God to speak to you through His Word.

WATCH AN OVERVIEW
OF HEBREWS



Scan the code to watch

READ

HEBREWS



If you have time, try reading or listening to the chapter in more than one translation.

Takeaways

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WEEK 8

Devotional

BY JASON DUKES

There are times in my walk with Christ when I feel like I am growing, then before I know it, I feel lost. Hebrews 6–10 reminds me that I cannot let those moments cause me to give up or turn away from God. By maturing in faith and holding firmly to the hope we have in Christ, we can continue faithfully even through the times when we feel lost.

Hebrews 6:7–8 compares our lives to land that receives rain and produces either a useful crop or thorns and thistles. Through this, we learn that as Christians we are called to live fruitful lives and continue growing in our faith. At the center of our hope is what Jesus has done for us. While Jesus lived a perfect life, He gave His life for sinners like us. Hebrews points back to Melchizedek, the priest of God Most High, and then shows us that Jesus is our greater and perfect High Priest. Because of what Jesus has done, we don't have to live constantly wondering if we are good enough for God. Jesus gave the ultimate sacrifice, which was Himself, and paid the price for our sins.

Hebrews 10:22 tells us to "draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings." Because of Jesus, we can go to God with confidence. When we face doubt, temptation, or difficult seasons, we need to remember that God is faithful even when we struggle. Instead of allowing our circumstances to determine our faith, we can allow God's promises to determine how we live.

Reflection Questions:

- How do you remind yourself of Jesus' sacrifice when you find yourself drifting?
- How does what Jesus has done give you confidence to draw near to God?
- Are your circumstances determining your faith, or are God's promises determining how you live?



Scan the code to watch

WEEK 9

PRAY

Invite God to speak to you through His Word.

READ **HEBREWS** (11) (12) (13)
REVELATION (1) (2)

If you have time, try reading or listening to the chapter in more than one translation.

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WEEK 9
Devotional
BY MATT AND SARAH JONES

Faith for me can be a difficult concept. Believe in something I hope for but cannot see. Have faith that my marriage will last and be fruitful. Have faith that I will raise my children in the ways of the Lord and they will come to know Him. Have faith I will be able to provide for my family, have faith God will accomplish His work through me. Faith doesn't mean believing that everything I hope for will happen exactly as I want it to. Faith means trusting God and His promises even when I cannot see what He is doing or how the situation will turn out.

I think many believers struggle with this, "I can do it myself, I can fix, I can control, I can beat this addiction on my own." Hebrews 11 reminds us of the faith of those that came before us. Those were ordinary people that struggled with sin and lack of faith at times. They faced impossible situations, but they trusted God even knowing they might not see all that He promised in their lifetime. They looked forward to a greater reward - a better place, a heavenly homeland.

As we continue into Hebrews 12:1-2, we are called to throw off what hinders us and the sin that entangles us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith. So today, ask the Father to help you be more like Him. Ask Him what areas of your life do you need to grow in faith and obedience? Remember to love one another and remain focused on Him. Take heart for He will never leave us or forsake us. Live in this reality today, sit, listen and spend time in the word and prayer.. Grow in understanding and live it out for the world to see His love work through you.

Reflection Questions:

- Where in your life are you trying to control the outcome instead of trusting God?
- What would it look like to fix your eyes on Jesus and walk by faith in that area this week?

WEEK 10

PRAY

Invite God to speak to you through His Word.

WATCH AN OVERVIEW
OF REVELATION 1-11



Scan the code to watch

READ **REVELATION** ③ ④ ⑤ ⑥ ⑦

If you have time, try reading or listening to the chapter in more than one translation.

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WEEK 10
Devotional
FROM "TRUTH FOR LIFE" BY ALISTAIR BEGG

As children, many of us heard our parents say, "Did you remember to...?"

One example that I remember hearing often when I returned from someone's house was, "Did you remember to say thank you?" I didn't need a fresh revelation; I simply needed to remember.

As he watched the vision Jesus gave him of heavenly reality in Revelation 5:4-6 the apostle John was brought to tears when confronted by the fear that there was no one who could look into the secrets of the world and explain the troubles of his first-century experience. But John did not need new information. He needed to be reminded of what he already knew. He had erred by forgetting the basics.

John was told not to weep but to look to the one who could open the scroll. When he turned, he saw "a Lamb standing, as though it had been slain." The Lamb's wounds were a reminder of Christ's death, by which He has achieved salvation. But this Lamb was standing, representing the triumph of His resurrection. Here, in this vision, we see Jesus, the all-merciful and all-powerful one. He is the Lamb, and He is the Lion. He deserves and demands the worship and obedience of all the world, and He will have it.

Jesus was the solution to John's tears, just as He is to our own tears of fearfulness when we feel the world pressing in against us—when we feel worn down, small, weak, and marginalized, and when we are tempted to believe that this world, rather than being under control, is governed only by chaos... what great grace we experience when God gives us a tap on the shoulder and turns us to our Bibles, saying, Are you forgetting that the Lion of the tribe of Judah has actually triumphed, that He is in charge, that He oversees the future, that He is King?

So when you feel discouraged or defeated or troubled by the present or the future, the call is simply this: remember what you already know. Look to the Lion of Judah, who is for us the slain Lamb. He is worthy and able to open the scrolls and direct the history of this world to its end: to His return and our entry into glory.

WEEK 11

PRAY

Invite God to speak to you through His Word.

WATCH AN OVERVIEW
OF REVELATION 12-22



Scan the code to watch

READ **REVELATION** (8) (9) (10) (11) (12)

If you have time, try reading or listening to the chapter in more than one translation.

Takeaways

REFLECT: What did you learn this week?

About God?

About people?

What does God want you to believe and desire?

What does God want you to do?

RESPOND

What are you going to do about it?

Who is someone you could share this with?

NOTES

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

WEEK 11
Devotional
SERMON EXCERPT FROM D.A. CARSON

The blood silences the accuser as he accuses us before God. He silences our consciences when he accuses us directly. How many times do we writhe in agony, asking if God can ever love us enough, if God can ever care for us enough after we've done such stupid, sinful, rebellious things after being Christians for 40 years? What are you going to say? "You know, God, I tried hard. I did my best. It was a bad moment." No, no, no.

"I have no other argument. I need no other plea. It is enough that Jesus died, and that he died for me."

We overcome him by the blood of the Lamb. There is the ground of all human assurance before God. There is the ground of our faith, not guaranteeing intensity of faith, so fickle are we. It's not the intensity of our faith, but the object of our faith that saves. They overcome him on the ground of the blood of the Lamb.

But it's also on account of the word of their testimony (Revelation 12:11). That does not simply mean they give their testimonies a lot, but it's close. God's means of ruling, of reigning is regularly through his word. So here, the cause of the victory is the word of their testimony — that is, the proclamation of the gospel. By this gospel worded out, Satan is defeated.

How do you defeat Satan? Send in the Marines? There's a place for the Marines. God gives the sword to the nation. My son with blue eyes is a Marine, but the Marines have never yet been known for bringing lots of people to Christ. How does the kingdom of God in this age, before the consummation, advance? It's by the word of their testimony, by Christians talking about the gospel.

Do you want Satan to win? Shut up. Do you want Satan to lose? Talk about the gospel. It's as simple as that. We make it so complex, but that's the way the word of God, the kingdom of God, advances in this age. It's through the word that we proclaim, to which we testify, about which we bear witness, which we share with others. We talk about the gospel.

WEEK 12

WATCH AN OVERVIEW
OF REVELATION 12-22



Scan the code to watch

PRAY

Invite God to speak to you through His Word.

READ **REVELATION** (13) (14) (15) (16) (17)

If you have time, try reading or listening to the chapter in more than one translation.

Takeaways

REFLECT: What did you learn this week?

About God?

About people?

What does God want you to believe and desire?

What does God want you to do?

RESPOND

What are you going to do about it?

Who is someone you could share this with?

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WEEK 12
Devotional
FROM "EVERYDAY GOSPEL" BY PAUL DAVID TRIPP

Can you imagine being blameless? Can you imagine being blameless in your marriage? Can you imagine your children knowing you as blameless? Can you imagine blameless friendships? Can you imagine living blamelessly at your university or your job? Can you imagine being blameless in every thought, desire, choice, and action? Most of us have come to accept that we will never be blameless in this life. When we've done something wrong, we are tempted to shift the blame to someone else, because sin still lives inside of us, exercising more power than we wish it did. Even when our intentions are righteous, we often stumble into sin. The sin within us is like spiritual gravity, pulling us down again and again. Yes, by grace we have the power to resist, but the war within still rages.

This scene [in Revelation 14:1-5] is almost too wonderful to grasp. As prophesied, the Lamb (Jesus) is standing in glory on Mount Zion, but he is not standing alone. There are 144,000 people standing with him, who have his name and the Father's name written on their foreheads. The number 144,000 is not to be understood as a literal number; it symbolizes those who have been redeemed. The names written on their foreheads show to whom they belong. The scene isn't quiet, because the redeemed are singing a song that only those who have been redeemed can sing. Calling these people virgins simply means they are pure. Rescued out of the mass of humanity, they now stand blameless before the victorious Lamb. God has accomplished all he promised through the life, death, resurrection, ascension, and reign of the Lamb. He has finally and completely delivered his children from sin, and they have been gathered with him on Mount Zion to celebrate with songs only redeemed sinners can sing.

This is not a scene from a fantasy movie. One day you will join this joyous choir. May this hope fuel your faith as you continue to live in the midst of sin's struggle.

WEEK 13

WATCH AN OVERVIEW
OF REVELATION 12-22



Scan the code to watch

PRAY

Invite God to speak to you through His Word.

READ **REVELATION** ①⑧ ①⑨ ②① ②②

If you have time, try reading or listening to the chapter in more than one translation.

Takeaways

REFLECT: What did you learn this week?

About God?

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RESPOND

What are you going to do about it?

Who is someone you could share this with?

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WEEK 13 Devotional

**FROM “FINALLY HOME: THE CHRISTIAN HOPE OF HEAVEN” BY
DANE ORTLUND**

They will see his face.

Revelation 22:4

But what will it actually be like to look God in the face? It is difficult to put words to, because it is that very thing for which we were made, achingly longed for yet hauntingly elusive our whole lives long.

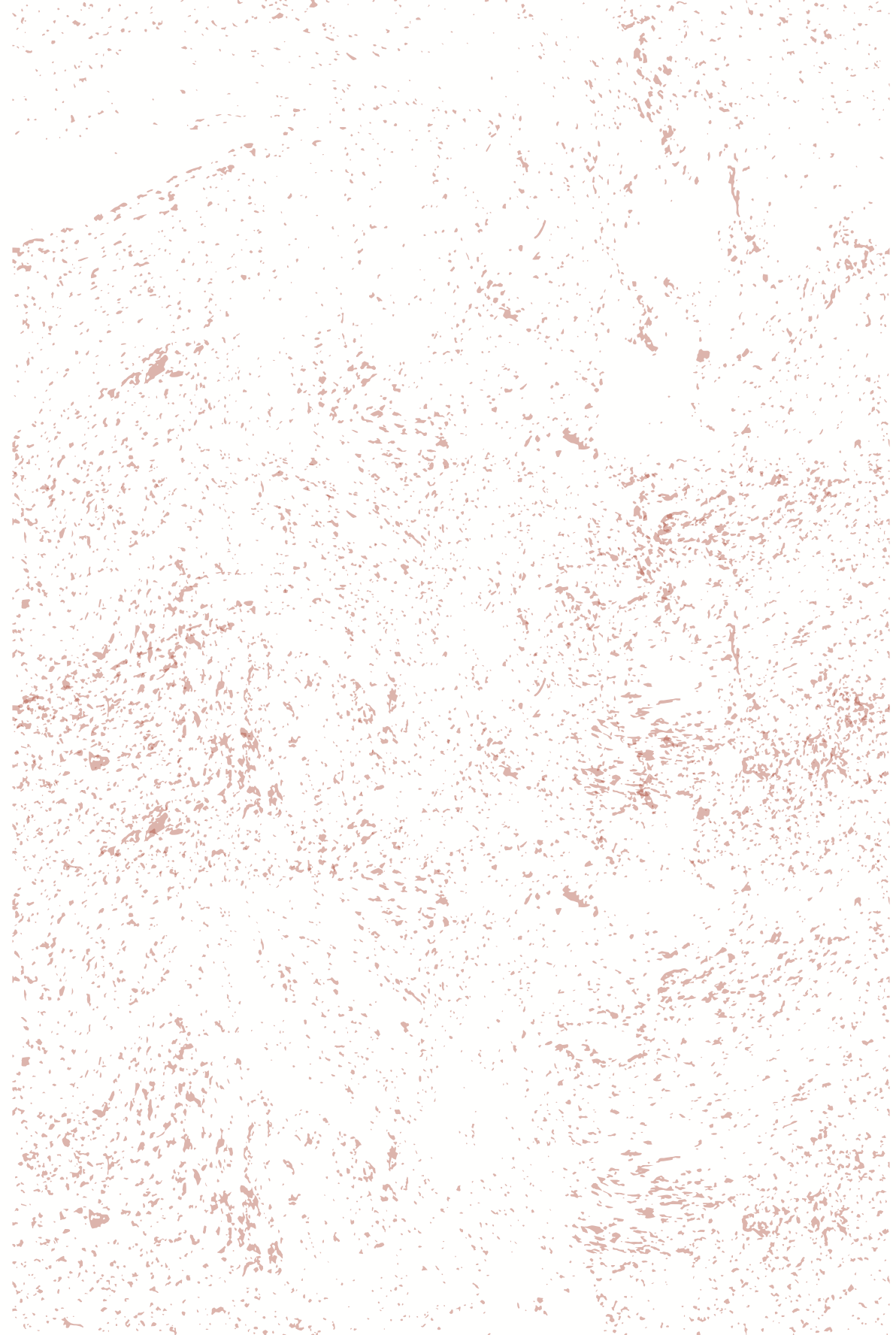
To see God is to inhale a great gulp of fresh sea air after a lifetime of knowing only the stench of sewage, our malformed olfactory capacities unfamiliar with fresh air. To see God is to swim and drink after a lifetime of arid soul-drought. To see God is to feast a hunger that only ever was given stale crumbs. And the feast itself exacerbates the hunger even as it satisfies, for the hunger, even as it is met, is itself what we were made for. The hunger and the filling, the thirst and the satiating, the panting and the breathing, rise and soar together, never faltering, never lessening, never plateauing.

We will apprehend God, but not comprehend him. Through its tiny eyes a minnow may apprehend the ocean all around in which it swims, but not comprehend it. And an ocean, while expansive, is finite. What about an infinite God? And what if the water in which we minnows will swim is itself love, “an infinite ocean of love without shores and bottom”?

To see the face of God. This is our deepest bliss of heaven. And this is our deepest hope while on earth. As we change diapers and change jobs, whether lying on a beach or on a hospital bed, all will melt into laughable forgottenness when our resurrected eyes lock onto Beauty himself.

Reflection Questions

- How does the promise of one day seeing God face-to-face give you hope in the circumstances you are walking through today?
- If seeing and knowing God is what we were ultimately made for, how should that shape what you long for and pursue in this life?





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