



# NEW TESTAMENT IN A YEAR



READING  
PLAN

# QUARTER 1 (Jan.-March)

*Access scripture online by clicking on the blue text each week*

Click on the link to jump ahead to the week

**WEEK 1** *Matthew 1-5*

**WEEK 2** *Matthew 6-10*

**WEEK 3** *Matthew 11-15*

**WEEK 4** *Matthew 16-20*

**WEEK 5** *Matthew 21-25*

**WEEK 6** *Matthew 26-28; Galatians 1-2*

**WEEK 7** *Galatians 3-6; Ephesians 1*

**WEEK 8** *Ephesians 2-6*

**WEEK 9** *1 Thessalonians 1-5*

**WEEK 10** *2 Thessalonians 1-3; Romans 1-2*

**WEEK 11** *Romans 3-7*

**WEEK 12** *Romans 8-12*

**WEEK 13** *Romans 13-16*

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.

## REFLECT<sup>1</sup>

*Psalm 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?**

<sup>1</sup> The 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 along with a few questions to help you apply it to your life.

**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.



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# WEEK 1

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## PRAY

Invite God to speak to you through His Word.

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## READ

Matthew 1 2 3 4 5

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

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## SUMMARY

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**What did you learn this week?**

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**What are you going to do about it?**

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**Who could benefit from hearing about something you learned this week?**

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# WEEK 1

# Devotional

Matthew opens by rooting Jesus firmly in the story God has been telling since Genesis. The genealogy (Matt. 1:1–17) reminds us that God's promises move forward through broken people, unexpected choices, and grace. Jesus is revealed as the true Son of Abraham and Son of David, the promised King through whom blessing and restoration would come (Gen. 12:3; 2 Sam. 7). His birth fulfills prophecy (Matt. 1:22–23), His protection echoes Israel's exodus story (Matt. 2:13–15), and His baptism and temptation show Him succeeding where Israel failed (Matt. 3:13–17; 4:1–11). Jesus steps into the role of the faithful Son, reliving Israel's story but in perfect obedience.

In Matthew 5, Jesus ascends a mountain and teaches, not to receive the Law like Moses, but to fulfill it (Matt. 5:17). The Beatitudes redefine blessing, revealing the upside-down nature of God's kingdom (Matt. 5:3–12). Jesus exposes the deeper problem of the human heart and teaches that sin that goes beyond actions to desires (Matt. 5:21–30). He calls His followers to a righteousness that flows from transformation, not performance. From creation's fall to Israel's longing for redemption, the story now centers on Christ. He is not just teaching a better way to live, He unveils the only way to be made new.

**01** Where do you see God's faithfulness at work through imperfect people in Jesus' family line? How does that shape the way you see your own story?

**02** Where do you find yourself tempted to focus more on external behavior than heart transformation?

**03** When Jesus calls the disciples, He does not offer clarity about the path ahead, only Himself. What does this tell us about the nature of faith and discipleship?

**04** The Beatitudes describe the blessed life, but not the admired life. Why must the gospel first empty us before it can fill us?



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# WEEK 2

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## PRAY

Invite God to speak to you through His Word.

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## READ

Matthew 6 7 8 9 10

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

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## SUMMARY

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**What did you learn this week?**

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**What are you going to do about it?**

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**Who could benefit from hearing about something you learned this week?**

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# WEEK 2

# Devotional

Matthew 6–10 shows what life looks like under the reign of the King. Jesus teaches His disciples to pray, not as performers trying to earn God's favor, but as children who trust their Father for daily bread, forgiveness, and deliverance. (Matt. 6:9–13). He calls them to seek first the kingdom of God rather than being consumed by worry, wealth, or human approval (Matt. 6:19–34), which have competed for the human heart ever since the fall. In these chapters, Jesus reveals Himself as the faithful Son Israel was meant to be, as He teaches the law from the inside out, calling people to repentance, and demonstrating the authority of heaven through healing, forgiveness, and power over evil (Matt. 8–9).

Then Jesus sends His disciples out (Matt. 10:1–7), echoing God's promise to Abraham that His people would be a blessing to the nations (Gen. 12:1–3).

They are commissioned to proclaim that "the kingdom of heaven is at hand," even as Jesus warns them of rejection, suffering, and division (Matt. 10:16–22). Yet, they are reminded they are valuable and cared for by God. (Matt. 10:29–31). We are reminded that from creation to Christ, God has always been moving toward His people, gathering them, providing for them, and sending them out so that the world might know the King has come.

01

As you examine the areas and people you've invested the most time, energy, and money into over the past few weeks, what are the top 2-3? Should those be what you are investing the most into? Why or why not?

02

What is one way you can start investing in God's work in a greater way over the next month? Who will you ask to encourage or assist you in these? *Some examples might be to keep spending time daily reading the Bible and praying, or maybe it's giving regularly or in a greater amount, or maybe it's investing time to serve others in some way. Take some time to think and pray about what God may be calling you to do.*

03

Why does Jesus prepare His disciples for rejection rather than success? What does this teach us about the cost of following Him?



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# WEEK 3

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## PRAY

Invite God to speak to you through His Word.

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## READ

[\*\*Matthew\*\*](#) [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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## SUMMARY

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**What did you learn this week?**

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**What are you going to do about it?**

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**Who could benefit from hearing about something you learned this week?**

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# WEEK 3

# Devotional

Matthew 11–15 reveals how people respond when the promised King stands in their midst. John the Baptist wrestles with doubt from prison, and Jesus points him back to the signs of the kingdom foretold by the prophets (Matt. 11:2–6; Isa. 35). As cities reject Him (Matt. 11:20–24), Jesus invites the weary and burdened to find true rest, not in religious systems, but in Himself (Matt. 11:28–30). He declares Himself Lord of the Sabbath (Matt. 12:8), showing that He is the fulfillment of God’s promises, not a threat to them.

Jesus then exposes the deeper issue behind Israel’s failure: the heart. Religious leaders focus on external purity, but Jesus teaches that defilement comes from within (Matt. 15:10–20), echoing the problem humanity has faced since Eden. Yet mercy breaks through as Jesus responds to faith wherever it is found, from hungry crowds in the wilderness (Matt. 14:13–21) to a Gentile woman who trusts Him completely (Matt. 15:21–28). Matthew 11–15 shows us a Savior who confronts empty religion, invites humble faith, and feeds His people, just as God has always done for those who trust Him.

**01** What are some weeds in your life that choke out your spiritual growth? *Some examples are pressure from friends or family, influence of social media, movies or TV, concern about money and possessions, suffering or difficulty, and worry about the future.*

**02** Where do you see yourself tempted toward religious performance rather than humble dependence on Jesus?

**03** Why does Jesus insist that defilement comes from the heart rather than external actions? How does this deepen our understanding of sin?



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# WEEK 4

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## PRAY

Invite God to speak to you through His Word.

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## READ

[\*\*Matthew\*\*](#) [16](#) [17](#) [18](#) [19](#) [20](#)

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

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## SUMMARY

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**What did you learn this week?**

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**What are you going to do about it?**

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**Who could benefit from hearing about something you learned this week?**

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# WEEK 4

# Devotional

In Matthew 16–20, the story turns toward the cross. Peter rightly confesses that Jesus is “the Christ, the Son of the living God” (Matt. 16:16), but immediately struggles to understand what kind of Messiah Jesus truly is. Jesus makes it clear that His kingship will be revealed not through conquest, but through suffering, rejection, and death (Matt. 16:21). To follow Him means taking up a cross and losing one’s life to find it (Matt. 16:24–25).

As Jesus continues toward Jerusalem, He repeatedly teaches His disciples that greatness in God’s kingdom looks nothing like greatness in the world. While they argue about status and reward, Jesus points to humility, childlike dependence, and servant leadership (Matt. 18:1–4; 20:26–28). He reveals Himself as the Son of Man who came not to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many. In the grand storyline of Scripture, Matthew 16–20 shows us that the promised King fulfills God’s purposes through self-giving love. The kingdom advances not by power grasped, but by power laid down.

01

When Jesus asks, “Who do you say that I am?” (Matt. 16:15), how would you answer not just with words, but with your life?

02

Jesus repeatedly speaks of suffering, the cross, and servanthood (Matt. 16:24; 20:26–28). What makes following Him costly in your life right now?

# WEEK 5

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## PRAY

Invite God to speak to you through His Word.

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## READ

[\*\*Matthew\*\*](#) [21](#) [22](#) [23](#) [24](#) [25](#)

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

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## SUMMARY

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**What did you learn this week?**

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**What are you going to do about it?**

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**Who could benefit from hearing about something you learned this week?**

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# WEEK 5

# Devotional

Matthew 21–25 presents Jesus as the rightful King who enters Jerusalem, confronts false worship, and calls His people to faithfulness. Jesus rides into the city in humility, fulfilling prophecy (Matt. 21:1–11; Zech. 9:9), and then cleanses the temple, exposing empty religion that bears no fruit (Matt. 21:12–13). Through parables, He reveals that God's kingdom has always been about faithful obedience, not outward appearance or heritage (Matt. 21–22). As opposition intensifies, Jesus speaks with final authority about what it truly means to belong to God.

In these chapters, Jesus also lifts our eyes beyond the present moment. He warns of coming judgment, calls His followers to remain watchful, and tells parables about readiness, stewardship, and faithfulness (Matt. 24–25). The King who once came in humility will come again in glory (Matt. 24:30), and every life will be measured by allegiance to Him. From creation's promise to Israel's hope to Christ's return, Matthew 21–25 reminds us that history is moving toward a day when the true King will set all things right. Until then, His people are called to live awake, faithful, and ready.

01

In what ways do people today want Jesus' benefits without submitting to His authority?

02

When time is short our priorities become clearer, and we tend to prioritize the things (or people) that are most important. If you knew that Jesus was coming back tomorrow, what changes would you make in your life today?

03

What is holding you back from making those changes today?



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# WEEK 6

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## PRAY

Invite God to speak to you through His Word.

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## READ

Matthew (26) (27) (28)  
Galatians (1) (2)

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

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## SUMMARY

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**What did you learn this week?**

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**What are you going to do about it?**

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**Who could benefit from hearing about something you learned this week?**

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# WEEK 6

# Devotional

In Matthew 26–28, the story of Scripture reaches its decisive moment. Jesus is betrayed, condemned, and crucified as the obedient Son who willingly gives His life in accordance with the Scriptures (Matt. 26:28; 27:46). At the cross, Jesus bears the weight of sin, fulfilling the promise of a greater Passover and the hope of redemption God had been unfolding since Genesis. But death does not have the final word. On the third day, the stone is rolled away, the tomb is empty, and the risen King declares that all authority in heaven and on earth belongs to Him (Matt. 28:6, 18). The story that began with creation now moves outward in mission: forgiven sinners are sent to make disciples of all nations, living under the reign of the resurrected Christ.

Galatians 1–2 helps us understand why the cross and resurrection matter. Paul insists that the gospel is not something we improve, adjust, or add to, but it is good news given by God Himself (Gal. 1:6–9). We are justified not by works of the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ (Gal. 2:16). At the heart of the Christian life is this confession: “I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me” (Gal. 2:20). The risen Jesus does not merely forgive us; He gives us a new identity and a new life rooted in grace. We are reminded that the Christian faith stands on a finished work and a guarded gospel: Christ has died, Christ has risen, and by faith alone we now live in Him.

01

Where in your life do you struggle to live as though Jesus truly reigns? What would it look like to submit that area to Him this week?

02

What does it practically mean for you to say, “It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me”? How might that change your decisions, relationships, or sense of identity?

03

How do you need to start walking in obedience to the Great Commission in Matt. 28:18–20? Who can you start investing your life into?



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# WEEK 7

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## PRAY

Invite God to speak to you through His Word.

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## READ

Galatians (3) (4) (5) (6)  
Ephesians (1)

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

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## SUMMARY

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**What did you learn this week?**

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**What are you going to do about it?**

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**Who could benefit from hearing about something you learned this week?**

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# WEEK 7

# Devotional

In Galatians 3–6, Paul presses the gospel deep into everyday life. We are not made right with God by what we do, but by trusting what Christ has already done (Gal. 3:2–3). The same grace that saves us is the grace that sustains us. Paul reminds us that in Christ we are no longer slaves trying to prove ourselves, but sons and daughters who belong to God (Gal. 4:4–7). Freedom in Christ is not freedom to serve ourselves, but freedom to walk by the Spirit, producing a new kind of life marked by love, joy, peace, and self-control (Gal. 5:22–23).

That freedom reshapes how we live with one another. The gospel creates a community where burdens are shared, pride is crucified, and perseverance matters (Gal. 6:2, 9). We don't boast in our performance, our progress, or our pain, but we boast in the cross of Christ (Gal. 6:14). The Christian life is not about self-improvement, but about living as a new creation, formed by grace and empowered by the Spirit.

Ephesians 1 lifts our eyes even higher. Before we ever chose God, He chose us in Christ (Eph. 1:4). Before we ever acted, God planned. Paul reminds us that our salvation flows from the eternal purposes of God, not the instability of our feelings or faithfulness. In Christ, we are adopted, redeemed, forgiven, and sealed by the Holy Spirit (Eph. 1:5–14). The Christian life begins and ends with praise, not because we are impressive, but because God's grace is.

**01** According to Paul in Galatians 5:13,14, what is a healthy way to use our freedom in Christ?

**02** What fruits of the Spirit are not evident in your life? Where do you need repentance in order to produce these fruits?

**03** How does knowing that God chose and adopted you in Christ before the foundation of the world shape your sense of security and purpose?



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# WEEK 8

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## PRAY

Invite God to speak to you through His Word.

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## READ

Ephesians 2 3 4 5 6

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

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## SUMMARY

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**What did you learn this week?**

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**What are you going to do about it?**

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**Who could benefit from hearing about something you learned this week?**

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# WEEK 8

# Devotional

In Ephesians 2, Paul reminds us of the reality we are all born into. From the beginning, we are dead in our sin, separated from God and unable to restore the relationship on our own (Eph. 2:1). We were not simply broken or in need of improvement, but we were spiritually lifeless. But God, rich in mercy, moves towards the broken. By grace, He makes us alive with Christ, not because of anything we have done, but because of His great love (Eph. 2:4–5). Salvation is a gift, received through faith, not earned by effort (Eph. 2:8–9). Even the good works that now mark our lives are not the cause of salvation, but the result (Eph. 2:10)

That saving grace doesn't just change individuals; it creates a new people.

In Christ, the dividing walls that once separated humanity, especially between Jew and Gentile, are torn down (Eph. 2:14). God is building a new household, a living temple where His Spirit dwells (Eph. 2:19–22). In Ephesians 3, Paul marvels that this mystery of Christ uniting all things and welcoming outsiders into God's family has now been revealed. The gospel is not small or private; it is cosmic in scope, showing the wisdom of God to the world (Eph. 3:10).

Beginning in Ephesians 4, Paul shifts from who we are in Christ to how we live because of Him. The Christian life is a walk shaped by humility, patience, love, and unity (Eph. 4:1–3). We are called to put off the old self and put on the new, learning to live in a way that reflects the character of Jesus (Eph. 4:22–24). This new life shows up in ordinary places like our words, our work, our relationships as we learn to speak truth, extend forgiveness, and walk in love (Eph. 4:25–5:2).

In Ephesians 5–6, Paul shows that the gospel reaches into every corner of life: our homes, our marriages, our parenting, and even our work. Christ's self-giving love becomes the model for how believers relate to one another (Eph. 5:25). And because we live in a world still marked by spiritual opposition, Paul closes by reminding us that our strength comes from the Lord, not ourselves. Clothed in the armor of God, we stand firm by trusting the finished work of Christ and remaining anchored in prayer (Eph. 6:10–18).

01

How does remembering that you were once spiritually dead shape your gratitude for God's grace today?

02

What sins or habits do you continue to struggle with most? What inner thoughts can you ask the Holy Spirit to empower you to renew that can help change the way you live today?

03

Reframe your thinking — Choose one sin, habit, or thought that you want to change and match it with a behavior or characteristic Paul describes in Ephesians. Write it down in the following way: "My old self (sin or habit you want to change), but in Christ my I can (new behavior or characteristic)." (Ex: *My old self can't resist gossiping about others, but in Christ I can let no corrupting talk come out of my mouth and instead speak what builds up others—see Eph. 4:29.*)



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# WEEK 9

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## PRAY

Invite God to speak to you through His Word.

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## READ

### 1 THESSALONIANS

1 2 3 4 5

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

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## SUMMARY

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**What did you learn this week?**

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**What are you going to do about it?**

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**Who could benefit from hearing about something you learned this week?**

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# WEEK 9

# Devotional

In 1 Thessalonians 1, Paul gives thanks for a church whose faith is visible and active. Their trust in Christ produced real change in their lives, turning them from idols to serve the living and true God (1 Thess. 1:9). The gospel came to them not only in words, but in power and conviction, and it shaped how they lived while they waited for Jesus to return (1 Thess. 1:5, 10). From the beginning, their faith was marked by endurance rooted in hope.

Paul reminds them in chapters 2 and 3 that following Jesus does not remove hardship. The Thessalonians faced opposition, yet Paul encouraged them to stand firm, knowing that suffering is not a sign of failure but often part of faithful discipleship (1 Thess. 3:3). He points them back to the loving care of God, who uses encouragement, community, and prayer to strengthen His people and establish their hearts in holiness.

In chapters 4 and 5, Paul calls the church to live in a way that reflects their future hope. Because they belong to the Lord, they are to pursue holiness, love one another deeply, and live with watchfulness as they await Christ's return (1 Thess. 4:3, 9, 5:6). This hope is not meant to create fear, but confidence and comfort. God is faithful, and He will complete the work He has begun in His people (1 Thess. 5:23–24).

01

How do you tend to respond to difficult seasons or hardship? Do you tend to withdraw, blame others, seek God? Is this how you've always responded? Why or why not?

02

In the season you're in, do you find it most difficult to rejoice always, pray without ceasing, or give thanks? Why do you think that is?



# WEEK 10

## PRAY

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Invite God to speak to you through His Word.

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## READ

2 Thessalonians 1 2 3

Romans 1 2

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

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## SUMMARY

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**What did you learn this week?**

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**What are you going to do about it?**

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**Who could benefit from hearing about something you learned this week?**

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# WEEK 10

# Devotional

In 2 Thessalonians, Paul writes to believers who are facing suffering and confusion about the return of Christ. He reminds them that hardship does not mean God has abandoned them. God is just, and He will make all things right in His time (2 Thess. 1:5–7). Until then, the church is called to stand firm, hold fast to the truth they have received, and trust the Lord to strengthen and protect them as they continue to walk in obedience (2 Thess. 2:15; 3:3).

As Romans begins, Paul shifts our attention to the heart of the gospel. The good news is not simply helpful guidance but the power of God that brings salvation, revealing a righteousness that comes from God and is received by faith (Rom. 1:16–17). But before grace can be fully understood, Paul explains humanity's need. People have rejected God's truth and exchanged it for lies, choosing created things over the Creator (Rom. 1:18, 25). Sin, at its core, is a refusal to honor God as Lord.

In Romans 2, Paul makes it clear that no one is exempt from God's judgment. Religious knowledge, moral behavior, or outward obedience cannot make a person right with God. Both those who openly reject God and those who appear religious stand equally accountable before Him (Rom. 2:11–13). The problem is deeper than our actions. It is the condition of our hearts. Romans 1 and 2 prepare us to see that salvation must come by grace alone, not by human effort.

**01** Why is understanding our need essential before we can fully appreciate God's grace?

**02** Is there a practice you can put into place to daily recognize God's greatness?

**03** How does seeing repentance as a response to God's kindness (Rom. 2:4) change the way we view confession, rather than seeing it as a burden or a threat?



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# WEEK 11

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## PRAY

Invite God to speak to you through His Word.

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## READ

Romans

(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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## SUMMARY

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**What did you learn this week?**

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**What are you going to do about it?**

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**Who could benefit from hearing about something you learned this week?**

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# WEEK 11

# Devotional

In Romans 3, Paul makes clear that all people are under sin (Rom. 3:9, 23). No one can claim righteousness through their own efforts. Yet God, rich in mercy, has provided a way for sinners to be made right: through the redemption found in Christ Jesus (Rom. 3:24). Salvation comes by faith, not by works, so that no one can boast. God's justice and mercy meet perfectly in the cross, revealing that our standing before Him depends entirely on grace.

Romans 4 and 5 explain that this principle has always been God's plan. Abraham was counted righteous because of faith long before the law existed (Rom. 4:3–5). Likewise, believers today are justified by trusting in Christ. Through Him we have peace with God and access to His grace (Rom. 5:1–2). Even suffering does not shake our hope, because God's love has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit (Rom. 5:3–5).

Romans 6 and 7 show how justification transforms our lives. Christ's death and resurrection free us from slavery to sin (Rom. 6:6–7, 11–14). Baptism is a visible reminder that we are united with Him, dying to the old self and living to God. Paul also honestly describes the ongoing struggle with sin (Rom. 7:14–25). Even those justified by faith wrestle with the desires of the flesh, but the Spirit enables a new way of living in which we no longer have to be mastered by sin. Our hope is anchored not in our strength, but in God's ongoing work within us.

01

Why is it important that righteousness comes entirely by faith and not by works? How does that change the way you approach God?

02

How does Abraham's example help you trust God's promises in your own life, especially when circumstances seem hopeless?



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# WEEK 12

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## PRAY

Invite God to speak to you through His Word.

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## READ [Romans](#) 8 9 10 11 12

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

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## SUMMARY

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**What did you learn this week?**

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**What are you going to do about it?**

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**Who could benefit from hearing about something you learned this week?**

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# WEEK 12

# Devotional

In Romans 8, Paul celebrates the freedom and security we have in Christ. Nothing can separate us from the love of God (Rom. 8:35–39). Believers are no longer condemned because Christ has fulfilled the law on our behalf (Rom. 8:1–4). The Spirit not only gives life but empowers us to live in accordance with God's will, producing true transformation and hope (Rom. 8:5–14). We are heirs with Christ, sharing in His glory and trusting that God is working all things together for good (Rom. 8:17–28).

Romans 9–11 remind us that God's plan is faithful, even when it seems mysterious. Paul explains God's sovereignty in choosing His people and working out His promises (Rom. 9:10–24). Israel's partial hardening points to the breadth of God's mercy, showing that Gentiles and Jews alike are grafted into God's family by faith (Rom. 11:17–24). His wisdom and mercy are beyond human understanding, yet His purpose is always to bring salvation and glory to Himself (Rom. 11:33–36).

Romans 12 moves from theology to practice. Knowing God's mercy motivates a life of humble service, love, and obedience (Rom. 12:1–2). We are called to live differently from the world, showing genuine love, blessing enemies, and using our gifts to build up the body of Christ (Rom. 12:9–21). The gospel transforms both our hearts and our relationships, equipping us to live faithfully in community and in the wider world.

01

Where do you need to rest in the promise that nothing can separate you from God's love today?

02

Are there things in your life you need to replace with something more wholesome or God honoring?

03

Which call to love or serve in Romans 12 feels most challenging to you right now, and why?

# WEEK 13

## **PRAY**

Invite God to speak to you through His Word.

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## **READ**

**Romans** 13 14 15 16

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

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## **SUMMARY**

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**What did you learn this week?**

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**What are you going to do about it?**

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**Who could benefit from hearing about something you learned this week?**

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# WEEK 13

# Devotional

In Romans 13, Paul emphasizes the believer's responsibility to live under God's authority, including civil authorities, and to love our neighbors as a fulfillment of the law (Rom. 13:1–10). Love becomes the guiding principle for all action, because in Christ we are freed from sin's slavery and called to live honorably and faithfully.

Romans 14–15 focus on unity within the church. Paul encourages believers to accept one another despite differences in opinion or practice, seeking to build others up rather than judge them (Rom. 14:1–13). God's kingdom is not about winning arguments but living in harmony through love and patience (Rom. 15:5–7).

Finally, Romans 16 concludes with personal greetings and reminders of the breadth of God's work in the church. Paul highlights faithful service, friendship, and the spread of the gospel as examples for all believers (Rom. 16:3–16). He closes with praise to God for His wisdom and the gospel's power to unify and save all who believe (Rom. 16:25–27).

- 01** How has your faith strengthened over time? What events or practices have helped you deepen your trust in Jesus allowing him to be the authority in your life?
- 02** In what ways have other believers been a support to you in your weaker moments?
- 03** Why does Paul conclude the letter with worship? How does praise reframe everything we have learned about sin, grace, and obedience?