



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.”



QUARTER 3 (JULY 5 - OCT. 3)

Access scripture online by clicking on the blue text each week

Click on the link to jump ahead to the week

- 7/5 [WEEK 1](#) *Mark 1-5*
- 7/12 [WEEK 2](#) *Mark 6-10*
- 7/19 [WEEK 3](#) *Mark 11-15*
- 7/26 [WEEK 4](#) *Mark 16; 1 Corinthians 1-4*
- 8/2 [WEEK 5](#) *1 Corinthians 5-9*
- 8/9 [WEEK 6](#) *1 Corinthians 10-14*
- 8/16 [WEEK 7](#) *1 Corinthians 15-16;
2 Corinthians 1-3*
- 8/23 [WEEK 8](#) *2 Corinthians 4-8*
- 8/30 [WEEK 9](#) *2 Corinthians 9-13*
- 9/6 [WEEK 10](#) *James 1-5*
- 9/13 [WEEK 11](#) *1 Peter 1-5*
- 9/20 [WEEK 12](#) *2 Peter 1-3; 1 John 1-2*
- 9/27 [WEEK 13](#) *1 John 3-5; 2 John; 3 John; Jude*

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.

WATCH AN OVERVIEW
OF MARK



Click the play icon to watch

WEEK 1

PRAY

Invite God to speak to you through His Word.

READ [MARK](#) (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?

WEEK 1
Devotional
BY KEIL AND QUINTON BAKER

When we hear the word prepare, what comes to mind? We prepare for work, school, and even vacations! Webster gives two helpful definitions of prepare: (1) to make ready beforehand for some purpose, use, or activity, and (2) to put in a proper state of mind.

Mark 1:1–8 begins by quoting Isaiah the prophet: “I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way.” John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. The prophets of the Old Testament foretold that a messenger would come to prepare the way for the Messiah, and John fulfilled that role.

John’s baptism with water is similar to what we witness today when believers publicly profess their faith through baptism. It is an outward symbol of the commitment and love for God that has taken place in the heart. Yet John made it clear that his ministry was only preparation for Someone greater. He said, “I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

This passage reminds us that we must prepare ourselves, our families, and those around us for the coming of Jesus Christ. The world is constantly changing, but our need to be ready for Christ never changes. Preparation for Christ is not something that can be done in a single day. It is a continual pursuit of knowing Him, understanding Him, loving Him, and walking with Him.

Don’t wait to prepare for Christ. Make it a daily priority!

Reflection Questions:

- In what ways are you preparing for Christ’s return?
- Are you investing more in worldly preparation or spiritual preparation?

WEEK 2

PRAY

Invite God to speak to you through His Word.

WATCH AN OVERVIEW
OF MARK



Click the play icon to watch

READ [MARK](#) (6) (7) (8) (9) (10)

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?

WEEK 2
Devotional
BY JESSICA MOSELEY

Wait. Just wait. If we're honest, those may be some of the hardest words to hear. Waiting can be difficult, especially when we're praying for answers and wondering when God is going to move. Sometimes the temptation is to take matters into our own hands instead of trusting His timing.

As we read about Jesus feeding the 5,000 in Mark 6 and the 4,000 in Mark 8, it's amazing to think about the people who waited just to be with Him. In Mark 8, the crowd had been with Jesus for three days. They were hungry, thirsty, tired, and far from home. There were no phones or schedules to tell them what would happen next. Yet they stayed because they wanted to see Jesus. And Jesus showed up! He knew they were hungry after waiting for Him. He didn't simply pass through the crowd or offer a quick prayer and move on. He had compassion on them and provided exactly what they needed. From a small amount of food, He fed thousands, with food left over. More importantly, He offered them something that could satisfy far more than physical hunger: Himself!

It makes you wonder: What would they have missed if they had given up and left on day two? Throughout Mark 6–10, we see people waiting on God. Some waited years for healing, restoration, or answers. We often forget that seasons of waiting are not wasted. God uses them to draw us closer to Him, build our faith, and teach us to depend on Him.

Because we live in a fallen world filled with trials, temptations, and spiritual battles, God often uses waiting to strengthen and equip us.

Sometimes we simply need to trust Him enough to wait for Him to move. His best is always better than anything we could come up with on our own, and it will always be worth the wait.

Reflection Questions:

- What are you currently waiting on God for?
- How might God be using this season to grow your faith?
- Are you trusting His timing or trying to take control yourself?

WEEK 3

PRAY

Invite God to speak to you through His Word.

READ [MARK](#) (11) (12) (13) (14) (15)

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

WATCH AN OVERVIEW
OF MARK



Click the play icon to watch

Takeaways

REFLECT: What did you learn this week?

About God?

About people?

WEEK 3
Devotional
BY NICK HESTER

Have you ever prayed for something so long that you started wondering if God was even listening? Maybe you've carried a burden for a child, a marriage, a financial need, or a health concern and found it difficult to keep believing. Most of us have experienced moments when faith felt easier to talk about than to actually live out. In Mark 11:22–25, Jesus tells His disciples to have faith in God and teaches them about the power of believing prayer. Then He adds something a little unexpected: when we pray, we must also forgive anyone we hold something against.

At first glance, faith and forgiveness may seem like separate topics, but Jesus connects them because both require trust. Faith trusts God with our needs and circumstances. Forgiveness trusts God with our hurts, disappointments, and offenses. This passage reveals a God who invites us into a relationship of complete dependence on Him. He wants us to bring our burdens and requests to Him, but He also cares deeply about the condition of our hearts. Bitterness, resentment, and unforgiveness can hinder our fellowship with God and others. He desires not only to answer our prayers but also to transform us into people who reflect His grace.

We often want mountain-moving faith while holding tightly to old wounds. We want God to work powerfully in our circumstances while resisting His work within our hearts. Jesus reminds us that a life of faith includes both trusting God with our needs and surrendering our grudges to Him. As we learn to pray with confidence and forgive with obedience, we grow closer to the heart of God.

Reflection Questions:

- Is there a situation you've stopped praying about because you've lost hope?
- Is there someone you need to forgive?
- What would it look like to trust God with both your burdens and your hurts this week?

WEEK 3
Devotional
BY KAYLA HESTER

In Mark 12:41–44, Jesus watched people place their offerings in the temple treasury. Many gave large sums, but a widow quietly contributed only two small coins. Compared to the gifts of others, her offering seemed insignificant. Yet Jesus declared that she had given more than everyone else because she gave out of her poverty. While others gave from their abundance, she gave all she had. This passage reveals something beautiful about God. He is not impressed by numbers, recognition, or public displays of generosity. He sees the heart behind every gift and every act of obedience. God delights in faith, sacrifice, and trust. The widow's offering was valuable not because of its amount, but because it reflected complete dependence on Him.

The widow's example challenges us to examine how we give in our daily lives. It is easy to offer what is comfortable or convenient, but true generosity often requires trust. This applies to more than just money. It may mean helping a neighbor when our schedules are already full, encouraging someone when we feel tired ourselves, or faithfully praying when life feels overwhelming. The widow gave what she had, not what she wished she had. In the same way, God asks us to faithfully offer the resources, abilities, and opportunities He has placed in our hands. He is not asking us to give what we do not have. He is asking us to trust Him with what we do have.

The challenge for us today is to ask whether we are giving God only what is convenient or whether we are trusting Him with what is valuable to us. The widow reminds us that spiritual growth often happens when we place everything we have in God's hands.

Reflection Questions:

- Am I giving God my best or only what is convenient?
- What resources, gifts, or opportunities has God entrusted to me?
- Where is God inviting me to trust Him more deeply this week?

WEEK 4

PRAY

Invite God to speak to you through His Word.



Click the play icon to watch

READ

[MARK](#) (16)
[1 CORINTHIANS](#) (1) (2) (3) (4)

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?

WEEK 4 Devotional

BY KARIME LOPEZ AND MARIO GONZALEZ

"I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So, then, neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth." 1 Corinthians 3:6-7

In this passage, Paul recognizes that both he and Apollos had a role, yet neither had the power to make the seed grow. Only God could do that.

As parents, it can be easy to forget this truth. Right now, we are in a season where our son is getting closer to graduating high school and deciding what path he will take. Like many parents, we sometimes wonder if we have done enough. Have we taught him well? Have we prayed enough? Will he continue to seek the Lord when he experiences more freedom and independence?

God reminds us that while we have an important role to play, we are not responsible for producing the growth. Our responsibility is to faithfully plant and water. We plant by teaching God's Word and modeling genuine faith. We water through encouragement, prayer, and godly guidance. But only God can change a heart.

There is great comfort in remembering that God loves our children even more than we do. The same God who calls us to be faithful is the God who gives the growth. He is at work in ways we cannot see and accomplishes things we could never accomplish on our own. This truth extends beyond parenting. Whether we are investing in our children, sharing the gospel with a friend, discipling a believer, or serving in ministry, we must remember where our responsibility ends and God's begins. We are called to faithfulness. God is responsible for the results.

Reflection Questions:

- Is there a person or situation that I am trying to control rather than entrust to God?
- Am I being faithful to plant and water where God has called me?

WEEK 5

PRAY

Invite God to speak to you through His Word.



Click the play icon to watch

READ [1 CORINTHIANS](#) (5) (6) (7) (8) (9)

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?

WEEK 5
Devotional
BY EMMA AND CHRIS HAMILTON

We have all been there. Maybe it was a disagreement on bedtime routine, a better choice at snack time, or whose turn it was to do dishes. You were right, but somehow it doesn't feel right. It feels like being right makes the room colder. That's because being right and being loving are often two very different things, and all of us often learn this lesson the hard way.

In 1 Corinthians 8, Paul addresses a conflict about eating meat offered to idols. Some believers understood that idols were nothing, so the meat was fine to eat. They were correct. Others, whose lives had been deeply shaped by idol worship, couldn't shake the feeling that eating that meat was spiritually dangerous. When the "strong" Christians ate freely in front of them, something broke. Paul starts like this: "Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up." He then drives that truth home: your freedom is real, but if it causes your brother to stumble, you have sinned not against a rule, but against a person, and ultimately against Christ.

What this shows us about God is that He is far less impressed with being correct than we are. He doesn't prize theological prowess. The God of the universe became a servant and chose to love others. Jesus could have impressed people with His theological strength, yet He chose to love and serve. This lands close to home with two small tornado-shaped boys and a marriage that requires constant negotiation. There are many moments where one of you is right about discipline, finances, whose turn it is, or how tired you actually are. The question 1 Corinthians 8 asks is simple: are you building up or puffing up? Knowledge says, "I know the right answer." Love says, "I see you, and you matter more than winning this."

Today, pay attention to one moment where you're tempted to lead with being right instead of being loving.

Reflection Questions:

- How might your words or actions look different this week if your goal was to build up instead of prove a point?

WEEK 6



Click the play icon to watch

PRAY

Invite God to speak to you through His Word.

READ [1 CORINTHIANS](#) (10) (11) (12) (13) (14)

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?

WEEK 6
Devotional
BY REX AND BETHANY COX

In 1 Corinthians 10:23–33, Paul teaches the church that Christian freedom should be guided by more than simply asking, "Am I allowed to do this?" While some actions may be permissible, Paul reminds believers that not everything is beneficial or helpful. Instead, we should consider how our choices affect others and whether they help point people toward Christ.

Paul uses the example of food that had been sacrificed to idols. Although believers understood that idols were not real gods, their actions could still create confusion for others. Someone with a weaker understanding of the faith might misunderstand what they saw and be led away from Christ rather than toward Him. The principle extends far beyond food. As Christians, we often face decisions where the question is not whether something is right or wrong, but whether it is wise, helpful, or God-honoring. Rather than focusing only on our personal freedoms, Paul calls us to consider the spiritual well-being of others.

This challenges us to think differently about our daily choices. Are we living in a way that builds others up? Do our actions make the gospel more attractive and understandable to those around us? Are we seeking our own preferences, or are we seeking the good of others? Paul summarizes the entire discussion with a powerful command: "Whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God." Before making decisions, it is worth asking not only, "Can I do this?" but also, "Will this glorify God and help others move closer to Him?"

Reflection Questions:

- Do I tend to think more about my rights or about how my choices affect others?
- Are there areas where I should exercise greater wisdom for the sake of someone else's faith?
- How can I better glorify God in the everyday decisions I make?

WEEK 7



Click the play icon to watch

PRAY

Invite God to speak to you through His Word.

READ [1 CORINTHIANS](#) (15) (16)
 [2 CORINTHIANS](#) (1) (2) (3)

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?

WEEK 7
Devotional
BY NATASHA BASHLOR

Have you ever found yourself in a sin cycle or thought pattern? In my walk, I often found myself in a cycle that always led me to the same place. I remember asking God many times, “Why do I keep ending up in the same place?” or “When will this pattern end?” In reading through these passages, I realized that the answer was simple: I hadn’t been dying daily. I loved God, but I was often living to satisfy my flesh rather than feeding my spirit. Paul said, “I die daily” (1 Cor. 15:31); now he obviously didn’t die a daily physical death. What he meant was that each day he lived his life as a sacrifice. His attitude was, “Not my will, but Yours be done!”

Many of us treat salvation as a finish line rather than a starting point. But that isn’t what Paul is teaching. This walk requires daily obedience to God and not to our flesh. What is missing in the Christian walk today is the fear of the Lord. We live our lives grasping tightly to the things of this world and have little to no reverence for the holiness of God. Paul walked in obedience to Christ each day instead of obedience to his flesh. He lived with a mindset of “my responsibility is far greater than my personal liberty.” As Christians, we have an eternal responsibility.

In 1 Corinthians 15:36, Paul writes, “What you sow is not made alive unless it dies.” Jesus echoes this truth in John 12:24 when He speaks of a grain of wheat falling into the ground and dying in order to produce fruit. If we die daily to our flesh and live according to the will of God, He can move freely in our lives, both in us and through us. We should live our lives with eternity in view and remember that our present comforts are not what we exist for. “We exist to connect people to a growing relationship with Christ,” and that will only truly begin when we remove self from the equation.

Reflection Questions:

- What do you need to kill in your life so that you can live according to the Spirit?
- What does “not my will, but Yours be done” look like in your life today?

WEEK 8

PRAY

Invite God to speak to you through His Word.



Click the play icon to watch

READ 2 CORINTHIANS (4) (5) (6) (7) (8)

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?

WEEK 8
Devotional
BY MARSHA AND ROBERT HARDIMAN

In 2 Corinthians 5, Paul reminds believers that one day we will all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. For Christians, this is not a judgment of condemnation or a question of salvation. Our salvation is secure in Christ alone. Rather, it is a reminder that our lives matter and that we will give an account for how we used the time, gifts, and opportunities God entrusted to us.

This truth should cause us to live with eternity in view. It challenges us to ask whether we are investing our lives in things that will last. Are we pursuing temporary treasures, or are we investing in God's kingdom and the people around us? Later in the chapter, Paul reminds us that we have been reconciled to God through Christ and entrusted with the ministry of reconciliation. Sin separated us from God, but through Jesus, our relationship with Him has been restored. What an incredible gift! And because we have experienced that reconciliation, we are called to share that same message with others.

When we begin to see people through God's eyes, our priorities start to change. We realize that people matter far more than possessions, accomplishments, or temporary success. The things of this world will pass away, but souls are eternal. One day, we will stand before Christ.

May we live in such a way that we can say we faithfully used the opportunities He gave us to love Him, serve others, and point people to the gospel.

Reflection Questions:

- Am I living with eternity in view or focusing mainly on temporary things?
- Who has God placed in my life that needs to hear the message of reconciliation?
- How can I use my time, gifts, and opportunities to make an eternal impact this week?

WEEK 9



Click the play icon to watch

PRAY

Invite God to speak to you through His Word.

READ [2 CORINTHIANS](#) (9) (10) (11) (12) (13)

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?

WEEK 9
Devotional
BY WENDY AND RANDY PHILLIPS

In 2 Corinthians 10:1–6, Paul defends his God-given authority and ministry, doing so with the meekness and gentleness of Christ. Paul explains that although he lives in the flesh, he does not wage war according to the flesh. Instead, he fights with spiritual weapons empowered by God. He relies on truth, righteousness, the gospel, faith, salvation, and the Spirit rather than human methods.

In contrast, many of the Corinthians were influenced by outward appearances, manipulation, displays of success, and perceptions of power and authority. These are human schemes that often distract from God's truth. Even today, we can be tempted to rely on worldly ways to dominate, manipulate, or outmaneuver others. God calls us to a different path: one of humility, self-denial, and dependence on His strength. Paul faced many battles while defending his faith and ministry. He could have chosen a different way, but he remained committed to living for Jesus Christ.

How could Paul endure such hardships with joy? His confidence was not in himself, but in Christ. Rather than trusting in worldly power, he trusted in the power of God to accomplish God's purposes. As believers, we face battles every day. While the circumstances may look different, the temptation remains the same: will we rely on our own strength or on God's? The Lord has given us everything we need to stand firm in faith. Through His Word, prayer, the truth of the gospel, and the power of the Holy Spirit, we can face life's challenges with confidence and hope.

Reflection Questions:

- When I face challenges, do I tend to rely on my own strength or God's?
- Are there areas where I am trusting worldly wisdom more than biblical truth?
- What would it look like to fight today's battles with spiritual weapons instead of worldly ones?

WATCH AN OVERVIEW
OF JAMES



Click the play icon to watch

WEEK 10

PRAY

Invite God to speak to you through His Word.

READ JAMES 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?

WEEK 10
Devotional
BY CONNOR AND ANNA WILLYARD

In the world today, society rewards the characteristics that run counter to Christ. James is very clear in what traits Christians should have: being even-tempered, showing no favoritism, working from faith, living in submission, minding your words, praying, and displaying Godly joy during suffering. Of all of these, it seems the biggest hurdle for most Christians is also the smallest: the tongue.

As humans, it's easy to forget how powerful words can be, but James describes the use of our tongue and its enormous consequences (James 3:3–6). When angered, it may feel natural to fire back, and for some it is even a point of pride to tear others down when they feel wronged. Once those words are spoken, however, any damage caused is often out of our control, just like the spark that starts a wildfire.

How can we claim to be followers of Christ when we speak words of hate, gossip, and resentment throughout the week and then sing along in worship on Sunday? Our words reveal what is in our hearts.

Daily, we should strive to live out James 1:19–20, 26. It is a virtue to have patience, to process our feelings, and not to throw the first thing that comes to mind into the air. How many times do we focus more on what we are going to say than on what is actually being said to us? How many times do we allow pride and anger to take control of our hearts and respond in a way that represents them rather than Jesus?

James makes it abundantly clear that the grace given to us should also be reflected in our words. We are called to speak with grace and love, setting aside our selfishness and remembering that even those we may be tempted to speak against were created in the image of God.

Reflection Questions:

- Do my words consistently reflect the character of Christ?
- Am I quick to listen or quick to speak?
- Is there a conversation or relationship where I need to show greater grace this week?



Click the play icon to watch

WEEK 11

PRAY

Invite God to speak to you through His Word.

READ [1 PETER](#) 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?

WEEK 11
Devotional
BY ROSS KELLY

Many people think that following Jesus only means believing in Him in our head. In 1 Peter 4:1-3, the Apostle Peter reminds us that following Jesus involves more than belief. It requires a changed way of living.

Because Christ was willing to suffer in order to obey God, we as believers are called to adopt the same mindset. Throughout Scripture, we are reminded that suffering for Christ is not without purpose. As Paul writes in Romans 5:3-5, suffering refines character and strengthens hope.

Peter also reminds us that before knowing Christ, we may have lived like the world, but now that we follow Him, that old life should remain in the past. The message is simple but powerful: the old life has already taken enough of your time. Now, God is calling you to a new way of living.

Instead of living for sinful desires and worldly pleasures, a follower of Christ should live for the will of God. The ways of the world are destructive. Peter's point is not simply that Christians believe differently, but that they live differently. I personally fight my flesh each and every day to not be worldly, but I often lose the battle. Sometimes I want to cling to my old way of living. At times my attitudes and behavior do not seem much different than my unbelieving neighbors.

James tells us in James 4:4, "You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world means enmity against God?"

So, if you call yourself a follower of Christ, ask yourself this question today: Am I living for my desires or for the will of God? Your past may explain your story, but it does not have to decide your future.

Reflection Questions:

- Are there areas of your life where you are still clinging to your old way of living rather than pursuing the will of God?
- What is one practical step you can take this week to live more like a follower of Christ and less like the world around you?

WEEK 12

WATCH AN OVERVIEW
OF 1-3 JOHN



Click the play icon to watch

WATCH AN OVERVIEW
OF 2 PETER



Click the play icon to watch

PRAY

Invite God to speak to you through His Word.

READ [2 PETER](#) (1) (2) (3)
 [1 JOHN](#) (1) (2)

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?

WEEK 12
Devotional
BY TRISTAN AND NICOLE SMITH

In 1 John 1, John proclaims the gospel to the church and emphasizes the need for Jesus so that we may have fellowship with God and his people. Once he establishes the importance of fellowship with God The Father and The Son, he transitions to what that fellowship looks like. In verses 5-10, John compares our walk with Christ to “light.” As he speaks to the people, John highlights the importance of recognizing our sins, confessing, and living a life for Jesus (shining His Light.)

John made it clear that people in his time struggled with claiming to live in the light while actually walking in darkness (rebellion, denial, etc.). Fast forward many years to today, and we can see that this is still a struggle in our society. John makes us question not only our actions, but our true heart, and it’s important to note that he is addressing our personal relationship with Jesus. In verse 6, John states “If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth.” In other words, if we claim to be followers of Christ, yet walk in darkness, we are not living out the truth.

The hard truth that John is trying to portray is that we are either in Christ or we are not. As bearers of His light, we can’t be okay with sin in our lives. In darkness, there is no light. Christ wants us to live in the light so that we can show his light to others. Are there areas of darkness in your life that are hindering you from living in the light?

Reflection Questions:

- Are there any areas of darkness in your life that you have been unwilling to bring into the light?
- Does your daily life reflect the fellowship with Christ that you profess with your words?
- Is there a sin, attitude, or habit that is hindering your walk with Jesus?

WEEK 13

WATCH AN OVERVIEW
OF 1-3 JOHN



Click the play icon to watch

WATCH AN OVERVIEW
OF JUDE



Click the play icon to watch

PRAY

Invite God to speak to you through His Word.

READ

[1 JOHN](#) (3) (4) (5)

[2 JOHN](#) [3 JOHN](#) [JUDE](#)

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?

WEEK 13
Devotional
BY BRIAN AND PITUT ERICKSON

Is it OK to have a favorite child? Should we love them all the same? I often feel that way about the authors and books of the Bible. They are all great and I love them all; however, my favorite author is probably John and my favorite book is 1 John.

John is certainly not my “child” but is more like a favorite wise grandfather who not only tells the greatest stories that he lived firsthand, but also has this deep closeness to God. It feels like he is a sponge saturated with God’s presence and when he speaks he sort of drips water of God’s presence. This idea of living in God’s presence is probably the most important theme he presents in this letter. The idea of abiding, of walking in the light, and the fellowship we have with God extends from the beginning to the end of this book.

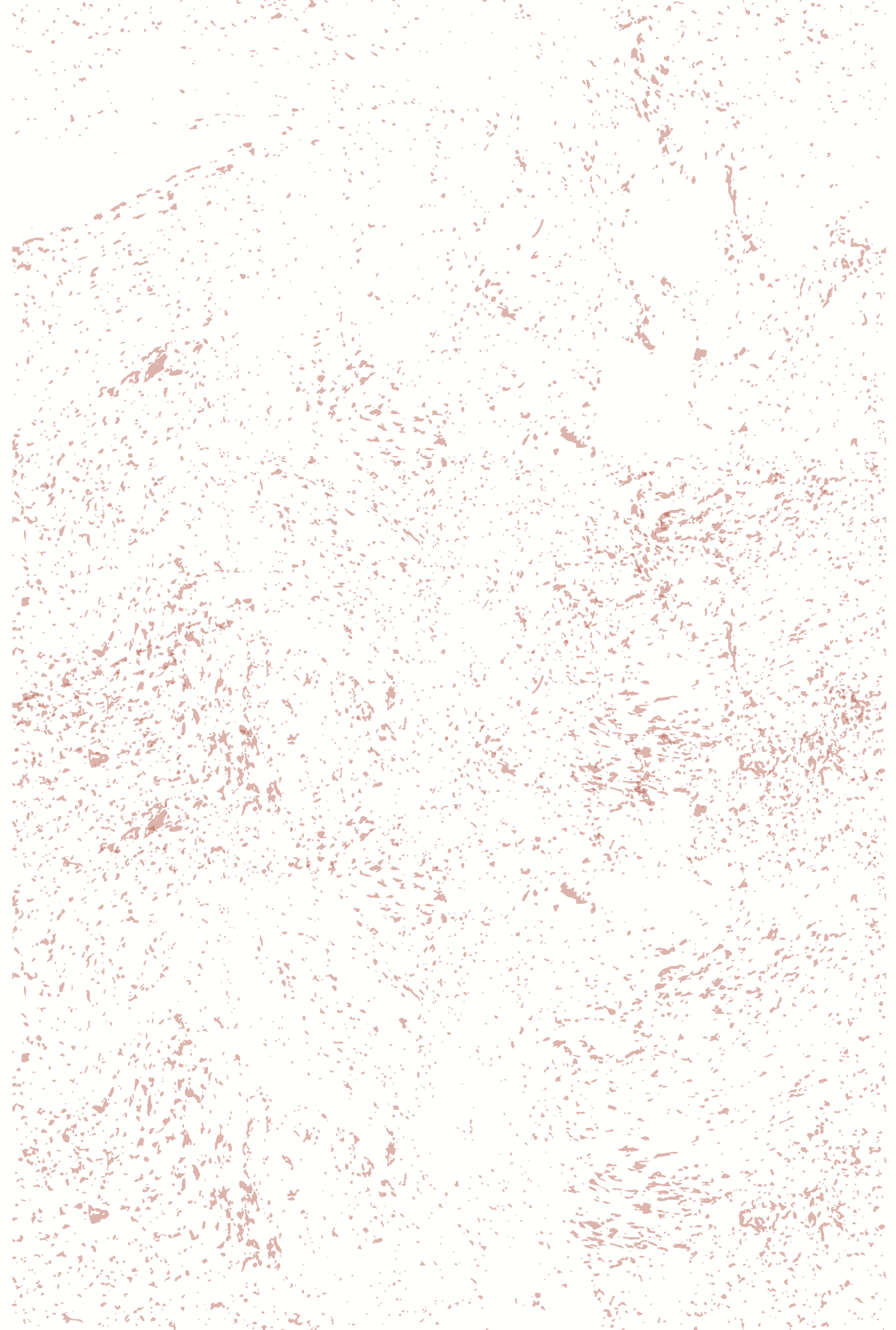
In the closing section of the letter (1 John 5:13-21), John gives a summary of things we “know.” Most of these use the Greek word for knowing facts, except the final one, which refers to experiential and relational knowledge. John reminds us that we can know we are saved, that God hears and answers prayer, that we are freed from sin and protected from evil, and that we belong to God rather than the world.

After setting up these key facts, he drops the bomb. All of this is so that we might *know God and be in Him*. He speaks of a real God, living and good and relational. It’s all available and it’s true! “True” is repeated three times in this verse to help erase any doubt.

Our eternal life is tied to our experiential knowledge of God. He wants to know me! Personally, I long to be close to God and, like John, be a saturated sponge full of God’s presence so that I can leak his wisdom, grace, and love to all I interact with today and every day. We are called to live transcendent lives, and that is only possible through ongoing walking and filling with God’s presence.

Reflection Questions:

- What would it look like if I went through this week doing each of my daily activities for God and aware that we are working and playing together rather than alone?





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