

## January 1 // Matthew 1

*Re-read 1:22-23*

Before Jesus is born, Matthew wants his readers to know that this birth is no ordinary birth! Jesus fulfilled prophecy (the details that God told the authors of the Bible would happen) through his birth. He is given the title, "Immanuel," which means, "God with us." How was God with the people when Jesus was born? What does this say about how Jesus is?

## January 2 // Matthew 2

*Re-read 2:6*

Again, Matthew makes sure his readers know that Jesus fulfilled what the Old Testament says about him. It says that Jesus was born in a little city called Bethlehem. It also says that Jesus will be a "ruler" and "shepherd" of the people. Is Jesus the ruler of your life? Do you live like he is in charge? How can you obey him better today?

## January 3 // Matthew 3

*Re-read 3:11*

John the Baptist is preaching to the people, telling them to repent of their sins. He goes on to show how much greater Jesus is than himself when he says that he is not worthy to even untie the sandals of Jesus! John and Jesus were cousins. This is probably not how you talk about your cousins! How important do you think Jesus is? Do you tell people about him? Do you show him by obeying his words?

## January 4 // Matthew 4

*Re-read 4:19-22*

Jesus just spent forty days in the wilderness being tempted by Satan, yet he did not sin once. Then he starts his preaching and miracles among the people. He gets together 12 men to come with him. We call these men the "Apostles" or "the disciples." When Jesus calls them, they respond "immediately" (verses 20,22). When God shows you the right thing to do, how quickly do you respond? When your parents ask you to do something, do you obey the first time?



## January 5 // Matthew 5:1-26

*Re-read 5:6*

In chapters 5, 6 and 7, Jesus preaches a long sermon (called "The Sermon on the Mount"). Verses 3-12 are called "the Beatitudes" because Jesus says "blessed" before every statement. The word "blessed" literally means "happy" (Imagine substituting blessed with happy before every statement). Verse 6 is what we are going to focus on. To "hunger and thirst" basically means to "really, really want." Do you really want to do the right thing? If you do, Jesus promises you will be happy in the end. How can you choose to do the right thing today?

## January 6 // Matthew 5:27-48

*Re-read 5:43-44*

Jesus challenges the people to do something very hard. He tell them they need to love the people who do bad things to them. Who does bad things to you? How can you show love for them today? He also tells us to pray for them, so do that today too.

## January 7 // Matthew 6

*Re-read 6:21*

"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." This means, what you value most is where you want spend the most time. Jesus has just told the people to work hard to store up treasures in heaven. Do you want to have treasures in heaven? Why are they better than all the stuff we have on earth?

## January 8 // Matthew 7

*Re-read 7:11*

From verses 7 to 11, Jesus is telling the people about prayer. God is good and he wants to do things for his obedient children, just like a parent on earth. Jesus tells the people that they should trust God (because he is good and people are sinful) to give even better things if they ask! What are some things that you should ask for that would make God happy? Ask for them today in prayer!



## January 9 // Matthew 8

*Re-read 8:19-20*

While people appear to be ready to follow Jesus, he doesn't seem very excited about them. Jesus wanted people to follow him, but he knew that some were not willing to follow him at any cost. What are some things Christians have to give up in order to follow God?

## January 10 // Matthew 9:1-17

*Re-read 9:2*

A lot of the ministry Jesus did was healing people. He did this to prove that he was God, as well as to point people to salvation that can be found in him. Jesus has the power to forgive sins because of the work he did on the cross. What does it mean to be forgiven by God?

## January 11 // Matthew 9:18-38

*Re-read 9:29-30*

Jesus heals this man's eyes, giving him sight. Then Jesus tells him to keep quiet about it. Why do you think Jesus does this? Has he commanded us to speak up, or to be quiet? How are you doing at telling others about Jesus' forgiveness?

## January 12 // Matthew 10:1-23

*Re-read 10:16*

Jesus doesn't promise a pain-free or danger-free life! He describes Christians as the prey among a group of predators. The Bible is clear: the world won't like Christians. How have you seen this in your life as you stand up for Jesus? Why is it important to be wise about the enemy's attacks?



## January 13 // Matthew 10:24-42

*Re-read 10:28-31*

Jesus says that we have no need to fear people if we have him. That doesn't mean that people cannot hurt us, it means they cannot separate us from God's love. Jesus directs people to fear God (who is in control of their life on earth and their eternal life). If God should be feared, how should you treat his word?

## January 14 // Matthew 11

*Re-read 11:28-30*

The religious leaders of Jesus' day loved to weigh the people down with hard rules that no one could keep perfectly. Jesus provides the solution through forgiveness. Jesus promises rest and safety from sin's consequences. What does it mean to be forgiven? What happens when a person is forgiven?

## January 15 // Matthew 12:1-21

*Re-read 12:17*

Matthew wants the reader to see God's ultimate plan by quoting prophecy (Isaiah 42). Why is it comforting to know that God has a great big plan? What does this teach you about God himself?

## January 16 // Matthew 12:22-50

*Re-read 12:36*

Jesus gives a warning about the words we don't think about very much. "Careless" words are the ones that we say without thinking. When and where do you say careless words? At home? At school? Why is it important that you stop these?



## January 17 // Matthew 13:1-32

*Re-read 13:13*

Sometimes the Bible is hard to understand. That is never more true than when we read parables from Jesus. We all must ask God to give us understanding when we read his words. Next time you pick up your Bible, ask God to teach you things about him in your reading!

## January 18 // Matthew 13:33-58

*Re-read 13:45-46*

A parable is a short story about an everyday scene that Jesus tells about a big truth. The parable of the Pearl of Great Value is one of the shortest that Jesus tells. The pearl represents salvation that is found in Jesus. We are supposed to give everything up to follow Jesus. What are some things you need to give up in order to serve God?

## January 19 // Matthew 14:1-21

*Re-read 14:14*

At the beginning of this chapter, John the Baptist was killed and news of his death reached Jesus. They were cousins and good friends. While Jesus was sad, tired, and worn down, he went to a "desolate place" (away from the crowds). But the crowds followed him anyway. Verse 14 says that Jesus had "compassion" on them and continued his ministry. How can you love people today when you don't feeling like it?

## January 20 // Matthew 14:22-36

*Re-read 14:31*

Although this is a miracle, the main point comes when Jesus says something to Peter. He asks Peter why he doubted him! Over and over in the gospels, Jesus reminds people to have faith in him. "Faith" means "trust." When is it hard for you to trust God?



## January 21 // Matthew 15:1-20

*Re-read 15:3-4*

Back in Jesus' day, many people trusted in their obedience to tradition instead of trusting in God. Our generation has a similar problem, specifically when it comes to disobedience to parents. People think it is "normal" to disrespect parents, but God does not. How can you honor your father or your mother today?

## January 22 // Matthew 15:21-39

*Re-read 15:24*

This story is puzzling for many people. Jesus doesn't seem like she wants to help this woman. She was not from Israel, and Jesus had a mission for the people of Israel. But this woman had faith. She saw that Jesus could fix her problem, and she had faith that he would. Jesus is looking to save lost people, but they need to recognize that they ARE lost! This should keep every follower of Christ humble. How can you be humble today with your friends at school and church?

## January 23 // Matthew 16

*Re-read 16:15-17*

Jesus is talking to his disciples. He asks a very hard but important question. First, Jesus asks his disciples what other people think about him. Then he addresses them personally. Jesus asks them who they think he is. Peter speaks up and says that Jesus is the Christ (or the Messiah, the savior talked about in the Old Testament) and that he is God's own son. Why do you think it is difficult for people to see that Jesus is the son of God? Why do YOU think that Jesus is the son of God?

## January 24 // Matthew 17

*Re-read 17:20*

Jesus shows us that faith is powerful. The only way faith can be powerful, is if that faith is placed in God (who is powerful). Why does your faith need to be in God? When you pray, do you pray like you have faith God is listening and that he will answer?



## January 25 // Matthew 18:1-20

*Re-read 18:7*

Throughout the Bible, God makes it clear that sin is a big deal, and that falling to temptation is wrong. But it is easy to forget that causing other people to be tempted is a huge deal. "Woe" is a word used in the Bible to describe something really bad. Jesus says it will be really bad for the person who causes another to sin. How can you make sure you are not tempting others?

## January 26 // Matthew 18:21-35

*Re-read 18:35*

Today's reading was a parable told by Jesus about our need to forgive others. The Parable of the Unforgiving Servant ends with a threat. God requires that forgiven people forgive each other. Who is it hard for you to forgive? When is it hard for you to forgive them?

## January 27 // Matthew 19:1-15

*Re-read 19:14*

As Jesus was met by many crowds, he encountered many kinds of people. This time, it was a group of children. Jesus says something about the kind of people that make it to heaven. He says they will be like children. You are legally a child, which means you depend on your parents to give you what you need to live. We should act the same way with God. Do you have trouble trusting God for things? What are those things?

## January 28 // Matthew 19:16-30

*Re-read 19:29*

This young man had trouble giving up everything to follow Christ. He had a lot of stuff, and sometimes the more you have, the harder it is to give it all up. Jesus goes on to say that if a person gives up things important to them in order to follow him, they will be rewarded. What are some things God wants you to give up to follow him more?



## January 29 // Matthew 20:1-16

*Re-read 20:15-16*

Jesus tells a parable about workers in a vineyard. Some work the full day and others only work part of the day, but at the end, they all share in the payday. When it comes to the kingdom of God, many people will serve God faithfully for many years and go to heaven, while others may be Christians for a short time before they die and go to heaven. The point is, God's gift of salvation is up to God to give. The workers who received the money grumbling, didn't have the right attitude. Do you have a hard time keeping a good attitude while obeying God? How can you have the right attitude today?

## January 30 // Matthew 20:17-34

*Re-read 20:26-28*

In this passage, Jesus talks about being great in his kingdom. Being great for God is not like being great in the world. A "great person" in the God's eyes is a person who serves others. What ways are you able to serve others today? How can you serve better?

## January 31 // Matthew 21:1-22

*Re-read 21:9*

As Jesus enters the city, people praise him! Crowds call him the "Son of David." Over the course of that week, the people turned against him. Jesus wants people to worship him not just with their words, but also with their hearts. When you sing worship songs, do you think about the words you are singing and really mean them? Make sure your actions go along with the words you sing!

## February 1 // Matthew 21:23-39

*Re-read 21:23*

Every time Jesus spoke to the crowds, people wondered where he got his wisdom from. When he made big statements about God, many of the Jewish leaders questioned him. It is important for every person to recognize who Jesus is and where his "authority" (his power) comes from. If you believe that his power comes from God, you should do your best to obey him. What are some commandments that make more sense when you remember that Jesus is God?





## February 2 // Matthew 22:1-22

*Re-read 22:21*

The people are asking whether or not they should pay taxes to Caesar (the emperor of Rome who has taken over the people of Israel). Jesus tells them to give Caesar whatever money they owe him, but also to give God what they owe God. What are the things we should give to God? (Think about your time, effort, love, etc.) How do you do this?

## February 3 // Matthew 22:23-46

*Re-read 22:37-39*

Jesus told the Pharisees that the most important commandment was to love God, and to love people. These are the most important for us too! Why should you love God? Who are some people that you need to love more by your actions?

## February 4 // Matthew 23:1-22

*Re-read 23:12*

Jesus tells everybody about all the bad things the Pharisees and scribes (The religious leaders) were doing. Their greatest sin was pride. Jesus shows us that and then tells us to be the opposite (humble). When you interact with people today, how can you be humble instead of being prideful? (at home, school, sports teams, etc.)

## February 5 // Matthew 23:23-39

*Re-read 23:28*

Jesus continues to address the Pharisees, and this time he says that one of their great sins is "hypocrisy" (acting one way in front of people, but really being evil inside). Are you guilty of acting one way at church and another way at home? Or acting one way at home, and another way at school? This is what Jesus is talking about! Check yourself today, and make sure that you are not living as a hypocrite!



## February 6 // Matthew 24:1-22

*Re-read 24:9*

Jesus is telling the disciples what the end times will be like. He says that they will be hated for their faith. Jesus calls us to endure this, because the kingdom of heaven is coming, and it will far greater than life on Earth! Have you been made fun of for being a Christian? Did you respond with love, or revenge?

## February 7 // Matthew 24:23-51

*Re-read 24:44*

We don't know when Jesus is coming back to Earth. All we know is that he could come at any time. How does that make you want to live? Would you want him to see you sinning or keeping his commandments?

## February 8 // Matthew 25:1-30

*Re-read 25:21*

It is clear that God expects us to live a certain way as followers of Jesus. There are two parables in today's reading about being ready for Jesus to come back. If we serve God faithfully, he will reward us. How does this motivate you to live for him today?

## February 9 // Matthew 25:31-46

*Re-read 25:31*

Jesus is completely in control of the end. He will be the king forever, and he chooses who will live in his kingdom. This section is all about judgment and salvation. How does a person become "saved?"



## February 10 // Matthew 26:1-19

*Re-read 26:10*

This woman poured her very expensive perfume on Jesus. She set an example of giving of the things she had to serve God. Serving sometimes requires a lot, when you serve what does it require of you?

## February 11 // Matthew 26:20-54

*Re-read 26:39*

In this passage Jesus, being a man (as well as God), did not want to suffer this terrible death on the cross, however he said, "not as I will, but as you will." How can you put aside something that you want to do, and do something that is pleasing to God today?

## February 12 // Matthew 26:55-75

*Re-read 26:69-75*

Peter was approached by different people asking if he knew Jesus. All three times, Peter denied knowing him. Is it hard for you to stand up for Jesus in school, on your sports team, or with your friends? How can you stand up for Jesus in these situations?

## February 13 // Matthew 27:1-31

*Re-read 27:29*

Before Jesus was killed, the people around mocked Jesus. They made fun of him and spit on him and tortured him. All this was done even though Jesus didn't do anything wrong. Jesus never once complained! This must have been hard. When do you find yourself complaining? How can you stop complaining?



## February 14 // Matthew 27:32-66

*Re-read 27:54*

After Jesus died, many recognized that Jesus was who he said he was. It is important for every person to recognize who Jesus is before it's too late. How does knowing who Jesus is, change the way you live today?

## February 15 // Matthew 28

*Re-read 28:19-20*

Jesus is alive! And he has a mission for the disciples and all of his followers. He wants us to make more disciples for him. This involves telling people about him! How are you doing this? Write down 3 names of people you want to talk about Jesus with, then commit to do it soon.

## February 16 // Mark 1:1-22

*Re-read 1:13*

Right after Jesus is baptized, the Holy Spirit moves him to go out to the wilderness. While there, Satan does his best to make Jesus sin. How does Satan tempt you to sin? How can you fight this temptation? (Look at Matthew 4 to see how Jesus battled temptation).

## February 17 // Mark 1:23-45

*Re-read 1:24*

It is interesting that even demons and unclean spirits recognize that Jesus is God, and they are afraid. We know that they demons believe that Jesus is the Messiah (James 2:19), so what is the difference between their belief, and the belief a Christian is supposed to have?



## February 18 // Mark 2

*Re-read 2:14*

Jesus called many different kinds of men to become his disciples. They were not all just fishermen! Jesus is interested in having all kinds of people follow, serve, and love him! Do you ever think you can't follow God as much as other people because of your background? Look to Levi, (Matthew, yes the one that wrote the book). Jesus can use all kinds of people for him. How can he use you for him today?

## February 19 // Mark 3:1-21

*Re-read 3:20-21*

Jesus was very busy with the crowds, so busy that he barely found time to eat. His family was concerned about him and tried to take him away from the people. Have you ever served God and it meant not being home? What are some situations where God's needs are more important than anything else?

## February 20 // Mark 3:22-35

*Re-read 3:33-35*

Jesus' family is on the scene once again, and this time, it just says they want to see him. It appears that Jesus is being a little rude, but really, they want to keep him from obeying God. He says that the people he considers his family, are the ones who do what God wants. What does God want you to be doing today?

## February 21 // Mark 4:1-20

*Re-read 4:20*

Jesus tells a parable before a large crowd about person who plants, then explains it to the inner group of disciples. He is talking about the word of God as spoken to people through his messengers. This fourth soil is the person who hear the word of God and does it. Jesus compared doing good things for God to "bearing fruit" a lot! He says that some bear 30 times, some 60 times, and some 100 times as much as was planted. How can you spread the word of God? Where are you able to talk to people about Jesus?



## February 22 // Mark 4:21-43

*Re-read 4:40*

The disciples are caught in a storm on the sea. They find Jesus sleeping, and they ask him if they care that they are “perishing” (about to die)! They think they are going to sink and drown. Jesus first calms the waters with a few little words, then points his attention to the disciples. He is upset with them. He asks why they are afraid of dying (the son of God is on the boat!). The point of this whole account is that the disciples lacked faith in God. When is it hard for you to trust God? When things are hard? What about when things are going great for you?

## February 23 // Mark 5:1-20

*Re-read 5:19-20*

Jesus just freed a man from demons, and sent them into a herd of pigs. Then, he commands the man to go and tell people all that Jesus did for him. Mark says he went to the Decapolis (an area of ten cities) and told people all about Jesus did for him. What has Jesus done for you? Will you tell people about it today?

## February 24 // Mark 5:21-43

*Re-read 5:34*

As Jesus was headed to heal an important man named Jarius’ daughter, a woman approached Jesus in the crowd wanting to be healed. Jesus knew that she touched his clothes, but he wants her to identify herself. When she comes and tells Jesus the whole truth, he tells her that her faith has made her well. Jesus made her well because she put her trust in the right person. What do you need to put your trust in Jesus for?

## February 25 // Mark 6:1-32

*Re-read 6:18*

John the Baptist was a man who stood up for the truth, even to the King of Israel (Herod). In our day, people are very slow to obey God, just as Herod was then. Standing up for God cost John his life. What will it cost you to stand up for God’s truth today? Are you willing to do it anyway?



## February 26 // Mark 6:33-56

*Re-read 6:54-56*

Many times in the gospels, Jesus got tired. He had just been on a boat and going from town to town. Jesus rarely got a break. Wherever he went, he healed the sick and had compassion on the people. He didn't need to be so kind, but was every time! How can you be more compassionate like Jesus? Who do you need to be more patient with today?

## February 27 // Mark 7:1-13

*Re-read 7:6*

Jesus tells the people that he knows their hearts, and he isn't impressed. He knows that many of them obey some of the rules, but they don't really love God. Do you feel like complaining when God (through his word) tells you to do things? When it is hard for you to love God in your obedience?

## February 28 // Mark 7:14-8:10

*Re-read 7:21-22*

Most people think their hearts are good! The world tells you to "follow your heart." Most people think that they are "good people." That is NOT what Jesus thinks! (Look at Jeremiah 17:9). He tells us that our hearts are full of all kinds of evil. Why is it hard to fight this evil? Which of the sins listed do you struggle with the most?

## March 1 // Mark 8:11-38

*Re-read 8:36*

Jesus asks a big question that every person needs to answer. The "world" and everything in it looks pretty good most of the time (money, success, popularity, fame). Every person needs to choose between God and the world. The Bible makes it clear that you cannot have both. Why is it better to have God?



## March 2 // Mark 9:1-29

*Re-read 9:2-3*

Jesus took Peter, James, and John up on a mountain and did something amazing. He showed them his heavenly glory! He shone like a light! Jesus really is God! That means we need to treat his words like God's words: as commands. What command of Jesus is hard for you to follow? How does knowing that Jesus is God make you want to obey?

## March 3 // Mark 9:30-50

*Re-read 9:41*

All throughout the Bible, we see that God cares about what we do. He wants to reward us when we do the right thing! Jesus wants his people to serve each other. How can you serve someone today? (Think you siblings/parents/teachers)

## March 4 // Mark 10:1-31

*Re-read 10:21-22*

This young man had a lot to give up for Jesus, and he went away sad because he was not willing to give it up. What are things you like to do, places you like to go, people you like to hang out with, that you know God doesn't like? Are YOU willing to give those things up to serve God better?

## March 5 // Mark 10:32-52

*Re-read 10:37*

In verse 37, James and John make a request to Jesus. They ask Jesus for something that Jesus didn't want. Should we use prayer to get everything WE want? What are some things that Jesus wants to give us?





## March 6 // Mark 11:1-19

*Re-read 11:2-6*

These two disciples did exactly what Jesus told them to do. Have you ever changed God's command (just slightly) or only did half of what God wanted you to do? Why is it important to do exactly what God says? How can you do this better in the future?

## March 7 // Mark 11:20-33

*Re-read 11:22-24*

Jesus is serious about bold prayers! He wants us to ask big things from him. What does he say we need if we want those prayers to be answered? Are you praying like this?

## March 8 // Mark 12:1-27

*Re-read 12:27*

The resurrection was one of the big debates of Jesus' day. Some didn't think that people would live after they died. Jesus says that God is a God of the living, not the dead. He proved this by rising from the dead himself! Why is this encouraging for our future?

## March 9 // Mark 12:28-44

*Re-read 12:29-31*

Jesus quotes two Old Testament commandments: 1) Love the Lord with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength (Deuteronomy 6:4-5). 2) Love your neighbor as yourself (Leviticus 19:18). It's hard to do this all the time! When do you find it hard to do both of these things?



## March 10 // Mark 13:1-13

*Re-read 13:10*

Jesus tells us to be sharing the gospel with all the nations. When, where, and with whom can you share the good news?

## March 11 // Mark 13:14-37

*Re-read 13:32-33*

Jesus says here that we have to be on guard because we don't know when he will return. What do you want Jesus to find you doing when he comes back? Focus on this today!

## March 12 // Mark 14:1-25

*Re-read 14:1*

There were many people who hated Jesus. He promised that if people hated him, they will certainly hate those who follow him. This is true today. People are not going to like you if you follow Christ. How have you seen this in your life?

## March 13 // Mark 14:26-50

*Re-read 14:36*

Prayer is a gracious gift from God to us that allows us to be a part of what God is doing. We are called to pray for things that go along with what God wants (God's Will). Have you ever found yourself praying for a material object that you really want (like a the latest device or a good grade on a test)? What are some things God wants you to be praying for?



## March 14 // Mark 14:51-72

*Re-read 14:65*

It is amazing to think the God of the universe would put become a man, just to be treated like this. Are you ready to suffer with Christ? Be willing to stand up for him (like Peter failed to do), and remember that it might cost you.

## March 15 // Mark 15:1-26

*Re-read 15:14*

Even Pilate knew that Jesus did nothing wrong. Pilate also noticed that the religious leaders were jealous of Jesus' popularity. People should believe the words you say because of the life they see you live. Do people at school or on your sports teams know you are a Christian? Make sure your actions match your words about Jesus.

## March 16 // Mark 15:27-47

*Re-read 15:40-41*

There is something to be said about the faithfulness of the female followers of Jesus. These women were willing to stay with Jesus, even the disciples scattered. Do you obey God faithfully (continually, every time)?

## March 17 // Mark 16

*Re-read 16:6*

An angel tells these women that Jesus is no longer dead, but alive! Why is it important Jesus rose from the dead? What would it mean for us if Jesus never rose from the dead? (Look at 1 Corinthians 15:14-19).



## March 18 // Luke 1:1-23

*Re-read 1:6*

Zechariah and Elizabeth were “righteous before God,” and “blameless.” God thinks this is a big deal! We can only be made righteous through Jesus. The fact that they were righteous showed that God was pleased with them, and the fact that they were blameless showed that people thought well of them too. Do you live “blamelessly” (no one has bad things to say about your actions) before others?

## March 19 // Luke 1:24-56

*Re-read 1:46-55*

This section is known as the “Song of Mary” or “the Magnificat.” This is Mary’s version of a worship song! She brings up a lot of amazing things about God. Which of those things is most amazing to you?

## March 20 // Luke 1:57-80

*Re-read 1:75*

After Zechariah was struck by God because of his disbelief. God made it so that he was not able to speak. But God did what he promised, and John (the Baptist) was born. Zechariah responds by praising God like Mary did. He talks about the “redemption” that is coming. What does “redemption” mean? And how did God accomplish this redemption?

## March 21 // Luke 2:1-24

*Re-read 2:14*

In verse 14, the angels says that because of this child, there is “peace on earth among those with whom he is pleased.” The angels are NOT saying that there is never going to be another war, or that all people are going to be at peace all the time. He is saying that Jesus is going to make peace between God and mankind. How did he make this happen?



## March 22 // Luke 2:25-52

*Re-read 2:25, 36*

Two people show up at the temple when Jesus is a baby. Their names are Simeon and Anna. They were people who were waiting patiently for the Savior of Israel to come. God rewarded their patience! What are some things you need to be patient about? Who are some people you need to show patience to today?

## March 23 // Luke 3

*Re-read 3:8*

John the Baptist was a fiery preacher! He told them that they needed to be doing good works if they really repented. The people had a problem; they thought they didn't have a problem with God because Abraham was their great-grandpa. That is a lot like people now, thinking they don't have a problem with God because their parents are Christians. How does a person become right with God?

## March 24 // Luke 4:1-32

*Re-read 4:3-8*

Jesus is led by the Holy Spirit to go out into the wilderness and is tempted by Satan there. He didn't eat for 40 days and Satan tried to take advantage of that. Right when Jesus is being tempted, he thinks of Bible verses. Do you have Bible verses you have memorized that you can think of when you are tempted? Find some verses that apply to the temptations you face.

## March 25 // Luke 4:33-44

*Re-read 4:41*

As Jesus was doing various miracles, demons spoke through people, saying that he was the son of God. Why do you think Jesus stopped them? How does he want people to find out he is the son of God? How can you be apart of that?



## March 26 // Luke 5:1-16

*Re-read 5:8*

It is interesting to see Peter's strong reaction to the presence of Jesus. You may know Peter as the great apostle, or the friend of Jesus, or the first pastor of the early church, but he started out as a fisherman and a sinner. Peter sees this "simple" miracle, and wants Jesus to leave. Why do you think he doesn't want to be a worker for Christ? Do you ever feel like Peter felt here?

## March 27 // Luke 5:17-39

*Re-read 5:31-32*

This Jesus' response to the criticism of the Pharisees and the scribes about where he was eating. They thought it was inappropriate to eat with sinners, but Jesus had a plan. He was telling them the good news about salvation! He says that he came to earth to save sinners, not righteous people (but we know the truth is that everyone is a sinner!). Jesus wants you to recognize that you are a sinner too. What does it mean to a sinner? Why is it important to understand this?

## March 28 // Luke 6:1-26

*Re-read 6:22-23*

Jesus gives a promise that seems very backwards. He those who are hated for Christ's sake, are actually "blessed" (happy). In verse 23, Jesus tells us why: rewards are in store. When and where are you made fun or excluded for being a Christian and standing up for his commands? Is it worth it to you?

## March 29 // Luke 6:27-49

*Re-read 6:27,35*

Jesus says that his followers should not get revenge on their enemies. He says they should love the people who don't love them. That is seriously hard! Who are the people that it are hard for you to love? How can you show them godly love today?



## March 30 // Luke 7:1-30

*Re-read 7:29-30*

Luke says that tax collectors and sinners accepted Jesus and John. The Pharisees and scribes on the other hand, rejected Jesus and John, and therefore rejected God. If we read or hear the words of the Bible, and don't do anything about them, we are being like the Pharisees. What have you been learning lately through the study of his word? Have you applied it?

## March 31 // Luke 7:31-50

*Re-read 7:47*

Before God, we are all sinners. That is a huge deal to God and it should be to us! If a person is forgiven of their sin by God, they are certainly loved by God! When you remember that God offered a way for you to be forgiven through Jesus (you are greatly loved), how do you think you should live now?

## April 1 // Luke 8:1-21

*Re-read 8:21*

The Bible clearly gives instructions from God to people. Jesus says his family members are the people who hear God's word and respond. What does God call people to do?

## April 2 // Luke 8:22-56

*Re-read 8:38-39*

Once again, Jesus does something amazing! This man wants to go with Jesus, but he has another assignment for this man. He wants him to go home and tell people about him there. Sometimes, you might feel like you would be used by God if you went to some far away place to tell people about Jesus. But the fact is, God has you where you are for a reason. Who do you think God wants YOU to be telling about him?



### April 3 // Luke 9:1-36

*Re-read 9:23-25*

The world looks pretty good sometimes. It offers money, fame, success, power, and lots of "good times." But in the end, it doesn't offer the only thing we need: salvation. Jesus calls us to deny ourselves and do what he wants us to do. What do you need to deny yourself of in order to follow Christ?

### April 4 // Luke 9:37-62

*Re-read 9:62*

Jesus tells the people that even though it is good to be apart of God's family, it will still be hard. Jesus makes sure we know that it will feel like work sometimes, but work that has great reward. We don't need to look back and wish we still had the goods of the world. Christians are told NOT to look back here in verse 62. Are you tempted to look back on the things you have given up Christ? How can you keep yourself from doing this?

### April 5 // Luke 10:1-24

*Re-read 10:3*

If you were being sent out into the world, these would not be the most encouraging words to hear! But Jesus says them to a group of 72 men for a reason: it's the truth! If a person is going to live as a Christian, they will stand out and be disliked for it. Are you ready to stand up for Jesus today?

### April 6 // Luke 10:25-42

*Re-read 10:36-37*

Jesus tells this famous story in response to a lawyer (a student of the Bible) who asked "who is my neighbor" (that he was supposed to love)? The Samaritans and the Israelites hated each other, and usually didn't even talk to each other. Jesus tells them that they should show love, even to the Samaritans! How can you be showing the love of God to people who you usually don't associate with (at school, sports, church)?





## April 7 // Luke 11:1-28

*Re-read 11:8*

In his discussion on prayer, Jesus tells a parable about a man who asks his neighbor for bread in the middle of the night. It almost seems rude for him to ask, but he continues to ask as he is continually rejected. Then finally because of his "impudence" (or boldness), the neighbor gave him the bread. With God, sometimes we just need to ask! What are some things you have asked for once or twice that you know you should be asking God for more often? Think of them and pray for them multiple times today!

## April 8 // Luke 11:29-54

*Re-read 11:34*

Jesus has some strong things to say about what we choose to look at. Jesus makes it clear that it affects our whole lives! What are some things that Christians should not be looking at or watching? (Think at school, on TV, the internet, etc.)

## April 9 // Luke 12:1-34

*Re-read 12:6-7*

Jesus is in the middle of telling the people to fear God, then he reminds them that God is good. He cares for you! How does it make you feel to know that the God of the universe is caring for your life? What does that do to the problems you are facing?

## April 10 // Luke 12:35-59

*Re-read 12:51*

Jesus did come to make peace between sinners and God, but that doesn't mean people here and now won't fight. The fight described here is between those who believe and trust in Jesus, and those who don't. If you want to live for Jesus, you are going to be fighting the influence of the world. In what ways do you feel that fight as you try to obey God?



## April 11 // Luke 13:1-21

*Re-read 13:18-19*

On the surface, this might not make sense. The Kingdom of God small like a mustard seed? It started off with a pretty small group of people, and has expanded to include SO MANY people! Who are some people that you want to be saved? How can you be praying for them today?

## April 12 // Luke 13:22-35

*Re-read 13:29*

Once again, Jesus brings up the inclusion of many people in the kingdom of God. Yesterday, you prayed for some people you wanted to see brought to Christ. Today, try to invite one of them to church over the course of the week!

## April 13 // Luke 14:1-24

*Re-read 14:23*

In a parable about a wedding feast, Jesus illustrates how some people reject God. On the other hand, some of the people that seem far off from God, come to know Jesus. Who are some people that seem "far off" from going to church who you know? Pray to God to ask him to do something in their life! God is a powerful God!

## April 14 // Luke 14:25-35

*Re-read 14:28*

Jesus wants people to realize what they are getting in to by following him. He gives the example of a person building a tower or a building. Before they commit to build it, they need to know how much it cost to build it. What would it cost you to follow Jesus?



## April 15 // Luke 15:1-10

*Re-read 15:4*

It is obvious that God cares for us A LOT! Jesus is the shepherd, and he left heaven to come save us and bring us back. How amazing is it that God loves us that much?! What can you do today that shows God how much you love him?

## April 16 // Luke 15:11-32

*Re-read 15:31-32*

In the parable of the Prodigal son, there are two brothers. It would be wrong for you to have the older son's attitude. His younger brother was celebrated because he repented, even though he did a lot of bad things. How can you guard against being envious or jealous when bad people come into the church and become Christians and blessed by God? (Remember how bad your own sin is against God).

## April 17 // Luke 16:1-18

*Re-read 16:13*

Perhaps your god isn't money. Maybe it is popularity or pride. Maybe it is the stuff you have, or maybe it is a certain person in your life! In this verse, Jesus is clear: you cannot serve two masters. We all need to make a decision everyday about what is more important to us: God or something else? In what ways are you tempted to serve something else other than God?

## April 18 // Luke 16:19-31

*Re-read 16:27-31*

The dead rich man asks Abraham to send Lazarus back from the dead to warn his brothers to repent and trust God. Abraham says that Moses/the prophets (the Bible) are more powerful to save than a person coming back from the dead. This means you read / study / have access to something really powerful: God's word! Do you treat it like it this powerful? Do you make it a priority to be in it everyday?



## April 19 // Luke 17:1-19

*Re-read 17:3-4*

Jesus is serious about sin and temptations to sin. After talking about the seriousness of causing others to sin, he says that we should all check ourselves! Then he says that we need to forgive each other. Is it ever hard for you to forgive? Is there anyone who you haven't forgiven? Pray for them today and forgive!

## April 20 // Luke 17:20-37

*Re-read 17:26*

The Bible is clear: Jesus is coming back. And when he does, he will take his people home, and destroy those who are against him. In Luke 17, Jesus says it is like Noah and the Ark. God made a way for us to be saved too! Our safety is found in the blood of Jesus on the cross! When the flood came on the earth, it was a scary time! In the same way, it will be scary when God's judgment comes on earth. How can you warn people of this?

## April 21 // Luke 18:1-17

*Re-read 18:4-5*

This parable talks about a widow who constantly asks an evil judge to give her justice against someone who had wronged her. She kept asking, and it wore the judge down. He thought it would be better to just give her what she wants. When we go to God persistently (over and over), how much more will he want to answer our prayer? What are some things you have stopped asking God for? Keep asking God!

## April 22 // Luke 18:18-43

*Re-read 18:29-30*

Jesus wants his followers to know that he has great rewards in store for those who serve him. He reminds the disciples that this life is not all there is! Jesus will reward people who give up things that are important to them for his sake.

This should teach us to be willing to give up ANYTHING we have to please God. What are some thing you find hard to give up in order to follow God better?



## April 23 // Luke 19:1-28

*Re-read 19:17*

Jesus told a parable about a master who his servants money to invest before leaving on a long trip. The first two servants took their money and invested it well. The master was happy and gave them more responsibility. God has given you talents, skills, and passions to use for his church. How are you investing them? How can you invest them better?

## April 24 // Luke 19:29-48

*Re-read 19:47-48*

There was a big group of people in Israel that didn't like Jesus. The "Pharisees" or Jewish leaders and teachers, hated Jesus because he constantly called them out on their evil hearts. But the people loved Jesus because he spoke the truth with authority. We have the benefit of getting to read and study his words whenever we want! How are you doing at being in his word? Are you a person who is "hanging on his words"?

## April 25 // Luke 20:1-26

*Re-read 20:25*

In his discussion with the religious leaders in Jerusalem, Jesus stumps their hard question that was intended to make people angry at him. Jesus told the people to pay their taxes, but more importantly, he told them to serve God. Specifically, how can you serve God today?

## April 26 // Luke 20:27-47

*Re-read 20:46*

Once again, Jesus calls out the religious leaders for hypocrisy. He talks about how much they love other people's attention. They only did good things so that people would praise them for it. Do you ever do good thing so that other people will say good things about you?



## April 27 // Luke 21:1-19

*Re-read 21:17*

These are not the most comforting words! Jesus tells his followers that because people hated him, they will also hate everyone who serves him. What are some things that you could do today that would make you stand out as God's servant?

## April 28 // Luke 21:20-38

*Re-read 21:36*

Jesus calls Christians to stay awake and be ready to serve him. Earlier, he tells his followers to be watchful, lest their hearts be "weighed down" with the things of the world. How can you avoid this? What do you need strength for to endure this week for God's sake?

## April 29 // Luke 22:1-30

*Re-read 22:26*

Humility is something that every person naturally fights against, but every Christian is required to do. We naturally want to be prideful and selfish! Jesus calls his followers to serve one another. Write down someone you can serve today, then go and do it!

## April 30 // Luke 22:31-53

*Re-read 22:42*

Doing what God wants can be hard sometimes! The hardest thing anyone ever had to do, was to die on the cross for our sins. We are supposed to submit (put ourselves under) God's plan. When is this hard for you? Why should you choose to submit to God?



## May 1 // Luke 22:54-71

*Re-read 22:61-62*

Peter was the most enthusiastic of all the disciples! He always wanted to do things for Christ and to serve him! Yesterday, we read that Jesus warned Peter about denying him (Peter of course thought he would never deny Jesus). In verse 61, Jesus makes eye contact with Peter after being denied by his most enthusiastic disciple. When are you tempted to deny Jesus? In that moment, what are some things about God that you should remember?

## May 2 // Luke 23:1-26

*Re-read 23:20-21*

Throughout the Gospels, many people praise Jesus. Yet, every gospel records the shouts of the crowds for the death of Jesus. The people changed their minds about Jesus! He was not the savior they wanted, but he was the Savior they really needed. Most people today think the same way. Who are some people that you know that need to hear the good news of Jesus (that perhaps don't think they need it)? Make it a goal to talk to them about it this week!

## May 3 // Luke 23:27-38

*Re-read 23:34*

Look at the compassion Jesus has for the people! Even though he is being tortured, he asks God to forgive the very people who were killing him. We are called to forgive like God forgave us. That means we should forgive completely, and quickly. (In order to not hold a grudge, you need to treat people as though they had not wronged you.) Are there people in your life right now that you have not forgiven? (They probably didn't do anything worse than these people were doing to Jesus). Remember, forgive quickly!

## May 4 // Luke 23:39-56

*Re-read 23:40-43*

Many people mocked Jesus at his crucifixion, it's a bit unexpected for one of those people to be a criminal at Jesus's side. While one criminal mocked Jesus, the other criminal realizes that Jesus was really the Son of God! He asks Jesus to remember him in the Kingdom, and Jesus promises that they would meet in Heaven that very day! If you are forgiven, then when you die you will be with Jesus in a perfect place forever! How does this change your view of dying?



## May 5 // Luke 24:1-35

*Re-read 24:27*

After he rose from the dead, Jesus appeared to many different people. He started walking with a couple of his followers, but they didn't recognize him. They had a bunch of questions and Jesus wanted them to know the truth, so he began to explain truths about himself from the Old Testament. The Old Testament talks about Jesus a lot, but it doesn't give his name. What does the Old Testament say about Jesus?

## May 6 // Luke 24:36-53

*Re-read 24:47*

Jesus had a mission for his disciples. This is the mission: tell people about how he made a way for them to be saved from the punishment for their sins. This is now our mission too! How are you doing at telling people about Jesus? How can you step it up?

## May 7 // John 1:1-28

*Re-read 1:1-3*

John begins his gospel by talking about "the Word." John talks about the Word like it is person. Who is "the Word"? Why do you think he is called the Word? How does that change the way you are supposed to listen to him?

## May 8 // John 1:29-51

*Re-read 1:29*

John the Baptist says something pretty amazing as he sees Jesus walking towards him. He calls Jesus, "the Lamb of God." Why does he call him that? (What were lambs used for in the Old Testament?) Why is this important for us?





## May 9 // John 2

*Re-read 2:17*

After Jesus goes into the temple and drives the money-changers out, John makes sure to add that the disciples remembered something written in the Old Testament. The whole Bible is really important! Do you treat it as important? How can you deepen your study of God's word?

## May 10 // John 3:1-21

*Re-read 3:19*

In verse 16, Jesus speaks of the eternal life offered in the life of Jesus Christ. But in verse 19, it gives the other side of things. God will judge people for their sin. Jesus says that people loved the darkness (their sin) rather than the light (righteousness). How can you see this to be true in the world? What about in your own heart?

## May 11 // John 3:22-36

*Re-read 3:36*

Everyone needs to believe and obey Jesus. Real life is promised to everyone who believes in Jesus. How exciting is it that Jesus promises the best life imaginable for people who believe and obey him?

## May 12 // John 4:1-30

*Re-read 4:13-14*

This woman is promised something that seems impossible. Jesus says that he is able to give her "living water" that will satisfy her forever! He gives us the same opportunity today. What does it mean to be never be thirsty again? How does Jesus do this for us?



## May 13 // John 4:31-54

*Re-read 4:34*

When the disciples present food to Jesus, he says that his food is to do the will of the one who sent him (God the Father). This means that Jesus' motivation was to serve God completely! Can you truly say that doing what God commands you is like food to your body? Do you have that kind of desire to obey God?

## May 14 // John 5:1-24

*Re-read 5:18*

Jesus is not just a good teacher or a smart guy; Jesus is God. He is equal in power, glory, and majesty with God the Father (although they perform different jobs). How does this effect your thoughts about the life of Jesus on earth?

## May 15 // John 5:25-47

*Re-read 5:45*

Jesus knows that these people do not trust in God for righteousness, but they trusted in themselves. God gave Moses the words, and he wrote the Law (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy). The people Jesus was speaking to trusted in their own obedience to that law to be "good" before God. But the law reveals sin. Turn to Exodus 20 and read the Ten Commandments. Write down the one's you have broken (Look at Matthew 5:21-22, 27-28).

## May 16 // John 6:1-21

*Re-read 6:9*

In the account of Jesus feeding the five thousand, we rarely think about the boy with the loaves and fish, and perhaps this is good as we point the attention on Jesus. But, this boy gave what he had to Jesus, and Jesus used it. Jesus wants you to offer whatever you have in service to him (your time, skills, work, money, etc.). What can you offer him today?



## May 17 // John 6:22-44

*Re-read 6:35*

Jesus says he is the "bread of life," and he will satisfy all who come to him. What are some things that we all really want, but never really are able to get completely apart from in Christ? (happiness, joy, peace, love) What do YOU desire the most? How can you be satisfied in Christ?

## May 18 // John 6:45-71

*Re-read 6:66-68*

Many of the people who followed Jesus left him at this point because he was preaching "hard sayings." Jesus turns to his twelve chosen disciples and asks if they want to leave too, but Peter responds by saying that only Jesus has, "the words of eternal life." Do you cling to the words of Jesus like the Peter and the disciples did? Are you faithfully reading his words?

## May 19 // John 7:1-31

*Re-read 7:12*

Even today, people disagree about who Jesus is. Some call him, "a good man," and some people think, "he is leading the people astray." Who do you think Jesus is?

## May 20 // John 7:32-53

*Re-read 7:43*

There is a lot that has been said so far in the Gospel of John about the people's opinion of Jesus (we read about that yesterday). Where will you turn for information about Jesus? Do you defend Jesus in a world that says false things about him?



## May 21 // John 8:1-20

*Re-read 8:12*

Jesus describes himself as “the light of the world.” In chapter 1, John said that Jesus is the light that exposes sin, but people love darkness rather than light. What does it mean to have the “light of life?”

## May 22 // John 8:21-36

*Re-read 8:31-32*

It is clear, Jesus wants his followers to listen to him. Not only does he want them to know what he says, he wants them to do what he says! Do you read/listen to his word everyday? Even more than that, do you think about his words throughout the day?

## May 23 // John 8:37-59

*Re-read 8:58-59*

The people were so mad at Jesus, that they wanted to kill him! Why? Because Jesus claimed to be God, and that the people were slaves to something, but only he could set them free. What does it mean for you if Jesus is really God? How does it change the way you want to do what he says?

## May 24 // John 9:1-23

*Re-read 9:2-3*

Because this man was blind, the disciples assumed that he (or one of his family members) had sinned. They ask Jesus what the sin was, and he told them that it wasn't because of a certain sin. Jesus told them that purpose of this terrible ailment was to show people the glory of God. Some bad things happen that we don't understand, but we are called to trust God through it. What are some bad things you have seen in your life that God has done to bring himself glory?



## May 25 // John 9:24-41

*Re-read 9:41*

Jesus says that if these Pharisees were blind to the fact that they sinned, then they could be freed by Christ. How do people who are blind to their sin act? How do they view the Bible's rules?

## May 26 // John 10:1-21

*Re-read 10:11*

Jesus calls himself the Good Shepherd. In the Old Testament, God himself is compared to the shepherd of the people. Jesus is a leader who lays down his own life for his people. Because he did this, how should the sheep (you) follow the shepherd?

## May 27 // John 10:22-42

*Re-read 10:28*

Once again, Jesus uses the sheep/shepherd analogy to describe his relationship with his followers. How does it comfort you to know that God is in charge, and he will never let you slip out of his hands?

## May 28 // John 11:1-17

*Re-read 11:4*

Jesus again uses a bad situation for good. Lazarus was sick and then died, but Jesus brought him back to life! Jesus was glorified through this bad situation. How can you glorify God in your bad situations?



## May 29 // John 11:18-46

*Re-read 11:33*

Many assume that Jesus was free from sadness because he was God. Jesus was also fully human, and felt sad at times, just like us! He was tempted like we are tempted, and he went through hard times like we do. Why is it important that Jesus became a human like we are?

## May 30 // John 11:47-57

*Re-read 11:57*

The chief priests and the leaders of Israel were going after Jesus. They wanted him to be arrested so he would stop preaching. After he died and was raised, they turned their hatred of him onto his disciples. Many were arrested and put in jail because they followed him. Now, we are the ones who are hated for being with Jesus. Are you willing to be punished for following Jesus?

## May 31 // John 12:1-19

*Re-read 12:13*

People lined up to see Jesus and to praise him. While these people didn't have all the right motives, it should get us thinking: how eager are you to praise Jesus for all he has done? How can you worship him better today with your life?

## June 1 // John 12:20-50

*Re-read 12:25*

Jesus says that anyone who follows him needs to hate his own life in order to really serve him. This doesn't mean that you are supposed to hate yourself. It means that in comparison to how much you love God, you don't love your own life very much. Honestly think, what is the thing you love most? Something you feel you couldn't live without? Is knowing God more valuable to you than those?



## June 2 // John 13:1-17

*Re-read 13:14*

Jesus is God. He is the creator of the universe, yet he wrapped a towel around his waist and began to wash his disciples' smelly feet. As unpleasant as this sounds, he tells them to serve each other when he is gone. Serving people doesn't always feel good, but it is what Jesus wants you to do. How can you serve the people around you today?

## June 3 // John 13:18-38

*Re-read 13:35*

Just as a uniform is the sign that you belong to a team, so is loving others the sign of a Christian. It is so important to Jesus that you love others, that he says it is the difference between a Christian and a non-Christian lifestyle. Who do you need to show love to today? How can you show them love today?

## June 4 // John 14

*Re-read 14:21*

Jesus is saying that you cannot even say you love him if you don't obey him. It is clear to see who is living for God by observing the actions of a person. In what ways are you disobedient? In what ways are you obedient?

## June 5 // John 15

*Re-read 15:12-13*

Jesus chose to lay down his life for the people he saves. He is the ultimate example of love. His love was sacrificial (giving himself for others). What can you do today that reflects this "sacrificial" love?



## June 6 // John 16:1-15

*Re-read 16:2-3*

Christians are not promised an easy life on earth. Christians are called to give up their lives in service to Jesus. Why is it worth it to live this way?

## June 7 // John 16:16-33

*Re-read 16:33*

In the midst of all the hardship that Christians are promised, there is hope. Jesus speaks over and over again to the fact that this world is not all there is. In verse 33, he promised that he has overcome the world. If we trust in him, we share in that victory! How does knowing this change the way you view hard times?

## June 8 // John 17

*Re-read 17:17*

Jesus is praying to the Father for his followers. He has given us the Bible to read and study, and he says that its the truth. Why is it important the words in the Bible are truth? And how is that different from anything else we find in the world?

## June 9 // John 18:1-23

*Re-read 18:11*

Peter appears to be bold for Jesus as he cuts off the ear of the high priest's servant. Jesus knows that it is not the time for fighting. Jesus recognizes that he needs to bear the punishment for sins that his father puts on him. Have you ever accepted a hard situation that you knew was God's plan?





## June 10 // John 18:24-40

*Re-read 18:36*

Jesus explains why he stopped Peter from fighting back. He says that his kingdom is not of this world. What does that mean? And why is that important for your life everyday?

## June 11 // John 19:1-22

*Re-read 19:1-3*

It is amazing to look at the kind of mockery Jesus endured as he approached the cross. Look up Hebrews 12:3. What should you be enduring?

## June 12 // John 19:23-42

*Re-read 19:30*

These are the final words of Jesus on the cross. The words that is translated "it is finished" can also be translated, "paid in full." What had Jesus paid in full? And to whom had he paid it?

## June 13 // John 20

*Re-read 20:29*

Thomas was a follower of Jesus and a disciple. He knew a lot about Jesus and the Bible, but he still doubted him. He doesn't believe that Jesus rose again until he saw him in person. Jesus turns and says that people are even more blessed if they believe and don't see him. We live 2000 years after Jesus lived, and we have never seen him. What makes it harder about living now?



## June 14 // John 21

*Re-read 21:17*

Peter denied Jesus three times before his death. Jesus asks Peter if he loves him three times after his resurrection. Jesus did this on purpose, and he wanted Peter to do the work he is called to. We sin too, and we must ask ourselves often: Do I love Jesus? Answer that question and give a reason why he should think that.

## June 15 // Acts 1

*Re-read 1:8*

Jesus' final words to the disciples were memorable ones. He tells them to go out into all the world and be his "witnesses" (people who see something, and tell of it). The Acts of the Apostles is a book that is filled with accounts of the disciples doing just that. How are you continuing this today?

## June 16 // Acts 2:1-13

*Re-read 2:4*

Many gifts of the Holy Spirit to Christians are no longer needed in the church today. This gift of tongues was given here at the beginning to prove that the Holy Spirit was really there, and that their message was God's message. The people were speaking, and many others listening in their own languages heard them and understood. It would be like you going to a big city, and the people who only knew Spanish / Chinese / French / Japanese could all hear you, and understand in their own language. It was a miracle! What are some other miraculous gifts that we don't use anymore?

## June 17 // Acts 2:14-47

*Re-read 2:22-24*

Peter begins preaching a sermon about the resurrection of Jesus. He reminds them of Psalm 16, and the fact that David couldn't have been talking about himself because he died and didn't rise. Why is the resurrection so important? Where would Christians be without it?



## June 18 // Acts 3

*Re-read 3:6*

There is a man who cannot walk sitting at the gate to the temple. He asks Peter for money, but Peter heals him in the name of Jesus! That was better than any amount of money Peter could have given him! What do you have to give people that is better than money? What message? And in whose name do you give it?

## June 19 // Acts 4:1-22

*Re-read 4:12*

Peter is preaching again, and he makes a bold claim. Most people today think that there are many ways to heaven, or that "being a good person" will get you there. But Peter says there is no other person who can save other than Jesus. How does this help you talk to people about Jesus?

## June 20 // Acts 4:23-37

*Re-read 4:32*

Most churches don't look like this! The Christians in Jerusalem loved each other so much that they were willing to share anything and everything. How can you grow in your love towards other people? What can you do to be more like the Christians in Jerusalem?

## June 21 // Acts 5:1-16

*Re-read 5:3-5*

God takes honesty very seriously. He kills this couple for lying to the apostles (more importantly to the Holy Spirit) about what they were giving and how much they sold their land for. Are there any areas of your life where you tend to be dishonest? How can you change that today?



## June 22 // Acts 5:17-42

*Re-read 5:29*

Followers of Jesus are called to obey him above anyone or anything else. Elsewhere in the Bible, we are commanded to obey authorities. This is true! But if those authorities tell us to do things that make us disobey God, you have to follow God. In what ways might you get in trouble at school/sports/other activities for obeying what the Bible says?

## June 23 // Acts 6

*Re-read 6:9-10*

Stephen was a man who spoke boldly about Jesus, and the people didn't like him for it. His words were from God. When you speak about God, wouldn't it make sense to use his words? How can you do this in talking to non-Christians?

## June 24 // Acts 7:1-19

In the beginning of chapter 7, Stephen preaches this sermon about how God worked in the Old Testament. Pick one of the characters that Stephen mentions and write about what aspect of God is revealed in that story.

## June 25 // Acts 7:20-43

*Re-read 7:32-33*

Today, people talk about God, use his name, and treat his people like he is no big deal. Stephen reminds the people that God is not someone you want to mess with. How should you fear God more than you do now? What will this change in your life?



## June 26 // Acts 7:44-60

*Re-read 7:60*

Stephen has finished preaching the truth of Jesus as the fulfillment of God's plan, and the people kill him. You would think that Stephen would be mad at them for this. But he prays that God would not hold his murder against them! He is forgiving the people who are killing him! Who are some people you need to forgive? (They couldn't have done anything worse than these people did to Stephen)

## June 27 // Acts 8:1-25

*Re-read 8:20*

There is a man we are introduced to here in Acts 8 named Simon who worked as a magician or a con-artist before becoming a Christian. He wanted to work miracles like Peter and the apostles, so he offered to pay Peter for the ability. Peter was outraged! The problem with Simon was that he wanted to serve God for what he would get out of it, not what he could do for the church. What can you do for the church this week?

## June 28 // Acts 8:26-40

*Re-read 8:35*

Phillip continues his evangelism with this high ranking official from a distant country. This had to have been a little bit scary, but Phillip boldly preaches the gospel. Who can you share the truth of the gospel with? (Even if it's a little bit scary!) Because, like with this man, you never know what God can do with your words!

## June 29 // Acts 9:1-22

*Re-read 9:15*

Saul was a man who opposed the gospel of Jesus. He was there when Stephen died, holding his killer's coats. Saul even killed Christians! But God chose to use him for his glory. We know him today as Paul, the apostle and evangelist. God can save anyone! Who are some people you doubt God could save? Pray for them today! And remember that God is powerful enough to save anyone!



## June 30 // Acts 9:23-43

*Re-read 9:26-27*

It makes sense that most of the church was afraid of Paul. He was a really bad guy who did a lot of bad things to them before. But Barnabas had the right attitude. He brought Paul in to the group. Who are some people on the outside the church that you need to help bring into the group?

## July 1 // Acts 10:1-23

*Re-read 10:13-15*

If you have ever wondered why Christians aren't held to the food restrictions of the Old Testament, here is your answer! It is amazing how God provides for us as his people. What is something you need to thank God for today that you often forget about? Pray about it!

## July 2 // Acts 10:24-48

*Re-read 10:36*

At the beginning of the church, the people being saved consisted of only Jews. So when non-Jews started to become Christians, it was confusing to some people. Peter says that Jesus is Lord of all (that means all kinds of people). That means he our Lord too! Why is this important?

## July 3 // Acts 11

*Re-read 11:23*

When Barnabas came to Antioch, he came to encourage the people to be more like Christ. He calls them to be faithful. What does it look like in your life to be faithful?



## July 4 // Acts 12

*Re-read 12:22-23*

Herod the king was a prideful man who sought to stop the apostles. As he was giving what would be his final address, the people said his voice was like a god's voice. But the true God struck him down and killed him. God hates pride. He hates it when we are selfish. How can you stop being selfish today?

## July 5 // Acts 13:1-23

*Re-read 13:10*

Paul (Saul) is speaking to Elymas (a magician) who is turning people away from God by his actions. He is trying to make people stop listening to the truth that Paul is speaking. God wants people to stand up for the truth, just as Paul does here. How can you stand up this week?

## July 6 // Acts 13:24-52

*Re-read 13:44*

Here in Antioch, Paul is preaching about Jesus to a group of Jews. It caused such a stir, that the next week, the whole city showed up! God does big things when we pray and do what he wants. What are the things you need to be doing for God today? They won't go un-rewarded in the end!

## July 7 // Acts 14

*Re-read 14:14-15*

As Paul and Barnabas travel doing miraculous signs, some people mistake them for gods. (Zeus and Hermes are two Greek gods). Instead of taking the glory for themselves, they direct it towards God. They tear their clothes because they are so upset that people were worshipping them. How can you direct other people's praise to God this week?



## July 8 // Acts 15:1-21

*Re-read 15:11*

Peter and the apostles were having a big discussion on whether or not they wanted to make non-Jewish Christians to obey all the same Jewish rules. Peter reminds them that all people who are Christians are saved by the grace of Jesus through faith (the same way as anyone else). This means that they were to stop making distinctions between other Christians based on their background. Do you show favoritism to some people at church as opposed to others based on what they look like or where they are from? Today's reading reminds us to stop thinking that way.

## July 9 // Acts 15:22-41

*Re-read 15:32*

Judas and Silas were known for their encouragement. Are you known for your encouragement? How can you do a better job lifting other up today?

## July 10 // Acts 16:1-15

*Re-read 16:5*

Throughout our time reading Acts, we have read about a lot of persecution and problems in the church, but God continues to do good things in the church. We are the church now, and God wants to work through us. What are you doing to serve the church?

## July 11 // Acts 16:16-40

*Re-read 16:25*

Paul and Silas prayed and sang hymns in prison! Why were they joyful in such a hard time? Do you have a good attitude in hard times?





## July 12 // Acts 17:1-15

*Re-read 17:6*

Jason is a Christian that is well-known for his faith. He is dragged before the leaders of Thessalonica. They charged him for "turning the world upside down." Two things to notice here: the first is that they take money from him and he doesn't complain. The second is that they were actually turning the world upside with the gospel. Are you turning your sports teams/classrooms/friend groups/neighborhoods upside down? And are you taking the persecution along the way?

## July 13 // Acts 17:16-34

*Re-read 17:24-25*

Paul is talking to a large group of smart people in the city of Athens (Greece) on a hill called the "Areopagus." These people had a lot of ideas about who God was, but Paul introduces them to the one true God. How does knowing what God is like (powerful enough to create the universe) change the way you should act?

## July 14 // Acts 18

*Re-read 18:9-11*

Jesus had a very unique relationship with Paul. He tells him here that there are people in the city of Corinth that are soon to become Christians. There is a good chance that in your neighborhood, on your sports teams, and in your classes, there are people that are God's people, and haven't responded in repentance and faith yet. What can you do to point them in Jesus' direction?

## July 15 // Acts 19:1-20

*Re-read 19:19*

The Ephesians had seen some crazy things in this short period of time. Demons attacked the sons of priests and gospel was preached. In response to all of this, they took their magic books and burned them in the city (worth a total of 50,000 pieces of silver). The people of Ephesus gave up their old lives to serve and obey Jesus. What will you give up this week to better obey Jesus?



## July 16 // Acts 19:21-41

*Re-read 19:23*

This whole section describes a dangerous riot in Ephesus involving idol worshippers who hated Christians. It was probably a scary time for the Christians there, but they were bold. How can you be bold for what you believe about Jesus today?

## July 17 // Acts 20:1-16

*Re-read 20:3*

Paul was constantly in danger at the hands of the Jews. They hated him because they saw him as a traitor. Often times, when people's lives change because of Jesus, there is a group of people who don't like them anymore. Who are some people that don't like you because you follow Jesus? Pray for them today!

## July 18 // Acts 20:17-38

*Re-read 20:27*

As Paul leaves Ephesus, he talks to the leaders of the church about how they should run the church. He reminds them that he taught them "the whole council of God." It is important for us, as people who have the written word of God, to study all of it. What are you reading in God's word this week?

## July 19 // Acts 21:1-14

*Re-read 21:13*

Of all the people who were willing to do big things for God in the Bible, Paul may have done the most! It is amazing to see his boldness and readiness to share the gospel. How far are you really willing to go for Jesus? Think about this today.



## July 20 // Acts 21:15-40

*Re-read 21:30*

Paul was constantly in danger for being a Christian. What kind of dangers do you face for being a part of the church? Isolation? Teasing? Think about it.

## July 21 // Acts 22

*Re-read 22:21*

Paul speaks before a large group of Jews and explains how Jesus brought him to salvation. He is sent to a specific people group: the Gentiles. He usually is preaching to non-Jews. What group of people has God put you with that you should be talking to about salvation?

## July 22 // Acts 23:1-11

*Re-read 23:1*

Having a good "conscience" is important to Paul, and it should be important to us too. This means we should do what we know is right. What are some tough situations that you know you will face today, that you must choose to do what is right?

## July 23 // Acts 23:12-35

*Re-read 23:16*

There was a young man who had an important mission. He was bold to go tell his uncle Paul about the plot against him. It was probably pretty scary for him. What are some scary situations in your life? Do you choose to trust God in those situations?



## July 24 // Acts 24

*Re-read 24:15*

As Paul explains himself to Felix (the governor of the area) he talks about his hope in God for the resurrection. Thinking about the resurrection, how does should you live your life now?

## July 25 // Acts 25

*Re-read 25:22*

Herod Agrippa, the King of Israel, was one of the most powerful men in the world Paul lived in. He wanted to hear Paul speak and defend his case. This was one of greatest opportunities for Paul ever had to tell people about Jesus! What opportunities do you have to tell others about Jesus? (If you can't think of any, pray for more opportunities!)

## July 26 // Acts 26

*Re-read 26:28-29*

Before the wicked King of Israel, Paul shares his testimony of salvation, as well as the gospel and how people need to trust the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. Agrippa began to realize that it was important for him to respond to this message. It takes more than just hearing and knowing the gospel to be saved. Agrippa never responded correctly, have you?

## July 27 // Acts 27:1-25

*Re-read 27:25*

All 276 passengers on Paul's prison ship had to have been scared. Earlier, it says that the men "abandoned" all hope of survival. But Paul was told by an angel that all the men would live. Paul called the men to trust God. What are some things that you must trust God for?



## July 28 // Acts 27:26-44

*Re-read 27:35*

In the midst of a shipwreck and a disastrous trip, Paul and the others were provided for by God. And for that, he gave thanks. You might find it easier to give thanks to God for your food after going 2 weeks without it, but how thankful are you for his provision everyday? We ought to be thankful for every good thing we are given! Thank God today!

## July 29 // Acts 28:1-15

*Re-read 28:15*

Paul had just spent a great deal of time traveling to Rome where he would stand in court before Caesar. While in Rome, he found a group of Christians that encouraged him. It says that Paul thanked God and took courage. Who are the people you can thank God for today?

## July 30 // Acts 28:16-31

*Re-read 28:30-31*

Paul finished his missionary journey in Rome where he ended up dying for Jesus. He preached about the kingdom and people were won to Jesus in the process. As we finish the book of Acts, what is something about Paul that you wish to be more like? How can you better share your faith in Jesus Christ by looking to the example found in the Apostle Paul?

## July 31 // Romans 1

*Re-read 1:16*

Paul is writing a letter to the church in Rome. He tells them that he is not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for salvation. As you live in the world today, what does it look like to be unashamed of the gospel? What does it look like to be ashamed?



## August 1 // Romans 2

*Re-read 2:6*

The Jewish people that Paul was writing to thought they were better off because they had the law of God. Paul says they are judged by the law, not saved by it. If God were to really give you what you deserve, what would it be?

## August 2 // Romans 3

*Re-read 3:9,23*

Think about what you wrote yesterday. After looking at verse 9 and 23, do you still agree with what you said yesterday about what you deserve from God? Why?

## August 3 // Romans 4

*Re-read 4:24-25*

Chapter 4 may be confusing, but the point is this: people are not righteous just because of their ancestors. Righteousness must come through faith in someone else! Verses 24 and 25 tell us who we must trust in for salvation. Why do we need to put our faith in him?

## August 4 // Romans 5

*Re-read 5:6-8*

Paul reminds the Romans how much they deserved Christ's love. They didn't! No one did! Jesus came and died while we were all sinners. There was nothing lovable about us, but he chose to love us. How does that change the way you look at the death of Jesus?



## August 5 // Romans 6

*Re-read 6:15-16*

We have already read that Christians are under the grace of God, not the punishment that comes through the law. Now, Paul wants to make something very clear: just because you are under the grace of God, doesn't mean you should go on sinning intentionally like there is no consequence. Christians are not slaves to sin anymore, they are slaves to God. What are some of the things that slaves of God should not be doing anymore?

## August 6 // Romans 7

*Re-read 7:25*

After talking about the struggle between sin and the law, Paul reminds them that Jesus came to bring victory over sin. Paul saw victory over sin in his own life. Do you see victory over sin in your life? If not, why not?

## August 7 // Romans 8:1-18

*Re-read 8:15*

The word "Abba" means father, or dad, or daddy (whatever you call your dad). It's a loving term that only a child would use of his dad. That is the kind of relationship we can have with the God who made the universe! How amazing is that!? How should kids respond to their dad's rules? Do you respond that way to God's rules?

## August 8 // Romans 8:19-39

*Re-read 8:38-39*

Paul makes a strong claim here. He says that NOTHING can separate a person from the love God has for them. Although we may feel alone or separated from God's love at times, we are not. When is it hard for you to remember that you are never separated from God's love (if you are a Christian)?



## August 9 // Romans 9

*Re-read 9:20-21*

When people question God's plan for their life, it is like a pot questioning its maker about why they were made a certain way. Paul's point: don't question God's plan. When are you tempted to question God's plan for your life?

## August 10 // Romans 10

*Re-read 10:14-15*

Paul asks a question that we must ask ourselves regularly about the people around us: How will \_\_\_\_\_ be saved if they have never heard the good news? Think about three people who need to hear the good news from you!

## August 11 // Romans 11:1-21

*Re-read 11:6*

Paul is talking about Jews who are saved. He reminds them that they are still saved by grace, and not works, so they are not better than everyone else. Sometimes, it's hard for church kids to NOT feel like they are better than everyone else. How can you be a more humble follower of Christ?

## August 12 // Romans 11:22-36

*Re-read 11:33*

God is hard to figure out, and sometimes, it seems impossible. All that we know about him, he has been revealed to us. Paul says that God's ways are "incomprehensible" which means: impossible to understand completely. What are some things about God that are hard for you to understand?





## August 13 // Romans 12

*Re-read 12:2*

Paul is clear, if you don't work to live different than the world, you will become like it. To be "conformed" is to be molded into the ideal image the world wants you to be. The image the world wants to mold you into is sinful. It is all about the mind. Instead of being conformed to the world, Paul wants the people to be transformed to be like Jesus. How can you train your mind to do this?

## August 14 // Romans 13

*Re-read 13:1*

It is not optional to submit to authorities. Even when the authorities seem unfair to us, it is important to obey. Who are some people in charge in your life that you need to do a better job obeying? How can you do this?

## August 15 // Romans 14

*Re-read 14:12*

This is a frightening thing to think about in light of all the sin we have committed. All people who have been saved by Jesus will have to stand before God and talk about their lives and every decision they made with God. This should motivate us to live for him every day! What are some things you want to avoid today, for the sake of that day?

## August 16 // Romans 15:1-20

*Re-read 15:5-6*

Paul encourages the people to live in "harmony with one another." This means to get along with everyone at church (specifically). How can you be a better friend at church this weekend?



## August 17 // Romans 15:21-33

*Re-read 15:30*

Paul is asking for prayer. There are many people in your life today that need prayer. Has anyone asked you for prayer lately? Who needs it? Pray for 10 minutes today about them.

## August 18 // Romans 16

*Re-read 16:17*

All throughout the Bible, we are encouraged to surround ourselves with the right kind of people. Paul tells the Roman Christians to avoid a group of people who are creating divisions and problems in the church. This should give us two warnings: don't cause problems that separate people's friendships, and don't be friends with people who do. Who are some good friends that you need to be getting closer to?

## August 19 // 1 Corinthians 1

*Re-read 1:31*

As Paul begins his letters to the church in Corinth he reminds them of who they really are. He reminds them that the good things God has done through the church are not because of them, but because of God. He reminds the church that God prefers to use people who the world views as weak. The Corinthians have nothing to boast about but God! What are some things you boast about that you shouldn't? And what does boasting in God look like?

## August 20 // 1 Corinthians 2

*Re-read 2:1*

Paul came into this city preaching the gospel. He didn't come into town speaking like the wise professors of the day that spoke with big words and dramatic phrases. He preached the truth, and let God do the work. How does this change the way you should share about Jesus with people? Do you have to be super smart?



## August 21 // 1 Corinthians 3

*Re-read 3:13*

When this life is over, you will have your life evaluated before God. (If you are a Christian, you will not be punished for your sin). The way you live today will shape how scary that day will be for you. What is something you can do today that will be rewarded by God?

## August 22 // 1 Corinthians 4

*Re-read 4:15-16*

The Corinthians are reminded that Paul is their father in the faith. He is the one who personally led many of them to Christ. Then he tells them to be "imitators" (or copy-cats) of his obedience to Jesus. Who are some people in your life who you should copy in their spiritual lives?

## August 23 // 1 Corinthians 5

*Re-read 5:13*

Throughout this chapter, it is clear, God hates sin. The last people should sin are the people in the church! This verse summarizes a section that reminds us that God will judge the people outside the church for their sin. Our job is to keep sin from getting in the church. The first step of doing that keeping sin from your own heart. What types of sin are you fighting against? How can you beat it?

## August 24 // 1 Corinthians 6

*Re-read 6:12*

As Paul continues to talk about sin in the lives of people in the church, he makes an odd statement. He basically is telling them: I am allowed to do a lot of things, but not all of them are good for me. For you, this might mean that you are allowed to watch bad movies, but you know deep down that it isn't good for you. What are some other situations that you need to avoid, even if it seems like you could get away with it?



## August 25 // 1 Corinthians 7:1-24

*Re-read 7:24*

After the discussion on marriage, Paul tells every person to live their life, exactly where they are, for God. This is important for you because it's easy to want to be in the next grade or a year older. You are where you are because that is exactly where God wants you. How can you serve him at the age and with the people you are with?

## August 26 // 1 Corinthians 7:25-40

*Re-read 7:35*

Paul is giving people the church dating and marriage advice, but the point is people need to be totally devoted to Christ. How can you be more devoted to Christ? What will you do to make this happen?

## August 27 // 1 Corinthians 8

*Re-read 8:1*

Paul reminds the church that knowledge makes people prideful, but love encourages others. Knowledge is not bad! It is great and we must seek it on a regular basis! But if that is all you want, then you will be "prideful and smart." How will growing in love help you serve others better?

## August 28 // 1 Corinthians 9

*Re-read 9:25-27*

It's not only Paul's responsibility to keep his life under control, it is ours as well. We need to practice self-control! Paul compares the self-control a Christian needs to the self-control an athlete needs. Runners don't eat cake and donuts to run fast! They eat good food and work hard to be fit! In the same way, we need to say "no" to things that we want in order to please God. What do you have to say "no" to today?



## August 29 // 1 Corinthians 10:1-13

*Re-read 10:10*

Paul warns the people of three sins that God hates. The first two: idolatry and sexual immorality seem obvious enough, because to us, they seem really bad! But there is a third: grumbling (complaining). God hates complaining! Do you complain? How can you stop complaining today?

## August 30 // 1 Corinthians 10:14-33

*Re-read 10:31*

There was a lot of talk in this church about what was good to eat and drink. Paul sums up what the church is supposed to do in this one sentence. Whatever you do, you are supposed to recognize God's goodness and give him glory. What are you doing to give glory to God in your day to day life? How can you give more glory to God?

## August 31 // 1 Corinthians 11:1-15

*Re-read 11:1*

Everyone needs examples to follow if they want to do something right. You wouldn't be a very good artist, athlete, or student if you didn't have instruction. Paul provides these people (and us) with instruction on how to live our lives like God wants us to. Paul wasn't perfect, but he set a good example for people to follow. Whose example are you following? And what kind of example are YOU setting for others?

## September 1 // 1 Corinthians 11:16-34

*Re-read 11:16*

It is not good for a Christian to be "contentious." That means making trouble and making other people dislike each other. A person is contentious when they gossip, make fun of people in a mean way, tell lies, and are rude. Do you create problems with your friends? How can you stop doing this?



## September 2 // 1 Corinthians 12

*Re-read 12:26*

As a church, we are supposed to support each other. If someone you know is suffering, you need to do your best to be there for them. If someone is happy and rejoicing, be there rejoicing with them! How can you better support the people in your church?

## September 3 // 1 Corinthians 13

*Re-read 13:4-7*

Paul gives a list of 15 things describing what true love is and what true love isn't. Of those 15 things, pick three that you need to work on. How can you practice them in your life this week?

## September 4 // 1 Corinthians 14:1-20

*Re-read 14:20*

In chapter 14, Paul talks about the gift of "tongues." In the first century, when the apostles still lived, many Christians had a gift from God to be able to speak in languages they had never studied. Today, we don't have this gift. Paul wants the church to grow up in their thinking and be innocent when it comes to evil. He wants them to have experience learning truth and doing the right thing, and no experience doing the wrong thing. How can you become more grown up (mature) in your thinking?

## September 5 // 1 Corinthians 14:21-40

*Re-read 14:37*

In Corinth, as in many churches, people do good things for the wrong reasons. There were many who claimed to want to do great things for God, when they really wanted glory for themselves. You should be warned: if you think you are spiritual, you must recognize this as a gift from God. If think that you are an important member of the church because of yourself, you are mistaken! How are you tempted to think this way?



## September 6 // 1 Corinthians 15:1-32

*Re-read 15:19*

1 Corinthians 15 is one of the most famous chapters in all of the Bible. The main idea of the chapter is the resurrection of Jesus and what it means for us. In verse 19, Paul says that if we as Christians, hope in Jesus for benefits in this life, everyone should feel sorry for us. Why is it so important that Jesus rose from the dead? What does it mean for us?

## September 7 // 1 Corinthians 15:33-58

*Re-read 15:58*

After the section that speaks about our coming victory over death in Jesus, we are left this awesome encouragement! We are called to be "steadfast" and "immovable." Paul says that the work we do for God is NEVER for no reason! What are the things you should be doing for God? How are you encouraged by this verse to continue doing what is right?

## September 8 // 1 Corinthians 16

*Re-read 16:13-14*

Amidst Paul's travel plans and personal information, he gives this command. He tells the church to be watchful, to stand firm in the faith of the gospel, and act like men, being strong. You need to know what you believe, and stand up for it. Then he gives another command that is equally important. He tells them to do everything they do in love. Often times, it easy to one of these commands, but not do the other. How can you find a good balance of standing up for the truth, and acting in love?

## September 9 // 2 Corinthians 1

*Re-read 1:5*

Paul begins his second letter to the church in Corinth talking about comfort in times of suffering. Remember, the church in the first century faced "life or death" persecution. Paul does not promise that persecution will be easy, he of all people knows that it is hard! ( 2 Cor. 11:24-27) But he reminds them that if they suffer with Christ for his sake, they will be comforted by him. How amazing is that!? How does this change your perspective on going through hard times?



## September 10 // 2 Corinthians 2

*Re-read 2:15-16*

Have you ever been to a Barbeque? If you have, then you have smelled the fragrance of life! There is that sweet aroma that you can smell from a mile away that tells you that someone is cooking up some good meat! On the other hand, have you ever opened a trash can that has had food in it for a week? That is like what Paul calls an aroma of death. To different people, your Christianity brings about different responses. To some, your life is like that smell at a barbeque that draws people in. To others, your life is a smelly trash can that they want to get as far away from as possible. God calls you to live the Christian life, recognizing that people who will be saved will be attracted to the life you live and to the message you share. At the same time you might push people away with your rule-keeping/Christ-following life. That is ok! Do you have any experience with this? How can this truth encourage you to keep living like Christ wants you to, even when some dislike you for it?

## September 11 // 2 Corinthians 3

*Re-read 3:18*

Christians are able to see God more clearly because Jesus has showed them who God is. The Holy Spirit works to transform each Christian's heart to more like his own. If you are a Christian, how have you been transformed into his image?

## September 12 // 2 Corinthians 4

*Re-read 4:7*

Paul gives an analogy for our lives and the gospel. He says we are these "jars of clay" and the gospel of Jesus that we share is like that "treasure." In the time of Paul, a jar of clay was nothing special. They were often weak and fragile. We are like those jars because they are not special, but are made special by what is inside us. God shows the power of his gospel through us. How does this change your view of yourself?





## September 13 // 2 Corinthians 5

*Re-read 5:20*

An “ambassador” is someone who represents someone else to another group of people. We are ambassadors that represent Christ to the world! If you are his representative, how well do you represent him? Do you act like him? When people see your life, do they see an accurate representation of Christ?

## September 14 // 2 Corinthians 6

*Re-read 6:14*

A “yoke” is a big wooden collar that is put on two strong animals to keep them walking in the same direction. To be “unequally yoked” is like having a horse connected to a pig. That isn’t going to work out! Your relationships are like a yoke that connects you to other people. If you are a Christian, Paul is reminding you that your closest relationships ought to be with other Christians. He has transformed your heart and put his Spirit in you! So you will be walking in a totally different direction as someone who doesn’t have that same Spirit in them. Are you unequally yoked with anyone? (at school/sports team/neighborhood)

## September 15 // 2 Corinthians 7

*Re-read 7:9-11*

Feeling bad never feels good. But sometimes, feeling bad leads to good things. “Godly grief” that Paul describes is more than just feeling bad, it is a grief produced by God in a person’s heart that leads them to repent of sin. Paul is glad that they repented of the sin he told them about. There is another kind of grief, “worldly grief.” That is the kind of grief that feels bad, but for selfish reasons. You know the difference between the two because godly grief leads a person to stop a particular sin, but world grief doesn’t stop sin. Have you experienced godly grief? Or just worldly grief?

## September 16 // 2 Corinthians 8

*Re-read 8:3*

Paul talks about the generosity of the churches in Macedonia. He encourages the Corinthians to be generous with what they have too! Are you always open and ready to give to people in the church that need help? How can you do this in the next week?



## September 17 // 2 Corinthians 9

*Re-read 9:7*

Yesterday, we saw that is important for us to give to the church and people in the church. Today, we see that our attitude is important when we do this. God wants us to give cheerfully! Remember this as you give to others.

## September 18 // 2 Corinthians 10

*Re-read 10:17*

As young people, some times it's easy to boast. Some of us tend to want to tell everyone every good thing we have done. This one sentence should direct what we tell others about. How can you boast about God has done for you?

## September 19 // 2 Corinthians 11:1-15

*Re-read 11:3*

It is important to be smart about who we are listening to. Paul is afraid that this church will be led astray with false teaching. And being led away from good teaching, they will be led away from real devotion to Jesus Christ. This is just as much a danger for us today. There are million people saying a million different things about God. What are you going to believe? Why?

## September 20 // 2 Corinthians 11:16-33

*Re-read 11:24-27*

Paul had a rough life for the gospel! If you were to make a list of the things you have endured for Christ, what would it look like? Maybe you have lost friends or been made fun of at school. Those are all things that you must be willing to endure for Jesus. How much more you are willing to suffer for Jesus?



## September 21 // 2 Corinthians 12

*Re-read 12:9*

There was something in Paul's life that kept him from being prideful. He calls it his "thorn in the flesh," and he pleaded with God to have it removed, but God did not. Paul probably looked like a pretty weak guy, but God chooses to use weak people. Jesus spoke to Paul and told him that his grace was "sufficient," meaning his blessing in Paul's life was more than enough. Then Jesus told Paul that his power is made perfect in weakness. Do you think you are too weak, too young, not a good enough speaker, or not smart enough to do big things for God? God loves to use people who are weak by the world's standards to show his power! Obey him no matter what, and have faith that God will do big things through your life!

## September 22 // 2 Corinthians 13

*Re-read 13:5-6*

If you claim to be a Christian, you should test yourself to see if you are truly a Christian. Look at your life and check if you are being obedient. Look at where your heart is, if you truly have faith in the death and resurrection of Jesus. Check yourself today! If you do find that you don't pass the test, repent! Turn away from your life and habits of sin, and trust in the finished work of Jesus on the cross for you!

## September 23 // Galatians 1

*Re-read 1:6-8*

Paul was writing to the people in Galatia that were Christians. A big problem in the church was that the people were turning to false teaching so quickly. Paul says that even if an angel preached something different than the gospel of Jesus, he is to be "accursed" (sent away from God). What are some false teachings that you hear, that you must guard against?

## September 24 // Galatians 2

*Re-read 2:20*

Paul says that each Christian dies to themselves, just as Christ died. And the new life he has is to be lived for Christ alone. What kind of change occurs in a life that no longer lives for himself/herself?



## September 25 // Galatians 3

*Re-read 3:28-29*

The point of this chapter is that our faith in Jesus makes us free from death which comes through falling short of the law's perfect standard. Then, those who are "set free" are like siblings in Jesus. Verse 28 says there is no distinction between Christians, no matter where you are from, what you look like, or how old you are, Christians are one. How should this effect how you treat other people in God's family?

## September 26 // Galatians 4

*Re-read 4:6-7*

Christians have a relationship with God as his children. The word "Abba" is similar to "Dad/Daddy/Papa" or whatever you call your father. Is God your father like that? If so, do you talk to him like he is?

## September 27 // Galatians 5

*Re-read 5:22-23*

Paul lays out the difference between a person who lives by "the flesh" (their sins, doing whatever they feel like doing), or "the Spirit" (which is the Holy Spirit who guides every Christian). He gives 9 things that every Christian should be doing because they have the Holy Spirit in their lives. What are some of those fruits that you see in your life? What are some that you do not?

## September 28 // Galatians 6

*Re-read 6:1-2*

At the end of this letter, Paul calls the church to help others who are struggling. If they are in sin, show them the wrong, then bring them back in "gentleness." Then Paul says to "bear one another's burdens." This means that Christians should encourage each other. How can you bear someone's burden today? (If you know someone who is going through a tough time, you could go to them!)



## September 29 // Ephesians 1

*Re-read 1:16*

The book of Ephesians is written by Paul to a church in Ephesus. He reminds them in verse 16 that he is constantly bringing them up in prayer, as he is thankful for them. Do you thank God for people in your life? Write out 5 people that you need to pray and thank God for today.

## September 30 // Ephesians 2

*Re-read 2:4-5*

We brought nothing to our relationship with God except for our sin. Verse 1 says that we are dead, and in verse 5, it says that we are made alive by God. Why is it important that God started your relationship with him? And what does that say about his power?

## October 1 // Ephesians 3

*Re-read 3:20*

Paul reminds the Ephesians that God is more powerful than they can even imagine! He wants them to ask big things from God. What are some big things that you should be asking God for?

## October 2 // Ephesians 4

*Re-read 4:1-3*

This is a big job! Paul says that people who have been called to Jesus in repentance and faith ought to be living in manner worthy of the that calling. Paul gives some specifics: humility, gentleness, patience, and love. Pick one of these to focus on today. How you will do it?



## October 3 // Ephesians 5

*Re-read 5:2*

Love. It's a word you probably use everyday, but do you know what Paul means when he instructs the church to "walk in love" here in verse 2? To walk in love, is to live in a way that shows love to other people. He also says it is an "offering and sacrifice," that is pleasing to God. To sacrifice is give something up for someone else. How is being loving a sacrifice? How was Jesus' love a sacrifice?

## October 4 // Ephesians 6

*Re-read 6:1-3*

After talking to husbands and wives, Paul directs his attention to the children of the church. He commands them to be obedient to their parents. When is it hard for you to obey your parents? How can you be more obedient today?

## October 5 // Philippians 1

*Re-read 1:27*

The people in Philippi received this joyful letter from Paul while he was in prison. His goal is to get the Philippian Christians to live for Jesus in unity with each other. He wants them to "strive side by side for the faith of the gospel." Who are some people you need to get along better with at church?

## October 6 // Philippians 2

*Re-read 2:3-4*

The key to getting along with others is to be selfless (be all about other people) which is the opposite of being selfish (being all about yourself). We are supposed to look at other people as more important than ourselves. Thinking about how humble Jesus was on earth is helpful. Who are some people that you can see as more important than you today?



## October 7 // Philippians 3

*Re-read 3:7*

Paul was a man of high standing with the people in Israel, and he was seen as very righteous. He gave that all up to be a follower of Jesus. What are some of the things you might have to give up to follow Jesus?

## October 8 // Philippians 4

*Re-read 4:4*

When you read this, you need to remember where the author was sitting. Paul wrote this from jail! How can he be so happy and joyful? Because he is trusting in Christ, and he is looking forward to his coming reward. How can you remind yourself to rejoice? (even in hard times)

## October 9 // Colossians 1

*Re-read 1:9-11*

As Paul writes to the church in Colossae, he tells them that he is praying for them to living obedient lives to God. How can you obey God's word today in a way that would be pleasing to Christ? At home? At school? At church?

## October 10 // Colossians 2

*Re-read 2:2-3*

Paul wants the church to "be encouraged" and wants their hearts to be "knit together." How close are you to your friends at church? Who are the friends you can trust? How can you become closer friends with them?



## October 11 // Colossians 3

*Re-read 3:12-15*

Paul describes how true Christians behaves with each other. Which of these characteristics do you desire most? Where do you fall short?

## October 12 // Colossians 4

*Re-read 4:6*

The church is commanded to speak in a godly way. Paul wanted their speech to be “gracious” and “seasoned with salt.” This means our speech should be encouraging and building up. Are you known as someone who is encouraging? How can you grow in this area?

## October 13 // 1 Thessalonians 1

*Re-read 1:6*

Paul is pleased with the Thessalonian church because they wanted to copy (imitate) other Christians’ good works. Who do you imitate? Are they godly people? Who are some godly people you can imitate?

## October 14 // 1 Thessalonians 2

*Re-read 2:12*

God makes it clear that he wants people to work together to be godly. Are your friends a good influence? Do they push you to love God more? What are some things you could do this week that encourage your friends to be more like God?





## October 15 // 1 Thessalonians 3

*Re-read 3:12*

Paul is happy to hear that this church is known for loving each other, yet he wants them to grow to love each other even more! Are you a person whose "love abounds" to others? Who should you be loving more?

## October 16 // 1 Thessalonians 4

*Re-read 4:7-8*

Paul makes it clear that God wants Christians to live in a holy way. The Bible is good at showing us that we fall short of perfection. How do you fall short in this area?

## October 17 // 1 Thessalonians 5

*Re-read 5:18*

The command here is to be thankful "in all circumstances." That means all the time! Anything less than this is not good enough. What situations will you be faced with today, where you need to be more thankful? Are you willing to take this challenge?

## October 18 // 2 Thessalonians 1

*Re-read 1:11-12*

The second letter from Paul to the Thessalonians starts off with a reminder that God cares about people's actions. He prays for the church to care as well. Do you have any friends you could pray for this week? Identify those people and pray for them today!



## October 19 // 2 Thessalonians 2

*Re-read 2:2-3*

The world is going to get very bad before the end and Satan doesn't want us to think about God. What are some situations that you will face today where you are challenged to do the right thing? How will you choose the right thing?

## October 20 // 2 Thessalonians 3

*Re-read 3:6*

Paul warns the people about becoming "idle" or lazy. Do you struggle with laziness at school or at home? Why should you change this? And how do you plan on changing this?

## October 21 // 1 Timothy 1

*Re-read 1:8*

Paul is writing a letter to Timothy, a young pastor in Ephesus. He tells Timothy that the word of God is good! It can be useful for our lives. Are you in it every day? Are you using it well? How can you value the Bible more?

## October 22 // 1 Timothy 2

*Re-read 2:8*

Christians need to be praying! How often do you pray? What do you pray about? Who are you praying for? How can you make it a priority to pray more often?



## October 23 // 1 Timothy 3

*Re-read 3:15*

The church is called a “pillar and buttress of truth” (it is the place where truth about God is preached). The church should be talking about truth! When you are at church, you hear many things about God. What is something about God you heard at church recently that you had never thought about? How does this change your view of God?

## October 24 // 1 Timothy 4

*Re-read 4:12*

Timothy is a young pastor. Paul wants to make sure Timothy steps up to this high calling. You might feel like people look down on you because you are young sometimes. Paul says that if young people set an example, this is less likely to happen. Who are some people in your life that need a good example? How can you be that for them?

## October 25 // 1 Timothy 5

*Re-read 5:25*

The word “conspicuous” means “to stand out” or “to be visible.” God makes it clear that he will reward good works. He is pleased when we obey him. How is it encouraging to know that every good thing you do will be made known to all? How can you encourage others in their good works?

## October 26 // 1 Timothy 6

*Re-read 6:7-8*

Paul wants Timothy and his church to be content with the things they have. It’s wrong to complain about what you have and continually seek to have more and more “stuff.” How do you fall into this sin? How can you make sure you don’t get caught up with all the “stuff” you have?



## October 27 // 2 Timothy 1

*Re-read 1:13*

Paul provides Timothy with an excellent example of what it looks like to be a godly man and a godly leader. Who are some of the godly people in your life? Do you listen to them? How can be more like them?

## October 28 // 2 Timothy 2

*Re-read 2:15*

As a pastor, Timothy needs to take the Bible seriously. This takes hard work! What would help you read the Bible more often? What gets in your way of reading the Bible? Remember to continue, even if it feels like hard work.

## October 29 // 2 Timothy 3

*Re-read 3:12*

The world that Paul and Timothy lived in was even worse than ours. People didn't want to live like Christians, and people don't want to live like Christians now. Those who choose to live like God wants them to will be made fun of, and maybe even physically hurt because of it. Do people "persecute" you for obeying God? How so?

## October 30 // 2 Timothy 4

*Re-read 4:3*

The Bible says that many people do not want to listen to God's truth because they don't want to obey it. What is hard for you to obey in the Bible? Why is it important to know what the Bible teaches and do what it says?



## October 31 // Titus 1

*Re-read 1:15*

Paul is writing Titus, a church leader on the Island of Crete. He desires that they make it a priority to practice good works. To be pure is to be clean, or without the strong influence of sin. What are some influences you have that need to be replaced in your life?

## November 1 // Titus 2

*Re-read 2:7-8*

It is important to set an example in good works. When your friends look at you, what do they see? Do they see a person who shows "integrity" (not a cheater or liar)? Do they hear good words coming from your mouth? What can you do to represent Christ better this week?

## November 2 // Titus 3

*Re-read 3:1*

The people of the Island of Crete were known for being disobedient and lazy. They were rebuked and told to obey their authorities because they now obey Christ. What can you do to better obey your parents/ teachers/ coaches/ leaders?

## November 3 // Philemon

*Re-read 1:7*

Paul is writing to Philemon, a Christian in the city of Colossae. As he thinks of his relationship with Philemon, he cannot help but think of the love he was shown. Who are some people in your life that show love to you? How do you show that you are grateful? Who do you need to show more love to today?



## November 4 // Hebrews 1

*Re-read 1:3-4*

Jesus Christ is presented as God in the Book of Hebrews. He is said to be “the exact imprint of his nature” which means that Jesus is God himself, in every way! 100% God. But also 100% man as he lived on the earth. Jesus is currently seated in heaven with all power. Why does knowing that Jesus is in power, make you want to live to please him?

## November 5 // Hebrews 2

*Re-read 2:17*

The book of Hebrews is written by an unknown author who continues the thought of Jesus as the servant king. He describes Jesus’ time on earth as a time where he became “like his brothers in every respect.” Why should you be even more thankful for Jesus because of this?

## November 6 // Hebrews 3

*Re-read 3:13*

The Jewish born Christians receive this letter with a command to “exhort” each other. This means that they are supposed to encourage each other. This also means pointing out sin in others’ lives in a loving way. How do you respond when people show you your wrong actions? How should you respond?

## November 7 // Hebrews 4

*Re-read 4:12-13*

The Bible is powerful for us in our relationship with God. Are you reading this powerful book everyday? Studying it? How can you step it up?



## November 8 // Hebrews 5

*Re-read 5:9*

We see here that Jesus is the source of salvation for all those who trust in him. What do you know about salvation? How can a person have a good relationship with God?

## November 9 // Hebrews 6

*Re-read 6:10*

God sees all things, even the little things we do. This passage shows us that because God is "just" (good/fair) he cares about the good works we do. How does this encourage you to do things that please God?

## November 10 // Hebrews 7

*Re-read 7:22*

Melchizedek was a priest described in Genesis 14. He lived in the time of Abraham, therefore he was not an Israelite. In verse 22, Jesus guarantees a new and "better covenant." A covenant is a promise. What is this covenant? Why is this important for Christians?

## November 11 // Hebrews 8

*Re-read 8:1*

Our "High Priest," is Jesus. He is more than just a priest, he is God. He is the one who makes it possible for us to have a relationship with God. Why does knowing that Jesus is the powerful God give us confidence in his work for us?



## November 12 // Hebrews 9

*Re-read 9:27*

The author of Hebrews is referencing God's promise to Adam and Eve after they sinned. This whole chapter and this whole book talks about how Jesus came to fix the problem of sin. How does the promise of God's judgment for all people change the way people ought to look at Jesus?

## November 13 // Hebrews 10:1-23

*Re-read 10:4*

The book of Hebrews is written to a Jewish audience that was used to animal sacrifices as described in the book Leviticus in the Old Testament. God used these animal sacrifices to point to Jesus. This verse tells us that bulls and goats cannot save people from sin. Only Jesus can! How does a person get saved from their sins?

## November 14 // Hebrews 10:24-39

*Re-read 10:35*

This passage talks about how those who trust in God will be rewarded. What are some things that are hard to trust God for? Why can you be confident that he will do them?

## November 15 // Hebrews 11:1-19

*Re-read 11:1*

Many people don't have the right idea of faith. Most think that faith means "believing in something you know is not true." This is totally wrong! What does the Bible say faith is in this verse?





## November 16 // Hebrews 11:20-40

*Re-read 11:39-40*

This chapter is all about biblical heroes that trusted in God. They had faith. These two verses say that they had faith, even though they couldn't see the end result. What do you have faith in, that you have not seen the end of yet?

## November 17 // Hebrews 12

*Re-read 12:28-29*

The author of Hebrews wants to make it clear that God will accomplish what he promises. God promised earlier to establish a kingdom that will endure forever. Then he says something about God, that may be confusing; "our God is a consuming fire." He will do what he wants, and will break through anything that stands in the way (like a consuming fire). Why does this give a person who trusts in God's kingdom great hope for the future? Why is this scary for the person who doesn't?

## November 18 // Hebrews 13

*Re-read 13:1*

Brotherly love was important then, and it is important now. This is a short and simple statement that can change the way we look at other people. Who are some people that you need to show more brotherly love to?

## November 19 // James 1

*Re-read 1:17*

James is Jesus' brother (one of Mary's sons). He is writing to Jewish born Christians that are being forced away from their homes. He writes with great hope in a very unhelpful situation. God gives us all good things! What are some of those things? And how can you be thankful today?



## November 20 // James 2

*Re-read 2:8-9*

James wants these followers of Christ to love every person. He warns them not to practice "partiality" (treating some people better than others because they are rich or popular). Do you treat anyone in an unkind way on a regular basis?

## November 21 // James 3

*Re-read 3:2*

James wants his readers to remember the serious challenge they all face when it comes to their words. Our mouths can get us into a lot of trouble with God and others. What are some things you need to stop saying today?

## November 22 // James 4

*Re-read 4:6*

God is against people who are prideful, but is for those who are humble! Are there people in your life that you are constantly being selfish towards? How can you be humble instead?

## November 23 // James 5

*Re-read 5:9*

James says that God's people should not be fighting with each other. "Grumbling" means to complain or protest something or someone. Are you guilty of grumbling against your friends, or parents, or teachers? How can you stop this today?



## November 24 // 1 Peter 1

*Re-read 1:16*

The Apostle Peter writes to a group of Christians about living for Christ in a world that doesn't want them to. Peter reminds them that they need to be "holy," like God is holy (perfectly good). What are some things that you can do today to be more like God?

## November 25 // 1 Peter 2

*Re-read 2:13,17*

Peter wants the people to know that they are still supposed to respect and obey the authorities over them. It is no different for us today. Who are some people God has placed over you that you must obey? How can you obey them better?

## November 26 // 1 Peter 3

*Re-read 3:15*

Peter says that we need to be ready to tell others the truth about God with "gentleness and respect." When do you have the opportunity to tell people about God? Do you take those opportunities?

## November 27 // 1 Peter 4

*Re-read 4:8*

It is clear, if you love God, you need to love people too! When it says that love "covers" sin, it doesn't mean it takes it away, it means that love forgives. When someone wrongs you, the loving thing to do is to forgive them, and treat them as if they hadn't wronged you. Who are some people you need to forgive?



## November 28 // 1 Peter 5

*Re-read 5:5*

Peter calls the younger people to “be subject” to the older people. This means to listen to, respect, and obey them. Once again we see the phrase referenced before in James 4:6, that tells us how God wants us to be humble. How can you be more humble with the people in charge: parents/ coaches/ teachers/ leaders?

## November 29 // 2 Peter 1

*Re-read 1:3*

In his second book, Peter reminds the people that God provides everything we need to live how he wants us to. He gives us the Bible complete with all his commandments. He also gives us the power to obey. Do you show your thankfulness to God by reading his word? Do you show your thankfulness by doing what it says?

## November 30 // 2 Peter 2

*Re-read 2:1*

This whole chapter is about people who twist God’s word. These people are known as “false teachers.” What happens to the truth of God’s word when people change it? Do you know of any examples of this?

## December 1 // 2 Peter 3

*Re-read 3:9*

It is good that God will always act on his promises! He never forgets and never chooses to go back on his word. What are some things he promises that will come true in the future?



## December 2 // 1 John 1

*Re-read 1:9*

This one amazing promise! In 1 John, it is clear that even in the life of a Christian, there is some sin. But God wants people to confess their sin. He wants them to agree that sin is wrong, and to tell him that! God wants people to turn away from the sin and turn to him. Do you ask God for forgiveness? How can you do this more often?

## December 3 // 1 John 2

*Re-read 2:15-17*

This section talks about "the world." You probably know that the earth is full of sin. People, because of their sin, don't want to obey God. What are you tempted by the most in your life? How can you choose obedience to God instead?

## December 4 // 1 John 3

*Re-read 3:16*

Real love is a high expectation! This verse says that we ought to be laying our lives down for each other. This means that you need to be willing to do something for someone that doesn't deserve it. This means you will need to give up some of your free time for other people. This means that you need to put other's wants before your own. How can you do something for someone you know today that doesn't benefit you at all?

## December 5 // 1 John 4

*Re-read 4:21*

If we say we love God, we must love other people. We are not supposed to be angry and rude with one another. If you truly love God, you will show love to each other. How can you show love to someone close to you today?



## December 6 // 1 John 5

*Re-read 5:13*

In verse 13, John shows us the main purpose of this letter. He wants his readers to know for certain that God will do what he says. What are some promises that God makes that he will fulfill in your life? How does it make you feel to know that God ALWAYS keeps his promises?

## December 7 // 2 John

*Re-read 1:6*

The Apostle John writes to encourage a group of people to love each other in his second letter. Verse 6 tells us that we need to obey the commandments of God in order to love him. What are some commandments that are hard for you to obey? What would help you obey God more today?

## December 8 // 3 John

*Re-read 1:11*

There's a lot in our world that we can try to "imitate," or copy. There are a lot of people that we can try to act like. This verse says that we need to imitate goodness, not evil. Who are some people you want to be like? (think of your small group leader, teacher at church, parent, siblings?)

## December 9 // Jude

*Re-read 1:17*

All over the Bible, the reader is being told to remember the promises of God often. Jude talks about people in the Old Testament who faced false teachers, like the ones of Jude's day. What are some things that Bible says about God that the world doesn't believe? Are there lies about God that you hear at school, in movies/TV, or on your sports teams? How can or should you response when you hear lies about God?



## December 10 // Revelation 1

*Re-read 1:13-17*

The book of Revelation is a vision from Jesus that was given to the Apostle John. John had seen Jesus as a human, but when he saw Jesus in all his glory, he was overwhelmed by his appearance. Revelation 1 describes what Jesus looks like today. How does this description change the way you think of Jesus?

## December 11 // Revelation 2

*Re-read 2:4-5*

Jesus is speaking to the church in the city of Ephesus. He wants them to continue to love him the way they used to. Do you love God more now than you ever have before? How can you love God more this week?

## December 12 // Revelation 3

*Re-read 3:15-16*

Jesus has some harsh words for the Christians in Laodicea. Jesus wants them to be doing the best things, not just avoiding the worst things! How can you choose to do the best thing today with your family and friends?

## December 13 // Revelation 4

*Re-read 4:11*

In heaven, there is a lot to be amazed about. But all the attention in heaven seems to be directed at one person. That person is God! They all worship him! What does it mean to worship someone or something? How do you worship God? How can you worship God today?



## December 14 // Revelation 5

*Re-read 5:9-10*

At this point, all the creatures, angels, and people in heaven are praising Jesus, the Lamb. Why is he called the Lamb? What does it say he did as the Lamb for all people? Why is this important for us?

## December 15 // Revelation 6

*Re-read 6:17*

This chapter describes seven waves of punishment that God will inflict upon Earth. Verse 17 sums up the entire chapter. It also tells us something about God's power. It asks a question: "Who can stand?" When it comes to God, no one can stand against him. God hates sin, and punishes it. What is one sin you need to stop doing? What specifically will help you do that?

## December 16 // Revelation 7

*Re-read 7:9*

Jesus will save people from all over the world. He will save many different kinds of people, even some that we would never imagine he could. Who are some non-Christians in your life that you are afraid God may not save? This verse should remind us that God can save anyone! Make a decision today to pray for that person.

## December 17 // Revelation 8

*Re-read 8:1*

In heaven, all eyes are on Jesus because he is full of glory and power. When we understand this, it can change the way we view ourselves compared to God. How does it make you feel to know that God is full of power and glory? Happy? Fearful? Both? Why?





## December 18 // Revelation 9

*Re-read 9:20*

Even while Jesus punishes the earth, people are stubborn. They want to live the way they want, and don't care about God. Why do you think it is hard for people to give up doing things their way? What sin do you have that is hard to give up? What steps can you take to help you obey God more, showing your love for him?

## December 19 // Revelation 10

*Re-read 10:11*

John was told to do something very strange in this chapter. God told him to eat a scroll. (God makes Ezekiel do this in the Old Testament). Then he gives John a command to prophesy to many people again. What kind of commands have you been given that don't make sense at first? Why are these harder to obey?

## December 20 // Revelation 11

*Re-read 11:15-16*

Jesus has come to earth once and left, but he promised to come again. When he comes, he will take total control on earth as the king. Why should we, like the 24 elders, worship Jesus today? What has he done for you that is worthy of worship?

## December 21 // Revelation 12

*Re-read 12:11*

Jesus wants his people to overcome sin and ultimately Satan through HIS blood on the cross. The key phrase here is, "for they loved not their lives even unto death." Any person who is a follower of Christ ought to be willing to die for him. Our lives need to be about sacrifice for Jesus. What are some things you can sacrifice today for other people because of your love for God?



## December 22 // Revelation 13

*Re-read 13:10*

This verse displays some intense hardships that Christians in the 7 year period called "the Tribulation" will have to endure. What are some hardships you have to go through as a Christian?

## December 23 // Revelation 14

*Re-read 14:7*

Even amidst the punishment that God is inflicting on the people of the earth, there is a call to the people to glorify God. Even in punishment, people can see that God is good, fair, and powerful. It is hard for you give God glory in hard times? How can you be thankful to God even when something goes wrong today?

## December 24 // Revelation 15

*Re-read 15:3*

Again, people praise God in a dark time. This time, it's a group of Christians. These people have just witnessed the intense punishment from God on the earth. Their response is not anger, but praise to God for his justice. To be "just" is to give people what they deserve. This is a difficult attribute for us to praise him for because his justice can hurt us (if we sin). What are some others things about God that are hard to understand, but we still should thank him for?

## December 25 // Revelation 16

*Re-read 16:11*

People on earth are being punished by God for their sin. This verse tells us that most of them don't respond correctly. Why is it important for you to repent of sin?



## December 26 // Revelation 17

*Re-read 17:14*

The evil forces of earth are fighting against God in Revelation 17. The Lamb is Jesus. When they try to defeat the Jesus and the church, he responds with force and wins. He wins because he has ultimate authority. How can you thank God today, knowing that he is in control?

## December 27 // Revelation 18

*Re-read 18:10*

In the Tribulation, there will be a city that is greater than any other city but it is also the most evil. In Revelation 18, God destroys it. It is called "Babylon" in this chapter, (a reference to the Babylon from the Old Testament.) The angels rejoice and the sinful people are very sad. God will not tolerate sin in the end. When we read this chapter, we should be reminded of our own sin. What sins do you think you commit often?

## December 28 // Revelation 19

*Re-read 19:11*

Jesus is the one who rides in the white horse! He finally establishes his kingdom on earth in the next two chapters! He is called "Faithful" and "True." Why do you think Jesus is called these things? How is he faithful to us? And how do you know that he spoke the truth?

## December 29 // Revelation 20

Jesus has just defeated the Anti-Christ and sentenced Satan to 1,000 years in a spiritual jail (verses 2-3). For the next 1,000 years, Jesus rules the earth. The Christians who survived the Tribulation will live on the earth with Jesus. These people will get married and have kids, populating the earth again (verse 4,6). After a 1,000 years, Satan will be released (verse 7) and will go out to make people follow him again (verse 8). Then, God will destroy all those who choose to follow Satan. After this, Satan is defeated forever! Next, all the people who died in their sin, without trusting in Jesus, will be brought before God and be judged for everything they did while they were alive (verses 12-14). If a person never trusted in Jesus, their name will not be written in the book of life, and they will be put in hell, apart from God forever (verse 15). This is how God ends life on earth for good. How often do you think about what will happen to you after you die?



## December 30 // Revelation 21

*Re-read 21:3-4*

God will make a new place called the New Jerusalem. This is where God and his people will live forever! One really important thing about the New Jerusalem is that God will live there! He made people to be with him, and this finally happens here. This new place is nothing like the old earth. There will not be pain, sickness, or death. Does this get you excited now? What can you do today to get ready to go to this place?

## December 31 // Revelation 22

*Re-read 22:7*

Knowing a lot about God is awesome! But there is something else that God wants us to do. He wants us to obey him! After reading the book of Revelation, what is the most interesting thing you have learned about God? How have you changed this year to be more like God? What do you want to do differently next year?

