

# READ THE BIBLE IN 2 YEARS

Weeks 1-13



Luke Powell

# Introduction

I've always struggled to read the Bible in a year - it requires too much reading each day, and eventually I just begin mindlessly trying to get through it. On the other hand, reading small sections of the Bible seems to get me nowhere.

In light of this, I decided to put together a 2-year Bible reading plan, where I read Monday-Friday, with weekends to catch up.

Each day consists of:

- One or two chapters from the *Old Testament* history and prophecy sections (which you will get through once in the two years)
- One chapter (or less) from the *Wisdom books* of the Old Testament - Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon, Lamentations (you'll read these twice in the two years)
- One chapter from the *New Testament* (you'll also finish twice in the two years)

A few notes as we hit the road:

- The three readings should take you about 15-30 minutes in all each day. Figure out what works best for you: all 3 readings at once, or different reading times throughout the day.
- If you fall behind, remember, you can catch up on Saturdays and Sundays.
- Pray a lot! Pray *before* you read and ask for His guidance and wisdom. Pray *as* you read, involving God in the process. Pray *after* you read and ask God to write His truth on your heart.
- Find someone to do this journey with. Someone who you can read with, or just someone you can talk to about the readings and what you are learning. This will really help you keep going on the days you don't feel like it.
- Feel free to [contact me](#) if you have any questions or comments on the readings.

May God bless you richly as you undertake this journey! I am praying for you all each day.

Luke Powell, July 2022

# Week 1

We start at the very beginning - God creating the universe. We also start the great book of songs - Psalms, as well as Luke's gospel.

## Week 1 Monday

**Genesis 1:** The creation story. Marvel at God's creative power, and the care He has for His created world.

**Psalm 1:** Blessings on the Righteous. A favourite Psalm of mine! Notice the emphasis on meditating on God's Word: a perfect set up for the journey we are beginning today.

**Luke 1:** A wonderfully joyful and worship opening to the Jesus story. Use the songs sung by the different people to enter into a time of worship yourself (note: this is the longest chapter in the NT, most days will be a much shorter NT reading).

## Week 1 Tuesday

**Genesis 2-3:** Adam and Eve. Recognise God's calling on human beings – to care for His creation. Then notice how Adam and Eve's fall set the pattern for our own struggle with sin.

**Psalm 2:** The Lord's Anointed. A special "Messianic" Psalm which points us to Jesus. Pay attention to the last 3 verses!

**Luke 2:** Jesus' birth story. Try to read these familiar stories with fresh eyes and praise God for bringing Jesus into the world in such a humble setting.

## Week 1 Wednesday

**Genesis 4-5:** Are our offerings to God more like Cain's or Abel's? Chapter 5 is a list of names – remember that God knows you by name too. Make your life count for Him like Enoch did!

**Psalm 3:** David wrote this in a very dark time of his life. Notice his deep faith in His God!

**Luke 3:** John the Baptizer's words are worth a close look! Jesus' baptism is a special moment where we see God the Trinity together. Jesus' genealogy proves that He is Messiah as prophesied from the beginning.

## Week 1 Thursday

**Genesis 6-7:** In an era of great sin, Noah's faithfulness stands out.

**Psalm 4:** Again David writes of his troubles, but ultimately finds peace because of his faith.

**Luke 4:** A full chapter. Jesus' testing in the wilderness prepared him for ministry and gives us a good example for fighting temptation. Jesus' sermon in Nazareth is an important summary of the mission he came to fulfill on earth. Jesus' miraculous healings and exorcisms prove his authority. Jesus' prayer life empowered him. Wow, what a Saviour!

## Week 1 Friday

**Genesis 8-9:** God makes a wonderful covenant with Noah and the human race. But sin still has a hold on the people.

**Psalm 5:** A morning prayer by David, warning of sin and rejoicing in God's protective love.

**Luke 5:** The disciples' calling reminds us of our own. Jesus heals more people and also proclaims God's forgiveness. We also read of His tendency to seek out those who needed His love the most, and his teaching on new wineskins remind us that He brought a new covenant from God.

Remember that you have the weekend to catch up if you have fallen behind. I hope you have enjoyed week 1.

“

“I am the Lord’s  
servant,’ Mary  
answered. “May your  
word to me be fulfilled.””

Luke 1:38

”

## Week 2

Let's prayerfully keep going into week 2.

Perhaps you'd like to join me in praying these words each time we sit down to read:

*Holy Spirit come I pray  
Take the haze and mist away  
Let me see You clear as day  
In everything that these words say, amen.*

### Week 2 Monday

**Genesis 10-11:** The "table of nations" and Abram's family line seem boring to read! Remember how important family lines were in Jewish history. These have their place in the Bible. Focus on the Tower of Babel, and consider our human tendency to build monuments to ourselves instead of honouring God in all we do.

**Psalms 6:** David is in a deep depression – proving that Christians *can* struggle this way. But the last 3 verses bring a dramatic shift as David's prayers lift him up.

**Luke 6:** Jesus reminds us that resting on Sabbath does not mean we refrain from helping others. Luke's account of the Beatitudes also include four "woes" which are worth looking at closely. Jesus' teachings on love and judgement are revolutionary, and his words on good fruit and building on the rock are powerful. A lot to take in here!

### Week 2 Tuesday

**Genesis 12-13:** The blessing God gave Abram ultimately came true through Jesus Christ. Hallelujah! Abram and Lot choose different places to settle – Abram in a godly place, Lot in a godless place.

**Psalms 7:** David has been falsely accused, and cries out to God. Pay attention to David's descriptions of God in this Psalm. Perhaps you can hold onto one or more of them in your own walk today.

**Luke 7:** The Centurion's humility and faith should be emulated by us! Jesus' miracles cause people to praise God. Even John the Baptist seems to doubt Jesus, but Jesus points to his miracles to prove himself. Then a powerful moment of Jesus' anointing by a sinful woman, which Jesus uses to teach a Pharisee a valuable lesson.

### Week 2 Wednesday

**Genesis 14-15:** Abram puts aside his grudge with Lot and rescues him. He gives God the glory and generously gives of his blessings. Then in ch15 we see the famous covenant God makes with Abram. Pay attention to verse 6 – it sets the pattern for God's salvation *by faith*, not works.

**Psalms 8:** A great Psalm of praise which humbles us and also reminds us of our God-given responsibility on earth. May verse 9 stick with you!

**Luke 8:** Jesus' parable of the sower causes us to ask ourselves if we are producing a crop for Him. We are reminded to shine our light for Him. Then we see His power at work – calming a storm and healing many.

### Week 2 Thursday

**Genesis 16-17:** Learn a lesson from Sarai who tried to force God's hand, and then blamed somebody else. God institutes the covenant of circumcision – but remember the New Testament teaching that it is not our flesh but our *hearts* that need circumcision.

**Psalms 9:** A full Psalm, richly describing who God is and how we can respond to Him. Search for those two themes as you read.

**Luke 9:** Another long chapter. Hang in there as you read so much!

Jesus sends us out, as he did the twelve. We read of his miraculous feeding, and then of Peter's confession that Jesus is Messiah, which prompts Jesus to remind the disciples how hard it is to follow Him. Jesus' Transfiguration is an amazing moment, and his teaching that follows challenges us in many ways.

**Genesis 18:** Abram's hospitality reminds us of what Hebrews 13:2 teaches on entertaining angels. Verse 14 is worth holding onto! And we can also learn a lesson in praying for others, like Abram does later in the chapter.

**Psalms 10:** You might relate to David's frustration with the success of wicked people. But in the end he is certain that God *does* care for the downtrodden. Hold to his descriptions of God in this Psalm.

**Luke 10:** Jesus sends his followers on a mission. We are on the same mission today. The parable of the good Samaritan reminds us to love our neighbour, and Jesus in Mary and Martha's home reminds us to be still and sit at His feet.

I hope you are finding worth in this journey so far friends. I know the readings are long, but persevere and remember: it's not about ticking the readings off the list, it's about encountering God in His Word.

“I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.”

Genesis 12:2–3

”

## Week 3

We're onto week 3! Let's remember to be prayerful as we read. And remember the story of the sieve: a church goer told their pastor that they struggled to read the Bible because their mind was like a sieve – everything just falls through it! The pastor reminded the person that a running water over a sieve still *cleanses and purifies* it. When we read the Word, we are letting God's Spirit *run over* our minds, doing His cleansing and purifying work. Don't worry if you don't retain much – just enjoy God's cleansing touch as you read.

### Week 3 Monday

**Genesis 19** - Sodom and Gomorrah are destroyed. Jesus used Lot's wife as an example of those who don't take his offer of salvation seriously enough (Luke 17:32). Lot's sad story continues, in contrast to the faithfulness of Abraham.

**Psalms 11** - instead of fleeing from his enemy, David decides to trust in God. A reminder for us to hold fast to God in our difficult times and not abandon our faith.

**Luke 11** - Luke records the Lord's prayer a little differently to Matthew, and then illustrates God's faithful listening ear to our prayers. He speaks on spiritual warfare, and reminds to be obedient to the Word of God. We also read Jesus' teaching on shining our light, and then his fierce opposition to the shallow spirituality of the Pharisees.

### Week 3 Tuesday

**Genesis 20-21** - Abraham's repeated dishonesty might baffle us – until we remember our own tendency to repeat the same sins! Look out for God's faithfulness in chapter 21.

**Psalms 12** - David laments the evil words of people, compared to the flawless words of God. This is why we are doing this 2-year plan, because of verse 6!

**Luke 12** - Jesus goes on denouncing the Pharisees, and then reminds his disciples not to hear persecution, but to rely on the Spirit. He tells a parable to remind us to not store up earthly treasures, and then reminds us to seek God's kingdom first. He then reminds us to be watchful and wait for his return expectantly, and to be wise to the signs of the times. Lots to ponder on here!

### Week 3 Wednesday

**Genesis 22** - the famous tale of Abraham bringing his son to be sacrificed points in Jesus in many ways. As you read it, be thankful for the Lamb of God, Jesus, whose sacrifice has taken away the sins of the world!

**Psalms 13** - David pours out his heart to God in a time of stress... but remembers to praise and trust God anyway, as you see in the last two verses.

**Luke 13** - Jesus' harsh words to repent or perish, and the parable of the fig tree, are not read out often in church these days! Once again he heals on the Sabbath, causing a great upset to the synagogue leader. V24-30 should cause us to do some self-reflection.

### Week 3 Thursday

**Genesis 23** - Sarah dies, and we see a vivid picture of the method of sale common at the time. In buying this piece of land, Abraham became a legal owner of part of Canaan, partially fulfilling the promise God had made to him.

**Psalms 14** - David sings of the uselessness of atheism, and in the last three verses reminds us of God's faithfulness. Let those words cause you to worship today.

**Luke 14** - the Pharisees watch Jesus carefully, but for the wrong reason! Again they challenge him on the Sabbath rules, again he outwits them. He then teaches on humility, and tells a gripping parable to illustrate his point. Lastly he speaks of the cost of discipleship – something we should always remember.

### Week 3 Friday

**Genesis 24** - Abraham hatches a plan for his son to avoid marrying a pagan woman. The story unfolds beautifully, and the strong and dignified Rebekah is a great example to all women of faith today.

**Psalm 15** - David reminds us that God desires us to be blameless and righteous. How can we achieve this? Through the Spirit's indwelling power only.

**Luke 15** - three parables of the lost being found. Remember that in the story of the lost son, both sons were lost. The Father is, in the end, the prodigal one – excessive in his love and grace. What a powerful chapter this is.

I hope this week's readings have challenged and blessed you. Catch up anything you missed on the weekend, and we'll head into week 4 on Monday.

“

**I TRUST IN YOUR UNFAILING LOVE;  
MY HEART REJOICES IN YOUR SALVATION.  
I WILL SING THE LORD'S PRAISE,  
FOR HE HAS BEEN GOOD TO ME.**

PSALM 13:5-6

”



# Week 4

On we go to week 4. Many blessings as you read His Word.

## Week 4 Monday

**Genesis 25-26:** Faithful Abraham dies peacefully. Rebekah falls pregnant, and her sons are in conflict even in the womb! Jacob tricks his way into getting Esau's birthright, even though it already belonged to him. Chapter 26 shows us Isaac following in the footsteps of his father, and being blessed by God in accordance to the promise God gave Abraham.

**Psalm 16:** Verse 8 is a favourite of mine! This is a lovely Psalm with much to hold onto. May it lead you to heartfelt worship as you read.

**Luke 16:** The two parables in this chapter are not found in the other gospels, highlighting Luke's emphasis on the danger of wealth. Perhaps we should memorise verses 13-15!

## Week 4 Tuesday

**Genesis 27:** Much family drama fills this passage! Isaac tries to prematurely give Esau his blessing, but Rebekah gets Jacob to impersonate his brother and steal the blessing. Importantly, we must note that God's plan still came through in spite of their rebellion.

**Psalm 17:** David has been falsely accused and here he protests his innocence. Perhaps we can make verse 8 our prayer today.

**Luke 17:** Much to learn, as usual, in this chapter. Jesus talks of forgiveness and humility. His healing of the lepers reminds us to be deeply grateful and return to him in praise when he has blessed us. Jesus then reminds us that his second coming will be unexpected – we must be prepared.

## Week 4 Wednesday

**Genesis 28:** Jacob has a vision at Bethel, in which God appears to him to assure him of His promise of blessing and protection, prompting a wonderful worshipful response from Jacob in which he promised his loyalty.

**Psalm 18:1-24:** We are reading the first half of this long Psalm today. David paints a great picture of God's might and power, and then claims that his own integrity has resulted in blessings from God.

**Luke 18:** Jesus teaches about persistent prayer, and about humility. He blesses children and reminds us to be childlike in our faith. The rich young ruler's story challenges us who have many possessions, and Jesus' healing of the blind beggar causes much praising of God (may it do the same in our lives!)

## Week 4 Thursday

**Genesis 29:** When Jacob sees Rachel it is love at first sight! But he meets his match in Laban, who deceives him, as he had deceived his brother. Notice how Leah praises God for the birth of Judah, in whose line Jesus would be born.

**Psalm 18:25-50:** The second half of this Psalm focuses on God's greatness again, as well as his saving grace in the lives of his children. May it lead you to echo verses 46 and 49 in your heart today!

**Luke 19:** In Zacchaeus we see a beautiful transformation which only Jesus could bring. The Parable of the Ten Minas motivates us to use what we have been given to God's glory. Jesus enters Jerusalem on a donkey, and then teaches in the temple and drives out those who were in the temple for the wrong reason.

## Week 4 Friday

**Genesis 30:** Jacob's children are born, and they receive names that reflect something of the context of their birth. Then Jacob outwits the deceptive Laban by selective breeding, and grows very wealthy as a result.

**Psalm 19:** David begins by noting how even the sky glorifies God! Then he turns his attention to God's Word, and all the benefits of basing your life on it. The last verse is a wonderful prayer to pray every day.

**Luke 20:** Jesus' wit and sense of humour are on display at the beginning of this chapter. The parable of the tenants show that Jesus knew who he was and what he was going to go through shortly. Jesus' teaching on tax is important for us all, and his teaching on the resurrection shows us that life will be different on the other side.

We've been reading His Word for a month now, and I hope that you are finding it beneficial in many ways! May God continue to reveal himself to you as we go on.

“

The law of the LORD is perfect,  
refreshing the soul.  
The statutes of the LORD are  
trustworthy,  
making wise the simple.

Psalm 19:7

”

## Week 5:

Let's continue with week 5. We are still in Genesis, but this week will end our journey through Luke's gospel, and begin the book of Acts (also written by Luke) – a riveting look at the early church's ministry. Enjoy and remember, pray pray pray as you read!

### Week 5 Monday

**Genesis 31:** After twenty years in Haran Jacob decides to return home. Laban comes after him in anger, but in the end the two men make a treaty and part on good terms.

**Psalms 20:** Let David's words of blessing cover you today, as you receive them in faith! And let verse 7 be the cry of your heart.

**Luke 21:** Learn from the widow's humble offering! And then look carefully at Jesus' words about his second coming, noting verses 34-36 especially.

### Week 5 Tuesday

**Genesis 32:** The wonderful story of Jacob wrestling with God. Have you ever prayed the words of verse 26? Maybe today you can do that!

**Psalms 21:** David's words of trust and praise are wonderful to read. His high place as king never removes his need for God. Perhaps we should pray today for leaders in our world to have the same love for God as King David had.

**Luke 22:** A long chapter, but I hope you will read it slowly and meditatively. Jesus shares the last supper with his disciples, and they are still arguing over insignificant things! Jesus predicts Peter's betrayal, AND his redemption. In the garden Jesus prays in anguish, and soon he is arrested, mocked, and beaten while his followers scatter.

### Week 5 Wednesday

**Genesis 33-34:** Touching scenes as Jacob and Esau reunite – showing how they had both matured in faith over the years. Then we have one of the most horrifying stories in the Bible in chapter 34. Notice sin's "ripple effect" in this passage.

**Psalms 22:1-11:** An incredible Psalm, when we realise that it captures the feelings of Jesus at Golgotha (how amazing that this lands on the same day as Luke 23 – unplanned by me I assure you). Hear these first 11 verses as coming from Jesus' lips, as he hangs on the cross, while you read them.

**Luke 23:** Pilate finds no fault in Jesus – an eerily accurate statement when we consider that Jesus was completely without sin. Pilate bends to the crowd's desire and sentences Jesus to death. Then we read of Simon from Cyrene's helping Jesus – which always makes me think of [this amazing song](#). Jesus dies and is buried. Perhaps you'd like to linger over the words he speaks during this ordeal, they are profound indeed.

### Week 5 Thursday

**Genesis 35:** Jacob returns to Bethel (I did a week of devotions on this passage in 2022, [click here](#) and scroll down to June 27 to hear them). Jacob's new name is repeated by God, and God reaffirms the covenant between them.

**Psalms 22:12-31:** We continue with these powerful prophetic words which were literally fulfilled at Christ's death. Note the change in atmosphere from verse 19, and consider how these words represent Christ's coming again.

**Luke 24:** Hallelujah, He is risen! He appears to disciples on the road to Emmaus, and then to the Eleven, proving to them that he was indeed the risen Christ. Luke's gospel ends much like it began – with words of praise and worship. What a book!

### Week 5 Friday

**Genesis 36-37:** The genealogy in ch36 shows the fulfilment of the promise that Esau would be the head of a nation. Then chapter 37 begins the wonderful story of Joseph.

**Psalm 23:** A favourite for many! Perhaps you might repeat this whole Psalm to yourself throughout the day, and learn it by heart. (You may enjoy [my friend Richard's song](#) based on this Psalm).

**Acts 1:** Onto Luke's second book! We read some more words of Jesus which set the scene for what unfolds for the rest of the book. V14 reminds us of the importance of prayer. While the disciples cast lots to make a decision, it is thought that when the Spirit came in chapter 2, they never needed to use that method again.

It's been a wonderful week in God's Word. Remember, if you have fallen behind, you can catch up this weekend.

“  
Jesus himself  
stood among  
them and said to  
them, “Peace be  
with you.”  
Luke 24:36  
”

## Week 6:

OK friends, we are into week 6. Perhaps you'd like to use this prayer I wrote before you read this week:

*As I read Your Holy Word I know that I am blind  
So Holy Spirit come and shine into my heart and mind  
How desperately I need You now to come and take the lead  
And open up my eyes to see Your truth in all I read*

### Week 6 Monday

**Genesis 38:** McDonald comments "The sordid story of Judah's sin with Tamar serves to magnify the grace of God when we remember that the Lord Jesus was descended from Judah." Joseph's life of integrity stands in stark contrast to Judah's.

**Psalms 24:** Search for the phrase "King of glory" and worship Him when you see it! Also note the emphasis on cleansing and integrity. Truly we are called to holiness in the presence of a holy God.

**Acts 2:** A wonderful moment in church history – the coming of the Holy Spirit. Have you had a personal Pentecost, being filled with God's Spirit? Peter's sermon convicts many, and then note the description of the early church at the end of the chapter. How can our churches begin to look like this again?

### Week 6 Tuesday

**Genesis 39-40:** Back to Joseph, who admirably resists temptation in order to honour the God who loves Him, and ends up jailed because of it. Count how many times ch39 states that the Lord was with Joseph!

**Psalms 25:** A rich Psalm with a number of themes, including trust and hope, honour and shame, guidance, deliverance, forgiveness, and the Lord's covenant. Read it carefully and be encouraged by these words.

**Acts 3:** Peter and John perform a miraculous healing. May we all go "walking and leaping and praising God" today! Peter grabs the opportunity to tell the people about Jesus' offer of salvation. May we all tell of His love today!

### Week 6 Wednesday

**Genesis 41:** Joseph's gift for dream interpretation comes in handy. Verse 16 reveals the mindset of Joseph which explains his success in life. Verse 38 is what each Christian should aim at!

**Psalms 26:** Don't think that David's ego is bloated in this Psalm. He declares his innocence in a time when people are accusing him of wrong-doing. He stands up for himself and proclaims his God-given integrity, not to boast but to give God glory.

**Acts 4:** Again Peter preaches passionately. Take note of verse 12! Memorize it! Also note verse 13 – you don't need to go to seminary to do great things for God. All you need is what Peter had in verse 8. Lastly, note the importance and power of prayer in the early church. We must recover this.

### Week 6 Thursday

**Genesis 42:** Some believe that Joseph's treatment of his brothers foreshadows Jesus' treatment of the Jewish people who have yet to find faith in Him. Verse 24 shows how his actions are rooted in deep love.

**Psalms 27:** A wonderful Psalm with much to fill our hearts with joy. There are a few great verses that would be worth memorising in this Psalm!

**Acts 5:** Ananias and Saphira's story remind us to be honest before God. The apostles' miraculous cause a stir, and even though they are persecuted, God comes through for them again and again. Verse 41 shows us how they made it through the tough times.

### Week 6 Friday

**Genesis 43:** There is irony here – the brothers fear that Joseph, the one they sold into slavery, will enslave them. Once again his deep love for his brothers is visible, though he waits for them to come clean.

**Psalms 28:** An encouraging Psalm to hold to in tough times. The words of David give us hope, and we look to our Shepherd to help us.

**Acts 6:** Here we see the early church dividing roles among themselves. It's important not to try do it all yourself, but to stick to your strengths in ministry roles. Then we meet a special man – Stephen. Note verse 10 – it is the Spirit's guidance that made Stephen a powerful man of God.

I pray that God's Word is washing you, soothing you, empowering you, encouraging you. Remember to catch up this weekend if needs be, and then on we go to week 7 on Monday 😊

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The LORD is my light and  
my salvation—

whom shall I fear?

The LORD is the  
stronghold of my life—  
of whom shall I be afraid?

Psalms 27:1

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”

## Week 7:

It's week 7 of 104! Many blessings await us in God's Word this week. Let us each read carefully and prayerfully.

### Week 7 Monday

**Genesis 44:** It's a joy to see the progress in Judah's life, at the end of this chapter! How far he has come from chapter 38. Joseph's brothers, on their knees before him, fulfil his early dream once again.

**Psalms 29:** A magnificent Psalm of praise. Stand in awe of our God as you read!

**Acts 7:** Stephen's powerful speech is a summary of Israel's history, ending with accusing words for the nation that rejected the Messiah. He is subsequently killed, but he dies with the love of Christ shining from him. What an example for us. (Also note the first mention of a man named Saul!)

### Week 7 Tuesday

**Genesis 45:** A deeply moving chapter as Joseph finally reveals his identity. Verse 7 and 8 show how God's sovereign hand is over all things.

**Psalms 30:** David proclaims that God is a healing and loving God. I am praying that verses 11 and 12 become a reality in our lives today.

**Acts 8:** Saul is mentioned again, warming us up for chapter 9! Then we see the apostles in action. Verse 21 reminds us to always check our hearts before God. The great story of Philip and the eunuch shows God's working in an amazing way. Have you been baptized? If not, pray and consider it, and speak to a minister who can guide you.

### Week 7 Wednesday

**Genesis 46-47:** Joseph's reunion with his father is an emotional moment, as you would expect. I love the last verse of ch47! Jacob was still deeply connect to His God.

**Psalms 31:** David is in a deep depression. Then comes verse 14, and things begin to change for him. I will be repeating the last verse to myself all day!

**Acts 9:** Saul's conversion story is an amazing one. Note how God worked in his life *in the company of other Christians*.

### Week 7 Thursday

**Genesis 48-49:** Jacob blesses each of his sons. Pay attention to the prophecies he makes – they came true! And in particular, consider his words about Judah. Jesus was born in Judah's line, and fulfilled those prophecies. And with that, Jacob dies. How much we have learned from him and his family!

**Psalms 32:** A wonderful Psalm of assurance. God is a forgiving God – may you find the peace that comes from his mercy and love.

**Acts 10:** Luke's description of Cornelius in verse 2 should fit each of us who are followers of Jesus. Peter's vision goes further than what you eat – it changed the way Peter thought about *Gentiles*. May we never consider people of a different race to us as "unclean".

### Week 7 Friday

**Genesis 50:** Verse 19-20 again remind us that God uses the world's evil for good purposes. And with that, Genesis is done! I hope you have been blessed by these stories of God's work in the lives of his people.

**Psalms 33:** We musicians love this Psalm for those first three verses! Then the last three verses give us *all* a great sense of hope. Hang onto those words today.

**Acts 11:** Peter recounts his vision to the other believers. What powerful words we read in verse 17! Then we see the church at Antioch, where Saul and Barnabas teach and preach. Notice the generosity of the people at the end of the chapter.

Next week we begin the marvellous book of Exodus, with its many pointers to Jesus. I hope the Psalms are capturing your heart, and that the life of the early church in Acts is exciting you in your faith!



*“You intended to harm me,  
but God intended it for  
good to accomplish what  
is now being done, the  
saving of many lives.”*

Genesis 50:20





## Week 8:

With Genesis done, we go straight into Exodus. This is a thrilling book, which looks at the Israelite's miraculous deliverance from Egypt – which is *the* event in the Old Testament. Time and again the Jews are called to look back on that moment as a sign of God's love for them. And it is also a picture of Christ's breaking us free from the 'prison' of sin. Read the book closely and joyfully!

We also continue with the Psalms and the Acts of the Apostles. May God bless you richly as you meet Him in the Word this week.

### Week 8 Monday

**Exodus 1:** We meet the oppressive and evil Pharaoh, who not only enslaves the Jews, but orders all baby boys to be killed. But thank God for midwives who trick him! Don't miss the humour in this passage – God is already outwitting Pharaoh!

**Psalms 34:** Verse 8 is a favourite for me. God is more than just a mental idea – we can taste and see His goodness! This wonderful Psalm always has me [singing this song](#).

**Acts 12:** Peter's miraculous escape from prison once again highlights the power of prayer! Are we "earnestly praying" (v5) for God to set prisoners free? Herod's death is a solemn warning to those who reject God.

### Week 8 Tuesday

**Exodus 2-3:** Many years are covered in these 2 chapters, starting with a special story of the birth and adoption of the OT hero - Moses. His mother's courageous act pays off in a truly miraculous way. But, having grown up, Moses sins grievously and then runs away. Then, while in the wilderness, God calls Moses. Notice God's greatness in display in chapter 3, and consider your own calling.

**Psalms 35:** A long Psalm in which David prays that God will defend him, and proclaim his innocence. Notice his incessant praise!

**Acts 13:** AGAIN we see the church fasting and praying as they make important decisions. How we need to live this way! Paul starts using his Roman name rather than his Jewish name, which will make him more understandable to the Gentiles. Take careful note of Paul's words at the end of his sermon – in verses 38-39 he sums up the gospel in a wonderful way. Also notice verses 50-51 – the apostles moved on when they weren't accepted, and were joy-filled in the Spirit.

### Week 8 Wednesday

**Exodus 4:** Moses still doubts his role in God's plan, and God eventually agrees that Aaron will join Moses on this mission. Moses is the prophet, and Aaron represents the priests. Both roles are vital throughout the rest of the OT. Then we read that God nearly killed Moses because his son was not circumcised. Let's remember again today that the NT talks of circumcision of the heart as the new standard, since Jesus has fulfilled the ceremonial laws.

**Psalms 36:** Like Psalm 1, this Psalm contrasts the lives of the godless with the godly. David's descriptions of God are worth holding onto today.

**Acts 14:** Paul performs a miraculous healing, causing the crowds to think he and Barnabas were gods. Paul turns their attention to "the living God", but this didn't help. Then some Jews stone Paul and leave him for dead – but he survives and continues his mission. Verse 22 is what our Christian communities are all about.

### Week 8 Thursday

**Exodus 5-6:** Pharaoh's words in 5:2 are repeated by so many people today, sadly. God then reassures the Israelites of his plan, in 6:2-9, but they still refuse to believe him. How often do we disbelieve God's good plan when we are in a dark place?

**Psalms 37:1-22:** Verses 3-5 should inspire us to great trust today! And verse 16 reminds us to be grateful for what we have. Trust in Him as you read these words.

**Acts 15:** An important moment in church history – tying in with what we read in Exodus yesterday. Peter reminds the pious Jews that the Gentiles were also saved and purified – though they weren't circumcised. V11 is such a clear statement of the Gospel! The church sent a letter with some guidance to the Gentile

Christians, and then we see a sad moment: Paul and Barnabas splitting after a disagreement. But God still works great wonders through them both.

Week 8 Friday ☐

**Exodus 7:** God's great motive for all He does is seen in verse 5. Notice the obedience of Moses and Aaron in verse 6, may the same be said of us today. And so begin the plagues: several Egyptian gods were associated with the Nile – so God polluted the Nile to prove Himself as the One True God.

**Psalms 37:23-40:** We are called to delight in God (v23), to turn from evil and do good (v27), to hope in God (v34) and to be blameless and upright (v37). Let's live this way today through the Spirit's empowering!

**Acts 16:** Great reliance on the Spirit is still evident in the lives of Paul and his companions (v6-7). God works in Lydia's life in a special way, and then Paul and Silas were flogged and thrown into prison after casting out a demon. Their insistence on singing and praying in their prison is an inspiration! When the jailor tries to commit suicide these men of God intervene, and soon he and his household are being joyfully baptized. What a moment!

(Note two instances in this chapter see a person "and their household" being baptized. This is one of the main arguments for those who practice infant baptism – entire households would have included children.)

I hope you've enjoyed Exodus so far. The Psalms have been rich as always, and the Spirit's moving in Acts is powerful. Praise God for the time in His Word this week; may it dwell in us and give us life and hope this weekend.

“I will extol the LORD at  
all times; his praise will  
always be on my lips.  
I will glory in the  
LORD; let the afflicted  
hear and rejoice.  
Glorify the LORD with  
me; let us exalt his name  
together.”

Psalm 34:1-3

## Week 9:

Let's get into week 9. We continue with Exodus, Psalms and Acts. May it be a fruitful and encouraging week in the Scriptures!

### Week 9 Monday

**Exodus 8:** Three more plagues are covered in this chapter – frogs, gnats, and flies. God shows his power over all nature in these plagues, and again shows his superiority to the Egyptian customs in which reptiles and insects were revered in certain ways.

**Psalms 38:** David is not doing well at all in this Psalm. In verse 18 he makes a confession of sin, and cries out to God in the last two verses. If you are going through difficulties, may it comfort you to know that even the great King David struggled too.

**Acts 17:** Perhaps verse 11 should describe us – searching the Scriptures to see if the good news of Jesus is true! Then, note how Paul's usual method for preaching the gospel changes in verse 22. He knew that to reach different people, he would need to present the good news in a way they would understand. This is a great lesson to us in our own evangelistic efforts.

### Week 9 Tues

**Exodus 9:** Another three plagues: on livestock, then boils being inflicted on everybody, and then deadly hail. Again we see a contest between the Lord and the Egyptian gods, with God's power prevailing.

**Psalms 39:** Verse 1 is a practical resolution which we would all do well to emulate. David then remembers how fleeting and short life is, and spends the rest of the Psalm in a deep depression, but holding onto God.

**Acts 18:** Verses 9-10 must have been a great encouragement to Paul. God tells him that he has many people in this city – may the same be said of our cities. Then, notice how Priscilla and Aquila teach a great man of God some basic truths that he hadn't heard. It's not just the Pauls and Peters that are heroes of our faith – the ordinary believers like you and I have much good to do in His name.

### Week 9 Wednesday

**Exodus 10-11:** The final three plagues are the most devastating. The locusts cut off Egypt's food supply. The three days of darkness was an obvious stand against the Egyptian sun god "Ra". Finally, the last plague is announced, but Pharaoh's heart keeps on hardening.

**Psalms 40:** a positive follow-up to the two dark Psalms that started our week. Even though he is in a tough place, David worships God and trusts him deeply.

**Acts 19:** A lovely baptism story starts this chapter. Paul then continues preaching and teaching – and some believer, while others don't. Much like in today's churches! The sons of Sceva show us that invoking Jesus' name means nothing *if you are not in Christ yourself*. Lastly we read of a great riot breaking out, as the Ephesians prefer to worship their idol instead of the true God. We shouldn't be surprised when the world rejects Christ.

### Week 9 Thurs

**Exodus 12:** A vital Old Testament reading, which I hope you will read carefully and reverently today. The lamb is a "type" of Jesus Christ – or a "foreshadow" of what Jesus would complete as the final sacrifice to atone for sins. Just as the blood of the lamb caused death to pass over the households of the Israelites, so now the blood of Christ brings us salvation from sin, self, and Satan. And so God's people are spared and then told to up and leave Egypt – reminding us to up and leave our old lives of captivity.

**Psalms 41:** Jesus quotes verse 9 in John 13:18, referring to his betrayal by Judas. David reminds us here to be kind and compassionate to the sick and struggling.

**Acts 20:** Verse 7 is one of the earliest historical references to the church's meeting on Sunday instead of the Sabbath. Paul's emotional farewell to the Ephesian elders teaches us so much about who this man is. If only verse 24 was the cry of each one of us!

**Exodus 13:** We see here why the rituals of our faith are important – they are to remind us of what God has done. Perhaps we Christians should celebrate Passover too, remembering how Jesus the Lamb of God delivered us? God’s presence with His people is shown by the pillar of cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night.

**Psalm 42:** The Psalmist preaches to himself in his time of struggle. Verse 5 (and 11) are worth knowing by heart, to repeat to yourself when needs be. This lovely Psalm always brings [this melody](#) to mind.

**Acts 21:** Everyone tries to persuade Paul not to go to Jerusalem, but he must obey God and fulfill his calling! Verse 13 shows his great commitment to his mission. Paul is then arrested, but boldly asks to address the people.

What a powerful week of reading as we’ve considered the most important event in Jewish history! The Psalms were very downcast this week, and I hope some of you found comfort in them. Acts kept us upbeat though, reminding us of our mission.

— “ —————

“I am ready not  
only to be bound,  
but also to die in  
Jerusalem for the  
name of the Lord  
Jesus.”

Acts 21:13

————— ” —

## Week 10:

Our journey through Exodus, Psalms and Acts continues. Let's read carefully and prayerfully and be open to God's speaking to us.

### Week 10 Monday

**Exodus 14-15:** Here is one of the most powerful passages in the Bible. What a God we serve! Don't miss that Moses and Miriam immediately sing a song of praise to God in response to His movement in their lives. And ask yourself: how might 14:13-15, and 15:26 apply to our lives today?

**Psalms 43:** This Psalm is so similar to the last one that some Bibles link them together as one. Again, let verse 5 be one that sticks in your mind.

**Acts 22:** Paul cleverly begins his speech in the language of the people. We learn much about him through these words, and he recounts what we read in ch9. But when he mentions Gentiles, his listeners turn violent. Soon he is standing before the Sanhedrin.

### Week 10 Tuesday

**Exodus 16:** Not long after they are delivered, the Israelites begin to grumble. How like them we are. God's provision of Manna foreshadows God's provision of Jesus the "Bread of life". Let us quit our grumbling and be thankful for God's provision today.

**Psalms 44:** The memory of past victories makes current defeat all the more bitter! But we never value our friendship with God so much as when His face seems to be hidden from us.

**Acts 23:** Verse 1 is such a bold statement from Paul! Can we say the same about our Christian lives? God encourages him in a special way in v11, and then his young nephew plays an important role in saving Paul's life.

### Week 10 Wednesday

**Exodus 17:** The Israelites blame Moses for their suffering. How quick we are to find somebody to be mad at. Moses strikes a rock and water flows – a moment that is filled with rich symbolism: when Jesus (the Rock of ages) was struck at Calvary, blood and water flowed from His side. And spiritually, he is the Water of Life, quenching our soul's thirst. Then we read the Israelites' battle with the Amalekites – and Moses' posture symbolises their dependence on God.

**Psalms 45:** A fascinating Messianic Psalm, which describes Jesus and his "bride" the Church in a beautiful way.

**Acts 24:** Can we say what Paul said in verse 16? I pray so. Paul witnesses strongly to Felix, but still he leaves Paul in prison and eventually is replaced by Festus.

### Week 10 Thursday

**Exodus 18-19:** A family reunion for Moses, and he receives some good advice from Jethro about effective leadership and organization. Then comes a special moment – as the Israelites reach Sinai (the place where God first met Moses in ch3) God appears to Moses again to reveal to him the Covenant. God calls for obedience and consecration, based on his saving acts towards his people.

**Psalms 46:** A beautiful Psalm of deep trust in the Lord. In dark times, remember to turn to this Psalm and be encouraged. And remember to heed the command in verse 10!

**Acts 25:** Festus grants Paul's appeal to Caesar, but holds him in prison still until Agrippa arrives to offer further assistance. What a time he is going through.

### Week 10 Friday

**Exodus 20-21:** The 10 commandments – how helpful they still are for us today. Notice Moses' words in 20:20 – a powerful realisation. The passage on slavery is difficult for us today, but notice that God demands kind and fair treatment of slaves. When you get to 21:23-25, consider how Jesus turned this teaching around.

**Psalms 47:** A lovely upbeat song of praise. I pray that our hearts will echo these words all day long.

**Acts 26:** A third time we read Paul’s conversion story. What a huge part of his testimony it was. Can you tell others of how Jesus saved you?? Agrippa, however, is not impressed! How often our attempts to share the good news fall on deaf ears. Let’s remember verse 20 today – a great summary of the gospel message.

“

“Moses answered the people, “Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the LORD will bring you today. The Egyptians you see today you will never see again. The LORD will fight for you; you need only to be still.””

Exodus 14:13

”

## Week 11:

We are getting into the Mosaic law which is sometimes are to read. Persevere and read with Jesus' own deeper understanding of law in mind. We also finish Acts this week and begin Paul's terrific letter to the Galatians.

### Week 11 Monday

**Exodus 22:** Today we read of laws regarding stealing, property damage, theft and dishonesty, social responsibility, all summed up at the beginning of v31: "You are to be my holy people". Notice how, in all these laws, God is striving to protect two types of relationships: people to God, and people to people.

**Psalms 48:** Powerful words of God's might and strength ring throughout this Psalm.

**Acts 27:** Here is the thrilling story of Paul's journey from Caesarea to Malta, en route to Rome. Paul's wise and encouraging spirit is on display yet again, even when death and danger are all around him. There is a parable here – the storms of life shouldn't discourage us!

### Week 11 Tuesday

**Exodus 23:** This chapter begins with laws on justice and mercy – two essential principles for a follower of God. Next God institutes the Sabbath and the yearly feasts, which helped the Israelites remember their heritage. God then promises his people victory and a protected journey to the promised land, *if* they follow his words carefully and don't bow to other gods.

**Psalms 49:** A sombre song reminding us of the certainty of death. Note verses 16-17. Amassing wealth is not the meaning of life!

**Acts 28:** Acts comes to a close with Paul still healing people and teaching boldly about Jesus. What a man of God! Verse 24 is a reminder that some will not believe.

Historians believe that after these two years in Rome, Paul was finally acquitted by Nero, after which he embarked on what has come to be known as his Fourth Missionary Journey. But at some point he was arrested again and brought back to Rome as a prisoner, and this time treated much more harshly. He is thought to have been beheaded around AD 67/68.

What a thrilling read Acts has been! May we throw ourselves into spreading the good news like Peter, Paul and the early church did.

### Week 11 Wednesday

**Exodus 24-25:** Great words in 24:3 and 24:7 – maybe today we should pray them and live by them. Moses' sprinkling of blood was sign of the covenant God made with the people – and foreshadows Jesus' new covenant, in which his blood washes away our sins. Then chapter 25 details the building of the tabernacle - a tentlike structure in which God would dwell among His people. Each part of the tabernacle teaches us spiritual lessons about the Person and work of Christ and the way of approach to God. [Here](#) is a nice summary of these links.

**Psalms 50:** A judgement Psalm. Here we are reminded that our faith should be *lived out*. Will God see good things or bad things filling our lives when he gathers us up one day?


**Galatians 1:** Paul's earliest recorded letter, probably written around AD 48-49. He wrote it in response to the debate about circumcision in the early church, and stressed that it was grace alone and not religious duties or ceremonies that saved people. Paul reminds the people to stick to this original gospel message he had brought them.

### Week 11 Thursday

**Exodus 26:** More information on the tabernacle. Refer back to the article I sent yesterday to see how these elements foreshadowed Jesus.

**Psalms 51:** David is back for this Psalm, and it is his famous confession song written when he realised how deeply he had sinned with Bathsheba. Perhaps we can all turn this into a prayer of repentance today. I wrote [a song based on this Psalm](#) many years ago.

**Galatians 2:** Paul's passion for the gospel truths he received from Jesus is evident in verse 5. Then he outlines his argument with Peter, and in doing so preaches the gospel in a powerful way. Verse 15-21 are worthy of repeated careful readings! Remember today that it is grace, not law-keeping, that saves us.

Week 11 Friday 

**Exodus 27:** Final details about the tabernacle. If you haven't read the article above, read it today! It will help you understand how we don't need a tabernacle anymore, because Jesus has become all the elements we have just read of.

**Psalms 52:** More solemn warnings for those who are not connected to God. Verses 8 and 9 show us what benefits come from placing our faith in Him.

**Galatians 3:** Paul continues his theme – that grace, through faith, is what saves us, NOT works of the law. The chapter ends with the stunning proclamation that all people are equal in God's eyes – a revolutionary thought in Paul's day.

I do pray that you have found your rhythm of reading the Word in this way, by now.

“

I have been crucified  
with Christ and I no  
longer live, but Christ  
lives in me. The life I now  
live in the body, I live by  
faith in the Son of God,  
who loved me and gave  
himself for me.

Galatians 2:20

”



## Week 12:

I'm excited about our time in the Word this week, friends. What treasures await us in these readings. I pray God will open our eyes and hearts as we open His book day by day!

### Week 12 Monday

**Exodus 28:** Here we read of the garments to be worn by God's priests, and again there is rich symbolism in each item. It is all about *holiness to the Lord* as we read in verse 36. Let's also remember that Jesus is now our high priest (Hebrews 8), and so God's ministers have a different function – not to sacrifice animals, but to lead the people in laying down their lives for Christ.

**Psalms 53:** Atheism is foolishness, says the Psalmist. Meantime, the people of God await his salvation – which, of course, came in Christ.

**Galatians 4:** What wonderful words reminding us that we are children of God! Then Paul chastises the people who feel that by following certain rituals, they will find favour with God. Let's remember that our church rituals and celebrations are not done to earn grace, but they are done *because God's grace has already freed us*. Then Paul contrasts those who are enslaved by law (represented by Hagar, Abraham's slave wife) with those who have been freed from the law (represented by Sarah, Abraham's free wife). Let's remember that Christ has freed us from the law's ritualistic demands.

### Week 12 Tues

**Exodus 29:** There is a great seriousness in this chapter, regarding the consecration of God's priests. Perhaps the church has lost this seriousness regarding ordination and consecration? Also note the atoning blood of the sacrificed animals. We know now that Christ's blood atones for our sins. Remember HIS sacrifice today.

**Psalms 54:** In the midst of his persecution, David hangs onto God in faith, as verse 4 shows us. May we do the same.

**Galatians 5:** Paul continues on with his talk of freedom. Verse 6 is a lovely summary of the Christian life – faith expressed in love. Then he goes on to talk about life in the Spirit – and that through the Spirit's power, we live fruitful lives. I would love for you to listen to [my songs on the fruit of the Spirit here](#).

### Week 12 Wed

**Exodus 30:** The burning of incense during both morning and evening pictures the intercessory work of Christ on our behalf. Then we read of the Israelites' need to pay a ransom towards the atoning sacrifices. Now Christ has paid the price, and we enter by faith alone.

**Psalms 55:** What a dark place David is in here, longing to leave this earth and fly away like a bird. But then he has a turnaround, and verses 16-17 are the reason why. May verse 22 be one that you know by heart.

**Galatians 6:** Paul closes this powerful letter with some advice on doing good to all. Verse 14 is a great statement which really sums up Paul's mindset! And so Paul ends this letter by blessing the people with GRACE. This has been the theme of his letter, and I pray that we have been reminded that "all is grace" as we've read it.

### Week 12 Thurs

**Exodus 31-32:** As a commentary of mine says, "just as there is beauty in holiness, this passage implies a holiness in beauty. The consecration of these workmen and their work would be an inspiration to all others who work to the glory of God." Once again the Sabbath principles are reinforced, and then chapter 32 tells the story of the people's backsliding from God. Moses' words in 32:31-32 show his deep love for his people, and foreshadow Christ's sacrifice on our behalf.

**Psalms 56:** Verse 3 is a must-know! Write it in your heart and say it often. Verse 11 is also one to hold to. Notice how he values God's *word* in this Psalm. Fitting for us as we journey through the Bible together.

**Ephesians 1:** Let's get straight into another classic Paul letter, which he wrote from prison. The theme of this letter is the equality of Jews and Gentiles in God's eyes – wonderful news to the Gentile believers who would have heard these words read out to them. Chapter 1 is filled with amazing truths of what God has done for us: read it slowly and with a heart of gratitude.

Week 12 Fri ☐

**Exodus 33:** See how seriously God takes our sin, in verse 3. Perhaps verse 13 should be our prayer for today. Let's also remember that to see God's face would be to die instantly – so great is the glory and majesty of God! This makes Jesus' descent to the earth as a humble human all the more spectacular.

**Psalms 57:** David hides in a cave as he writes this Psalm, and though his enemies surround him, his trust in God is greater. Make verses 7-11 a heartfelt prayer today.

**Ephesians 2:** This is a favourite NT chapter of mine! Paul begins by explaining how our sins separated us from God, but He provided salvation for us anyway, and so we are saved *by faith* through God's grace, not by works. BUT we are still saved FOR good works. And all believers, Jews or Gentiles, are united by this amazing grace. Ah, how our hearts should ring reading this today!

What profound truths we have learned from Exodus this week. The Psalms have continued to give expression to our ups and downs, with God at the centre. And Paul's writings have reminded us of *grace, grace, grace*. Praise God for His holy and wonderful Word to us this week!



**“When I am afraid, I  
put my trust in you.  
In God, whose word I  
praise— in God I trust  
and am not afraid.  
What can mere  
mortals do to me?”**

Psalm 56:3-4



## Week 13:

This week we finish Exodus, after a long journey through its chapters. We also finish Ephesians and find ourselves back in the gospels with our eyes on Jesus! I pray that you are finding your time in the Word to be refreshing and empowering.

### Week 13 Mon

**Exodus 34:** A powerful moment between God and Moses – resulting in a radiant, shining face! Is God evident on our faces after we spend time with Him? Notice the words of verse 6-7, and Moses' appropriate response of worship. God then renews his covenant with the people of Israel, again reminding them not to toy with other gods. Don't forget verse 14 today.

**Psalms 58:** A startling protest against unjust judges or rulers. God will judge these people – but remember, our hope is that they find redemption and transformation in Christ.

**Ephesians 3:** Paul explains that Gentiles are now included in God's covenant. What humility in verse 8! Then from verse 14 Paul prays a wonderful prayer of his people. Perhaps you want to read it slowly and receive his words in faith today. And, perhaps you may want to echo his prayer, and pray for similar blessings in your own church community. Verses 20-21 make up an inspiring doxology to end this section.

### Week 13 Tues

**Exodus 35-36:** AGAIN there are Sabbath instructions. God really wants his people to rest! Then Moses begins to plan the building of the tabernacle according to the instructions we read last week. The people are expected to give their time, talents and possessions to help. Also, we read of Bezalel and Oholiab who had special skills for the Lord's work. Don't forget that your abilities are blessings from God!

**Psalms 59:** In a deeply distressing moment, David calls on God. Aren't verse 16-17 wonderful words to proclaim in our dark times?

**Ephesians 4:** Paul gets serious now about the people of God *living the life* God has called them to. Verses 14-16 remind us to grow up and mature in our faith. Verse 17 and on are sobering – we are truly called to put off our sinful lives and live holy and loving lives for God's glory.

### Week 13 Wed

**Exodus 37-38:** The tabernacle is constructed, in line with the instructions Moses received in last week's readings. Perhaps you'd like to revisit the article I sent out to remember how the different elements were fulfilled in Christ.

**Psalms 60:** Again David finds himself in a difficult place, and again he pleads with God for deliverance. What passionate prayers he lifts up. Do our prayers match David's passion?

**Ephesians 5:** More exhortations from Paul to live careful, holy, sin-free lives. Here is his great call to avoid drunkenness but to be filled with the Spirit instead. Then begins his instructions for Christian families.

### Week 13 Thurs

**Exodus 39:** We read again of the priestly garments here, and the fact that the priests were meant to be holy to the Lord in everything. Moses sees the finished tabernacle and blesses the people for having completed it with excellence. Do we see our own work as an expression of our service to God? Perhaps we should.

**Psalms 61:** Once more David turns to God when his heart is faint. Is verse 4 your cry today? Then rest in verse 5, and remember that in Christ you have a heritage like no other.

**Ephesians 6:** Paul continues to address Christians in their household settings, and includes words here for slaves/masters which we could apply to our workplaces as employees/employers. Paul then changes his tone to talk about spiritual warfare in our world, and the importance of the armour of God and prayers. Don't forget that we are in a war!

Ephesians ends with characteristic blessings from Paul. What a wonderful read it has been. I pray that his words have drawn us deeply into the mystery of Christ.

**Exodus 40:** Moses finishes setting up the tabernacle, and God's glory fills it in a powerful way! And so ends Exodus, a monumental Old Testament book. What beautiful pictures of Christ we have seen throughout this amazing writing. Let us remember that just as God freed his people from slavery in Egypt so that they could be holy in their dedication to him, so we are set free from our slavery to sin by Jesus' death, and called to live holy lives dedicated to God as a result.

**Psalms 62:** Our week ends with more attacks on David... and more crying out to God from his heart. Yet, still he finds rest in his God (v1, 5) in spite of his trouble. This is because he is a man of integrity and faith!

**Matthew 1:** What wonders await us in this gospel. Matthew wrote to Jewish communities to show them Jesus as the Messiah they were looking forward to. Don't move too quickly through Jesus' genealogy in chapter 1 – there are names there that are quite significant. God used many types of people to bring his Son into the world – including prostitutes and evil rulers. From verse 18, we meet Joseph and Mary. What a faithful and committed man of God we see in Joseph. And don't miss the two significant names that the child to be born would be given – each name meaningful indeed.

And so my friends, week 13 of 104 is complete. A long way to go, but how much we have already learned! Be blessed and may God's Word linger in your heart until you begin reading again.

“Be strong in the Lord  
and in his mighty power.  
Put on the full armor of  
God, so that you can  
take your stand against  
the devil's schemes.”

Ephesians 6:10

## Afterword

You are now one-eighth of the way through this plan! Well done on sticking it out this far. I pray that this has been more than just a slog through the Bible, but that it's been a time of true fellowship with the LORD who loves you.

You can find the PDF for the next 13 weeks [on my website here](#).

Did you find these notes helpful? Please consider [donating towards my online ministry here](#).

I'm looking forward to continuing the journey with you.