# 2024 BIBLE READING PLAN

Redeemer Community Church

MAY

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# WHERE ARE WE IN THE OLD TESTAMENT?

#### KRYSTAL BRUMMITT

We will read parts of Joshua, Judges, Ruth, and 1 and 2 Samuel this month. Each of these books tells how God's plan of redemption is moving forward through his people, the Israelites. Below are short summaries of each book that will help in understanding what's taking place in the life of God's people during that time. We will also see how each part of the story points to the coming of Jesus: Israel's and our long-awaited Savior.

#### **JOSHUA**

Israel's new leader, Joshua, believed God would keep his promise to give his people the promised land. In faith, Joshua led God's people into a battle they knew they could not win on their own, and God's people prevailed! God helped his people overcome their enemies and brought them into the land of promise – a place they could finally call home. But this wasn't the end of what God was doing (even though Israel may have thought so at the time). God also promised his people that, though they were separated from his presence by their sin, one day, he would send a Warrior - a truer and better Joshua – who would bring them finally, safely, eternally home to be with him.

#### **JUDGES**

Throughout much of their history, Israel flip-flopped between believing God and disbelieving him. In the book of Judges, God's people went through a cycle of disbelieving God's promises, disobeying his commands, and getting into trouble as a result. Every time they did, God sent a leader to rescue them. These leaders were called judges. The judges were instructed to lead the people in following God, and when they forgot God's law and went their own way, the judges were the men and women God used to rescue them. God had a big-picture reason for giving Israel judges, too. They were meant to remind God's people that, one day, God was going to send the perfect and final Savior who would rescue them and draw them close to him. Jesus would be the ultimate Judge who would set the perfect standard. But he would do what no earthly judge could ever do: he would take their place, stand under the judgment of God on their behalf, bear the punishment they deserved, and impart to them his righteousness.

#### **RUTH**

The book of Ruth tells a true story about a woman who lost everything. Ruth lost her home, her husband, and her family (everyone except her embittered mother-in-law, Naomi). She was an outsider to the people of God, a foreigner to the promises of Yahweh. She arrived in Israel without a home, and without much hope. But God, in his kindness and mercy, gave Ruth a new home and a new family through a man who loved her named Boaz. Boaz had a special title – he was called a kinsman redeemer, because he was the person God used to take away Ruth's shame and give her a new, full life. Boaz pointed God's people forward to the Redeemer they were ultimately waiting for: the one who would take all their sadness and loneliness and give them a home with him forever. At the end of the book, God made Ruth a very special promise. He promised that, through her family, he would send the Savior the whole world had been waiting for. Ruth wasn't just welcomed into the people of God; she was grafted into the very family tree of the Messiah.

# WHERE ARE WE IN THE OLD TESTAMENT?

#### **KRYSTAL BRUMMITT**

#### 1 & 2 SAMUEL

Israel was led by God; so until this point in their story, they had no human king. This is one of the ways the nation was different from nations around them. When Israel was living in their new home, they looked at the nations surrounding them and noticed that every other nation had a king ruling over them. Israel was supposed to live under God's perfect leadership, but they wanted to be just like everyone else. They demanded that God give them a king. He gave them what they wanted. They had lots of good kings and lots of bad kings, but every single king eventually let them down. Even their favorite king – David, who was good and kind and loved God – fell into grave sin. But even though Israel had demanded a king for wrong reasons, God promised David that he would give David an heir and would "establish the throne of his kingdom forever" (2 Samuel 7:13). With every king, God reminded his people that, one day, he would send a savior who would be the perfect and final King forever and ever. That's the king they were truly waiting for.

# ADDITIONAL RESOURCES FOR MAY

#### **INTRODUCTORY**

Overviews to this month's books:

- + Bible Project: Overviews of <u>Joshua</u>, <u>Judges</u>, <u>Ruth</u>, <u>1 Samuel</u>, <u>2 Samuel</u>
- + Bible Project: Overview of Acts part 1

#### **INTERMEDIATE**

Study Bible intro notes (context, themes, outlines, etc.) on:

- + Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1 and 2 Samuel
- + Acts

#### **DEEPER**

#### Commentaries

- + Matthew Henry (1700s) wrote a commentary on the whole Bible that you can find chapter by chapter here.
- + Alastair Roberts (modern) has a set of audio commentaries on every chapter of the Bible you can find <a href="here">here</a>.
- + Consider a <u>recommended commentary</u> on one of the books!

# PRAYER POINTS FOR MAY

#### Tuesdays: Pray for non-Christian friends, family members, neighbors, and co-workers.

Pray that God would help you take a next step in helping them understand the gospel, and pray that he would bring them from spiritual death to spiritual life.

#### Wednesdays: Pray for single adults at Redeemer.

- + Pray that our single adults would be known, loved, and welcomed into our communities.
- + Pray that our singles would experience contentment in Christ.
- + Pray that God would provide opportunities for service and leadership for single adults at our church.
- + Pray that we would be a true spiritual family that welcomes people from all family backgrounds into the body of Christ.

#### Thursdays: Pray for our global and local partners.

Pray for Bekah, serving in Hungary:

- + Pray for the InterVarsity international student ministry (ISM) conference: that people working with students all over Europe will be connected, refreshed, and equipped to keep serving!
- + Pray for her ministry summit and visits from stateside partners, that more people would have a vision to be involved with God's kingdom work in Hungary.

Pray for Red Mountain Grace (and email Lindsey Smith if you'd like to get involved with them!):

- + Pray for the twenty families that are currently being housed through Red Mountain Grace. Pray that Red Mountain Grace apartments would be places of warm hospitality.
- + Pray for the social workers and medical professionals caring for the families and their loved ones currently residing with Red Mountain Grace. Pray that the Lord would give them wisdom for how best to care for their patients and loved ones.
- + Pray that the Gospel will be known and that lives will be changed through the work and words of the staff and volunteers at Red Mountain Grace. Pray that the guests would find comfort and peace through the Lord Jesus Christ as they walk through the valley of medical trials.
- + Praise God for those that support Red Mountain Grace spiritually and financially. Pray that the Lord would continue to raise up new donors, board members, and volunteers to continue to love visitors coming to our city facing medical crisis.

#### Fridays: Pray for contentment.

Pray that God would help you be fundamentally thankful for his blessings and satisfied in his grace.

# HAPPENING AT REDEEMER

#### **COLLECTIVES**

Our collectives are groups that gather around common stages of life or needs for fellowship, discipleship, and care. Learn more on our website, and consider visiting one of the following collectives!

- + Young professionals
- + 30s-40s single adults
- + Over 50s
- + Men's recovery for men seeking help and support with addiction

#### **NEXT MEMBERSHIP CLASSES**

Our next membership classes are May 19 and 21. If you're interested in joining Redeemer, register for one!

#### MAY COMMON MEAL

We'll have a Common Meal on May 19 after the afternoon service. Mor information to come!

#### A THEOLOGY OF DISAPPOINTMENT

Our first Theology Talkback of the summer will be "A Theology of Disappointment," by Jeff Heine. Coming May 29!

#### **SERVE AT REDEEMER**

We have many opportunites for you to **serve** at Redeemer and in our city. Follow this link to learn more.

# APRIL 29 - MAY 5

#### April 29: Mark 9:2-13

- 1. What stood out to you most from the text or the sermon, if you heard the sermon?
- 2. Read Revelation 1:12-16 this is the Jesus that Peter, James, and John saw. What stands out to you from this description, and why?
- 3. Moses represented the Old Testament Law and Elijah represented the Old Testament prophets. In light of that, what do you think verse 7 meant to the apostles?
- 4. This vision was a foretaste of Jesus' glorification that after his humble life and death, he would be revealed in his divine power. How should this glory affect our lives?
- 5. "And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another" (2 Corinthians 3:18). How does meditating on Jesus' glory help us be transformed (transfigured) into glory?

#### April 30: Joshua 1-2, Luke 9

Pray for non-Christians

May 1: Joshua 3, Luke 10

Pray for Redeemer's single adults

May 2: Joshua 6-7, Luke 11

Pray for Bekah and Red Mountain Grace

May 3: Joshua 23-24, Luke 12

Pray for contentment

May 4: Mark 9:14-29

May 5: Psalms 52-54

#### Psalm 52

"I will wait for your name, for it is good, in the presence of the godly" (52:9). Is there a way you're tempted to not wait for God? Pray that God would give you patience to trust him.

#### Psalm 53

"They have all fallen away; together they have become corrupt; there is none who does good, not even one" (53:3). Meditate on the fact that "there is none who does good" - including you - and thank God for his justifying grace.

#### Psalm 54

"Behold, God is my helper; the Lord is the upholder of my life" (54:4). How have you seen God be your help?

#### NOTES

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# MAY 6 - 12

#### May 6: Mark 9:14-29

- 1. What stood out to you most from the text or the sermon, if you heard the sermon?
- 2. What is the fundamental issue that Jesus calls out in the disciples and the people, according to verse 19?
- 3. Note the specific request of the father in verse 22: "Have compassion on us and help us." Think back on the time you have spent in Mark; where else have you beheld Jesus' compassion and power?
- 4. How have you experienced Jesus' compassion and help in your life recently? How does this strengthen your faith?
- 5. While the cry of the father in verse 24 sounds like a paradox, it is really a humble confession of his own spiritual weakness: that he needs something outside of himself (the Holy Spirit) to give him the strength to have faith. Where in your life are you struggling to have faith, to believe that Jesus is both compassionate and powerful enough to help you in your need?
- 6. What does Jesus tell the disciples they needed in order to heal the boy? Spend a few minutes in prayer now, asking the Lord to strengthen your own faith just as he did for the father in this story.

May 7: Judges 1-2, Luke 13

Pray for non-Christians

**May 8: Judges 4-5, Luke 14** 

Pray for Redeemer's single adults

May 9: Judges 6:11-8:35, Luke 15

Pray for Bekah and Red Mountain Grace

May 10: Judges 20-21, Luke 16

Pray for contentment

May 11: Mark 9:30-41

#### May 12: Psalms 55-57

#### Psalm 55

"He hears my voice." Where have you felt heard or unheard by the Lord recently? Share with the Lord your "complaints" and "pleas" now, believing that he hears you even now.

#### Psalm 56

"You have kept count of my tossings; put my tears in your bottle." Spend time meditating the truth that the Creator God of the universe has seen your anxious and sleepless nights and has counted your tears as precious in his sight.

#### Psalm 57

"He will send from heaven and save me." Even in our suffering, what promises do we have to cling to, according to this psalm?

# NOTES

# MAY 13 - 19

#### May 13: Mark 9:30-41

- 1. What stood out to you most from the text or the sermon, if you heard the sermon?
- 2. What differences do you note between the perspectives of Jesus and the disciples throughout these verses? In what ways can you relate to the contrasting perspectives?
- 3. How does it affect you when you are reminded that Christ's mission meant suffering on our behalf (vv. 30-32)?
- 4. Where in your life do you think God is calling you to serve others right now? Is there anything that makes putting yourself last and being servant-hearted particularly challenging for you (vv. 33-37)?
- 5. Read Philippians 2:1-8. Does anything stick out to you in this passage that leads you towards pursuing humility and servant-heartedness?
- Reread vv. 38-41 and spend a few minutes praying for unity among churches and Christians both in Birmingham and around the world.

#### May 14: Ruth 1-2, Luke 17

Pray for non-Christians

May 15: Ruth 3-4, Luke 18

Pray for Redeemer's single adults

May 16: 1 Samuel 1-2, Luke 19

Pray for Bekah and Red Mountain Grace

May 17: 1 Samuel 3-4, Luke 20

Pray for contentment

May 18: Mark 9:42-50

May 19: Psalms 58-60

#### Psalm 58

"Mankind will say, "Surely there is a reward for the righteous; surely there is a God who judges on earth" (58:11). Where do you see injustice or the unrighteous prospering in your own life and around the world? Plead with the Lord to come and

restore righteousness and judge injustices.

#### Psalm 59

"O my Strength, I will sing praises to you, for you, O God, are my fortress, the God who shows me steadfast love" (59:17).

Meditate on what characteristics of God you have seen at work in both Scriptures you've read/heard and in your own life recently. Spend a few minutes praising God for some of these characteristics.

#### Psalm 60

NUTEC

"Oh, grant us help against the foe, for vain is the salvation of man! With God we shall do valiantly; it is he who will tread down our foes" (60:11-12). Confess any areas of your life which you have tried to approach on your own strength without God's help. Then, spend a few moments asking for God's presence with you and hand in these pursuits of your life.

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# MAY 20 - 26

#### May 20: Mark 9:42-50

- 1. What stood out to you most from the text or the sermon, if you heard the sermon?
- 2. Why do you think Jesus uses such strong language? (rip out your eye... cut off your leg... two eyes thrown into hell...)
- 3. Sin is both a verb, as we can see so obviously in this passage, but I think it is important to recognize that sin is also a noun. What are practical ways you can see your sinful actions revealing the underlying condition of your sinful nature? (desires, longings, etc.)
- 4. St. Augustine once said that sin is looking for the right thing in the wrong place. In what ways might we be tempted to look for good things (love, fulfillment, pleasure, etc.) in the wrong places?
- 5. While not cutting off limbs, but still honoring the serious language Jesus shares in this passage, how could you set up parameters to avoid falling into traps or leading others astray in sin as well?

#### May 21: 1 Samuel 6-7, Luke 21

Pray for non-Christians

May 22: 1 Samuel 8-9, Luke 22

Pray for Redeemer's single adults

May 23: 1 Samuel 10-11, Luke 23

Pray for Bekah and Red Mountain Grace

May 24: 1 Samuel 15-16, Luke 24

Pray for contentment

May 25: Mark 10:1-12

May 26: Psalms 61-63

#### Psalm 61

"Lead me to the rock that is higher than I" (61:2). How do you need to take refuge in Christ?

#### Psalm 62

"For God alone, O my soul, wait in silence, for my hope is from him" (62:5). Quiet your soul and spend time "waiting" with your attention on God.

#### Psalm 63

NOTES

"O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water" (63:1). Reflect on how God satisfies our souls. How have you seen his goodness lately?

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# **MAY 27 - JUNE 2**

#### May 27: Mark 10:1-12

- 1. What stood out to you most from the text or the sermon, if you heard the sermon?
- 2. How would you describe the motives of the pharisees? Are their questions out of good faith or deception?
- 3. How do you approach Jesus: cynically, trusting, or unsure?
- 4. Jesus responds to the pharisees by appealing to Moses and Creation. What does this tell us about Jesus' view of the Old Testament?
- 5. What are the elements of marriage as seen in verses 6 9? If you're married, what does it look like to pursue oneness with your spouse?
- 6. What is Jesus' view on divorce in verses 10-12? (Further NT passages that deal with the issue of divorce and remarriage are Matt 5:31-32; 19:1-12; Luke 16:18; 1 Cor 7.)

#### May 28: 1 Samuel 17-18, Acts 1

Pray for non-Christians

May 29: 1 Samuel 19-20, Acts 2

Pray for Redeemer's single adults

May 30: 1 Samuel 24-25, Acts 3

Pray for Bekah and Red Mountain Grace

May 31: 1 Samuel 30-31, Acts 4

Pray for contentment

June 1: Psalm 1

June 2: Psalms 64-66

#### Psalm 64

"Then all mankind fears; they tell what God has brought about and ponder what he has done. Let the righteous one rejoice in the Lord and take refuge in him! Let all the upright in heart exult!" Sit silently and reflect on the justice of God. Consider how he has and how he will make all things new. Rejoice in the Lord--in his person and work!

#### Psalm 65

"...they shout and sing together for joy." Reflect on God's awesome deeds of power (v.5-8) and His abundant provision (v.9-13). Join in with all creature that shouts with joy at God's goodness to us!

#### Psalm 66

"Shout for joy to God, all the earth; sing the glory of his name; give to him glorious praise!" Make a list of things to praise God for today. Pray through each of them and give glory to him for each gift!

#### **NOTES**

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#### **JANUARY**

- 1. Mark 4:1-21
- Genesis 1:1-2:3, John 1
- Genesis 2:4-25, John 2-3 3.
- Genesis 3, John 4 4.
- Genesis 4, John 5 5.
- Mark 4:21-34
- 7. Psalms 1-3
- Mark 4:21-34
- Genesis 6, John 6
- 10. Genesis 7, John 7
- 11. Genesis 8:1-19, John 8
- 12. Genesis 8:20-9:29, John 9
- 13. Mark 4:35-41
- 14. Psalms 4-6
- 15. Mark 4:35-41
- 16. Genesis 11:1-9, John 10
- 17. Genesis 12:1-9, John 11
- 18. Genesis 15, John 12
- 19. Genesis 16, John 13
- 20. Mark 5:1-20
- 21. Psalms 7-9 22. Mark 5:1-20
- 23. Genesis 17, John 14
- 24. Genesis 21:1-21, John 15
- 25. Genesis 22 23, John 16
- 26. Genesis 24, John 17
- 27. Mark 5:21-43
- 28. Psalms 10-12
- 29. Mark 5:21-43
- 30. Genesis 25, John 18
- 31. Genesis 27, John 19

#### **FEBRUARY**

- Genesis 29:1-30:24, John 20
- Genesis 32-33, John 21
- Sermon Passage
- Psalms 13-15 4.
- Sermon Passage 5.
- Genesis 35, Romans 1
- Genesis 37, Romans 2 7.
- Genesis 39, Romans 3
- Genesis 40-41, Romans 4
- 10. Sermon Passage
- 11. Psalms 16-18
- 12. Sermon Passage
- 13. Genesis 42-43, Romans 5
- 14. Genesis 44-45, Romans 6
- 15. Genesis 46-47, Romans 7
- 16. Genesis 48-49; 50:15-21, Romans 8
- 17. Sermon Passage
- 18. Psalms 19-21
- 19. Sermon Passage
- 20. Exodus 1-2, Romans 9
- 21. Exodus 3-4, Romans 10
- 22. Exodus 7-8, Romans 11
- 23. Exodus 9-10, Romans 12
- 24. Sermon Passage
- 25. Psalms 22-24
- 26. Sermon Passage
- 27. Exodus 11-12, Romans 13
- 28. Exodus 13-14, Romans 14
- 29. Exodus 16-17, Romans 15

#### **MARCH**

- Exodus 19:1-20:21, Romans 16
- Sermon Passage
- Psalms 25-27
- 4. Sermon Passage
- 5. Exodus 24:1-25:22, 1 Corinthians 1
- Exodus 26, 1 Corinthians 2-3
- 7. Exodus 32-33, 1 Corinthians 4
- Exodus 34; Exodus 40,
  - 1 Corinthians 5
- Sermon Passage
- 10. Psalms 28-30
- 11. Sermon Passage
- 12. Leviticus 1, 1 Corinthians 6-7
- 13. Leviticus 4, 1 Corinthians 8-9
- 14. Leviticus 11, 1 Corinthians 10
- 15. Leviticus 16, 1 Corinthians 11
- 16. Sermon Passage
- 17. Psalms 31-33
- 18. Sermon Passage
- 19. Leviticus 19, 1 Corinthians 12-13
- 20. Leviticus 23, 1 Corinthians 14
- 21. Leviticus 25, 1 Corinthians 15
- 22. Leviticus 26, 1 Corinthians 16
- 23. Sermon Passage
- 24. Psalms 34-36
- 25. Sermon Passage
- 26. Numbers 1-2, 2 Corinthians 1
- 27. Numbers 6:1-7:17, 2 Corinthians 2
- 28. Numbers 9-10, 2 Corinthians 3
- 29. Numbers 11, 2 Corinthians 4
- 30. Sermon Passage
- 31. Psalms 37-39

#### **APRIL**

- 1. Sermon Passage
- Numbers 13-14, 2 Corinthians 5
- 3. Numbers 20, 2 Corinthians 6
- 4. Numbers 27:12-23, 2 Corinthians 7-8
- 5. Numbers 28:1-29:11,
  - 2 Corinthians 9
- 6. Sermon Passage
- 7. Psalms 40-42
- 8. Sermon Passage
- 9. Deuteronomy 1:1-2:25,
  - 2 Corinthians 10
- 10. Deuteronomy 3:23-4:49,
  - 2 Corinthians 11
- 11. Deuteronomy 5-6, 2 Corinthians 12
- 12. Deuteronomy 7:1-9:12,
  - 2 Corinthians 13
- 13. Sermon Passage
- 14. Psalms 43-45
- 15. Sermon Passage
- 16. Deuteronomy 10-11, Luke 1
- 17. Deuteronomy 14:1-16:8, Luke 2
- 18. Deuteronomy 17:14-18:22, Luke 3
- 19. Deuteronomy 28, Luke 4
- 20. Sermon Passage
- 21. Psalms 46-48
- 22. Sermon Passage
- 23. Deuteronomy 29-30, Luke 5
- 24. Deuteronomy 31, Luke 6
- 25. Deuteronomy 32, Luke 7
- 26. Deuteronomy 33-34, Luke 8
- 27. Sermon Passage
- 28. Psalms 49-51
- 29. Sermon Passage
- 30. Joshua 1-2, Luke 9

#### MAY

- 1. Joshua 3, Luke 10
- 2. Joshua 6-7, Luke 11
- 3. Joshua 23-24, Luke 12
- 4. Sermon Passage
- 5. Psalms 52-54
- 6. Sermon Passage
- 7. Judges 1-2, Luke 13
- 8. Judges 4-5, Luke 14
- 9. Judges 6:11-8:35, Luke 15
- 10. Judges 20-21, Luke 16
- 11. Sermon Passage
- 12. Psalms 55-57
- 13. Sermon Passage
- 14. Ruth 1-2, Luke 17
- 15. Ruth 3-4, Luke 18
- 16. 1 Samuel 1-2, Luke 19
- 17. 1 Samuel 3-4, Luke 20
- 18. Sermon Passage
- 19. Psalms 58-60
- 20. Sermon Passage
- 21. 1 Samuel 6-7, Luke 21
- 22. 1 Samuel 8-9, Luke 22
- 23. 1 Samuel 10-11, Luke 23
- 24. 1 Samuel 15-16, Luke 24
- 25. Sermon Passage
- 26. Psalms 61-63
- 27. Sermon Passage
- 28. 1 Samuel 17-18, Acts 1
- 29. 1 Samuel 19-20, Acts 2
- 30. 1 Samuel 24-25, Acts 3
- 31. 1 Samuel 30-31, Acts 4

#### JUNE

- 1. Sermon Passage
- 2. Psalms 64-66
- 3. Sermon Passage
- 4. 2 Samuel 1:1-2:7, Acts 5-6
- 5. 2 Samuel 5-6, Acts 7
- 6. 2 Samuel 7, Acts 8
- 7. 2 Samuel 9, Acts 9
- 8. Sermon Passage
- 9. Psalms 67-69
- 10. Sermon Passage
- 11. 2 Samuel 11-12, Acts 10
- 12. 2 Samuel 23-24, Acts 11-12
- 13. 1 Kings 1-2, Acts 13
- 14. 1 Kings 3-4, Acts 14
- 15. Sermon Passage
- 16. Psalms 70-72
- 17. Sermon Passage
- 18. 1 Kings 5-6, Acts 15
- 19. 1 Kings 8, Acts 16
- 20. 1 Kings 11:1-12:24, Acts 17
- 21. 1 Kings 15:8-16:34, Acts 18
- 22. Sermon Passage
- 23. Psalms 73-75
- 24. Sermon Passage
- 25. 1 Kings 17:1-18:19, Acts 19
- 26. 1 Kings 18:20-19:21, Acts 20
- 27. 2 Kings 1-2, Acts 21
- 28. 2 Kings 17, Acts 22-23
- 29. Sermon Passage
- 30. Psalms 76-78

#### JULY

- 1. Sermon Passage
- 2. 2 Kings 18, Acts 24-25
- 3. 2 Kings 19-20, Acts 26
- 4. 2 Kings 22-23, Acts 27
- 5. 2 Kings 24:1-25:21, Acts 28
- 6. Sermon Passage
- 7. Psalms 79-81
- 8. Sermon Passage
- 9. 1 Chronicles 1-2, Galatians 1:1-2:14
- 10. 1 Chronicles 28-29, Galatians 2:15-3:29
- 11. 2 Chronicles 1, Galatians 4:1-5:15
- 12. 2 Chronicles 5-7, Galatians 5:16-6:18
- 13. Sermon Passage
- 14. Psalms 82-84
- 15. Sermon Passage
- 16. 2 Chronicles 8-9, Ephesians 1:1-2:10
- 17. 2 Chronicles 29-30, Epehsians 2:11-3:21
- 18. 2 Chronicles 34, Ephesians 4:1-5:21
- 19. 2 Chronicles 35-36, Ephesians 5:22-6:24
- 20. Sermon Passage
- 21. Psalms 85-87
- 22. Sermon Passage
- 23. Ezra 1; 3, Philippians 1
- 24. Ezra 6-7, Philippians 2
- 25. Nehemiah 1-2, Philippians 3
- 26. Nehemiah 3-4, Philippians 4
- 27. Sermon Passage
- 28. Psalms 88-90
- 29. Sermon Passage
- 30. Nehemiah 8-9, Colossians 1
- 31. Nehemiah 13, Colossians 2

#### **AUGUST**

- 1. Esther 1-3, Colossians 3
- 2. Esther 4-5, Colossians 4
- 3. Sermon Passage
- 4. Psalms 91-93
- 5. Sermon Passage
- 6. Esther 6-7, 1 Thessalonians 1:1-2:16
- 7. Esther 8-10, 1 Thessalonians 2:17-3:13
- 8. Job 1-2, 1 Thessalonians 4
- 9. Job 3-4, 1 Thessalonians 5
- 10. Sermon Passage
- 11. Psalms 94-96
- 12. Sermon Passage
- 13. Job 19-20, 2 Thessalonians 1:1-2:12
- 14. Job 38-39, 2 Thessalonians 2:13-3:18
- 15. Job 40, 1 Timothy 1
- 16. Job 41-42, 1 Timothy 2
- 17. Sermon Passage
- 18. Psalms 97-99
- 19. Sermon Passage
- 20. Proverbs 1-2, 1 Timothy 3
- 21. Proverbs 3-4, 1 Timothy 4
- 22. Proverbs 8-9, 1 Timothy 5
- 23. Proverbs 10-11, 1 Timothy 6
- 24. Sermon Passage
- 25. Psalms 100-102
- 26. Sermon Passage
- 27. Proverbs 15-16, 2 Timothy 1
- 28. Proverbs 27-28, 2 Timothy 2
- 29. Proverbs 31, 2 Timothy 3
- 30. Ecclesiastes 1-2, 2 Timothy 4
- 31. Sermon Passage

#### **SEPTEMBER**

- 1. Psalms 103-105
- 2. Sermon Passage
- 3. Ecclesiastes 3-4, Titus 1
- 4. Ecclesiastes 12, Titus 2
- 5. Song of Solomon 1-2, Titus 3
- 6. Song of Solomon 8, Philemon
- 7. Sermon Passage
- 8. Psalms 106-108
- 9. Sermon Passage
- 10. Isaiah 1-2, Hebrews 1-2
- 11. Isaiah 5, Hebrews 3-4
- 12. Isaiah 6-7, Hebrews 5-6
- 13. Isaiah 9, Isaiah 11, Hebrews 7
- 14. Sermon Passage
- 15. Psalms 109-111
- 16. Sermon Passage
- 17. Isaiah 24-25, Hebrews 8-9
- 18. Isaiah 26-27, Hebrews 10
- 19. Isaiah 30, Hebrews 11:1-12:4
- 20. Isaiah 40-41, Hebrews 12:5-13:25
- 21. Sermon Passage
- 22. Psalms 112-114
- 23. Sermon Passage
- 24. Isaiah 42-43, Matthew 1-2
- 25. Isaiah 49-50, Matthew 3-4
- 26. Isaiah 52-53, Matthew 5
- 27. Isaiah 55-56, Matthew 6-7
- 28. Sermon Passage
- 29. Psalms 115-117
- 30. Sermon Passage

#### **OCTOBER**

- 1. Isaiah 58-59, Matthew 8
- 2. Isaiah 60-61, Matthew 9
- 3. Isaiah 62-63, Matthew 10
- 4. Isaiah 65-66, Matthew 11
- 5. Sermon Passage
- 6. Psalms 118
- 7. Sermon Passage
- 8. Jeremiah 1-2, Matthew 12
- 9. Jeremiah 9-10, Matthew 13
- 10. Jeremiah 13-14, Matthew 14
- 11. Jeremiah 25, Matthew 15
- 12. Sermon Passage
- 13. Psalms 119: 1-96
- 14. Sermon Passage
- 15. Jeremiah 29-30, Matthew 16
- 16. Jeremiah 31, 33, Matthew 17
- 17. Jeremiah 52, Lamentations 1 Matthew 18
- 18. Lamentations 3, Matthew 19-20
- 19. Sermon Passage
- 20. Psalms 199:97-176
- 21. Sermon Passage
- 22. Ezekiel 1, Matthew 21
- 23. Ezekiel 2-3, Matthew 22
- 24. Ezekiel 4-5, Matthew 23
- 25. Ezekiel 10-11, Matthew 24
- 26. Sermon Passage
- 27. Psalms 120-122
- 28. Sermon Passage
- 29. Ezekiel 15-16, Matthew 25
- 30. Ezekiel 33-34, Matthew 26
- 31. Ezekiel 36-37, Matthew 27

#### **NOVEMBER**

- 1. Ezekiel 39:21-40:19; 48:30-35 Matthew 28
- 2. Sermon Passage
- 3. Psalms 123-125
- 4. Sermon Passage
- 5. Daniel 1-2, James 1
- 6. Daniel 3-4, James 2
- 7. Daniel 5-6, James 3:1-4:12
- 8. Daniel 7, Daniel 12, James 4:13-5:20
- 9. Sermon Passage
- 10. Psalms 126-128
- 11. Sermon Passage
- 12. Hosea 1-2, 1 Peter 1:1-2:10
- 13. Hosea 3-4, 1 Peter 2:11-3:12
- 14. Hosea 10-11, 1 Peter 3:13-4:11
- 15. Hosea 13-14, 1 Peter 4:12-5:14
- 16. Sermon Passage
- 17. Psalms 129-131
- 18. Sermon Passage
- 19. Joel 1-2, 2 Peter 1
- 20. Amos 1-2, 2 Peter 2
- 21. Amos 5-6, 2 Peter 3
- 22. Amos 9, Jude
- 23. Sermon Passage
- 24. Psalms 132-134
- 25. Sermon Passage
- 26. Obadiah, 1 John 1:1-2:17
- 27. Jonah 1-2, 1 John 2:18-3:10
- 28. Jonah 3-4, 1 John 3:11- 4:21
- 29. Micah 1-2, 1 John 5
- 30. Sermon Passage

#### **DECEMBER**

- 1. Psalms 135-137
- 2. Sermon Passage
- 3. Micah 4-5, 2 John
- 4. Micah 6-7, 3 John
- 5. Nahum 1, Revelation 1-2
- 6. Nahum 2-3, Revelation 3
- 7. Sermon Passage
- 8. Psalms 138-140
- 9. Sermon Passage
- 10. Habakkuk 1-2, Revelation 4
- 11. Habakkuk 3, Revelation 5-6
- 12. Zephaniah 1-2, Revelation 7
- 13. Zephaniah 3, Revelation 8-9
- 14. Sermon Passage
- 15. Psalms 141-143
- 16. Sermon Passage
- 17. Haggai, Revelation 10-11
- 18. Zechariah 1 and 3, Revelation 12-13
- 19. Zechariah 7-8, Revelation 14
- 20. Zechariah 9-10, Revelation 15-16
- 21. Sermon Passage
- 22. Psalms 144-147
- 23. Sermon Passage
- 24. Zechariah 11-12, Revelation 17-18
- 25. Zechariah 13-14, Revelation 19-20
- 26. Malachi 1-2, Revelation 21
- 27. Malachi 3-4, Revelation 22
- 28. Sermon Passage
- 29. Psalms 148-150
- 30. Sermon Passage
- 31. End of the year reflection

# HOW TO APPROACH THE BIBLE

At Redeemer, we believe that the Holy Scriptures are the unfolding revelation of the greatness and graciousness of the Triune God, they declare the covenant promises of His Kingdom and His people, and they instruct from generation to generation the great deeds of the Lord.

Despite the fact that the Bible was written by 40 authors on 3 continents over thousands of years, it tells one coherent story. From beginning to end, the 66 books of the Bible tell the story of our all-powerful and loving King and Rescuer. This King made us in His image, but we, desiring to take His place, rebelled and incurred his just and holy wrath- but far from that being the tragic end to the story, it was merely the title page. For thousands of years, God's foreordained, perfect plan was coming to fruition. God Himself would come to earth- to live the life required of us, die the death that we deserved, and reconcile us to Himself by His own blood.

The Scriptures are one of God's means of grace to us, written under the inspiration of His Spirit so that we might know Him and enjoy Him forever. As J.I. Packer has written, "The word which God addresses directly to us is an instrument not only of government but also of fellowship. He made us with the intention that we might walk together forever in a love relationship. But such a relationship can exist only when the parties know something of each other. God, our Maker, knows all about us before we say anything; but we can know nothing of him unless he tells us. Therefore, God sends his word...to woo us as well as to instruct us."

This means that the Bible cannot merely be read merely intellectually. There is nothing given to us in the Bible simply to be known. His Word has been given to us that we might know Him through it, and, by the power of His Spirit, be changed into His likeness by it. His Word is a vehicle for your communion with the thrice-holy, living, gracious God, given to you because God wants you to know and love Him, even as He knows and loves you.

# THE HEAR METHOD

Each month, we will be including a different suggested method for reading Scripture. This month, we are including the HEAR method which is a four step method that both helps us understand and interact with each passage of scripture

The most important thing in beginning Bible study is simply to come before the Lord prayerfully, patiently, and persistently. However, whether we realize it or not, each of us has a "method" in how we approach God's Word, and some methods are more helpful than others. The HEAR Method was developed by Robby Gallaty, and we have found it particularly useful, because it sets the table well for any Christian, providing the tools necessary to mine a spiritual gem in 10 minutes, as well as to dig deep for an hour.

#### HIGHLIGHT, EXPLAIN, APPLY, RESPOND.

*Highlight:* What is the main point? Is there a verse or phrase that captures it?

*Explain:* What does this passage mean? Try to summarize its meaning in your own words. A proper interpretation of any passage must:

- Be clearly reflected in the text
- Be timeless
- Not be culturally bound
- Correspond to the rest of Scripture
- Be relevant both to the Biblical audience as well as a contemporary audience

A few questions to ask to uncover the meaning of a passage:

- What do the key terms mean?
- How do the verses or phrases relate to each other?
- How does this passage fit into the larger story of the book it is in?
- How does this passage relate to the story of the Bible as a whole?
- How does this passage speak about or point to Jesus or our need?

*Apply:* How should this passage apply to my life today?

- Is there an application already in the text?
- Is there sin to confess, a promise to claim, a command to obey?
- What would the main point of this verse practically look like in my life today?

**Respond:** Is there anything I need to remember, rejoice in, request, or repent of?

- How does this show me something about the character of God for which I can praise him? (What happens in my life when I forget this?)
- How does this show me something wrong with me some sin of which this convicts me — for which I can repent? (How does my faith and salvation in Christ help me escape this?)
- How does this show me something that I need that I should be petitioning God for? (What do I lack in my life that I should seeking?)

# WHAT IS THE GOSPEL?

We use the word "gospel" a lot, because it's the word that summarizes the basic Christian message. "Gospel" means "good news," and the Christian gospel is the good news of what God has done for us through Jesus. Here are two ways to understand the gospel message.

#### **GOD SAVES SINNERS**

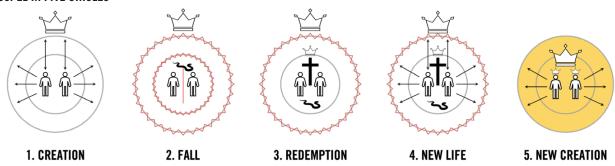
JI Packer offers a short definition of the gospel as "God saves sinners:"

God – the Triune Jehovah, Father, Son and Spirit; three Persons working together in sovereign wisdom, power and love to achieve the salvation of a chosen people, the Father electing, the Son fulfilling the Father's will by redeeming, the Spirit executing the purpose of Father and Son by renewing.

**Saves** – does everything, first to last, that is involved in bringing man from death in sin to life in glory: plans, achieves and communicates redemption, calls and keeps, justifies, sanctifies, glorifies.

Sinners – men as God finds them, guilty, vile, helpless, powerless, unable to lift a finger to do God's will or better their spiritual lot. God saves sinners... sinners do not save themselves in any sense at all, but that salvation, first and last, whole and entire, past, present and future, is of the Lord, to whom be glory for ever; amen.

#### THE GOSPEL IN FIVE CIRCLES



It begins with Creation: God makes us for relationship with him and to reflect his glory. God wants a relationship with his people, and he made us to cultivate his kingdom in the world by developing it and filling it with people who bear his image and live in a faithful covenant with him.

But then comes the Fall: the world (and our lives) are ruined by our rebellion. We listened to the fallen angel called the Serpent (Satan), abandoning God's plan for our own, and as a result our souls, our relationships, and the entire world are corrupted by sin, decay, and death.

Thankfully, God doesn't leave us there: God rescues and reconciles us through his Redeemer. God the Son entered the world as the divine-human Jesus to break the power of the Serpent, die as a sacrificial lamb to pay the price for our rebellion, and reconcile us to God.

Now in Jesus, we have New Life: God restores us to be able to reflect his glory again. When we come to belong to Jesus by faith, we are adopted into God's family and empowered to live like God (in holiness and love) and for God's kingdom in the world.

And it gets better! One day, God will re-create the world perfectly and rest forever with his people. There will be no more sin, suffering, or evil, and we will live in resurrected bodies in a reunited heaven and earth with God.