

VISION CHURCH READING PLAN APRIL 2024

This month's reading plan is going to be special. We will break this up into two parts. The first part will keep us in the theme of Easter. We feel impressed to continue to spend some time in the 4 gospels focused on the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus. Then we'll look at what the bible states about Jesus' short time here before ascending to the right hand of Father God in heaven.

In The second half of this plan we'll continue with the ascension of Jesus, the coming of the Holy Spirit, and the gospel moving forward through the power of the Holy Spirit and Jesus' disciples in the book of Acts.

As we go through the first half of our plan, let's take a look at the context of whose perspective we're seeing it through. Let's focus on how the events relate to the culture of that time period. Why did Jesus do what He did for us all? How can we get the whole picture from four different perspectives?

In the Gospels we have four different writers, one for each book. Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. Each book is titled after the writer's name.

This reading plan may stretch you a little bit and have you reading more than you usually would. Don't be discouraged, read at your own pace but don't be afraid to push yourself. As our Pastor has said several times this year let the scriptures be a vehicle to the heart of God. If you have any questions about what you're reading, please don't hesitate to pull someone from our leadership team aside. They will help direct you to someone that can help you with your questions.

Please take some time each day to pray before you read and ask God to meet with you. As He makes certain verses stand out to you, think about how you might apply them to your daily life. Be sure to write down things that God shows you.

The Death and Burial of Jesus

Matthew is where we'll start, Matthew was one of Jesus' 12 disciples(Apostles). Known prior as a tax collector, a Jewish man working for the Roman Empire to collect tax from his own people. Jewish people would not be happy with a man like this to say the least. Yet Jesus called Matthew to follow Him and as we can see had a plan for Matthew to be a writer in what we know as the Word of God– the Bible.

Day 1 - Matthew 27: Read the whole chapter, break it up throughout the day if you need to.

Mark is where we'll rest on day 2, Mark is a little different, he was not in direct connection with Jesus as Matthew was. He was actually a companion/disciple of Peter who was one of the 12 apostles of Jesus, he also spent time with Paul and his cousin Barnabas (whom we'll see more about in the book of Acts). Mark's gospel account is very direct and to the point. If we were to do a study of Peter, you could see some traits that were passed on to Mark. Though Mark was not a direct disciple of Jesus this does not discount His gospel account if we believe all scripture is God breathed.

Day 2- Mark 15

Luke's relation to Jesus is similar to Mark, he was not one of the 12 apostles but holds a strong account in what we know as the New Testament in the bible. Word for word Luke wrote the most in the New Testament between the gospel of Luke and the book of Acts. Though Luke was not an Apostle, you can see by his writings that he spent a lot of time gathering information from eye witnesses of Jesus and studying history. He was a gentile doctor who was a traveling companion of Paul through the book of Acts. He is the only gentile writer in the bible, which only means he was the only non jewish writer.

Day 3- Luke 23

John, not to be mistaken with John the baptist; is known as one of the 12 apostles who was called by and walked with Jesus. John was a fisherman with his brother James and was called by Jesus to follow Him by the sea of Galilee. John's writings were a bit different and really hone in on the character of Jesus. John is relational in his writings and personalizes himself as the "the one whom Jesus loved." I personally believe we should all say this about ourselves.

Day 4 - John 19

Resurrection

As we've spent the last 4 days scouring through the death and burial of Jesus through 4 different writers' perspectives. We'll do the same for the next 4 days looking at the resurrection and what little recordings we have of Jesus' time after His resurrection before he ascends to Heaven.

Day 5- Matthew 28

Day 6- Mark 16

Day 7- Luke 24

Day 8- John 20-21 I know its two chapters, but you got this! You're spending time with Jesus.

Acts

The book of Acts or Acts of the Apostles was written by Luke (Yes, the same guy from the Gospel of Luke). This book starts out with Jesus being on earth after his resurrection, and picks up directly after the gospel accounts. It continues with His ascension and brings in the Holy Spirit coming to all that believe.

You'll see as the apostles are committed to spreading the truth of Christ through the known world of that time period. This was not done in their own strength, but by the guidance and power of the Holy Spirit of God. If you are a Christian, you have the Holy Spirit of God within you. They were spreading the same message that we are called to talk about and live out today.

During the remainder of this month we'll cover only a portion of the book of Acts due to the length of this book. As we read, notice how the apostles are facing persecution, yet it does not hinder the word of God being spread among the regions. You'll notice that the message was not just for the Jews but also for non-jews often referred to as Gentiles.

Acts is the beginning of what we know as church now, the gathering together of believers to build community, unity, and generosity with one another. Notice the boldness, obedience, faith, and willingness of this 1st church as they face adversity that most of us couldn't even imagine.

Day 9- Acts 1:1-11

Day 10- Acts 1:12-26

Day 11- Acts 2:1-13

Day 12- Acts 2:14-40

Day 13- Acts 2:42-47

Day 14- Acts 3:1-10

Day 15- Acts 3:11-24

Day 16- Acts 4:1-22

Day 17- Acts 4:23-37

Day 18- Acts 5:1-11

Day 19- Acts 5:12-16

Day 20- Acts 5:17-41

Day 21- Acts 6:1-7

Day 22- Acts 6:8-15
Day 23- Acts 7:1-19
Day 24- Acts 7:20-50
Day 25- Acts 7:51-60
Day 26- Acts 8:1-8
Day 27- Acts 8:9-25
Day 28- Acts 8:26-40
Day 29- Acts 9:1-19a
Day 30- Acts 9:19b-31

Notes & Action Steps: