

Vision Church Reading Plan June 2024

As we embrace the sixth month of the year, we're in realization that we're half way through 2024. We have journeyed through the last 5 months in God's word collectively in one accord in order to draw closer to Him. We believe in being intentional with the time granted to us by spending time with our Lord. Over the past month and half our reading plan has shown us the beginning of the church being formed in the book of Acts. It is exhilarating to know the truths we hold dear and share today are the same truth and gospel the first church shared almost 2000 years ago.

In our last month's reading plan we made it through a large portion of Acts and we've seen many different Apostles and disciples spread the Word under strenuous persecution. None of these plights slowed the good news of Jesus, though that was the intent.

Through May's reading plan we saw the conversion of Saul to Paul. We also saw "God's movie screen" come down from heaven to Peter as he was on Simon the tanner's roof. God did this to show him that all people were included in God's kingdom, not just people from Jewish descent. We saw many travels of Paul (Saul) as he spreads the Good news and plants churches throughout the known world.

In Acts 21, where we end the month of May, Paul is in Jerusalem facing more persecution and being imprisoned again. We've seen him stoned, beaten unconscious, and run out of town yet he never gave up, waived, or spoke ill of his persecutors. This says much of his character and his obedience to follow Jesus, because he wanted to let all people know they could experience a piece of heaven right here on earth. I believe we should take heed to this example of Paul and the disciples we are reading about. They were ordinary people just like us who faced many difficulties. I would dare to say that they had to face even worse circumstances than we do. Yet, they persevered and knew it wasn't about them! They knew it was about Jesus, building His body(church), and growing the kingdom.

As we delve into the last few chapters of the book of Acts this month, focus on what you're reading, the time period you're reading about, how the word is being spread regardless of the opposition, and most importantly that every word is inspired by the Holy Spirit of God. As you read, please know you are spending time with God. Ask Him to speak to you through His word, and to help you apply it to your life. We will finish the book of Acts this month and move into another book. We'll give you some context when we move into that particular text.

Embrace, Enjoy, and Expect as you spend this time with Jesus.

Day 1: Acts 21:37-22:21

Day 2: 22:22-29

Day 3: 22:30- 23:11

Day 4: 23:12-22

Day 5: 23:23-35
Day 6: 24:1-27
Day 7: 25:1-12
Day 8: 25:13-22
Day 9: 25:23-27
Day 10: 26:1-18
Day 11: 26:19-32
Day 12: 27:1-12
Day 13: 27:13-26
Day 14: 27:27-44
Day 15: 28:1-10
Day 16: 28:11-16
Day 17: 28:17-31

Congratulations! You made it through the second longest book of the New Testament. It took us 2 months to read Acts, but that is okay. It doesn't matter if you read it quickly or slowly, you are spending time with God in His word. The content of Acts is assumed to span over 30 years. So don't think this just happened all at once. It took time to culminate just as our lives do. Remember our life is a ministry in itself and our hope is that over the span of it we can give a testament of the goodness and necessity of Jesus Christ to be Lord of our lives.

As we read through the book of Acts, we learned about the Holy Spirit and how He moves with believers to testify of the life and lordship of Jesus. We saw the forming of something beautiful as believers did life together, boldly proclaiming the life, death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus and what that means for us all.

We are the Church, which is the body of Christ on earth. God wants to use us to show His goodness, faithfulness, and most importantly his love and forgiveness. In Acts we read about many characters and got to see much of Paul's ministry. Earlier in the year we also read several of the letters that Paul wrote back to the churches he planted for encouragement and edification. As we finish this month's reading plan I feel an urge by the Holy Spirit to shift and look into the writing of another prominent church leader, the Apostle Peter.

We will spend the rest of this month working through 1 Peter. Many theologians and historians accredit this book or letter to the Apostle Peter. It's what's considered a circular letter to be passed through multiple churches so much so it made it into the canon of the Bible that we hold as the authoritative word of God. Peter the apostle who was the first to declare Jesus was the messiah, the apostle formerly known as Simon whom Jesus gave the name Peter which means rock and declared he would be the rock on which the church would be built (Matthew 16:13-20). As we see in the book of Acts chapter 1 & 2 he stood up as a leader, made some biblical decisions and gave the first sermon that added 3000 new believers to the body of Christ that one day. He was not without his faults as we see in the gospels as well as disagreements in leadership decisions with Paul through the scriptures, showing he was human just like us.

In 1 Peter, it is believed that Peter is writing this from Rome, which he refers to as “Babylon” in this text. Also the time period of this is around A.D. 60-65 making him an older man especially for the life expectancy of someone in that time period. Many see this letter as a “road map” to encouragement, even while in a time of suffering. You will notice that Peter calls the believers to be Holy. The word holy means to be set-apart from the world’s way of doing things. Many times he speaks of being sober minded. I believe this is a call for humility, which is not thinking too much of ourselves. Being sober minded can help us be aware of the schemes of the enemy. There is much to learn in this text about living a life of following Christ (Christian living) with adversity all around you. 1 Peter will help us learn to stand firm as leaders and take suffering as a blessing, which is not easy to say or do.

So let's get ready for this ride as we finish our month of reading! Ask Jesus to meet you in the text, lead you through it, and highlight areas in which He wants to speak directly to you.

1 Peter

Day 18: 1:1-2

Day 19: 1:3-12

Day 20: 1:13-25

Day 21: 2:1-10

Day 22: 2:11-25

Day 23: 3:1-7

Day 24: 3:8-22

Day 25: 4:1-11

Day 26: 4:12-19

Day 27: 5:1-11

Day 28: 5:12-14