

20 DEEPER 26

BIBLE READING PLAN
JULY - AUGUST

**GOD HAS SOMETHING TO SAY TO YOU.
EVERYDAY.**

As followers of Jesus, one of the most important things we can do is spend time getting to know Him better. And the best way to do that is by reading His Word daily.

The Bible isn't just for Sundays or special occasions—it's meant to guide you, encourage you, and even challenge you as you figure out what it means to live for Him in today's world. And it's not just about reading it, but understanding it, and letting it shape the way you think, act, and make decisions. When you spend time with God in His Word, you'll hear His voice, find direction, and discover a deeper purpose for your life.

We are kicking off a new season of going deeper as a church and we are embarking on another year to finish reading the Bible—together! To help us stay on track, we've created this special devotional to guide us as we grow deeper in God's Word and our relationship with Him.

This is your chance to connect with God like never before, and let His Truth shape who you are and how you live. So grab your Bible and let's dive in— God has something incredible to say to YOU!

HOW TO DO A R.E.A.P JOURNAL ENTRY

We've specially designed a **Bible Reading Plan devotional** for you. This plan includes a carefully selected scripture passage, a brief overview of the day's reading, and a thought-provoking question, challenge, or response to help you reflect deeply.

All you need to do is set aside some dedicated time to spend with God each day. Gather your Bible, the reading plan, this devotional, and a pen, and you're ready to dive in!

The R.E.A.P. method is a simple and practical way to engage with scripture meaningfully. More than just ticking off the boxes of the Bible Reading Plan, the goal is for you to understand and respond to God's Word. R.E.A.P. stands for Read, Examine, Apply, and Pray.

STEP 1 - READ | What Does The Bible Say?

Start by writing today's date and the Bible passage from the Bible Reading Plan at the top of your journal page.

Before you dive into the Word, take a moment to get your heart ready. Sit quietly, take a deep breath, and prepare to listen to what God wants to say to you. You can:

- **Pray:** Ask God to clear your mind and speak to your heart.
- **Worship:** Sing to a worship song to focus on Him.
- **Surrender:** Give your worries and distractions to God.

Now, read the passage for the day slowly and carefully. You might want to read it more than once to really let it sink in. As you read, look for any verses that stand out—ones that grab your attention or feel like God is speaking directly to you. Highlight those verses and copy them into your journal under the letter "R" (for "Read").

STEP 2 - EXAMINE | What Does It Mean?

Take time to examine what the Scripture means in its proper context. This step is about digging deeper to understand what the writer was trying to say and who they were saying it to. The goal is to get to the original meaning of the Scripture.

Here are some simple questions to help you figure it out:

- What is happening in this passage?
- What does this tell you about God? What is He doing?
- What does this tell you about people? How are they acting or responding?
- Are there any repeated words, key ideas, or things being emphasised?
- Who wrote this, and who were they writing to?
- What's going on at the time—what problem or situation is the writer talking about?
- Who or what is the main focus of this passage?

(Want to go deeper? There are some great tools to help you understand the background and context better. You can check out study Bibles, Bible dictionaries, or commentaries—or use these websites: biblestudytools.com and blueletterbible.org)

Finally, write down everything you observe under the letter "E" (for "Examine") in your journal.

HOW TO DO A R.E.A.P JOURNAL ENTRY

STEP 3 - APPLY | How Will This Change Me?

Application is about how you live out what you have read. The goal isn't just to learn something new—it's to **let God's Word transform your heart and actions.**

Think about what needs to change in your life so you can live out the truth you just read. Ask yourself these questions:

- Is there a **sin** I need to confess?
- Is there a **promise** I can hold onto?
- Is there an **attitude** I need to change?
- Is there an **example** I can follow?
- Is there a **prayer** I can pray?
- Is there an **error** I should avoid?
- Is there a **truth** I need to believe?

Make it personal! Write down under the letter "A" (for "Apply") what God is challenging you to respond to. This is your call to action—a step of obedience that makes God's Word real in your everyday life.

STEP 4 - PRAY | How Will I Respond To God?

Real change happens when you let the Holy Spirit work in your life. This step is about talking to God in prayer and responding to what He has shown you through His Word. Take a moment to pray:

- Thank God for speaking to you through His Word.
- Ask Him to help you change your heart and live differently based on what you have read.
- Be honest about your struggles or anything you need His help with.

Write down your prayer under the letter "P" (for "Pray") in your journal. You can also include other prayer requests like, praying for your friends, family, or a situation. Writing your prayers help you keep track of your conversations with God. Over time, you'll be able to look back and see how He has answered your prayers and been faithful in your life.

**EXAMINE**

These chapters reveal God's deep love for His people, like a father caring for His child. Even though God faithfully led, protected, and provided for Israel, they continued to turn away from Him and place their trust in idols and false gods. In **Hosea 11**, we see both God's heartbreak over Israel's rebellion and His compassion toward them. Although His people deserved judgment, God's mercy and love remained. **Hosea 12-13** continues to expose Israel's pride, dishonesty, and failure to trust the Lord. They forgot that every blessing and source of life came from God, and their sin slowly led them further away from Him.

**APPLY**

When you look at your current successes and comfort, how can you pause and intentionally remind yourself that God is the source of every good thing in your life?

**PRAY**

- *Thank Him for all the big and small blessings in your life that God has given you today.*
- *Pray for a heart that remembers His goodness in both good seasons and difficult ones, and learns to trust Him consistently each day.*
- *Ask Him for strength to stay faithful in your relationship with Him even when your emotions are low or distracted.*

**EXAMINE**

Hosea 14 closes the book with a clear call for God's people to return to Him. God invites them to repent, turn away from idols, and come back to Him with sincere hearts. He promises healing, restoration, and renewed life for those who respond. Even after failure, God's desire is still to restore His people when they turn back to Him.

Isaiah 28 contrasts human pride and spiritual stubbornness with God's wisdom and truth. The leaders of Israel relied on their own strength and rejected God's word, which led to confusion and judgment. Yet God is shown as the true foundation, and those who trust in Him will not be put to shame.

**APPLY**

Are there any areas in your life where you need to respond quickly to God when He corrects you, instead of ignoring or delaying repentance?

**PRAY**

- *Ask Him to give you a humble heart that responds quickly to His correction.*
- *Pray for strength to let go of pride and trust Him as your true foundation in every area of your life.*

**EXAMINE**

Isaiah 29 shows how God's people had become spiritually dull. They continued religious routines, but their hearts were far from Him. As a result, they misunderstood God's ways and relied on human wisdom instead of listening to His word.

Isaiah 30 continues this warning by showing Judah's desire to depend on Egypt for help instead of trusting God. God calls this rebellion, because they were looking for security elsewhere while ignoring Him. Yet even in His correction, God still shows mercy and invites them to return to Him and find rest.

**APPLY**

When you have a decision to make, do you seek God's guidance first, or are you quick to rely on your own plans and solutions?

**PRAY**

- *Ask Him to reveal any areas where you are depending on your own wisdom or strength more than His guidance.*
- *Pray for a heart that listens to His Word with sincerity and obeys Him even when His direction feels unclear or difficult.*

**EXAMINE**

Paul closes his letter by sharing his travel plans and his desire to continue spreading the gospel. His life is centered on one goal: making Jesus known and strengthening the church wherever he goes. In Romans 16, Paul greets many believers by name, showing how the early church was built on real relationships, teamwork, and faithful service. Both men and women played important roles in supporting and advancing the gospel. Paul also warns the church to watch out for people who create division or lead others away from sound teaching. Even in a growing church, unity and truth must be protected.

The letter ends with praise to God, reminding us that everything Paul wrote points back to God's glory. The gospel produces a life of mission, unity, and worship.

**APPLY**

What can you do this week to actively support God's work by encouraging other believers and building unity in the body of Christ?

**PRAY**

- *Ask Him to give you a heart that is committed to His mission and willing to serve others with humility.*
- *Pray for wisdom to recognise anything that could cause division or distract you from the gospel.*

**EXAMINE**

In Troas, God works powerfully through Paul when Eutychus is raised back to life, showing that God's power is still active through His servants today. Later, Paul meets with the elders from Ephesus and speaks to them with honesty and emotion. He reminds them that his life has been fully devoted to serving Jesus, even through suffering, hardship, and sacrifice. Paul is also aware that more trials will come, yet he remains committed to God's calling.

This chapter shows that following Jesus involves both experiencing God's power working through us and being willing to endure cost and difficulty for the sake of the gospel. Paul's life reflects deep love for people and a strong commitment to God's mission.

**APPLY**

What is one specific area of your life right now where it feels inconvenient, tiring, or costly to do what's right? What can you do this week to choose faithfulness in that exact area?

**PRAY**

- *Ask God to reveal the exact areas where you are tempted to give up or compromise, and pray for the strength to stay faithful to His calling.*
- *Ask God to grow a deeper love for people in your heart and to give you a stronger desire to serve His mission consistently.*

**EXAMINE**

In these chapters, God warns His people against trusting in human strength. When faced with enemies, Judah looked to Egypt for protection, believing human military power could save them. However, Isaiah reminds them that true security comes from God alone. Even while warning them about coming judgment, God still offers hope and restoration. Isaiah points to a future King who will reign with righteousness, peace, and justice. God promises to show grace to His people when they turn back to Him and place their trust in Him

These chapters highlight the difference between relying on temporary human solutions and trusting in the eternal God. Human strength will eventually fail, but God remains faithful, wise, and powerful to save.

**APPLY**

God warned Judah for depending on human strength more than Him. Is there an area of your life where you say you trust God, but your actions show you are really depending on yourself?

**PRAY**

- *Give your biggest problem to Jesus right now. Pray for the patience to stop trying to fix it all by yourself, and let Him fight the battle for you.*
- *Take time to seek Him first in your situation. Ask God to help you grow your trust in His wisdom, timing, and care.*

**EXAMINE**

Isaiah 34 is about God's judgment against nations, especially Edom. It describes destruction, emptiness, and desolation as a result of God's anger against sin and rebellion. The land becomes barren and deserted, filled with ruin and silence. In contrast, **Isaiah 35** is about restoration, salvation, and joy for God's people. The wilderness and desert begin to bloom, the weak are strengthened, and those who are fearful are encouraged because God is coming to save them. Together, the chapters show a move from destruction to restoration. The dry wilderness in chapter 34 becomes a blooming desert in chapter 35, showing the great contrast between God's judgment and His salvation.

**APPLY**

Isaiah 34 and 35 move from destruction to restoration. How have you seen God bring hope out of difficult situations in your own life?

**PRAY**

- *Pray that God would help us turn away from sin and not live in rebellion against Him, but instead walk closely in His ways.*
- *Pray that God would renew and strengthen our hearts, especially in dry or difficult seasons, and fill us with the hope and joy described in Isaiah 35.*

**EXAMINE**

In these chapters, we see how the king of Assyria threatened Jerusalem and mocked both King Hezekiah and God, trying to make people lose trust in God. In response, King Hezekiah humbled himself, sought Isaiah the prophet, and prayed to God for deliverance, asking Him to save Jerusalem so that all nations would know that He alone is God.

**APPLY**

Are there voices in your life that make you doubt God's power and faithfulness? How should you respond to them?

**PRAY**

- *Pray that you would trust God and turn to Him in prayer when you face fear, pressure, or difficult circumstances.*
- *Pray that God will strengthen your faith and help you not to be shaken by voices that cause you to doubt His power and faithfulness.*

**EXAMINE**

These passages describe God's response to Hezekiah's prayer, where He promises to defend Jerusalem and judge the king of Assyria for his pride and arrogance against God. God then miraculously delivers Jerusalem by destroying the Assyrian army, and the king of Assyria later dies by the hands of his own sons.

Isaiah 38 focuses on King Hezekiah's sickness, his prayer to God, and how God mercifully heals him and extends his life by fifteen years.

Isaiah 39 then describes how Hezekiah proudly showed all his treasures to the Babylonian messengers, leading Isaiah to prophesy that Babylon would one day carry away Judah's wealth and people into exile.

**APPLY**

What can you learn from Hezekiah's different responses in times of crisis, healing, and success?

**PRAY**

- *Pray that you would trust God fully in times of crisis, believing that He is powerful to save and faithful to answer your prayer, just as He delivered Jerusalem in Hezekiah's time.*
- *Pray that you would remain humble in seasons of blessing, so that your heart does not become proud or forget to give God the glory for all He has done.*

**EXAMINE**

Psalms 76 celebrates God as the mighty Judge and Warrior who defends His people, defeats the proud, and brings fear and honour to His name among the nations. **Isaiah 40** continues this theme by showing God as the all-powerful Creator who comforts His people, and calls them to trust Him because He is far greater than any ruler or power on earth. The passages reveal that the same God who judges, also comforts, and His unmatched power is used to humble both the proud and to lift up those who trust in Him.

**APPLY**

How does knowing that God is both a Judge and a Comforter change the way you see Him? What is one area in your life right now where you desperately need His justice, His comfort, or both?

**PRAY**

- *Pray that you would grow in awe of God's greatness and trust Him fully, knowing that He is powerful over all creation and nothing is beyond His control.*
- *Pray that you would experience God's comfort in troubled times, and learn to rely on His strength rather than your own understanding or abilities.*

**EXAMINE**

Acts 21:1-36 describes Paul travelling toward Jerusalem even though believers along the way, through the Spirit, warn him that hardship and suffering await him there. Despite these warnings, Paul remains determined to obey God's calling, and when he arrives in Jerusalem, he is falsely accused in the temple, which leads to a violent uproar and his arrest by Roman soldiers.

**APPLY**

When you sense God leading you in a direction that may involve difficulty or hardship, are you willing to obey like Paul, or do you hold back out of fear? Why do you choose that response?

**PRAY**

- *Pray for a heart that is willing to follow God's leading even when the path is difficult, costly, or uncertain, trusting Him more than your own fears.*
- *Pray for deep courage and faith when facing opposition or misunderstanding, so that your obedience to God remains steady and not shaped by pressure or fear from others.*

**EXAMINE**

The passages here describe Paul's defence of himself after being arrested, where he first asks to speak to the crowd and shares his testimony about how he was transformed by Jesus on the road to Damascus. In **Acts 23:1-11**, Paul later stands before the Jewish council, speaks boldly about his hope in the resurrection, and is strengthened by the Lord when he is encouraged that he will also testify in Rome.

**APPLY**

When you are given the opportunity to speak about your faith or explain your beliefs, are you willing to share honestly and courageously like Paul did, even if it may cost you personally?

**PRAY**

- *Pray for boldness and willingness to speak about Jesus with honesty and courage, even when it may bring personal difficulty.*
- *Pray for deep trust in God's presence and guidance in times of pressure or uncertainty, so that fear does not silence your witness or weaken your faith.*

**EXAMINE**

God is reassuring His people not to fear because He is with them, promising to strengthen, help, and uphold them while also declaring His power over the nations and false idols. This passage introduces God's chosen servant who will bring justice gently to the nations, bringing light to the blind and freedom to those in darkness, while also contrasting this with the shame of those who trust in idols instead of the Lord.

**APPLY**

God promises to uphold His people with His righteous hand. Is there a burden or fear you have been carrying alone that you need to surrender to Him today?

**PRAY**

- *Pray that you would not be afraid in times of weakness or uncertainty, but trust that God will strengthen, help, and uphold you in every situation.*
- *Pray that you would live in a way that reflects God's heart by bringing justice, kindness, and truth to the people around you in your daily life.*

**EXAMINE**

God was confronting His people for their spiritual blindness and stubbornness, even though He had called them and shown them His ways, and as a result they experienced judgment and hardship. In **Isaiah 43**, God speaks words of comfort and assurance, reminding His people that He is their Creator, Redeemer, and Saviour, and that He will be with them through trials like waters and fire, bringing them back because they are precious and loved by Him.

Isaiah 44:1-5 continues this promise of restoration, where God encourages His people not to fear, because He will pour out His Spirit on their descendants and bless them so that they will grow, flourish, and belong to Him. These passages move from rebuke for sin to reassurance of God's saving love and His promise to restore and renew His people.

**APPLY**

Are there areas in your life where you have become spiritually blind or stubborn to what God is calling you to do? What step can you take this week to respond in obedience?

**PRAY**

- *Pray that you would have a humble and responsive heart, willing to recognise areas of spiritual blindness and turn back to God in repentance and obedience.*
- *Pray that you would hold on to God's promises of presence and protection, trusting Him deeply in every trial and believing that you are loved, redeemed, and never alone.*

**EXAMINE**

While the first half of Isaiah is about God's judgment for people's sins, the second half of the book brings words of peace and hope to the people as He reminds them of His covenant. He does this by continuing to point them to the coming Messiah. In today's reading, God reminds the people that He chose them, and that He alone, not any of their idols, has the power to restore them. With powerful imagery, God listed many ways that the people's idols were foolish and helpless to save them, and He directed them back to Himself.

In **Isaiah 45**, he reminds us that God alone is the Creator and Sustainer of the world, and He plans everything according to His will and good purposes. When life seems hopeless and God seems far away, God's faithfulness to His people throughout Scripture reminds us that He is always at work in our lives.

**APPLY**

*Where are you trying to resist God's plan instead of trusting Him?
How can you step back and let the Master Potter shape your life?*

**PRAY**

- *Pray for a heart that trusts God that even when the shaping process feels uncomfortable or confusing, the Master Potter is building something good.*
- *Ask God to point out any idols that you might be depending on instead of Him.*

**EXAMINE**

Isaiah 46 continues along the message of God telling the Israelites that their idols are useless, even going as far as to name the specific idols that they were worshiping. He states that He will carry His people, even when the idols are helpless. **Isaiah 47** changes course slightly, as Isaiah prophesies the fall of Babylon. But God makes sure to explain why the nation will fall, because even though God delivered Israel into their hands, they treated them badly, they were prideful and arrogant, and they worshiped idols. God challenges the sorcerers to prove their reality and warns that no one will save them. Turning back to the nation of Judah, **Isaiah 48** shows God calling out the hypocrisy and stubbornness of Judah. He tells them that they have no excuse because He has declared these from the beginning, but that He will still save them.

**APPLY**

Is there a time in your life where you have gone against God's instructions by placing something else in greater importance than Him, treating others badly or thinking you can handle it all without God?

**PRAY**

- *Ask the Holy Spirit to check your heart and reveal any areas where you've been disobedient to God, and use this time to confess it and ask for His forgiveness.*
- *Ask God on how you can depend on Him even in situations where it seems difficult.*

**EXAMINE**

The continuation of **Isaiah 48** shows the prophecy of how King Cyrus would deliver Judah from the Babylonians. God laments for His people, as they are suffering this consequence of exile because they didn't heed his commandments, but He is still sending a way out for them. He urges them to sing with joy as they are freed from captivity, but warns that there is no peace for the wicked.

2 Kings 19 describes a similar occurrence where Jerusalem was under threat from Assyria. King Hezekiah responded the right way, by seeking out a prophet of the Lord, Isaiah. God rewarded that diligence by answering Hezekiah's prayers through His prophet Isaiah and then miraculously delivered his armies from the camp of the Assyrians.

**APPLY**

When something goes wrong, whose advice do you seek out first? Your friends, your siblings, your parents or your leaders? Is that source of advice godly counsel that will point you back towards God?

**PRAY**

- Ask God to lead you to someone wise and grounded who can guide you and speak truth into your life.
- God continuously reminded the people of Israel and Judah to do the right thing through the words of the prophets. Ask God to do the same for you, and that He would give you the discernment to listen to godly advice.

**EXAMINE**

In these chapters, Paul is imprisoned because of opposition to his message about Jesus. Even though what Paul had to go through, God is still in control. He protects Paul from a violent plot, uses Roman authorities to move him safely, and reassures him that he will continue to share the gospel. Paul's circumstances look uncertain, but God's purposes continue to move forward. These chapters show that following Jesus does not always lead to comfort or quick justice, but it does include God's presence, protection, and purpose even in difficult situations. Nothing can stop God's plan from being accomplished.

**APPLY**

When you face situations that feel unfair, delayed, or out of your control, how do you usually respond—by worrying, trying to fix it yourself, or trusting God's timing and plan?

**PRAY**

- *Pray for patience to remain faithful in seasons where nothing seems to be changing.*
- *Ask Him to help you see your situation through His perspective and to stay obedient even in difficult or waiting seasons.*

**EXAMINE**

Paul continues to face accusations, but no real evidence is found against him. The Jewish leaders remain persistent, yet the Roman governor Festus cannot identify any crime worthy of punishment. To protect his life and continue his mission, Paul appeals to Caesar as a Roman citizen. Even through this legal process, God continues to open doors for Paul to share the gospel. His imprisonment does not stop God's purpose, but instead becomes another opportunity for witness. This chapter shows that God can work through delays, systems, and even unfair situations to move His plan forward. What looks like restriction becomes a platform for the gospel.

**APPLY**

What can you do this week to stay alert for opportunities God may be opening for you to speak about your faith or live it out, even in ordinary or difficult moments?

**PRAY**

- Ask God to help you trust His purpose and process, especially when things aren't moving as quickly as you want them to.
- Pray for awareness to see opportunities to represent Him in your daily life.

**EXAMINE**

Psalm 46 reminds us that God is our refuge and strength, especially in times of chaos and fear. Even when the world feels unstable, God remains steady and present with His people. **Psalm 80** captures an honest cry for spiritual restoration during a time of decline. Feeling distant from God, the people acknowledge their total dependence on Him, praying for Him to turn His face toward them and bring them back to life. **Psalm 135** is a call to praise God for who He is and what He has done. It contrasts the living God with lifeless idols, reminding us that only the Lord is powerful, active, and worthy of worship.

**APPLY**

When life feels uncertain or overwhelming, what can you do this week to actively turn to God first instead of trying to carry the weight on your own?

**PRAY**

- *Ask Him to draw you back to Him in any area where your heart feels distant or distracted.*
- *Pray for a renewed desire to worship Him above anything else that is competing for your attention.*

**EXAMINE**

Isaiah 49 shifts the focus to God's Servant, who is called to bring salvation not only to Israel but also to the nations. Even though the Servant experiences rejection and discouragement, God promises that His mission will succeed and that His people will be restored. God also reassures His people that He has not forgotten them, even in times of suffering or exile. His care is described like a mother's love, showing how deeply He values and remembers His people.

Isaiah 50 continues the theme of the Servant's obedience and suffering. The Servant listens to God and obeys Him, even when facing opposition and humiliation. Instead of resisting, He trusts God to help and vindicate Him.

**APPLY**

Think of someone in your life who might be feeling overlooked or down. How can you intentionally show up for them this week to remind them that God sees them and is faithful?

**PRAY**

- *Pray for the person that God is bringing to your mind today. Pray that God will make His presence real to them and comfort them, and ask Him to use you as the person who reaches out to encourage them.*
- *Ask God for the faith to keep showing up and following Him every day, even when it feels like nothing is changing and you don't see immediate results.*

**EXAMINE**

These chapters emphasize God's comfort and His promise of salvation for His people. Despite their suffering and feelings of distance from Him, God reminds them that His righteousness and deliverance are near. He calls them to remember His faithfulness in the past and to trust Him for what is ahead.

Isaiah 52–53 introduces the “Servant of the Lord,” who would suffer on behalf of others. This Servant would be rejected, wounded, and crushed—not for His own sins, but for the sins of the people. Through His suffering, He would bring healing, forgiveness, and peace.

These passages point directly to Jesus, who lived in perfect obedience and willingly gave His life to save humanity. What Israel could not accomplish through their own faithfulness, God accomplished through His Servant. Salvation is not earned but freely given through His sacrifice.

**APPLY**

When you think about what Jesus has done for you, how does it change the way you live your daily life, especially in the areas where obedience feels difficult or costly?

**PRAY**

- *Pray that you will always be grateful for the cross, and take time right now to thank Jesus personally for His sacrifice for you.*
- *Ask God to keep your focus on the cross and let it shape how you live every day.*

**EXAMINE**

Isaiah 54 shows God's promise of restoration and hope for His people after a time of suffering. Even though they experienced judgment and felt separated from Him, God assures them that His compassion and love will not be taken away. He promises peace, security, and a renewed relationship with His people.

Isaiah 55 continues this invitation by calling everyone who is thirsty to come and receive God's grace freely. His mercy is not something that can be earned but is generously offered to those who turn to Him. God's ways and thoughts are higher than ours, and His Word always accomplishes what He intends.

Isaiah 56:1-8 expands this hope to all who will seek the Lord, including those outside Israel who choose to follow Him faithfully. God's house is meant to be a place of prayer and welcome for all nations who hold fast to Him.

**APPLY**

When you mess up or feel distant from God, your first instinct might be to hide or try to fix everything on your own. How can you bring your struggles straight to Him this week instead of trying to fix yourself first?

**PRAY**

- *Pray for the grace to run to God instead of hiding from Him when we fail, trusting completely in His love and forgiveness.*
- *Ask God to use you to reflect His welcoming and restoring heart to others around you.*

**EXAMINE**

Isaiah 56:9-12 warns about spiritual leaders who are careless and self-focused. Instead of guiding God's people faithfully, they are described as blind watchmen who fail to protect or lead well. This shows how serious it is when those responsible for spiritual care lose both awareness and integrity.

Isaiah 57 continues by exposing how God's people had turned to idols and spiritual compromise, yet God still calls the humble and contrite to find peace with Him. Even in judgment, God's heart is to restore those who return to Him sincerely.

Isaiah 58 challenges empty religion. The people were practicing outward acts of worship, but their lives were not marked by justice, mercy, or genuine obedience. God makes it clear that true worship is revealed through a transformed life that cares for others and reflects His heart.

Isaiah 59 shows that the real problem is sin, which creates separation between people and God. However, God Himself steps in to bring salvation and righteousness because no one can fix this problem on their own.

**APPLY**

What can you do this week to make sure your relationship with God is not just outward actions, but real obedience that affects how you treat others and live each day? Is there a sin or habit that is hindering your relationship with God? What is one step you can take this week to come back to Him?

**PRAY**

- As you examine your heart, bring any sin or unhealthy habit that is hindering your walk with God to Him. Lay it down in confession right now, and freely receive His forgiveness.
- Pray for a life that reflects His justice, mercy, and love in how you treat others.

**EXAMINE**

Paul stands before King Agrippa and boldly shares his testimony. He recounts his life before encountering Jesus, the moment of confrontation on the road to Damascus, and how his mission completely changed afterward.

Jesus commissioned Paul to bring people out of darkness into light, from the power of Satan to God. Even while in chains, Paul sees his circumstances as part of that mission and seizes the opportunity to proclaim Christ. Although Agrippa hears Paul's message, he does not fully accept it. Yet Paul remains faithful, showing that obedience and faithfulness are not measured by others' responses.

**APPLY**

Paul stayed faithful and obedient no matter his circumstance. Is there something in your life where you have stopped trusting God or stopped being obedient to what He has clearly called you to do?

**PRAY**

- *Ask Him to give you courage to share your testimony with honesty and clarity to those around you.*
- *Pray for boldness to speak about Jesus without fear of people's reactions.*

**EXAMINE**

Paul is being transported to Rome as a prisoner when the journey is interrupted by a severe storm. Despite his status as a prisoner, Paul emerges as a voice of wisdom and stability because God gives him insight into what is coming. Even though Paul warns the crew, they ignore his advice and the ship ends up in danger. In the middle of fear and loss of control, Paul encourages everyone with a message of hope telling them that God has revealed that all lives will be spared. As the storm continues, everything unfolds exactly as Paul said. God preserves lives and positions Paul as a trustworthy witness in the middle of crisis.

**APPLY**

What “storm” are you currently facing? How can you trust God with the storm that you are facing?

**PRAY**

- *Ask Him to help you trust His guidance when situations feel uncertain or overwhelming.*
- *Pray for peace instead of fear when things feel out of control.*

**EXAMINE**

Isaiah 60 is a chapter of hope. God talks about his glory that He will shine on the Kingdom of Israel. He declares all the treasures that He will deliver to Israel from other nations. In the Kingdom, the nations that afflicted Israel would be bowing down to them. God even tells Israel how He will treat them in the Kingdom, that He will be their light and He will bless them and multiply them.

Isaiah 61 is an important prophecy that alludes to the Messiah. We know this because Jesus repeats verse 1 and the first line of verse 2 in Luke 4:16-22, and declares that the prophecy is fulfilled in Him. The description of the things the Messiah will do for the nation continues into verse 3, showing that the Messiah was not a military leader but one who came to restore the people. In response, God's people are meant to rebuild what is ruined, be set apart to serve the Lord, and rejoice at God's blessings. The chapter ends talking about the New Covenant that will bring salvation.

**APPLY**

Knowing that God's promises in Isaiah 60 and 61 are completely fulfilled in Jesus, what is your personal response to Him today?

**PRAY**

- *Thank God for His everlasting love for you and for sending Jesus to die on the cross for your sins.*
- *Bring your regrets and your failures to the Lord today. Ask Him to quiet the shame and reveal to your heart how Jesus can take your broken pieces and give you a future full of hope.*

**EXAMINE**

The hope from yesterday's chapters is continued in **Isaiah 62**, where God describes the glory that He will place on Jerusalem that everyone will see. He declares that they will be called by a new name from God, and that God will never again deliver them into the hands of their enemies. Along with that, God promises to bring justice to the enemies of Israel in **Isaiah 63**. Isaiah also declares the people's praise for God's goodness and mercy. **Isaiah 64** is a response to God's glory by praying for God to come, and confessing the obstacle to His glory, which is the people's sinfulness. The chapter ends with a plea for mercy and for God to act.

**APPLY**

Is there a difficult situation you're going through right now? Based on today's reading, how can you respond?

**PRAY**

- *Invite God into the difficult situation you're going through right now, and ask Him for help and guidance.*
- *Ask God to reveal if there are any barriers keeping you from experiencing His glory and power in your current situation*

**EXAMINE**

Isaiah closes with God's response to Israel's prayer, which was a final reminder of His faithful love and their repeated disobedience. God used Isaiah to tell the people that they would be punished for their sins but that they would also be restored to Him, and eventually, that restoration would be eternal.

As a result of Israel's response to God's correction, people everywhere would recognize God for who He is and serve and worship Him in response. This is yet another example of God redeeming His people, not only for their sake, but for the people all around them, as well. From the vision of the future in Revelation, we are reminded that one day this eternal worship will be a reality for all of God's people, regardless of where they are, what they've done, or when they live. And so, in the meantime, we are to serve God and live for Him today.

**APPLY**

What truths about God has your reading of Isaiah revealed to you?

**PRAY**

- *Take some time to praise God (not just with worship music, but by declaring how great He is). Focus on His character and declare how awesome, powerful, and good He is. After that, spend some time thanking Him for the mercy and kindness He has shown you, even when you didn't deserve it.*

**EXAMINE**

In **2 Kings 20**, when Hezekiah was suffering from a terminal illness, he prayed for God to remember his faithfulness, and God added fifteen more years to his life. However, Hezekiah wasn't perfect, and when he acted prideful over his treasures (which were blessings from God that Hezekiah took for granted), the prophet Isaiah warned him that eventually Judah would experience a fate like Israel's, and all his treasures would be gone.

**APPLY**

Hezekiah's heart shifted from God to his earthly treasures. Take an honest look at your heart today: Are you prioritising your own achievements and possessions for security or happiness instead of your relationship with God?

**PRAY**

- *Pray that God will open your eyes to anywhere you've put Him second, and humbly repent for making other things a higher priority than Him.*

**EXAMINE**

After Hezekiah died, the nation was ruled by two of its most wicked kings. We read about Manasseh yesterday, and today we read about Amon. God warned that His judgment was coming, but the kings, particularly Manasseh, did nothing to correct the errors of their ways. While God's grace and patience for His people is limitless, we all come to a place where we must face the consequences of our sins. In those moments, it is crucial to remember that God never holds his love and grace from us. We are the ones who have drifted from Him.

2 Chronicles 32 recaps Hezekiah's success and descent into greed before his death. However, the focus was placed more on the theological lessons in the reign of Hezekiah. This account also highlights Hezekiah's pride after getting healed.

**APPLY**

Looking at the two kings you read about today, how can you be humble in the eyes of God?

**PRAY**

- *Thank God for His love and grace for us even when we drift away from Him.*
- *Ask God to help you to stay on the right path and to always stay close to Him.*

**EXAMINE**

Acts 28 talks about Paul's final journey to Rome after surviving a shipwreck on the island of Malta, where he is shown unexpected kindness by the islanders and even heals many people through God's power. After some time there, he continues his journey and eventually arrives in Rome, where he is placed under house arrest but still freely receives visitors and teaches about Jesus. The chapter ends with Paul boldly proclaiming the kingdom of God for two years without hindrance, showing that even in imprisonment, the message of the gospel cannot be stopped.

**APPLY**

How do you respond when God places you in unexpected situations? Do you see opportunities to serve and witness, or only obstacles?

**PRAY**

- *Pray for a steady and faithful heart that continues to trust God and live for Him, even when circumstances feel difficult or limiting.*
- *Eyes to see every challenge as an opportunity to serve God and share the hope of the gospel with others.*

**EXAMINE**

Colossians 1 shows us the supremacy and sufficiency of Jesus Christ, showing Him as the image of the invisible God, the Creator of all things, and the head of the church who reconciles all things to Himself through His death on the cross. It also includes Paul's prayer for the believers in Colossae, that they would grow in knowledge of God, live worthy lives, and be strengthened with God's power.

Colossians 2:1-15 continues this teaching by encouraging believers to remain rooted and built up in Christ, not being led astray by false teachings or human philosophy. It emphasises that in Christ alone dwells the fullness of God, and through Him believers are made alive, forgiven of their sins, and freed from spiritual powers through His victory on the cross.

**APPLY**

What does it look like for you personally to stay "rooted in Christ" and not be distracted by false teachings, pressures, or worldly thinking?

**PRAY**

- *Pray for a life that is deeply rooted in Christ, holding firmly to His truth and not being pulled away by distractions, pressures, or false teachings.*
- *Pray that you would put your trust in Jesus who is more than enough for you and choose to build your life and identity on Him alone.*

**EXAMINE**

King Manasseh of Judah was a very wicked king. He led the nation into idolatry and even shedding innocent blood, but later humbled himself before God during his time of captivity and repented, leading to God restoring him to his kingdom. Despite his personal repentance, the nation of Judah was still deeply affected by its long history of sin.

Nahum 1–2 then shifts focus to God's judgment against Nineveh, the capital of Assyria, declaring that God is patient but also just, and He will eventually bring down oppressive and violent nations. Together, these passages show both God's mercy toward individuals who truly repent, like Manasseh, and His righteous judgment against persistent evil and oppression, as seen in Nineveh.

**APPLY**

How does knowing that God is both merciful to the repentant and just against evil shape the way you live and make decisions?

**PRAY**

- *Pray for a repentant heart that responds quickly and sincerely when you recognise sin, trusting in God's mercy and turning back to Him without delay.*
- *Pray for a steady heart that trusts in God when things feel unfair or out of control, choosing not to hold on to anger but to believe that He will deal with everything rightly in His time.*

**EXAMINE**

The story moves from a picture of God's judgment on a violent and arrogant nation to the struggle of God's people trying to understand why evil seems to continue unchecked. It shows that God sees injustice clearly and will not ignore sin forever, even when it looks like evil is strong and winning in the moment.

At the same time, it reflects the tension of faith where God's people cry out, asking why God allows suffering and delay in judgment, and God responds by calling them to live by faith and trust His timing and justice. In the midst of this, King Josiah appears as a contrast. When God's Word is rediscovered in the temple, he humbles himself, tears his clothes in repentance, and leads the nation to seek God again with sincerity.

There are themes of judgment, waiting in faith during uncertainties, and the power of God's Word to bring conviction and change, showing that God is still at work even when His ways feel slow or unclear.

**APPLY**

When God's Word confronts something in your life, are you willing to respond with humility and change like Josiah, or do you resist it?

**PRAY**

- *Pray for a sensitive and responsive heart that quickly turns back to God when His Word speaks, allowing it to shape your actions, choices, and priorities without delay.*
- *Pray for a steady courage to keep doing what is right even when circumstances feel confusing or unfair, choosing obedience and humility instead of being led by frustration or doubt.*

**EXAMINE**

These passages describe King Josiah's reforms after the rediscovery of God's Word in the temple. As a young king, Josiah begins seeking the Lord early in his reign, and later, when the Book of the Law is found, he responds with deep repentance and urgency, recognising how far the nation has drifted from God.

He then leads a wide-ranging spiritual renewal across Judah: removing idols, cleansing the temple, destroying places of false worship, and restoring proper worship of the Lord according to God's commands. This shows a king who not only hears God's Word but takes decisive action to bring the nation back to faithfulness and obedience.

**APPLY**

How can you take practical steps this week to align your actions more closely with what you already know from God's Word?

**PRAY**

- *Pray for a heart that is obedient to God's Word, allowing it to correct, shape, and guide your life without delay or resistance.*
- *Pray for courage and determination to remove anything that competes with God's place in your life, choosing obedience and true worship in everyday decisions.*

**EXAMINE**

During the reign of King Josiah, the Book of the Law was discovered in the temple. When it was read aloud, Josiah realised how far the people had turned away from God. Instead of ignoring it, he responded with humility. He tore his robes, showing deep sorrow and repentance.

Josiah then gathered all the people and read God's Word to them. He made a covenant to follow the Lord fully with all his heart and soul, and led the nation to do the same. He removed idols and called the people back to true worship. In the next chapter, we see the result of this renewal. The people celebrated the Passover in a way that had not been done for many years. It was done carefully, joyfully, and according to God's Word. Worship was restored, and the people returned to honouring God.

**APPLY**

When was the last time God's Word showed you something in your life that needed to change? How did you respond?

**PRAY**

- *Ask God to give you a soft and humble heart whenever you read His Word.*
- *Ask God to help you not only hear His Word, but to obey it and live it out daily.*

**EXAMINE**

King Josiah went into battle against Egypt even though he was warned not to interfere. Josiah did not listen and was killed in battle. His death brought great sorrow to the nation because he was a godly king who had led the people back to God. Even good leaders can fall when they stop listening carefully to God's warning and direction.

The prophet Zephaniah warns Judah about coming judgment because of sin, idolatry, pride, violence, and spiritual compromise. The people continued worshipping other gods, and ignoring God's commands. Even the leaders, prophets, and priests were corrupt. Again and again, God calls the people to repent, seek Him, and humble themselves before judgment comes. But many refused to listen. Because of this, God warns that judgment is coming not only upon Judah but upon the nations as well.

Yet in the middle of these warnings, we also see God's heart. God does not delight in destruction. He desires repentance and restoration. He calls His people to seek righteousness and humility while there is still time.

**APPLY**

Are there areas in your life where you have ignored God's voice or have not repented?

**PRAY**

- Ask God to reveal any pride, compromise, or spiritual apathy in your heart.
- Ask God to help you stay humble, teachable, and sensitive to His voice each day.

**EXAMINE**

Paul addressed false teachings that had begun influencing the believers in Colossae. Some people were promoting human traditions, legalistic rules, and the idea that spiritual maturity came through special knowledge or strict religious practices. Paul reminded the Colossians that everything they truly needed was already found in Jesus Christ.

Because believers are united with Christ, they no longer need to rely on human systems or outward rules to make them spiritually complete. Their identity and salvation are rooted in Christ alone. Paul urged them to stay grounded in Christ and not be distracted by teachings that pulled them away from the gospel.

In **chapter 3**, Paul shifts from doctrine to daily living. Since believers have been raised with Christ, their lives should reflect their new identity in Him. Paul instructs them to “put to death” sinful attitudes and behaviors such as anger, greed, impurity, and lying, while also “putting on” compassion, kindness, humility, patience, and love.

**APPLY**

Paul tells believers to “put to death” sinful attitudes and behaviors. What is one attitude or habit in your life that you need to surrender to God this week?

**PRAY**

- *Pray that the Holy Spirit would reveal any sinful attitudes or habits that need to be surrendered and removed from your life.*
- *Ask God to shape your heart so that your words, actions, and relationships reflect the compassion, humility, and love of Jesus each day.*

**EXAMINE**

In **Colossians 4**, Paul asks the believers to pray for him and his ministry team, especially that God would open doors for the gospel to be shared clearly and boldly. Even while facing imprisonment and hardship, Paul remains focused on making Jesus known. He also encourages believers to speak with wisdom and grace so that their words point others toward Christ.

Paul reminds the Colossians that the way Christians speak and live matters greatly, because their lives reflect the message of the gospel to those around them. Sharing Jesus is not only about what we say, but also about the attitude, love, and grace we demonstrate in daily life.

The letter to **Philemon** gives a personal example of how the gospel transforms relationships. Onesimus, a runaway slave, becomes a Christian after meeting Paul. Paul then urges Philemon to forgive and welcome Onesimus back, not merely as a servant, but as a brother in Christ.

**APPLY**

Paul actively looked for open doors to share the gospel. Are you intentionally looking for ways to point people to Jesus, or have fear, busyness, or comfort kept you silent?

**PRAY**

- *Pray for the awareness to seize opportunities to share the gospel, and the courage to witness to others clearly and lovingly.*
- *Ask the Holy Spirit to soften your heart toward anyone you need to forgive or reconcile with. Pray for the humility to pursue peace and restoration with that person.*

**EXAMINE**

Zephaniah 3:9–20 gives a message of hope after judgment. God promises to restore His people, remove their shame, and bring them back into joy and peace. Even after discipline, God's desire is always restoration and renewed relationship with His people.

Jeremiah 1 shows God calling Jeremiah even before he was born, revealing that his life had purpose and direction within God's plan. Although Jeremiah feels inadequate and tries to resist, God reassures him that He will be with him and give him the words to speak.

In **Jeremiah 2–3**, God confronts His people for turning away from Him and pursuing idols. Their spiritual unfaithfulness is described as abandoning the true source of life and exchanging it for broken alternatives. Yet even in their failure, God continues to call them back to repentance and restoration.

**APPLY**

When God asks you to do something difficult, do you respond with excuses or with trust in Him?

**PRAY**

- Ask God to help you respond to His calling with obedience instead of excuses or fear.
- Pray that He would reveal anything in your life that has taken His place in your heart.

**EXAMINE**

God continues to confront both the northern and southern kingdoms for their unfaithfulness. Even after repeated warnings, they turn away from Him and treat sin lightly. Their problem is not ignorance, but a hardened heart that keeps choosing idolatry and disobedience.

Despite this, God still calls them to return. He describes Himself as a forgiving Father who is ready to receive them back if they repent sincerely. The issue is not only outward behavior, but a heart that needs to be changed from within.

In **Jeremiah 4:1-4**, God gives a clear invitation: return to Him with sincerity, remove sin from their lives, and live in truth and justice. True repentance is not just words, but a real turning away from evil and a renewed commitment to God.

**APPLY**

What is the biggest distraction in your life right now that you need to intentionally pull back or remove so you can better focus on our walk with God?

**PRAY**

- *Pray for the strength and discipline to remove the distractions in your life, and ask God to renew your focus on Him.*
- *Pray for the strength to not only recognize sin in your life, but to actively turn away from it in obedience to God.*

**EXAMINE**

God warns Judah that judgment is coming because of persistent sin and a refusal to return to Him. The imagery becomes urgent and intense, describing invasion, destruction, and fear as consequences of turning away from God. The nation has ignored repeated calls to repentance, and now judgment is drawing near.

Jeremiah also reveals the deeper spiritual condition behind the outward crisis. The people may appear confident, but their hearts are far from God. Even creation seems to respond to the seriousness of their rebellion, showing that sin affects more than personal behaviour as it disrupts the whole order under God.

At the same time, God's warnings are not without purpose. They are meant to awaken His people so they would return before it is too late. This chapter reveals both God's justice against sin and His desire for true repentance before judgment comes.

**APPLY**

Jeremiah asks how long bad thoughts will lodge (live, take up residence) inside us. What specific negative mindsets, grudges, anxieties, or temptations have you allowed to move into your mind and stay there lately?

**PRAY**

- *Pray that you will be able to differentiate God's voice and the enemy's voice.*
- *Pray that God's Word will be the absolute authority in your life and that His promises will become louder than all the other noise.*

**EXAMINE**

God searches for truth and righteousness in Jerusalem but finds widespread corruption. Even among leaders and prophets, there is dishonesty and a lack of concern for justice. The people have become comfortable in sin, no longer feeling shame or responding to correction.

God repeatedly sends warnings, but the people resist repentance. Instead of turning back, they trust in false peace and assume that disaster will not come. Jeremiah describes them as a people who refuse to listen, even when truth is clearly spoken.

Because of this continued rebellion, judgment becomes unavoidable. The warnings of invasion and destruction highlight the seriousness of rejecting God's Word. Yet even in this, God's purpose is not only punishment, but also to expose sin so that His people might still return to Him.

**APPLY**

Is there any warning, advice, or truth from God's Word that you already know but have not acted on yet?

**PRAY**

- *Ask God to give you a heart that is sensitive to His correction and willing to respond quickly in obedience.*
- *Pray for honesty and humility in your life so you do not become blind to areas that need change.*

**EXAMINE**

God confronts His people for trusting in outward religion while continuing in disobedience. They believe that going to the temple and performing rituals will protect them, but their lives are marked by injustice, idolatry, and hypocrisy. God makes it clear that religious activity without obedience is meaningless.

Through Jeremiah, God reminds them of what He truly desires: a people who listen to His voice and live according to His commands. Instead of changing their behaviour, the people treat worship as a form of security while continuing in sin.

God also points back to their history, showing that repeated refusal to listen to Him leads to consequences. This chapter emphasises that God is not impressed by outward appearances of faith when the heart is far from Him. What He desires is genuine obedience and a real relationship with His people.

**APPLY**

Is your relationship with God a personal relationship or just a daily routine? How can you make your daily walk with Him more genuine and relational?

**PRAY**

- *Ask God to help you not rely on outward religion while ignoring inward obedience.*
- *Pray for a heart of true obedience toward God and genuine love for Him, rather than just going through the motions of religious routines.*
- *Pray for a heart that is truly willing to listen to His Word and respond with genuine change.*

**EXAMINE**

Paul praises God for His grace and love. He explains that believers were chosen by God, adopted into His family, redeemed through the blood of Christ, and forgiven of their sins. God has given believers a new identity and a future hope in Christ. Paul also prays that believers would truly understand the greatness of God's power, love, and calling in their lives.

In **chapter 2:1-10**, Paul describes what believers were like before knowing Christ. They were spiritually dead in sin and separated from God. But because of God's mercy and great love, He made them alive with Christ. Salvation is not earned by good works or human effort, it is a gift of grace received through faith. The passage ends by reminding believers that they are now God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works that God has prepared for them.

**APPLY**

Are you trying to earn your worth through your own effort, or are you resting in the grace and identity God has given you in Christ? Look at the areas where you are currently serving, leading, or helping others. Are you doing them out of a joyful overflow of gratitude, or out of a heavy sense of guilt, fear of what others will think, or a need to maintain a "good Christian" reputation?

**PRAY**

- *Exhale and lay down your burdens, anxieties, and achievements. Come before God just as you are, resting in the truth that you are fully loved and accepted through Jesus Christ.*
- *Thank God for the gift of His grace and salvation, remembering that your worth is found in what Jesus has already done.*

**EXAMINE**

In these chapters, Paul explains how the Gospel brings people together into one family in Christ and calls believers to live in unity and maturity. Paul says that Gentiles were once far from God and separated from His people. But through Jesus' death, the barrier between Jews and Gentiles was broken down, and both were brought together as one body in Christ. Believers are now part of God's household and are being built together as His temple. Paul explains that this unity was always part of God's plan through the Gospel. He then prays that believers would be rooted in Christ's love and strengthened by God. He encourages believers to live in a way that reflects this unity through humility, patience, and love. Although believers have different gifts, God uses each person to help the church grow into spiritual maturity together.

**APPLY**

How are your attitudes and actions helping to build unity and spiritual growth in the people around you?

**PRAY**

- Ask God to help you walk in humility, patience, and love towards others.
- Ask God to use your life and gifts to strengthen His church.

**EXAMINE**

In **Jeremiah 8–9**, Jeremiah mourns over the spiritual condition of Judah as the people continue rejecting God despite repeated warnings. The people refused to repent and chose to follow lies, idolatry, and their own sinful desires. Even though destruction was coming, they continued living as though nothing was wrong. The leaders, priests, and prophets were also corrupt, speaking false peace instead of confronting sin truthfully.

As Jeremiah sees the coming judgment, he is filled with grief for the people. He weeps over their stubbornness and brokenness, showing the heart of someone deeply burdened for others to return to God. In the middle of this, God reminds the people that true wisdom is not found in human strength, riches, or achievements, but in knowing and understanding Him.

**APPLY**

What are some areas in your life where you may be ignoring God's correction or relying more on yourself than on Him?

**PRAY**

- Ask God to soften your heart so that you would respond quickly to His correction.
- Ask God to help you grow in truly knowing Him and walking in His ways.

**EXAMINE**

In **Jeremiah 10–11:17**, God warns Judah about the foolishness of idolatry and the seriousness of breaking His covenant. In **chapter 10**, Jeremiah contrasts lifeless idols with the living and sovereign God. Idols are made by human hands and have no power, but the Lord is the true God who created the heavens and the earth and rules over all things.

Then God reminds the people of the covenant He made with them when He brought them out of Egypt. The people had promised to obey Him, but instead they continually turned to other gods and refused to listen to His words. Even after repeated warnings through the prophets, they remained stubborn and rebellious. Because of this, judgment was coming upon Judah. The people could not continue rejecting God while expecting to enjoy His blessings and protection.

**APPLY**

What are some things in your life that may be taking God's place in your heart or drawing your attention away from Him?

**PRAY**

- *Ask God to reveal any idols that may be competing for your heart and attention.*
- *Ask God to help you trust Him fully and walk in faithful obedience to Him.*

**EXAMINE**

Jeremiah discovers that the people of his own hometown are plotting to kill him because they do not want to hear God's truth. Jeremiah brings his pain honestly before God. This leads into **chapter 12**, where Jeremiah questions why wicked people seem to prosper while the faithful suffer. God responds by reminding Jeremiah that harder trials are still to come and calls him to continue trusting and persevering. God then uses the illustration of a linen belt to show how Judah, who was meant to stay close to God, had become ruined because of pride and disobedience. Instead of bringing glory to God, the people had stubbornly refused to listen to Him. These passages show both the pain of rejecting God's truth and the danger of pride and stubbornness.

**APPLY**

How do you usually respond when following God becomes difficult, uncomfortable, or costly?

**PRAY**

- *Pray for strength to keep trusting and following God even when life feels difficult or unfair.*
- *Pray for a humble and teachable heart that stays close to God and listens to His voice.*

**EXAMINE**

God calls the people to humble themselves before judgment comes, but they refuse to listen. Their hearts had become hardened, and they continued living in sin and unfaithfulness. As a result, suffering came upon the land through a severe drought, bringing fear, desperation, and sorrow to the people. Even in the middle of this crisis, many still did not truly repent. Instead of listening to God's warning, they chose to believe false prophets who promised peace and safety. The people preferred comforting messages over truthful ones.

As Jeremiah continues delivering God's message, he becomes discouraged and burdened by the rejection and suffering around him. Yet God reminds him to remain faithful and continue speaking the truth boldly despite opposition.

**APPLY**

Has there been a time when you chose comforting words over God's truth because it was easier or more pleasing to hear? What do you think makes it so tempting to avoid hard truths that God may be trying to show you?

**PRAY**

- *Pray for discernment to recognise God's truth and not be led by comforting but false voices.*
- *Pray for perseverance to remain faithful to God even during discouraging or difficult seasons.*

**EXAMINE**

God tells Jeremiah that the people have continually abandoned Him and followed false gods, and because of this, suffering and exile are coming upon the nation. Their sin was not temporary or superficial, it was deeply engraved on their hearts. In contrast to the unfaithfulness of the people, Jeremiah reminds them that true blessing is found in trusting the Lord. Those who trust in human strength will eventually be empty, but those who trust in God will remain rooted and sustained even through difficult seasons, like a tree planted by water.

At the same time, Jeremiah honestly brings his pain and discouragement before God as he faces rejection and opposition for speaking the truth. Yet he continues turning to God as his source of hope and strength. This shows us the contrast between the danger of trusting in sin, idols, and human strength with the security and hope found in trusting fully in God.

**APPLY**

What are some things you tend to rely on or run to instead of fully trusting God during difficult or uncertain seasons? How might those things be affecting your relationship and dependence on God?

**PRAY**

- *Pray for a heart that trusts God deeply instead of depending mainly on yourself or worldly security.*
- *Pray for strength to remain rooted in God and faithful to Him even during difficult seasons.*

**EXAMINE**

Paul reminds believers that they should no longer live like those who do not know God, whose hearts and minds are darkened by sin.

Instead, believers are to put off their old self and put on a new way of life shaped by righteousness, holiness, and truth. This change should be seen not only inwardly, but also in our daily actions, how we speak, treat others, handle anger, forgive, and live in purity. Paul warns against living in immorality, greed, and spiritual darkness, and instead calls believers to walk as children of light. As the passage continues, Paul encourages believers to live wisely, make the most of their time, seek God's will, and be filled with the Holy Spirit. A Spirit-filled life is marked by worship, gratitude, and encouragement towards one another.

**APPLY**

In what areas of your daily life do you find it hardest to live differently from the world around you?

**PRAY**

- *Ask God to shape your thoughts, words, and actions so that they reflect Christ more clearly.*
- *Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal any unhealthy habits or sinful attitudes that need to change in your life.*

**EXAMINE**

Paul teaches believers how the Gospel should shape their relationships, responsibilities, and spiritual lives. Husbands and wives are called to love and honour one another in a way that reflects Christ and the church. Husbands are called to love sacrificially like Christ loved the church, while wives are called to respect and support their husbands. Children are instructed to obey and honour their parents, and fathers are reminded not to provoke their children but to raise them with godly instruction and care.

Paul then speaks about serving faithfully and sincerely in whatever responsibilities believers have, ultimately serving the Lord and not just people. The passage ends by reminding believers that the Christian life is also a spiritual battle. Believers are called to be strong in the Lord and to put on the full armour of God so they can stand firm against temptation, sin, and the attacks of the enemy. Prayer, truth, righteousness, faith, salvation, God's Word, and readiness in the Gospel are all part of this spiritual armour. These passages show us that following Christ affects both our everyday relationships and our spiritual walk with God.

**APPLY**

How are your relationships with your family members right now? What is one practical way you can show more love, humility, forgiveness, or patience towards them this week?

**PRAY**

- Ask God to help your relationships reflect Christ's love, humility, and faithfulness.
- Ask God to help you put on the full armour of God daily so that you can stand firm against temptation.

**EXAMINE**

God first speaks about the Sabbath, showing that the people were outwardly religious but inwardly disobedient. They continued ignoring God's commands and refused to honour Him wholeheartedly. Jeremiah is then sent to a potter's house, where God uses the image of clay in the potter's hands to show His authority over nations and people. Just as a potter can reshape clay, God can also shape, restore, or judge His people depending on whether they repent or continue rebelling against Him. Yet despite God's warnings, the people stubbornly refuse to change and continue following their sinful desires. Because of their hardened hearts and ongoing idolatry, Jeremiah is told to break a clay jar as a picture of the coming destruction upon Judah. The people had repeatedly rejected God's correction, and judgment was drawing near.

**APPLY**

In what areas of your life might you be resisting God's shaping or correction because it feels uncomfortable or difficult? What would it look like for you to surrender those areas more fully to Him?

**PRAY**

- *Spend time asking God to reveal any areas of pride, stubbornness, or compromise that you may have been ignoring.*
- *Pray for the courage to surrender fully to God's leading, even when His shaping process feels uncomfortable or challenging.*

**EXAMINE**

Jeremiah 20–22 shows the pain, warning, and heartbreak that came as God's people continued to reject Him. Jeremiah suffered greatly for faithfully speaking God's message. He was beaten, mocked, rejected, and left feeling discouraged and alone. Yet even in his suffering, he could not stay silent because God's Word burned within him like a fire. His life reflects the struggle of remaining faithful to God when people do not want to hear the truth.

As Babylon drew near, the kings and leaders of Judah hoped for rescue without repenting. God warned that judgement was coming because the nation had continually rejected Him, oppressed others, and ignored His Word. Rather than leading with justice, righteousness, and compassion, many of Judah's leaders became proud, selfish, and corrupt.

Even through these strong warnings, God continued calling His people to repent and return to Him. We see both God's justice and His patience as He confronts sin while still giving opportunities for repentance. The story reminds us that God takes sin seriously, and calls His people to remain faithful even when it is difficult.

**APPLY**

Have there been moments where you stayed silent about what was right or true because you were afraid of rejection, conflict, or what others might think of you?

**PRAY**

- *Ask God to give you courage to remain faithful to Him even when it is difficult, uncomfortable, or unpopular.*
- *Pray that God will reveal any pride, compromise, or sin in your heart and help you respond with genuine repentance and obedience.*

**EXAMINE**

Jeremiah warns against the false shepherds and prophets who misled God's people. Instead of leading with faithfulness and truth, they abused their position, scattered the people, and spoke lies in God's name. In the middle of the judgement, God gives a promise of hope. He says that He will raise up a righteous King from David's line who will rule with wisdom, justice, and righteousness. This points to the coming Messiah who would truly shepherd His people faithfully. God also rebukes the false prophets who spoke from their own hearts instead of from Him. They gave people false peace and avoided calling them to repentance. In contrast, God's true Word is powerful and exposes what is in the heart.

**APPLY**

Have you ever chosen a comforting lie over God's truth because obedience felt too hard? Is there something in your life right now that God is asking you to repent of?

**PRAY**

- *Ask God to reveal any lies, compromise, or hidden sin in your heart and help you respond with genuine repentance.*
- *Pray for discernment and courage to hold onto God's truth even when it is uncomfortable.*

**EXAMINE**

Today's passages remind us not to ignore or take God's Word lightly. Even though God had warned His people for many years, they continued to reject Him and refused to repent. Because of their rebellion, judgement through Babylon would come upon Judah. At the same time, God showed through the vision of the figs that He still had plans to restore those who humbled themselves and turned back to Him. The message here is clear, God is patient and merciful, but He also calls His people to respond to His Word with repentance and obedience.

**APPLY**

Is there an area in your life where you have been ignoring God's conviction, making excuses, or continuing in compromise that you need to repent of and surrender to God today?

**PRAY**

- *Ask God to give you a soft heart that listens and responds quickly to His Word.*
- *Pray that God will help you repent sincerely and walk in obedience to Him.*

**EXAMINE**

For many years, Jeremiah faithfully called the people to repentance, but they continually refused to listen. Because of their ongoing rebellion, the time for judgement had finally come, and God declared that Judah and the surrounding nations would drink the cup of His wrath. This image of the cup later points us to Jesus in the garden of Gethsemane, where He prayed, “*My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me*” (Matt. 26:39). On the cross, Jesus willingly drank the cup of God’s wrath in our place, taking upon Himself the judgement that sinners deserved so that we could receive forgiveness and reconciliation with God.

At the same time, **Jeremiah 26** shows the cost of faithfully proclaiming God’s truth. Even though Jeremiah was threatened and rejected, he continued to speak the message God had given him. Together, we are reminded that God takes sin seriously, yet in His mercy He ultimately provided salvation through Christ.

**APPLY**

Have you truly recognised the seriousness of sin and your need for repentance, or have you been ignoring God's warnings and conviction in certain areas of your life?

**PRAY**

- *Thank Jesus for willingly taking the judgement we deserved by drinking the cup of God’s wrath on the cross.*
- *Ask God to give you a repentant and responsive heart that does not ignore His conviction or delay obedience.*

**EXAMINE**

Ephesians 6:21-24 and **Philippians 1** highlight the joy, confidence, and partnership that believers can have in Christ even during difficult circumstances. Although Paul was in prison, his focus remained on the advancement of the gospel and the spiritual growth of others rather than on his own suffering. Paul encouraged the believers to remain united, stand firm in faith, and continue living lives worthy of the gospel. He reminded them that their identity, joy, and hope were found in Christ, not in comfort or circumstances. Even suffering could be used by God for a greater purpose and to strengthen the faith of others.

**APPLY**

Think about a difficult season or challenge you have faced recently. What is one thing you can learn from Paul's attitude and perspective in Philippians 1 about trusting God and remaining faithful during hardship?

**PRAY**

- *Ask God to help you remain joyful and faithful even during difficult or uncertain seasons.*
- *Pray that your life would reflect Christ and point others towards the hope and truth of the gospel.*

**EXAMINE**

Paul challenged believers to live in humility, unity, and wholehearted devotion to Christ. Paul reminds the church that true unity begins when believers are united with Jesus and follow His example of humility and obedience. Paul points to Jesus as the ultimate example of humility. Although Jesus was God, He willingly gave up the glory and privileges of heaven to become a servant, suffer, and die on the cross for the sake of sinners. Jesus fully submitted Himself to the Father's will, showing perfect humility, love, and obedience. Paul calls believers to have the same attitude as Christ by putting others before themselves and serving with humility.

This theme continues into **Philippians 3:1-14**, where Paul warns against placing confidence in achievements, status, or religious performance. Although Paul had many accomplishments and reasons to boast, he considered them worthless compared to knowing Christ. Instead of pursuing personal glory, Paul pressed on towards knowing Jesus more deeply and becoming more like Him.

**APPLY**

Are there areas in your life where pride, recognition, or personal achievement may be distracting you from growing deeper in your relationship with Christ? What is one change you can make this week to put Jesus first again in your life?

**PRAY**

- Ask God to reveal any pride, selfish ambition, or unhealthy desire for recognition that may be drawing your heart away from Him.
- Pray that God will help you grow in humility, put Christ first in your daily life, and become more like Jesus in the way you love and serve others.

**EXAMINE**

The key theme of these passages is for God's people to trust and submit to Him even in seasons they do not understand or want. God told Judah that the exile in Babylon would happen and that they were not to fight against what God had allowed. Instead, they were to settle in the land, seek the good of the city they were living in, and remain faithful to God while they waited for His restoration. Although the exile was painful, it was not the end of God's plans for His people. God promised that He had not abandoned them and that, in His time, He would bring them back and restore them. The people were called to trust God's purposes even while living in difficult circumstances.

**APPLY**

Is there a difficult or disappointing season in your life that you have been resisting instead of trusting God through? What would it look like for you to remain faithful to God in this season instead of giving up, becoming bitter, or losing hope?

**PRAY**

- Ask God to help you trust Him and remain faithful even in seasons that are painful, confusing, or difficult.
- Pray for strength to continue seeking God, obeying Him, and holding onto hope while you wait on His timing and restoration.

Devotional Content adapted from:

- 1. The Bible in a Year: A Guided Scripture Reading Journey for Women by Kandi Gallaty, published by LifeWay Press, 2022*
- 2. Foundations: Old Testament - Teen Devotional : A 260-Day Bible Reading Plan for Busy Teens by Robby & Kandi Gallaty, published by LifeWay Students, 2021.*
- 3. Foundations: New Testament - Teen Girls' Devotional : A 260-Day Bible Reading Plan for Teen Girls (eBook) by Kandi Gallaty, published by LifeWay Girls, 2020.*

2026 BIBLE READING PLAN

JUL 1 HOSEA 11, 12, 13
JUL 2 HOSEA 14; ISA 28
JUL 3 ISA 29, 30
JUL 4 ROM 15:23-33, 16
JUL 5 ACTS 20
JUL 6 ISA 31, 32, 33
JUL 7 ISA 34, 35
JUL 8 ISA 36, 37:1-20
JUL 9 ISA 37:21-38, 38, 39
JUL 10 PSA 76; ISA 40
JUL 11 ACTS 21:1-36
JUL 12 ACTS 21:37-40, 22, 23:1-11
JUL 13 ISA 41, 42:1-17
JUL 14 ISA 42:18-25, 43, 44:1-5
JUL 15 ISA 44:6-28, 45
JUL 16 ISA 46, 47, 48:1-11
JUL 17 ISA 48:12-22; 2 KINGS 19
JUL 18 ACTS 23:12-35, 24
JUL 19 ACTS 25
JUL 20 PSA 46, 80, 135
JUL 21 ISA 49, 50
JUL 22 ISA 51, 52, 53
JUL 23 ISA 54, 55, 56:1-8
JUL 24 ISA 56:9-12, 57, 58, 59
JUL 25 ACTS 26
JUL 26 ACTS 27
JUL 27 ISA 60, 61
JUL 28 ISA 62, 63, 64
JUL 29 ISA 65, 66
JUL 30 2 KINGS 20, 21:1-18
JUL 31 2 KINGS 21:19-26; 2 CHRO 32

AUG 1 ACTS 28
AUG 2 COL 1, 2:1-15
AUG 3 2 CHRO 33; NAH 1, 2
AUG 4 NAH 3; HAB 1; 2 KINGS 22
AUG 5 2 KINGS 23; 2 CHRO 34:1-13
AUG 6 2 CHRO 34:14-33, 35:1-19
AUG 7 2 CHRO 35:20-27; ZEPH 1, 2, 3:1-8
AUG 8 COL 2:16-23, 3
AUG 9 COL 4; PHILEMON 1
AUG 10 ZEPH 3:9-20; JER 1, 2, 3:1-5
AUG 11 JER 3:6-25, 4:1-4
AUG 12 JER 4:5-31
AUG 13 JER 5, 6
AUG 14 JER 7
AUG 15 EPH 1, 2:1-10
AUG 16 EPH 2:11-22, 3, 4:1-16
AUG 17 JER 8, 9
AUG 18 JER 10, 11:1-17
AUG 19 JER 11:18-23, 12, 13:1-14
AUG 20 JER 13:15-27, 14, 15
AUG 21 JER 16, 17:1-18
AUG 22 EPH 4:17-32, 5:1-20
AUG 23 EPH 5:21-33, 6:1-20
AUG 24 JER 17:19-27, 18, 19
AUG 25 JER 20, 21, 22
AUG 26 JER 23:1-32
AUG 27 JER 23:33-40, 24, 25:1-14
AUG 28 JER 25:15-38, 26
AUG 29 EPH 6:21-24; PHIL 1
AUG 30 PHIL 2, 3:1-14
AUG 31 JER 27, 28, 29:1-23

