

OUR MIGHTY

2026 BIBLE READING GUIDE

God

Week 1: "Our God Of New Beginnings"

Wk 1 - Day 1: Genesis 1

Explanation: Before anything existed, God was already there. The Hebrew word for "create" (bara) means to make something out of nothing, showing that God alone brings life and order where nothing existed. The chapter describes a world that begins in darkness and chaos, but everything changes when God speaks. Light appears, land forms, and life fills the earth. God's Word brings order out of confusion. The pattern of creation also shows God's design—He forms the world first and then fills it, proving that nothing God does is random or accidental. The climax of creation is humanity. People are made in the "image of God," meaning we are designed to reflect His character and represent Him in the world. From the very beginning, God gave people dignity, value, and purpose.

Application: God is a God who brings new beginnings! He takes darkness and turns it into light. He takes emptiness and fills it with life. No matter how broken, messy, or empty something feels, God has the power to create something new. When life feels chaotic or uncertain, trust God to bring light, order, and new beginnings.

Response:

- What does Genesis 1 reveal about God's power and character?
- Where do you see His goodness in your life right now?
- What does being made in the image of God mean to you personally?
- Where in your life do you need God to bring something new out of something that feels empty or broken?

Wk 1 - Day 2: Matthew 1

Explanation: Matthew opens with a genealogy that traces Jesus' family line all the way back to Abraham and King David. While to us this may seem tedious, to Jewish readers, this was extremely important because it proved Jesus had the right to be the promised Messiah. Every name in this list represents God faithfully working through generations to bring His salvation plan to life. What makes this list even more meaningful is the people included in it. Many of which, had broken pasts and difficult stories, reminding us that God is not limited by human failure. He uses imperfect people to accomplish His perfect purposes. The chapter ends with the miraculous birth of Jesus. His name comes from the Hebrew Yeshua, meaning "The Lord saves." He is also called Immanuel, which means "God with us." This tells us that God did not stay distant—He entered the world to bring rescue, hope, and a fresh start for humanity.

Application: God is not limited by where you come from or what you have been through. The family line of Jesus includes people who were broken, sinful, overlooked, and even rejected — yet God used every one of them to bring His Son into the world. That means no story is too messy for God to redeem. Your past does not disqualify you from God's plan. God weaves grace into broken family lines, painful experiences, and imperfect choices. What feels like failure to you may become part of the story God uses to bring hope to someone else. Just as Jesus entered the world through an imperfect family, He enters our lives with grace. When you place your trust in Him, God begins turning your story into something meaningful and new.

Response:

- Why do you think God included imperfect people in Jesus' family line?
- What does the name "Immanuel—God with us" mean to you?
- How does seeing God fulfill His promises through generations in Matthew 1 help you trust Him with the promises you are still waiting on?
- How does knowing God works through brokenness encourage you personally?

Wk 1 - Day 3: Ezra 1

Explanation: Ezra records how God moved the heart of King Cyrus to allow the Jewish people to return home after years of exile, fulfilling a promise God had made through the prophets. Even though God's people had been unfaithful, He never stopped loving them and planned to restore them. God even used a pagan king to accomplish His will, showing that no one is outside His control. Cyrus provided what was needed to rebuild the temple, a symbol of God's presence. Not everyone chose to go back. Some stayed behind in Babylon, choosing comfort over calling. This reminds us that new beginnings often require leaving what is familiar and trusting God for something better.

Application: New beginnings often come with both excitement and uncertainty. God moved the heart of King Cyrus to open the way for His people to return, but the people still had to decide whether they would step into that opportunity. Restoration required courage. Staying in Babylon was easier than rebuilding in Jerusalem, but God's call was toward something better. God still works this way. He opens doors, stirs hearts, and creates opportunities for new seasons. But we must choose whether we will stay comfortable or trust Him with change. Sometimes obedience means leaving what feels safe in order to follow where God is leading. God is faithful to keep His promises, even when it takes time. When He calls us into something new, He also provides what we need to walk into it.

Wk 1 - Day 4: Acts 1

Explanation: Acts 1 marks a new chapter in God's work. After His resurrection, Jesus spends time preparing His disciples for what comes next. He promises that they will receive the Holy Spirit, who will give them the power they need to continue the worldwide scope of His witnessing mission. The Greek word for "power" here means God's supernatural ability working through them. Jesus tells the disciples to wait in Jerusalem. This reminds us that God's timing is just as important as His plan. Waiting is not wasted time—it is preparation for what God is about to do. The chapter ends with Jesus ascending into heaven. What seems like a goodbye is really a new beginning. Jesus is now reigning in heaven while His followers are sent into the world to share His message. The mission has just begun.

Application: God often begins new seasons with waiting. The disciples were told to stay in Jerusalem and wait for the Holy Spirit, even though they were eager to move forward. Waiting was not wasted time — it was preparation. God knew exactly what they needed before they stepped into their calling. Many of us struggle with waiting. We want answers, direction, and change right away. But Acts 1 reminds us that God's timing is part of His plan. What feels slow is often God building something deeper inside us — faith, dependence, and readiness. God also reminds the disciples that they are not meant to live on past experiences. Jesus ascends into heaven, but His mission continues through them. New beginnings require letting go of what was and trusting God with what is coming. When God asks you to wait, it is because something greater is coming.

Wk 1 - Day 5: Psalm 40

Explanation: Psalm 40 is a song of gratitude and hope. David begins by remembering how God rescued him from a "pit" of trouble. This word pictures a place of despair, fear, and helplessness. God did not just lift David out—He placed him on solid ground and gave him stability again. That is what God does when He brings new beginnings. David's response is worship. He realizes that God is not impressed by empty religious actions but by hearts that truly trust and follow Him. God wants obedience and faith more than rituals. As David reflects on what God has done, he also looks forward with confidence. Even though he still faces challenges, he knows the same God who rescued him before will be faithful again. New beginnings don't mean problems disappear—but they do mean God walks with us through them.

Application: God does not ignore people when they are overwhelmed, discouraged, or stuck. He reaches down and lifts them out of hard places that feel hopeless. When David says God pulled him out of the "pit," he is describing more than just trouble — he is describing despair, fear, and the feeling of being trapped. God doesn't just rescue us and leave us where we were. He puts us on solid ground. He gives us stability, hope, and direction. That means your past does not have to define your future. Even long seasons of struggle can become the starting point for something new. When God brings you through something hard, He gives you a story to tell. Your healing can become encouragement for someone else who is still in the pit. God uses restored lives to point others toward hope.

Response:

- What does this chapter show about God's power over leaders and nations?
- Why do you think some people chose not to return to Jerusalem?
- Where in your life have you seen God's provision, even in unlikely situations or ways?
- What might God be calling you to step into or leave behind as part of a new beginning?

Response:

- What are some areas of your life right now where you are waiting for God to work?
- How has waiting helped prepare you for something important in your life?
- What do you think it looks like to rely on God's power instead of your own and why is this important for us to do?
- Where might God be calling you to serve or who might you be a witness to in your daily life?

Response:

- What is a "pit" or season of difficulty that God has helped you through in your life?
- Why is it important to remember what God has done for us?
- Why do you think God values obedience more than religious rituals?

Week 2: “Our God Who Knows & Purposes Our Lives”

Wk 2 - Day 1: Genesis 2

Explanation: Genesis 2 zooms in on God’s personal care in creating humanity. God uniquely forms Adam from the dust and breathes life into him. This shows that people are not an afterthought—we are crafted by God with intention and care. God then places Adam in the garden and gives him meaningful work. Work is not a punishment; it is part of God’s good design. Adam is given responsibility and purpose before sin ever enters the world. God also declares that it is not good for man to be alone. This is the first time something is called “not good” in creation. God creates Eve to show that relationships, companionship, and community are part of His purpose for humanity. We were never meant to walk through life alone. From the beginning, God designed people to have purpose and connection—with Him and with one another.

Application: Your life is not random. You were not created by accident, chance, or convenience. God formed you with care, gave you breath, and placed you in the world with intention. That means your personality, your abilities, and even your limitations are all part of how God designed you to live out His purpose. God also gave Adam meaningful work before sin ever entered the world. That reminds us that what we do each day matters. Our work, our responsibilities, and even our routines can become ways to honor God when we see them as part of His design instead of just something to get through. God also created us for relationship. We were never meant to walk through life alone. When we isolate ourselves or try to carry everything on our own, we move away from how God designed us to live. God uses community, friendship, and love to bring healing and purpose into our lives. When life feels confusing or directionless, remember that God created you with care, placed you where you are for a reason, and is still at work shaping your story.

Response:

- Why do you think God chose to form Adam from dust instead of just speaking him into existence like the rest of creation? And what does this tell us about how God views people?
- Do you think people today still struggle with being alone in the same way Adam did? Why or why not?
- Why do you think God gave Adam work before sin entered the world?
- How does knowing God designed relationships change how you view others?
- Where do you see God’s purpose at work in your life right now?

Wk 2 - Day 2: Matthew 2

Explanation: Matthew 2 shows God actively guiding people toward His purpose. The wise men follow a star that God placed in the sky to lead them to Jesus. This was not random—it was divine direction. God used creation itself to point people to the Savior. At the same time, King Herod tries to stop God’s plan. Yet every time Herod acts, God intervenes through dreams to protect Joseph, Mary, and Jesus. Even when evil attempts to interfere, God’s purpose continues forward. This chapter reminds us that God’s plan cannot be stopped. He guides, protects, and redirects according to His greater purpose, even when the world seems dangerous or uncertain.

Application: God is guiding your steps even when you cannot see it. Just as He directed the wise men and protected Jesus, He is working behind the scenes in your life. When situations feel confusing, unsafe, or uncertain, you can trust that God’s purpose has not changed and His plan is still unfolding.

Response:

- What does this chapter teach us about God’s control over danger and opposition?
- Have you ever looked back and realized God was guiding you when you didn’t see it at the time?
- Why do you think God often leads people one step at a time instead of showing the whole plan?
- What is an area in your life you are waiting for God to reveal himself and provide direction?
- Why would God allow someone like Herod to exist if He had a good plan?

Wk 2 - Day 3: Ezra 2

Explanation: Ezra 2 is a detailed record of the families who returned from exile to rebuild Jerusalem. While it looks like a list of names, it shows something important: God knows every person involved in His work. No one is forgotten or unimportant. Each family had a role in restoring what had been destroyed. God did not just rebuild buildings—He rebuilt lives, families, and communities. Every name represents a story of faith, obedience, and hope. This chapter reminds us that God’s purpose is not just about big leaders—it includes ordinary people faithfully stepping into what God has called them to do.

Application: God never forgets His people. Even when life feels quiet, unnoticed, or ordinary, God still knows exactly who you are and where you belong in His plan. Seasons of waiting, struggle, or obscurity do not mean you have been set aside. God is still writing your story. It is easy to believe that only big, visible roles matter, but God builds His work through faithfulness, not popularity. Every small act of obedience, every step of trust, and every choice to keep going has meaning in God’s eyes. You may not see how your life fits into the bigger picture yet, but God does. You don’t have to be famous, gifted, or impressive for God to use you. You simply have to be willing.

Wk 2 - Day 4: Acts 2

Explanation: Acts 2 is not just the story of the Holy Spirit coming—it is the story of God launching His purpose for every believer. Pentecost was a Jewish feast that brought people from many nations into Jerusalem. Long before this day arrived, God had already planned that this would be the moment when the gospel would begin spreading to the world. God knew exactly who would be there and why. When the Holy Spirit came, the disciples began speaking in different languages. This was not random, but rather it was God showing that His plan included every nation, culture, and person. God was declaring, from the very beginning of the church, that His purpose was global and personal at the same time. No one was meant to be left out.

Peter stands up and preaches, even though just weeks earlier he had denied knowing Jesus. This shows something powerful about God’s purpose: God does not cancel people because of their failures. He restores them and uses them. God knew Peter’s weaknesses, but He also knew Peter’s future. What looked like failure became preparation for greater purpose. When thousands believed, they didn’t just receive forgiveness—they received direction. God formed them into a community with a shared mission. They worshiped together, learned together, and cared for one another. God wasn’t just saving individuals; He was shaping lives into something meaningful.

Application: This chapter shows that God doesn’t just know who you are—He knows what He created you to become. The Holy Spirit was given so believers could live out God’s purpose, not just know about it. His purpose for your life goes beyond your past, your mistakes, or your fears. Just like Peter and the early believers, you are called to live on mission. The Holy Spirit is God’s way of guiding, empowering, and shaping you into the person He designed you to be.

Wk 2 - Day 5: Psalm 139

Explanation: Psalm 139 is one of the clearest pictures in Scripture of how deeply God knows us. David says God knows when he sits and when he rises, his thoughts, and even his words before he speaks them. This kind of knowledge is not just awareness—it is personal, careful, and loving. God doesn’t just know facts about us; He knows us completely. David also explains that God is always present. No matter where someone goes, heaven, the depths, or the farthest place imaginable—God is already there. This shows that our lives are never outside God’s care. We are not wandering through life unnoticed or unprotected. The psalm then shifts to how God formed each person. David says God “knit” him together in his mother’s womb. The word paints the picture of a skilled craftsman weaving something with care and precision. This tells us that human life is not accidental. God designed every person intentionally, with purpose and value.

Application: Knowing that God sees everything about us can feel overwhelming, but Psalm 139 shows it is actually a gift. God knows every thought, every fear, every struggle, and every hope—and He still loves us. We do not have to hide, perform, or pretend with Him. We are already fully known. God did not create you by accident. He formed you carefully and intentionally. Every detail of your life matters to Him. Even the parts you struggle to accept about yourself were known by God before you were born. That means your life has purpose even when it feels confusing or painful. Because God is always present, you are never alone in your fear, doubt, or weakness. You cannot wander beyond His care. When life feels out of control, remember that we are still held in God’s hands and still moving inside His plan. You don’t have to prove your worth. You were created in love and for a reason.

Response:

- How does this chapter challenge how we define “importance”?
- Do you think God cares about small acts of faithfulness? Why?
- Is there someone in your life who may need to be reminded that they are not forgotten?
- Why is it important that everyone feels significance and value both to God and others?

Response:

- What does Peter’s transformation teach us about how God uses broken people?
- What gifts or opportunities has God given you that could be used for His purpose?
- Why do you think God builds a community (the church) instead of just saving individuals?
- What can churches today learn from the way believers lived in this chapter?

Response:

- Why do you think it is important that God is always present, no matter where we go?
- How does this psalm shape how we view human life and value?
- How does Psalm 139 connect to the idea that God has a purpose for every life?

Week 3: “Our God Who Restores What Sin Has Broken”

Wk 3 - Day 1: Genesis 3

Explanation: Genesis 3 tells us how everything went wrong—and how God began making it right. The serpent does not begin by openly denying God, but by questioning Him: “Did God really say...?” This is how temptation often works. It causes us to doubt God’s truth and goodness. Adam and Eve were tempted to believe that God was holding something back from them, when in reality, He had already given them everything they needed. When they disobey God, the effects of sin are immediate. Shame enters, fear replaces peace, and they hide from God. Their relationship with God is broken, and their relationship with each other begins to fracture. This shows us that sin doesn’t just break rules—it breaks relationships.

But even in judgment, God shows grace. God seeks them out rather than abandoning them. He asks questions, not because He lacks knowledge, but because He invites confession and repentance. God also clothes Adam and Eve, covering their shame. This act points forward to how God would one day cover our sin through Christ. One of the most powerful moments in this chapter is Genesis 3:15, where God promises that a future descendant of the woman will crush the serpent. This is often called the “first gospel” because it points to Jesus, who would one day defeat sin and Satan. Even in humanity’s darkest moment, God was already planning restoration.

Application: We must understand that sin doesn’t just break rules, it breaks relationships. When Adam and Eve sinned, the first thing they felt was shame, and the first thing they did was hide. That same pattern still happens today. We hide behind excuses, silence, busyness, or even religion instead of coming honestly to God. But God does not run from broken people—He runs toward them. Even after failure, God came looking for Adam and Eve. He covered their shame, promised a Savior, and began the work of restoration. That same God still seeks people today, not to condemn them, but to heal and restore. You don’t have to be perfect to come back to God. You only have to be honest. When sin is brought into the light, it loses its power. When confession replaces hiding, restoration begins. God’s grace is always greater than our greatest failure!

Wk 3 - Day 2: Matthew 3

Explanation: Matthew 3 introduces John the Baptist, whose entire message is summed up in one word: repent. The Greek word metanoia means “to change the mind” or “to turn around.” Repentance is not just feeling bad—it is choosing a new direction. John’s message was that sin had broken people’s relationship with God, but God was offering restoration. John baptizes people in the Jordan River, a place deeply tied to Israel’s history of entering the Promised Land. Going into the water symbolized leaving an old life behind and coming out ready to live differently. People were publicly admitting their sin, which was very unusual in that culture. Yet restoration begins with honesty. When Jesus comes to be baptized, it seems strange because He had no sin to confess. But Jesus chose to stand with broken people. He stepped into their place, identifying with their need for restoration. When Jesus is baptized, heaven opens and God declares Him His beloved Son. This shows that restoration is rooted in God’s grace and approval—not in our perfection.

Application: Restoration doesn’t begin with trying harder—it begins with turning back. The call to repentance is not meant to shame us; it is meant to free us. When people stepped into the Jordan River, they were choosing honesty over hiding and change over denial. God works where hearts are open. One of the most powerful moments in this chapter is when Jesus steps into the water with sinners. He didn’t wait for people to fix themselves before standing beside them. He met them right where they were, showing that God’s grace comes first, not last. When God spoke over Jesus, He declared love and approval before Jesus ever did anything. That reminds us that restoration begins with knowing we are loved by God, not trying to earn it. When we turn back to Him, He doesn’t just forgive—He restores us as His children.

Response:

- How does the serpent’s temptation in this chapter compare to how people are tempted today?
- What is a past sin or mistake you often find yourself beating yourself up over or feel deep guilt about?
- Why do we often try to “cover” our sin instead of letting God deal with it by coming clean?
- Why do you think God asks questions in Genesis 3 instead of immediately condemning Adam and Eve?

Response:

- What does true repentance look like beyond just feeling sorry?
- Why is public acknowledgment of sin so uncomfortable?
- Why did Jesus choose to be baptized even though He had no sin?
- Why does lasting change begin in the heart rather than behavior?
- What might it look like for someone today to “prepare the way” for God in their family, church, or community?

Wk 3 - Day 3: Ezra 3

Explanation: Ezra 3 records the first steps of restoration after God's people returned from exile. The city of Jerusalem was still in ruins. The walls were broken. The temple had been destroyed. Everything looked like a reminder of failure. Yet the first thing the people rebuilt was not their homes or their government—it was the altar. The altar represented forgiveness, sacrifice, and a restored relationship with God. Before anything else could be rebuilt, their worship had to be restored. This teaches us something powerful: God cares more about restoring hearts than rebuilding circumstances.

When they laid the foundation of the temple, people reacted very differently. Some shouted for joy because God was giving them a new beginning. Others wept because they remembered how glorious the old temple had been. This moment shows that restoration often brings mixed emotions. God is doing something new, but we still feel the weight of what was lost. God did not erase their past—He redeemed it. The brokenness they had experienced made this new beginning more meaningful.

Application: When the people began rebuilding, they didn't pretend the past never happened. Some rejoiced because God was doing something new. Others wept because they remembered what had been lost. God allowed both emotions, because healing often carries joy and grief at the same time. Restoration rarely looks like an instant fix. God begins restoration not by fixing everything around us, but by restoring worship within us. The people rebuilt the altar before the walls. They put their relationship with God before their circumstances. That teaches us something powerful: when sin or failure has left things broken, the first step forward is not control—it is surrender. You may not get back what was lost, but God can give you something deeper, stronger, and more meaningful. Restoration is not about going backward—it is about letting God build something new from what was broken.

Wk 3 - Day 4: Acts 3

Explanation: Acts 3 begins with a man who had been unable to walk since birth. Every day he was placed at the gate of the temple to beg. He was close to worship but unable to enter it. This is a powerful picture of what sin does—it leaves people stuck on the outside, unable to experience the fullness of God's presence. When Peter and John meet him, he asks for money. Instead, he receives something far greater—healing in the name of Jesus. Peter makes it clear that the power does not come from human effort, but from Christ. The man does not just walk—he leaps and praises God. This shows that God's restoration is not small or quiet; it is life-changing.

Peter then explains what happened. He tells the people that Jesus, whom they rejected, is the very one God used to bring healing. But instead of condemning them, Peter offers hope. He calls them to repent so their sins may be wiped away and that times of refreshing may come from the Lord. The word "refreshing" means renewal, relief, and restoration. God does not just forgive—He renews.

Application: Restoration doesn't always look like what we expect. Sometimes we ask God to make life easier, but God wants to make us whole. He doesn't just patch what is broken—He transforms it. This man had spent his entire life being overlooked. People walked past him every day. But Jesus saw him. In one moment, God restored not just his body, but his dignity, his joy, and his place in the community. That is what God does—He brings people out of the shadows and gives them new life. God's restoration also reaches deeper than circumstances. When we turn to Him, He replaces shame with joy and hopelessness with new purpose. No matter how long someone has been broken, Jesus still has the power to make them new.

Response:

- Why do you think some people cried while others celebrated?
- How does this chapter show that restoration is a process, not a moment?
- What might rebuilding look like your life today? How has God already started this process?
- How does this chapter show that healing is not simple?

Response:

- When is a time God restored something in your life?
- What does this story teach us about Jesus' heart for broken people?
- Why do people sometimes want blessings without change?
- What kinds of people in our society today tend to be overlooked or ignored?
- How might churches unintentionally overlook people who need restoration the most?

Wk 3 - Day 5: Psalm 51

Explanation: Psalm 51 was written by David after his sin with Bathsheba was exposed. Instead of making excuses, David comes to God in honest repentance. He admits that his sin was not just against people—it was against God. This shows us that sin always damages our relationship with the Lord first. David asks for more than forgiveness. He asks for a “clean heart.” The Hebrew word means something new, pure, and reshaped by God. David understands that restoration is not just about removing guilt—it is about changing what is broken inside us. David also asks God to restore the joy of salvation. Sin steals joy, peace, and closeness with God. Forgiveness brings relief, but restoration brings renewal. David longs not just to be pardoned, but to be made whole again. The psalm ends with hope. David believes God can still use him. Restoration does not mean pretending sin never happened—it means letting God turn failure into humility, worship, and obedience.

Application: God does not reject repentant hearts. No matter how deep the failure, God’s mercy is deeper. When we come to Him honestly, He not only forgives us—He restores our joy, our peace, and our purpose. Restoration is not pretending nothing happened. It is allowing God to rebuild us from the inside out. You may still remember your failure, but God wants to redefine it—not as something that disqualifies you, but as something He redeems. God is not finished with anyone who is willing to turn back to Him.

Response:

- What are some things in your life that sin has stolen from you that you have needed God to restore?
- Why is guilt sometimes harder to let go of than sin itself?
- What keeps people from believing they are truly forgiven?
- What do you think is the difference between shame and repentance?
- What kind of hope does this psalm offer to people who feel disqualified?

Week 4: “Our God Who Triumphs Over Evil”

Wk 4 - Day 1: Genesis 4

Explanation: Genesis 4 shows the next step after the fall of humanity. Sin does not stay private—it spreads. Cain and Abel both bring offerings to God, but Cain’s heart is not right. Scripture tells us that God looked not just at the offering, but at the person bringing it. Cain becomes angry, not because God was unfair, but because his pride was wounded. God lovingly warns Cain: “Sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must rule over it.” This language pictures sin like a wild animal waiting to pounce. Evil is not passive—it actively seeks control over human hearts. Yet God also tells Cain that he has a choice. He does not have to give in.

Instead of listening to God, Cain lets jealousy grow into hatred. He invites Abel into the field and kills him. This shows how unchecked sin always moves from thought to action. But even in this moment, God confronts Cain. God does not ignore evil—He brings it into the light. Even more powerful is God’s mercy. Though Cain is punished, God places a mark on him to protect him from being killed. This shows that while God judges evil, He does not abandon sinners. God remains greater than the evil in Cain’s heart.

Application: Evil rarely begins with dramatic actions—it usually starts in the quiet places of the heart. Jealousy, insecurity, bitterness, and wounded pride can slowly grow if they are not brought into the light. God warned Cain before his anger took control, showing us that God always gives people a chance to turn back. We are not powerless over what grows inside us. When we ignore hurt or resentment, it gains strength. But when we bring those feelings to God, He can heal them before they become destructive. Even after Cain failed, God still confronted him and protected him. God’s goal is not simply to punish sin but to expose it, confront it, and ultimately overcome it with grace. When we deal honestly with what is happening inside us, God can stop evil before it takes root.

Wk 4 - Day 2: Matthew 4

Explanation: Matthew 4 records Jesus being led into the wilderness to be tempted by Satan. This happens right after Jesus is baptized and declared God’s beloved Son. That is not an accident. Satan attacks identity first. Each temptation is aimed at making Jesus doubt who He is and whether God can be trusted. The first temptation is about hunger. Satan tells Jesus to turn stones into bread. On the surface it seems harmless, but the deeper temptation is to rely on His own power instead of trusting God. Jesus responds by quoting Scripture, showing that obedience matters more than comfort. The second temptation attacks God’s protection. Satan twists Scripture and challenges Jesus to throw Himself down from the temple. This is an attempt to force God’s hand. Jesus refuses, showing that true faith does not demand proof from God—it trusts Him. The third temptation offers power without suffering. Satan offers Jesus all the kingdoms of the world if He will worship him. This is the heart of evil: seeking glory without obedience. Jesus rejects Satan again, proving that God’s kingdom cannot be gained through compromise. Unlike Adam and Eve, Jesus does not give in. He stands firm, using God’s Word to defeat Satan’s lies. This chapter shows that evil is real—but God’s truth is stronger.

Application: Evil often attacks us in the same ways it attacked Jesus—through hunger for comfort, desire for control, and longing for recognition. Temptation usually comes when we are tired, vulnerable, or uncertain of who we are. Satan’s greatest strategy is not always to make us do bad things, but to make us doubt God’s goodness and our identity in Him. Jesus shows us that victory over temptation does not come from willpower alone—it comes from trusting God’s Word. When we know what God has said about us and about what is true, lies lose their power. Every time we choose truth over compromise, God’s victory over evil is lived out in our lives.

Response:

- What are some common sins that may be “crouching at the door” in a person’s heart?
- Why do people sometimes ignore God’s warnings?
- How does jealousy grow into something destructive?
- Why didn’t God immediately destroy Cain? What does God’s response to Cain teach about justice and mercy?
- How does this story show God’s desire to overcome evil rather than just punish it?

Response:

- Why do you think Satan twisted Scripture instead of ignoring it?
- Why is temptation often strongest when people are tired or weak?
- What kinds of “shortcuts” do people today get tempted to take and why is it easier to compromise than to obey?
- What does this chapter teach us about standing firm in hard moments?

Wk 4 - Day 3: Ezra 4

Explanation: Ezra 4 shows how evil often works through discouragement, deception, and delay rather than open violence. When God's people begin rebuilding the temple, their enemies first pretend to be friendly. They offer to help, but their goal is not to support God's work—it is to control it and corrupt it. When they are refused, they turn against God's people. The enemies then use lies, intimidation, and political pressure to stop the rebuilding. They write letters filled with half-truths and accusations. This reveals how evil often works: it twists facts, creates fear, and tries to make obedience seem dangerous.

For a time, the work of God is forced to stop. From a human point of view, it looks like evil has won. But God's plan is not canceled—only delayed. Ezra 4 reminds us that opposition does not mean God has lost. It often means God's work is important enough to be attacked.

Application: When you begin to follow God seriously, resistance often shows up. It may not always look like open attack. Sometimes it looks like discouragement, criticism, distractions, or even people who pretend to support you but quietly undermine what God is doing. Ezra 4 reminds us that opposition does not mean we are off track—it often means we are exactly where God wants us. It is easy to become tired when progress is slow or when others question our obedience. But God is not limited by delays. What looks like a pause is not a defeat. God is still working, even when it feels like nothing is happening. Faithfulness matters more than progress and God always honors perseverance. Even when opposition tries to weaken our confidence, God's purpose continues to move forward in ways we cannot always see. When God is building something in your life, don't let discouragement convince you to quit. His plan will outlast every obstacle.

Wk 4 - Day 4: Acts 4

Explanation: Acts 4 takes place right after God heals the lame man in Acts 3. Instead of celebrating what God has done, the religious leaders become angry. The gospel threatens their power, control, and traditions. So they arrest Peter and John and try to silence them. This is one of the clearest pictures of evil in Scripture—not just obvious sin, but people trying to stop God's truth. Peter and John are questioned by powerful leaders, yet they speak with courage. They say, "There is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved." Even though they are uneducated and ordinary, God gives them boldness that no authority can suppress.

When the leaders realize they cannot deny the miracle, they threaten the apostles and release them. But fear does not win. The believers gather and pray—not for safety, but for boldness. God responds by filling them again with the Holy Spirit, and the gospel spreads even more. This chapter shows that evil may try to intimidate, silence, or stop God's work, but God always responds with greater power, greater courage, and greater movement.

Application: Opposition is not a sign that God has failed—it is often a sign that God is at work. When Peter and John were threatened, they didn't ask God to make things easier. They asked Him to make them bolder. That reveals a deep trust that God's power is greater than any force trying to silence the truth. Fear is one of evil's greatest tools. It tries to keep people quiet, small, and obedient to the wrong things. But God responds to fear with courage. When believers pray together, God fills them with strength, unity, and boldness. Acts 4 reminds us that truth cannot be chained. No authority, no threat, and no opposition can stop what God has started. When we stand for what is right, God stands with us. Even when the world pushes back, God's kingdom moves forward.

Response:

- Why does obedience often bring resistance?
- How does this chapter show that God's plan is stronger than opposition?
- How does fear weaken obedience and why is trusting God difficult when things seem stuck?
- What does Ezra 4 teach us about perseverance?

Response:

- Why do you think the religious leaders were so threatened by the apostles?
- Why does truth often provoke resistance? What forms of pressure do believers face today?
- Why did the believers pray for boldness instead of protection and what does that tell us about their trust in God?
- How has God given you courage in difficult moments?
- How does persecution often make faith grow stronger?

Wk 4 - Day 5: Psalm 2

Explanation: Psalm 2 paints a picture of the nations of the world rising up against God. Kings, rulers, and powers try to resist God's authority, thinking they can rule without Him. But instead of being threatened, God laughs. This is not laughter of cruelty—it is the laughter of absolute authority. God is not worried because no human power can overturn His plans.

God declares that He has already installed His King—His Anointed One, the Messiah. This psalm points directly to Jesus, who would later be rejected by the world but chosen by God. The nations may rebel, but God's kingdom will still stand. The psalm ends with an invitation. Even those who oppose God are called to turn back and find refuge in Him. God's victory over evil is not just about judgment—it is about offering grace to all who will come.

Application: When the world feels chaotic, hostile, or out of control, Psalm 2 reminds us that God is not shaken. Nations rise and fall, leaders make threats, and evil seems loud—but God remains firmly on the throne. What feels overwhelming to us is never overwhelming to Him. This psalm teaches us that rebellion against God is not just political or cultural—it is spiritual. People resist God because they want control. But real freedom is not found in rejecting God's rule—it is found in trusting Him. God's victory over evil is not just about judgment; it is about refuge. Psalm 2 ends by inviting people to come to Him for safety. Even those who have resisted God are welcome to find protection and grace in Him. Because Jesus reigns, no darkness, no injustice, and no opposition can ultimately win. That means believers can live with courage, peace, and hope even when the world seems uncertain.

Response:

- Why do people resist God's authority?
- What does God's laughter in this psalm communicate about His power?
- How should believers live knowing God reigns?
- What is an area in your life that may feel chaotic but is important to remember God is still in control?

Week 5: “Our God Who Is Building His Kingdom”

Wk 5 - Day 1: Genesis 5

Explanation: Genesis 5 is a genealogy that traces the line from Adam to Noah. For modern readers, genealogies can feel like filler, but in Scripture they function like theological signposts. This chapter quietly says: God’s plan is still moving forward. Even after the fall (Genesis 3) and the violence of Cain’s line (Genesis 4), God preserves a line through which His purposes continue. A repeated rhythm runs through the chapter: a name, a lifespan, children, and then the sobering refrain...“and he died.” It’s a reminder that the torment of sin can not be escaped by human effort; the curse still affects every generation. Yet the genealogy itself is also hopeful: life continues, families continue, and most of all God’s plan continues. Through the generations listed, we find that God continues building His kingdom and coming after His people, no matter what. In the middle of the chapter, one life breaks the pattern: Enoch. Twice we read that Enoch “walked with God” (Genesis 5:22, 24). The Hebrew idea behind “walk” often carries the sense of a daily, ongoing way of life built on steady fellowship, not occasional spirituality. This points to a life built on more than just living for the status quo or trying to get by. Then comes the striking line: “and he was not, for God took him.” Rather than experiencing death, Enoch was taken directly into the presence of the Lord. Enoch’s removal from death was not random or arbitrary, it was a testimony that God values faithfulness. His life reminds us that God’s kingdom is built through lives deeply rooted in relationship with Him.

Application: God builds His kingdom through faithfulness over time, not just dramatic moments. He uses ordinary lives, lived over long periods of time, to carry His promises forward. This chapter challenges our obsession with speed, visibility, and instant impact. Kingdom work often looks like slow obedience (ex. raising the next generation, honoring God in the routine, walking with God when no one applauds.) If your life feels ordinary, we can be encouraged knowing that God has written history through ordinary people. Your faithfulness today matters more than immediate results. Even when you cannot see it, God is using your obedience as part of something far bigger than you realize. Yet even while God is doing something bigger than we can see, it is easy to lose sight of that truth in daily life. When faithfulness feels repetitive and results seem invisible, the temptation is to move from walking with God to merely enduring life. Survival mode often sets in when faith becomes routine rather than relationship. Thriving begins when we slow down enough to truly walk with God, listen to Him, and trust Him with the deeper places of our lives. God’s kingdom is built not just through people who endure, but through people who live in close communion with Him.

Response:

- How does a chapter focused on generations challenge modern “quick results” Christianity?
- Enoch is described as someone who “walked with God.” What do you think that looked like in his life? What might it look like now?
- What does “thriving” spiritually look like to you, and how is it different from simply getting by?
- What is one “quiet” act of obedience you could commit to this week that contributes to God’s long-term work?

Wk 5 - Day 2: Matthew 5

Explanation: Matthew 5 opens the Sermon on the Mount, where Jesus teaches what life looks like under God’s reign. The kingdom He teaches us about is not merely a future hope but God’s rule reshaping hearts here and now. The section often referred to as the Beatitudes begin with “Blessed...” The Greek word *makarios* speaks of deep flourishing, more than temporary happiness. What’s shocking is who Jesus calls “blessed”: the poor in spirit, the meek, the merciful, the peacemakers, those who mourn, those persecuted. Jesus is not glorifying pain, rather He’s redefining who is truly secure under God’s rule. Jesus then calls His followers salt and light. Both metaphors carry deep meaning. Salt preserves, creates thirst, adds flavor, heals, and purifies. In the same way, we are meant to preserve what is good, bring life and meaning, create spiritual thirst, and live faithfully in a world that is decaying and confused. Light helps people see clearly and find their way. When God’s people live out His truth and love, they make what is good and right easier to see. The point is that God builds His kingdom in the world through a people who live differently, distinct in character, visible in goodness. Jesus then presses deeper by showing that the kingdom is not just external compliance, it’s heart transformation. He demonstrates how the sins we often excuse or ignore are actually seeds of a much deeper sin problem. Anger becomes a murder-seed; lust becomes an adultery-seed. Jesus isn’t only intensifying rules, He’s exposing roots. God’s kingdom does not settle for surface morality; it seeks inner renewal. Kingdom life isn’t legalism; it’s Christ-shaped righteousness, an integrity that flows from the inside out.

Application: God builds His kingdom by building kingdom people. The Beatitudes describe the kind of heart God uses: humble, teachable, merciful, pure, peace-making. If we want to participate in God’s kingdom work, the first place God works is in us. Being salt and light means your ordinary life becomes part of God’s strategy. Your responses, your speech, your purity, your forgiveness, these are not “small” things. They are the bricks and beams of kingdom influence. God’s kingdom advances not just through sermons and programs, but through people living the Sermon on the Mount in every day life.

Response:

- Which of Jesus’ instructions in this chapter do you find most difficult to accept or live out and why?
- What might it look like for a church to be salt and light in a community instead of just a gathering place? Where do you think God has specifically placed you to be salt or light right now?
- In what ways is Jesus’ definition of what it means to be “blessed” different from how our culture defines happiness? How do you think these things lead to a “blessed” life?
- If forgiveness is a kingdom value, what does refusing to forgive reveal about you and how might it affect your walk with God and relationship with others?

Wk 5 - Day 3: Ezra 5

Explanation: Ezra 5 describes a turning point in rebuilding the temple. The work had stalled due to opposition, and the people had concentrated on building their own houses instead of the house of the Lord, but now God raises up prophets—Haggai and Zechariah—to speak courage into the people. We learn that God’s kingdom building is not powered only by human resolve, it’s renewed by God’s Word. As the people restart the work, officials question their authority. Instead of panicking or fighting, the people explain their identity and mission: they are servants of “the God of heaven and earth,” rebuilding what was destroyed. They acknowledge their past sin and exile, but they also testify to God’s mercy and restoration. A crucial line appears: “the eye of their God was on the elders of the Jews” (Ezra 5:5). That is covenant language of God’s watchful care, protection, and active oversight. Opposition is real, but so is God’s attention. The king’s officials investigate, but they allow the work to continue while they search records. Even governmental process becomes a channel God uses to move His purpose forward. Ezra 5 shows that kingdom-building often happens amid resistance, accusations, and delays. Yet God is not absent in the administrative details. He can advance His work even through slow systems and skeptical authorities.

Application: In times of challenge, struggle, and hardship, we are often tempted to neglect the things of God and turn our focus toward our own pursuits. Remember that adversity does not mean what we are doing for the Lord is pointless, it often means it’s significant. When God calls you to build—your family, your character, your ministry, your church, your integrity, you should expect resistance. The question is not whether opposition will come, but whether discouragement will deter you or God’s Word will direct you. God builds His kingdom not merely through human perseverance, but through Spirit-empowered courage anchored in His Word. Any work of God that isn’t built on the Word of God will never prosper. What is built on preference will crumble; what is built on Scripture will stand. Ezra 5 also encourages us that the “eye” of God is upon His people. You may feel watched by critics, but you are first watched by God—with care, not condemnation. You and I are always rebuilding His great kingdom, grounded in the precepts and priorities of the One who is constantly renewing and rebuilding us.

Wk 5 - Day 4: Acts 5

Explanation: Acts 5 opens with the sobering account of Ananias and Sapphira. As the early church grows, generosity and unity are evident among believers. However, this couple pretends to give fully while secretly withholding part of the proceeds from selling land. The issue was not the amount given, it was the deception. Peter makes it clear that they were not lying to people alone, but to God. Their sin was not robbing God of His money, but robbing God of His glory. This moment shows us something essential about the nature of God’s kingdom. It is not built on reputation, image, or outward performance, but on truth and holiness. God is forming a people whose lives are real before Him, not staged for others. Ananias and Sapphira wanted the reputation of sacrifice without the reality of surrender. God intervenes dramatically, preserving the church’s foundation and showing that while His kingdom advances in power, it must also remain pure. The result is not collapse, but reverent awe. We see that, “great fear came upon the whole church.” This is not panic but holy reverence, the kind of respect that leads people to take God seriously and walk more carefully before Him.

The chapter then shifts from purity to power. As the apostles continue performing signs and preaching openly, opposition intensifies. They are arrested again and commanded to stop speaking in Jesus’ name. Their response becomes one of the most defining kingdom statements in Scripture: “We must obey God rather than men.” Their loyalty to God’s authority outweighed any desire for safety or approval. Even after being beaten, they leave rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer for Jesus’ name. Acts 5 shows that God builds His kingdom through truthful hearts and courageous obedience. Hypocrisy is confronted, faithfulness is strengthened, and the message continues to spread. God’s kingdom is not fragile. It grows through purity and perseverance.

Application: God is not just building a large kingdom, He’s building a holy one. Integrity matters. Private honesty matters. Motives matter. It is possible to look committed on the outside while holding something back on the inside. But God sees both. Sincerity means our private devotion matches our public confession. It means we are more concerned with being faithful than being impressive. When faith becomes about appearances, it weakens the foundation of what God is building and undermines our witness to the world. But when we choose honesty, even when it exposes weakness, God strengthens us. If God is building His kingdom through us, then sincerity is not optional, it’s essential. The question is not, “Do others think I am faithful?” but “Is my heart truly surrendered to God?”

Acts 5 also reminds us that kingdom work will face resistance. Cultural pressure, criticism, or personal cost do not mean God’s work has failed. Sometimes obedience leads to discomfort. But when we choose faithfulness over fear, we participate in something eternal. God’s kingdom is unstoppable, not because it avoids opposition, but because it advances through people who obey Him above all else.

Response:

- The people didn’t deny their past failure—they admitted exile came because of sin. Why is honesty about the past important for healthy rebuilding?
- What does this passage reveal to you about the power of God’s Word in seasons of discouragement?
- How does this chapter challenge the idea that obedience should always feel safe or comfortable?
- What does the phrase “the eye of their God was on them” suggest about God’s involvement in everyday challenges?

Response:

- Why is it so easy to unintentionally drift into caring more about how we appear than who we truly are before God?
- What pressures in modern culture encourage Christians to “perform” their faith rather than live it?
- What does “We must obey God rather than men” look like in today’s culture?
- In what way does the attitude of these early believers towards suffering differ from how believers often respond to pressure and persecution today?
- What kinds of modern pressures might tempt believers to stay quiet about their faith?

Wk 5 - Day 5: Psalm 127

Explanation: Psalm 127 is a “Song of Ascents,” likely sung by worshipers traveling to Jerusalem. It centers on one clear truth: God is the true Builder. The psalm opens with the powerful statement, “Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain.” The word “vain” means empty, pointless, or without lasting result. The message is not that effort is wrong, but that effort without God at the center ultimately lacks permanence. The psalm continues with the image of a watchman guarding a city. Even vigilance and protection are insufficient without God’s oversight. The writer is correcting our tendency towards self-reliance. Human planning, strength, and sleepless striving cannot replace dependence on God. What good is your woking, watching, and waking if the Lord is not with you?

The final verses shift to children, calling them a “heritage” and a “reward.” In biblical culture, children represented legacy, future security, and strength. The image of arrows in a warrior’s hand suggests intentional shaping. Arrows do not aim themselves, they are purposefully crafted and directed. The point is that building God’s kingdom includes investing in the next generation.

Application: This psalm challenges our culture of overwork and control. We often try to build our careers, families, ministries, reputations, and futures through constant effort and worry. But Psalm 127 reminds us that striving without surrender leads to exhaustion, not lasting impact. God is not asking us to stop working, rather He is asking us to stop carrying what only He can carry. There is a difference between faithful labor and anxious striving. Faithful labor trusts God with the outcome, while anxious striving assumes everything depends on us. When we try to build without prayer, without dependence, or without seeking God’s direction, we may succeed outwardly but still miss what truly matters.

This psalm also challenges how we view legacy. God’s kingdom is not built only through public achievements but through daily investment in people, especially the next generation. What good are a lovely house and a big income if the people in your lire are robbed of the joys of a happy home? Children are a gift and a heritage, so appreciate them guard them, and cultivate godliness in them. We should also realize that whether it’s our children, our fellow small groups members, or even our coworkers, the investment we make in others is long-term kingdom work. What we build in others often outlives what we build for ourselves. Psalm 127 invites us to shift from control to trust, from pressure to partnership with God. When God is the Builder, our work becomes worship, and our rest becomes an act of faith.

Response:

- What does it mean to you to “labor in vain”? Can you think of examples in modern life?
- In what areas of life are people most tempted to build without depending on God?
- What are some areas of your life you sometimes find yourself doing good things for God but not truly trusting Him?
- How does this psalm challenge the way we define success?

Week 6: “Our God Who Sees Us”

Wk 6 - Day 1: Genesis 6

Explanation: Genesis 6 opens with a sobering picture of humanity spiraling deeper into corruption. The chapter says that the Lord “saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth.” The word saw is important. God is not distant or unaware. He sees clearly both evil and righteousness. God saw a world of people who were inwardly corrupt, outwardly violent, and upwardly rebellious. The text says that every intention of the thoughts of people’s hearts was continually evil. That language is strong. It shows that sin had moved beyond actions into motivation. This wasn’t occasional failure; it was a pattern of rebellion. And God was grieved. The Hebrew word used here carries the idea of deep sorrow or pain, which reveals to us that God’s heart is not cold toward sin, rather He is deeply affected by it. But in the middle of darkness, one sentence changes everything: “But Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord.” Again, the language of sight appears. God saw the corruption of the world, but he also saw Noah. The word “favor” (often translated grace) means unearned kindness. Noah was not perfect, but he walked with God in a world that ignored Him. God sees both the brokenness of the world and the faithfulness of individuals. He sees wickedness, and He sees obedience. Nothing escapes His attention. The chapter ends quietly but powerfully: “Noah did this; he did all that God commanded him.” After describing widespread corruption, violence, and grief, Scripture closes the chapter not with chaos but with obedience.

Application: It is easy to feel unnoticed in today’s world. You may feel overlooked at work, misunderstood at home, or invisible in your efforts to live faithfully. But Genesis 6 reminds us that God sees. God sees when the world grows darker. He sees injustice, cruelty, and compromise. But He also sees quiet obedience. He sees the parent trying to lead well. He sees the believer choosing integrity even when it means making sacrifices. He sees the person who walks with Him when no one else does. You may not feel impressive. You may not feel powerful. But you are never unseen. But inside this message of comfort is also a challenge. If God sees us fully, that means that He’s sees the intentions of the heart, not just outward behavior. He knows our motives. He sees what no one else can. Genesis 6 reminds us that when God sees the world, He also sees the one who obeys. You may not feel influential. You may not see immediate results. But obedience still matters. God notices!

Wk 6 - Day 2: Matthew 6

Explanation: Matthew 6 continues Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount and centers on a powerful repeated phrase: “Your Father who sees in secret...” or as some translations say, “who sees everything.” Jesus addresses three spiritual practices: giving, praying, and fasting. In each case, He warns against doing them “to be seen by others.” The issue isn’t the action itself, but the motive behind it. The Greek word for hypocrite used here referred to an actor wearing a mask. Jesus is confronting performative religion, spirituality done for applause rather than relationship. Instead, Jesus emphasizes that God sees what is hidden. When you give quietly, pray privately, or fast sincerely, God notices. He is not impressed by public displays but by authentic devotion.

In the middle of the chapter, Jesus teaches the Lord’s Prayer. It begins with “Our Father,” reminding us that the One who sees us is not distant, He is relational. The prayer focuses first on God’s name, kingdom, and will before personal needs. That order teaches trust and alignment. Later in the chapter, Jesus shifts to anxiety and treasure. He tells His followers not to worry about tomorrow because their heavenly Father knows what they need. The word for worry carries the idea of being divided or pulled apart internally. Anxiety fractures trust. But Jesus reminds them that the Father sees even the birds and flowers, and great news for us, He values His children even more. Matthew 6 teaches that God sees motives, private devotion, hidden needs, and anxious thoughts. Nothing about your life is invisible to Him.

Application: We must be careful that we are not living for the approval of others, even in spiritual matters. Sometimes we can subtly measure faithfulness by how others respond, but Jesus redirects us to live for an audience of One. Remember that your Heavenly Father sees what no one else sees. He sees when you pray quietly. He sees when you give generously without recognition. He sees when you choose integrity in private. You do not have to advertise your devotion for it to matter! If we do things to win the praise of others, or to be able to compliment ourselves, we get the immediate praise, but lose the eternal reward. This chapter also speaks directly to anxiety. Many of us carry silent worries about provision, the future, or whether we have enough or are enough. But Jesus reminds us that the Father already knows what we need. You are not forgotten. You are not overlooked. You are not carrying your life alone. We lay up treasures in heaven when we consider that all we have belongs to God and use it to magnify His righteousness and advance His Kingdom. When we truly believe that God sees us, we can stop striving for attention and start resting in trust.

Response:

- What does seeing God grieve the choices of mankind teach us about His heart? How do you imagine He views the world today?
- How does knowing God sees you bring comfort? How might it also bring conviction?
- What does it take to remain faithful when the culture around you is moving in the opposite direction?
- How does Genesis 6 balance God’s justice and God’s grace? Which do you find easier to understand — and why?
- What does the chapter suggest about the cost and the reward of standing alone for righteousness?

Response:

- How can good spiritual practices sometimes become performative and what can you do to make sure that you are not doing the right things for the wrong reasons?
- Why do we sometimes crave recognition for obedience?
- What does it look like to “seek first the kingdom” in practical terms?
- If no one else ever noticed your obedience, what would most motivate you to keep living faithfully?
- What is an area in your life you have a tendency to worry about, that you need to remember that God sees and cares?

Wk 6 - Day 3: Ezra 6

Explanation: Ezra 6 records the completion of the temple after years of delay and opposition. The story begins with King Darius ordering a search of the royal archives. The original decree of King Cyrus is found, confirming that the Jews were indeed authorized to rebuild. What seemed uncertain and fragile was actually secure all along. While the builders faced discouragement and political pressure, God had already written provision into the record. He had not forgotten. When the temple is completed, the people celebrate with worship and sacrifice. Their joy is not just about a building — it is about restoration and the visible faithfulness of God. The chapter closes with Passover being celebrated again, a sign that worship and identity are being restored. Ezra 6 teaches that even when progress feels stalled, God sees, remembers, and acts at the right time.

Application: There are seasons when obedience feels unnoticed and progress feels slow. Ezra 6 reminds us that God is not absent in those seasons. He sees your faithfulness even when others question it. He sees the work you are doing even when recognition is missing. Sometimes God's answer is already in motion before we see results. While you are building quietly, God may be arranging things you cannot yet see. Delays do not mean God has forgotten you. This chapter also reminds us to celebrate when God answers. It is easy to focus on struggle and forget to rejoice when restoration comes. When God completes something He started in your life, pause and give thanks. You may not see the whole picture, but the God who sees certainly does.

Response:

- Why is the discovery of the original decree so important in this chapter?
- Why was it important for the people to celebrate after the temple was finished?
- What role does gratitude play in recognizing that God sees us?
- Why do we sometimes forget to celebrate answered prayer?
- What is an situation He has guided you through, a prayer He has answered, or a place He is still working in that you should praise God for today?

Wk 6 - Day 4: Acts 6

Explanation: Acts 6 opens with growth, the number of disciples is increasing. But with growth brings tension. A complaint arises because the widows of the Hellenistic (Greek-speaking) Jews were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food. Whether intentional or not, neglect was happening. This is important: God sees not only big miracles and sermons, He also sees overlooked people. The apostles respond wisely. They do not ignore the complaint, nor do they abandon their primary calling to preach and pray. Instead, they appoint seven men “full of the Spirit and wisdom” to oversee the practical need. Ministry to widows was not a small task; it was essential. In the Old Testament, widows represented the vulnerable and caring for them reflected God's heart. The solution shows that God values both the bold proclamation of His truth as well as the practical implications of it. The early church recognized that organization, fairness, and compassion were essential to the operation of God's Kingdom work. Among the seven is a man named Stephen. The chapter ends by describing him as “full of grace and power,” boldly speaking truth even as opposition rises. His face is described as being like the face of an angel, which was a sign of God's visible presence with him. God sees those who are overlooked, those who serve quietly, and those who stand courageously.

Application: Sometimes the most painful feeling is being overlooked. Maybe you've worked hard and felt unseen. Maybe you've served faithfully and felt unnoticed. Acts 6 reminds us that God sees what others miss. The widows may have been overlooked in the system, but they were not overlooked by God. He moved the church to correct the problem. This chapter also reminds us that serving behind the scenes matters. The men chosen were not apostles, they were faithful servants. Yet their obedience strengthened the church. God sees the quiet acts of service that hold everything together. It also challenges us to pay attention. Are there people around us who feel overlooked? Being part of God's kingdom means reflecting His heart by noticing those who others ignore. You may not be on a stage, you may not have a spotlight, but you are seen by the God who builds His church. As D.L. Moody once said, “There are many of us that are willing to do great things for the Lord; but few of us are willing to do little things.”

Response:

- What does this chapter teach us about our concern for the vulnerable?
- Why were men “full of the Spirit and wisdom” needed for a practical task like food distribution?
- Have you ever felt overlooked? How does this chapter speak to that experience?
- What might God be asking you to notice that others are ignoring?
- What are some little things or small areas that others might see as insignificant but God values?

Wk 6 - Day 5: Psalm 33

Explanation: Psalm 33 is a song of praise that celebrates God's power, authority, and watchful care. It begins with a call to rejoice and sing because the Lord's Word is upright and His work is done in faithfulness. The psalm reminds us that God created the world simply by speaking. His word formed the heavens. His breath filled them with life. This establishes something foundational: the God who sees us is the God who rules over everything. The psalm then contrasts human plans with God's purposes. "The Lord brings the counsel of the nations to nothing... but the counsel of the Lord stands forever." While nations strategize and leaders make plans, God's purposes cannot be overturned and His perspective is eternal. Then comes one of the most comforting sections: "The Lord looks down from heaven; He sees all the children of man." The word "sees" here carries the idea of attentive observation. God is not casually glancing at the world; He is actively watching. He understands hearts and He knows motivations. The psalm makes it clear that military strength, power, and human effort do not ultimately save. "A king is not saved by his great army." Real security comes from the Lord. The chapter ends with trust: "Our soul waits for the Lord; He is our help and our shield." Psalm 33 teaches that God sees everything and His faithful eyes are on those who hope in Him.

Application: In a world that feels unstable, Psalm 33 reminds us that God is not overwhelmed. He sees the headlines. He sees global conflict. He sees injustice. He sees uncertainty. But He also sees you. Sometimes we place our trust in systems, leaders, finances, or security. This psalm gently corrects that. True stability comes from trusting the One whose plans stand forever. It is comforting to know that God sees you personally — but it is also reassuring to know He sees the bigger picture. Nothing escapes His notice and nothing ever surprises Him. When life feels uncertain, this chapter invites us to wait, trust, and rest in the God who sees and reigns.

Response:

- What stands out to you about the way God's power is described?
- If God sees the full picture and we only see part, how should that shape our reactions to world events?
- What modern "armies" or sources of security do people rely on today?
- What does it look like to "hope in His steadfast love" in practical terms?

Week 7: “Our God Who Is Always Faithful”

Wk 7 - Day 1: Genesis 7

Explanation: Genesis 7 records the fulfillment of what God had promised in the previous chapter. God had warned Noah that judgment was coming, He had instructed him to build the ark, and now the moment has arrived. God was very patient and gave the world at least 120 years of opportunity to be saved, but the world refused Noah’s witness and rejected God’s grace. The chapter begins with God saying, “Go into the ark, you and all your household.” God didn’t just warn about coming judgment, He also provided a way to escape it. God’s faithfulness is seen not only in keeping His Word about consequences, but also in keeping His Word about rescue. The rain begins exactly as God said it would! The floodwaters rise exactly as God had described! Over and over, the chapter emphasizes that events happened according to God’s Word. This reminds us that what God says, He does! He always follows through!

Later we find that Noah and his family entered the ark, “and the Lord shut him in.” Noah had done his part, but God also did His. While Noah’s obedient preparation was important, his security and safety was not in his ability, but ultimately rested in God’s hands. If God were not the one in control of the situation, no amount of effort on Noah’s part would have made a difference. This chapter shows us both God’s justice and His faithfulness. He did not ignore sin, but He also did not forget His promise to preserve a remnant. The storm came, but so did God’s protection. His Word proved trustworthy in both judgment and salvation.

Application: God’s faithfulness is not selective. He is faithful in warning, faithful in disciplining, faithful in rescuing, and faithful in protecting. Sometimes we focus on the storm with the rain, the rising waters, and the destruction. But we must also see the ark. The same rain that brought judgment to the world brought deliverance to Noah. God did not promise Noah an easy season. He promised protection in the middle of it. There are seasons when life feels like rising waters. Circumstances feel overwhelming. Obedience may feel costly or isolating. Genesis 7 reminds us that when God calls you to obedience, He remains faithful to carry you through what He allows. And that small phrase, “the Lord shut him in,” is a reminder that your security ultimately rests in God’s hands, not your own. You may build in obedience, but God secures in faithfulness. Even when the storm is scary, remember God is steady!

Wk 7 - Day 2: Matthew 7

Explanation: Matthew 7 closes the Sermon on the Mount and brings Jesus’ teaching to a decisive point. After describing what kingdom life looks like, Jesus calls His listeners to respond. The central idea running through this chapter is that God’s Word is trustworthy and our response to it matters. The chapter opens with the well-known teaching, “Judge not, that you be not judged.” Jesus is not forbidding discernment, rather He is warning against hypocritical, self-righteous judgment. The imagery of a speck and a log makes the point clear, we are often blind to our own flaws while quick to critique others. God is faithful and just, and we must approach others with humility, remembering that we too live under His holy standard. Jesus then moves into a section about asking, seeking, and knocking. He reassures His followers that the Father gives good gifts to His children. The emphasis here is on the character of God. Earthly fathers, imperfect as they are, still give good things. How much more will our heavenly Father, who is perfect in all ways, give us what is good? Jesus is demonstrating God’s faithful generosity. Later, He speaks of the narrow gate and the wide gate, false prophets and true fruit. We see that personal faithfulness is revealed over time. Fruit does not appear instantly, but it eventually exposes what kind of tree something is. God’s faithfulness is steady and genuine faith produces visible results. The chapter closes with one of the strongest images in the Sermon on the Mount: the wise man and the foolish man. Both hear Jesus’ words. Both build houses. Both experience storms. The difference is the foundation. The wise man builds a sturdy faith by hearing and doing what God says. The foolish man builds a fragile faith that collapses under pressure because it listens without obeying. The storm reveals what was already true, that God’s Word is always faithful. The question is whether we build our lives on it or not?

Application: God’s faithfulness is not fragile. His Word stands whether we obey it or not. But our stability depends on whether we trust and act on what He says. It is easy to listen to sermons, read Scripture, or agree with biblical principles. It is harder to build our lives on them. Obedience is where faith moves from theory to trust. Storms will come, but when our lives are anchored to God’s faithful Word, we will stand firm and unmovable because God is faithful in what He teaches. Our part is to build accordingly. Faithfulness on God’s part calls for faithfulness on ours.

Response:

- How does Genesis 7 show that God is faithful even when judgment is involved?
- Why is it sometimes hard to see faithfulness during difficult seasons?
- What does this chapter teach about trusting God before the storm arrives?
- In what ways have you seen God’s faithfulness demonstrated in your life in the midst of negative situations?
- If Noah had waited until the rain started to obey, how might things have been different? What could this teach us?

Response:

- Why is it important to know the difference between discernment and judgment?
- What does fruit reveal about a person’s life over time? What are some fruits your life has produced and what does it reveal about you?
- How is it comforting to know that God’s Word does not shift with culture or opinion?
- If a storm hit your life today, would your faith still remain firm? And why or why not?
- What area of obedience feels most challenging right now?

Wk 7 - Day 3: Ezra 7

Explanation: There is a gap of fifty-seven years between the completion of the temple and the arrival of Ezra. Unfortunately, the people had lapsed into sin during this time. While the physical structure of the temple was completed, the spiritual health of the people still needed attention. God's people are badly in need of instruction, and of course their faithful God has not abandoned them in the desperate condition. He prompts Ezra to begin the task of bringing the people back to the Lord. Ezra is described as "a scribe skilled in the Law of Moses." The word "skilled" carries the idea of being ready, quick, or diligent. Ezra was not casually familiar with Scripture, he was deeply trained and devoted to it. More importantly, verse 10 tells us the key to his life: "Ezra had set his heart to study the Law of the Lord, and to do it, and to teach His statutes." That order matters. He studied it, obeyed it, and then taught it. Ezra was a gifted man, but he could do nothing unless God was with Him. The chapter repeatedly states that "the hand of the Lord his God was upon him." This phrase signals God's active, favor and guidance in his life and those traveling with him. Ezra's journey from Persia to Jerusalem, his protection, and the king's generous decree were not coincidence, God was continually and faithfully working in his life. Ezra 7 shows us that God was not only restoring a city, He was restoring a people, and He remained faithful to guide every step of the process.

Application: God's faithfulness often shows up in quiet consistency. The temple was built, but God was not done. Sometimes we think once one prayer is answered or one milestone reached, the work is finished. God is faithful not only to build what can be seen, but to renew what cannot. Ezra's example is deeply practical. He set his heart to know God's Word, live it, and share it. It's important to understand that the influence we have is the fruit of faithfulness, but preparation is the root of it. Before Ezra ever stood before the people, he was rooted in Scripture. Before God uses us publicly, He must develop us privately. The repeated phrase "the hand of the Lord was upon him" is a reminder that success is not self-made. When God's hand is on your life, He opens doors you could not open yourself. God is faithful not only to fulfill big promises, but to guide daily steps as we walk closely with Him.

Response:

- Why is it comforting that God moves hearts and circumstances beyond our control?
- Where have you seen God's "hand" guiding your life?
- What does it look like today to "set your heart" to study and obey God's Word?
- Who are some people God has used in the past to share His instruction, encouragement, and provisions when you needed help for your journey?

Wk 7 - Day 4: Acts 7

Explanation: Acts 7 records Stephen's speech before the Sanhedrin. Accused of speaking against the temple and the law, Stephen responds not with self-defense, but with a sweeping overview of Israel's history. His message highlights one consistent and powerful truth: God has always been faithful, even when His people have not. Stephen begins with Abraham. God called him, promised him land, and began a covenant even before Abraham owned any of it. God's faithfulness started the story. He then moves to Joseph, who was rejected by his brothers, yet God was with him in Egypt. Though betrayed and forgotten, Joseph's suffering became the means of preserving many lives. Then Stephen recounts Moses. Though called by God, Moses was initially rejected by the people he was sent to deliver. Yet God did not abandon His plan. Through signs, wonders, and patience, God remained faithful to bring Israel out of Egypt. Stephen emphasizes a repeated theme: God's chosen servants are often rejected, but God remains faithful to His purpose through it all.

Stephen's speech exposes a pattern: God sends deliverers, the people resist them, yet God continues working. Even the tabernacle and temple were reminders that God's presence was never confined to a building. His faithfulness transcends structures. The chapter climaxes with Stephen boldly confronting his audience, saying they have resisted the Holy Spirit just as their ancestors did. Enraged by his message, they then begin to stone him. But in his final moments, he sees Jesus standing at the right hand of God, a powerful image of divine faithfulness. As he dies, he echoes Jesus' words, asking God to forgive his killers. Stephen's deep trust in God's faithfulness led him to respond with remarkable faithfulness of his own.

Application: Remember that God's faithfulness does not depend on human consistency. Throughout history, God has remained steady and constant, even when His people have not. That truth is both humbling and comforting. It is humbling because we often see ourselves in the pattern Stephen describes. We can resist correction, ignore God's direction, or cling to comfort over obedience. Yet God does not abandon His purposes. It is comforting because even when circumstances look like rejection or defeat, God is still at work. Joseph was rejected. Moses was doubted. Stephen was killed. But God's plan did not fail! We should remember that faithfulness from God does not always mean ease for us! Sometimes obedience leads to difficulty. But God's purposes remain unshaken. Even in suffering, Stephen witnesses the presence of Jesus, a reminder that God is never absent in the midst of our hardest moments. Our God is always faithful, both in calling, in patience, in promise, and in presence. This realization ought to inspire us, like it did Stephen, to live faithfully, speak boldly, and suffer willingly for the cause of Christ.

Response:

- What repeated pattern do you notice in Israel's response to God's chosen leaders? What does this pattern possibly reveal about how we often respond to God's ways?
- Why is it encouraging that God continues working even when people resist Him?
- If God has been faithful to you, what does faithfulness from you look like in return?
- How can remembering God's faithfulness help us speak truth with confidence?
- Where is God calling you to remain faithful even if it costs you something?

Wk 7 - Day 5: Psalm 46

Explanation: Psalm 46 is a song of confidence in the middle of chaos. It opens with one of the most well-known declarations in Scripture: “God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.” The word refuge refers to a safe shelter, a place of protection in danger. Strength suggests not only protection but sustaining power. And the phrase “very present” carries the idea of being found, available, and close at hand. God is not distant in crisis, He is near! The psalm describes dramatic instability such as the earth giving way, mountains falling into the sea, waters roaring and foaming. These are images of the most secure parts of creation collapsing. Yet the response is bold: “Therefore we will not fear.” Why? Because God is faithful even when everything else is in turmoil. In contrast to roaring waters, verse 4 describes a calm river whose streams make glad the city of God. While the world shakes, God’s presence brings steady peace. The phrase “God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved” emphasizes that security comes from His presence. The psalm then shifts to nations raging and kingdoms collapsing into political and social upheaval. Yet with a single voice, God “utters His voice, the earth melts.” His authority stands above our human conflict. The psalm closes with the command: “Be still, and know that I am God.” “Be still” can mean to stop striving, to let go, or to cease fighting. It is a call to surrender control and trust God’s sovereignty. The Psalmist celebrates the truth that God’s faithfulness is not dependent on calm circumstances. He is steady when everything else shakes.

Application: Psalm 46 meets us in anxious moments. We all experience “earthquake” seasons, unexpected loss, instability, conflict, and uncertainty. This psalm does not deny chaos; it speaks directly into it. God does not promise the absence of trouble. He promises His presence in it. When everything around you feels unstable, you need something unshakable. God is that refuge. “Be still” challenges our instinct to control, fix, or panic. Sometimes faithfulness looks like action. Sometimes it looks like trust. When we choose to stop striving and acknowledge that God is God, we declare that His faithfulness is greater than our fear. God is not only faithful when life is peaceful. He is faithful in the storm, in the shaking, and in the silence.

Response:

- If fear reveals what we trust most, what do your fears say about your foundation?
- How does constant exposure to political news affect your sense of peace and stability?
- When headlines create fear and outrage or you see cultural or political shifts you disagree with, in what ways does Psalm 46 help guide your response?
- Why is it often harder to be still than to act? What does “be still” practically look like in your life?
- What feels unstable in your life right now? How can you anchor yourself in God’s faithfulness this week?

Week 8: “Our God Who Remembers Us”

Wk 8 - Day 1: Genesis 8

Explanation: At the center of Genesis 8 is a single sentence that changes everything: “But God remembered Noah.” That word remembered does not mean that God forgot and suddenly recalled Noah’s existence. In the Bible, when God “remembers,” it means He turns His attention toward someone in order to act on their behalf. It is covenant language. It signals movement, intervention, and mercy. For months, the floodwaters had covered the earth. Noah and his family were confined inside the ark, surrounded by uncertainty. There are no recorded words from Noah during this time, just waiting. Then comes the turning point: God remembered. God sends a wind over the earth, and the waters begin to recede. The same God who sent judgment now begins restoration and slowly, patiently, the earth dries.

This chapter highlights God’s timing. The waters rise in Genesis 7, but they recede gradually in Genesis 8. God’s remembering does not always mean immediate resolution, it means faithful movement toward fulfillment. When Noah finally exits the ark, his first act is worship. He builds an altar and offers sacrifice to the Lord. God responds with a promise. While the earth may still have been broken, God declared continuity and faithfulness. Genesis 8 teaches us that God’s remembering is not a mental recall but a faithful decision to move on behalf of His people! Praise the Lord for our Lord, who never forgets His own!

Application: There are seasons in life that feel like the inside of the ark, confined, uncertain, and quiet. You may be waiting for change, relief, or clarity. Genesis 8 speaks directly into those seasons. God does not forget His people. Just because the rain has not stopped yet does not mean He is unaware. Just because the door is still closed does not mean He has abandoned you. When Scripture says “God remembered,” it means He was already working. Sometimes we measure God’s care by His speed, but Genesis 8 shows that God’s remembering often unfolds gradually. The waters did not disappear overnight. Restoration took time. If you are in a waiting season, remember this: delay is not neglect and silence is not absence. God remembers and when He moves, it is always purposeful. Your role, like Noah’s, may simply be faithful waiting and worship when the door finally opens!

Wk 8 - Day 2: Matthew 8

Explanation: Matthew 8 moves from Jesus’ teaching to His action. After the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus demonstrates His authority through healing, deliverance, and power over nature. This chapter shows us that Jesus does not overlook suffering, rather, He sees it and responds to it! The chapter begins with a leper approaching Jesus. In that culture, lepers were isolated, unclean, and socially rejected. Yet Jesus does something radical, He touches him. Before the healing even happens, there is compassion. The leper says, “If you are willing, you can make me clean.” Jesus replies, “I am willing.” That statement reflects not only power but heart. God remembers the outcast. Next, a Roman centurion, a Gentile and an unlikely candidate for faith, asks Jesus to heal his servant. Jesus marvels at his faith and heals from a distance. This moment shows that God’s remembering is not limited by nationality, status, or proximity. He sees faith and responds to it wherever it is found. Peter’s mother-in-law is healed. Many who are demon-possessed are delivered. Then comes the storm on the sea. In this moment we find the The disciples panicking while Jesus sleeps. They cry, “Lord, save us,” and He calms the wind and waves with a word. We see that the same authority that heals disease commands nature. When chaos surrounds them, Jesus is still present. Matthew 8 shows that whether the storm is physical, spiritual, or emotional, Jesus is not unaware. He sees, He remembers, and He acts.

Application: We can sometimes fall into the trap of feeling as though Jesus is unwilling to give us what we want, even unwilling to answer us, but this passage clearly shows us that this is not true of His character. Jesus is willing to help us, just like he helped the leper, the centurion, the possessed, and His disciples.. Each situation is different, but in every case Jesus responds. That is the heart of God. Sometimes we assume God remembers others but not us. We think our need is too small, too needy, or too complicated. But Matthew 8 shows that no situation is beneath His attention. If you are feeling overlooked, afraid, or uncertain, this chapter reminds you that Jesus sees you. There may be areas in your life where the Lord seems to be withholding something you want, but consider that it may be God’s way of giving you something better, teaching you something new, or drawing you to himself. It’s not that He’s unwilling or has forgotten, but rather His way of working toward a higher purpose!

Response:

- What stands out to you about Noah’s first action after leaving the ark?
- Why do you think making sure to praise the Lord after catastrophe is so important?
- Have you ever experienced a season where you felt forgotten? What did you learn about God through that experience?
- If you fully believed God remembers you right now, how would that change your anxiety, prayer life, or patience?

Response:

- Is there anything you are asking God for that He seems unwilling to give? What better thing might He be trying to give you or teach you?
- What does the centurion’s faith teach about trust and humility?
- Why do we sometimes panic even when we know Jesus is near?
- If Jesus responded personally to every need in this chapter, what does that suggest about how He views your needs?

Wk 8 - Day 3: Ezra 8

Explanation: Ezra 8 records the journey from Babylon back to Jerusalem. Unlike earlier chapters that focus on kings and decrees, this chapter centers on preparation, prayer, and trust. Ezra gathers families to return with him, but he notices something missing, no Levites are present. The Levites were responsible for assisting in temple worship. Instead of ignoring the problem, Ezra pauses and sends for the right people. This detail shows careful leadership and dependence on God's order. Before beginning the journey, Ezra proclaims a fast at the river Ahava. Why? Because the road ahead is dangerous. The group is carrying silver and gold for the temple, a tempting target for bandits. Yet Ezra refuses to request a military escort from the king. He had already told the king that "the hand of our God is for good on all who seek Him." To ask for soldiers now might appear inconsistent with that confession of trust. Instead, they fast and pray. Verse 23 says, "So we fasted and implored our God for this, and He listened to our entreaty." It's a reminder that when God's people seek Him, He faithfully moves on their behalf. The journey takes about four months. They arrive safely in Jerusalem, and the treasures are weighed carefully. The people of Israel are remembered by Almighty God, who guarded them on their journey and delivered them to safety, and he does the same for us too!

Application: Ezra 8 teaches us what it looks like to trust God in uncertain seasons. There are times when the road ahead feels risky. You may be stepping into something new, carrying responsibility, or facing unknown challenges. Ezra models preparation and prayer before movement. It is significant that Ezra fasted. Fasting is a physical way of expressing spiritual dependence. It says, "We need God more than we need comfort." Sometimes remembering that God remembers us requires slowing down long enough to seek Him intentionally. This chapter also shows the balance between trust and responsibility. They prayed for protection and they carefully weighed the treasures upon arrival. Faith does not cancel wisdom and accountability. God's remembering does not remove the journey, It sustains it. If you are walking through something uncertain, this chapter reminds you that you are not traveling alone. The hand of God still rests on those who seek Him!

Response:

- Why do you think Ezra was careful to notice the absence of the Levites before moving forward?
- When facing uncertainty, what tends to be your first instinct — planning, worrying, asking for help, or praying?
- Is there any major decision that you need to be more intentional about praying, fasting, and seeking the Lord over?
- How does fasting challenge our culture of comfort and self-reliance?

Wk 8 - Day 4: Acts 8

Explanation: Acts 8 begins in the shadow of Stephen's death. Persecution breaks out against the church in Jerusalem, and believers are scattered throughout Judea and Samaria. At first glance, it looks like tragedy and setback. But what appears to be disruption becomes divine direction. Jesus had told His followers in Acts 1:8 that they would be His witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. Now, through persecution, that promise begins to unfold. God had not forgotten His mission. He was moving it forward. Philip goes to Samaria and proclaims Christ. Samaritans, long despised and culturally distant from Jews, respond with joy. This demonstrates how the gospel crosses social and ethnic boundaries. This is also an example of how God remembers not just one group of people, but all.

Later in the chapter, Philip is directed by an angel to go to a desert road. This seems inefficient, but on that road is an Ethiopian official reading from the writings of Isaiah. The Spirit tells Philip to approach the chariot, giving him the opportunity to explain the Scripture, lead the man to conversion, and even see him baptized. Acts 8 shows us a church that is forced out of its comfort zone and into its calling. What began as persecution becomes expansion. What looked like scattering becomes sowing. The gospel moves beyond familiar borders and into unexpected places. God's purposes are not fragile. They do not collapse under pressure. They spread. The story moves forward — sometimes through hardship, sometimes through detours, but always toward His greater design.

Application: Acts 8 reminds us that what feels like disruption may actually be redirection. Persecution forced the church to move, but it also spread the gospel. Sometimes the seasons we would never choose become the ones God uses most powerfully. This chapter also speaks to personal worth. In the middle of large movements, God notices one Ethiopian official reading Scripture. He arranges a meeting. He answers questions. He brings clarity. That is the heart of God. You may feel like just one person in a large world, but God sees us personally and individually. He sees your questions, your searching, your confusion. You are never just a face or another number in God's family! This account also challenges us to be willing to respond obediently when God's Spirit moves in our hearts. Sometimes following His will means leaving what feels productive to follow His quiet direction. God's remembering does not always look like comfort. Sometimes it looks like movement, change, and unexpected opportunity! Are you ready for what God has for you next?

Response:

- Why do you think God chose persecution as a tool to scatter the church?
- Why is it significant that the gospel reaches both Samaritans and an Ethiopian official? How might this challenge us to consider the people we are willing to witness to?
- Where might God be redirecting you right now?
- Who is someone in your life who might be spiritually searching like the Ethiopian official?
- Why do we sometimes hesitate when God opens a door? What are some of the barriers that keep us from seizing the opportunities God puts before us?

Wk 8 - Day 5: Psalm 8

Explanation: Psalm 8 is a song of wonder. It begins and ends with the same declaration: “O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is Your name in all the earth!” This repetition frames the entire psalm with praise. The psalmist looks upward at the heavens, the moon, and the stars and is overwhelmed by the greatness of God’s creation. The word “majestic” speaks of glory, weight, and honor. God’s name carries authority over all creation. Yet in the middle of that cosmic perspective comes a deeply personal question: “What is man that You are mindful of him, and the son of man that You care for him?” The phrase “mindful” carries the idea that we have seen all throughout this week of remembering, paying attention to, or taking notice of. David stands beneath the vast sky and asks: Why would a God this great pay attention to someone this small? The answer is astonishing. Humanity is crowned “with glory and honor” and given stewardship over creation. Though small compared to the universe, humans are given dignity and responsibility. Psalm 8 reveals to us both humility and worth as we consider that we are not the center of the universe, but yet we are still deeply valued within it.

Application: When we feel insignificant, this psalm reminds us that God is mindful of us. You are not an accident. You are not overlooked. The Creator of the stars has given you dignity and purpose. When we feel self-important, this psalm humbles us. The universe does not revolve around us. Our value is a gift, not an achievement. It also challenges how we view responsibility. Being “crowned with glory and honor” means our lives matter. How we live, steward, and reflect God matters. Psalm 8 invites us to live in awe — not anxiety. In humility — not comparison. In gratitude — not self-exaltation. The God who formed the heavens has chosen to be mindful of you.

Response:

- What does it mean that God is “mindful” of humanity?
- How does this truth challenge feelings of insignificance?
How does it challenge pride?
- How should knowing our dignity shape the way we treat others?
- Where do you most struggle — with feeling too small or too self-reliant?
Why?
- What practical step can you take to live with greater gratitude this week?

Week 9: “Our God Who Forgives Our Sins”

Wk 9 - Day 1: Genesis 9

Explanation: Genesis 9 marks a new beginning after the flood. God blesses Noah and repeats the command to “be fruitful and multiply,” echoing Genesis 1 and showing that His purposes for humanity continue despite sin and judgment. God then establishes a covenant which was a binding, one-sided promise rooted in His faithfulness, not human performance. This covenant extends beyond Noah to all living creatures and future generations, with the promise that He will never again destroy the earth by flood. The sign is the rainbow. The Hebrew word *qeshet* (“bow”) is the same word for a weapon, and the image is powerful, God sets His bow in the sky, symbolizing that His judgment is restrained. It is a visible reminder of His mercy and His commitment. Yet the chapter takes a sobering turn when Noah becomes drunk, and his son Ham responds with dishonor, while Shem and Japheth respond with respect. This moment reveals that sin still remains in the human heart. A new world did not produce a new nature. Genesis 9 holds together both mercy and reality. God promises preservation, but the need for forgiveness still remains. The flood cleansed the earth, but not the heart, which pointed forward to the deeper transformation only God could provide.

Application: Genesis 9 speaks directly into how we view failure, forgiveness, and new beginnings. First, it reminds us that God’s mercy meets us after failure. Noah had walked with God and obeyed faithfully, yet he still fell. This should humble us. No matter how strong we think we are, we are still capable of stumbling. But it should also encourage us, that God does not discard people because of their failures. Second, it shows us that outward change is not enough. We often think, “If my circumstances were different, I’d do better.” But Noah’s story proves that even in a fresh environment, the same heart struggles remain. What we need is not just a new situation, we need forgiveness and transformation from within. Third, the rainbow reminds us that God’s mercy is not fragile. It is consistent. Even knowing humanity’s ongoing sinfulness, God still commits Himself to His people. His faithfulness is not based on our perfection, but His own!

- What does Noah’s story teach about the persistence of sin?
- What does the rainbow teach us about God’s mercy?
- Why is a “new beginning” not enough to solve our deepest problem?
- What does it mean that God’s promise is not based on human performance?
- How has God shown you mercy even when you didn’t deserve it?

Wk 9 - Day 2: Matthew 9

Explanation: Matthew 9 is a powerful display of Jesus’ authority, not just to heal bodies, but to forgive sins and restore lives. The chapter begins with a paralyzed man brought to Jesus. Instead of addressing his physical condition first, Jesus says, “**Take heart, my son; your sins are forgiven.**” Christ. This is a shocking moment. The religious leaders immediately accuse Jesus of blasphemy because only God can forgive sins. And they are right, only God can. That is exactly the point Jesus is making. He is not just a teacher or healer; He is God in the flesh with authority over sin itself. The chapter continues with a series of encounters that reveal the heart of Jesus. He calls Matthew, a tax collector who was someone viewed as corrupt and rejected by society. Jesus then eats with sinners, which draws criticism from religious leaders. His response is striking: “**Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick... I desire mercy, not sacrifice.**” The word *mercy* here carries the idea of compassion toward the undeserving. Jesus is emphasizing that God’s heart is not drawn to outward religious performance but to humble, broken people who recognize their need. Throughout the rest of the chapter, Jesus heals a woman who had been suffering for twelve years, raises a young girl from death, gives sight to the blind, and restores a man who could not speak. Each story highlights the same truth — Jesus moves toward the broken, not away from them. The chapter ends with Jesus looking at the crowds and feeling compassion. The word used means to be deeply moved, even in the gut. He sees people as “harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.” This is the heart of God toward humanity — not disgust, but compassion.

- How does Jesus redefine who is “worthy” of grace?
- What does “I desire mercy, not sacrifice” mean in practical terms?
- How does the Lord’s compassion change the way we interact with others?
- How can you grow in showing mercy instead of judgment this week?
- Where do you see “performance-based faith” in today’s culture?

Application: Matthew 9 reshapes how we think about forgiveness, both receiving it and living it out. We often focus on what is visible, whether it’s our circumstances, struggles, or outward needs, but Jesus consistently moves deeper. The paralytic came needing physical healing, yet Jesus addressed his sin. In the same way, our greatest need is not external change, but internal forgiveness and restoration. This chapter also challenges the idea that we must clean ourselves up before coming to God. The people Jesus called and helped were not the polished or put-together, they were broken, overlooked, and often rejected. That is exactly who Jesus moved toward. Grace meets us where we are, not where we pretend to be. At the same time, this passage confronts empty religion. The Pharisees were focused on appearances and rules, yet they missed the heart of God. It is possible to know the right things and still lack mercy. Jesus makes it clear that what matters most is a heart that reflects His compassion. Forgiveness is not just something we receive, it changes how we live and how we love.

Wk 9 - Day 3: Ezra 9

Explanation: Ezra 9 reveals a moment of deep spiritual failure. After returning from exile, an act of God's mercy, the people once again drift into disobedience by compromising with surrounding nations. This was not just cultural, but spiritual, pulling their hearts away from God. Ezra's response is immediate and intense. He tears his garments, sits in shock, and prays with humility. He confesses the sin openly, saying, "I am ashamed to lift my face to You." This reflects true repentance, not just regret over consequences, but grief over sin itself. What stands out is that Ezra includes himself in the confession. He does not distance himself but identifies with the people. Ezra also acknowledges God's grace. He recounts how God had given them "a little reviving" after exile, which was a small but meaningful restoration. The fact that they had a temple and a place in Jerusalem was not something they earned; it was mercy. That is what makes their sin more serious, they were turning away after experiencing grace. This chapter shows us the difference between surface-level guilt and true repentance. Ezra is not trying to excuse sin or minimize it. He brings it fully into the light.

Application: Ezra 9 challenges how seriously we take sin and how honestly we bring it before God. In a culture that often minimizes or redefines sin, this chapter calls us back to clarity. Sin is not just a mistake or a bad habit, it is a turning away from God. When we lose sight of that, we also lose our understanding of grace. At the same time, Ezra models a healthy response. His sorrow is not rooted in self-hatred, but in a recognition of God's holiness and goodness. This is what Scripture calls godly sorrow, a grief that leads us back to God rather than away from Him. It also challenges our tendency to distance ourselves from sin. Ezra does not say "they have sinned" — he says "we have sinned." There is humility in recognizing that we are not above failure. This kind of posture keeps our hearts soft and dependent on God's mercy. Confession is not about staying stuck in guilt. It is about bringing sin into the light so that healing can begin. When we are honest before God, we make room for His forgiveness to work deeply in us. Ezra 9 reminds us that forgiveness is not something we take lightly, but it is something we desperately need.

- *What is the difference between feeling guilty and experiencing true repentance?*
- *Why do people tend to minimize or justify sin?*
- *How does understanding God's holiness change how we view sin?*
- *Why is it difficult to be completely honest with God about our sin?*
- *Where in your life might you be minimizing something God is calling you to address?*

Wk 9 - Day 4: Acts 9

Explanation: Acts 9 records one of the most dramatic transformations in Scripture. Saul, a fierce persecutor of Christians, is traveling to arrest believers when he is suddenly confronted by Jesus. A light from heaven stops him, and he hears the words, "**Why are you persecuting Me?**" This moment reveals something profound, to oppose God's people is to oppose God Himself. In that moment, Saul realizes he has been opposing the very God he thought he was serving. Saul is struck blind and led into Damascus, where he waits for three days without sight, food, or direction. This pause is significant. It is a moment of humbling and surrender, where Saul's confidence in himself is stripped away and he is forced to depend completely on God. God then calls Ananias to go to Saul. Understandably, Ananias hesitates because of Saul's reputation. But God makes it clear: Saul is a "chosen instrument." This shows that God's calling is not based on a person's past, but on His purpose. When Ananias obeys, Saul's sight is restored, he is baptized, and immediately begins proclaiming Jesus. The one who once tried to destroy the church is now building it. The transformation is not gradual behavior change, it is a complete redirection of life. Acts 9 shows that forgiveness is not just about removing guilt, it is about reshaping your identity and purpose.

Application: Acts 9 reminds us that no one is beyond the reach of God's grace. Saul's story confronts the belief that certain people are too far gone. His past was not just flawed — it was actively opposed to God. Yet grace met him there. This means that no failure, no sin, and no past disqualifies someone from being forgiven and used by God. This chapter also challenges how we view others. Ananias had to trust that God's grace was real in someone he feared. We often label people by their worst moments, but God sees what they can become through His grace. Forgiveness does not just change our past, it gives us a new direction. God does not simply erase sin; He repurposes lives.

- *Why do people sometimes feel like they are beyond forgiveness?*
- *What would you have thought if you were Ananias? Would you have trusted Saul's change?*
- *Who in your life might be difficult to believe could change?*
- *How can we guard against defining people by their past?*
- *Where have you experienced God's transforming grace in your life?*

OUR MIGHTY

2026 BIBLE READING GUIDE

God

Wk 9 - Day 5: Psalm 32

Explanation: Psalm 32 is a reflection from David on the joy and freedom of forgiveness. It begins with a declaration: **“Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.”** The word *blessed* speaks of deep, lasting joy, not based on circumstances, but on being made right with God. David uses multiple words for sin (transgression, sin, and iniquity), each pointing to different aspects of rebellion against God. Yet he also describes what God does with sin: He forgives it, covers it, and does not count it against us. This is a complete removal of guilt. David then contrasts two experiences. When he kept silent about his sin, he describes feeling physically and emotionally drained when he says, “my bones wasted away... my strength was dried up.” Unconfessed sin weighed heavily on him. But when he confessed, everything changed: **“I acknowledged my sin... and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.”** The psalm then shifts from personal testimony to instruction. David encourages others to turn to God while He may be found. He describes God as a hiding place, not from Him, but in Him. The chapter ends with a call to rejoice, showing that forgiveness leads to restored joy.

Application: Psalm 32 reminds us that hidden sin leads to heaviness, but confessed sin leads to freedom. Many people carry guilt longer than they need to because they avoid bringing it fully before God. We may hide it, minimize it, or try to move past it without addressing it. But this psalm shows that silence only deepens the burden. Confession is not about earning forgiveness — it is about agreeing with God and bringing sin into the light. When we do, God responds with grace. He does not partially forgive or hold it over us; He removes it completely. This chapter also reminds us that forgiveness is meant to produce joy. If we continue to live in shame after being forgiven, we are not fully embracing what God has done. God does not just forgive to clear a record, He forgives to restore a relationship and renew our joy.

- *Why do people tend to hide or delay dealing with sin?*
- *Why do we sometimes hold onto guilt even after being forgiven?*
- *What does it mean that God becomes a “hiding place”?*
- *Is there anything in your life you have been avoiding bringing to God?*
- *How has unconfessed sin affected you emotionally and spiritually?*

Week 10: “Our God Who Unites Us”

Wk 10 - Day 1: Genesis 10

Explanation: Genesis 10 is often called the “Table of Nations.” At first glance, it reads like a long list of names and genealogies, but it carries deep significance. This chapter traces the descendants of Noah’s three sons — Shem, Ham, and Japheth — and shows how the nations of the earth were formed after the flood. The repeated emphasis throughout the chapter is on families, languages, lands, and nations. Humanity begins to spread across the earth, forming distinct groups with unique identities. What may seem like division is actually part of God’s design to fill the earth, just as He commanded. The word “nations” (Hebrew: *goyim*) refers to people groups which were communities with shared language, culture, and identity. This chapter shows that diversity among people is not accidental. It is part of how God structured humanity. At the center of the chapter is Nimrod, described as a “mighty man” and a powerful ruler. His kingdom includes Babel, which sets the stage for Genesis 11 and the story of the Tower of Babel. This hints that while humanity spreads, unity can also be misused when it is centered on human pride rather than God. Genesis 10 shows both diversity and connection. Though people are scattered into different nations, they all come from the same source. Humanity is divided geographically, but still united in origin.

Application: Genesis 10 reminds us that unity does not mean sameness. God created a world full of different people, cultures, and backgrounds. Diversity is not something to fear, it is something God designed. Yet even in diversity, there is a shared identity. Every person ultimately comes from the same human family. In today’s world, differences often lead to division — whether cultural, racial, social, or political. But this chapter reminds us that beneath those differences, we are connected. At the same time, it challenges us to think about what unites us. True unity is not built on power, control, or uniformity, it is rooted in God. This chapter invites us to see people not as “other,” but as part of a bigger story that God is writing, one that ultimately brings people together.

- *Why do you think Scripture includes a detailed list of nations and families?*
- *Why do differences often lead to division instead of unity?*
- *How can we celebrate diversity without losing unity?*
- *How does Genesis 10 show that God’s plan includes all people groups?*
- *Why is it important to remember that all people share a common origin?*

Wk 10 - Day 2: Matthew 10

Explanation: Matthew 10 records Jesus sending out His twelve disciples on mission. He gives them authority to heal, cast out demons, and proclaim that “the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” This is the first time they are sent out together, not just as followers, but as representatives. What is striking is who Jesus sends. The list includes fishermen, a tax collector (Matthew), and even Simon the Zealot, a political extremist. These men would not naturally associate with one another. Yet Jesus brings them together and unites them around a shared calling. Their unity is not based on background, personality, or agreement on everything, it is rooted in their connection to Jesus and their mission from Him. Jesus also prepares them for reality. He tells them they will face rejection, opposition, and even division. Families may be divided. Some will accept the message, others will reject it. This shows that following Jesus creates a deeper unity among believers, even when it causes tension elsewhere. He instructs them to depend on God, not on material provision, and to focus on faithfulness rather than results. Their job is to go, speak, and trust God with the outcome. Matthew 10 shows that true unity is not the absence of conflict, it is shared purpose under Christ.

Application: Matthew 10 reminds us that unity is found in mission. The disciples were very different, yet Jesus brought them together for a common purpose. In the same way, the church today is made up of people with different backgrounds, personalities, and perspectives. What unites us is not similarity — it is Jesus. This chapter also challenges our expectations. We often think unity means everyone agrees or gets along perfectly. But Jesus makes it clear that following Him can actually create tension with those who refuse to receive his message. True unity is deeper than comfort, it is commitment to Christ. It also calls us to focus on faithfulness. The disciples were not responsible for how people responded, only for being obedient. In a world that measures success by results, God measures it by faithfulness. Unity grows when we are focused on the same mission, trusting the same God, and moving in the same direction.

- *What does this chapter teach about what truly unites believers?*
- *Why is unity often difficult even among people with the same faith?*
- *Why does Jesus focus more on faithfulness than results?*
- *If the church focused more on mission than preference, how might it change relationships?*
- *Where might you be tempted to prioritize your preference over unity?*

Wk 10 - Day 3: Ezra 10

Explanation: Ezra 10 continues directly from the sorrow and confession of Ezra 9. What began as grief over sin now moves into action. As Ezra prays and weeps, a crowd gathers, and the people begin to recognize the seriousness of their disobedience. A leader named Shecaniah speaks up and acknowledges that the people have been unfaithful, but also expresses hope: **“Yet now there is hope for Israel in spite of this.”** That statement is key. Even in failure, restoration is possible. The people make a covenant to turn from their sin. This involves separating from foreign wives and practices that had drawn them away from God. While this is a difficult and often challenging part of the passage, the central issue is not ethnicity, it is spiritual compromise. The concern is about protecting devotion to God and restoring the people’s identity as His covenant community. The process is not rushed. It takes time, accountability, and careful examination. This shows that real repentance is not just emotional, it leads to intentional change. Ezra 10 highlights a hard but important truth: unity with God must come before unity with others. When the people realign themselves with God, it restores the foundation for true unity among them.

Application: Ezra 10 reminds us that unity is not built on ignoring problems, it is built on addressing them honestly. We often think unity means avoiding difficult conversations or keeping peace at all costs. But this chapter shows that real unity sometimes requires correction, repentance, and change. Without dealing with what is broken, unity becomes shallow and temporary. This passage also teaches that shared commitment to God creates stronger unity than shared comfort. The people came together not because it was easy, but because they were willing to pursue what was right. At the same time, this chapter calls for humility. The people did not defend themselves or shift blame — they owned their sin and moved toward restoration together. Unity grows when people are willing to be honest, take responsibility, and pursue God above everything else.

- *Why is it difficult to address problems instead of avoiding them?*
- *What is the danger of trying to maintain unity without dealing with sin?*
- *Can unity exist without truth? Why or why not?*
- *How can you pursue unity without compromising what is right?*
- *What would it look like to align your life more closely with God this week?*

Wk 10 - Day 4: Acts 10

Explanation: Acts 10 marks a major turning point in the early church. Up to this point, the gospel had primarily spread among Jewish people. But in this chapter, God makes it clear that His plan includes all nations. The story centers on two men: Cornelius and Peter. Cornelius is a Roman centurion (a Gentile) described as devout and God-fearing. One day, he receives a vision from an angel telling him to send for Peter. At the same time, Peter has a vision of a sheet filled with animals that were considered unclean under Jewish law. A voice tells him to eat, but Peter resists, saying he has never eaten anything unclean. The response comes: **“What God has made clean, do not call common.”** This vision is not ultimately about food, it is about people. God is redefining Peter’s understanding of who belongs. When Peter arrives at Cornelius’ house, he says something remarkable: **“God shows no partiality.”** This is a breakthrough moment. Peter realizes that the gospel is not limited by ethnicity, culture, or background. As Peter shares the message of Jesus, the Holy Spirit falls on the Gentiles just as it had on Jewish believers. This confirms that God is uniting people through the same grace, not separating them by differences. Acts 10 shows that the barrier between groups is removed through Christ. What once divided is now brought together.

Application: Acts 10 challenges how we see people. We all have categories, assumptions, and boundaries — whether cultural, social, or personal. Sometimes we don’t even realize them. But this chapter reminds us that God does not show favoritism. He does not value one group over another. Unity in God’s kingdom is not based on similarity, it is based on grace. This also means we must be willing to let God reshape our thinking. Peter had to unlearn deeply held beliefs in order to align with God’s heart. In the same way, we may need to examine our own attitudes and ask if they reflect God’s view of people. Finally, this chapter shows that unity is not something we create, it is something God establishes. Our role is to recognize it, embrace it, and live it out. God brings people together who would not naturally come together and He does it through the gospel.

- *What does it mean that “God shows no partiality”?*
- *What does it mean that “God shows no partiality”? How does the gospel break down those divisions?*
- *Why is it sometimes difficult to let God reshape our thinking?*
- *How can you reflect God’s heart toward people who are different from you?*

OUR MIGHTY

2026 BIBLE READING GUIDE

God

Wk 10 - Day 5: Psalm 133

Explanation: Psalm 133 is a short but powerful song of David that celebrates the beauty of unity among God's people. It begins with the well-known words: "Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity!" The word *good* speaks of what is morally right and pleasing to God, while *pleasant* refers to something enjoyable and refreshing. Unity is not just beneficial, it is something God delights in. David then gives two vivid images. The first is oil being poured on Aaron's head, running down his beard and onto his garments. This refers to the anointing of the high priest. The oil symbolized consecration, blessing, and God's presence. The image shows unity as something sacred, set apart, and flowing from the top down, something initiated by God. The second image is the dew of Mount Hermon falling on the mountains of Zion. Hermon was known for its heavy dew, which brought life and refreshment to dry land. This picture shows unity as life-giving, renewing, and sustaining. The psalm ends with a powerful statement: **"For there the Lord has commanded the blessing, life forevermore."** Unity is not just a nice idea, it is a place where God chooses to pour out His blessing.

Application: Psalm 133 reminds us that unity is valuable, but it is not automatic. It is easy for relationships to drift toward tension, misunderstanding, or division. Unity requires intentional effort, humility, and a willingness to put others before ourselves. It is something we must pursue, not assume. At the same time, this chapter shows that true unity is not something we manufacture on our own. It flows from God. Just like the oil and the dew, it comes from above. When our lives are aligned with Him, unity begins to grow naturally. This also challenges us to see unity as more than just "getting along." Biblical unity is deeper, it is being connected in purpose, in heart, and in devotion to God. Where unity exists, God's blessing follows. Not because everything is perfect, but because hearts are aligned with Him and with one another.

- *Why is unity so valuable in relationships and in the church?*
- *What are common things that disrupt unity?*
- *What does it mean that unity flows "from above"?*
- *Where in your life is unity strong right now? Where might there be tension or division that needs attention?*
- *What is one step you can take this week to pursue unity with others?*

Week 11: “Our God Who Is Abundantly Merciful”

Wk 11 - Day 1: Genesis 11

Explanation: Genesis 11 records the story of the Tower of Babel. At this point, humanity shares one language and begins to settle together. Instead of spreading across the earth as God commanded, they unite with a different purpose: **“Let us make a name for ourselves.”** Their goal was not to honor God, but to elevate themselves. They build a city and a tower “with its top in the heavens,” likely symbolizing human pride and self-sufficiency, an attempt to reach God on their own terms. God responds by confusing their language and scattering them across the earth. At first glance, this may seem like judgment alone, but it is also mercy. If humanity had remained united in pride, their rebellion would have deepened even further. By disrupting their plans, God limits the spread of sin and redirects them toward His original command to fill the earth. The chapter ends with a genealogy leading to Abram. This shift is important. After showing humanity’s collective failure, God begins focusing on one man through whom He will bring blessing to all nations. Even after rebellion, God’s redemptive plan continues.

Application: Genesis 11 reminds us that God’s mercy sometimes looks like interruption. We often equate mercy with ease, success, or open doors. But sometimes God’s mercy shows up when our plans fall apart. When something we were building doesn’t succeed, it may not be because God is against us, it may be because He is protecting us. This chapter also challenges our motives. The people wanted to “make a name” for themselves. In subtle ways, we can do the same by building our lives around recognition, control, or self-sufficiency. God’s mercy calls us back from that. Even when God disrupts our plans, He is still working out a greater plan. His mercy does not always feel comfortable, but it is always purposeful.

- *What does this chapter teach about the dangers of pride?*
- *How can we tell if our goals are centered on God or ourselves?*
- *What are some modern “towers” people build today?*
- *Have you ever experienced a time when your plans were disrupted? Looking back, can you see God’s mercy in it?*

Wk 11 - Day 2: Matthew 11

Explanation: Matthew 11 captures several moments that reveal both the reality of doubt and the depth of Jesus’ mercy. The chapter begins with John the Baptist, who is in prison, sending messengers to ask Jesus, **“Are You the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?”** This is striking because John had previously boldly declared Jesus as the Messiah. Now, in a moment of suffering and uncertainty, he wrestles with doubt. Jesus does not rebuke John. Instead, He responds with evidence, pointing to the works He is doing: the blind receive sight, the lame walk, the poor have the gospel preached to them. Then He speaks highly of John, affirming his role and faithfulness. This shows that Jesus is merciful even toward those who struggle.

The chapter then shifts as Jesus addresses cities that had witnessed His miracles but refused to repent. Here we see another side where mercy rejected leads to accountability. God’s mercy is abundant, but it is not meant to be ignored. The chapter ends with one of the most well-known invitations in Scripture: **“Come to Me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.”** Jesus describes Himself as “gentle and lowly in heart.” The word *gentle* carries the idea of strength under control, while *lowly* speaks of humility and approachability. This is the heart of Jesus — not distant or harsh, but welcoming and compassionate.

Application: Matthew 11 reminds us that God’s mercy is personal and accessible. There are moments when faith feels strong, and there are moments when questions rise. Like John, we may find ourselves wondering, struggling, or waiting on God in difficult circumstances. This chapter shows that doubt does not push Jesus away, He meets us in it with truth and compassion. At the same time, it challenges us not to ignore God’s work. The cities Jesus rebuked had seen evidence of who He was but chose not to respond. Mercy is not just something to admire, it is something to receive. The invitation at the end of the chapter speaks directly to the weight many people carry. Life can feel heavy — expectations, struggles, guilt, and pressure all add up. Jesus does not offer more burden; He offers rest. God’s mercy is not just about forgiveness, it is about relief, renewal, and relationship. He invites us to come as we are and find rest in Him.

- *Why do even strong believers experience doubt at times?*
- *What stands out about John the Baptist’s question to Jesus?*
- *Is doubt something to avoid, or can it actually lead to deeper faith?*
- *Where in your life do you feel weary or burdened right now?*
- *What does it mean to “come to Jesus” in a practical sense?*

OUR MIGHTY God

2026 BIBLE READING GUIDE

Wk 11 - Day 3: Nehemiah 1

Explanation: Nehemiah 1 takes place after the events of Ezra. The temple has been rebuilt, but the walls of Jerusalem are still broken down, leaving the city vulnerable and the people discouraged. When Nehemiah hears this report, his response is immediate, he sits down, weeps, fasts, and prays. His reaction shows a deep burden, not just for the condition of the city, but for the spiritual state of the people. In his prayer, Nehemiah confesses sin and not just the sins of others, but including himself and his family. He acknowledges that Israel's suffering is connected to their disobedience. Yet at the same time, he appeals to God's mercy and His promises. Nehemiah reminds God of His word, that if His people return to Him, He will restore them. This is not because they deserve it, but because God is faithful. The chapter ends with Nehemiah asking for favor as he prepares to act. God's mercy is not only seen in forgiveness, but in opening the door for restoration. Nehemiah 1 shows that God's mercy meets us in brokenness and invites us into restoration.

Application: Nehemiah 1 reminds us that God's mercy is often experienced through honest prayer. When Nehemiah saw what was broken, he didn't ignore it or distance himself, he brought it to God. In the same way, we are invited to bring the broken areas of our lives honestly before Him. This chapter also challenges us to take responsibility. Nehemiah didn't shift blame, he included himself in the need for mercy. That kind of humility opens the door for God to work. It also shows that mercy leads to movement. Nehemiah didn't just pray, he prepared to act. God's mercy doesn't leave us where we are; it moves us toward restoration. God is not distant from brokenness, rather He is ready to restore it.

- *What stands out about Nehemiah's response to the news?*
- *Why is prayer often the first step in restoration?*
- *What "broken places" in your life need to be brought before God?*
- *Why is it important to remember God's promises when we pray?*

Wk 11 - Day 4: Acts 11

Explanation: Acts 11 continues the events of Acts 10 and shows how God's mercy extends to the Gentiles, people who were once considered outsiders. When Peter returns to Jerusalem, he is questioned by other believers for associating with Gentiles. This reveals how deeply rooted their assumptions were. Peter then carefully recounts his vision and what God did in Cornelius' house, emphasizing one key truth: **God gave them the same gift of the Holy Spirit.** Peter concludes, **"Who was I that I could stand in God's way?"** This is a turning point. The early church begins to realize that God's mercy is not limited to one group. It is for all who believe. The response is powerful, instead of resisting, the believers glorify God, saying, **"Then to the Gentiles also God has granted repentance that leads to life."** The chapter then shifts to the church in Antioch, where believers from different backgrounds come together. This becomes one of the first multi-ethnic, unified churches. It is also here that followers of Jesus are first called "Christians." We also see Barnabas, whose name means "son of encouragement," recognizing God's grace at work and encouraging others to remain faithful. He brings Saul (Paul) alongside him, and together they teach and strengthen the church.

Application: Acts 11 reminds us that God's mercy is bigger than our expectations. It is easy to assume that grace fits within our understanding and applies to certain people, certain situations, or certain types of stories. But this chapter challenges that thinking. God's mercy reaches further than we often realize. It also calls us to humility. Peter had to recognize that God was working in ways he did not expect. In the same way, we must be careful not to limit who we think God can reach or use. This chapter also highlights the importance of encouragement and unity. Barnabas didn't question what God was doing — he affirmed it and helped it grow. When we recognize God's mercy at work in others, we should support it, not resist it. God's mercy is not just something we receive, it is something we celebrate when we see it in others.

- *Why do people sometimes struggle to accept that God's grace extends to everyone?*
- *Are there people you subconsciously feel are "less likely" to receive God's grace? Why?*
- *How can we avoid putting limits on what God can do?*
- *What does it look like to support what God is doing in others?*
- *What would it look like to live this week with a bigger view of God's mercy?*

Wk 11 - Day 5: Psalm 103

Explanation: Psalm 103 is a heartfelt song of praise from David that focuses on the character of God, especially His mercy, forgiveness, and compassion. David begins by speaking to his own soul: **“Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits.”** He is intentionally reminding himself of who God is and what He has done. He then lists those benefits: God forgives sin, heals, redeems, crowns with steadfast love, and satisfies. This is not just about what God gives, but who He is a God rich in mercy. David describes God as **“merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.”** The phrase *steadfast love* comes from the Hebrew word *hesed*, which refers to loyal, covenant love, a faithful love that does not give up. One of the most powerful statements comes in verse 12: **“As far as the east is from the west, so far does He remove our transgressions from us.”** Unlike north and south, east and west never meet. This is a picture of complete and total forgiveness. David also reminds us of our weakness: **“He knows our frame; He remembers that we are dust.”** This shows God’s compassion. His mercy is not given because we are strong, but because He knows we are not.

Application: Psalm 103 reminds us that we often forget what God has done for us. Life can quickly shift our focus toward problems, pressure, or disappointment. David shows us the importance of intentionally remembering God’s mercy. Gratitude grows when we rehearse His goodness. This chapter also challenges how we carry our past. Even after being forgiven, we can still hold onto guilt or shame. But God does not relate to us based on our past failures. He removes our sin completely. Holding onto what God has already removed keeps us from living in the freedom He offers. It also speaks to how we view God. Some people see Him as distant, harsh, or easily angered. But this psalm paints a different picture — a God who is patient, compassionate, and full of love. God’s mercy is not just something we receive once — it is something we live in daily.

- *What does it mean that God is “slow to anger”?*
- *Why is it easy to forget God’s goodness?*
- *Why do people continue to carry guilt after being forgiven?*
- *What is one specific way God has shown you mercy?*
- *Where do you need to stop holding onto what God has already forgiven?*

Week 12: “Our God Who Overcomes Our Fears”

Wk 12 - Day 1: Genesis 12

Explanation: Going when and where God asks us to can be hard. Sometimes He directs us to physically go somewhere, but more often we’re simply called to go into the world with His love and His Word. It’s likely that Abram had lived in the same place for his first seventy-five years of life. He was comfortable and prosperous, and then God asked him to leave behind all that was familiar and go to the unknown. Of course, with God’s instruction to go comes a promise of blessing. God gives Abram a series of promises: He will make him into a great nation, bless him, make his name great, and use him to be a blessing to all families of the earth. These promises are foundational to the rest of the Bible. What stands out is his response: **“So Abram went.”** There is no recorded hesitation, even though the call would have naturally raised fear. He leaves security for uncertainty, trusting God’s Word over what he can see. The proof of our faith is always in our obedience. Abram was an idolater when God called him, but he turned from his vain idols to walk with the Lord, and all this was by God’s grace. However, later in the chapter, we see Abram’s humanity. A famine drives him to Egypt, and out of fear, he tells Sarai to say she is his sister to protect himself. This decision shows that even someone walking in faith can still struggle with fear. God intervenes and protects Sarai, demonstrating that His faithfulness does not depend on Abram’s perfection. The Lord kept His promise even when Abram acted like a fool. And God went even further. God used Abram’s foolishness to enrich him with a lot of Pharaoh’s stuff. Even when we foolishly act out of fear instead of faith, God always remains faithful to His promises. Genesis 12 holds together both bold trust and real fear, showing that God meets us in the tension and works through both as He leads His people forward.

Application: Genesis 12 reminds us that faith is not the absence of fear, it is choosing to trust God in the middle of it. Abram’s fear in Egypt wasn’t completely irrational. There was a logic to it. Real danger, real risk, real consequences. That’s true for us too, most of what we fear is rooted in real circumstances. The issue isn’t that fear exists, but what we do with it. Abram began “running the numbers.” Egypt + a beautiful wife = danger. But what’s missing is any consideration of God’s promise. Fear didn’t just inform his thinking, it drove it. And when fear takes the lead, faith takes a back seat. There is a kind of caution that is wise, but there is also a kind that is driven by self-protection and control. The difference often comes down to focus. The less we fix our eyes on God, the more fear begins to shape our decisions. Fear-centered living is ultimately self-focused. It fixates on what we might lose instead of what God has already promised. It pushes us toward control, comfort, and safety, even at the cost of obedience. Like Abram, fear can lead us to compromise what we know is right. But this chapter also reminds us that even weak faith can cling to a strong Savior. God did not abandon Abram in his failure. His promises remained secure. God does not call us to a life of comfort or complete safety, but He does promise His presence and His peace.

Wk 12 - Day 2: Matthew 12

Explanation: Matthew 12 reveals both the authority of Jesus and the heart of God, especially in contrast to the fear-driven religion of the Pharisees. The chapter begins with conflict over the Sabbath. The Pharisees accuse Jesus’ disciples of breaking the law, but Jesus responds by showing that God’s law was never meant to be a burden rooted in fear. Instead, it was given for the good of His people. When Jesus quotes **Hosea 6:6, “I desire mercy, not sacrifice,”** He exposes their misunderstanding, God values compassion over empty ritual. Jesus then heals a man with a withered hand on the Sabbath, demonstrating that doing good should never be restricted by tradition. In doing so, He shows that God’s law is compassionate, meant to serve people and grow their faith, not trap them in fear of failure. When Jesus declares, **“The Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath,”** He is claiming authority over even the most sacred traditions. This is an invitation to trust Him rather than cling to rigid systems. As the chapter continues, Jesus casts out demons and heals the oppressed, showing His authority over spiritual darkness. Yet the Pharisees, threatened by Him, accuse Him of working by Satan. Their fear of losing control blinds them to truth. Matthew 12 shows that Jesus is not only powerful, but He is also compassionate, and His authority invites trust rather than fear.

Application: Matthew 12 challenges us to examine what is driving our relationship with God — fear or trust. It is easy to fall into a mindset where faith becomes about rules, performance, and avoiding failure. But Jesus makes it clear that God’s heart is not to burden us, but to grow us. His law was never meant to create fear, but to lead us into life and relationship. This chapter also calls us to live with compassion. Jesus showed that doing good should never be delayed or restricted. Opportunities to love and serve others are always worth taking. Fear often leads us to control, protect, and perform. But faith calls us to trust the One who is in authority over everything. When our identity is rooted in Him, we no longer have to live under the pressure of fear. God is not calling us to a fearful life of rule-keeping, but to a confident life of trust, mercy, and surrender.

- *Abram’s fear had logic behind it. What are some fears in your life that feel “reasonable”?*
- *What’s the difference between being aware of danger and being controlled by it?*
- *Why do we often trust what we can see more than what God has said?*
- *What does it look like practically to bring God’s promises into your decision-making?*

- *Why do people often turn God’s commands into something fear-based instead of life-giving?*
- *How can we tell when our faith has become more about rules than relationship?*
- *What “systems” or routines make you feel safe but may actually limit your trust in God?*
- *Are there any areas where you are holding rules up higher than the compassion of Christ?*

OUR MIGHTY God

2026 BIBLE READING GUIDE

Wk 12 - Day 3: Nehemiah 2

Explanation: Nehemiah 2 moves from prayer to action. After hearing about Jerusalem's broken condition and seeking God in prayer, Nehemiah now faces a critical moment. As cupbearer, appearing sad before the king could be dangerous. When the king notices and asks what is wrong, Nehemiah admits, **"I was very much afraid."** This is real, human fear. The kind that comes when the outcome is uncertain and the risk is high. Instead of retreating, Nehemiah offers a quick prayer and then speaks boldly. He asks not only to go to Jerusalem, but also for protection and provision. The king grants his requests, and Nehemiah recognizes why: **"the good hand of my God was upon me."** This moment didn't come out of nowhere. Nehemiah had waited, prayed, and faithfully served for months. He did not rush ahead, but trusted God's timing. When the opportunity came, he was ready. Once in Jerusalem, Nehemiah moves with wisdom. He inspects the walls quietly at night, keeping his plans guarded. He understands there is opposition, so he acts carefully. Then he shares the vision, pointing the people to God's hand at work. They respond, **"Let us rise up and build."** Even when opposition arises, Nehemiah stands firm, confident that God will give success. Nehemiah 2 shows that fear is real, but it does not have to be final. God meets us in it and leads us forward.

Application: Nehemiah 2 reminds us that fear often tries to keep us stuck. Moving forward can feel risky. Whether it's a decision, a step of obedience, or a calling from God, it's often easier to stay where we are than to step into the unknown. Fear tells us it's not worth the risk. But faith calls us forward. Nehemiah shows us that overcoming fear doesn't mean acting impulsively. He waited, prayed, and prepared. Waiting can feel harder than acting, but it is not wasted time, it is where God prepares both us and our circumstances. However, when the moment comes to act, faith requires that we step forward without delay. This chapter also shows the balance between trust and wisdom. Prayer is not a substitute for planning, and faith is not reckless. Nehemiah thought carefully, organized wisely, and took precautions. In the same way, we are called to trust God while also using discernment. Like Nehemiah, there are times to move quietly, protect the vision, and stay focused despite potential opposition.

Wk 12 - Day 4: Acts 12

Explanation: Acts 12 places us in a moment of intense fear and pressure. King Herod begins persecuting the church, executing James and imprisoning Peter. The situation is serious! This is not inconvenience, it is life and death. So how does the church respond? They pray. Verse 5 says the church was praying **"earnestly"** for Peter. That word carries the idea of intense, continual, fervent prayer. This wasn't casual or routine, it was desperate, persistent crying out to God in the middle of fear. They had no political power, no influence, no strategy — all they had was prayer. And that was enough. God answers in a powerful way. An angel appears, Peter's chains fall off, and he is led out of prison. Doors open, guards are passed, and what seemed impossible becomes reality. Meanwhile, the church is still praying, even struggling to believe the answer when it comes. This shows both the power of God and the weakness of human faith. Even imperfect faith, when placed in a powerful God, is enough. The chapter then shifts to Herod. While God rescues Peter, Herod exalts himself, accepting praise as if he were a god. Immediately, he is struck down. The contrast is clear: God delivers the humble and brings down the proud. Acts 12 ends with this statement: **"But the word of God increased and multiplied."** Fear, opposition, and power could not stop what God was doing.

Application: Acts 12 reminds us that the antidote to fear is prayer. When pressure increases, we all respond somehow. Some worry, some try to control, some withdraw. But the early church prayed. And they did so not casually, but earnestly. They brought their fear directly to God instead of letting it control them. Prayer is not a last resort, it is our greatest resource. This chapter also reminds us that God still breaks chains. Whether those chains are physical, emotional, or spiritual (addiction, anxiety, fear, old patterns, or even empty religion), nothing is too strong for Him. What feels impossible to us is not a barrier to God. This story also challenges our expectations. The church was praying, yet they were surprised when God answered. It's possible to pray without expecting. But God invites us to pray with boldness, bringing even the impossible before Him. Finally, Acts 12 warns us about pride. While Peter depended on God, Herod elevated himself. Fear can push us inward, but pride lifts us upward in our own eyes. Both pull us away from God. True security is found not in control or recognition, but in humility before Him. God overcomes fear not by removing every difficulty, but by reminding us that He is greater than all of it.

- *Why does fear often make staying where we are feel safer?*
- *Why is waiting on God often harder than acting?*
- *How can waiting actually prepare us for what God has ahead?*
- *How do we know when it's time to stop waiting and start acting?*
- *Where in your life are you feeling hesitant or afraid to move forward? What would it look like to trust God in that situation?*

- *Why is prayer not always our first reaction when we are faced with fear and pressure?*
- *What "chains" do you see people facing today that feel impossible to break?*
- *Why is it important to keep praying even when nothing seems to be changing?*
- *Where in your life do you struggle to believe God will actually answer?*

OUR MIGHTY

2026 BIBLE READING GUIDE

God

Wk 12 - Day 5: Psalm 56

Explanation: Psalm 56 is written by David during a time of real fear, when he was surrounded by enemies and unsure of what would happen next. This is not theoretical fear; it is personal, pressing, and constant. Right in the middle of that fear, David makes a defining statement: **“When I am afraid, I put my trust in You.”** Not *if* I am afraid — *when*. Fear is assumed, but so is the response. David doesn’t deny his fear, he redirects it. He repeatedly anchors himself in God’s Word: **“In God, whose word I praise...”** His confidence is not based on changing circumstances, but on unchanging promises. He doesn’t pray vague hopes, he clings to specific truth. Instead of dwelling on the threats around him, he fills his mind with what God has said. The louder voice of truth begins to drown out the noise of fear. One of the most tender moments comes in verse 8: **“You have kept count of my tossings; put my tears in Your bottle.”** God not only sees our pain, He records it. He retains every tear. None are wasted. Every moment of fear, every night of struggle, every tear shed in faith is known by Him and will one day be transformed into something beautiful for His glory. David also reminds himself of who God is. God is not powerless — His strength is immeasurable. He is not indifferent — He cares deeply for His people. And He is not distant — He is near to those who call on Him. Yet in fear, He can feel far away, especially when we drift from His Word. The psalm ends with confidence: **“For You have delivered my soul from death... that I may walk before God in the light of life.”** God’s deliverance is not just about escape, it is about walking with Him.

Application: Psalm 56 reminds us that fear must be met with trust, not avoidance, not control, but trust. Terror and tears are real, but they are not meant to drive us away from God, instead they are meant to draw us toward Him. And not just for relief, but for relationship. God delivers us not simply so we can feel better, but so we can delight in Him, trust Him more deeply, and live for His glory. It also reminds us where to turn. When fear rises, the battle is often in the mind. What voice are we listening to? David chose to anchor himself in God’s Word. He replaced fear-filled thinking with truth-filled thinking. When we fix our minds on what God has said, fear begins to lose its grip. This chapter also comforts us deeply, because we are reminded that God sees every tear. Nothing you walk through is unnoticed. Nothing is wasted. Even your hardest moments are being held by a faithful God who will one day redeem them. Fear will come, but when it does, we know where to turn. Not inward, not to control, but to the voice of God that brings peace in the middle of the storm.

- *What voice tends to be louder in your life — fear or truth?*
- *Why can God feel distant even when we know He is near?*
- *How does remembering God’s power, care, and nearness help us to overcome fear?*
- *Why is it important to anchor our thoughts in Scripture during times of fear or worry?*
- *What are some promises of God you can hold to when you are afraid?*

Week 13: “Our God Who Calls Us To His Work”

Wk 13 - Day 1: Genesis 13

Explanation: Genesis 13 picks up after Abram’s misstep in Egypt in the previous chapter. Despite Abram’s failure, God has not abandoned His call on his life. Abram returns to the place where he first built an altar, signaling a return to worship and dependence on God. Before anything else happens, Abram re-centers his life on the Lord. That’s where God’s work always begins. As Abram and Lot prosper, their growing wealth creates tension. Their herdsman begin to quarrel because the land cannot sustain them both. Instead of allowing conflict to escalate, Abram takes the initiative to pursue peace. Though he is the one God called and the elder in the relationship, Abram humbly gives Lot the first choice of land. This is striking because it shows that Abram trusts God enough that he doesn’t need to grasp for control. Lot chooses based on what he sees. The Jordan Valley looks “well watered... like the garden of the LORD” (v. 10). But appearances are deceiving. The text quietly warns that the men of Sodom were exceedingly wicked. Lot’s decision is driven by sight, not by spiritual discernment. In contrast, Abram remains where God has him, even if it seems less appealing. After Lot separates, God reaffirms His promise to Abram. God tells Abram to “lift up your eyes,” a contrast to Lot lifting up his eyes earlier. Abram’s future is not determined by what he chooses, but by what God promises.

Application: God’s work in your life doesn’t stop because of your past failures. Like Abram, you may have moments where you take matters into your own hands, step outside of God’s will, or act out of fear. But God’s call is bigger than your mistakes. The question is—will you return to the altar? Sometimes the greatest test of your calling isn’t opportunity, it’s opposition. When tension rises, when people misunderstand you, when things feel unfair, your response reveals whether you’re trusting God or protecting yourself. Abram could have demanded his rights, but he chose humility. That kind of surrender shows a heart that believes God is in control. We often make decisions like Lot, based on what looks best, feels easiest, or promises quick results. But not everything that looks like blessing is truly a blessing. If you’re not careful, you can drift toward things that slowly pull your heart away from God. Walking in God’s calling means trusting Him enough to let go of control. It means choosing peace over pride, faith over fear, and obedience over appearances. And when you do, you’ll find that God is still faithful to guide, provide, and fulfill His promises.

Wk 13 - Day 2: Matthew 13

Explanation: In Matthew 13, Jesus Christ teaches several parables. These stories both reveal truth to receptive hearts and conceal it from hardened ones. The issue is not clarity, it’s the condition of the heart. The Parable of the Sower sets the tone. The seed is the Word of God, but the soils represent different heart responses. Some reject it outright, some receive it shallowly, others are choked by life’s distractions, and some truly receive it and bear fruit. The focus isn’t on the seed, it’s on the soil. The Parable of the Weeds reminds us that good and evil will coexist in this world until final judgment. God is patient, allowing time for repentance, but there will be a day of separation. The mustard seed and leaven highlight how God’s kingdom often starts small but grows powerfully and quietly. What seems insignificant now can have eternal impact. The hidden treasure and pearl reveal the surpassing worth of the kingdom, something worth giving up everything to gain. The net story echoes the coming judgment, reinforcing that not all who are gathered are truly His. Jesus ends by describing a disciple as one who brings out “treasures new and old,” someone who understands and lives out truth. In all this we see that, God’s call goes out to many, but only those with receptive hearts truly enter and bear fruit in His work.

Application: The question this chapter presses is simple but searching: What kind of soil am I? It’s easy to hear God’s Word regularly but remain unchanged. A hard heart resists it. A shallow heart gets excited but fades when life gets difficult. A crowded heart is too busy, distracted, or consumed with worries and desires to let truth take root. Only a surrendered heart produces lasting fruit. God’s work in your life isn’t just about hearing truth, it’s about responding to it. You can sit under good teaching, know the right answers, and still miss what God is doing if your heart isn’t open. The kingdom often grows in ways that feel small and unnoticed. Faithfulness in the ordinary things, whether it be time in the Word, quiet obedience, unseen sacrifice, is never wasted. God is building something far greater than you can see. Following God’s call means valuing His kingdom above everything else. When you truly see its worth, obedience stops feeling like loss and starts looking like gain.

- *In what ways are you tempted to make decisions based only on what you can see?*
- *How do you typically respond when conflict arises—do you fight for your rights or pursue peace?*
- *Is there an area in your life where pride is making it hard to trust God?*
- *Where might God be calling you to trust Him instead of taking control?*
- *How does this passage challenge your view of what it means to follow God’s call?*

- *What are some “thorns” in your life that could be choking out spiritual growth?*
- *Where might God be asking you to be faithful in something small right now?*
- *Is there anything in your life you are unwilling to give up for the sake of God’s kingdom?*
- *If someone looked at your life, what would they say you value most?*
- *If your heart were a garden, what would it currently look like, and what needs to be removed or cultivated?*

Wk 13 - Day 3: Nehemiah 3

Explanation: Nehemiah 3 may seem like just a long list of names and sections of a wall, but it reveals something powerful about how God accomplishes His work. The chapter records the rebuilding of Jerusalem's wall, piece by piece, person by person. What stands out immediately is the variety of people involved. Priests, goldsmiths, merchants, rulers, and families all take part. This wasn't just the work of leaders, it was the work of everyone. God's mission wasn't reserved for a select few; it required the participation of ordinary people willing to step in. There is also a clear sense of unity and organization. The phrase "next to him" appears repeatedly, showing how each person worked alongside others. No one rebuilt the entire wall alone, instead they each took responsibility for their section. Some even repaired the portion opposite their house, meaning they started right where they were. However, not everyone responded the same way. Verse 5 notes that the nobles of Tekoa "would not stoop to serve their Lord." While many stepped forward, some resisted the call due to pride or unwillingness. Despite that, the work moved forward. God's work is accomplished when ordinary people respond to His call with willing, faithful obedience, right where they are.

Application: God's call to His work isn't just for pastors, leaders, or "spiritual" people, it's for everyone, including you. Nehemiah 3 reminds us that everyone has a place, a role, and a responsibility in what God is doing. It's easy to feel like what you do doesn't matter. Maybe your role seems small, unnoticed, or behind the scenes. But this chapter shows that every section of the wall was necessary. If one part was neglected, the entire structure would be vulnerable. Faithfulness in your part matters more than recognition from others. There's also a challenge here about proximity. Many rebuilt the wall right in front of their own homes. Sometimes we're looking for a big, impressive way to serve God, while ignoring the clear opportunities right in front of us, like our family, our church, our daily influence. Walking in God's calling means showing up, taking responsibility for your part, and serving faithfully alongside others. You don't have to do everything, you just need to do your part.

- *Where has God placed you right now that could be your "section of the wall"?*
- *Do you ever feel like your role in serving God is too small to matter? Why?*
- *What keeps you from fully stepping into what God has called you to do?*
- *What are some areas of service that often get overlooked because they seem ordinary?*
- *What is something right in front of you that you know God wants you to address, but you've been putting off?*

Wk 13 - Day 4: Acts 13

Explanation: Acts 13 marks a major turning point in the early church, the intentional sending of missionaries. In the church at Antioch, leaders are worshiping, fasting, and seeking God when the Holy Spirit speaks: "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them" (v. 2). God initiates the call, but the church affirms and sends them. Calling is both divine and communal. Barnabas and Paul are sent out, and immediately they face spiritual opposition. On Cyprus, a false prophet named Elymas tries to turn a leader away from the faith, but Paul boldly confronts him, and God demonstrates His power (vv. 6-12). From the beginning, God's work encounters resistance, but it also advances through His authority. As they continue, Paul preaches in a synagogue (vv. 16-41), giving a sweeping overview of Israel's history, showing how it all points to Jesus. He emphasizes that forgiveness of sins and justification come through Christ, which was something the law could never fully accomplish. The message is clear: salvation is by grace through Jesus alone. The response is mixed. Some are eager to hear more, while others grow jealous and oppose them. When rejection comes, Paul and Barnabas turn to the Gentiles, fulfilling God's broader plan of God. The chapter ends with both persecution and joy. God calls, sends, and sustains His people in His work—even through opposition and rejection.

Application: God's call is not random, rather it flows out of relationship with Him. The leaders in Antioch weren't strategizing, they were worshiping! If you want to clearly hear God's direction, it often begins with a heart that is already surrendered and seeking Him. But when God calls you, it also will require action. Barnabas and Paul didn't just receive a word, they were sent out. God's work is not meant to stay in the realm of intention; it moves into obedience. But obedience doesn't mean ease. As soon as they step out, opposition comes. That's often where we hesitate. We assume that if something is hard, it must not be God's will. Acts 13 shows the opposite. Difficulty is often confirmation that you're stepping into meaningful kingdom work. Rejection can be one of the hardest parts of following God's call. Not everyone will respond positively. Some may resist, misunderstand, or even oppose you. But your responsibility is not the outcome, it's faithfulness to the message and the mission. God's work is bigger than any one response. When one door closes, He opens another. And even in the middle of resistance, you can walk in joy because your calling is anchored in Him, not in people's approval.

- *If God asked you to leave something comfortable to follow His call, what would be hardest to let go of?*
- *Have you ever allowed fear of rejection to keep you from obeying God?*
- *What role does worship and seeking God play in your decision-making?*
- *Are you more likely to hesitate because of fear of failure or fear of rejection? Why?*

OUR MIGHTY

2026 BIBLE READING GUIDE

God

Wk 13 - Day 5: Psalm 96

Explanation: Psalm 96 is a call to worship, but not quiet, private worship alone. It is a global, outward, joyful declaration of who God is. The psalm repeatedly urges us to “sing,” “declare,” and “proclaim” (vv. 1–3). Worship here is not meant to stay contained, rather it’s meant to be shared. The focus quickly expands beyond Israel: “Declare His glory among the nations, His marvelous works among all peoples!”. God’s greatness is not just for one group — it is for the whole world. This connects directly to God’s mission, that all people would know Him. The psalm contrasts the Lord with idols (vv. 4–6). Idols are powerless and man made, but the Lord is the Creator of the heavens. He alone is worthy of glory, strength, and honor. Worship is not just emotional, it is rooted in truth about who God actually is. Verses 7–9 call all people to give God the glory due His name and to worship Him in holiness and reverence. Then the message turns outward again: “Say among the nations, ‘The LORD reigns!’” (v. 10). This is both a declaration and a mission. God’s rule must be proclaimed! The psalm ends with a picture of creation itself rejoicing because the Lord is coming to judge the earth (vv. 11–13). His judgment is not something to fear for those who know Him, it’s something to celebrate. It means everything will be made right. God’s call is not only to worship Him, but to make Him known to the world.

Application: Worship was never meant to stop with you. If you truly see God’s greatness, it will overflow into declaration. Silence about God often reveals a heart that has grown familiar rather than filled with wonder. It’s easy to treat worship as something that happens in a service or a quiet moment, but Psalm 96 pushes us outward. God’s work includes making His name known, whether that’s to your family, your community, or beyond. And good news, you don’t need a platform to do that; you just need a heart that is captivated by Him. We live in a world full of modern “idols,” which are things people look to for identity, security, and satisfaction. But those things cannot compare to the living God. Part of stepping into God’s work is gently and faithfully pointing people to what is true. There is also a call to live with urgency and hope. God reigns now, and He is coming again. That truth gives both purpose and perspective. You are not just called to admire God, you are called to represent Him.

- *When was the last time you shared something about God with someone else?*
- *What makes it difficult for you to speak about God openly?*
- *Why do you think worship and evangelism are so closely connected in this psalm?*
- *What are some practical ways believers can “declare His glory” in today’s culture?*
- *Why do people often feel uncomfortable talking about God, even if they believe strongly?*
- *What “idols” compete for your attention, trust, or affection?*

Week 14: “Our God Who Is Always Working”

Wk 14 - Day 1: Genesis 14

Explanation: Genesis 14 introduces the first recorded war in Scripture. A coalition of kings goes to battle, and in the chaos, Lot (Abram’s nephew) is taken captive (vv. 1–12). What began as a political conflict quickly becomes personal for Abram. When Abram hears that Lot has been captured, he immediately acts. He gathers a small group of trained men and pursues the invading kings (vv. 13–16). Against all odds, Abram defeats them and rescues Lot, along with the people and possessions that were taken. This victory is not explained by military strength, it points to God’s unseen hand at work. After the battle, Abram is met by Melchizedek, a mysterious figure described as both king and priest. He blesses Abram and gives glory to “God Most High,” recognizing that it was God who delivered Abram’s enemies into his hand (vv. 18–20). Abram responds by giving a tenth of everything, which was a sign of worship and acknowledgment that the victory belonged to God. In contrast, the king of Sodom offers Abram the spoils of war. Abram refuses, making it clear that he will not allow anyone to say that man made him rich (vv. 21–24). He trusts God alone as his provider and source. Throughout the chapter, God is never quoted speaking, but He is clearly working. Behind the scenes, through conflict, rescue, and provision, God is actively accomplishing His purposes.

Application: There are seasons when God feels quiet, when you don’t see clear direction, or don’t hear obvious answers, and wonder what He’s doing. Genesis 14 reminds us that God is still working, even when He’s not visibly speaking. God was working through the conflict, through Abram’s response, and through the outcome. In the same way, God is often at work in the very situations we wish we could avoid. The challenge is trusting that His hand is present, even when it’s not obvious. Abram didn’t sit back, he stepped in. Sometimes God’s work in your life involves action, courage, and stepping into difficult situations. But even then, the victory doesn’t come from you, remember it comes from Him. There’s also a warning about where you look for provision and validation. The king of Sodom offered something immediate and tangible, but Abram refused it. Why? Because he didn’t want to confuse the source of blessing. We don’t need to take shortcuts to claim what is already ours in Him.

Wk 14 - Day 2: Matthew 14

Explanation: Matthew 14 is a chapter filled with contrast. We see grief and miracles, fear and faith, limitation and provision, and through it all, God is actively working! The chapter begins with the tragic death of John the Baptist (vv. 1–12). His faithfulness leads to suffering, not deliverance. This reminds us that God’s work is not always visible in the way we expect. Even in loss, God is still moving His greater plan forward. After hearing the news, Jesus Christ withdraws to a desolate place, but the crowds follow Him. Instead of turning them away, He has compassion and heals them. Then comes the feeding of the five thousand. With just five loaves and two fish, Jesus provides abundantly. What seems insufficient in human hands becomes more than enough in His. Later, Jesus sends His disciples across the sea while He goes to pray. During the night, a storm arises, and the disciples are terrified. Jesus comes to them walking on the water, revealing His authority over nature. Peter steps out in faith, walks on water briefly, but begins to sink when he shifts his focus from Jesus to the storm and Jesus immediately reaches out and saves him. Throughout all these moments—grief, need, fear, and weakness—Jesus is present and working. His power is not limited by circumstances, and His care is constant. God is always providing, strengthening, and revealing Himself, even in the middle of life’s most uncertain moments.

Application: Life doesn’t always unfold the way we expect. John the Baptist’s story reminds us that faithfulness doesn’t guarantee ease. There will be moments when things feel confusing or even unfair. But God is still working, even when the outcome doesn’t make sense to us. In the feeding of the five thousand, the disciples saw lack but Jesus saw opportunity. We often look at what we don’t have and feel inadequate. But God isn’t asking you to have everything; He’s asking you to bring what you have and trust Him with it. He is still a God who multiplies. The storm reveals another struggle, fear. The disciples were exactly where Jesus told them to be, yet they still faced difficulty. Being in God’s will doesn’t mean avoiding storms, it means trusting Him in the middle of them. Living with the awareness that God is always working means trusting Him in grief, offering Him your insufficiency, and keeping your eyes on Him in the storm. Every crisis we encounter is another opportunity to lean in and trust Him more, to wait and watch His glory, and reach again for His hand that is always reaching back out for us!

- Are there areas in your life where you are tempted to take a “shortcut” instead of trusting God?
- How can you guard your heart from giving credit to the wrong source for your blessings?
- What is one situation in your life right now where you need to remind yourself, “God is still working”?

Reflection Questions

- What are some “storms” in your life right now that are testing your faith?
- What tends to shift your focus away from Jesus and onto your fears?
- Why do you think Jesus allowed the disciples to face the storm instead of preventing it?
- What does the feeding of the five thousand teach us about how God uses what we bring to Him?
- Are you more likely to stay in the boat (play it safe) or step out and risk failure? Why?

Wk 14 - Day 3: Nehemiah 4

Explanation: As the rebuilding continues, Nehemiah 4 is yet another reminder that progress in God's work often brings opposition. When Sanballat and Tobiah hear about the wall being rebuilt, they respond with anger and mockery. They ridicule the work and the people, hoping to discourage them before the wall is ever completed. Nehemiah's response is not retaliation, it's prayer! He immediately brings the situation before God! Instead of being distracted by criticism, the people keep building. Verse 6 says, "the people had a mind to work." The word "mind" carries the idea of heart, will, and determination. This wasn't just physical labor, it was a unified, inward commitment to the task. As the wall progresses, the opposition intensifies. The enemies begin plotting actual attacks. Again, Nehemiah leads with both prayer and action: "We prayed to our God and set a guard" (v. 9). Trusting God did not mean neglecting responsibility, they did both. Fear, however, begins to creep in among the workers. The threats feel real, and the task seems overwhelming. Nehemiah responds by reminding them of who God is: "Do not be afraid... remember the Lord, who is great and awesome" (v. 14). Their focus shifts from the threat to the greatness of God. From that point on, the work continues with vigilance. Half the people build while the other half stand guard. We are challenged to remember that while God is working, He is also calling His people to pray, persevere, and press forward in His strength.

Application: If you are walking in what God has called you to do, opposition should not surprise you. In fact, resistance often shows that the work matters. The enemy rarely attacks what isn't making a difference. One of the enemy's primary tools is discouragement. Words, criticism, and doubt can slowly wear you down if you let them. That's why your first response must be like Nehemiah's...take it to God. Prayer keeps your focus where it belongs. But prayer doesn't replace action, rather it fuels it. Nehemiah prayed and set a guard. Trusting God doesn't mean passivity; it means dependence while you keep moving forward. When the people focused on the threats, they became overwhelmed. When they remembered who God is, courage returned. What you focus on will shape how you respond. God is always working, even when the pressure rises. Your role is to stay faithful, keep building, stay alert, and trust that God is strengthening you in the process.

- *What kinds of opposition or discouragement have you faced while trying to follow God?*
- *How do you usually respond to criticism or negative voices?*
- *Why is prayer sometimes our last resort when challenges arise?*
- *If the enemy wanted to discourage you from God's work, what strategy would be most effective—and is it already happening?*

Wk 14 - Day 4: Acts 14

Explanation: Acts 14 continues the first missionary journey of Paul and Barnabas, and it reveals a repeated pattern: bold preaching, mixed responses, and God working through it all. In Iconium, many believe, but opposition quickly rises. Despite threats, they remain for a time, "speaking boldly for the Lord," and God confirms their message with signs and wonders. The city becomes divided, some respond in faith, others in hostility. God is working, but not everyone receives it the same way. In Lystra, Paul heals a man who had been crippled from birth. The crowd responds by trying to worship Paul and Barnabas as gods, calling them Zeus and Hermes. This reveals how easily people can misunderstand God's work. Paul and Barnabas immediately reject the praise and redirect the attention to the living God. Even then, the people struggle to grasp the truth. The situation quickly shifts. The same crowd that tried to worship them is persuaded to stone Paul. He is dragged out of the city and left for dead. Yet, remarkably, Paul gets up and continues on). God's work is not stopped by suffering, it continues through it. As they revisit the churches they planted, they strengthen believers with this message: "through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God". A key phrase appears in verse 27: God had "opened a door of faith." This reminds us that ultimately, it is God who opens hearts and advances His work.

Application: Following God's call does not lead to a straight, easy path. Acts 14 shows highs and lows, acceptance and rejection, miracles and suffering...all woven together in God's work. One moment, people may celebrate you, the next, they may oppose you. If your identity is tied to people's reactions, you'll constantly feel unstable. Paul and Barnabas stayed grounded because their focus was on God, not the crowd. There's also a reminder to be careful with praise. It can be just as dangerous as criticism if it shifts your focus. When things go well, it's easy to subtly take credit. But like Paul and Barnabas, we must redirect glory back to God. The reality of hardship is unavoidable. It is not a possibility, it's a promise. But difficulty does not mean God has stopped working. Often, it's the very place where He is doing some of His deepest work in you and through you. Your role is to remain faithful, trusting that He is accomplishing more than you can see.

- *What role has hardship played in your spiritual growth?*
- *What are some modern examples of misinterpreting God's work?*
- *Why is it important to prepare believers for hardship rather than promise ease?*
- *If your faithfulness led to suffering instead of comfort, would you keep going? Why or why not?*

Wk 14 - Day 5: Psalm 73

Explanation: Psalm 73 is a deeply honest look into the struggle of understanding God's work in a world that often seems unfair. Written by Asaph, the psalm begins with a confident truth: "God is good to Israel, to those who are pure in heart" (v. 1). But immediately, Asaph admits that his experience didn't seem to match that truth. He confesses that he nearly lost his footing because he envied the prosperity of the wicked. He observes their ease, health, pride, and apparent success. From his perspective, it looks like they thrive while living without regard for God. This creates a crisis in his heart where he begins to question whether his own faithfulness has been pointless. The turning point comes in verse 17: "until I went into the sanctuary of God; then I discerned their end." In God's presence, his perspective shifts. The word "discerned" carries the idea of understanding or seeing clearly. What once seemed confusing now becomes clear. God is still working, even if the full picture isn't immediately visible. Asaph realizes that the prosperity of the wicked is temporary and unstable. Their end is not secure, no matter how it appears now. At the same time, he recognizes his own misplaced focus and admits his bitterness. The psalm ends with renewed clarity and confidence. Asaph declares that God is continually with him, guiding him and ultimately receiving him into glory. He concludes with one of the most powerful statements of devotion: "Whom have I in heaven but You? And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides You" (v. 25). Even when life seems unfair, God is still working; shaping your perspective, securing your future, and drawing you closer to Himself.

Application: There are moments when following God feels confusing. You try to live faithfully, but life doesn't seem to go the way you expected. Meanwhile, others who ignore God seem to thrive. If you're honest, that can stir frustration, doubt, or even envy. Psalm 73 reminds you that those thoughts don't disqualify you, they reveal where you need to go. Asaph didn't stay stuck in his confusion; he brought it into God's presence. That's where clarity comes. Your perspective is shaped by what you focus on. When you fixate on what others have, you can lose sight of what God is doing in you. But when you step into God's presence, your vision changes. You begin to see beyond the temporary and trust in what is eternal. God's work is not always immediate or obvious. He is working beneath the surface, shaping your heart, refining your desires, and securing your future. The greatest gift is not what He gives—it's Himself. When you truly see that, comparison loses its grip, and contentment begins to grow.

- *What are you most tempted to compare your life to?*
- *How does comparison affect your joy and trust in God?*
- *Why do you think God allows the wicked to prosper, at least temporarily?*
- *Why is being in God's presence so key to gaining the right perspective?*
- *Are you more focused on what God is doing for you—or what He is doing in you?*
- *If everything else was taken away, would God still be enough for you?*

Week 15: “Our God Who Is Our Great Reward”

Wk 15 - Day 1: Genesis 15

Explanation: Genesis 15 opens with God speaking directly to Abram in a vision: “Fear not, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great” (v. 1). Before addressing anything else, God reveals Himself as both protector and provider. The word “reward” carries the idea of wages or compensation, yet God is not just giving a reward; He is saying that He Himself is the reward. Abram, however, is still wrestling. God has promised descendants, but Abram remains childless. His question is honest...what good are promises if they seem unfulfilled? God responds not with rebuke, but reassurance. He brings Abram outside and tells him to look at the stars: “So shall your offspring be” (v. 5). What Abram cannot see in his circumstances, God shows him through His promise. Verse 6 is a key moment: “And he believed the LORD, and He counted it to him as righteousness.” The word “believed” means to trust, rely on, or place confidence in. Abram is declared righteous not because of what he does, but because of where he places his trust. This becomes a foundational truth throughout Scripture. God then formalizes His promise through a covenant. In an ancient covenant ceremony, animals are cut in half, and typically both parties would walk between them, symbolizing mutual commitment. But here, something remarkable happens—only God passes through, represented by a smoking fire pot and flaming torch). Abram does not walk through. This shows that the fulfillment of the promise rests entirely on God, not on Abram’s ability to uphold it. His plan includes both delay and difficulty, yet it remains certain. God Himself is the greatest reward, and His promises are secured not by our performance, but by His faithfulness.

Application: It’s possible to follow God and still wrestle with questions. Abram had seen God work, yet he still struggled with doubt. Sometimes we will wrestle with the tension of believing God while not yet seeing the fulfillment. Faith doesn’t mean the absence of questions; it means choosing to trust God in the middle of them. We often look to God for what He can give, whether that be answers, provision, direction. But Genesis 15 shifts that focus. The greatest reward is not what God gives, it’s God Himself! When that truth settles in your heart, it changes how you view waiting, uncertainty, and even unanswered prayers. Even when nothing seems to be happening, He is preparing, aligning, and fulfilling His purposes in ways you cannot yet see. There’s also deep security in knowing that God’s promises don’t rest on you. If they did, they would constantly feel uncertain. But because they rest on Him, you can trust that what He has said, He will do.

Wk 15 - Day 2: Matthew 15

Explanation: In Matthew 15, Jesus Christ confronts outward religion and reveals what truly matters to God. The chapter begins with religious leaders criticizing Jesus’ disciples for not following traditional handwashing rituals. Jesus responds by exposing their hypocrisy. They had elevated man made traditions above God’s commands. He quotes Isaiah to show that their worship is empty because their hearts are far from God. Jesus then shifts the focus inward. He teaches that defilement doesn’t come from what enters a person, but from what comes out of the heart. The word “defile” carries the idea of making something unclean or impure. Sin is not merely external behavior, it flows from a corrupted heart. Next, a Canaanite woman approaches Jesus, pleading for her daughter to be healed. At first, Jesus’ response seems distant, even challenging. But her persistent, humble faith stands out. She acknowledges her unworthiness yet trusts in His mercy. Jesus commends her faith and grants her request. This moment reveals that access to God is not based on status, but on faith. The chapter closes with more healing and another miraculous feeding. Once again, Jesus provides abundantly. The people are left in awe, glorifying God. Throughout the chapter, Jesus exposes empty religion and elevates genuine faith. The emphasis is clear... God desires hearts that are truly turned toward Him. Our greatest reward is not religious appearance or external success, it’s a genuine relationship with God through a transformed heart of faith.

Application: It’s possible to look right on the outside while being far from God on the inside. That’s the warning of this chapter. You can know the right habits, say the right things, and still miss the heart of what God desires. God is not impressed by performance, He is after your heart. The question is not just what are you doing, but why are you doing it? Are you going through the motions, or are you genuinely pursuing Him? The struggles you face—anger, pride, fear, selfishness—don’t just need behavior management; they need heart transformation. And that’s something only God can do. When God becomes your greatest reward, your focus shifts. You stop trying to impress and start pursuing. You stop relying on appearance and start depending on Him.

- *What does it mean to you personally that God Himself is your reward?*
- *Why do you think God allows seasons of waiting in our lives?*
- *What are some practical ways to keep your focus on God instead of just His promises?*
- *How does understanding that God secures the covenant change the way we view our relationship with Him?*

- *What would you say most motivates your spiritual habits—routine, pressure, or genuine desire for God?*
- *Are there “heart issues” that you’ve been trying to manage externally instead of bringing to God?*
- *Why is it easier to focus on external behavior than internal transformation?*
- *How can we cultivate a faith like the Canaanite woman—persistent and humble?*
- *What would change if everyone truly believed God valued their heart more than their performance?*

Wk 15 - Day 3: Nehemiah 5

Explanation: Nehemiah 5 shifts from external opposition to internal conflict. While the wall is being rebuilt, a crisis arises among the people themselves. Some are suffering greatly, facing famine, heavy taxes, and even forced to sell their children into slavery just to survive. What makes it worse is that this injustice is coming from their own fellow Jews. When Nehemiah hears about it, he becomes righteously angry. But instead of reacting impulsively, he “took counsel with himself, meaning he carefully considers the situation before responding. He then confronts the nobles and officials for charging interest and exploiting their own people. Nehemiah reminds them that their actions contradict the fear of God. The word “fear” here carries the idea of reverence and awe, which means living with an awareness of who God is. Their behavior showed that they valued gain over God. In response, the leaders repent and restore what they had taken. Nehemiah goes further by modeling generosity himself. As governor, he refuses the food allowance typically given to him. Why? Because he feared God and did not want to burden the people. His leadership is marked by sacrifice, not self-interest. The chapter ends with Nehemiah’s simple prayer: “Remember for my good... all that I have done for this people” (v. 19). He doesn’t seek reward from people—he looks to God. When God is your greatest reward, you are freed from selfish gain and able to live with integrity, generosity, and reverence.

- *What does “fearing God” look like in your everyday decisions?*
- *Are you using what God has given you to serve others or to benefit yourself?*
- *Is there anyone you may have wronged or taken advantage of, even subtly?*
- *How can we create a culture of honesty, accountability, and repentance?*

Application: It’s possible to be involved in God’s work outwardly while living selfishly inwardly. That’s what was happening here with the wall was going up, but hearts were out of line. God cares not just about what you do, but how you treat people along the way. When God is not your greatest reward, you’ll look for gain elsewhere. (status, money, control, recognition) And if you’re not careful, you can begin to justify actions that harm others in order to benefit yourself. Nehemiah shows a different way. He didn’t use his position for personal advantage, he used it to serve. That kind of leadership flows from a heart that truly fears God. There’s also a challenge about how you handle conviction. When confronted, the leaders responded with repentance and change. That’s not always easy, but it’s necessary for real growth. Living like God is your reward means you don’t have to take advantage of others to get ahead. You can live with open hands, integrity, and a clear conscience—trusting that God sees and honors faithfulness.

Wk 15 - Day 4: Acts 15

Explanation: Acts 15 addresses a critical question in the early church: What is required for salvation? Some believers from a Jewish background begin teaching that Gentiles must be circumcised and follow the law of Moses to be saved. This creates sharp disagreement with Paul and Barnabas, leading to a gathering of church leaders in Jerusalem. At this council, Peter speaks, reminding everyone that God already gave the Holy Spirit to the Gentiles apart from the law. He makes a powerful statement: “We believe that we will be saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, just as they will.” Salvation is not earned, it is received by grace. Paul and Barnabas then share how God has been working among the Gentiles, confirming His acceptance of them. Finally, James affirms from Scripture that God’s plan has always included the nations. The conclusion is clear: Gentiles are not to be burdened with the full weight of the law, but are encouraged to live in a way that promotes unity and holiness. Our greatest reward is not found in what we achieve or earn, but in the grace of God that welcomes us into His work and His family.

Application: There is a constant pull to add something to grace. We may not say it out loud, but it shows up in how we think, feeling like we have to earn God’s approval or measure up to be accepted. Acts 15 confronts that directly. Salvation is not about what you do for God, it’s about what God has done for you. When you start to believe that your standing with God depends on your performance, your joy fades and your faith becomes heavy. But when you rest in grace, there is freedom. You don’t obey to earn God’s love, you obey because you already have it. When God is your greatest reward, you stop striving to prove yourself and start resting in what He has already accomplished.

- *Do you ever feel like you have to earn God’s approval? In what ways?*
- *Are there areas where you’ve added unnecessary “requirements” to your faith? Do you see this happening anywhere else among believers?*
- *Why is it so easy for people to drift toward performance-based thinking?*
- *Are you more likely to struggle with pride (feeling like you’ve earned something) or insecurity (feeling like you’ll never measure up)? Why?*

OUR MIGHTY

2026 BIBLE READING GUIDE

God

Wk 15 - Day 5: Psalm 16

Explanation: Psalm 16 is a declaration of trust, contentment, and joy in God. Written by David, it begins with a simple plea: “Preserve me, O God, for in you I take refuge”. David anchors his security not in circumstances, but in God Himself. In verse 2, David makes a profound statement: “I have no good apart from you.” This sets the tone for the entire psalm — God is not just a source of blessing; He is the blessing. Everything good ultimately flows from Him. David contrasts those who chase after other gods with those who delight in the Lord. He refuses to participate in idolatry, recognizing that pursuing anything apart from God only multiplies sorrow. What you run after will shape your life. In verses 5–6, David uses the language of inheritance: “The LORD is my chosen portion and my cup.” The word “portion” refers to an allotted share or inheritance. David is saying that God Himself is his portion—his satisfaction, security, and reward. His contentment is not based on what he has, but on who he has. David goes on to describe the stability and guidance he finds in God. Because the Lord is always before him, he is not shaken. This leads to deep joy and confidence, even beyond this life. Verses 9–11 point to a hope that extends past death. Ultimately fulfilled in Jesus Christ, this passage speaks of resurrection and eternal life. “In your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore”. The greatest reward is not temporary—it is eternal, found fully in God’s presence. God Himself is our portion, our joy, and our eternal reward—nothing else compares to having Him.

Application: It’s easy to say that God is enough, but life often reveals what we truly believe. When something is taken away, when circumstances shift, or when desires go unmet, it exposes where our confidence really lies. David’s words challenge us to examine what we’re depending on. Are you looking to God as your portion, or are you quietly relying on other things like success, relationships, comfort, or security to satisfy you? The truth is, anything you chase apart from God will eventually leave you empty. It may promise fulfillment, but it cannot deliver lasting joy. Only God can be your true portion. There is also incredible freedom here. When God is your reward, you don’t have to constantly chase more. You can live with contentment, knowing that you already have what matters most. And this isn’t just about the future, it’s about now. God’s presence brings joy, guidance, and stability today. Even in uncertainty, you can stand firm because your foundation isn’t shifting. Living this out means daily choosing to fix your eyes on God, reminding your heart that He is enough, and finding your deepest satisfaction in Him.

- *What are you currently looking to for satisfaction or security?*
- *How can you tell if something has become more important to you than God?*
- *When do you find it hardest to believe that God is enough?*
- *What is one way you can intentionally seek God’s presence this week?*
- *If God is your greatest reward, what are you still chasing that you don’t need?*

Week 16: “Our God Who Cares For Us”

Wk 16 - Day 1: Genesis 16

Explanation: Genesis 16 shows what happens when waiting turns into striving. God had promised Abram a child, but time passed and nothing seemed to change. Instead of continuing to trust, Sarai takes matters into her own hands and gives her servant Hagar to Abram so they can have a child through her. Abram agrees, and what follows is tension, jealousy, and broken relationships. Hagar, now pregnant, begins to look down on Sarai, and Sarai responds harshly. The situation spirals quickly. What was meant to “help” fulfill God’s promise only creates pain. Hagar eventually flees into the wilderness, alone and mistreated. But this is where the heart of the chapter is revealed—God meets Hagar in her distress. The Angel of the Lord finds her by a spring in the wilderness. This is the first time in Scripture that God specifically seeks out and speaks to someone in such a personal, direct way in their suffering. God calls her by name and asks, “Where have you come from and where are you going?”. Not because He lacks information, but because He is drawing her into awareness and trust. He instructs her to return and promises to multiply her offspring. Hagar responds by giving God a name: “You are a God of seeing” (v. 13). The phrase often translated “You see me” comes from the Hebrew idea of being fully seen, known, and understood. In a moment where she felt invisible and forgotten, she realizes that God has been watching and caring all along. She calls the place Beer-lahai-roi, meaning “the well of the Living One who sees me.” Her encounter transforms her perspective—God is not distant; He is attentive. Even in our mess, our mistakes, and our moments of feeling unseen, God is actively caring for us—seeing, pursuing, and providing.

Application: Waiting can be one of the hardest parts of following God. When things don’t happen on your timeline, it’s tempting to take control, force outcomes, or “figure it out” on your own. But Genesis 16 reminds us that stepping ahead of God often leads to unnecessary pain. Still, even when we make mistakes, God doesn’t walk away. He meets us in the middle of the consequences. Hagar wasn’t in an ideal situation, she was hurt, used, and alone, but God saw her. That same truth applies to you. There are moments when you may feel overlooked, misunderstood, or forgotten. Maybe no one else sees what you’re carrying or what you’re going through. But God does. He sees every detail, every struggle, every tear. And not only does He see, He cares enough to meet you there. He speaks, guides, and provides even in places you never expected to encounter Him.

Wk 16 - Day 2: Matthew 16

Explanation: In Matthew 16, Jesus Christ exposes spiritual blindness, reveals His identity, and redefines what it means to follow Him. The chapter begins with the Pharisees and Sadducees demanding a sign. Despite all they had already seen, they refuse to believe. Jesus calls them out for being able to read the weather but not discern the “signs of the times.” Their issue isn’t lack of evidence, it’s a hardened heart. As they leave, Jesus warns His disciples to beware of the “leaven” of the Pharisees and Sadducees. “Leaven” refers to yeast, something small that spreads and influences everything. Here, it represents false teaching and hypocrisy. The disciples initially misunderstand, thinking about bread, but Jesus redirects them to see the deeper spiritual danger. The turning point comes when Jesus asks, “Who do you say that I am?” (v. 15). Peter answers, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God” (v. 16). Jesus affirms that this truth is revealed by God, not human understanding. This confession becomes foundational, everything hinges on rightly knowing who Jesus is. Jesus then begins to reveal that He must suffer, be killed, and be raised. Peter, thinking he is protecting Jesus, rebukes Him. But Jesus responds sharply, showing that Peter’s thinking is centered on human concerns, not God’s plan. Finally, Jesus calls His followers to a life of total surrender: “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross” (v. 24). Following Jesus means letting go of self-centered living and trusting Him fully. The paradox is clear...losing your life for Christ is how you truly find it. God’s care is seen not just in meeting our needs, but in revealing truth, correcting our perspective, and calling us into a deeper, life-giving relationship with Him.

Application: God’s care for you isn’t always expressed in giving you what you want, it’s often shown in giving you what you need. In this chapter, Jesus corrects, warns, and challenges His disciples. That is His care. We often want clarity, signs, or easy answers. But sometimes the greater need is a softened heart that can recognize what God is already doing. Spiritual blindness isn’t about lack of information, it’s about resistance to truth. The question Jesus asks — “Who do you say that I am?” — is still the most important question you will ever answer. Everything in your life flows from your understanding of Him. If you see Him clearly, you’ll trust Him more deeply. Following Jesus is not about adding Him to your life, it’s about surrendering your life to Him. God cares enough about you to not leave you where you are.

- *Have you ever tried to “help God out” instead of waiting on Him? What happened?*
- *What does it mean to you personally that God sees you?*
- *Why is waiting on God often so difficult?*
- *If God sees everything about you—your struggles, thoughts, and fears—how should that shape your relationship with Him?*

- *Are there areas where you are seeking signs instead of trusting what God has already shown you?*
- *Have you ever resisted something God was doing because it didn’t match your expectations?*
- *How would you personally answer the question, “Who is Jesus to me?”*
- *Why do people often want more signs even when they already have enough evidence?*
- *What areas in your life do you need to work on “denying yourself” and surrendering fully to Him?*

Wk 16 - Day 3: Nehemiah 6

Explanation: Nehemiah 6 shows that as God’s work nears completion, opposition often becomes more subtle and strategic. The wall is almost finished, and Sanballat, Tobiah, and others shift from open hostility to distraction and deception. They repeatedly invite Nehemiah to meet them in the plain of Ono. On the surface, it seems like a reasonable request, but Nehemiah discerns their true intent: harm. His response is clear and consistent: “I am doing a great work and I cannot come down.” He refuses to be pulled away from what God has called him to do. When distraction fails, they try intimidation. An open letter falsely accuses Nehemiah of rebellion, attempting to damage his reputation and create fear. Nehemiah again responds with clarity and prayer, refusing to be shaken by lies. Next comes deception from within. A man named Shemaiah urges Nehemiah to hide in the temple for safety. But this would have been both fearful and disobedient and Nehemiah was not permitted to enter in that way. The word “discerned” (v. 12) is key—it means to recognize or understand. Nehemiah recognizes that this counsel is not from God, but from those trying to trap him. Despite all of this, the wall is completed in just 52 days. The surrounding nations recognize that this work was accomplished “with the help of our God” (v. 16). God’s care is evident, not in the absence of opposition, but in sustaining and guiding His people through it. God’s care is seen in how He protects, strengthens, and gives discernment so His work in our lives can be completed.

Application: Not all opposition looks obvious. Sometimes it comes as distraction like good sounding opportunities that pull you away from what matters most. Other times it comes as criticism, false accusations, or even advice that seems spiritual but is actually misleading. God’s care for you includes giving you discernment. Like Nehemiah, you don’t have to respond to every voice or every invitation. Knowing what to say “no” to is just as important as knowing what to say “yes” to. There’s also a battle for your focus. The enemy would love nothing more than to get you off track, discouraged, or fearful. But when you are confident in what God has called you to do, you can stay steady even when pressure rises. Fear is often used to manipulate decisions. Nehemiah could have justified hiding, but he recognized that fear-driven choices often lead away from obedience. God’s care doesn’t remove every threat, but it gives you courage to stand firm.

- How do you typically respond to criticism or false assumptions about you?
- Do you struggle more with distraction, discouragement, or fear? Why?
- How can we discern between good opportunities and God’s best calling?

Wk 16 - Day 4: Acts 16

Explanation: Acts 16 highlights how God cares by guiding, redirecting, and working through every circumstance. Paul meets Timothy and brings him along, showing God’s care in raising up others. As they travel, the Holy Spirit prevents them from going certain places, then redirects them through a vision to Macedonia. God’s guidance includes both closed and open doors. In Philippi, Lydia responds to the gospel because “the Lord opened her heart” (v. 14). This shows that God is actively working within people. After casting a spirit out of a slave girl, Paul and Silas are beaten and imprisoned. Yet in prison, they pray and sing. God sends an earthquake that opens the doors, leading to the salvation of the jailer and his household. What seems like interruption or suffering is actually God at work, guiding, saving, and sustaining. God’s care is seen in His guidance, His presence in hardship, and His work in ways we don’t always expect.

Application: God’s care doesn’t always look like open doors, it often looks like closed ones. When your plans are redirected, it’s easy to feel frustrated or confused. But Acts 16 reminds you that God’s “no” is not rejection, it’s redirection. He sees what you cannot. There are also moments when obedience leads to difficulty, not ease. Paul and Silas followed God’s leading, and it led them to prison. But even there, God was working. Sometimes the place you would never choose is the very place where God is doing His greatest work. Your response in those moments matters. Paul and Silas chose worship over worry. That didn’t just sustain them, it impacted others around them. Your faith in hard seasons can become a testimony that points others to God. God’s care is also deeply personal. He opened Lydia’s heart. He reached the jailer in his darkest moment. He sees individuals, not just crowds. When you trust that God cares for you, you can walk forward with confidence—even when the path doesn’t make sense, knowing He is guiding, working, and present every step of the way.

- How have you seen God work in unexpected ways in your life?
- What does worship look like in your life during hard seasons?
- Can you think of a time when a “closed door” turned out to be God’s guidance?
- How can we support each other when someone is going through a difficult season?
- If God is guiding even your detours, how should that change the way you view your current situation?

OUR MIGHTY

2026 BIBLE READING GUIDE

God

Wk 16 - Day 5: Psalm 34

Explanation: Psalm 34 is a testimony of God's care in the middle of fear and trouble. Written by David after a dangerous encounter, it begins with a commitment: "I will bless the LORD at all times" (v. 1). David chooses praise not because life is easy, but because God is faithful. He invites others to join him in magnifying the Lord, then shares his experience: "I sought the LORD, and He answered me and delivered me from all my fears". Notice, God doesn't just remove danger; He addresses fear. His care reaches the heart. Verse 6 says, "This poor man cried, and the LORD heard him." The word "poor" carries the idea of being afflicted or helpless. David acknowledges his need, and God responds with attention and rescue. One of the most powerful promises comes in verse 7: "The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear Him." The word "encamps" paints a picture of surrounding protection, meaning God's care is not distant; it is near and active. David then calls others to "taste and see that the LORD is good" (v. 8). This is an invitation to experience God personally, not just know about Him. The psalm balances promise with reality. God delivers, provides, and is near, but trouble still exists). Verse 18 is especially tender: "The LORD is near to the brokenhearted." God's care is not just seen in rescue, but in His presence with us in pain. God's care is personal, present, and powerful—He hears, delivers, and draws near to those who trust Him.

Application: God's care doesn't mean you'll never face trouble, it means you're never alone in it. Psalm 34 doesn't ignore hardship; it shows how God meets you in it. Fear is something we all face. Situations, uncertainty, and pressure can overwhelm your heart. But David reminds us that when you bring your fears to God, He doesn't ignore them, He responds! He may not always remove the situation immediately, but He strengthens you within it. There's also an invitation here to experience God personally. It's possible to know about God's goodness without truly experiencing it. "Taste and see" means stepping into trust, bringing your needs, your fears, and your life before Him. God's care is especially real when you feel broken. When life feels heavy, when your heart is hurting, that's not when God pulls away, it's when He draws near. Living in light of this means choosing praise even when it's hard, bringing your fears honestly to God, and trusting that He is both present and working, even when you don't fully understand.

- *What fears are you currently facing?*
- *How can you choose praise even when life feels hard?*
- *What does it mean to you that God is near when you are hurting?*
- *How can you remind yourself daily of God's care and presence?*
- *If someone listened to your words this week, would they hear more fear or more faith?*
- *Are you more focused on your problems or on God's presence in them? What would change if you truly believed God is near to you right now?*