

MAY *Bible Reading Guide*

April 30-May 6, 2012

☐ *Monday: James 4:1-8*

What gets in the way of answered prayer (4:2-3)? What do we need to do to change our motivations (4:6-8)? What keeps you from asking? How would practicing verse 7 improve your prayer life?

☐ *Tuesday: Jeremiah 7:1-4, 11-20*

What is the problem that God sends Jeremiah to address (7:1-4, 11-12)? What did the people do repeatedly with God's messages (7:13)? What impact does spiritual deafness and disobedience have on our prayers (7:16)?

☐ *Wednesday: Proverbs 28:9; Psalm 119:33-40*

According to Proverbs 28:9, what makes our prayers an abomination? How does this motivate you to engage God's Word? In Psalm 119:33-40, how does the psalmist engage the Word? In pursuing it, what does the writer move away from (119:36-39)? How could this help you deal with temptation or find help for your life?

☐ *Thursday: Matthew 20:20-28*

What does this mother ask of Jesus (20:20-21)? How does He answer her (20:22)? What does Jesus encourage them to pursue instead (20:25-28)? Do you think Jesus hears some of your prayers and says "You don't know what you're asking"? Why or why not? Why might it be better to let God have His way than to push our own agenda?

☐ *Friday: Luke 11:1-13*

In this model for prayer (11:2-4), what relates to God? What relates to us? To others? What does the parable of the unexpected guest tell us about prayer (11:5-8)? What can we expect when we ask of God (11:9-10)? What is the most important thing to ask for (11:13) and why? What needs to change in your prayers based on this model?

☐ *Saturday: Psalm 106:1-31*

What characteristics of God does the psalmist focus on (106:1-3)? What does he ask of God and why (106:4-6)? Describe the cycle between God and His people (106:7-31). How have you seen that cycle in your life or in your family? What does it mean for you to see this demonstration of God's faithfulness?

☐ *Sunday: Psalm 106:29-48*

List some ways God's people provoked His anger (106:29-39). What did they suffer as a result (106:40-43)? How did God demonstrate His mercy and faithfulness (106:43-46)? What should our response to His mercy and faithfulness be (106:47-48)? How have you responded to God's salvation in your life?

May 7-13, 2012

☐ *Monday: Matthew 5:43-45; 6:5-6; Luke 18:1-8*

What commands does Jesus give about prayer (Matthew 5:44; 6:6)? What does this tell you about the necessity of prayer? Describe your view of prayer's place in your life right now. In Luke 18, why did Jesus tell this first parable (18:1)? What does this parable teach you about prayer?

☐ *Tuesday: Jeremiah 33:3; Ephesians 2:11-21; Luke 18:9-14*

What did Jesus do to give us access to God (Ephesians 2:13-16)? What does this mean for us as we pray (2:18-21)? How has Jesus brought you peace? In Luke 18, to

whom was the second parable directed (18:9)? How do you see their problem illustrated (Luke 18:10-13)? Which person in this parable best reflects your approach to God?

☐ *Wednesday: Philippians 1:19-21; 1 Peter 1:22-23*

What does Paul believe prayer will help accomplish (Philippians 1:19)? What is his expectation and hope (1:20-21)? How do you have an "eager expectation" when you pray? According to 1 Peter 1:22, how are we love one another? How do you see that translate into your prayer life?

☐ *Thursday: Hebrews 4:14-16; James 4:13-17*

How does Jesus serve as our priest (Hebrews 4:14-5)? What is your confidence based on when you come before God's throne of grace? How does this influence what you bring to God in prayer? Why do we need to be careful in our boasting about future plans (James 4:13-14)? What should be the condition for our plans and our prayers (4:15)? How do you need to use that condition as you pray today?

☐ *Friday: Matthew 6:7-14; 1 John 5:12-15*

What should not be a characteristic of our prayers (Matthew 6:7)? How does this model for prayer give you confidence? What is authority by which we can pray? What do you get when you believe the Son (1 John 5:12)? How does this influence your approach to God (5:14-15)?

☐ *Saturday: Psalm 107:1-22*

What are the primary reasons to give thanks to God (107:1-3)? What did God redeem His people from (107:4-6; 10-13; 17-9)? List some of the ways He worked to rescue and redeem them (107:7-9; 13-16; 19-20)? How are the redeemed to respond now (107:21-22)? Which of these problems can you identify with? How have you seen God redeem your life?

☐ *Sunday: Psalm 107:23-43*

What did those in ships learn of the Lord's works and how (107:23-30)? What are they told to do in response (107:31-32)? What other works does God do for the benefit of His redeemed (107:33-42)? What have you seen God on your behalf? How will you put 107:43 into use today?

May 14-20, 2012

☐ *Monday: Acts 1:1-8*

What proofs does Luke present for the resurrected Christ (1:1-3)? Why are these important? What were Jesus' last instructions to His disciples (1:4-5)? Why did they need to wait (1:7-8)? How do you react when God tells you to wait on something He wants to do?

☐ *Tuesday: Acts 1:9-26*

What reassurance do the angels give the disciples (1:9-11)? What do the disciples do while they wait for the Holy Spirit (1:12-14)? How do you see them handle decision-making (1:15-26)? What part did prayer play? What part does prayer have in your life when you're waiting?

☐ *Wednesday: Acts 2:1-21*

How did the Holy Spirit come (2:1-4)? What changed for Jesus' followers? What were some of the reactions of those who witnessed this new thing (2:5-13)? How did Peter answer their questions (2:14-21)? How does God's Word confirm God's work in this passage? How has the Spirit given you power today?

☐ Thursday: Acts 2:22-47

In his sermon, how does Peter identify Jesus (2:22-28)? What does David's prophetic testimony tell you about Jesus (2:25-36)? How did those listening react to this message? What is your reaction when someone delivers the truth about Jesus? What do you learn here about the community of believers (2:42-47)?

☐ Friday: Acts 3:1-26

What was the lame man waiting for? What did he receive (3:6-8)? What was the response to this miracle (3:9-11)? How have you asked for one thing but received something even better from God? Peter took advantage of this opportunity to preach; what was the core of his message?

☐ Saturday: Acts 4:1-22

Where did the negative response to Peter's sermon come from (4:1-3)? What was the positive response (4:4)? Peter's power was questioned; how did he answer (4:5-12)? What dilemma did the council face (4:13-17) and how did they try to solve it? What authority does Peter say we are to obey? How do you handle authority or opposition in your life?

☐ Sunday: Acts 4:23-37

What's the first response of the disciples to this threat of opposition (4:23-31)? How does this example help you face potential opposition in your life? What further evidence do you see of the Spirit's power (4:31-37)?

May 21-27, 2012

☐ Monday: Acts 5:1-16

What was Ananias judged for (5:1-5)? What was Sapphira judged for (5:7-10)? What impact did this have on the church and why? What impact did the signs and wonders have (5:12-16)? God doesn't always work this way; why do you think it was important for that time and place?

☐ Tuesday: Acts 5:17-42

What were the high priest and the religious leaders "filled with" (5:17)? How does that play into their actions? What happened to the apostles (5:18-26)? What is Peter's justification for their continued ministry (5:29-32)? How does Gamaliel calm the council (5:33-40)? Was he right or wrong in his advice?

☐ Wednesday: Acts 6:1-7:16

Describe the problem the church had and their solution (6:1-7). What does this say about roles and service within the body of believers? How did Stephen get into trouble (6:8-15)? What was his response (7:1-16)? What do you learn from Stephen's courage? About facing false accusations?

☐ Thursday: Acts 7:17-60

History is central to Stephen's sermon (7:17-53); what does he say about God's relationship with Israel? About Israel's treatment of God? What did this message lead to (7:54-60)? How did Stephen face his death? How does his testimony encourage you?

☐ Friday: Acts 8:4-40

How did Philip's mission fulfill Jesus' command in Acts 1:8? What was the response (8:6-8)? What did Simon want (8:9-12)? How did he try to get it and what was the result (8:18-24)? What did the Holy Spirit do for these believers (8:14-25)? Contrast Simon's faith with the Ethiopian man Philip met (8:26-38). How has God's Word led you to respond in faith?

☐ Saturday: John 14:15-31

If you love Jesus, what will you do (14:15, 21-24)? What is the Holy Spirit's mission (14:16-17)? What do you discover here about the Holy Spirit (14:25-26)? How do you live in the peace that Jesus gives?

☐ Sunday: John 16:4-15

Why is it to your advantage to have the Holy Spirit now instead of Jesus (16:5-11)? Knowing this, where do you need to take advantage of the Holy Spirit's help? What else do you learn about the Holy Spirit (16:12-15)?

May 28-June 3, 2012

☐ Monday: Acts 8:1-3, 9:1-31

What is the first thing we learn about Saul (7:58; 8:1-3)? What was his agenda in Damascus (9:1-2)? How did Jesus change Saul's agenda (9:4-9)? What did the Lord do for Ananias (9:10-16)? What does the Lord reveal about his plans for Saul (9:15-16)? What do you learn about Saul's new agenda (9:19-31)? How have you seen God transform your life or someone else's?

☐ Tuesday: Acts 9:32-10:23

What does the power of Christ do through Peter in Lydda (9:32-34)? In Joppa (9:36-43)? What is God doing in Cornelius (10:1-8)? How does the Lord test Peter's obedience and understanding (10:9-16)? How has He tested your obedience?

☐ Wednesday: Acts 10:19-48

What do you learn about God's timing (10:19-33)? How does that help you with your trust in Him? What changes for Peter (10:34-43)? How does the Holy Spirit confirm God's lack of partiality (10:44-48)? How does that encourage you in your faith? In how you relate to other people?

☐ Thursday: Acts 11:1-30

What criticism does Peter get on his return to Jerusalem (11:1-3)? How does he respond (11:4-17)? What was the reaction (11:18)? How and why is the church moving out from Jerusalem (11:19-22)? What was Barnabas sent do (11:22-24)? What do Barnabas and these church leaders teach you about service and help?

☐ Friday: Acts 12:1-25

What was Peter's next challenge (12:1-5)? How did he handle it (12:6)? How did the Lord handle it (12:7-12)? How did the believers handle it (12:12, 15-17)? Have you ever struggled to accept God's answer to your prayers? How did God handle the problem with Herod (12:20-25)?

☐ Saturday: Acts 13:1-15

How were the first "missionaries" selected and sent off (13:1-3)? What did Saul and Barnabas encounter on Cyprus (13:4-8)? How did the Holy Spirit work through Saul (13:9-12)? What have you seen the Holy Spirit do in your life?

☐ Sunday: Acts 13:16-52

This is Paul's first recorded sermon; what does he focus on for the Jews listening (13:16-41)? Why is the link to David and the kingship so important in Paul's witness for Christ? What does he focus on about Jesus (13:23-39)? What's the response to this sermon (13:42-43)? What problem followed this response (13:44-45)? What made the Gentiles rejoice (13:48)? What message about Jesus makes you rejoice?