The background is a dark, monochromatic photograph of a desert landscape. In the foreground, there are rolling sand dunes. In the middle ground, there are dark, jagged rock formations. The sky is filled with heavy, dark clouds. A bright blue square is centered in the upper half of the image, containing the title text in white, outlined, sans-serif capital letters.

GRACE IN THE WORD

A JOURNEY THROUGH EXODUS: LENT 2021



“I AM THE LORD YOUR GOD, WHO BROUGHT YOU OUT OF THE LAND OF EGYPT, OUT OF THE PLACE OF SLAVERY.” EXODUS 20:2

“AND LET THEM MAKE ME A SANCTUARY, THAT I MAY DWELL IN THEIR MIDST.” EXODUS 25:8

“FOR THIS IS THE COVENANT THAT I WILL MAKE WITH THE HOUSE OF ISRAEL AFTER THOSE DAYS, SAYS THE LORD: I WILL PUT MY LAWS INTO THEIR MINDS AND WRITE THEM ON THEIR HEARTS. I WILL BE THEIR GOD, AND THEY WILL BE MY PEOPLE.” HEBREWS 8:10

A JOURNEY THROUGH EXODUS

ABOUT THIS READING PLAN:

The story of Exodus is a story of salvation. In the first part of this 7-week reading plan, we'll follow the Israelites' road out of captivity, through the plagues in Egypt and the parting of the Red Sea to the foot of Mt. Sinai. Next, we will discover together what it means to worship a holy God according to the glory and beauty of His design, intricately laid out in the second half of Exodus. The third part of the study traces Holy Week from Palm Sunday through Jesus' resurrection. Join us this Lenten season as we read through the book of Exodus and the Easter story, and see the Lord's salvation.

Reading Plan adapted from "See the Lord's Salvation" - She/He Reads Truth 2018 Lent Study

CONTEXT & THEME OF EXODUS:

The events recorded in Exodus begin with the death of Joseph around 1805 BC and closes with the building of the Tabernacle in 1445 BC. The word "exodus" in greek means "the road out", which is fitting because the first half of the book centers around Israel's road out of slavery in Egypt and into a place of being totally dependent on God as He led them in the wilderness. Exodus centers around God's desire to rescue His people as well as his desire to come dwell among His people. The theme that runs through this book is God's ongoing covenant relationship with His people. In Exodus, we see God's character on display through his patience, grace, and forgiveness. This is an important book in the redemption story told in scripture and these scriptures are referenced often throughout the rest of the Bible. The themes of Exodus find their ultimate fulfillment in the person of Jesus Christ, which is what makes the study of Exodus the perfect backdrop for Lent season leading up to Easter Sunday.

We highly recommend that you watch the BibleProject Exodus overview videos at bibleproject.com/explore/video/exodus-1-18 and bibleproject.com/explore/video/exodus-19-40

ADDITIONAL STUDY RESOURCES:

Study material in this guide was adapted from *She/He Reads Truth*, *The Bible Recap*, *BibleProject*, and *ESV Study Bible*.

Join our online community on Facebook at facebook.com/groups/graceintheword and be sure to keep checking our website at graceclarksville.com/intheword for more information.

Name & Contact Information:

What is your hope for this 7 weeks in God's Word?

PRAYERS / REFLECTIONS

BEFORE YOU READ GOD'S WORD TODAY, SEEK HIS HELP WITH THESE 5 PRAYERS:

- 1 God, give me wisdom, knowledge, and understanding.
- 2 God, let any knowledge I gain serve to help me love You and others more, and not puff me up.
- 3 God, help me see something new about You I've never seen before.
- 4 God, correct any lies I believe about You or anything I misunderstand.
- 5 God, direct my steps according to Your Word.

*** Prayers from "The Bible Recap" Reading Plan by Tara-Leigh Cobble ***

TIPS FOR APPROACHING SCRIPTURE:

- Pray before you read (use the prayers above)
- Read the words in proper context, taking into consideration when it was written, who it was written to, what was happening when it was written (a good study bible is helpful, we recommend the ESV Study Bible)
- Look for God's character and faithfulness to His people
- Look for themes that point to Jesus
- Look for anything repetitive, unusual, confusing, hopeful, comforting, challenging
- Once you are finished reading, take a few minutes to meditate on what you have read:
 - » Narrow what you've read down to just one or two main thoughts.
 - » What did I learn about God in these passages?
 - » How can I praise God for what this says about him?
 - » What did I learn about the human heart in these passages?
 - » What behavior/emotions come when I forget these things about God?
 - » What is God revealing to me today that I need to listen to?
 - » What sins do I need to confess in light of what God revealed today?
 - » What is one next step I can take in light of what I have read today?

WEEKLY CHECKLIST

WEEK ONE:

- Day 1 - Genesis 3:17-19, Psalm 78:1-7, Isaiah 30:15-18, Joel 2:12, Acts 3:19-20, Romans 3:22-23, Colossians 2:6-14
- Day 2 - Genesis 15:13-15, Psalm 136, Luke 24:13-32
- Day 3 - Exodus 1-2, Genesis 35:11-12, Matthew 2:13-23
- Day 4 - Exodus 3-4, Joshua 5:13-15, Matthew 22:23-33
- Day 5 - Exodus 5, Exodus 6:1-27, Isaiah 6:4-5, Psalm 68:4-6
- Day 6 - Grace Day
- Day 7 - Reflection Day - Psalm 68:5-6, Exodus 3:14

WEEK TWO:

- Day 8 - Exodus 6:28-30, Exodus 7-8, Genesis 47:4-6, Psalm 95:1-5
- Day 9 - Exodus 9-11, Deuteronomy 7:6-11, Romans 9:17
- Day 10 - Exodus 12, Exodus 13:1-16, Psalm 51:7, John 1:29
- Day 11 - Exodus 13:17-22, Exodus 14, Exodus 15:1-21, Psalm 106:1-12, Romans 6:1-4
- Day 12 - Exodus 15:22-27, Exodus 16-17, John 6:41-51, I Corinthians 10:1-5
- Day 13 - Grace Day
- Day 14 - Reflection Day - Deuteronomy 7:6, Exodus 14:13

WEEK THREE:

- Day 15 - Exodus 18, Deuteronomy 17:8-11, Acts 6:1-7
- Day 16 - Exodus 19, Exodus 20:1-21, John 1:14-17, Hebrews 8:7-13
- Day 17 - Exodus 20:22-26, Exodus 21, Isaiah 44:6, Matthew 22:36-40
- Day 18 - Exodus 22, Exodus 23:1-19, Proverbs 31:8-9, I Corinthians 10:24
- Day 19 - Exodus 23:20-33, Exodus 24-25, Matthew 26:26-29, Hebrews 9:18-22
- Day 20 - Grace Day
- Day 21 - Reflection Day - Exodus 20:2, Hebrews 8:10

WEEK FOUR:

- Day 22 - Exodus 26, Genesis 3:24, Hebrews 9:6-14
- Day 23 - Exodus 27, Zechariah 4, Revelation 11:1-4
- Day 24 - Exodus 28, Ezekiel 44:15-19, Ezekiel 44: 23-29, I Peter 2:4-5
- Day 25 - Exodus 29, Psalm 132:12-16, Hebrews 7:23-28
- Day 26 - Exodus 30, II Corinthians 2:14-16, I John 2:24-27
- Day 27 - Grace Day
- Day 28 - Reflection Day - Exodus 25:8, Hebrews 7:24-25

WEEK FIVE:

- Day 29 - Exodus 31, Jeremiah 31:31-34, II Corinthians 3:1-3
- Day 30 - Exodus 32, I Kings 12:26-28
- Day 31 - Exodus 33, Genesis 3:8-10
- Day 32 - Exodus 34, John 14:8-11, II Corinthians 3:12-18
- Day 33 - Exodus 35, John 10:17-18, Romans 12:1
- Day 34 - Grace Day
- Day 35 - Reflection Day - Exodus 34:6-7, II Corinthians 3:17-18

WEEK SIX:

- Day 36 - Exodus 36, Matthew 27:50-51, Hebrews 9:23-28
- Day 37 - Exodus 37, Jeremiah 1:11-12, Revelation 1:12-20
- Day 38 - Exodus 38, Psalm 51:14-17, Hebrews 10:1-14
- Day 39 - Exodus 39, Psalm 110:1-4, Hebrews 5:1-10
- Day 40 - Exodus 40, Matthew 3:16-17, Acts 2:1-4
- Day 41 - Grace Day
- Day 42 - Palm Sunday - Luke 19:28-44, Zechariah 9:9, Psalm 118:25-29

WEEK SEVEN:

- Day 43 - Mark 11:12-19, Isaiah 56:1-8
- Day 44 - Luke 21, Luke 22:1-2, Daniel 7:13-14
- Day 45 - Mark 14:3-11, Matthew 26:14-16, Luke 22:3-6, Zechariah 11:12-13
- Day 46 - John 16:16-24, John 32-33, Mark 14:12-72, Psalm 41:7-13, Zechariah 13:7
- Day 47 - Good Friday - Mark 15:1-47, Isaiah 52:13-15, Isaiah 53:1-7
- Day 48 - Holy Saturday - Luke 23:54-56, Matthew 27:62-66, Isaiah 53:8-12
- Day 49 - Easter Sunday - Luke 24:1-49, Psalm 16:9-11

A VISUAL GUIDE

We will miss the main point of Scripture if we fail to look for Jesus throughout the entire Bible. The Bible is a book about God, but more specifically it is a book about God's plan of salvation through Jesus Christ. If we look at the Bible as one big story from Genesis to Revelation, we can see that every part of the story points to HIM.

As we embark on this journey through Exodus, we will see God give his people the law-which they were commanded to obey. This law lays the foundation for Jesus. Because God's people will never be able to keep the law perfectly, they need a Savior. As we see Moses successfully deliver the people out of slavery, we will also see his failures, highlighting the need for Jesus, the greater Deliverer that is to come.

Jesus – Cover to Cover



WHY EXODUS?

JESUS SAID THE BOOK OF EXODUS WAS ABOUT HIM.

To the religious leaders who wanted to kill Him, Jesus said, “if you believed Moses, you would believe me, because he wrote about me” (John 5:46). And when He appeared to the travelers on the road to Emmaus after He had risen, “beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted for them the things concerning himself in all the Scriptures” (Luke 24:27). Passages like these tell us there is no better way to read to the book of Exodus than in light of Jesus’ cross and empty tomb.

The entire story of Exodus rests on promises God made to His people. There is the promise the Lord made to Abraham four hundred years earlier—to take his descendants as His own and love them with an everlasting love (Genesis 12:1-3). Exodus says it was because of this ancient promise to Abraham that God delivered the people of Moses (Exodus 2:24). This has always been the way of the Lord. The grace He extends to you and me is not based on how He feels about us in any given moment. His faithfulness is anchored in ancient promises He made long before we were born. God doesn’t change. His steadfast love endures forever (Psalm 136:1).

But there is an even greater promise at work in Exodus than the one He made to Abraham. When Adam and Eve sinned against the Lord, God swore that one would come from the woman who would crush evil’s head (Genesis 3:15). The life, death, and resurrection of Jesus is the fulfillment of that promise. Every word of Scripture that follows rests on God’s vow to redeem and restore His sinful, wayward people to Himself, which He accomplished through the ministry of His Son.

Exodus points to how Jesus would save us. We see Him in the Passover Lamb, in the bread from heaven, in the water that flowed when the rock was struck, and in the burning bush which spoke the name “I AM.” We see Him in the liberation of a people oppressed by tyranny and enslaved to the kingdom of this world. Even more, we see Jesus as the presence of God coming down from heaven to dwell among His people (Exodus 40:34-35, John 1:14).

When we stop to ask why any of these events took place, the answer is because God made a promise. He made a promise to rescue us from slavery to sin (Romans 6:18). He made a promise to lead us through the wilderness of this life (Psalm 23). And He made a promise to bring us into our eternal promised home (2 Corinthians 5:1). All these things have been accomplished for us through the sacrifice of our perfect Passover Lamb, Jesus—the Son of God (1 Peter 1:18-19).

The Bible is a book of promises made and promises kept, and Jesus is at the center of them all (2 Corinthians 1:20).

Written by Russ Ramsey - *He Reads Truth*

A dark, atmospheric landscape featuring a wide, sandy beach in the foreground and rugged, dark mountains in the background under a heavy, grey sky. A solid blue rectangular box is centered in the middle of the image, containing the text "WEEK 1" in a white, outlined, sans-serif font.

WEEK 1

WEEK 1

DAY 1 - MONDAY - THE HEART OF LENT

Genesis 3:17-19, Psalm 78:1-7, Isaiah 30:15-18, Joel 2:12, Acts 3:19-20, Romans 3:22-23, Colossians 2:6-14

LONG, SLOW SEASON

All of Scripture is a story of God's unearned love and unmerited faithfulness toward a rebellious people. It is an exodus story, where the primary job of the one being rescued is to trust the Rescuer. We cannot deliver ourselves, but the One who can deliver us has come.

Lent is a long, slow season where we pause to remember who we are, who God is, and what Jesus has done. We are made from dust with love and intention, in the image of our Creator (Genesis 1:27). We have sinned and we are sinners, incapable of saving ourselves (Romans 6:23). Jesus Christ is the perfect expression of God's eternal love and faithfulness, given to reconcile us to Himself (Colossians 1:19-20). We are invited to repent of our sin, return to our merciful and compassionate God, and rest in the freedom of His grace and forgiveness (Acts 3:19-20).

His love for us cannot be outdone or undone. Enter this season of repentance and remembrance with humility, willing to see and confess your sin. And enter with confidence, trusting in the completed work of Jesus Christ on your behalf. Don't bother running away on fast horses or hiding behind your best efforts. Run to Him, and rest.

Written by Amanda Bible Williams - *She Reads Truth*

**WHAT DID YOU LEARN ABOUT
GOD, HUMANITY OR JESUS IN
THESE PASSAGES?**

**WHAT IS ONE NEXT STEP YOU
CAN TAKE IN LIGHT OF WHAT
YOU HAVE READ TODAY?**

Go to graceclarksville.com/intheword for additional study resources.

WEEK 1

DAY 2 - TUESDAY - UNDERSTANDING EXODUS THROUGH THE CROSS

Genesis 15:13-15, Psalm 136, Luke 24:13-32

In today's reading, we see the Genesis passage point forward to the Exodus story, the Psalm walks through the journey of Exodus, and the Luke passage points back to the Exodus story.

**HOW DO YOU RESPOND TO
WHAT YOU READ TODAY?**

**HOW DOES IT MOVE YOU TO
PRAY?**

WEEK 1

DAY 3 - WEDNESDAY - ISRAEL OPPRESSED IN EGYPT

Exodus 1-2, Genesis 35:11-12, Matthew 2:13-23

To prepare for this week's reading take a few minutes and watch the BibleProject Exodus Part 1 Overview Video at bibleproject.com/explore/video/exodus-1-18

A GOD WHO REMEMBERS

What is staggering about this passage is amidst the trauma, murder, hurt, neglect, and systemic injustice the people of God were experiencing, God was still hearing their cries and remembering His covenant. He had not forgotten and was not deaf to their cries for help, rescue, relief, or home. "God heard their groaning; and God remembered his covenant" (Exodus 2:24). Even as the earthly and wicked leader grew old, frail, and died, **God was still on His throne hearing, preparing, remembering, and moving on behalf of His people.**

None of us are immune to pain this side of heaven; Christ assured us we would know sorrow in this world (John 16:33). We can probably all readily recall some recent and very real struggle in our own lives. Today, as we operate in our selective hearing of our Father or delayed disobedience to the Holy Spirit or constant forgetfulness of the work of Christ on the cross for us, let's remember afresh that God never ignores us or forgets us.

Written by Lore Ferguson Wilbert - *She Reads Truth*

WEEK 1

DAY 4 - THURSDAY - THE LORD CALLS MOSES

Exodus 3-4, Joshua 5:13-15, Matthew 22:23-33

Moses had his doubts, questions, and excuses, but God made it clear that Moses was the one He chose to lead His people out of slavery. God patiently responds to each of Moses' concerns, while sticking to His plan. God knew Moses was ill-equipped to do the job before him, yet God also knew that He would be by Moses' side every step of the way.

MOSES' QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS	YAHWEH'S RESPONSES AND SIGNS
Who am I that I should go? (3:11).	I will be with you; when you come out of Egypt, you will serve me on this mountain (3:12).
What is your name, that I may tell the people who sent me? (3:13).	I AM WHO I AM: Yahweh, the God of your fathers Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (3:14-15).
How would the people believe that you have sent me? (4:1).	Yahweh turns Moses' rod into a serpent then back into a rod (4:2-4); Yahweh makes Moses' hand leprous then heals it (4:6-7); Yahweh instructs Moses to turn water from the Nile into blood (4:9).
I am not eloquent; I am slow of speech (4:10).	I, Yahweh, am the one who made your mouth (4:11).
Please send someone else (4:13).	Aaron will go with you; you will speak my words to him and he will speak to the people for you (4:15-16).

WHAT DID GOD REVEAL TO YOU TODAY ABOUT HOW HE USES BROKEN VESSELS TO DO HIS WORK?

WEEK 1

DAY 5 - FRIDAY - THE LORD PROMISES FREEDOM

Exodus 5, Exodus 6:1-27, Isaiah 6:4-5, Psalm 68:4-6

**WHAT DO WE LEARN ABOUT
GOD IN THESE PASSAGES?**

**WHAT DO THESE PASSAGES
TELL US ABOUT FREEDOM?**

**WHAT IS THE HOPE PROMISED
IN THESE VERSES?**

WEEK 1

DAY 6 - SATURDAY - GRACE DAY

Use today to rest, pray, and reflect on this week's reading.

As you reflect on what you've read this week:

1. *What themes did you see emerge?*
2. *What was the biggest thing that God revealed to you this week?*
3. *What next step do you need to take based on what He revealed to you this week?*

WEEK 1

DAY 7 - SUNDAY - REFLECTION DAY

Meditate on these verses:

"For you are a holy people belonging to the LORD your God. The LORD your God has chosen you to be his own possession out of all the peoples on the face of the earth."

Psalm 68:5-6

"God replied to Moses, 'I am who I am.'"

Exodus 3:14

I AM WHO I AM

In response to Moses' question ("What is [your] name?"), God reveals his name to be "Yahweh" (corresponding to the four Hebrew consonants YHWH). The three occurrences of "I AM" in v. 14 all represent forms of the Hebrew verb that means "to be", and in each case are related to the divine name Yahweh "the LORD". The divine name Yahweh has suggested to scholars a range of likely nuances of meaning: (1) that God is self-existent and therefore not dependent on anything else for his own existence; (2) that God is the creator and sustainer of all that exists; (3) that God is immutable in his being and character and thus is not in the process of becoming something different from what he is (e.g., "the same yesterday and today and forever," Heb. 13:8); and (4) that God is eternal in his existence. While each of these points is true of God, the main focus in this passage is on the Lord's promise to be with Moses and his people. Given the context of Ex. 3:12 ("I will be with you"), the name of Yahweh ("the LORD") is also a clear reminder of God's promises to his people and of his help for them to fulfill their calling. In each of these cases, the personal name of God as revealed to Moses expresses something essential about the attributes and character of God.

Taken from the ESV Study Bible

A dark, moody landscape photograph featuring a tree in the center and a field of tall grass in the foreground. A bright blue rectangular box is overlaid in the center, containing the text "WEEK 2" in white, outlined, uppercase letters. The background is a dark, overcast sky with some light clouds.

WEEK 2

THE PASSOVER

The Old Testament Passover lamb was a foreshadowing of the better and final Passover Lamb, Jesus Christ. Through His sinless life and sacrificial death, Jesus gave people a way to escape death and have an eternal life (1 Peter 1:20-21).

The New Testament establishes a relationship between this Passover lamb in Exodus and Jesus as the Passover Lamb. John the Baptist describes Jesus as “the Lamb of God” (John 1:29), and Peter connects the lamb without defect in Exodus with Christ, a “lamb without blemish or defect” (1 Peter 1:19) because Jesus was completely free from sin (Hebrews 4:15). In Revelation, John sees Jesus as “a Lamb, looking as if it had been slain” (Revelation 5:6), which points to the fact that Jesus’ death took place during the week they celebrated Passover (Mark 14:12).

Just as the Passover lamb’s blood being applied to their door caused the “destroyer” to pass over each household, Christ’s blood causes God’s judgment to pass over sinners and give them eternal life. (Romans 6:23).

THE PASSOVER LAMB

1 year old male

EX. 12:3 **TAKE A LAMB**

EX. 12:6 **14TH DAY OF THE 1ST MONTH**

no defects

DON'T BREAK ANY BONES EX. 12:46

KILL AT TWILIGHT EX. 12:6

The blood will be a sign for you on the houses where you are; and when I see the blood, I will pass over you. No destructive plague will touch you when I strike Egypt. Exodus 12:12-13

While providing visual symbolism, the detailed instructions foreshadowed Jesus and provided a way for God's people to demonstrate their trust and faith in God.

EX. 12:46 **EAT THE LAMB IN ONE HOUSE**

EX. 12:7 **APPLY BLOOD TO DOORFRAME**

The Passover story is full of imagery that points to Jesus. How does God redeem His people from a world of sin and injustice? He's going to bring justice and set things right. But he's also going to provide a substitute, a lamb. And those who put themselves literally under the blood of the lamb find themselves rescued and spared from justice. You may not see Jesus' name mentioned in Exodus 12 & 13, but we do see the first mention of redemption.

The first Passover marked the Hebrews being free from slavery and the death of Christ marks our freedom from the slavery of sin (Romans 8:2). The first Passover was meant as a remembrance of God's faithfulness, and Christians today still take communion in remembrance of Christ's death and God's faithfulness to rescue His people. (1 Corinthians 11:26).

The blood of the lamb was a distinguishing mark for the Israelites as God's people.

The blood of the lamb saved them from the destruction coming to the Egyptians as a result of the plague.

After the lamb was sacrificed and the door marked with blood, the Lord brought the Israelites out of Egypt and out of slavery, by the strength of His hand (Exodus 13:16).

In a similar fashion, the blood of Christ is a distinguishing mark for us, as Christians. Because of Jesus, we are able to live freely by the grace He bought for us through His spotless life, death, and resurrection. His blood distinguishes us and sets us apart as a royal priesthood of believers called to spread the good news of the gospel to others (1 Peter 2:9). All of this is possible because "Christ our Passover lamb has been sacrificed" (1 Corinthians 5:7).

The blood of the Lamb is a distinguishing mark for us, reminding us of His sacrifice and setting us apart as believers.

The blood of the Lamb washes us whiter than snow (John 1:29).

The blood of the Lamb reminds us of our salvation and pushes us to live a life of freedom (Galatians 5:1).

The Israelites were kept safe from the plague by the mark on their doors, and Christ's blood is a mark on our hearts, of the redemption found in Him. Thanks be to God.

Written by Ellen L. Taylor - *She Reads Truth*

WEEK 2

DAY 8 - MONDAY - THE PLAGUES BEGIN

Exodus 6:28-30, Exodus 7-8, Genesis 47:4-6, Psalm 95:1-5

CONFRONTING EGYPT'S GODS

Exodus records the instructions and events of the plagues for the purpose of showing how the Lord revealed both his person and his power through delivering Israel from Egypt. The plagues fall on areas of life supposedly protected by Egypt's gods, thus demonstrating the Lord's power over the gods of the world's mightiest nation. The narrative of the plagues is therefore not necessarily an exhaustive account of everything that happened but is shaped in order to communicate the aspects of each plague that are necessary for its purpose.

Taken from the ESV Study Bible

**WHAT DID YOU LEARN TODAY
THAT WAS NEW, CONFUSING,
COMFORTING, CONVICTING,
HOPEFUL, OR ENCOURAGING?**

Go to graceclarksville.com/intheword for additional study resources.

WEEK 2

DAY 9 - TUESDAY - THE PLAGUES CONTINUE

Exodus 9-11, Deuteronomy 7:6-11, Romans 9:17

THE HARDENING OF PHARAOH'S HEART

God called Pharaoh to humble himself and acknowledge that God is his authority and that he cannot redefine good and evil on Egyptian terms. Pharaoh's response is to balk at the God of Israel. After this, God gives Pharaoh five opportunities to repent and humble himself, and five times he hardens his heart. The author wants us to see that even the most heinous and absurd forms of human evil are not a true threat to God's purposes. He can steer even this kind of evil toward his plan to bless all humanity through Abraham's family. The author of Exodus is showing us that Pharaoh was responsible for the evil in his heart, and at a clear point in the story (after plague 5), he crossed a point of no return. At this point, God re-purposes this "vessel" for his own good purposes. Strange things happen in the human heart and mind when we let the evil urges of our broken nature go unchecked. God can and sometimes will allow our evil to destroy us. For now, let's ponder the mysterious justice and mercy of God, who wants to save us from ourselves.

Written by Tim Macke - *The Bible Project*

Pharaoh's hardening of his own heart is almost always followed with the statement "as the LORD had said." This truth is difficult and mysterious, and it's okay not to understand it fully yet, or maybe ever. But we can't cut it out of Scripture; we have to see how it fits in. He uses the wicked as a tool to advance His plan and bless His kids. It can feel threatening to realize God is bigger than our hearts, that He can shape them for His own purposes. It's important not to let fear drive that thought. The enemy of your soul wants you to view God's power through a lens that pushes you away from Him instead of drawing you in. Instead, think of how comforting it is to know a God that powerful! For God to be sovereign over sins and hearts means no one is beyond His reach and it's never too late. What a comfort!

Written by Tara-Leigh Cobble - *The Bible Recap*

**HOW DO YOU RESPOND TO
WHAT YOU READ TODAY?**

**HOW DOES IT MOVE YOU TO
PRAY?**

WEEK 2

DAY 10 - WEDNESDAY - THE PASSOVER

Exodus 12, Exodus 13:1-16, Psalm 51:7, John 1:29

**WHAT DOES THIS TEACH ME
ABOUT GOD?**

**WHAT DOES THIS TEACH ME
ABOUT HUMANITY?**

**WHAT DOES THIS TEACH ME
ABOUT JESUS?**

Refer to pages 16-17 for more on the Passover.

WEEK 2

DAY 11 - THURSDAY - ESCAPE THROUGH THE RED SEA

Exodus 13:17-22, Exodus 14, Exodus 15:1-21, Psalm 106:1-12, Romans 6:1-4

LOOK FOR GOD: WHAT IS HE LIKE?

WHAT DOES HE LOVE OR HATE?

WHAT MOTIVES HIM?

**WRITE DOWN ANYTHING NEW OR ANYTHING
THAT JUMPS
OUT AT YOU**

**WRITE DOWN QUESTIONS YOU HAVE OR
ANYTHING
YOU WANT TO STUDY FURTHER**

**PAUSE TO REFLECT ON WHAT YOU'VE
LEARNED IN PASSAGE**

WEEK 2

DAY 12 - FRIDAY - THE LORD PROVIDES IN THE WILDERNESS

Exodus 15:22-27, Exodus 16-17, John 6:41-51, I Corinthians 10:1-5

GOD'S PROVISION

God says to gather manna every day except the Sabbath. God is testing for potential pitfalls in their thought life: Will I have a scarcity mentality and try to hoard the manna, or will I trust it will be there again tomorrow? Am I willing to work twice as hard gathering on Friday in order to rest on Saturday? Will the food I gather on Friday be enough to carry me through Sunday morning? Will God keep His promise to provide for me if I stop to rest as He has commanded? God hasn't given them the Ten Commandments yet, but He's been hinting at this idea of resting on the Sabbath since creation, and He points to it again here. If they trust that He controls the forces of nature, they'll respond by obeying. God commands His people to rest and trust Him to provide. They've been slaves with no days off, so it feels unnatural to them not to strive and work. But this is just one more way God shows them that He's a better God than Pharaoh. He knows our human nature longs to earn things, to feel accomplished. But the very nature of His relationship with us is that we're the recipients, not the earners, not the doers. He is the doer, and He says it is done! Hebrews 4:9 calls Jesus "our Sabbath rest"; His finished work on the cross frees us from trying to earn His approval and favor. We have nothing to offer anyway. It is said that when Martin Luther was asked what he contributed to his salvation, he replied, "Sin and resistance." God Himself has done all that He requires of us.

Written by Tara-Leigh Cobble - *The Bible Recap*

DO YOU STRUGGLE WITH TRUSTING GOD FOR PROVISION?

WHAT MIGHT GOD BE REVEALING TO YOU IN TODAY'S READING ABOUT HIS PROVISION?

WHAT IS THE BENEFIT OF TRULY "RESTING" IN THE LORD?

HOW COULD YOU PRACTICE SABBATH REST THIS WEEK?

WEEK 2

DAY 13 - SATURDAY - GRACE DAY

Use today to rest, pray, and reflect on this week's reading.

As you reflect on what you've read this week:

1. What themes did you see emerge?
2. What was the biggest thing that God revealed to you this week?
3. What next step do you need to take based on what He revealed to you this week?

WEEK 2

DAY 14 - SUNDAY - REFLECTION DAY

Meditate on these verses:

"For you are a holy people belonging to the LORD your God. The LORD your God has chosen you to be his own possession out of all the peoples on the face of the earth."

Deuteronomy 7:6

"But Moses said to the people, 'Don't be afraid. Stand firm and see the Lord's Salvation that he will accomplish for you today; for the Egyptians you see today, you will never see again.'"

Exodus 14:13

WALKING IN VICTORY

This season of Lent is meant to remind us not only of Jesus' 40 days in the wilderness, but also of the Israelites' wilderness wandering. Jesus fulfilled the mission that they could not. Oftentimes we think of Lent as a somber season; a season to remind us of our own wandering. But the reality is, there is so much cause for rejoicing. Sure, we may not have inherited the fullness of the promised land yet, but once we turn to Jesus, slavery to sin and darkness no longer defines us.

You may not be perfectly where you want to be, and you may not be fully who you want to be. But thank God you are no longer where you once were, or who you once were. Sure there is progress to be made, and there are mile markers to be passed. Yet slavery, a life yoked to sin, is in the rear view. God has called you one of His own and called you out of the land of the Egyptians.

While Lent reminds us that we still experience tensions in this life, it also reminds us that we who believe are God's people. As such, we get to participate in Jesus' victory over sin, the wilderness, and death—once and for all.

We place our lives under God because He first called us to be His people. Let this Lenten season be the one where you decide once and for all to place the fullness of your being under His loving leadership. He's called you out of slavery and will faithfully see you through to the promised land.

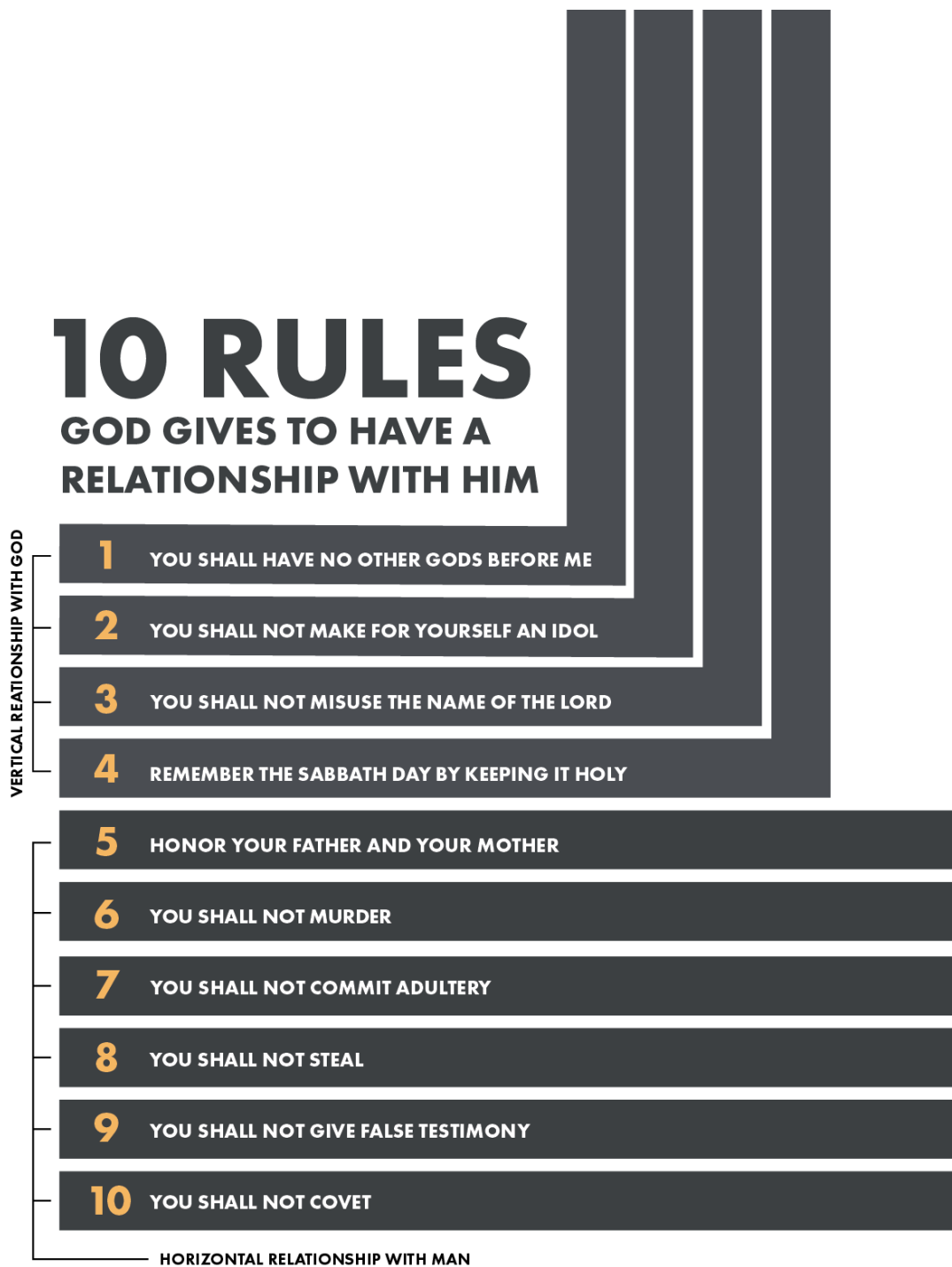
Written by Andrew Stoddard - *He Reads Truth*



WEEK 3

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

The Ten Commandments help us answer the question, “Who is going to rule your life?” The first four commands are vertical—they show us how to honor God and be in relationship with Him. The last six commands are horizontal—they show us how to honor others and be in relationship with them. Because God is the only one that can save us, he asks us to put our entire life under His rule. This submission to God’s authority directly impacts all of our other relationships.



THE TEN COMMANDMENTS ARE WARNINGS NOT THREATS

Perhaps one of the most misunderstood aspects of the Old Testament is the law. It has been distorted and misapplied for thousands of years: It's been used to fuel self-righteousness; to depict a judgmental and unforgiving portrait of God; interpreted so narrowly and harshly that its closest adherents didn't recognize the "fulfillment of the Law" (Matthew 5:17), Jesus Himself, in their very midst.

These misinterpretations still plague us today, so the question remains: how should we understand the law?

In Exodus 19, God provides Moses with the cornerstone of the law, the Ten Commandments, and He does so with these words: "Now if you will carefully listen to me and keep my covenant, you will be my own possession out of all the peoples, although the whole earth is mine, and you will be my kingdom of priests and my holy nation" (v. 5-6). Too often, we read these words as a threat, or a form of conditional love: I will only take care of you if you do what I say.

However, there is another way to read these words, and the commandments that follow.

As a mom, I frequently warn my boys to obey me for their own good:

- *If you don't listen to me, you're going to get hurt.*
- *If you don't stop jumping on the bed, you're going to fall.*
- *If you don't slow down, you're going to trip.*

These warnings are not threats. They are not signs of a conditional love. I am not manipulating them into submitting to me. Instead, I am beckoning them toward safety, wholeness, and health. I am showing them the path to life, and warning them away from a path that leads to pain.

This, in many ways, captures the heart of the law. And this heart becomes all the more clear in the verse that precedes God's warning:

"You have seen what I did to the Egyptians and how I carried you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself"(vv. 3-4).

With this verse, God testifies to His own character, reminding the Israelites of His steadfast love, provision, and care. On that basis, God asks His people to trust and obey Him—not because the law is an arbitrary list of rules from a cruel and exacting God, but because the law is the path to life.

Too often, we miss this truth, that the law is beautiful, good, and a picture of humanity at its best. The first four commandments are, in essence, the pinnacle of "loving God." The following six commandments are the fullness of "loving neighbor." They instruct us on how to live, but more importantly, they clarify who we were created to be.

And yet, the law fell short. It showed us the destination without providing the ability to reach it (Romans 8:3). We can know the good, but find ourselves wholly unable to attain it. That is why the law condemns: the law is God's blueprint for human flourishing, without the tools to achieve it.

Enter Jesus. He did what no human was ever able to do. He was the perfect expression of the law. His life and words were the embodiment of God's design for us. That is the point of the Ten Commandments, and the whole of God's law: to point us toward God's good plan for us, while revealing our inadequacy to accomplish it. In short, the law points us to Jesus.

Written by Sharon Hodde Miller - *She Reads Truth*

WEEK 3

DAY 15 - MONDAY - JETHRO'S VISIT

Exodus 18, Deuteronomy 17:8-11, Acts 6:1-7

WE NEED EACH OTHER

Jethro's words echo God's words in Genesis 2: "It is not good for the man to be alone" (Genesis 2:18). If there is to be orderly ruling and subduing, if there is to be fruitfulness and multiplication as God has decreed, the work cannot be done alone. Just as God provided Eve to be a necessary ally to Adam, He now provides Jethro and the leaders of Israel to be necessary allies to Moses.

Don't miss this: The concept of self-reliance is wholly foreign to the Christian faith. We are created to need God and others. We are designed for interdependence and community. There is no such thing as a Lone Ranger Christian. It matters that we understand this as we listen for the echo of our own story in that of Moses.

Written by Jen Wilkin - *She Reads Truth*

Jethro cautioned Moses, saying, "You can't do it alone" (v.18). We need others to come alongside us, brothers and sisters in Christ who are willing to walk through this life with us. We need spiritual friendships that can encourage us, challenge us and point us to Jesus.

WHAT PUSHES US TO THINK WE HAVE TO "GO IT ALONE"?

WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO DO IN YOUR OWN STRENGTH RIGHT NOW?

WHO CAN YOU SHARE THAT BURDEN WITH THAT CAN SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGE YOU?

Go to graceclarksville.com/intheword for additional study resources.

WEEK 3

DAY 16- TUESDAY - THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

Exodus 19, Exodus 20:1-21, John 1:14-17, Hebrews 8:7-13

WATCH BibleProject Exodus Part 2 Overview Video at bibleproject.com/explore/video/exodus-19-40

FEARING GOD

After giving the Ten Commandments to the people, in 20:20, Moses tells the people, "Do not fear, for God has come to test you, that the fear of him may be before you, that you may not sin." The fear in "do not fear" carries the idea of dread—this kind of fear drives us away from God; it's sin adjacent. But Moses uses a different word when he refers to fearing God; it carries the idea of reverence and awe—it's joy adjacent, and it has the effect of drawing us to God. The fear of God is composed primarily of delight and awe, moving us toward God. It's like what we feel at the Grand Canyon—we take long trips to go stand on the edge with our eyes and mouths open wide, overwhelmed with beauty, yet knowing it could kill us. Moses says that's the kind of fear that keeps us from sinning against God.

Written by Tara-Leigh Cobble - *The Bible Recap*

**WHAT DID YOU LEARN ABOUT
GOD IN TODAY'S READING?**

**HOW DO YOU VIEW "THE
FEAR OF THE LORD"?**

**HOW DO YOU RESPOND TO
WHAT YOU READ TODAY?**

**HOW DOES IT MOVE YOU TO
PRAY?**

Refer to pages 16-17 for more on the Ten Commandments.

WEEK 3

DAY 17 - WEDNESDAY - MOSES RECEIVES ADDITIONAL LAWS

Exodus 20:22-26, Exodus 21, Isaiah 44:6, Matthew 22:36-40

A FORM OF PROTECTION

Today's text from Exodus contains laws that would never fly here in the West today. Passages like these are why context matters. Scripture was written in its own particular context. And we read it in our own particular context.

For example, verses like the laws about slaves (Exodus 21:2-11) can be difficult to understand because when we think of slavery, we tend to think of the slave trade, or people being sold against their will, or human trafficking. And while all "slavery" exists because our world is broken and flawed, the slavery described in Exodus is what is known as "debt slavery." When a person or family found themselves in economic hardship and could not provide for themselves, they could become bond-servants or "debt-slaves" to another family. They would work for that family in exchange for food, shelter, and protection. This arrangement would last six years.

At that point, a man could leave, or choose to stay if he liked his situation. Women, on the other hand, were not released after six years because it was assumed that they would marry into their new family. For the woman, becoming a bond-servant often meant becoming a part of a family for life. She was to be treated as a daughter (v.9). There is a provision in today's passage for a woman who joins a family as a bond-servant, but doesn't end up marrying into that family. In that case, her own family can pay her debt and take her back. Her "master" cannot give her to anyone but her own family.

In our culture, this sounds strange, and perhaps even wrong. But in those days, people could not easily relocate from city to city. They were not generally free to choose their vocations. People tended to work family trades, live among the same people, and settle in groups. Neighboring clans were seen as threatening. The bond-servant system was a form of protection for the poor.

We should never try to explain away the problem of slavery. It isn't ideal. It is a product of poverty, and it provides an opportunity for people to treat each other in undignified ways if they choose. But in a world where the poor have no protection, laws like these provided some.

In what context is this law given? God has just led His people out of tyrannical, oppressive slavery. So that's one reason why we know God's law is not designed to sanction tyranny. Another reason is because the heart of His law is to love God and love others.

As you read passages like today's, which may be difficult to understand in our present context, remember how Jesus summarized the whole law of God: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and most important command. The second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself. All the Law and the Prophets depend on these two commands" (Matthew 27:37-40). This is the context for every law we find in the Bible, and every law we find in the Bible has been perfectly fulfilled in Christ (Matthew 5:17-18).

Written by Russ Ramsey - *He Reads Truth*

WEEK 3

DAY 18 -THURSDAY - HONESTY AND JUSTICE

Exodus 22, Exodus 23:1-19, Proverbs 31:8-9, I Corinthians 10:24

**TODAY'S READING IS FILLED
WITH THOUGHTS ABOUT HOW
WE ARE TO TREAT OTHERS.**

**HOW DO YOU RESPOND TO
WHAT YOU READ TODAY?**

**HOW DOES IT MOVE YOU TO
PRAY?**

WEEK 3

DAY 19 - FRIDAY - THE COVENANT CEREMONY

Exodus 23:20-33, Exodus 24-25, Matthew 26:26-29, Hebrews 9:18-22

THE BLOOD OF THE COVENANT

Don't miss what truly happened when Moses took the sacrificial blood and threw half of it on the altar and half of it on the leaders of the people. This was not a scene from a horror movie or a superficial gesture. This was the moment the people of Israel had been waiting for. With the sprinkling of blood, the God of grace and the people of slavery were united. "Moses took the blood, splattered it on the people, and said, 'This is the blood of the covenant that the LORD has made with you'" (Exodus 24:8).

The fallen people have always needed a way to be right with the perfect Lord. Throughout the ages, God has graciously provided different ways and covenants to commune with His people. In the Old Testament, we see animal sacrifices, rules, and promises, and we might be tempted to think it's outdated. But even today we need a mediator to access our Holy God.

In this Lenten season, we prepare to celebrate a new covenant that God made with His people. Unlike the time of Moses, it is now Jesus who intercedes on our behalf with the Father. Rather than oxen blood thrown on an altar and our leaders, it is the blood of Christ that cleanses our sins and binds us to the Lord. The blood of Christ truly transforms us into God's children.

Written by Katie Stoddard - *She Reads Truth*

This covenant relationship with God that we see in Exodus is part of a line of covenants we see throughout the Bible. The closest thing we have in our culture to this type of covenant relationship would be the covenant of marriage. God is a covenant God who is committed to a personal relationship with His people and He is the perfect covenant keeper!

**WHAT DOES THE IDEA OF
BEING IN A COVENANT
RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD
MEAN TO YOU?**

Go to graceclarksville.com/intheword for more resources regarding the covenants seen throughout scripture.

WEEK 3

DAY 20 - SATURDAY - GRACE DAY

Use today to rest, pray, and reflect on this week's reading.

As you reflect on what you've read this week:

1. *What themes did you see emerge?*
2. *What was the biggest thing that God revealed to you this week?*
3. *What next step do you need to take based on what He revealed to you this week?*

WEEK 3

DAY 21 - SUNDAY - REFLECTION DAY

Meditate on these verses:

"I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the place of slavery."

Exodus 20:2

"For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my laws into their minds and write them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people."

Hebrews 8:10

A dark, atmospheric photograph of a mountain range. The peaks are rugged and partially covered in snow, set against a cloudy, overcast sky. The foreground shows the dark, silty slopes of a valley. A solid blue rectangular box is centered in the middle of the image, containing the text "WEEK 4" in a white, outlined, sans-serif font.

WEEK 4

SYMBOLISM OF THE TABERNACLE

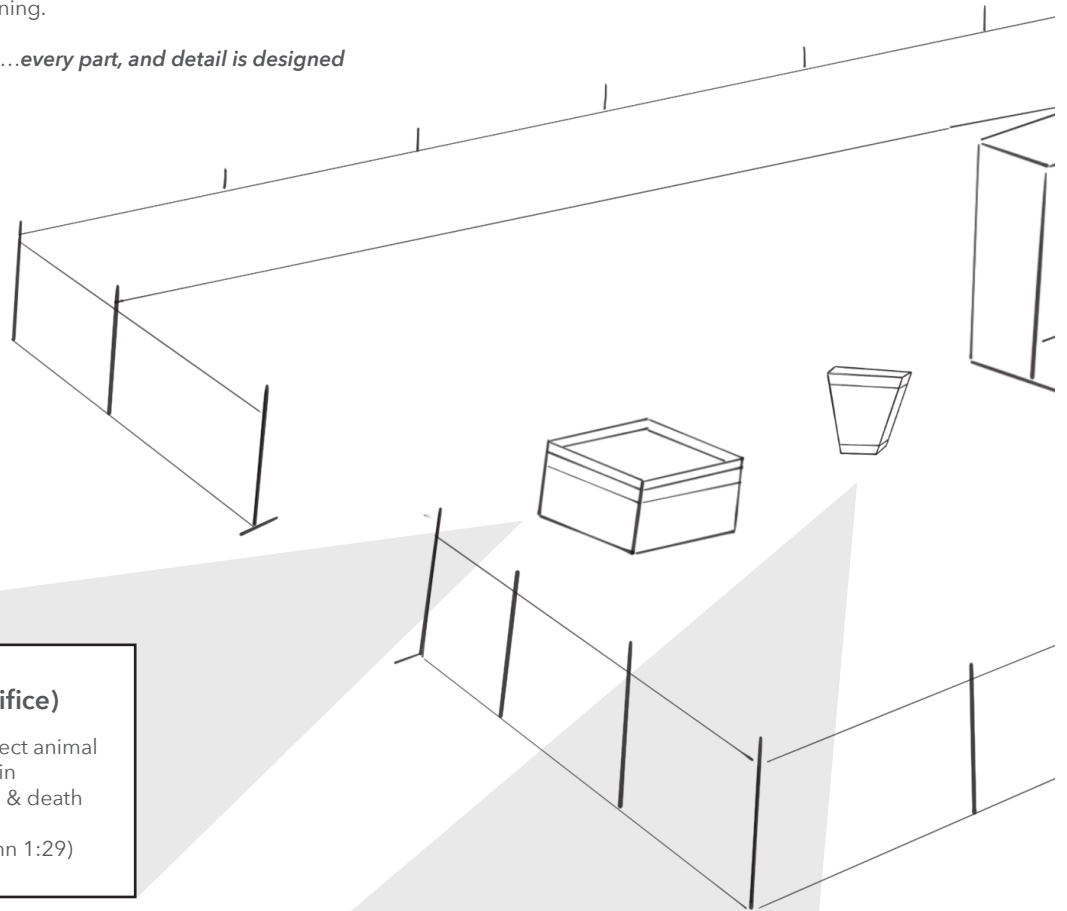
The Tabernacle served many purposes:

1. to give the Israelites a much needed physical symbol of God's presence in their midst. It was to be a sanctuary, a place set apart, for God to dwell among His people.
2. to represent a divine means through which sinful humanity could approach a holy God.
3. to foreshadow the One in which all the symbolism and sacrifices would ultimately be fulfilled.

The Tabernacle was to be a portable structure so that it could go with the Israelites as they traveled in the wilderness to the Promised Land. Today the dwelling place of God is still portable, living inside of believers.

God was so specific about the details of the tabernacle because **it was a symbol of heavenly things** (Hebrews 8:5; 9:11). God wanted His people to learn more about Him, through the tabernacle. Each item in the tabernacle had symbolic meaning.

Ultimately this symbolism points to Jesus...**every part, and detail is designed and patterned to present Jesus Christ!**



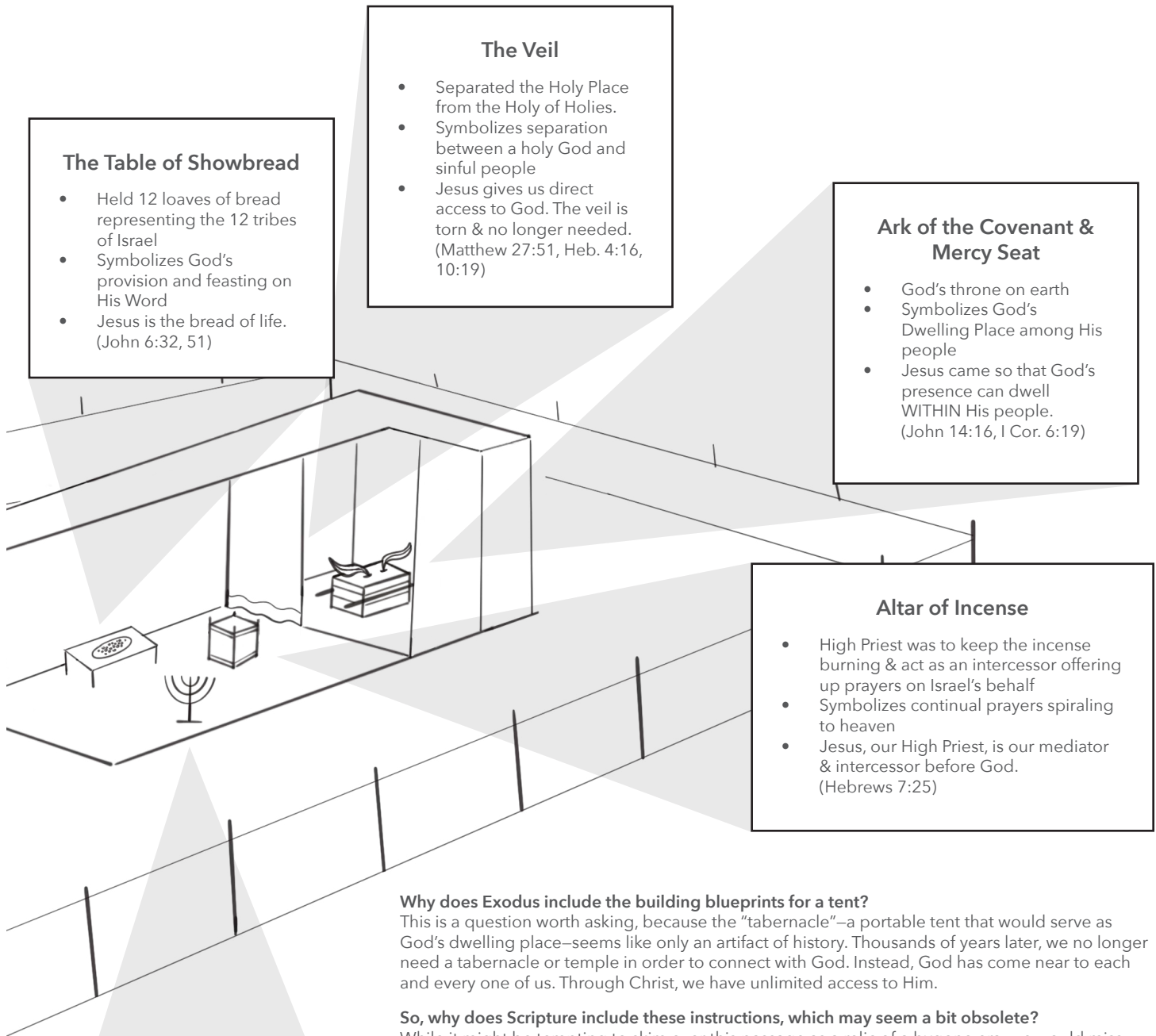
Bronze Altar (Altar of Sacrifice)

- The place where death of a perfect animal was required to atone for their sin
- Symbolizes the need of sacrifice & death to atone for sin
- Jesus was our perfect lamb. (John 1:29)

Bronze Basin

- After offering sacrifice, cleansing was required for the priest to approach a Holy God.
- Symbolizes the need for cleansing from our sin
- Jesus cleansed us once and for all on the cross. (Heb 1:3)

Illustration by Emily Crosby



The Table of Showbread

- Held 12 loaves of bread representing the 12 tribes of Israel
- Symbolizes God's provision and feasting on His Word
- Jesus is the bread of life. (John 6:32, 51)

The Veil

- Separated the Holy Place from the Holy of Holies.
- Symbolizes separation between a holy God and sinful people
- Jesus gives us direct access to God. The veil is torn & no longer needed. (Matthew 27:51, Heb. 4:16, 10:19)

Ark of the Covenant & Mercy Seat

- God's throne on earth
- Symbolizes God's Dwelling Place among His people
- Jesus came so that God's presence can dwell WITHIN His people. (John 14:16, 1 Cor. 6:19)

Altar of Incense

- High Priest was to keep the incense burning & act as an intercessor offering up prayers on Israel's behalf
- Symbolizes continual prayers spiraling to heaven
- Jesus, our High Priest, is our mediator & intercessor before God. (Hebrews 7:25)

Golden Lampstand

- Light to the Holy Place attended to day & night by the priests
- Symbolizes being a light in the darkness
- Jesus is the Light of the World. (John 1:9, 8:12)

Why does Exodus include the building blueprints for a tent?
 This is a question worth asking, because the "tabernacle"—a portable tent that would serve as God's dwelling place—seems like only an artifact of history. Thousands of years later, we no longer need a tabernacle or temple in order to connect with God. Instead, God has come near to each and every one of us. Through Christ, we have unlimited access to Him.

So, why does Scripture include these instructions, which may seem a bit obsolete?
 While it might be tempting to skim over this passage as a relic of a bygone era, we would miss something important if we did. The truth is, Exodus does not simply contain the blueprint of a historical artifact; it contains the blueprint of history.

Within the instructions for building the tabernacle, we discover tiny clues pointing to God's plan for humankind, a plan for redemption. The garden of Eden was the last time in history when God and humans dwelt together. Because of sin, that intimacy and fellowship was disrupted. But God had a plan to repair it, and the tabernacle was a part of that plan. In his writings on the tabernacle, theologian N.T. Wright refers to this as a "signpost." The tabernacle was pointing to the temple, and the temple was pointing to Jesus, who would eventually "tabernacle" among us (John 1:14). In other words, the tabernacle was a foretaste of "God come near," and a foreshadowing of God's restoration of creation.

All of that is tucked into these seemingly obscure instructions for the tabernacle. They belong to the great arc of redemption, which God had only begun to unveil. All along, God was orchestrating a cosmic reversal to overcome the consequences of our sin, and He left all sorts of bread crumbs along the way.

Woven into these instructions was a plan to save the world, but the instructions tell us something else too. They tell us about God's character. The God of the tabernacle is a sovereign God, a faithful God, a God of resurrection, who is working all things together for His will (Romans 8:28). He is a God who wrote redemption into the seemingly mundane details and instructions for the building of the tabernacle, and we can trust He is doing the same in our lives today.

Written by Sharon Hodde Miller - *She Reads Truth*

WEEK 4

DAY 22 - MONDAY - INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE TABERNACLE

Exodus 26, Genesis 3:24, Hebrews 9:6-14

GOD IS IN THE DETAILS

There's a lot of detail in this section, but one interesting thing is that the layout of the tabernacle parallels a lot of what we saw in Eden: There's an east-facing entrance, there are cherubim guards, the burning lampstand symbolizes the Tree of Life, and the testimony (the law) symbolizes the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. So when God starts telling them these details and says He'll come there to dwell with them, it's a step toward restoring paradise and all that was lost in the garden of Eden. We won't see the fulfillment of this until Christ returns and we have a new heaven and a new earth. But here in Exodus, we see God advancing in that direction to dwell with His people forever.

Written by Tara-Leigh Cobble - *The Bible Recap*

**WHAT DID YOU LEARN ABOUT
GOD IN READING THE DETAILS
OF THE TABERNACLE?**

**HOW DO YOU RESPOND TO
WHAT YOU READ TODAY?**

**HOW DOES IT MOVE YOU TO
PRAY?**

Go to graceclarksville.com/intheword for additional study resources.

WEEK 4

DAY 23 - TUESDAY - THE LAMPSTAND OIL

Exodus 27, Zechariah 4, Revelation 11:1-4

GOD AS OUR SOURCE

The priests are instructed to fill the lampstand with pure oil regularly in order to keep it burning. The lampstand, in doing the work of providing light to the tabernacle, also served as a constant reminder of God's presence.

This picture of a lampstand is one Scripture returns to again and again. Jesus says He is the light of the world and gives the same responsibility to His followers (John 8:12; Matthew 5:14). The Apostle Paul describes us as children of the light, a reflection of Christ through the work of His Spirit (Ephesians 5:8).

We are meant to be small lights twinkling in a dark world.

The instructions for the lampstand in Exodus 25 describe seven bowls shaped like almond blossoms with wicks placed in them. This isn't a candelabra. The fire in this lampstand kept burning because it was filled regularly with oil from an outside source, not from burning its own wax like a candle.

The words in Zechariah 4:6 remind us again that the source of the light is not us. The Lord shares a picture here of limitless oil, in the form of two olive trees, flowing straight from the source to directly fuel the lampstand. He tells Zechariah that this is the work of the Spirit. We have access to what we need in the Spirit; we have fuel from the source. We have this gift from the true Priest who constantly fills us. As we are filled with His Spirit, we become more and more reflective of Jesus.

Written by Jessica Lamb - *She Reads Truth*

IT'S IMPORTANT FOR US TO REMEMBER THAT WE NEED TO PLUG INTO THE TRUE SOURCE IN ORDER TO BE A LIGHT IN THE WORLD.

ARE YOU MAKING SPACE AND TIME IN YOUR SCHEDULE TO PLUG INTO THE SOURCE?

CAN YOU TELL A DIFFERENCE WHEN YOU ARE NOT PLUGGING INTO THE SOURCE?

IN WHAT WAYS CAN YOU PLUG INTO THE TRUE SOURCE THIS WEEK?

WEEK 4

DAY 24 - WEDNESDAY - INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE PRIESTLY GARMENTS

Exodus 28, Ezekiel 44:15-19, 23-29, 1 Peter 2:4-5

SACRED EQUIPMENT

God pays a lot of attention to priestly attire, but it's not just clothes we're dealing with here—it's more like sacred equipment. These garments serve a function. The high priest is a foreshadowing of Christ, connecting God and man, so his clothes are supposed to indicate his role as a mediator. His attire symbolically represents the people while he's in the presence of God—hence the names of the tribes on the shoulder pieces and the twelve stones of the ephod—and symbolically represents God to the people. Then there's the Urim and Thummim. We don't really know what these are, except that they're part of the ephod and they seem to be tools used for discerning God's will. Even the bells on the hem of the robe serve a purpose. The priest has a lot of duties, and all that movement keeps those bells ringing. If the priest falls dead while performing his tasks, the bells go silent. This is important because the priest has to enter the Most Holy Place alone.

Written by Tara-Leigh Cobble - *The Bible Recap*

**WHAT DID YOU LEARN
ABOUT GOD IN READING THE
DETAILS OF THE PRIESTLY
GARMENTS?**

**HOW DO YOU RESPOND TO
WHAT YOU READ TODAY?**

**HOW DOES IT MOVE YOU TO
PRAY?**

WEEK 4

DAY 25 - THURSDAY - INSTRUCTIONS FOR CONSECRATION

Exodus 29, Psalm 132:12-16, Hebrews 7:23-28

THE HIGH PRIEST WE NEED

In Scripture, priests are the curators of holiness, you might say, acting as intercessors between God and man in order to maintain the holiness of God's broken people. The priest makes sacrifices asking for the forgiveness of sins from God for His people. When Moses anoints Aaron and his sons as priests, they are meant to pass this priesthood on to their family for generations, and this does happen. However, **the "Aaronic" priesthood is ultimately overruled by a greater priesthood—a priesthood that makes the Son of God the intermediary between God and man.**

Jesus is the true and better Aaron. He intercedes on our behalf before God, His Father, even today. Hebrews 7:26-27 tells us, "For this is the kind of high priest we need: holy, innocent, undefiled, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens. He doesn't need to offer sacrifices every day, as high priests do—first for their own sins, then for those of the people. He did this once for all time when he offered himself."

We have been purchased by the blood of Jesus. How can this reality not affect the way we live? The blood of Jesus, who is the perfect sacrifice, makes us holy before God. Jesus is the perfect priest and the spotless sacrifice (1 Peter 1:19). This Easter season, be reminded that the Son of God is advocating for you because He loves you and died for you.

Written by Chris Martin - *He Reads Truth*

**WHAT DOES CHRIST'S
SACRIFICE ON YOUR BEHALF
FOR YOUR SINS MEAN TO
YOU?**

**TAKE SOME TIME TODAY TO
PRAISE HIM SPECIFICALLY
FOR BEING THE ULTIMATE
HIGH PRIEST WHO MAKES US**

WEEK 4

DAY 26 - FRIDAY - THE INCENSE ALTAR

Exodus 30, II Corinthians 2:14-16, I John 2:24-27

THE AROMA OF CHRIST

Burning incense was a symbol of the prayers of the people of God rising up before His throne. It was also a symbol of the fragrant aroma of Christ covering all of the furniture and utensils in the temple, the most holy place, and the priest himself. It was an aroma that infused the place of worship and rose to the very throne room of heaven.

On account of the significance that incense had in the worship of God in old covenant Israel, we should not be surprised to find connections between old covenant worship rituals and the spiritual realities that we now have in Christ in the new covenant. Indeed, the aroma of Christ fills every place where the knowledge of His divine person and redeeming work is made known.

The Apostle Paul further unfolded this truth when he told the believers in Corinth that God "in Christ always leads us in triumphal procession, and through us spreads the fragrance of the knowledge of him everywhere. For we are the aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing" (2 Corinthians 2:14-16).

Written by Nick Batzig - *He Reads Truth*

**WHAT IS REVEALED ABOUT
GOD IN THESE PASSAGES?**

**WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO
BE "THE SWEET AROMA OF
CHRIST"?**

**HOW DO YOU RESPOND TO
WHAT YOU READ TODAY?
HOW DOES IT MOVE YOU TO
PRAY?**

WEEK 4

DAY 27 - SATURDAY - GRACE DAY

Use today to rest, pray, and reflect on this week's reading.

As you reflect on what you've read this week:

1. What themes did you see emerge?
2. What was the biggest thing that God revealed to you this week?
3. What next step do you need to take based on what He revealed to you this week?

WEEK 4

DAY 28 - SUNDAY - REFLECTION DAY

Meditate on these verses:

"They are to make a sanctuary for me so that I may dwell among them."

Exodus 25:8

"But because he remains forever, he holds his priesthood permanently. Therefore, he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, since he always lives to intercede for them."

Hebrews 7:24-25

A dark, misty forest scene with tall trees and a blue rectangular overlay containing the text 'WEEK 5'. The background is a dense forest of tall, thin trees, possibly evergreens, with a thick layer of mist or fog. The lighting is very low, creating a somber and atmospheric mood. A solid blue rectangle is centered in the lower half of the image, containing the text 'WEEK 5' in a white, outlined, sans-serif font.

WEEK 5

WEEK 5

DAY 29 - MONDAY - THE SKILLED WORKERS

Exodus 31, Jeremiah 31:31-34, II Corinthians 3:1-3

THE LORD OF THE SABBATH

While we may not live in fear of death if we miss church on Sunday, the Sabbath is still a matter of life and death. It is a matter of spiritual life and death. God made the Sabbath for us, because we need it; "it is holy for you." The Sabbath rest, the consecrated day of worship is not something God handed down from the beginning just for kicks. The Sabbath pattern is ingrained in creation itself, and it is ingrained in us well—whether we recognize it or not. We need the Sabbath to be who we need to be. **We need the Sabbath because we need the Lord of the Sabbath.**

The Sabbath recalibrates us for the work we are to do in the world. It is a holy reminder that we are not our own, that our talents and abilities, our know-how and our personality are all from God. He is the one who qualifies us for service in this world. He is the one who sanctifies us. We have been bought with a price, and the life we now live, whether in work or in rest, we live to Him (1 Corinthians 6:20).

Written by Caleb Faires - *He Reads Truth*

If you study Sabbath throughout scripture, you see that this is more than just setting aside time to worship or attend church. Sabbath is a set aside time to cease our working and striving to truly rest in God and enjoy the gifts he has given us. Worship comes as a natural response to resting and delighting in Him. Sabbath requires us to slow down and look for Him... where is He working, what is He revealing to me, how can I enjoy Him? You should come away from Sabbath refreshed and ready to serve the Lord with your life for another week.

**WHAT DID YOU LEARN ABOUT
GOD IN TODAY'S READING?**

**DO YOU SET ASIDE TIME
IN YOUR WEEK FOR TRUE
SABBATH REST?**

**WHAT WOULD IT LOOK LIKE
FOR YOU TO MAKE THAT A
REGULAR RHYTHM?**

Go to graceclarksville.com/intheword for additional study resources.

WEEK 5

DAY 30 - TUESDAY - THE GOLDEN CALF

Exodus 32, 1 Kings 12:26-28

MISGUIDED WORSHIP

The Israelites are worshipping a golden calf while God's making plans to draw near to them, agreeing to spare their lives. How often do we doubt His timing and take matters into our own hands? How often do we find something else to worship when it seems He's forgotten us? May we trust His timing, even in His so-called delays.

Written by Tara-Leigh Cobble - *The Bible Recap*

We all have "golden calves" in our lives, things that we turn to instead of God for comfort, pleasure, distraction... things that we pour our lives out for instead of pouring our lives out for Him.

WHAT DID GOD REVEAL TO YOU ABOUT HIMSELF?

WHAT DID GOD REVEAL ABOUT THE HUMAN HEART?

HOW DO YOU RESPOND TO WHAT YOU READ TODAY?

HOW DOES IT MOVE YOU TO PRAY?

WEEK 5

DAY 31 - WEDNESDAY - THE LORD'S GLORY

Exodus 33, Genesis 3:8-10

**LOOK FOR GOD: WHAT IS HE LIKE?
WHAT DOES HE LOVE OR HATE?
WHAT MOTIVES HIM?**

**WRITE DOWN ANYTHING NEW OR
ANYTHING THAT JUMPS OUT AT
YOU.**

**WRITE DOWN QUESTIONS YOU
HAVE OR ANYTHING YOU WANT TO
STUDY FURTHER.**

**PAUSE TO REFLECT ON WHAT
YOU'VE LEARNED IN PASSAGE.**

WEEK 5

DAY 32 - THURSDAY - MOSES' RADIANT FACE

Exodus 34, John 14:8-11, II Corinthians 3:12-18

GENERATIONAL SIN

The most difficult part of Exodus 34:7 is God's promise to "visit the sins of the fathers on the sons, and upon the sons of sons, and on the third and fourth." But what does that mean?

This verse DOES NOT mean that God will punish an innocent following generation for the sins of their parents.

- This interpretation goes against other statements in the Hebrew Scriptures, such as Deuteronomy 24:16, Jeremiah 32:16-19, and Exodus 20:5-6
- Clarification of this commandment shows that the following generations are persisting in the same behavior.

This verse DOES mean that God will punish successive generations for committing the same sins they learned from their parents.

Taken from *The BibleProject's "Character of God in Exodus" Study*

**WHAT DO THESE PASSAGES
TEACH ME ABOUT GOD?**

**WHAT DO THESE PASSAGES
TEACH ME ABOUT
HUMANITY?**

**WHAT DO THESE PASSAGES
TEACH ME ABOUT JESUS?**

Refer to the chart on page 52 for more on Exodus 34.

WEEK 5

DAY 33 - FRIDAY - OFFERINGS TO BUILD THE TABERNACLE

Exodus 35, John 10:17-18, Romans 12:1

GENEROUS LIVING

Israel's motivation for giving generously toward the building of the temple was rooted in their knowledge and experience of the Lord. They remembered His faithful presence among them as they journeyed out of Egypt and into the Promised Land.

At this point in redemptive history, we do not have to build a temple for God to dwell among us. Jesus Christ came to do just that; He is Immanuel, "God with us" (Matthew 1:23). Even more, Jesus came and laid down His life so that you and I could inherit all the eternal riches included in His eternal kingdom.

If you want to be motivated to give generously, consider the eternal treasure of all that is ours in Christ. As Jesus said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35). We have received all we truly need in Christ, therefore, let us give generously in response to the overflow of God's grace.

Written by Matt Capps - *He Reads Truth*

**TAKE SOME TIME TODAY TO
FOCUS ON THE BLESSINGS
GOD HAS GIVEN TO YOU.**

**HOW DOES THAT MOVE YOU
TO BE GENEROUS WITH YOUR
BLESSINGS?**

**WHAT IS ONE STEP YOU CAN
TAKE IN LIGHT OF WHAT YOU
HAVE READ TODAY?**

WEEK 5

DAY 34 - SATURDAY - GRACE DAY

Use today to rest, pray, and reflect on this week's reading.

As you reflect on what you've read this week:

1. *What themes did you see emerge?*
2. *What was the biggest thing that God revealed to you this week?*
3. *What next step do you need to take based on what He revealed to you this week?*

WEEK 5

DAY 35 - SUNDAY- REFLECTION DAY

Meditate on these verses:

“The Lord is a compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger and abounding in faithful love and truth, maintaining faithful love to a thousand generations, forgiving iniquity, rebellion, and sin.”

Exodus 34:6-7

“Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. We all, with unveiled faces, are looking in the mirror at the glory of the Lord and are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory; this is from the Lord who is the Spirit.”

II Corinthians 3:17-18

EXODUS 34:6-7	GOD'S ACTIONS IN EXODUS 32-34
Compassionate and gracious	Moses intercedes by asking “to find grace in your eyes” (Exodus 33:12, 16).
Slow to anger	God is patient with the Israelites’ grumbling in Exodus 15-17, but he eventually gets angry when they violate the terms of the covenant.
Abounding in loyal love and faithfulness	God is compelled to remain faithful to his own covenant promises to Abraham.
Forgiving iniquity transgression and sin	Moses’ last act of intercession is to ask God to forgive Israel’s sins in the future (Exodus 34:9).
Yet he won’t declare innocent the guilty	God allows Moses to send the Levites to strike the 3,000 idolaters.
Repays sinful generations to the third and fourth but keeps loyal to thousands	God will deal with each generation as it deserves.

Adapted from The BibleProject’s “Character of God in Exodus” Study



WEEK 6

WEEK 6

DAY 36 - MONDAY - BUILDING THE TABERNACLE

Exodus 36, Matthew 27:50-51, Hebrews 9:23-28

Take some time today to look at the diagram of the Tabernacle in your journal on pages 36 & 37 and focus on the meaning of each thing placed in it.

As you read the details of the building of the Tabernacle, record what God is showing you.

**WHAT DO THE DETAILS OF
THE TABERNACLE REVEAL TO
YOU ABOUT GOD, JESUS AND
HUMANITY?**

Go to graceclarksville.com/intheword for additional study resources.

WEEK 6

DAY 37 - TUESDAY - MAKING THE ARK

Exodus 37, Jeremiah 1:11-12, Revelation 1:12-20

SYMBOLISM OF THE ARK

Later in Scripture, we learn that there were three things kept in the ark: Aaron's rod that blossomed, a golden bowl full of manna, and the Ten Commandments. These were all appropriate symbols of God's redeeming work among His people. Aaron's rod served as a symbol of the fact that God chose the high priest. Christ is the true and greater Aaron, who was chosen before the foundation of the world to stand as the High Priest among the people of God (Hebrews 4:14-16; Revelation 1:12-20). The manna pointed to Jesus as the bread that came down from heaven to give spiritual sustenance to the souls of the people of God (John 6:1-15; 22-59), and the Ten Commandments stood as the timeless, revealed will of God.

Interestingly, the blood of the sacrifice went on the mercy seat that covered the box and its belongings. It is the blood of Jesus which covers our transgressions of the law of God. When the blood was shed and sprinkled on the mercy seat, the glory of God appeared and He dwelt between the cherubim.

The most intriguing symbols on the ark, however, are the angels, facing one another over the mercy seat. This is, no doubt, a representation of the angels surrounding the throne of God in heaven. However, it was also a picture of that redemption to which all of this was pointing. When the apostles came to the tomb of Jesus they found two angels seated outside: one at the head and the other at the feet where the body of Jesus had lain. The angels were looking into the glorious work of redemption that God had accomplished in Christ. He is the glory of God who, by His resurrection glory, dwells in the midst of angels and men. Truly, the ark has so much to teach us about Jesus Christ, His death, and His resurrection glory.

Written by Nick Batzig - *He Reads Truth*

**HOW DO YOU RESPOND TO
WHAT YOU READ TODAY?**

**HOW DOES IT MOVE YOU TO
PRAY?**

WEEK 6

DAY 38 - WEDNESDAY - FURNISHING THE COURTYARD

Exodus 38, Psalm 51:14-17, Hebrews 10:1-14

**WHAT DID I LEARN ABOUT
GOD IN THESE PASSAGES?**

**HOW CAN I PRAISE GOD FOR
WHAT THIS SAYS ABOUT
HIM?**

**WHAT BEHAVIOR/EMOTIONS
COME WHEN I FORGET THESE
THINGS ABOUT GOD?**

**WHAT IS GOD REVEALING TO
ME TODAY THAT I NEED TO
LISTEN TO?**

WEEK 6

DAY 39 - THURSDAY - MAKING THE PRIESTLY GARMENTS

Exodus 39, Psalm 110:1-4, Hebrews 5:1-10

WHY DOES THIS MATTER?

It's possible the craftsmen tasked with the minutiae of the tabernacle felt overwhelmed and even belabored by the tedium of so many details. Obedience can often feel like that. As we shepherd our own children, or serve in other often thankless ways, or pull out our Bibles listening for God's voice again and again, there are times when we all wonder, *Why does all of this matter?*

The answer rarely seems to come in the moment, but in hindsight we see that routine obedience to the Lord always reveals the gospel thread. He is using our seemingly small acts of surrender to transform these filthy rags into robes of righteousness. As we trust and obey, we can look back and sigh with gratitude, saying, "as the LORD had commanded, so [we have] done it" (Exodus 39:43).

Written by Erin Davis - *She Reads Truth*

**HOW DO YOU RESPOND TO
WHAT YOU READ TODAY?**

**HOW DOES IT MOVE YOU TO
PRAY?**

WEEK 6

DAY 40 - FRIDAY - THE GLORY OF THE LORD FILLS THE TABERNACLE

Exodus 40, Matthew 3:16-17, Acts 2:1-4

A MINI-EDEN

The tabernacle, like the garden of Eden, is a place where God dwells. Various details of the tabernacle suggest it is like a mini-Eden. Don't get lost in the tedious details of the Tabernacle and miss the beautiful symbolism, even the pieces of furniture in the tabernacle point towards the pattern of creation - six days of work followed by a day of rest. Six pieces of furniture symbolize "work." The seventh piece is the mercy seat, which symbolizes "resting" in God's presence. When the tabernacle is completed according to God's detailed plan and presented to Moses, we see another parallel to creation. After God finished His work at creation, He saw it as good and gave it His blessing much like when Moses finished the work of the Tabernacle and God blessed it. The tabernacle as God's dwelling place is a step toward God's restoration of paradise, a step toward repairing what was broken in Genesis, a work which is to be fully completed one day in the new heaven and earth (Revelation 21-22).

**WHAT DOES THE TABERNACLE
TEACH US ABOUT GOD'S
RESTORATION PLAN?**

**DOES READING GOD'S WORD
IN CONTEXT OF THE ENTIRE
STORY CHANGE YOUR
PERSPECTIVE?**

**RECORD ANYTHING GOD
PRESSES ON YOUR HEART IN
THIS TIME**

WEEK 6

DAY 41 - SATURDAY - GRACE DAY

Use today to rest, pray, and reflect on this week's reading.

Meditate on this verse:

"You do not want a sacrifice, or I would give it; you are not pleased with a burnt offering. The sacrifice pleasing to God is a broken spirit, you will not despise a broken and humbled heart, God."

Psalm 51:16-17

As you reflect on what you've read this week:

1. What themes did you see emerge?
2. What was the biggest thing that God revealed to you this week?
3. What next step do you need to take based on what He revealed to you this week?

WEEK 6

THE STORY IS NOT FINISHED

As we come to the end of Exodus, to the climax. It's been a long road for the people of Israel. A lot has happened in the beginning and middle of this story: 400 years of slavery, baby Moses set adrift in the reeds of the Nile, the plagues, the Passover, the parting of the Red Sea, the wilderness wanderings, the giving of the Law, the gold calf, the manna, the water from the rock, the pillar of cloud and fire. And through everything, the Lord has been teaching His people how to worship Him—how to build a tabernacle, how to furnish it, how to staff it, and how to behave in it.

We've let the storyteller tell the story in the way he wants to tell it, and now we've come to the end. What happens?

God's glory descends. We're not talking about a sunbeam, or even a flood of light. We're talking about a glory so intense not even Moses could enter—Moses who saw the burning bush, Moses whom God Himself had passed in front of.

For the entire book of Exodus, God has made His presence known through symbols—pillars in the sky, food from heaven, water from stone, and so forth. But here, God's glory descends, and it is unlike anything the people have seen. The display of power and authority is overwhelming. The sense of security against any outside foe is strong.

But as glorious as Exodus's last scene is, we know the Storyteller is not finished. Exodus is a wonderful set-up for Easter week because we're reminded that God's ultimate deliverance did not end with people in a desert, or with His glory filling a tent. God's presence among His people is most gloriously displayed in the incarnation of Jesus, who came to us, born of a virgin, for the purpose of doing what we celebrate at Easter—defeating sin and death forever.

As you finish reading Exodus, let the power and glory of the Lord's presence wash over you. But remember, this is not the final act. There is more. Read on. Let the Storyteller tell the story in the way He wants to tell it.

Written by Russ Ramsey - *He Reads Truth*

WEEK 6

EXODUS REFERENCED IN THE NEW TESTEMENT

EXODUS	THE NEW TESTEMENT
1:8	Acts 7:18
2:14	Acts 7:27-28
2:22	Acts 7:6
3:5	Acts 7:33
3:6	Matt. 22:32; Mark 12:26; Luke 20:37; Acts 3:13; 7:32
3:7-10	Acts 7:34
9:16	Rom. 9:17
12:11	Luke 12:35
12:46	John 19:36
13:2, 12, 15	Luke 2:23
16:18	2 Cor. 8:15
19:5-6	1 Pet. 2:9
19:12	Heb. 12:20
20:11	Acts 4:24; 14:15
20:12	Matt. 15:4; Mark 7:10; Eph. 6:2
20:12-16	Matt. 19:18; Mark 10:19; Luke 18:20
20:13	Matt. 5:21; James 2:11
20:13-17	Rom. 13:9

EXODUS	THE NEW TESTEMENT
20:14	Matt. 5:27; James 2:11
20:17	Rom. 7:7
21:17	Matt. 15:4; Mark 7:10
21:24	Matt. 5:38
22:27	Acts 23:5
23:20	Matt. 11:10; Mark 1:2; Luke 7:27
24:8	Heb. 9:20
25:40	Heb. 8:5
32:1	Acts 7:40
32:6	1 Cor. 10:7
32:23	Acts 7:40
33:19	Rom. 9:15
34:34	2 Cor. 3:16

WEEK 6

DAY 42 - PALM SUNDAY

Luke 19:28-44, Zechariah 9:9, Psalm 118:25-29

As we enter Holy Week, let's reflect on the story of deliverance we have seen in Exodus, God delivered the people of Israel from oppression and tyranny into the freedom of His presence. Easter tells us the same story on a grander scale, a story of our deliverance from the slavery of sin into the freedom He offers through His son Jesus.

THE STORY CONTINUES

As we look toward the Easter resurrection, we prepare to celebrate God's great act of restoring fellowship with Him. Though we are far from worthy and have broken relationship with Him at every turn, the Lord in His grace set things right. The Bible is a story of God's commitment to save the people He loves. Through the resurrection of Christ, we will one day be raised to finally dwell in the full glory of God (Revelation 21:3).

Written by Katie Stottard - *She Reads Truth*

**WHAT DO TODAY'S PASSAGES
TEACH US ABOUT JESUS?**

**HOW HAS YOUR LIFE BEEN
CHANGED BY JESUS?**

**TAKE SOME TIME TODAY TO
PRAISE HIM FOR WHAT HE
HAS DONE FOR YOU.**

A dark, atmospheric photograph of a mountain range. The peaks are rugged and partially covered in snow, set against a cloudy, overcast sky. The foreground shows dark, rocky slopes. A solid blue rectangular box is centered in the middle of the image, containing the text "WEEK 7" in a white, outlined, sans-serif font.

WEEK 7

WEEK 7

DAY 43 - MONDAY - JESUS CLEANSSES THE TEMPLE

Mark 11:12-19, Isaiah 56:1-8

BEARING FRUIT AND WELCOMING ALL

Jesus' first actions, after being hailed by the people as King, are to pass judgment on Jerusalem figuratively through the cursing of the fig tree and the cleansing of the temple, which highlight Jesus' zeal for true worship of God. The way in which Mark organizes his material in these verses suggests a connection between the cleansing of the temple and the cursing of the fig tree.

Jesus' actions here have symbolic importance, signifying the hypocrisy of all who have the appearance that they are bearing fruit but in fact are not. The specific reference, though, is to Israel, since in the OT the fig tree often serves as a metaphor for Israel and its standing before God (e.g., Jer. 8:13; Hos. 9:10, 16; Joel 1:7). Here the cursing of the fig tree signifies the judgment of God on the "fruitless" Jewish people, who had turned away from God into empty ritual and legalism. It is a visual parable to signify Jesus' unrequited search for the true fruit of worship, prayer, and righteousness in the Jewish nation and its religious practices. The business activity (in the temple) turns the house of prayer into a den of robbers (Jer. 7:11). Gentiles in particular were hindered by the temple commerce in the outer court. The goal of Jesus' action is to restore the temple (temporarily) to its function, namely, to serve as a house of prayer for **ALL** the nations (Isa. 56:7).

Taken from the ESV Study Bible

**WHAT DID YOU LEARN TODAY
ABOUT JESUS?**

**HOW DO YOU RESPOND TO
WHAT YOU READ TODAY?**

**HOW DOES IT MOVE YOU TO
PRAY?**

WEEK 7

DAY 44 - TUESDAY - JESUS TEACHES IN THE TEMPLE

Luke 21, Luke 22:1-2, Daniel 7:13-14

DO NOT BE TERRIFIED

"When you hear of wars and tumults, do not be terrified, for these things must first take place, but the end will not be at once" (Luke 21:9). Jesus says not to be terrified of these things. He knows it sounds frightening, but He also knows how it ends, so He's the only person who can say this with any kind of authority. He doesn't say things won't be scary or hard; He just promises that we don't go through those things alone and that on the other side of it, we'll live with Him eternally. Whatever darkness comes our way is no threat to His light.

Written by Tara-Leigh Cobble - *The Bible Recap*

**WHAT HOPE DO YOU FIND IN
JESUS' WORDS TODAY?**

**WHAT NEXT STEP CAN YOU
TAKE TODAY IN RESPONSE TO
HIS WORDS?**

WEEK 7

DAY 45 - WEDNESDAY - JESUS IS ANOINTED FOR BURIAL

Mark 14:3-11, Matthew 26:14-16, Luke 22:3-6, Zechariah 11:12-13

A NOBLE THING

This broken woman pouring her broken flask over the soon to be broken body of her Savior—this is the way of the kingdom of God, Jesus was saying. Hers is a true act of generosity. "She has done a noble thing for me," He tells them (Mark 14:6).

God saved His precious expression of Himself in flesh for the most opportune moment, the best moment. He saved the costliest offering for the moment of maximum impact. The Bible says, "At the right time Christ died for the ungodly" (Romans 5:6). As this woman poured her alabaster flask over the head of her Savior, we are shown a picture of the emptying of a good thing for the best one, the greatest exchange: Christ's death for our life.

Written by Lore Ferguson Wilbert - *She Reads Truth*

We see the woman willing to give up something expensive for Jesus and then Judas willing to give up Jesus for money. We often hope in this situation we would react like the woman, but our human hearts might lead us to be more like Judas. Would we be willing to give up a good thing for the best thing?

WHAT STOOD OUT TO YOU IN TODAY'S PASSAGES?

WHAT WOULD IT LOOK LIKE FOR YOU TO "EMPTY YOURSELF OF A GOOD THING FOR THE BEST ONE" LIKE THE WOMAN IN THE STORY?

WEEK 7

DAY 46 - THURSDAY - THE LAST SUPPER

John 16:16-24, John 32-33, Mark 14:12-72, Psalm 41:7-13, Zechariah 13:7

SORROW WILL TURN TO JOY

It's easy to imagine the anguish the disciples must have felt as Jesus moved closer and closer to the hour of His imminent death. These men had spent almost every hour of the last few years with Jesus. He was not only their Lord; He was their dear friend.

In the shadow of the cross, the sorrow of Jesus' looming death would only grow because of their own failure to stand by and support Him as His friends. They failed to support their Savior in Gethsemane. Peter denied his Deliverer in the courtyard. Judas sold the Son of the Most High for mere silver coins. Ultimately, all of the disciples would be scattered into the hills as their only hope seemed to fade away. Sorrow upon sorrow!

It is the sorrow of death and failure that makes the promises of the Lord's Supper even more poignant. This is my body, broken for your sin and failure. This is my blood, a sign of God's promised covenant to make all things new.

I have often believed that for Christians, the Lord's Supper should feel more like a celebration of longing than a funeral feast. The words of promise spoken at the Lord's table, and the symbolic elements consumed by the people of God, are reminders of hope—hope that even in the midst of sorrow in this life, we will one day experience unimaginable joy.

Because of Christ's sacrifice, our failures do not have the last word. Because Christ rose again, death does not have the last word. One day the saints will be gathered around the table of the King in eternity. Until then, let us remember the words of Jesus: "You will become sorrowful, but your sorrow will turn to joy" (John 16:20). As we wait, let us eat, drink, and be joyful. Because one day not so long ago, we were dead in our sin, and one day soon we will be fully alive and in His presence, face to face.

Written by Matt Capps - *He Reads Truth*

PUT YOURSELF IN THE SHOES OF THE DISCIPLES. HOW DO YOU THINK THEY FELT AS THEY SAT AROUND THIS TABLE WITH THEIR FRIEND JESUS?

HOW DO THESE PASSAGES MAKE YOU FEEL AS A DISCIPLE OF JESUS?

WEEK 7

DAY 47 - GOOD FRIDAY

Mark 15:1-47, Isaiah 52:13-15; Isaiah 53:1-7

OUR GENTLE SAVIOR

Jesus' responses on Good Friday are so shocking. He doesn't defend Himself. The mockers even jeered at Him, saying, "He saved others, but he cannot save himself! He is the King of Israel! Let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him" (Matthew 27:42).

Indeed, as they led Him out to the cross, He went meekly, like a lamb to the slaughter (Isaiah 53:7). They falsely accused Him, and yet He uttered not a word. It is funny how we so easily confuse the signs of weakness and the signs of strength.

Gentleness and meekness confuse us, because our hearts are naturally driven to clamor and strive, making a lot of noise in the process. Maybe in the end, what we don't understand is the humility of obedience—obedience even to the point of death. And so obedience, totally selfless obedience, is confounding to us. It looks like weakness, like foolishness, and our hearts mock it.

We are, if left to ourselves, everything we should not be. He is, even as all the world railed against Him, even as He walked straight into death for the first and final time, all that we need.

Written by Rebecca Faires - *She Reads Truth*

**WHAT DO WE LEARN ABOUT
JESUS IN THESE PASSAGES?**

**WHAT DO WE LEARN ABOUT
THE HUMAN HEART IN THESE
PASSAGES?**

**HOW DOES THIS MOVE YOU
TO PRAY?**

WEEK 7

DAY 48 - HOLY SATURDAY

Luke 23:54-56, Matthew 27:62-66, Isaiah 53:8-12

ALREADY AND NOT YET

Holy Saturday is the day we acknowledge that things are not as they should be. Sitting between Jesus' death and resurrection, this is the one day we are absolutely unable to look away from the tension of faith: what has happened and what is to come. Theologians refer to this as the "already and the not yet." But because we know Christ's resurrection is coming tomorrow, it's easy to overlook the sunrise and sunset that took place while He was dead and buried in a tomb.

While we already know this arrangement is temporary, the people of Jerusalem had no way to be sure. It was the day Jesus' followers had to choose between putting His promises into practice or going back to doubting that He was really the Son of God. All the pain and the unknown of death is real—so real, that Jesus faced it head-on to reverse its power over us.

Sometimes, it's enough to know that He has gone before us, even in this. Because Christ lay in His own grave, we get to lay hope on ours. **We can acknowledge that things are not as they should be, while still holding onto His promises of redemption.**

Written by Kaitlin Wernet - *She Reads Truth*

SIT WITH THE THOUGHT OF LIVING IN THE "ALREADY AND THE NOT YET".

WHAT DOES THAT MEAN TO YOU?

WHAT HOPE DOES HOLY SATURDAY BRING?

WEEK 7

DAY 49 - RESURRECTION SUNDAY - EASTER

Luke 24:1-49, Psalm 16:9-11

HOPE FULFILLED

When the risen Jesus dined with the Eleven that evening, He said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets, and the Psalms must be fulfilled" (v. 44). **Everything—all the promises and prophecies of God—are fulfilled in Jesus.**

The stories are all true. Jesus Christ is the Son of God, the Savior, who lived a life perfectly obedient and pleasing to the Father, bore the punishment of death for our sins, was buried, and rose on the third day, conquering death forever and reconciling us to God the Father.

For every hope that comes up empty, for every grave that remains closed, there is the faithful refrain of a loving, living Savior who calls to us: Repent and receive forgiveness (Acts 2:38). Believe and have life (John 3:16-17). Come to me, and I will give you rest (Matthew 11:28). Jesus Christ is risen! He is risen indeed.

Written by Amanda Bible Williams - *She Reads Truth*

WHAT WAS THE BIGGEST THING THAT GOD REVEALED TO YOU DURING THESE 7 WEEKS IN HIS WORD?

WHAT DID YOU LEARN ABOUT GOD OR YOURSELF THAT YOU DIDN'T KNOW 7 WEEKS AGO?

NOW WHAT?

If you have made it this far and finished this reading plan, great work! Reading God's Word is one of the most important rhythms we can bring into our lives, and it often does not come without great effort. Our lives are full of responsibilities and distractions which often make the simple act of reading – not just the Bible, but reading anything – a challenge. And then there is the spiritual aspect, as well. The Bible is full of light and life. It has the power to bring us into a closer relationship with God, ourselves, and others. It invites us into a vision of the reality as it really is – a reality created and sustained by the one, true, and living God. It is, in some sense, dangerous ground. When we risk the time and effort and faith to engage the Word of God, we are putting ourselves into a position to receive the truth about who we really are, who God really is, and how much this God loves us. We say this is "dangerous ground" because there are spiritual forces that work against us experiencing these things. Sometimes subtle, sometimes obvious, these forces want nothing more than to prevent us from growing towards God. And the fact that you finished this reading plan, and endured, is an important spiritual victory. Great work. Truly.

But, now what?

Perhaps you are ready for a break in reading the Bible. Perhaps you think that you have "done your duty" and now you are free to "get back to normal life." Yes. This is exactly what you should do. But "normal life" might not mean what you think. The Bible shows us that normal life is precisely what God is about. He sustains everything that surrounds you and, whether good or bad, allows it all to exist so it can be used. For what? As opportunities to meet Him. To grow in obedience. To experience His love.

As you look ahead, we pray that you continue to find God throughout your normal life. And an important part of finding Him in your normal life is staying connected to His Word. Like an oasis in the desert, we can regularly return to God's truth and find refreshment, joy, strength, comfort, hope, and love. These are the things we need most. May we keep pursuing them as we continue on, living our "normal lives," with God in our hearts, our minds, and our souls.

Adam Dressler - Lead Pastor



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