



Daily Reading **Notes**

Part 2



Title	Passages	Memory Verse
<i>The goal and foundation</i>		
1. The goal - to be like Jesus	Colossians 1:28-29	Colossians 1:28-29
2. The foundation – Grace	Titus 3:3-8	Titus 3:5
<i>The materials and tools</i>		
3. The Word	2 Timothy 3:14-4:2	2 Timothy 3:16
4. The Spirit	Colossians 1:26-27	Colossians 1:27
5. Our identity	Ephesians 1:11-14	Colossians 3:12
6. The Kingdom of God	Matthew 6:33	Matthew 6:33
7. The Church	Colossians 3:12-17	Ephesians 3:10-11
<i>The practical out-workings</i>		
8. Sin and walking with God	1 John 1:5-2:2	1 John 1:9
9. Forgiveness and conflict	Ephesians 4:25-32, James 4:1-10	Eph 4:31-32
10. Love and Service	Ephesians 2:8-10, Galatians 6:10, 1Peter 2:12	Galatians 6:10
11. Multiplication	Matthew 28:18-20	Matthew 28:18-20



Week 6 – Prayer

Prayer is an essential ‘tool’ God gives us for our discipleship. We looked at Prayer last year (after 1 Peter), so in our Growth Groups and on Sunday we will look at the Kingdom of God. But this week in our quiet times, let’s take time to pray!

DAY 1

Find a spot where you can read Psalm 31 out loud as a prayer to God. You will notice in v5 this is a Psalm that Jesus turned to and prayed whilst hanging on the cross.

If you need/want a shorter reading start at verse 9 and finish at verse 18.

Use this time to pray for someone who may be in a situation like this Psalmist was.

DAY 2

Prayer generally takes 3 forms: Thanksgiving/Praise, Confession, Requests/Supplication. Which do you pray the most? (It’s not wrong to make requests! - look at the Lord’s Prayer)

Read Psalm 32:1-7. Use this as an opportunity to ‘acknowledge your sin’. Then see what you can thank him for (v5!). Then bring before him your requests.

DAY 3

Read Luke 1:41-55 – Mary’s Prayer

Mary’s song of prayer comes as she contemplates God’s mercy to her personally (v47-48 – that he would choose her to fulfil his purposes through her), and his mercy to his peoples (v53-55). Her prayer revolves around the salvation that is coming through Jesus.

How has God been mindful of you (v48)? How has he extended his mercy to you (v50)? How has he acted mercifully to bring down your pride (v51-52)?

Pray now, starting with Mary’s words in v46-47.

DAY 4

Read Philippians 4:4-7

1. What is your sign that you are anxious? (We all are!)
2. What is God’s antidote in v6b?
3. It’s easy to pray about something but then not hand it over to God. How does praying with thanksgiving help us to actually trust God?

4. What's the promise in v7?

5. Write v6-7 out and stick it on your fridge (or dunny door!)

PRAY - telling God all your needs in thankfulness, and let the peace of God guard your heart and mind as it rests in Christ Jesus.

DAY 5

Read Acts 4:23-31

1. It has been said that prayer is calling on God to bring about the things he has promised. In this way we are aligning ourselves with God's purposes rather than trying to get God to align with ours. What are God's great purposes shown in this prayer?

2. Look back a little to remind yourself what was happening before their prayer. In this situation what do we normally pray for?

3. What do they actually ask God for?

PRAY for God's great purposes through his church in our area.
Pray for what this church in Jerusalem prayed for.

NOTES



Week 7 - Church

We are saved as individuals, but we are saved into a community. This week we look at the central place the church community plays in our discipleship.

DAY 1

Read Ephesians 2:19-22

1. Verse 19 says “you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God’s people” (NIV). Reflect on how you are as a part of Baranduda Community Church - are you a ‘foreigner and stranger’, or more like a ‘fellow citizen’.
2. What does it mean that we are “built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus as the cornerstone” (v20 - NIV)?
3. Verse 21 says we are “joined together” (NIV). Verse 22 says we are “being built together” (NIV). What does this say about the importance of church?

PRAY

- Thank God that he has brought you into fellowship with Jesus, and with your brothers and sisters in Christ.
- Thank God that he has given us the solid foundation of the apostles' teaching, and Christ Jesus as our Saviour and example.
- Confess the sin of not valuing the church community God has given you and that you are being built together with.
- Pray for our church community that it will reflect the purposes God has for us in verse 22.

DAY 2

Read Ephesians 4:1-6

1. What are we called to do in verse 1?

2. List the things in verses 2-4 that Paul considers examples of "living a life worthy of the calling you have received" (v1).

3. He is talking to a church community about their life together. Are there any of these things which you need to take note of? What can you do about it?

PRAY

- Thank God for the amazing calling we have received.
- Thank God that we have been placed in a body with one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God who is over all.
- Confess times when you have not done the things in v2-3.
- Pray that you can be humble, gentle, patient, bearing one another in love.

DAY 3

Read Ephesians 4:7, 11-16

1. What have we been 'apportioned' in v7?
2. What are some of the examples of this given in v11? (If you want to see more you could look at 1 Corinthians 12:4-10).
3. What is the purpose of these gifts? (v12, v13, v14-16) (See also 1 Corinthians 12:7)
4. How do you think God has apportioned grace to you? What are the 'acts of service' that God has equipped, or is equipping you for?

PRAY

- Thank God for the grace he has apportioned to all of us through BCC.
- Thank God for his great goal for us (v13), that we would "attain to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ".
- Confess when you have not spoken the truth in love, or served with the gifts God has given you.
- Pray v16 for yourself and our church.

DAY 4

Read Romans 12:3-8

1. Challenging question: when do you think of yourself more highly than you ought, rather than in line with the gifts (faith v3) God has given you?
2. Encouraging question: v3 (at the end) says that God has distributed to each of us a measure of faith (a gift of grace, a spiritual gift) – what do you think yours is? (see also v6)
3. Who does verse 5 say we belong to?
4. Verse 4 tells us explicitly that we will not all do the same thing, but we are part of one body. But we are to *function* together. After listing each gift in v6-8, what does he say to do with it?
5. What is God calling you to do as part of BCC?

PRAY

- Thank God for giving each of us gifts - thank him for the gifts you have seen in others.
- Thank God for the gift he has given you (even if you are unsure about it yet!).
- Confess times you have not used it for the growing of others and the unity of our church.
- Pray that you can see your way to taking part in promoting the gospel and growing others into full maturity in whatever way that God is calling you to.

DAY 5

Read Romans 12:9-13

1. Reflect on what it means that “love must be sincere” (v9). How should that be in the life of our church?
2. Re-read v10. What would it look like for you to do that?
3. How can you “keep your spiritual fervour” (v11)
4. Look across v12-13 and think about one thing you can do today (or soon!) in regard to these.

PRAY

- Thank God for his call on our lives that he would want us to learn to love sincerely.
- Thank God that he has us together in a community that wants to grapple with these things.
- Confess any of these things that you have been avoiding or been disobedient in.
- Pray that God will show you how you can be patient, faithful in prayer, and sharing with those in need.

NOTES



Week 8 - Sin and Walking with God

We are called by God to “walk in the light as He is in the light”. We enjoy fellowship with Him by confessing sin, trusting His faithfulness and justice achieved through Jesus’ complete atoning work on the cross and his advocacy before the Father in our place.

DAY 1

Read Ephesians 5:8-10

1. What does Paul say we were (v8)? What does he say we are now (v9-if we are Christians)? (*Optional : compare with Ephesians 2:1-5*)
2. Does Paul say it’s possible to be *in* darkness and *in* the light at the same time? Why do you think he words it the way he does?
3. Because of the new state we find ourselves in (v8a), what should come as a consequence (v8b-16). List them.

4. Reflect on v11 - how are you going with this?

PRAY

- Thank God that you were once darkness, but now you are light, in the Lord.
- Thank God that his light will expose everything and make it free-ingly visible.
- Confess any fruitless deeds of darkness.
- Pray that you can live as God has now made you to be - light in the Lord.

DAY 2

Read 1 John 1:5-10

1. How is God described (v5)?

2. Verse 6 and 7 contain contrasts. Comparing these, what might it look like to 'walk in the light' (v7)?

3. In verses 8-10 John highlights our ongoing response to sin as one of the key ways we are to walk in the light. What do you see him saying our response should be?

4. How might you more faithfully walk in the light today?

PRAY

- Praise God for who he is: that he is light, and that in him there is no darkness.
- Confess any 'hidden' sin.
- Thank God that he has called us into the light, and that the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from sin.
- Pray that God will teach you to be more honest before him with sin, to not lie, and to practice the truth.

DAY 3

Read 1 John 1:9-2:2

1. Why did John write (2:1)?
2. But what if we do (2:1-2)? (compare that with 1:9)
3. Does 2:2 mean that all people will be saved? (Check out 2:23, 5:12, and John 3:18-19)

4. What are the two functions of Jesus mentioned in 2:1 and 2:2?

PRAY

- Thank God for Jesus' atoning sacrifice for our sins.
- Thank God for Jesus' advocacy of us before the father.
- Pray that we would not make God out to be a liar (1:10) but would walk with confession, repentance and faith.

DAY 4

Today and tomorrow we will look at some Old Testament passages about 'walking with God'.

Read Genesis 5:21-24

1. In this rather intriguing passage, we may be left with a number of questions, but what characterised Enoch's life?

2. If you have time, compare how other's lives are described - what do you notice about Enoch?

Read Deuteronomy 10:12

3. What characterises the 'walk with God' that Moses preached to Israel?

4. *Optional: compare that with Joshua 22:5.*

5. Compare your walk with God with what you have read here.

PRAY

- Thank God for the example and teaching over thousands of years, of what it means to walk with him.
- Thank God that he has done all that is necessary for us to live a life of faith and obedience.
- Confess times when you have recognised that your walk with God is not as God has said it should be.
- Pray that you might walk with him as he calls you to.

DAY 5

Read Micah 6:8

1. This is a 'bumper sticker' verse ... try to look past its familiarity
- what are you being asked to do?

2. How might you 'walk humbly' with God?

a. What does that mean your attitude and understanding of God must be?

b. What does that mean your attitude about yourself must be?

Re-read 1 John 1:6-9

3. What similarities do you see in what Micah preached and what John wrote?

4. Reflect across this week's Daily Reading Notes, and your time in Growth Group (if you attend). What is God showing you about your walk with him? How does this tie in with his goal for you as a follower of Jesus?

PRAY

- Thank God that he has shown us justice and mercy.
- Thank God for his patience when we have not walked humbly with him.
- Confess times when you have not lived with justice, mercy and humility.
- Pray that you might 'walk as Jesus walked' (1 John 2:6)

NOTES



Week 9 - Forgiveness and Conflict

Forgiveness and conflict are complex, and at times difficult, topics to consider. Yet they are important to work through as followers of Jesus. This week we look at some of the behaviours and attitudes God calls us to in the Bible. (Please talk to one of the leaders (GG or PLT) if this raises issues of concern for you.)

DAY 1

Read Colossians 3:12-16

1. We have considered this passage recently (it's a good one!). What are the reasons offered in v12 for us to "bear with one another and forgive one another" (v13)?

2. How freely are we to forgive (v13)?

3. How does v15 tell us our relationships should be?

4. How does v16 offer a reminder of what is going to help us in this?

PRAY

- Thank God that he has chosen you and that you are 'dearly loved'.
- Thank God that he has forgiven you freely. Deeply and freely.
- Confess times when you have withheld forgiveness from another.
- Pray that you might have relationships that are marked with God's peace, and that his peace might rule in your heart.

DAY 2

Read Romans 12:17-21

1. Verse 18 tells us that there are always two sides to a conflict. What are we to do?

2. When things can't be resolved, or when there has been a terrible injustice against us, it can be hard to forgive / resolve. How does v19 help?

3. Verses 20-21 call us to not let evil win. Are there ways you can do this with conflict you are in / experiencing?

PRAY

- Thank God that he is the definition of justice, and that he will judge all with righteousness.
- Thank God that Jesus loved his enemies, including us – Colossians 1:21.
- Confess times when you have wanted to take vengeance into your own hands.
- Pray for God's mercy and enabling to live at peace with everyone, as far as it depends on you.

DAY 3

Read Ephesians 4:25-32

Today we will focus on the verses 25-28.

1. When you are in conflict, in what ways are you tempted to not speak truthfully / honestly (v25)?
2. Why is it important to “not let the sun go down while you are still angry” (v26)?

3. How can buried conflict allow us to live with a veneer of niceness over a festering sore?

4. What is the warning to us in v27?

PRAY

- Thank God for loving us enough to confront us about our sin.
- Thank God for loving us enough to call us to love others genuinely, and have honest relationships.
- Confess hidden anger.
- Pray that God would help you put off falsehood, to deal rightly with your anger and conflict, and to genuinely love those who you are in relationship with.

DAY 4

Read Ephesians 4:25-32

Today we will focus on the verses 29-32

1. Often in conflict, we either explode, or hide and go silent. We either seek to dominate and 'win', or refuse to engage and so hope the conflict will go away (and so 'win'). How does verse 29 challenge both these responses?

2. What does verse 29 tell us our focus should be? (How does the silent person use this to avoid conflict, and so ignore v25?)

3. Verse 31 lists a bunch of things that we can leave lurking in our heart.

a. What are they?

b. What does v31 tells us to do with them?

4. Ultimately, how should we relate to one another (v32)?

Note: You may have questions about v30. How might you find reputable answers to your questions? (Google is not a good theologian!)

PRAY

- Thank God that he wants us to grow up into full maturity in Christ.
- Thank God that he has shown us kindness and compassion in the gospel of Jesus.
- Confess times you have not walked through conflict in a way that seeks the other's highest good.
- Pray that you can get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger and malice; that you can forgive as freely as Christ forgave you.

DAY 5

Read James 4:1-10

1. According to God, through James, what causes all 'fights and quarrels' (v1-3)?

2. What are we told to do instead (v7-10)?

3. How does v10 require a deep trust in the goodness and authority of God?

PRAY

- Thank God that he is entirely trustworthy, and has all our needs met.
- Thank God that he promises to come near to us.
- Confess ways you have had unchecked desires that have driven you into conflict, ways that reflect friendship with the world, rather than walking with God.
- Pray for humility before God, a deep trust in his provision of all your needs, and that as you humble yourself before him he will lift you up.

NOTES



Week 10 - Love & Service

DAY 1

Read 1 John 3:11-15

1. What is the message John is wanting to be heard? (v11)

2. Why do you think John talks about Cain and Abel (from Genesis 4)?

3. A contrast is set up in v14-15 between life and death
a. How do we know we are in life?

b. How would we know we are in death?

4. What do you need to do?

PRAY

- Thank God for his love.
- Thank God that he calls you to a life of love.
- Confess times when you have hated your fellow brother or sister, or acted less than loving.
- Pray that you might love others as Christ has loved you.

DAY 2

Read 1 John 3:16-18

1. How do we know what love is?
2. What are we told this love should look like in these verses (I see 3 things)?
3. How are we told that Jesus' love should shape our love?
4. Who are you struggling to love at the moment? What can be done about it?

PRAY

- Thank God that he has shown us his love in Jesus laying down his life for us.
- Thank God that his love is not empty, but deep and real.
- Confess when you have not had pity on someone and cared for them practically.
- Pray that you would love like Jesus - pray for that person you are struggling to love.

DAY 3

Read 1 John 4:7-12

1. List the reasons to love that are given in this section. (I see at least 4)

2. There are two definitions / descriptions of love in this passage, what are they? (v8, v10)

3. What is the promise in v12?

4. What is God encouraging you to do today?

PRAY

- Praise God for who he is - LOVE (v8)
- Thank God for showing us his love, in sending Jesus (v9), and atoning for our sins (v10)
- Confess any temptation to not love, and thus not know God (v8)
- Pray that we would love one another (v11) and that his love would be made complete in us (v12)

DAY 4

Read 1 John 4:13-21

1. How is God defined in v16b?
2. Compare v13, and v16b - who lives in us? What will the outworking of that be in our life?
3. Verses 20-21 are quite hard hitting. Do you see a challenge from God in these that you need to hear and heed?

4. Verse 19 is a great reminder of the source and example of love. Memorise this verse for today.

PRAY

- Thank God that he lives in you by his Spirit.
- Thank God that he wants to make you like Jesus (v17).
- Confess times when you have not trusted in God's love, and how that has made you unloving toward others.
- Pray that God's love would be made complete among us at BCC.

DAY 5

Read Galatians 6:7-10

1. What is the warning in v7-8?

2. This is then contrasted with an encouragement in v9 - what is it?

3. To whom are we encouraged to do good (v10)?

4. How are you able to 'do good' today?

PRAY

- Thank God that he has given us his Spirit, and that we can 'sow for the Spirit'.
- Thank God that he involves us in the good he wants done in this world.
- Confess ways you have been more interested in pleasing yourself, than in serving and loving others
- Pray for opportunities to love and serve others, in ways that promote Christ and his gospel, and for the will to actually to do it.

NOTES