



Daily Reading **Notes**



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

Day 2

If we are called to be a disciple of Jesus, to *follow* Jesus, what areas of life are we called to follow him in? Read each passage and write a word or two about the areas of life in which we are called to follow Jesus in.

1. Philippians 2:5

2. Luke 11:1-4

3. Luke 16:13

4. Matthew 28:18-20

5. 1 John 4:19-21

(Some extras if you have time...)

6. Galatians 5:16-17 (-26!)

7. 1 John 2:6

8. John 20:21

9. 1 Corinthians 11:1

10. Romans 12:1-2

PRAY:

Pray for God's mercy, grace and enabling – the call of discipleship is HIGH! Pray that you don't water down his call or avoid his gaze, but can keep turning to him in repentance and faith and growing love and obedience.

Day 3 - Discipleship's Goal

Read Romans 8:28-30

1. Verse 28 says that God is always working for your _____. Do you believe it?
2. Take time to see if that truth has sunk deep into your heart and mind.
3. Verse 29 tells us that the **goal of discipleship** is to ... {write it down}
4. Cast your eye over some of the facets of being a disciple which we looked at yesterday. Can you see how these are consistent with God's goal of discipleship for you?
5. God's goal for your discipleship can seem overwhelmingly huge. But we are also given great comfort and encouragement in Romans 8:29-30 - because God is incredibly active in the process. See if you can pick something from each verse that tells you how God is active in your discipleship.
6. Memorise Romans 8:28-29

PRAY:

Thank God that he has such an incredible goal for your life.

Thank him for all the promises given to us in these verses of how he will help us get to that goal.

Pray for courage and strength, and for him to reveal the areas in which you are holding back his work in your life.

Day 4

Read Colossians 1:28-29

1. What was Paul's goal in discipleship for the Christians in Colossae?
2. What is your goal as a follower of Jesus? Do you have a goal?
3. Compare your answer to Paul's goal (and God's goal from yesterday). Where are they the same / different?
4. What was Paul doing to see the Christians in Colossae achieve this goal? (List them). How hard was he working at this?
5. In what ways are you doing what Paul was doing? Where can you improve?

6. Memorise Colossians 1:28-29

PRAY:

Thank God for those who have taught you and admonished you.

Thank God for the love shown by your church family or others who will not rest till you are fully mature.

Pray that you can have the same love and energy for the discipleship of others as Paul did.

Day 5

Read 1 John 1:5-10

God's goal is that you would be like Christ, fully mature. We can want God's goal, but not want to be honest. However nothing but total honesty will suffice in Christian discipleship.

1. What are a couple of things we are taught about God in this passage (see v5, v7, v9)

2. There are 5 'if' statements in this passage. Two which encourage right discipleship, and three which describe wrong discipleship. Summarise them below.

Wrong Response (If ...)	Right Responses (If ...)

Read v6 again. Is there an area of your life where this is true? What needs to happen?

3. Memorise 1 John 1:9

PRAY:

Thank God for his majesty and purity and holiness - that He is light and in him there is no darkness.

Thank God that as we are bought into fellowship with him, that he deals with our darkness.

Confess sin that is lurking in your heart, or that you have been doing.

Pray 1 John 1:9



WEEK 2 - Discipleship' Foundation of God's Grace

This week we consider how vast, wide, deep and powerful the grace of God is. Being a disciple of Jesus is a high calling, but we are undergirded by the security of God's love and grace shown in the gospel.

Day 1

Read Titus 2:11-14

1. What has appeared and what is the effect?
2. How much of our life will God's salvation effect?
3. How does this salvation affect our capacity and motivation for being good?
4. What are we told to wait for?

5. What are we to be doing while we wait?

PRAY:

*Thank God for the incredible grace that has appeared in Jesus.
Thank God that we have a blessed hope, that is not a wishful hope, but a solid hope!
Pray that we can grow in purity and love of others whilst we walk the path of discipleship.*

Day 2

Take a minute to think about what you would call a successful mature Christian life.

Now read 2 Tim 1:8-10

1. Paul encourages Timothy not to be ashamed to testify about Jesus, but invites Timothy to join in suffering for the gospel. How does this challenge you about your current view of the mature Christian life?

2. What does God call us to in v.8-9?

3. What has been achieved by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus?

4. Why does he choose to save us?

5. When did he plan to give you his grace? What does that make you think/feel?

PRAY:

Thank God for his purpose and grace in saving us.

Thank God that his salvation does not rest on anything we have done but on his grace.

Pray about how can you respond personally about this to God today.

Day 3

Read Titus 3:3-8

1. How does this shape our biblical view of people - including ourselves (v.3)?
2. Would you describe yourself as foolish, disobedient, enslaved by passions and pleasures, malice or envy, hating?
3. What changes the situation for the people described in v.3?
4. Why are they saved? (v4-5)
5. How are they saved? (v5-7)
6. What is the new status and destiny of the people who have been saved? (v5-7)

7. What are these people now called to do? (v8)

Consider - what position are you in before God - enslaved or saved?
If enslaved - have you asked God to save you? Will you trust him to do what you cannot do for yourself?

If saved - how can you respond to the call to devote yourself to doing good.

Read Titus 3:1-2 for more insight into areas you may need to ask God to help you to change more into his likeness.

PRAY:

Thank God for his incredible kindness, love and mercy shown through Jesus.

Thank God for his word which speaks truth to us

Pray that you might know more of the depth of his grace toward you.

Day 4

Read Ephesians 2:1-10

1. What does the life of a spiritually dead person look like?

2. How can a spiritually dead person be saved?

3. How is the spiritually dead person changed? What is their new position / identity?

4. Can we do anything to earn God's favour or boast before him?

5. Why is it important that v8-9 come before v10?

PRAY:

Thank God for showing his great love to us, even though we were by nature deserving his wrath.

Thank God for saving us by grace through faith, and that this is a gift from him.

Pray that you might know that you are God's handiwork and discover the things he has prepared for you to do.

Day 5

Read 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

*'Sanctify' means 'holy'. In the Bible it is a word that describes what a Christian **is** already because of Jesus, and what God **is doing**.*

1. How much of us does God plan to sanctify? (v23) Take a minute now to ask God to show you areas of your life that he desires to grow in Christ-likeness.

2. How long will we be partnering with Christ in our sanctification? (v23)

3. Who will complete this work of sanctification in us? (v23 & 24)

4. How does this make you want to respond to God?

PRAY:

Thank God that he is faithful to save and faithful to complete the work begun in your life.

Thank God that his plan for you is no less than sanctification through and through.

Pray that God himself, the God of peace, will continue this work in you today.



WEEK 3 - The powerful, authoritative and transforming word of God

We have seen what God's goal for us is (to be like Christ!), and the foundation that has been laid to make this possible (his enormous grace!). But God gives us tools and 'planks' – other foundational and structural things – to build us into disciples of Jesus who are part of God's household (Ephesians 2:19-22). This week we look at his Word - the Bible.

Day 1

1. Did the Bible matter to Jesus?
2. How much?

Read Matthew 4:1-11

3. Jesus is the divine Son of God, and could have just told Satan to 'razz off'. But he appeals to a different authority. How does he answer Satan's attacks?
4. What does this show you about how we should answer questions 1 and 2?
5. Memorise 2 Timothy 3:16-17

Day 3

Read Psalm 33:1-11

1. What does v1-3 tell us do? How would you describe verse 3 on a scale from 0 (restrained) to 10 (exuberant)?
2. Why are we asked to praise God this way (see verse 4)? Do you praise God for this? Do you *trust* that this is true?
3. When building, something that is 'right & true' means that it is straight, doesn't bend, can be relied upon. In what ways is this true of the Bible (God's word) for you?
4. How powerful is God's word (see verse 6 and verse 9)? Does this fit your understanding? Why / Why not?
5. How does the picture of God's word here fit what we looked at yesterday in 2 Timothy 3:16?
6. Recite 2 Timothy 3:16-17

3. How do you feel about Scripture? Does this reflect your attitude to God's Word?

4. Recite 2 Timothy 3:16

PRAY:

Thank God that he tells us where our highest good and our greatest delights are to be found.

Thank God that his Word (law, statutes, precepts, commands, ...)
keeps us on the path to purity.

Pray that we would grow in love and delight for God's Word.

Day 5

So far this week we have seen:

- Jesus' attitude to Scripture: that he considered it authoritative and powerful in his own life. He knew it, let his life be shaped by it, and submitted himself to it.
- That all scripture is God-breathed, and that it thoroughly equips us for every good work.
- That God's words to us through the Bible are to be delighted in, rejoiced over, consumed, memorised, heeded and obeyed.

Read Luke 24:44-49

1. Jesus says that everything written in the Old Testament part of the Bible pointed to one big plan - what is it?

2. You could say that v47-49 are the next stage in that same big plan - what is it?

3. Jesus' life and purpose was defined by the Bible. If we claim to be followers of Jesus, how can we follow him in this way.

4. Tell someone else what you have learned this week about the Bible.

PRAY:

Thank God for some of the things you have learned this week.

Thank God for Jesus and how he has fulfilled God's plan.

Pray for your discipleship, that God might fulfil his goal for your discipleship through the transforming power of his word.

Day 3

Read John 15:26-27, and John 16:7-11

1. What three things will the Holy Spirit prove to the world as our advocate / counsellor / helper?
2. The Holy Spirit is called a name other than 'Advocate' (NIV) in 15:26 - what is it? How does that help us to see how he will prove those things to the world (from Q1)?
3. Read 16:7 - Jesus thinks it is a good idea to leave the disciples! Why? Do you share his perspective?

PRAY:

Ask God to enhance your understanding of sin, his righteousness and the defeat that has already been inflicted on the prince of this world (the Devil) through Christ's death and resurrection.

Day 4

Read Romans.8:9-13

1. If you have the Spirit of God, whose realm are you now in, or to whom do you belong?

2. What obligation does Paul say this puts on you (verse 12-13)?

This suggests that if you are a believer in Christ, wherever you go or whatever you do you take the Holy Spirit with you.

Reflecting on your own experience:

3. In what ways do you feel obliged to live according to the flesh?

3. What do verses 10 and 11 suggest God is doing about it.

4. What should you do about it?(verse 13)

PRAY:

The presence of the Holy Spirit in our life is closer than we tend to think most of the time. God knows what we struggle with, talk to him about it.

Day 5

Read Colossians 1:24-27

In Romans 12:1 Paul speaks of being living sacrifice, Peter speaks in 1 Peter 2:21 of following in Christ's steps of suffering and Paul in these verses speaks of filling up what is lacking in suffering in his quest to be Christlike.

1. What is the mystery that Paul considers the "word of God in all its fullness".
2. Who knows it?
3. Who has God chosen to reveal it to?
4. How does knowing this change the way you are going to walk through today?

PRAY:

Thank God for the amazing era we live in, where we can have Christ living in us and through us. Pray that you might live in accordance with his word today.



WEEK 5 - Identity

‘Understanding your identity in Christ is absolutely essential for our success at living a victorious Christian life.’

(From Living Free in Christ by Dr Neil T Anderson)

Day 1

Read Ephesians 1:1-10

1. Ephesians 1:1b - How would you explain what a saint is?

Is there a difference as to how the world describes a saint compared with God’s description? If so, what is the difference?

3. List what you discover our spiritual blessings are in Christ from this passage?

4. How does this happen?

PRAY:

Pray for clear understanding of what it means to be in Christ.

Day 2

Read Ephesians 1:11-14

1. What do you understand a Christian's identity to be?

2. What lie is the Christian regularly fed in regards to sin, works, reputation and behaviour?

Sin

Works

Reputation

Behaviour

3. What does God say about it in his word?

Sin

Works

Reputation

Behaviour

4. Read 1 John 3:1-3

PRAY:

Pray in response to God's great love that we should be called the sons of God.

Day 3

1. We are considering our acceptance by God through Christ. Jot down what you discover from the following references:

John 1:12

John 15:15

Romans 15:1

1 Corinthians 6:17

1 Corinthians 6:19-20

1 Corinthians 12:27

Ephesians 1:1

Ephesians 1:5

Ephesians 2:18

Colossians 1:14

Colossians 2:10

2. How have these references clarified why we are accepted by God? Understanding this impacts our behaviour.

PRAY: about what mindset changes and actions need to occur for our behaviour to reveal who we are in Christ.

Day 4

1. We are considering our security in Christ. Jot down what you discover from the following references.

Romans 8:1-2

Romans 8:28

Romans 8 31-34

Romans 8:35-39

2 Corinthians 1:21-22

Colossians 3:3

Philippians 1:6

Philippians 3:20

2 Timothy 1:7

Hebrews 4:16

1 John 5:18

2. How have these references helped you know security in an ever changing sinful world?

PRAY that the good work God has begun in us will be perfected so we can live a victorious life in and through Christ. In what areas do you fear and what changes need to be put in place to share your hope with others?

Day 5

1. We are looking at why, from where and through whom our significance comes. Check out the following references and jot down your discoveries.

Matthew 5:13-14

John 15:1,3

John 15:16

Acts 1:8

1 Corinthians 3:16

2 Corinthians 5:17-21

2 Corinthians 6:1

Ephesians 2:6

Ephesians 2:10

Philippians 4:13

2. Where does the Christian's significance come from?

PRAY that we will grow in our understanding of who we are in Christ as well as the hope and confidence being in Him gives. As we pray for others who are in varying stages of knowing about and knowing Him personally and interact with them, let us persevere in praying, sharing and encouraging for one another.

....but wait there's more. Don't forget to pick up Part 2 of the Daily Reading Notes for "Discipleship – Following Jesus" from the Hub table this Sunday.