

**Text: Read What Matters. Share What Matters.
8-Week Reading Plan**

Over the next eight weeks, South Ridge Church will be focusing on the text of God's Word - the Bible. You are invited to participate by reading through the story of the Bible on your own throughout the series.

Below, is an 8-week Scripture reading plan, designed to help you read through the story of the Bible, and notes for specific things to watch for & questions for reflection. These questions are to help guide your reading.

Additionally, there's a daily reminder to #ShareWhatMatters. After each reading, please consider an encouraging word, prayer request, or Scripture Verse that you would like to share with somebody else in person, in a note, in a text, or on social media. If using Social Media, feel free to include the #sharewhatmatters hashtag.

WEEK #1:

Day 1: Read Genesis 1 & 2; Psalm 1

In these two chapters in Genesis, notice how things were BEFORE sin entered the world. Things have been abnormal ever since. Look for signs of God's original design for people.

What did you notice about God's original design for people?

#sharewhatmatters - What verse, word of encouragement, prayer request or praise will you share with others today?

Day 2: Read Genesis 3, Matthew 4:1-11

Notice how the serpent focused his attack on what God said. That was his prelude to getting Adam and Eve to disobey.

How did Adam & Eve change after sin entered the world?

#sharewhatmatters - What verse, word of encouragement, prayer request or praise will you share with others today?

Day 3: Read Psalm 119:1-112

Notice what this passage says about God's Word (laws, decrees, promises, commands, instructions, etc.).

What do you find encouraging about this passage? What, if anything, do you find challenging about God's Word?

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Day 4: Read Genesis 6:9-9:17

Notice Noah's "walk with God" (6:9). Also notice the many parallels of Noah's story with that of Creation, and God's "covenant" with Noah (9:8-9:17)

What did you notice about Noah's walk with God? How does his relationship with God compare to others you know? To yours?

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Day 5: Read Genesis 12 & 13

Genesis 12:1-3 is a major text in God's plan for humanity. God will build a nation that "blesses" the rest of the world. Notice the initial circumstantial or human barriers to the promise that come up in verses 4-20. In other words, look at the things that happened that would have made it hard to believe God's promise of offering and possessions of the land.

What most stood out to you from this reading?

#sharewhatmatters - What verse, word of encouragement, prayer request or praise will you share with others today?

Day 6: Read Genesis 22:1-18; John 3:16; Romans 8:32

Abraham's faith is put to the test. Does he believe God's promise in Genesis 12 enough to act on it? Compare this with John 3:16 & Romans 8:32.

#sharewhatmatters - What verse, word of encouragement, prayer request or praise will you share with others today?

Day 7: No scheduled reading.

What most stood out to you during this week's reading?

What, if any, questions do you have from the passages you read? Where will you look to find answers to those questions?

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WEEK #2:

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Day 8: Read Genesis 46:1-30; 49:1-28

Notice the reason the people of Israel travel to Egypt. Also notice that Jacob's 12 sons become the 12 Tribes of Israel.

What do you notice about Jacob's blessing to each of his sons?

#sharewhatmatters - What verse, word of encouragement, prayer request or praise will you share with others today?

Day 9: Read Exodus 1:1-14; 2:23-24

Notice how the author links the beginning of this book with what has gone on in Genesis, and how new obstacles have come up that make the promise of Genesis 12:1-3 seem untrue.

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Day 10: Read Romans 1:1, 6:6-23; Galatians 5:1; 1 Corinthians 6:12-20

Notice how each passage says something about slavery.

From what you read in these passages, what, if anything, should we be slaves to? What warning does God have about being slaves to sin? Other things?

What things do you think many people in our culture are slaves of? Is there anything you're currently a slave of?

#sharewhatmatters - What verse, word of encouragement, prayer request or praise will you share with others today?

Day 11: Read Exodus 12 and 13

Notice how God is fulfilling his promise to Abraham (Genesis 12) and Jacob (Genesis 46).

Why is this event called the Passover? Compare it with 1 Corinthians 5:7

How easy or difficult do you think it was for the people of Israel to trust God based on the circumstances they were facing?

#sharewhatmatters - What verse, word of encouragement, prayer request or praise will you share with others today?

Day 12: Read Exodus 20:1-21, and Deuteronomy 5:1-33, 10:12-13

Notice the specifics of the Commandments God provides in these passages. Also notice how God first focusses on the people's relationship with Him (vertical), and then He offers commands that focusses on the people's relationships with one another (horizontal). Finally, notice the reasons why God gave His commands.

What do these passages tell us about the nature and character of God?

Which two or three of these commandments do you think are most often broken today? Why?

#sharewhatmatters - What verse, word of encouragement, prayer request or praise will you share with others today?

Day 13: Read Exodus 25:1-22 and Hebrews 9:1-14

Notice all of the details God provides about the sanctuary (tabernacle). Notice in the Hebrews passage how Jesus fulfilled what the tabernacle foreshadowed.

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Day 14: Read Numbers 21:6-9.

Notice how strange the cure is. Compare it with John 3:14-15.

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What, if any, questions do you have from the passages you read? Where will you look to find answers to those questions?

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WEEK #3:

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Day 15: Read Joshua 24:1-33

Notice the reminder of God's covenant with His people, and notice their response.

#sharewhatmatters - What verse, word of encouragement, prayer request or praise will you share with others today?

Day 16: Read 1 Samuel 8

Notice how the people of God begin to reject Him, and notice God's response.

#sharewhatmatters - What verse, word of encouragement, prayer request or praise will you share with others today?

Day 17: Read 1 Samuel 16 & 17

Notice that the Spirit of God comes upon David, and how he continues to trust in God no matter how difficult the circumstances.

#sharewhatmatters - What verse, word of encouragement, prayer request or praise will you share with others today?

Day 18: Read 2 Samuel 7 and Isaiah 9:6-7

Notice yet another covenant that God makes with His people. We've see a covenant with Noah (Genesis 8), a covenant with Abraham (Genesis 12), a covenant with Moses (Exodus 20), and now a covenant with David. Also notice similarities in the Isaiah passage (written 300 years after 2 Samuel 7).

#sharewhatmatters - What verse, word of encouragement, prayer request or praise will you share with others today?

Day 19: Read 1 Kings 3:1-3, and 1 Kings 5:1-6:11

Notice the attention to detail Solomon placed on the building of the temple.

#sharewhatmatters - What verse, word of encouragement, prayer request or praise will you share with others today?

Day 20: Read 1 Kings 11:42-12:24

Notice how disunity enters into the people of Israel, and how the northern tribes begin to worship other gods. Remember God's warning to His people in Joshua 24.

#sharewhatmatters - What verse, word of encouragement, prayer request or praise will you share with others today?

Day 21: No reading today.

What most stood out to you during this week's reading?

What, if any, questions do you have from the passages you read? Where will you look to find answers to those questions?

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Day 22: Read 2 Kings 17:6-23

Notice why God allowed the Assyrians to take the people of Israel into captivity. Also notice that the tribe of Judah is beginning to be influenced by the people of Israel, and is not following the commands of the Lord.

#sharewhatmatters - What verse, word of encouragement, prayer request or praise will you share with others today?

Day 23: Read 2 Kings 18 & 19

Notice that King Hezekiah seeks the wisdom of the Prophet Isaiah, and pay particular attention to Isaiah's response. Even without the Biblical text, historians agree that Jerusalem was the only city that the Assyrian Empire was unable to overthrow.

#sharewhatmatters - What verse, word of encouragement, prayer request or praise will you share with others today?

Day 24: Read Jeremiah 2:11-13, 3:20-22, 6:13-14 and Ezekiel 16:1-34

Notice the marriage-like language used in some of these verses. Think about the idea of spiritual adultery. Also, consider what ways you may be like the people of Israel?

#sharewhatmatters - What verse, word of encouragement, prayer request or praise will you share with others today?

Day 25: Read 2 Kings 25

Notice that now, all of the southern kingdom of Jerusalem is finally overthrown, this time by the Babylonian empire. Many people of Israel may have been wondering, “With all the covenants God made with His people, how did this happen?” The answer isn’t that God failed his people, but that His people had failed Him. Fortunately for Israel, God has promised that they will return from exile (Deuteronomy 30:1-10).

#sharewhatmatters - What verse, word of encouragement, prayer request or praise will you share with others today?

Day 26: Read Ezekiel 36:25-28, 37:24-28, Isaiah 52:13-53:12.

Notice the many promises of these passages, and God’s desire to give grace.

#sharewhatmatters - What verse, word of encouragement, prayer request or praise will you share with others today?

Day 27: Read Ezra 1:1-11, 2:68-70, 3:8-13

Notice the desire of God’s people to rebuild the temple. What specifically led the people of Israel to worship? Notice that their worship wasn’t of the temple itself, but of God Himself.

#sharewhatmatters - What verse, word of encouragement, prayer request or praise will you share with others today?

Day 28: Read Daniel 9

Notice the promise of a coming “Anointed One” or “Messiah”.

What most stood out to you during this week’s reading?

What, if any, questions do you have from the passages you read? Where will you look to find answers to those questions?

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WEEK #5:

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Day 29: Read Luke 1:5-2:52

There are four particular things to pay attention to in this passage. 1) Luke ties the story of Jesus to Israel, 2) All the people involved are of the poor in Israel, 3) Simeon's blessing and prophecy of Jesus, and 4) Jesus' humanity.

#sharewhatmatters - What verse, word of encouragement, prayer request or praise will you share with others today?

Day 30: Read John 1:1-18 and 3:14-21

Notice Jesus' eternal character in this passage (role in Creation, His deity, etc.). Also notice the bare minimum of what's needed to be considered a child of God.

#sharewhatmatters - What verse, word of encouragement, prayer request or praise will you share with others today?

Day 31: Read Luke 5:1-32, 15:1-32

Notice Jesus response to Peter's feeling of being a sinful man. In Luke 15, notice the many references to what gives God joy as well as the many references to "lost" things. Do you celebrate in the same way God does?

#sharewhatmatters - What verse, word of encouragement, prayer request or praise will you share with others today?

Day 32: Read John 14-16

Notice Jesus' resolve in this passage, essentially saying, "I am going. You are staying." Also notice His encouragement to Trust God, and the promise of the Holy Spirit.

#sharewhatmatters - What verse, word of encouragement, prayer request or praise will you share with others today?

Day 33: Read Luke 22:1-24:12 (Try to read this in one sitting.)

This is the narrative often referred to as "The Passion of the Christ." Notice Jesus is declared innocent by the Roman authorities. Compare this passage with Isaiah 53:1-12. What similarities do you see between the two?

#sharewhatmatters - What verse, word of encouragement, prayer request or praise will you share with others today?

Day 34: Read Matthew 28:1-19, 2 Corinthians 5:20

This is a key passage for the Gospel message. Many scholars believe that if this passage were not historically accurate, the message Jesus' disciples carried on would not have been believed. What compelled the disciples to carry on Jesus' message? Are you compelled to do the same?

#sharewhatmatters - What verse, word of encouragement, prayer request or praise will you share with others today?

Day 35: No reading today.

What most stood out to you during this week's reading?

What, if any, questions do you have from the passages you read? Where will you look to find answers to those questions?

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WEEK #6:

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Day 36: Read Acts 1 & 2. Also read Acts 6:7, 9:31, 12:24, 16:5, 19:20

Notice that God now sends the Holy Spirit that Jesus promised in John 14-16. What is the impact of God's people receiving the Holy Spirit? Also notice the lifestyle of the early Christians, and their concern for the church to grow. Do you believe this can happen today?

#sharewhatmatters - What verse, word of encouragement, prayer request or praise will you share with others today?

Day 37: Read Acts 13 and 17

Notice the role of the Holy Spirit. Also pay particular notice to how the people of Athens worshipped. Paul's response is one that focusses on the very nature of God, and His power. How have you experienced the power and presence of God in your life?

#sharewhatmatters - What verse, word of encouragement, prayer request or praise will you share with others today?

Day 38: Read Romans 1:16, 3:18-31, 1 Corinthians 1:18-25

Notice that Paul continues to be unashamed of presenting the Gospel to others. Also notice how the Romans 3 passage clearly explains how to come into a relationship with Christ. What do you find compelling about Paul's argument? (Consider sharing this Romans 3 passage with someone, taking into account Romans 1:16.)

#sharewhatmatters - What verse, word of encouragement, prayer request or praise will you share with others today?

Day 39: Read Romans 12 & 13

Notice how Paul changes the direction of his message, showing that the mercies of God ought to lead us to service of God.

#sharewhatmatters - What verse, word of encouragement, prayer request or praise will you share with others today?

Day 40: Read Galatians 5

Notice that 8 of the 15 acts of the sinful nature of sins of discord. Why do you think Paul placed so much emphasis on this? What do you think it means to live by the Spirit's leading in every part of our lives? (5:25)

#sharewhatmatters - What verse, word of encouragement, prayer request or praise will you share with others today?

Day 41: Read 1 Corinthians 10 & 12

Notice Paul's summary of the people of Israel. He desires God's people to not make the same mistakes the people of Israel made centuries before. Also notice, once again, Paul's argument for the people of God to serve Him.

#sharewhatmatters - What verse, word of encouragement, prayer request or praise will you share with others today?

Day 42: Read 1 Corinthians 13

What most stood out to you during this week's reading?

What, if any, questions do you have from the passages you read? Where will you look to find answers to those questions?

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WEEK #7:

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Day 43: Read Ephesians 2

You may want to read through this chapter a couple of times and let it sink in. Notice the emphasis on salvation through grace, and not works. Why do you think the Ephesians struggled with this concept? Why do you think we often struggle with it today?

#sharewhatmatters - What verse, word of encouragement, prayer request or praise will you share with others today?

Day 44: Ephesians 5:21-33

Notice the marriage language used, but how different it is compared with the passages you read on Day 24. What does it mean to you that God sees you / His church as His bride?

#sharewhatmatters - What verse, word of encouragement, prayer request or praise will you share with others today?

Day 45: Read Colossians 1 & 2

Notice the Gospel message is continuing to spread all over the world (1:4-8). Also notice all of the details regarding Christ's supremacy, as well as all of the things Jesus accomplished in His death and resurrection.

#sharewhatmatters - What verse, word of encouragement, prayer request or praise will you share with others today?

Day 46: Read Colossians 3 & 4

Notice the profile of a loving person in this chapter (3:1-4:6). Also notice the advice given for how to tell the story of God changing you (4:2-6).

#sharewhatmatters - What verse, word of encouragement, prayer request or praise will you share with others today?

Day 47: Read Philippians 1 & 2

Notice in these two chapters the recurring focus on the advancement of the gospel.

#sharewhatmatters - What verse, word of encouragement, prayer request or praise will you share with others today?

Day 48: Read 1 Timothy 1 & 2

Notice the focus on spiritual leadership. What specific observations do you make in these two chapters?

#sharewhatmatters - What verse, word of encouragement, prayer request or praise will you share with others today?

Day 49: Read 1 Timothy 3 & 4

Notice once again the focus on spiritual leadership. What specific observations do you make in these two chapters?

What most stood out to you during this week's reading?

What, if any, questions do you have from the passages you read? Where will you look to find answers to those questions?

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WEEK #8:

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Day 50: Read 1 Peter 1 & 2

Notice Peter's focus on *hope* and *eternity*. Why do you think he placed such a great emphasis on this? Also notice Peter's declaration that you are a high priest (2:5). What does this say about the responsibility God has given you?

#sharewhatmatters - What verse, word of encouragement, prayer request or praise will you share with others today?

Day 51: Read 1 Peter 3 & 4

Notice how Peter transitions from a message of *hope* and *eternity* (Chapters 1 & 2) to a message of living for God and suffering.

#sharewhatmatters - What verse, word of encouragement, prayer request or praise will you share with others today?

Day 52: Read 1 John 2:7-3:24

Just as Peter focussed a great deal of attention on *eternity*, John echoes that message. Only here, John emphasizes the importance of love in action.

#sharewhatmatters - What verse, word of encouragement, prayer request or praise will you share with others today?

Day 53: Read 1 John 4 & 5

Notice John's warning about listening to those who claim to speak for God, but who may not be a true follower of Christ. What does he say that a true teacher of the Word should acknowledge? What other words of encouragement did you find in this passage?

#sharewhatmatters - What verse, word of encouragement, prayer request or praise will you share with others today?

Day 54: Read Revelation 1, and Revelation 7:9-10.

Look for specific words that describe Jesus as both a Savior and King. Also notice the fulfillment of God's promise to Abraham in Genesis 12:1-3.

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Day 55: Read Revelation 2 & 3

Notice the strengths and the weaknesses that Jesus spoke of regarding the seven churches in this passage. How can God's people today focus more energy on the strengths listed in this passage?

#sharewhatmatters - What verse, word of encouragement, prayer request or praise will you share with others today?

Day 56: Read Revelation 21:1-4 and Revelation 22:1-27

This is the grand finale of the God's Story. Notice the complete end of death and suffering. Also notice that all of the problems that began in Genesis (the withdrawal of the tree of life, the scattered nations, etc.) are all resolved.

What most stood out to you during this week's reading?

What, if any, questions do you have from the passages you read? Where will you look to find answers to those questions?

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