



LIGHT TO
LIVE BY

A DAILY BIBLE
READING AID

**Book 7 of 24: Deuteronomy, Ephesians
(& Proverbs 20-21)**

Month: _____

Light to live by: A daily bible reading aid
© 2025. Written by Will Aitken

All rights reserved. Please ask for written permission to reproduce or utilise any parts of this book.

All Scripture quotations, unless otherwise indicated, are from the English Standard Version ^(ESV). All underlining, italics, insertions, brackets, [], and other forms of emphasis, are ours.

For any suggestions or edits, please email: oneaimallgod@gmail.com

For other booklets in this series, visit: www.oneaimallgod.org

Acknowledgements: I would like to acknowledge my great God for from, through and to Him are all things. To Him be all glory for any good that comes from these booklets for it is only by His Spirit and strength that this was done.

Contents

A daily structure for time with God.....	4
Resources.....	6
Day 1: Background of Deuteronomy.....	8
Day 2: Deuteronomy 1:1-2:23.....	10
Day 3: Deuteronomy 2:24-3:29.....	11
Day 4: Deuteronomy 4.....	12
Day 5: Deuteronomy 5-6.....	13
Day 6: Deuteronomy 7-8.....	14
Day 7: Deuteronomy 9-10.....	15
Day 8: Deuteronomy 11:1-12:28.....	16
Day 9: Deuteronomy 12:29-15:23.....	17
Day 10: Deuteronomy 16-17.....	18
Day 11: Deuteronomy 18-20.....	19
Day 12: Deuteronomy 21:1-23:14.....	20
Day 13: Deuteronomy 23:15-26:19.....	21
Day 14: Deuteronomy 27:1-28:14.....	22
Day 15: Deuteronomy 28:15-68.....	23
Day 16: Deuteronomy 29:1-31:13.....	24
Day 17: Deuteronomy 31:14-32:47.....	25
Day 18: Deuteronomy 32:48-34:12.....	26
Day 19: Background of Ephesians.....	27
Day 20: Ephesians 1.....	29
Day 21: Ephesians 2.....	30
Day 22: Ephesians 3.....	31
Day 23: Ephesians 4:1-5:2.....	32
Day 24: Ephesians 5:3-33.....	33
Day 25: Ephesians 6.....	34
Spare Days.....	35
Prayer points.....	39

A daily structure for time with God

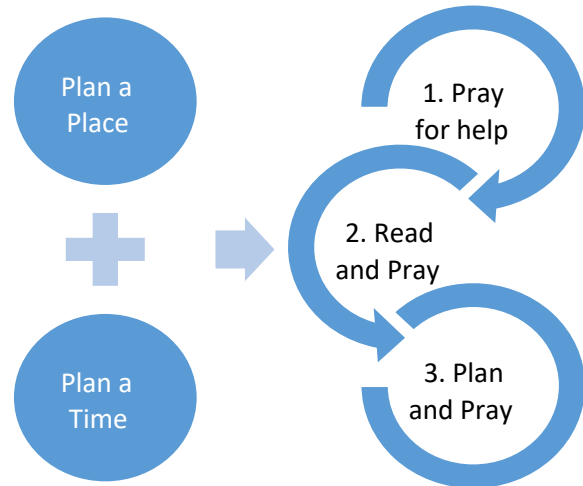
Try to follow this structure each day to help you grow and be challenged as you read God's word. Try to get into a habit of doing it in this way and it will help you to be consistent. Plan and pray for discipline in this area and try to figure out what works best for you.

Plan a place

Find a place that is free of distraction, quiet, private and that works for you. Jesus often withdrew to a desolate place to pray (Luke 5:16).

Plan a time

Plan a time (try to aim for 1 hour) in the day that works for you, is quiet, free of distractions and is a time when your mind is clear. Set alarms to remind you to do it. Jesus would withdraw in the early morning (Mark 1:35, Luke 6:12).



And then each time you spend time with God, do the following steps:

- **PRAY for God's help** to understand and apply what you are going to read. Seek for God's Spirit and Word to convict you and that Satan wouldn't snatch the word from you. Pray the prayers found in Psalm 119, like Psalm 119: 10, 17-18, 27, 29, 33-34, 36-37, etc.
- **READ AND PRAY the passage.** Pray that the things in the passage would be true for yourself and others. Pray that God would pierce you with His Word in the things you need challenging in. Pray for understanding as you read and praise God for what you read.

Also, as you read and pray, be sure to do it in the following ways:

- **Slowly:** Take your time! The slower you go the more you can grow! Now you won't have time to do this with everything, so pick certain passages or verses to read slowly and study.
- **Carefully:** Read verse by verse and word by word (even letter by letter and stroke by stroke for it is all God inspired as Matthew 5:18 shows).

- Thoughtfully: Meditate on God's word! Think about the verses, words and structure. What is the authors purpose and main point? What comes before and after this passage? How does this passage relate to other parts of the bible? What is repeated or emphasised in the passage? What does it challenge in your life?
- Vocally (out loud): This can really help you concentrate and think through what you are reading. Also, most books of the bible were written and designed to be read out loud.
- Humbly and Honestly: Accept the truth of God's word for what it says and let it pierce your life. Don't diminish God's truth in any way. Repent when rebuked by the passage and seek God's forgiveness and strength to change.
- Asking Questions: Ask questions about everything and pray them to God. Read the passage as though you are a five-year-old, asking why, why, why about everything? Write down the questions you have and seek answers from the passage, context, other parts of the bible or other resources. Ask what does the passage teach you about God, humanity, sin, the gospel story, how God desires for you to live, etc.
- **PLAN AND PRAY to apply it:**
What attitudes, actions, emotions or thoughts has the passage challenged in you today. Plan who you need to talk to, what you need to do today to apply this and pray for God's help to do it. Be sure to make plans of how to apply it. If we don't plan things, they don't happen. Be sure that you are not just a hearer, but a doer of the word.

Also have a focused time of prayer to ask God for what you have read to be true for yourself, family, friends, those at church and others you know. There is a prayer section at the end of this booklet which allows you to have a list of prayer points and people you pray for. Also use this time to praise God for how he is growing you, confess sin, repent, pray for your spiritual walk, ask for opportunity to share the gospel, etc.

MEMORISE a verse or key challenge: You can then use this during the day to MEDITATE on it and allow it to continually grow you. This will also allow you to share the good things God is teaching you with others and be equipped for the moments we must speak God's word into the lives of others. You won't be able to remember the whole passage, so just pick one idea, phrase or verse for each day.

Resources

See the separate “preface and overview booklet” (on oneaimallgod.org) for articles on why I have written this booklet, why you should commit to reading God’s Word and an overview of the reading plan.

Resources for further study:

- Use the helpful hints and questions in this book to help you dig at God’s word. Try not to read these or look at these questions until AFTER you have done your own thinking and reading.
- ‘How to read the bible book by book’ by Fee & Stuart.
- The ESV Study Bible.
- The ESV background introductions which are all available online.
- The Gospel Coalition online courses on books of the bible.
- Good Sermon websites (Desiring God, Grace to you, Ligonier, Truth for life etc)
- Bible.org, Bible Hub, Bible study tools, Bible web app.
- Bible project overview videos (though it is helpful to be aware of the following things the article called “Review: The bible project – brilliant but flawed” on the Gospel Coalition website.
- Buy a simple commentary. See the background section of each book for recommendations.
- Also, throughout this booklet there will be recommended resources for further study.

Tips to help you memorise God’s Word:

1. Read the verse out loud 8-10 times and then say it from memory several times. It’s amazing how quickly you can remember things just doing this.
2. Then do this with another verse and add them together. Say it through a few times.
3. Keep reviewing them every spare moment you have. Use the tear page at the back of this book to write the verse down and put it in your pocket to review it during the day. And keep reviewing them later down the track even after they have been learnt.
4. Know, understand and apply the verse you are trying to learn. When you see why the verse is important, it will help you learnt it!
5. Structure the verses and concepts in your mind. Connect it with images, stories or other things to help you remember.

6. If you're creative, then form the verse into a drawing, story or song.
7. Listen to "If my words abide in you" on the Desiring God website to see the importance of memorising scripture.

Extra tips for reading God's Word:

1. Come to God's word hungry to know Him and eager to see the beauty in Christ and wonder of God's wisdom. Pray that God would make His Word your delight.
2. Seek accountability with others as you read. You could also meet once a week or message daily to share what you're reading.
3. This plan isn't enough, so try to soak yourself in God's word. Ideally on top of this reading plan, you should try to pick a book of the New Testament and then read, study and memorise it for the month or more. Try to set aside another time later in the day or night to do this and to read other Christian books and do your own further studies.
4. Journal out your thoughts, prayers and how you plan to apply what you have learnt. Writing things out can help you think through things. However, be sure to focus on your relationship with God and focus on remembering things so you can keep thinking on them. (You may need to use your own journal as there isn't a lot of space in this booklet).
5. Don't stop reading and praying until God has blessed you with something and encouraged you. Plead with Him for this!
6. Which Translation? For accuracy and ease of reading, I recommend using the English Standard Version (ESV). For further study, you can then compare it with the NIV, NASB, NKJV or NLT.
7. In the end you need to do what works for you, but here is a pattern you could follow for your devotional time with God:
 - Morning: read and pray (20-40 min), memorise (5 min), further study (5 min).
 - Night: review the mornings readings and pray (10 min), focused study of a passage, read Christian books/devotions (20 min).
8. Be intimate with your God. Be someone who walks with God. To effectively grow in your relationship with God, you need hear from Him in His word, and also speak much to Him. "Praying in the closet and in the Spirit" on Desiring God is a great sermon to help grow your prayer life.



Day 1: Background of Deuteronomy

OPTIONAL: Quickly read through/listen to the entire book of Deuteronomy to get a feel for its flow, structure and key themes. Record your observations below. *(Use a spare day if you need extra time to do this)*

Where does Deuteronomy fit in Israel's history?

The name Deuteronomy means "second law", and it expounds the Law already given in Exodus. Why did the Israelites need a second giving of the law?

Helpful Hints

- Situation/Background:
 - This book is the second giving of the Law to the new generation. It is like an exposition/sermon on the Law given in Exodus and Leviticus.

- These words are spoken just before the people cross the Jordan into the promised. 40 years earlier they had failed to obey God and enter the promised land. But after wandering in the desert, a new generation has risen up to enter the promised land.
- Traditionally Moses is seen as the author, however the account of his death at the end of the book would have had to be written by someone else.
- Themes: It shows how to deal with sin so that the Lord can dwell amongst the people of Israel who are impure.
 - That the LORD is one and they are to love Him because He has loved them (Deuteronomy 7:7-8, see also 4:37).
 - The importance of God's Law
 - God's faithfulness to His promises
 - Encouragement to serve and obey God
 - Warnings against idolatry and disobedience
 - The goodness of the promised land
- Tips to help you read it:
 - Deuteronomy probably is one of the books that has the most influence on the rest of the bible so be on the lookout for future fulfillment of what it says and keep coming back to this book.
 - There is a focus how the Israelites are about to possess the land, the need to avoid idolatry and the need to worship God where and how He desires. These things are extremely important to the rest of the biblical story.
- How does this book shine the gospel and fit in the story of the bible?
 - In Deuteronomy, there is an awareness of the need for God to act in Israel's heart to enable obedience. The Israelites constant failures point to this need and there is hope for restoration (4:29-31, 30:1-20). This points to the new heart spoken of in the OT (Jeremiah 31:31-34, Ezekiel 36:24-28) and the work of Jesus and the Holy Spirit.
- Purpose:
 - Moses is seeking to encourage faithful obedience and urge the Israelites to not repeat the errors of the past as they enter the promised land.

Recommended Resources

- Peter C. Cragie's commentary in the NICOT series.



Day 2: Deuteronomy 1:1-2:23

Rd Proverbs 20:1-3. How can you avoid strife and violence in your life?

What does this brief summary of some of Israel's history teach us about the character of God?

What characterised the people of Israel? Why is rebellion against God so deadly?

Why is the repentance in 1:41 false?

Helpful Hints

- Chapters 1-3 provide a summary of Israel's history as they wandered in the desert after leaving Horeb (the area where Mount Sinai was). In it we see how God is faithful to His people and always works to provide, even for those who aren't His people (Deuteronomy 1:25, 2:5, 9, 19, 25)
- Rebellion is so deadly because it is against God's command (1:26) and it has great consequences. For the Israelites, it brought 40 years of punishment on a whole generation.
- Does Deuteronomy 1:36 describe you?

PLAN & PRAY



Day 3: Deuteronomy 2:24-3:29

Rd Proverbs 20:4-6. Why are words not enough to judge someone by?

Why should the people trust God and obey the Law that they are about to be given (refer to chapters 1-3)?

Why should the Israelites not be afraid in their battles (3:2, 22)?

Helpful Hints

- Chapters 1-3 give this new generation reason for why they should listen to God, follow His ways and trust Him.
- In 2:26-3:22, God wants the Israelites to remember how he has delivered and is in control, just before they enter battle to go into the promised land (2:30, 33, 36, 3:2-3, 18, 20, 22). This section makes clear that God has given all these things and He will fight for them. Also, we can know that God is fighting for us, just as He was for the Israelites. We need to trust Him and not be afraid (3:2, 22). In particular what things can we trust God to fight for us?
- Why are all the people devoted to destruction (3:6)? Because they will influence God's people, and this is God's judgement on these nations.
- In 3:23-24 we see that all of which Moses has seen is only the beginning of God's greatness and mighty. Wow! Our God is great!

PLAN & PRAY



Day 4: Deuteronomy 4

Rd Proverbs 20:7-9. Why is righteousness so important and yet impossible?

What are the Israelites to do with God's words that they have been given (4:1-14)?

Why is idolatry so wrong and such a foolish thing (4:15-40)?

What do we learn about God's character in this chapter?

"But from there you will seek the LORD your God and you will find him, if you search after him with all your heart and with all your soul."

Deuteronomy 4:29

Helpful hints:

- Be careful to observe God's law! Watch that you don't forget them! Teach them to your children! Listen to them when assembled!
- We have a God who is near us, particularly when we call on Him (4:7).
- 4:25-28 has just described the people falling into deep sin, and yet from that point they can seek God and find him (v29).
- Idolatry is so wrong and foolish because God is a Jealous consuming God (v24) and there are no others like our God (v35).

PLAN & PRAY



Day 5: Deuteronomy 5-6

Rd Proverbs 20:10-12. Why does God detest falsehood?

How do you fall short of what God commands? Honestly compare your life to these commandments.

What should be done to help us obey God's commands? What should motivate us to obey (5:6, 5:16, 30, 33, 6:2-3, 18, 24)

Helpful Hints

- The clear message in this section is “obey, that it may go well with you” (5:16, 30, 33, 6:2-3, 18, 24). Yet, the ten commandments and the call to love God will all our heart, soul and strength (6:5) shows our utter hopelessness. We could never live up to this. We cannot keep all the law that God has given (6:24-25), but praise God for Christ who was careful to obey all the law and gives us His righteousness. What a blessing to know that the law comes on the basis of God's redemption (5:6), and it isn't the thing that gives us God's grace.
- In 6:4-9, we see that God alone is God. So, we must love Him with everything, and seek to fill our entire lives with His word.
- 6:20-25 gives a great summary of the law and its purpose.

PLAN & PRAY



Day 6: Deuteronomy 7-8

Rd Proverbs 20:13-15.

What can we learn here about how to live wisely?

Why must the Israelites remove the Nations from among them? Why is it right that they do this?

When are the Israelites in danger of forgetting God? What warnings does this provide us (chapter 8)?

What should be done to ensure we do not forget God (chapter 8)?

Helpful Hints

- The nations must be removed for they will turn the Israelites from God and bring His anger (7:4-5).
- God doesn't choose Israel because of something they have done, but because He loves them and keeps his promises (7:7, 9).
- Does your life show that it is the word of God that sustains you? (8:4).
- 8:11-20 shows how care must be taken to not forget God when things are going well and to not start thinking you are the one who has brought about all these good things.

PLAN & PRAY



Day 7: Deuteronomy 9-10

Rd Proverbs 20:16-18. How do you apply verse 18 in your life?

What stopped the Lord from destroying the Israelites after they had rebelled against Him (9:7-29)?

What does 10:12-22 teach us about God and how we should respond to Him?

Helpful Hints

- The Israelites are about to enter the promised land, but God makes it clear that it is not because of anything in them (9:1-6). The same is true for us who will receive eternal life.
- Moses calls on the character and promises of God and demands for the people to not be destroyed because of these things. How can you do the same in your prayer life?
- Chapters 9-10 show the utter rebellion of the people and the work of God (9:1-5) and His great might (10:17-22). The only hope we have in our constant rebellion is if God is merciful to us too.
- 10:12-13 gives five things that God requires of His people, for all people are His (v14) yet He has loved you (v15). Therefore, we must cleanse our rebellious hearts (v16) for God is great and mighty (v17-22).

Try to remember Deuteronomy 10:12-13 & 17.

PLAN & PRAY



Day 8: Deuteronomy 11:1-12:28

Rd Proverbs 20:19-20. Why is gossip so damaging?

What things should the Israelites do to help them obey God's Law?

What does chapter 12 teach us about worshipping God?

Helpful Hints

- 11:1-7 shows how we should consider the great work God has done, and therefore obey Him (11:8-12) that He may bless you (11:13-17).
- 11:18-21 then gives some ways to remember God's word and why we should be careful to obey it (11:22-32).
- Chapter 12 outlines the one place of worship for the Israelites. God is particular and has order in how He is to be worshipped. We however, too often live in a way that is just right in our own eyes.

PLAN & PRAY



Day 9: Deuteronomy 12:29-15:23

Rd Proverbs 20:21-23. In what ways do you need to wait for the Lord and not seek revenge?

How must they guard themselves against worshipping other god's?

What lessons can we take from 15:1-11?

Helpful Hints

- 13:6-11 shows how even someone close to you should be cut off if they are going to lead you astray. We must purge evil from our midst as 1 Corinthians 5 says and we must cut off anything that causes us to sin (Matthew 5:29-30).
- 14:21 shows that the food laws are to set the Israelites apart for they are holy. The food laws are also for their good, as God is a caring God.
- The fact that the Israelites had been slaves should help them to care well for other slaves (15:12-18). We have been set free from sin, and this should cause us to properly care for those who are still slaves to it.

PLAN & PRAY



Day 10: Deuteronomy 16-17

Rd Proverbs 20:24-25. Why must we be careful with vows and plans?

What are the purposes of the feasts?

What is the consequence of worshipping other Gods (16:21-17:7)? How do you fall into this sin?

Why must the king be careful to not have many wives (pursue pleasure) or great possessions? Are you being careful in these areas?

Helpful Hints

- In 16:12 we learn that the feasts are to remind the people of the work God has done in their lives. Do we have things like this in our lives?
- The feasts are to be done where God desires (16:6, 11, 15) for He is to be worshipped and served in particular ways (see also 16:21-17:7). Also, He will decide the king (17:15) for He is God.

PLAN & PRAY



Day 11: Deuteronomy 18-20

Rd Proverbs 20:26-27.
How does verse 27
challenge your life?

How should we respond to a prophet who speaks truth (18:14-22)? How could the Israelites identify if a prophet spoke truth?

What should guide how the Israelites go to war (chapter 20)? How can we apply these lessons?

Helpful Hints

- 18:18 is refer to a coming great prophet which the New Testament shows to be fulfilled in Jesus (Acts 3:22-24, 7:37).
- 20:1 shows that the Israelites do not need to fear as they go into war, for God is with them, and they should remember how He brought them out of Egypt.
- The nations that live in the land they are going to possess need to be devoted to complete destruction so that they would not teach the Israelites abominable ways (20:16-18).

PLAN & PRAY



Day 12: Deuteronomy 21:1-23:14

Rd Proverbs 20:28-30.
 What things can benefit our lives? Why?

What principles can we apply to our lives from the laws given in these chapters?

Why are exclusions and restrictions put on the Israelites for who may be amongst the camp (23:1-14)?

Helpful Hints

- 21:18-21 shows how serious the sin of disobedience to parents is. We should take no sin lightly and sin must be dealt with properly so that people will hear and fear (21:21).
- 22:20-24 shows the need to purge evil from among them. We must do the same in the church (1 Corinthians 5) and in our lives (Matthew 5:29-30).
- 23:1-14 shows that assembly of the Lord requires purity and the camp must be holy because God walks in their midst. Our lives must be holy as Christians, for we are temples of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 6:19). Don't take the presence of God lightly... it is a weighty thing.

PLAN & PRAY



Day 13: Deuteronomy 23:15-26:19

Rd Proverbs 21:1-3. If God knows and directs the heart, then we must seek for him to change us and we need to honour him. Verse 3 shows what is pleasing to him.

What principles can we apply to our lives from the laws in these chapters?

What do these laws teach us about the character of God?

Why must God's people be careful to obey His ways (26:16-19)?

Helpful Hints

- 23:21 makes clear that we must be sure to keep vows that we make to God and if we don't it is sin. Watch what you vow (23:21-23)!
- 26:16-19 emphasises how today is the day to obey and be careful to do all that God has said. Don't delay in fulfilling the challenges that God gives you. Too often we are challenged by God's word, and we say we will respond to it later, but we never do! What things has God been challenging you in recently? "This day the LORD your God commands you to do these statutes and rules. You shall therefore be careful to do them with all your heart and with all your soul." (26:16)

PLAN & PRAY



Day 14: Deuteronomy 27:1-28:14

Rd Proverbs 21:4-5. What is the difference between diligence and haste?

What relationship does obedience have to being God's people (27:9-10)?

What type of people are cursed (27:9-26)?

Why is obedience worth it (28:1-14)?

Helpful Hints

- 27:9-10 shows that obedience should come on the basis that we are God's people. This is why God expects the Israelites to obey. We should obey not to be God's people, but because we are His people.
- All are cursed, for all those who don't uphold the law (27:26) are part of this list. There really is no hope for any of us to be able to have the blessings that come from obedience unless we have the obedience of another given to us.

PLAN & PRAY



Day 15: Deuteronomy 28:15-68

Rd Proverbs 21:6-7. Know that certain consequences accompany each action!

What will happen to the Israelites if they disobey?

How does the rest of the Old Testament show the fulfillment of these things?

Helpful Hints

- There were great consequences for Israel's disobedience and it is the same for us. If they didn't obey, these curses were going to come and overtake them (28:15).
- All throughout this chapter we see that God is the one who strikes and brings these curses (28:20, 21, 22, 24, 25, 27, 28, 35, 37, etc).
- This chapter shows us the weight of our sin and disobedience and should bring us to repentance and a desperate pleading for God's forgiveness.
- 28:63 shows that God takes delight in destruction because it upholds His righteousness.

PLAN & PRAY



Day 16: Deuteronomy 29:1-31:13

Rd Proverbs 21:8-9. Are you a quarreller that people should avoid?

What can come for those who turn back to the Lord (30:1-10)?

What decision do the Israelites need to make (30:11-20)? How can the Israelites choose life?

Why can Joshua be confident in His service (31:1-8)? How does this give you confidence to face great difficulty?

Helpful Hints

- The Israelites can be forgiven if they return to God and obey (30:1-3). And if they do this, God will cleanse them with circumcision of the heart (30:6).
- A choice lies before the Israelites, life and death, blessing and cursing (30:11-20). Life will not come by perfect obedience, but by holding fast to God who is our life (30:20).

“Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be in dread of them, for it is the LORD your God who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you.”
Deuteronomy 31:6

PLAN & PRAY



Day 17: Deuteronomy 31:14-32:47

Rd Proverbs 21:10-12. Do you grow from instruction or only punishment?

What do we learn about the character of God from Moses' song in chapter 32?

Why are the words of the Law so important (32:44-47)? Do we place the right importance upon them in our lives?

Helpful Hints

- 31:6-8 have just shown how God will not forsake Joshua, but then 31:16-17 shows that He will forsake the Israelites for their disobedience.
- In chapter 32, it is important to know that Jacob and Jeshurun are referring to Israel. Also "the Rock" is referring to God (see 32:4).
- The Words of God are life (32:44-47). By them we may live and be blessed.

"The Rock, his work is perfect, for all his ways are justice. A God of faithfulness and without iniquity, just and upright is he."
Deuteronomy 32:4

PLAN & PRAY



Day 18: Deuteronomy 32:48-34:12

Rd Proverbs 21:13-15.

Justice will one day be done! Do you long for that day?

**What does 33:26-29 teach us about God?
Why should He be trusted?**

How are the Israelites blessed in chapter 33? How are we as Christians blessed like this (see Ephesians 1)?

Helpful Hints

- Moses was an ordinary man (see Exodus 4:10) and yet he was greatly used by God in amazing ways (34:10-11). Yet Moses is not indispensable, but the spirit enabling him is passed on to another (34:9). Though we are weak, we can be used by God, even though He doesn't need us and could use anyone else. We may work hard for God's kingdom, yet God in His infinite wisdom may allow others to reap from what we have sown.
- The key thing that characterised Moses is that he was a man who knew the LORD face to face. Is a deep intimacy with God the thing that characterises your life?

*"Happy are you, O Israel!
Who is like you, a people
saved by the LORD."
Deuteronomy 33:29*

PLAN & PRAY



Day 19: Background of Ephesians

OPTIONAL: Quickly read through/listen to the entire book of Deuteronomy to get a feel for its flow, structure and key themes. Record your observations below. *(Use a spare day if you need extra time to do this)*

Read Acts 19. What background do we learn from this passage about the church in Ephesus?

Record the structure and flow of the letter below as you read through it:

Helpful Hints

- Author/Audience: Paul writes this letter to the church in Ephesus and the surrounding regions of Asia.
- Date: Probably written in 62AD while Paul is in prison at Rome (Acts 28).
- Situation: Paul's letter is quite general and doesn't seem to be addressing any particular issues. The only thing that he may be addressing is a fear of "the powers of this world" that it seems the churches in Asia had.
- Key Themes:
 - God has chosen to save people and grow them in holiness.
 - Everyone is spiritually dead and is under Satan's dominion.
 - God saves through His rich mercy and grace.
 - Through Jesus the entire church is united.
 - Christians are a new creation. The old has gone and the new has come.
 - The Christian life involves living in a right way in various relationships.
 - God has provided us with what we need to grow in holiness and fight the spiritual forces of this world.
- Purpose: Paul desires to highlight the work of Christ and the Christian living that should come as a result. He is probably aiming to encourage the churches in that area who he knows will be facing difficulty.
- Tips when reading:
 - Lookout for Paul's emphasis on the unity Jewish and Gentile Christians have through the Spirit.
 - Realise that Christ has brought redemption, conquered spiritual powers and made us a new creation. Hence, we as Christians are to live consistent with who we are, displaying our new self.
- Structure/Flow: In the first 3 chapters, Paul writes about the salvation that Christians have in Christ. They chapters 4-6 go on to show the life that should be lived in light of this salvation.

Recommended Resources

- F.F. Bruce's commentary in the NICNT series.
- 'The Purpose of God' by R.C. Sproul.



Day 20: Ephesians 1

Rd Proverbs 21:16-18. Why is the love of pleasure dangerous?

What spiritual blessing do we have in Christ? How have they come about?

Why should we as Christians be full of hope and assurance (1:3-14)?

What things does Paul see are important to pray about (1:15-23)?

Helpful Hints

- To have every spiritual blessing frees us from anxiety and fear and readies us to be servants of our Saviour. We have all that we need spiritually in Christ through God who chose us for this and did the work to save us. Therefore, it is fitting that the purpose of our salvation and spiritual blessings is for the praise of God's glory (v6, 12, 18).
- In 1:15-23 reveals his prayers for the Ephesian church. Pray these things for yourself and those in your life.

PLAN & PRAY



Day 21: Ephesians 2

Rd Proverbs 21:19-21.
 What should we pursue in life?

What were we all like before God worked to save (2:1-3)? How does God save us (2:4-10)?

What else has the work of Christ achieved for His people (2:11-22)?

Helpful Hints

- God had to step in and save us because we were dead in our sin (v1). We were children of wrath (v3), until God stepped in to save us. The only hope we have to be saved is God's grace (v7-8), the free undeserved forgiveness that we have through our saviour Jesus.
- 2:8-9 makes it clear that we are not saved by works, but we have been saved for good works (2:10). We have been created new in Christ for the purpose of having transformed lives.
- 2:11-22 shows how through Christ we have been united, hostility has been broken and we all together as Christians are the dwelling place of God (2:19-22). How should these truths transform our interactions with each other?

Try to remember Ephesians 2:1-10 to help you share the gospel with people and to remind yourself of how you have been saved.

PLAN & PRAY



Day 22: Ephesians 3

Rd Proverbs 21:22-24. Why is it worth guarding your words? How can you grow in this?

How is the gospel a mystery and how has it been revealed (3:1-13)?

Why is Paul praying the way that he does in v14-21? What is the context

How should 3:20-21 transform how you pray to God?

Helpful Hints

- Paul is writing while he is in prison and hints of this are given in 3:1, 13. Despite this, he wants the Ephesian church to not lose heart. What reasons does he give for why they shouldn't lose heart (3:11-13)?
- Paul is a man of great humility despite the high calling he has been given (3:7-10). Paul was not a great man, but his ministry is solely a work of God's power (3:7).
- Suffering and persecution are constant threats to the church and for this reason Paul prays as he does in 3:14-21. Also 3:13 shows that Paul prays these things so that the Ephesians will not lose heart. Use the prayers of 3:14-21 to guide your prayers today.

PLAN & PRAY



Day 23: Ephesians 4:1-5:2

Rd Proverbs 21:25-26.

Does your life show any aspects of laziness?

What is the purpose of the spiritual gifts mentioned in v11 (see 11-16)?

Why is it such a blessing to be part of a body? What part are we to play in the body (v15-16)?

What characterises those who are not in Christ (4:17-19)? What should characterise us if we are in Christ (4:20-5:2)

Helpful Hints

- The calling in this passage is not to be something we aren't, but to be who we are. As Christians we are a new creation in Christ (4:24) and so the old should be gone! We are children of God (5:1) and so we should to imitate our father! And if we really can't see the new self in us, we need to question whether we really are a new creation through Christ's death.
- Look at the list of the old self that should be gone and the new self that we should have. Pray that God by His Spirit would work in you to reflect who you are. Put off the old clothing of sin and clothe yourself with Christ-likeness (Col 3:12). Lying should be replaced with truth, anger with reconciliation, stealing with work and generosity, hurtful words with helpful words, hatred and hostility with kindness, compassion, forgiveness and LOVE! (see 4:25-5:2)

PLAN & PRAY



Day 24: Ephesians 5:3-33

Rd Proverbs 21:27-29.

How do you give thought to your ways?

What should be our relationship to works of darkness and those who do them (5:3-14)?

How is marriage a picture of Christ's relationship to His people (5:22-33)?

*"Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil."
Ephesians 5:15-16*

Helpful Hints

- We need to be wise with who we are around so that we are not corrupted by bad influences (5:3-14).
- Make the most of the time that God has given you (5:16).
- Submission is to characterise wives and the church, and sacrificial love is to characterise husband's in the way that Christ has modelled. Marriage is designed to magnify the Christ's love for His people. Does your marriage do this? Is this what you are aiming to do when you get married? How can marriage's magnify Christ?

PLAN & PRAY



Day 25: Ephesians 6

Rd Proverbs 21:30-31. Why must we always seek the Lord and trust him?

How does 6:1-9 challenge the different relationships you have in life?

What are we fighting against in this life? What do we need to put on to help us fight (6:10-20)?

Helpful Hints

- Children are required to obey their parents and parents are to instruct and discipline their children in God's ways and do nothing that provokes them to anger (6:1-4). We would do well to follow God's design.
- 6:5-9 shows how we should work in this world. Why should work be important (6:5-9)?
- In this life, we will battle spiritual powers. Do we realise this, and make the efforts needed to fight? How are you putting on the armour of truth, righteousness, the gospel of peace, faith and salvation? The best way to grow in these things, and the only way we can battle is by taking up the word of God and praying in the Spirit (6:17-18).

PLAN & PRAY

Spare Days

You can use these spare days each month for catching up, reflecting on what you have read or to study a passage you have read in detail and even memorise it.





**LESSONS
YOU HAVE
LEARNT
THIS
MONTH**