



Setting Sail: Encouragement To Stay The Course

I am in awe and encouraged by the sheer number of people who are participating this year. This can seem overwhelming at times, but this family has come together and found their stride. I'm looking forward to seeing how we each are going to grow in this coming year.

-Aaron Baker, Admin Team

It's really exciting to me to see how many are commenting that it is their first time reading through the Bible or that their eyes are being opened for the first time because they are finally gaining understanding. I remember that feeling- and I still get it when I learn something new! And the ones that are sharing the study with their husbands and/or children are touching my heart the most!

- Kasey King, Admin Team



We've completed the first couple of weeks of our Bible study and I've been so encouraged by all of the excitement in the group. Daily, we read comments such as "I've never learned so much!" And "I'm so excited about waking up and getting into the word now!"

The exciting thing is, we're just beginning! I want to assure you that you shouldn't feel as if you need to learn everything on the first go around:

The goal was never to read the Bible just once but to become daily Bible readers.

Each time you read through, you'll gather a layer of wisdom and each time after that you'll build upon that foundation. Just think of how much you've learned so far!

On behalf of myself and the entire admin team, we want to thank you for the honor of being able to study the Word of our Father alongside you. Whether it be uncertain times or times of peace and sureness, I can truly think of no better occupation than to study our Father's instructions.

Gratefully,
Christy

Trivia:

We've studied the answers to these questions in the notes over the past few weeks. See if you recall them.

•**How long was Noah and his family in the ark?** See my notes for Genesis 8-11

•**How many of each animal did Noah really bring onto the ark?** Genesis 7:2

Did you know?

The audio notes at the top of the post each day are also available on all major podcast platforms. If you would like to subscribe to them there, simply search Seeking Scripture and look for this logo.



Wisdom of Messiah

Last night I was thinking about the Lord's Prayer, that famous prayer so many of us have memorized from Matthew 6 - and I got hung up on one line.

Give us this day our daily bread.

Daily. Think about it. That's important.

It doesn't say weekly.

It doesn't say "Let us continue eating from the bread that you served to us this past week in worship service..."

It says *Daily*.

Just as when YHWH rained down manna from Heaven to sustain the Israelites - they had to gather it Daily. They were told to gather what they needed for that day only, with the exception of the sixth day, then they were allowed to gather enough for the Sabbath as well.

It was a *daily* trusting in God and they could not store up extra bread to get them by - when they tried it bred worms and rotted. Instead, they had to go and seek it *each day anew* and trust that He would provide.

YHWH required *daily* faith.

Daily movement. *Daily* work.

How many of us wake up and rush into our day without seeking the sustenance we desperately need that only our Creator can provide?

So many times, when our world feels as though it is crumbling around us, the truth of the matter is that we are really dying of a self inflicted spiritual starvation.

Manna rains down new every day. We just have to put in the time and work to gather it.

"So don't be anxious, asking, 'What will we eat?,' 'What will we drink?' or 'How will we be clothed?' For it is the pagans who set their hearts on all these things. Your heavenly Father knows you need them all. But seek **first** his Kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." ~Matthew 6:31-33

Don't forget your "breakfast" today.

Good Morning 😊

~Christy



Re-Examining Your Social Media Usage?

This is our fourth year of leading a Facebook group through a Bible reading cycle. During that time, there has been a consistent ebb and flow of both support of the platform and movements to leave. While we absolutely respect the convictions of groups and/or individuals who may feel the need to leave for a variety of reasons, the Bible study group will remain on Facebook only as that is where the Father has put us and He has given us no indication to leave.

However, should any of our members decide to leave Facebook, you can continue to follow along with the reading plan on your own by visiting SeekngScripture.com each day, where the links to the readings and the notes will be posted at the top of the page.

Should you leave the group and decide to return to facebook, you'll need to request membership again and we will add you when membership opens, after this reading cycle is complete.

It's been exciting to see how quickly the old friends and the new ones have begun to grow together and answer questions, advise caution when needed, praying for and with those who have needs, receiving and giving to others, just the acknowledgment of everyone that we are all seekers of the truth through the reading and study of the Word. That's our focus, and that'll be our focus a year from now, when we begin again!

-Virginia Wattenbarger, Admin Team

I'm excited to see the desire to know MORE of Him our Lord. I'm leading a group that is reading along with us and I get to see the reality of what the scriptures are doing in their lives as they read. They are excited to learn new things. I get to see those "ah ha" moments or even those "wow, I didn't know that." It's so encouraging to grow in knowledge of Him.

~Rick Eddins, Admin Team

It is so exciting to be part of a group that is enthusiastic about reading and studying the Father's Word! It feels like coming to a safe haven in the middle of a storm-tossed world each time I read your encouraging words and thoughtful questions. Let's keep diving deep together!

~Barbara Pelton, admin team

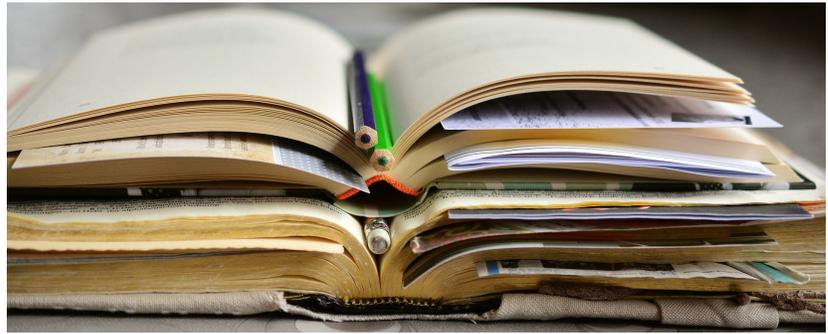
It blesses my heart everyday to see so many people excited to be in the Word and eager to learn. The Front Porch Family is such an encouraging group to be a part of. Y'all motivate me to study and learn as much as I can about our Heavenly Father!

~Christy Howlett, admin team

I'm buoyed up by our members' prayer requests, seeking acknowledgment of their pain and suffering, seeking comfort from others caring for them ... the needs are so great! I'm thankful for those who respond to them and offer up prayers on their behalf.

We actively carry out Galatians 6:2

~Michele Harris



Messiah always did set the perfect example

And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. And as was his custom, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and he stood up to read. Luke 4:16

In this we see a key sentence...

As was His custom

What does that tell us about our Messiah? He had a custom, a habit, of going to the synagogue on Sabbath. It was important to Him and so He was consistent in His honoring of that. Just as we are seeking to do with our reading of the Word.

I often read comments from people who feel guilty for reading in the evening when others read in the morning, etc. I want to assure you that picking the best time of day for you, a time where there will be fewer distractions and you are most alert, is the ideal way to go, regardless of what time of day that is. The important thing is that you be consistent, make it a habit and honor that time each day. Show up for your Bible study with the Father at the same time each day whenever possible. Consistency is key.

Imagine, future generations thinking back on a memory of you and saying:

"He/she was reading the Bible, as was their custom..."

What an example to set - what a legacy to leave.

It's so exciting when we all share the hidden treasures we find buried in the Word, and it's such a blessing to think about how many of us (over 19,000!) are reading along together! What a comfort to know you're not alone in seeking the Father day after day! - Melody Mahala, Admin Team

I am so happy to see all of the excitement and encouragement shown by everyone here on the Porch! We are a great big family! - Linda Spinks, Admin Team

It's so exciting to see others so excited to take this journey! And it is impossible to come here and not feel motivated to dive deeper and keep going, while getting a full helping of love from brothers and sisters all over the world. - Wren Simmons, Admin Team

Guilt is a trap!

If you've gotten behind, do not beat yourself up over it and tell yourself that you must catch up first. That is a trap that will eventually lead to you falling away from the reading plan. Instead, just dive back in where we are and keep swimming! You'll catch what you missed on the next go around.

“So the real question confronting you now is:

How can you afford not to be in God's Word?”

-Howard G. Hendricks

This Month's Frequently Asked Questions

1. **Why do you say YHWH instead of God?** In our group, you'll see the Father referred to in many different ways. God, Lord, Jehovah, Yahweh, YHWH, etc. I want you to feel comfortable calling Him whatever name you prefer as He is a mighty King who has many well deserved titles. Regardless of what He is called, in our group you'll see Him referred to with love and reverence, and in that we are of one accord.
2. **Is it possible for someone who is not on Facebook to use this Bible study?** Sure! They can take part on their own by visiting SeekingScripture.com. The readings and links to the notes for the day are at the top right on the homepage along with a catch up link for those who are just now starting. Please encourage anyone who is new to the study to begin in Genesis 1

Did you know?

Links to the notes can always be found at SeekingScripture.com at the top of the page.



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This Week's Notes

Sun Jan 10 [Genesis 30-31](#)
Mon Jan 11 [Genesis 32-34](#)
Tue Jan 12 [Genesis 35-37](#)
Wed Jan 13 [Gen 38-40](#)
Thu Jan 14 [Genesis 41-42](#)
Fri Jan 15 [Genesis 43-45](#)
Sat Jan 16 [Genesis 46-47](#)

Behind? [Catch Up Here](#)

If You Are New Here, Please Begin [In Genesis](#).

Special thanks to all of our wonderful group admins! We thank the Father for each and every one of them and we could not have this group without them!

Sandy Howell • Kasey King • Aletha Bass • Virginia Wattenbarger • Allison Saylor • Shawn Parris • Rick Eddins • Shannon Massey • Amy Whitehead • Joan Osborne • Kay Tippitt • Melody Mahala • Linda Spinks • Dwight Bender • John Swisher • June White • Melinda Kinney • Aaron Baker • Wayne Scott • Philip Pelton • Debbie Ingle • Amy Kay • JoAnne Stanley • Mignon Langley • Donna McDaniel • Wren Simmons • Barbara Miller • Beverly Burris • Amy Castor • Michele Harris • Barbara Pelton • Aliisa DeSalvo • Tom McDaniel • Jyl Nipper • Christy Howlett