



BRING IT HOME

Reading the Great Stories of the Bible

WEEK 40-41 | READINGS 118-123

October 6-19

118. JESUS ASCENDS INTO HEAVEN—Matthew 28:16-20; Luke 24:50-53

WEEK 40 | Oct 6-12

Completed

Optional things to talk/think about after your reading:

- ◆ In Matthew 28:18-20, Jesus gives us the “Great Commission”. What is He commanding us to do?
- ◆ Think about good times, stressful times, sad times, and uncertain times. What does it mean that Jesus is “with us always”?

Prayer: Gracious Lord, hear my prayer. Give me opportunity to tell one person today about the hope that I have in You. Amen.

119. PENTECOST—Acts 2

Completed

Optional things to talk/think about after your reading:

- ◆ On the Day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit caused the disciples to speak in other languages. What were they speaking about?
- ◆ After hearing all the disciples speak in other languages, and hearing Peter’s message to them, how did people respond? What did Peter tell them to do?

Prayer: Lord, continue to pour out Your Holy Spirit on those who trust in You. Give us opportunity to let others know Your works. Amen.

120. PETER AND JOHN HEAL A LAME MAN—Acts 3

Completed

Optional things to talk/think about after your reading:

- ◆ What was the lame man’s response to his healing? How did others respond?
- ◆ What did Peter call for the those who saw this healing to do in response? (Hint: See Acts 3:19-21)

Prayer: Heavenly Father, Your Word changes peoples’ lives forever. Let Your Word spread all around our community, that people might know the power of Your love. Amen.

121. GOD’S SERVANT, STEPHEN—Acts 6 & 7

WEEK 41 | Oct 13-16

Completed

Optional things to talk/think about after your reading:

- ◆ Why do you think people got so mad at Stephen? How did Stephen respond?
- ◆ Acts 7:58 mentions witnesses of Stephen’s stoning laying down their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul. Who would Saul become?

Prayer: Lord, there are times when it is tough to stand up for what we believe. When that time comes for us to stand up for our faith in You, make us bold and courageous. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

122. PHILIP AND THE ETHIOPIAN—Acts 8:26-40

Completed

Optional things to talk/think about after your reading:

- ◆ When Philip told the Ethiopian about Jesus, what was his response?
- ◆ Do you know the date of your Baptism? If you have kids living with you, tell them about the day they were Baptized.

Prayer: Jesus, the power of Your Word changes our hearts, leading us to repentance and faith. Use us to boldly declare the power of Your love to others, that they too might experience forgiveness and life. Amen.

123. THE CONVERSION OF SAUL—Acts 9:1-31

Completed

Optional things to talk/think about after your reading:

- ◆ Saul was vicious to Christians (See Acts 8:1-3). Why do you think God would call a person like Saul to become a believer?
- ◆ Why were other disciples of Jesus initially afraid of Saul? What would you have done?

Prayer: Lord, all things are possible through You. Your mercy can change anyone’s heart. Work powerfully among my family and friends, so they may come to know You as Savior and Lord. Amen.



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Reading the Great Stories of the Bible

WEEK 42-43 | READINGS 124-129

October 20-November 2

124. PETER AND CORNELIUS—Acts 10

WEEK 42 | Oct 20-26

Completed

Optional things to talk/think about after your reading:

- ◆ Early on, Jewish Christians had a difficult time including Gentile Christians in their ministry. Even Peter had this struggle. What was God teaching him in Acts 10?
- ◆ Think of a person you know who is totally opposite from you. How might you make them feel welcome in our congregation?

Prayer: Dear God, You taught us that everyone needs You. Race doesn't matter. We all need You. Give us a heart for others. Amen.

125. PETER IS FREED FROM PRISON—Acts 12:1-19

Completed

Optional things to talk/think about after your reading:

- ◆ Why do you think King Herod and some of the Jews hated Christians so much?
- ◆ What are some things about Christianity that is unpopular with unbelievers today?

Prayer: Lord Jesus Christ, sometimes it's difficult to stand up for what we believe. Give us extra faith to boldly profess our faith in You as Savior and Lord. Amen.

126. PAUL'S FIRST MISSIONARY JOURNEY—Acts 13-14

Completed

Optional things to talk/think about after your reading:

- ◆ Describe a time you took a long journey. Why did you go? How did you prepare?
- ◆ When the Jews in Antioch and Iconium started to contradict Paul's teachings, what did he and the others do? What was the Gentile's response?

Prayer: Lord, open our eyes to all the opportunities You give us to share Your love and forgiveness with others. When one way seems closed, open to us another route. Amen.

127. PAUL TELLS LYDIA ABOUT CHRIST—Acts 16:11-15

WEEK 43 | Oct 27-Nov 2

Completed

Optional things to talk/think about after your reading:

- ◆ The fact you're here today, reading the Bible, means God opened up your heart to pay attention to what is being said. What does that mean to you?
- ◆ Notice how Paul didn't plan out every time they witnessed to others. It just happened. How might you prepare yourself to take advantage of the opportunities God gives you to tell others about Jesus?

Prayer: Lord, every day is new with the power of Your grace. Keep our eyes open for opportunities to share Christ with others. Amen.

128. PAUL SAILS TO ROME—Acts 27-28

Completed

Optional things to talk/think about after your reading:

- ◆ How do you think the crew felt when Paul said, "everything is going to be OK?"
- ◆ In Acts 9:16, God tells Ananias, "For I will show [Paul] how much he must suffer for the sake of My name". Why do you think God allowed stonings, prison, and shipwrecks to happen to Paul? What might it teach us?

Prayer: Lord, even when bad things come against us, Your love endures forever. Through all situations, keep our eyes fixed on Your mercy. Amen.

129. JOHN'S VISION OF THE NEW HEAVEN AND EARTH—Revelation 21-22

Completed

Optional things to talk/think about after your reading:

- ◆ John is given a glimpse of eternal life. What do we learn about the New Heaven and the New Earth?
- ◆ There is a lot going on in these, the last 2 chapters, of the Bible. What are the 2 or 3 things that stick out the most to you?

Prayer: Heavenly Father, eternal life is going to be great, more than we could ever ask for or imagine. Thank You for sending Jesus to be my Savior and giving me the sure and certain hope of eternal life. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.



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BONUS READINGS

THE EPISTLES

ROMANS

Paul's Epistles

- ◆ Written to Christians in Rome, is the most systematic presentation of Christian teaching in the Bible. It's themes are judgment and righteousness, Jews and Gentiles, law and grace...or in a word, SALVATION. Paul shows that we are all sinners and can't earn our salvation. Only Jesus can and did.

1 CORINTHIANS

- ◆ Written to Christians in the Greek city of Corinth, is about many seemingly unrelated issues—lawsuits, communion, spiritual gifts, women in the Church, matters of conscience, the resurrection. But the unifying theme is community, or how Christians are to RELATE to one another in all kinds of settings and situations.

2 CORINTHIANS

- ◆ It seems there were some leaders in Corinth who were questioning Paul's authority. Much of this letter is autobiographical, defending Paul's calling and right to apostolic authority.

GALATIANS

- ◆ Written to Christians in the Roman province of Galatia, or modern day Turkey. It is the declaration of the Christian's independence from the ceremonial laws of the Old Testament. The theme is that salvation is by GRACE ALONE.

EPHESIANS

- ◆ Written to Christians in the Greek city of Ephesus. This letter is about the CHURCH—what it is and how God wants to use it.

PHILIPPIANS

- ◆ Written to Christians in the Greek city of Philippi, is about the JOY of our salvation.

COLOSSIANS

- ◆ Written to Christians in the Greek city of Colossae, is about the magnificence of Christ and how we can glorify Him in our lives.

1 THESSALONIANS

- ◆ Written to Christians in the Greek cities of Thessalonica, Macedonia, Achaia, Philippi, and Athens, is about RESTORING relations with the Thessalonian Christians after persecution separated Paul and his colleagues from the congregation.

2 THESSALONIANS

- ◆ Written to Christians in the Greek city of Thessalonica, to correct misunderstandings about Christ's return that had arisen after Paul and his co-workers left.

1 & 2 TIMOTHY, TITUS

- ◆ These are personal, instructional letters from Paul to his young understudies, who were elders or pastors. It tells pastors how to lead and how to relate to people of the congregation and vice-versa.

PHILEMON

- ◆ This is a short, personal letter from Paul to a wealthy Christian by the name of Philemon. Paul had somehow met Philemon's runaway slave and sent this letter back to Philemon, imploring him to receive back his former slave as a brother in Christ. This is a practical letter for employer-employee relationships today.



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BONUS READINGS

THE EPISTLES

HEBREWS

General Epistles

- ◆ A letter in a class by itself, in that no one really knows who wrote it. Written to Jewish Christians, it is perhaps the most profound book of the New Testament. The letter presents a comparison between the Old Covenant of law and ceremony, and the New Covenant of GRACE in Christ.

JAMES

- ◆ A short, but powerful, letter about the importance of how you live out your faith. It is a kind of New Testament book of Proverbs. James 2 tells us that faith without works is DEAD. In other words, it doesn't exist. True faith in Jesus shows itself in the good we do.

1 & 2 PETER

- ◆ These letters, among other things, focuses on how the Christian is supposed to respond to ADVERSITY. Keywords are "sanctification", "suffering", and "obedience".

1, 2, & 3 JOHN

- ◆ Three little letters written by the Apostle John. The themes of all three letters are Christian LOVE, character, assurance of salvation, and truth.

JUDE

- ◆ A fiery little letter about serving God with PURITY and INTEGRITY.