

## *January 2 - Week 0 – Questions to Consider*

Before you begin this journey of Bible reading, it might be helpful to consider some of these questions:

- Why are you using this Bible reading plan? What is your hope for this journey ahead?
- Where have you failed or struggled before in Bible reading or Bible listening? What did you learn from those experiences?
- How have you experienced the most success in your time in the Word? How do you hope to continue and build on those successes?
- Who might be a helpful encourager or someone to hold you accountable during this season of study? Who might you help in their discipline of Bible reading/listening?
- What tools have been helpful to you?
- When is the best time of day for you to study the Bible and pray? When do you encounter the most distractions or obstacles? How can you best prepare and plan now to overcome the challenges ahead?
- What is a practical step you might take to better remember to not miss your daily time with Jesus?
- How might you better help lead and encourage your children and family into more time in the Word? Where have you struggled with this before? When have you had success in this before?

### **General Discussion Questions**

Week by week there will be discussion questions that are specific to the chapters you are reading. There will also be some of the below generalized questions that will help you to think through, pray through, and apply the truths that you are reading. As you begin this journey, consider how these questions might help you grow in journaling, guide your prayers, or deepen your study through your Sunday school class or small group.

- *Context Questions:* Who is writing this? Who is it being written to? When? Why? What type of writing is this? How does this matter to my understanding of the meaning of these chapters?
- What was something new you noticed this week? What impacted you the most? Why?
- What can you learn about God from these passages? His work? His character? How can this help you grow in your trust of Him?
- What did you learn about humanity or yourself in the readings this week? About your identity, character or purpose as a Christ-follower?
- What do these passages teach us about our enemies' attacks (deceptions, distractions, discouragement, and temptations)? How can we better resist these attacks?
- *Application Questions:* How do you need to respond to and apply these truths to your life? (Is there a sin to avoid? A command to obey? An example to follow? A prayer to offer? A truth to remember or memorize? An attitude to change? A teaching to share?)

## ***January 9 - Week 1 – Questions to Consider***

*Use these questions for personal prayer, reflection, study, journaling, or small group discussion.*

### **New Testament**

Matthew 1 & 2, Luke 1 & 2, John 1

1. Why do you think God included the genealogies of Jesus (Matthew 1 and also Luke 3)? What is different between them? What names do you recognize? Do any names appear that surprise you? How does this matter to us today?
2. How does the name “Immanuel” of Jesus impact you?
3. What kind of faith do you think it took for the wise men to make the journey they made? How does that encourage your faith?
4. Why was Luke written (Luke 1:4)? How does that encourage you to be more diligent in Bible reading in the year ahead?
5. How does the story of Zechariah and Elizabeth (Luke 1:5-25) challenge or encourage you?
6. Why do you think God sent angels alongside the sending of His Son?
7. Read Mary’s song (Luke 1:46-55). What do you love about this?
8. What do you think about Simeon and Anna’s appearance in Luke 2? How does their example inspire you?
9. Which is your favorite verse from John 1? Why?

### **General Discussion Questions**

- What was something new you noticed this week? What impacted you the most? Why?
- *Application Questions:* How do you need to respond to and apply these truths to your life? (Is there a sin to avoid? A command to obey? An example to follow? A prayer to offer? A truth to remember or memorize? An attitude to change? A teaching to share?)

## ***January 16 - Week 2 – Questions to Consider***

*Use these questions for personal prayer, reflection, study, journaling, or small group discussion.*

### **New Testament**

Matthew 3 & 4, Mark 1, Luke 3 & 4

1. How do you think John the Baptist's message of repentance would go over today? What about his dialogue with the religious leaders? (Matthew 3:1-12, Mark 1:1-8, Luke 3:1-22)
2. What stands out to you in Jesus' baptism account (Matthew 3:12-17, Mark 1:9-11)? Why do you think God did this so publicly?
3. When Jesus is tempted by Satan, how does He respond (Matthew 4:1-11, Mark 1:12, Luke 4:1-12)? When Satan tempts Jesus, how does he do it? What can we learn for our battles against Satan's deceptions and temptations? How can we better prepare for the battles that are ahead?
4. Like John, Jesus preaches for repentance (Matthew 4:17, Mark 1:14). How should that affect our approach to evangelism and conversations with unbelievers?
5. What does it mean to be a fisher of men? (Mark 1:17) How does the example of the first disciples "immediately" responding to and following Jesus encourage your faithful obedience?
6. How is Jesus' teaching different then? (Mark 1:22, 27) How is Jesus' teaching different than many false teachers today?
7. How does Jesus preach in his hometown of Nazareth? (Luke 4:16-30) How do they respond? How might we similarly expect opposition when declaring God's truth? When was a time you faced opposition for being faithful to the Bible?
8. How does Jesus' authority over the demonic (Luke 4:31-41) and diseases encourage your faith? Do you struggle with believing in any of Jesus' miracles? Why or why not?
9. What does Jesus say is His purpose (Luke 4:43)? How does that connect with our purpose?

### **General Discussion Questions**

- *Context Questions:* Who is writing this? Who is it being written to? When? Why? What type of writing is this? How does this matter to my understanding of the meaning of these chapters?
- *Application Questions:* How do you need to respond to and apply these truths to your life? (Is there a sin to avoid? A command to obey? An example to follow? A prayer to offer? A truth to remember or memorize? An attitude to change? A teaching to share?)

## ***January 23 - Week 3 – Questions to Consider***

*Use these questions for personal prayer, reflection, study, journaling, or small group discussion.*

### **New Testament**

Mark 2, John 2-5

1. Why did so many people gather to see and hear Jesus? (Mark 2:2) Where can we go to encounter Jesus today? What are obstacles we face in the disciplines of: bible reading, church attendance, Sunday school/small group participation, prayer, and fasting? What common excuses have we used or heard? How can we change our mindset to be more consistent and joyful in seeking Jesus personally?
2. What can we learn about fasting from Jesus in Mark 2:18-22? Does it mean we shouldn't fast? What is the purpose of fasting? Where have you found helpful truths on fasting? How have you struggled or found success in fasting?
3. What is Jesus speaking against in Mark 2:23-27? Are there any modern day church "traditions" that we've seen or accepted that may not be biblical?
4. What did you notice in Jesus' interactions with his mother in the wedding at Cana (John 2:1-12)? Why do you think Jesus chose to do this miracle?
5. When you think of Jesus' character, how would you describe Him? What about the story of Jesus in John 2:13-22)? How does this affirm or challenge your understanding of what Jesus is like?
6. What does it mean to be born again (John 3:1-15)? Why does Jesus not give a long list of rituals, rules, or traditions to obey to "see the kingdom of God"?
7. When were you born again? What did you experience when you were born again? How has God been growing you since you were born again?
8. Who is God's salvation available to? How does salvation happen? What does saving belief in Jesus look like? What does false belief in Jesus look like? (John 3:16-21)
9. What do you love about Jesus' interaction with the woman at the well (John 4:1-45)? How does it encourage your faith? Overwhelm you with God's love? Challenge you to be bolder in witnessing?
10. Why were the Jews trying to kill Jesus (John 5:18)? In what other ways do we see Jesus demonstrate and say that He is God?

### **General Discussion Questions**

- What do these passages teach us about our enemies' attacks (deceptions, distractions, discouragement, and temptations)? How can we better resist these attacks?
- *Application Questions:* How do you need to respond to and apply these truths to your life? (Is there a sin to avoid? A command to obey? An example to follow? A prayer to offer? A truth to remember or memorize? An attitude to change? A teaching to share?)

## ***January 30 - Week 4 – Questions to Consider***

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### **New Testament**

Mark 3, Luke 5 & 6, Matthew 5 & 6

1. In Mark 3:1-6 the religious leaders are looking to accuse Jesus of doing something wrong. When and where have you experienced people hardened against you? Trying to entrap you? What can we learn from Jesus' example?
2. How is our mission similar to the twelve apostles (Mark 3:13-15)? Why is such a humbling task? How can we be encouraged and emboldened in this task?
3. With whom did Jesus encounter opposition in Mark 3:21? Why? How have you experienced, or should expect, similar opposition?
4. How do we know if we are part of God's family? (Mark 3:35) What does it look like to honor God with your lips but not with your life (Matthew 15:7-9)? What does it look like to confess with your mouth and believe in your heart (Romans 10:8-9)?
5. What kind of faith does it take to be made clean by Jesus (Luke 5:12-16)? How are we often tempted to make ourselves clean by our "good works"?
6. Who are the modern day outcasts that we might be tempted to avoid and not witness to? How does the example of Levi's salvation convict and grow you (Luke 5:27-32)? How can we be tempted to be self-righteous like the Pharisees?
7. Skim over "The Beatitudes" of Matthew 5:1-12. How have you experienced God's blessings in these areas? How do you want to grow in experiencing God's blessings in these areas?
8. Skim over the areas Jesus speaks to in His sermon on the mount (Matthew 5-6). Which areas do you need to hear Jesus preach to you about? What section does our community need to hear? What temptations might we face to not preach or speak certain truths?
9. What aspects of prayer do you see in the example Jesus gives us in "The Lord's Prayer" (Matthew 6:5-14)?

### **General Discussion Questions**

- What did you learn about humanity or yourself in the readings this week? About your identity, character or purpose as a Christ-follower?
- *Application Questions:* How do you need to respond to and apply these truths to your life? (Is there a sin to avoid? A command to obey? An example to follow? A prayer to offer? A truth to remember or memorize? An attitude to change? A teaching to share?)