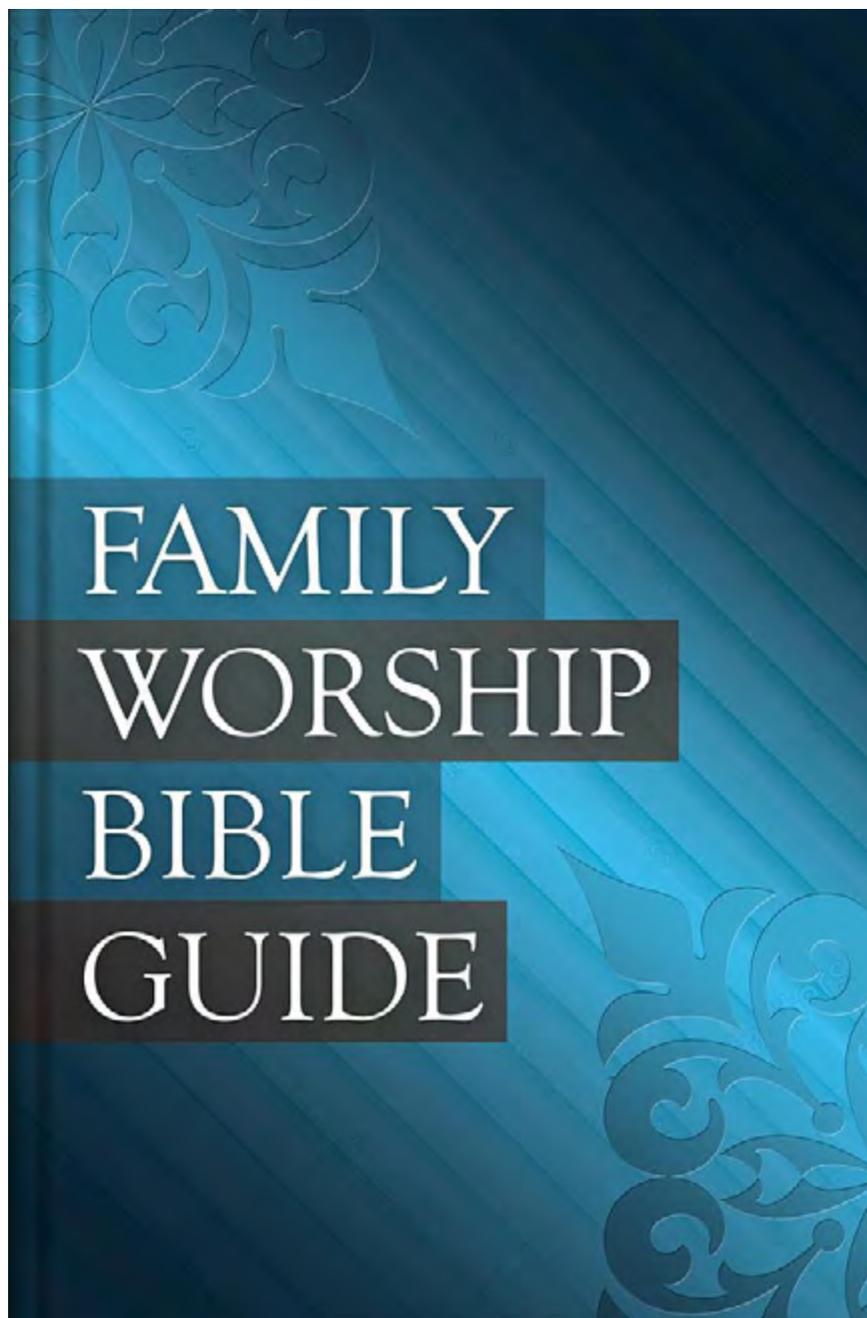


A CHAPTER A DAY

an Agape Bible Reading Plan

Year 1, Quarter 2
(Apr-Jun 2020)

*Looking for a devotional guide to supplement your reading?
Pick up Joel Beeke's 'Family Worship Bible Guide'!*



This booklet belongs to



WELCOME MESSAGE

by Pastor GL (Guoliang) Wong

Dear Agapian,

I hope you have found the first quarter's reading helpful for you. Some of you might have found this newfound discipline of daily Bible reading immensely refreshing, while some of you might have struggled to keep up, and found it challenging. Whichever category you belong to, I am encouraged by the very fact that you are persisting in this. If you are reading my words right now, it must mean that you seriously want to continue opening God's Word each day this quarter.

Here's a question for you right before you start this second quarter of following this 'A Chapter A Day' reading (some of you would have noticed that on some days, you actually read more than 1 chapter!). Search your heart for your deepest motivation.

Why are you seeking to read the Bible daily like this?

What answer comes to your mind? Is it because you want to get the year-end reward?

Is it because there is a sense of personal accomplishment in completing the assigned chapters? By themselves, they are actually not intrinsically wrong; they are helpful additions in developing godly habits, yet the deepest motivation has to be more than that.

Blessed are you if you open the Word every day to say to God:

I love you, God.

I want to know You more.

I want to hear Your voice.

I want to be guided by Your Word this day.

This quarter, I exhort you – take time to hear God's voice by slowing down. Respond to Him prayerfully in applying the Word. Let Christ, the Word incarnate, whose Spirit dwells within you, stir you as a child to a deeper communion with your Heavenly Father.

May you enjoy your walk in daily fellowship with our Triune God this 2nd quarter!

O GOD,

We bless thee,
our Creator, Preserver, Benefactor, Teacher,
for opening to us the volume of nature
where we may read and consider thy works.

Thou hast this day spread before us the fuller pages
of revelation,
and in them we see what thou wouldst
have us do,
what thou requirest of us,
what thou hast done for us,
what thou hast promised to us,
what thou hast given us in Jesus.

We pray thee for a conscious experience
of his salvation,
in our deliverance from sin,
in our bearing his image,
in our enjoying his presence,
in our being upheld by his free Spirit.

Let us not live uncertain of what we are,
of where we are going.
Bear witness with our spirit that we are thy children;
And enable each one to say, 'I know my Redeemer.'
Bless us with a growing sense of this salvation.

If already enlightened in Christ, may we see
greater things;
If quickened, may we have more abundant life;
If renewed, let us go on from strength to strength.

Give us closer abiding in Jesus
that we may
bring forth more fruit,
have a deeper sense of our obligations to him,
that we may surrender all,
have a fuller joy,
that we may serve him more completely.

And may our faith work by love
towards him who died,
towards our fellow-believers,
towards our fellow-men.

WELCOME TO 'A CHAPTER A DAY'

Join The Bible Reading Challenge!

Diligently keep up with the Bible reading plan for 365 days and get a special reward at the end of 2020!

Resources

And at the end of this booklet, there is a list of resources provided for you. These resources helped shape this booklet, and the materials found in it. If you found the booklet helpful, you might want to check out some of these books and articles. They will definitely enrich your reading even further!

Supplementary Tools

This booklet is not merely a tool to guide your Bible-reading – nor is it merely for journaling! This booklet comes with resources to deepen your journey of reading the Scriptures. You could:

- *join with Christians throughout this past century through praying a historic prayer*
- *prepare yourself to read a particular book of the Bible by understanding its context*
- *be inspired and encouraged by the Bible-reading journeys of your pastors and leaders*

Take heart! You are not alone on this journey of reading the word!



We're so glad you've got this booklet in your hands!
Here's a quick tour of its features.

It's Yours!

This booklet is entirely, completely, and unreservedly yours! Personalize it. Set up your own system of using it. You could treasure it and keep it in the most pristine condition possible. Or... you could scribble in, scrawl across, and scrounge up this booklet to your heart's delight. But however you use it, make sure that you do use it!

Calendar

The goal is to read through the entire Bible in 3 years. This may seem like a really long process – but here's the thing: it's actually a day-by-day project. And to help and guide you – both in the daily project, and the 3-year process – we've included calendars. These calendars help you track where you are, and what you've covered. So as you move through each day, cross it off on your calendar – and praise God for the grace He's granted you that day!

Journaling Space

In addition to the calendars, there is space provided for you to jot down a response to that day's reading(s). Is there a petition you want to make? Is there something you've learnt about God? Did God speak through His word into your situation in a particular way? Or do you have a question that arose out of that text? Capture these things – and later, share them with someone else too!



Now, you're ready to go!
May God bless the reading of His word!

TIPS ON HOW TO READ THE BIBLE

A good way to understand and apply the Bible, is by asking the right questions as we read through it.

4 QUESTIONS ON INTERPRETATION



2 What do I learn about people?

"As the pinnacle of God's creation, humans are at the center of his purposes. Think through what the passage reveals about our identity as divine image-bearers. Look for the fallen condition—the sinful beliefs, attitudes, feelings, actions, or tendencies mentioned or implied in the text. Consider what the passage reveals about living as those who've been redeemed through the work of Christ."

1. What do I learn about God?

2. What do I learn about people?

- 3.
 - 4.
- Look out for a new question that will be released with each booklet throughout the year!*



4 QUESTIONS ON APPLICATION

2 What does God want me to believe?

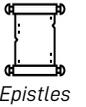
"We may understand a truth at an intellectual level without letting it shape how we live. Jesus makes this distinction in the parable of the soils; those who initially receive God's Word with joy but have no root will subsequently fall away from the gospel, since they fail to "hold it fast in an honest and good heart". Consider what false beliefs the passage reveals and what gospel promises you need to believe."

1. What does God want me to understand/ think?

2. What does God want me to believe?

- 3.
 - 4.
- Look out for a new question that will be released with each booklet throughout the year!*

APRIL



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			Date Chapter for the day 01 Ex 10	02 Matt 23	03 Ex 11	04 Ex 12
05 Matt 24	06 Ex 13	07 Ex 14	08 Ps 18	09 Pr 4	10 Ex 15	11 Ex 16
12 Matt 25	13 Ex 17	14 Ex 18	15 Matt 26	16 Ex 19	17 Ex 20	18 Matt 27
19 Ex 21	20 Ex 22	21 Matt 28	22 Ex 23	23 Ex 24	24 Ps 19, Ps 20	25 Ex 25
26 Ex 26	27 Rom 1	28 Ex 27	29 Ex 28	30 Rom 2		



THE HEART MUST HUM: Singing the Psalms (Book 1)

The Hebrew title for the book of Psalms means “Praises”. Yet the Psalms is not only made up of joyful adoration and thanksgiving – but also desolate cries for mercy and help.

An Overview (Book 1)

- ✓ Psalm 1 to 41 form 'Book 1' of the Psalms
- ✓ Psalms 1-2 provide an introduction to the Psalms as a whole
- ✓ The remainder of Book 1 is made up almost entirely of psalms by David
- ✓ Most of the psalms here were written in distress
- ✓ There are also reflections on morality and true worship
- ✓ Book 1 ends with psalms of confidence in the God who alone can save



How do I read the Psalms?

The Psalms are unlike any other book in the Bible. Here are some tips to help you appreciate the Psalms!

1 What pictures come to mind?

The Psalms are filled with non-literal terms like: "The LORD is my shepherd", and "he is like a tree". How does such imagery help you appreciate certain truths?

2 What do you feel?

The Psalms also use exaggerated terms to express emotional truth (hyperbole): "my tears have been my food day and night". Objects are personified and addressed: "the trees clap their hands" and "praise Him, sun and moon". What emotions do such terms evoke in you? What do these feelings tell you about God?

3 What are you reminded to pray for?

Often the best way to respond to a psalm is to pray – whether in Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, or Supplication. Respond in prayer!

Jesus said that the Psalms are about Him (Luke 24:44). Do you see Him there?



Do utilize this space by journaling down your thoughts and reflections!

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Prayer Items

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Prayer Items

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Prayer Items

APRIL

APRIL



LET'S GET THE GOSPEL:

Rooted in Romans!

Romans is an epistle (or 'letter') written by the apostle Paul. As the title indicates, Romans was written to the Christian churches in Rome.

More about Epistles!

Easily ¾ of the books in the New Testament are epistles – but be warned: *Epistles do not read like storybooks!* Epistles are instructive: truths to believe (indicatives) and corresponding commands to fulfil (imperatives).

But wait, who's Paul?

Paul (also 'Saul') is first introduced in Acts 7. Well-trained in the Old Testament – a 'Hebrew among Hebrews' – Paul's reputation was nonetheless as a Christian-hating Christ-persecutor. But encountering Jesus on the way to Damascus, his life is radically turned around. Appointed an apostle, he goes on 3 missionary journeys, plants numerous churches – and goes on to write (at least) 13 of the 22 epistles in the New Testament!

Guiding Questions

Paul writes to address concerns particular to the Roman Church – a church that included both Jewish and Gentile (non-Jewish) Christians. Here are some larger questions Paul addresses:

- 1 *Can we be right with God through obeying the law (1:1–3:20)?*
- 2 *What can be learned from Abraham, and is he the father of both Jewish and Gentile Christians (4:1–25)?*
- 3 *What role does the law play with respect to sin (5:20; 7:1–25)?*
- 4 *What does the salvation of Gentiles indicate about the future of Israel as God's people (9:1–11:36)?*
- 5 *Should Christians observe Mosaic food laws, and how should they relate to fellow believers on such matters (14:1–15:13)?*

Romans provides Paul's most detailed understanding of the gospel: sin, law, righteousness, salvation, atonement, justification, sanctification, adoption, election, glorification, love – here is the power of God unto salvation for all who believe!

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Why Do You Read The Scriptures?

a personal story by Pastor Johanan Justin

If you were to ask me what the whole purpose of the Christian life is, I would answer you without hesitation: “It is the worship of God.” On the day of judgement, if there were a heavenly ‘highlight reel’ made of my life, I have no doubt that its climax would be the accumulation of moments when I was on my knees, heart rent, and with voice lifted in single-minded adoration.

Yet oddly enough, for most of my life, I hardly associated worship with reading the Bible. Songs, prayer, obedience, service, sacrifice, tithing, giving, fellowship, discipline – *these* I could relate with worship, but not the reading of Scripture.

To me, the Bible was merely a tool. Its purpose was to direct me, educate & instruct me, calm & inspire me, and to be used by me to bless others. To me, the Bible was there to serve me. And so whenever I opened the Scriptures, I would ask, “What speaks to me?”

But while I *could* draw insights and applications from the stories, instructions, and poetry found within Scripture – I was often frustrated by the foreign-sounding names, numerous genealogies, and I often skipped the Prophets altogether (I had no idea what to make of it). Bottom line: the Bible seemed incapable of leading me into fervent worship. And so for much of my daily devotions, I put aside my Bible and picked up the guitar instead.

But then, something amazing happened. *God opened my eyes,*



my heart, my ears, and my mind to the gospel. And suddenly, the Bible made sense. It wasn't a loose collection of wise sayings and stories (with the gospel being just one of those stories)! It wasn't a mystical tool through which I had to decipher coded messages from God each day!

In one sense, I realised that the Bible actually didn't exist to serve me – it exists to serve Jesus: His person, His works, and His glorious plan of redemption! And yet in another sense, I saw that the Bible was of the highest benefit to me because it proclaimed Christ to me unyieldingly – *and oh, how desperately I need Him!*

My Bible has become very dear to me. It has led me time and again to kneel down in worship, with heart rent, and voice lifted in adoration. Sometimes immediately. Sometimes delayed (like while I iron my clothes). Sometimes as I consider costly obedience to God. Sometimes *only after* I obey.

Why do you read the Scriptures? Do you seek the wisdom of God? Do you seek the power of God? Do you seek a light to your path? Do you seek sustenance? Yet Jesus is the Morning Star and the Bread of life! Christ crucified is both the wisdom and power of God!

Whatever you seek, press on in reading the Scriptures – it all points to Jesus. Surely our Father who sees our labour in secret, will reward us with the sweet gift of worship.

MAY



Law



Wisdom and Poetry



Epistles

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
31 Ps 25, Ps 26					01 Ex 29	02 Ex 30
03 Rom 3	04 Ex 31	05 Ex 32	06 Ps 21, Ps 22	07 Pr 5	08 Ex 33	09 Ex 34
10 Rom 4	11 Ex 35	12 Ex 36	13 Rom 5	14 Ex 37	15 Ex 38	16 Rom 6
17 Ex 39	18 Ex 40	18 Ps 23, Ps 24	20 Lev 1	21 Lev 2	22 Rom 7	23 Lev 3
24 Lev 4	25 Rom 8	26 Lev 5	27 Lev 6	28 Rom 9	29 Lev 7	30 Lev 8



Do utilize this space by journaling down your thoughts and reflections!

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WORSHIP MATTERS:

Living Leviticus

At the end of Exodus, God and the people of Israel covenanted themselves to each other. But how would this covenant look like? How would a holy God dwell in the midst of a sinful and impure people? The story continues...

The Scene

The people of Israel were at Mount Sinai (where they remained throughout Leviticus). The Tabernacle had been constructed and furnished. The LORD begins to speak through Moses, instructing the Israelites (especially the priests) on how He is to be worshipped.

Some Tips!

Reading Leviticus can be difficult – few stories, lots of speech, lots of instructions. *These tips might come in handy:*

1 Look out for “the LORD spoke to”

This phrase occurs more than 30 times – give fresh attention to each occurrence!

2 Consider God

God's laws reflect His character. Ask yourself, “What does this tell me about God?”

3 Consider yourself

Though much of Leviticus was about the priests' responsibilities, yet God addressed all His people – Leviticus was for their holiness too! How do these instructions relate to your holiness?

A Reading Guide

Here's a road-map; don't get lost!

Laws of the Tabernacle
(Lev. 1-16)

I Sacrifices and Offerings (1-7)

II Ordination of Aaron and Sons (8)

III The Priests Begin Ministry (9-10)

IV Purity Regulations (11-15)

V The Day of Atonement (16)

Laws of the Community
(Lev. 17-27)

I Eating Blood Forbidden (17)

II Laws of Community Holiness (18-26)

III Redeeming What is the LORD's (27)

Leviticus reveals how we are to relate to God's laws – and that we need a greater high priest!

Stay sharp – the gospel is on every page!

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JUNE



Law



Wisdom and Poetry



Epistles

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	01 Pr 6	02 Lev 9	03 Lev 10	04 Rom 10	05 Lev 11	06 Lev 12
07 Rom 11	08 Lev 13	09 Lev 14	10 Rom 12	11 Lev 15	12 Lev 16	13 Ps 27, Ps 28, Ps 29
14 Lev 17	15 Lev 18	16 Rom 13	17 Lev 19	18 Lev 20	19 Rom 14	20 Lev 21
21 Lev 22	22 Rom 15	23 Lev 23	24 Lev 24	25 Rom 16	26 Lev 25	27 Lev 26
28 Lev 27	29 Ps 30, Ps 31	30 Pr 7				



Do utilize this space by journaling down your thoughts and reflections!

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RESOURCES

*Here are the resources that shaped this booklet –
be encouraged to use them for yourself!*

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Agape



BAPTIST CHURCH