

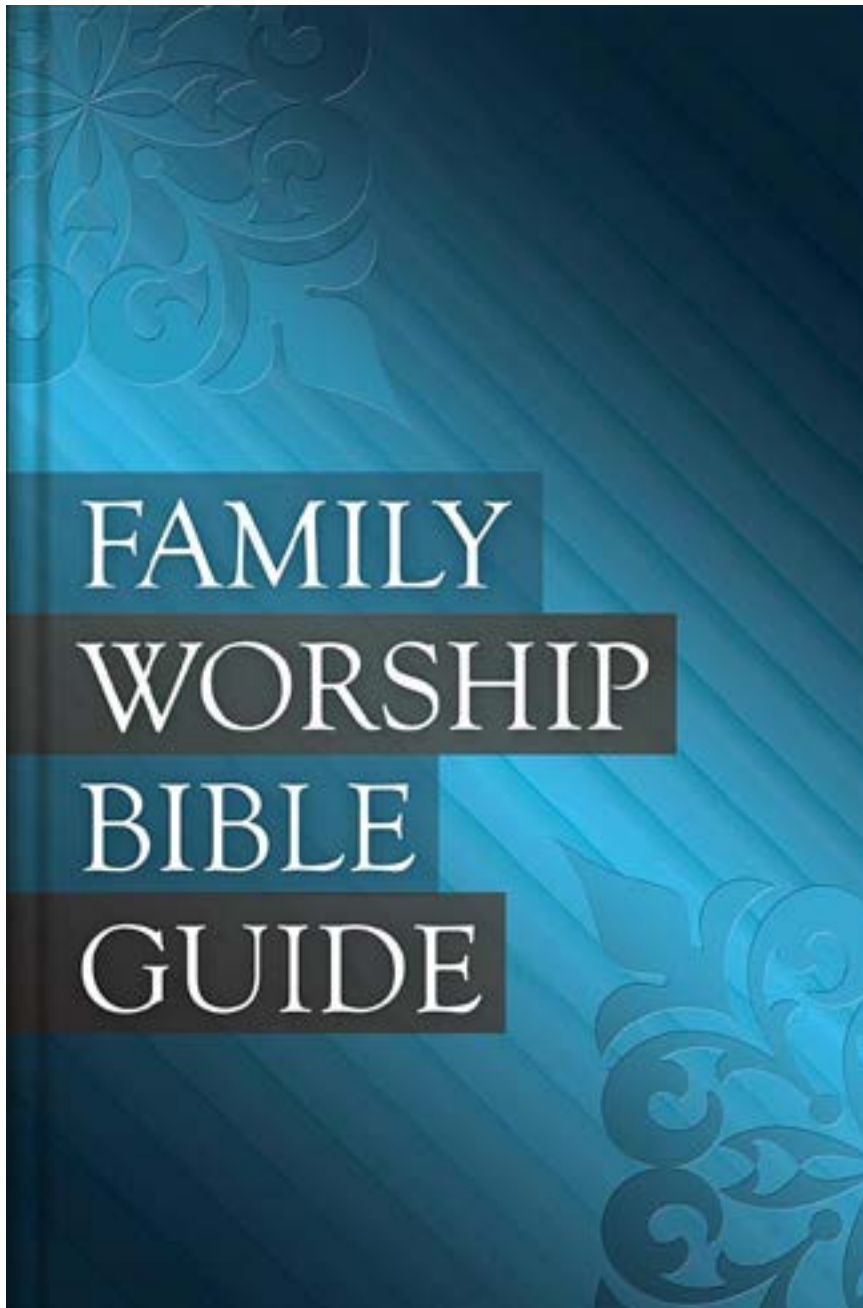
# A CHAPTER A DAY

*an Agape Bible Reading Plan*

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**Year 1, Quarter 1**  
**(Jan-Mar 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,***


Here is good news for you! This year, we are embarking on an exciting new journey for your Bible reading. As a church, we will be aiming to complete the entire Bible systematically together, chapter by chapter, over 3 years. To that end, we will be producing quarterly booklets over the next 3 years for you. In your hands is the first 'A Chapter A Day' booklet specially prepared for you to guide your Bible reading, and to help you achieve that goal together with the rest of the church.

As you begin 2020, I exhort you – make God your top priority through the reading of His written Word. Remember our Lord Jesus, who when tempted by the Evil One, replied, “*Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God*” (Matthew 4:4). That ‘man’ includes you!

In an ultimate sense, it is Christ Himself who is the living Word, the very bread of life (John 6:35). All of us need to be fed by the Word of God far more than we imagine. Only God’s Word, leading you to Christ, can satisfy the deepest hunger of your soul. Only God’s Word, leading you to Christ, can grant you the joy found in the richness of His gospel of grace.

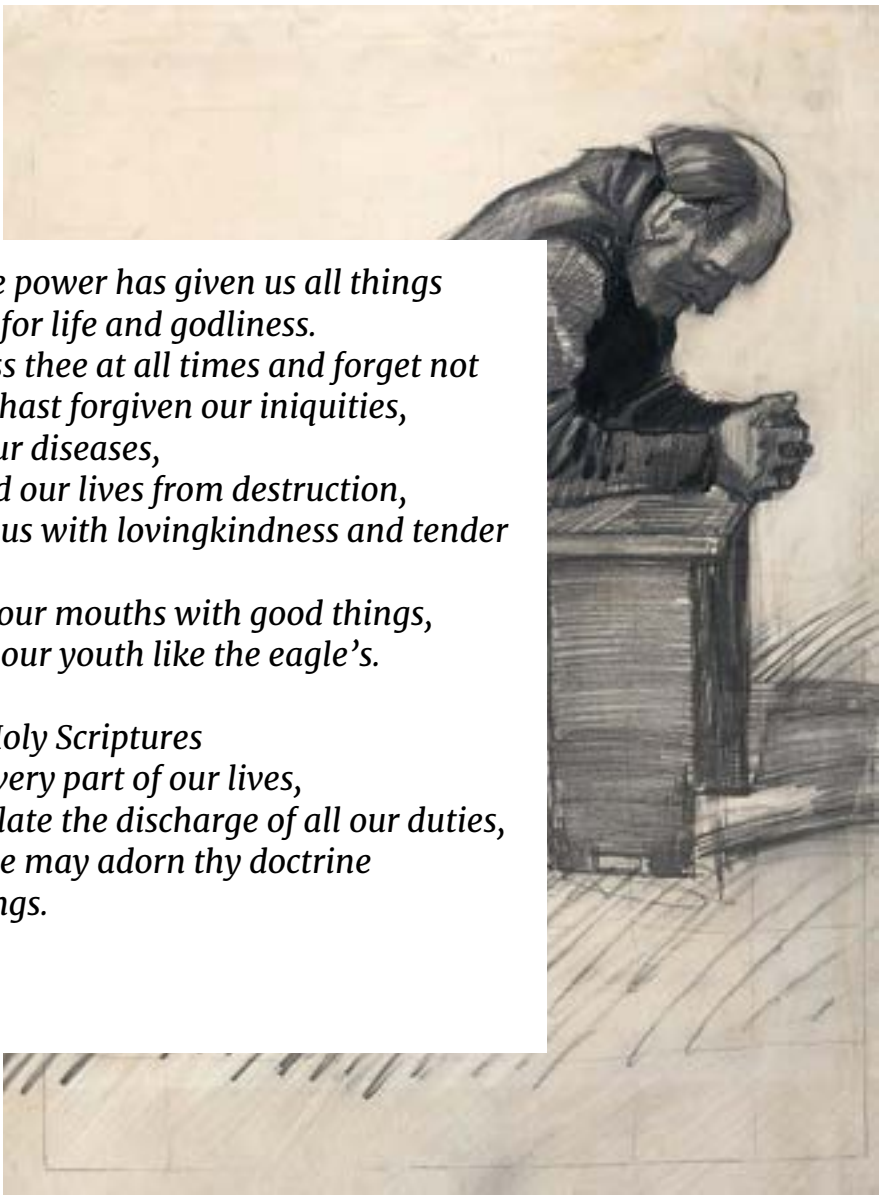
So open your mouth, and let God satisfy you with Christ from His precious Word each day! May 2020 be a joyous year of feasting on God’s Word for you!

## O GOD ALL-SUFFICIENT,



*Thou hast made and upholdest all things by  
the word of thy power;  
darkness is thy pavilion, thou walkest on the  
wings of the wind;  
all nations are nothing before thee;  
one generation succeeds another, and we  
hasten back to the dust;  
the heavens we behold will vanish away like  
the clouds that cover them,  
the earth we tread on will dissolve as a  
morning dream;*

*But thou, unchangeable and incorruptible,  
art for ever and ever, God over all, blessed  
eternally.  
Infinitely great and glorious art thou.  
We are thy offspring and thy care.  
Thy hands have made and fashioned us.  
Thou hast watched over us with  
more than parental love,  
more than maternal tenderness.  
Thou hast holden our soul in life, and not  
suffered our feet to be moved.*



*Thy divine power has given us all things  
necessary for life and godliness.  
Let us bless thee at all times and forget not  
how thou hast forgiven our iniquities,  
healed our diseases,  
redeemed our lives from destruction,  
crowned us with lovingkindness and tender  
mercies,  
satisfied our mouths with good things,  
renewed our youth like the eagle's.*

*May thy Holy Scriptures  
govern every part of our lives,  
and regulate the discharge of all our duties,  
so that we may adorn thy doctrine  
in all things.*

*Amen.*

# WELCOME TO 'A CHAPTER A DAY'

## Join The Bible Reading Challenge!

Diligently keep up with the Bible reading plan for 366 days (2020 is a leap year) – 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!

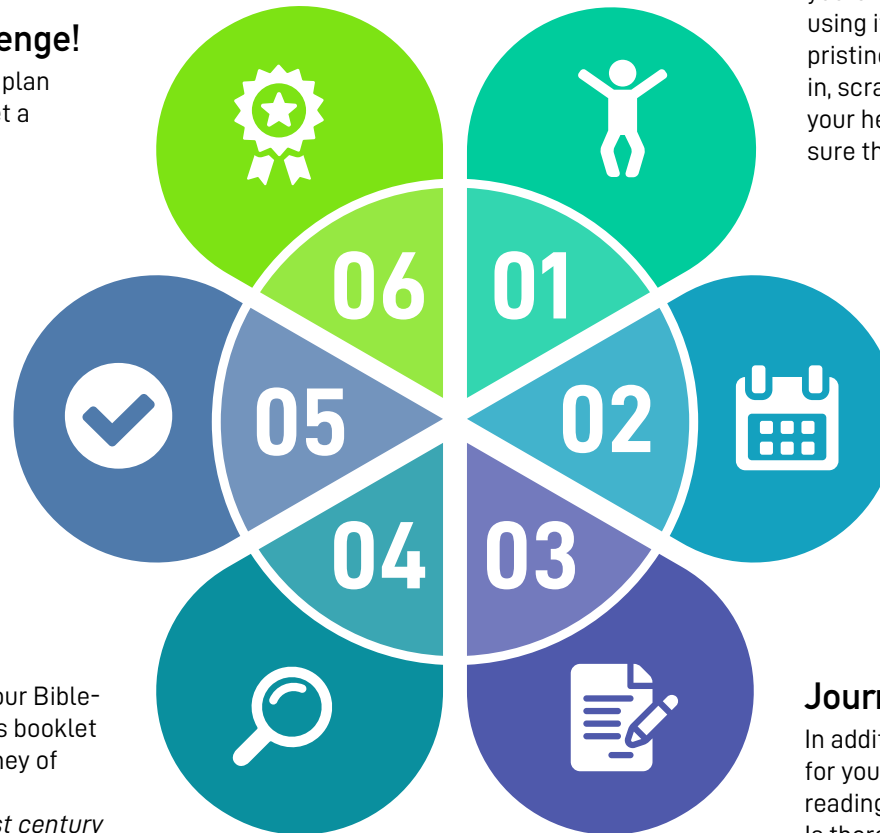
This booklet is entirely, completely, and unreservedly yours! Personalize it. Set up your own system of using it. You could treasure it and keep it in the most pristine condition possible. Or... you could scribble in, scrawl across, and scrounge up this booklet to your heart's delight. But however you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



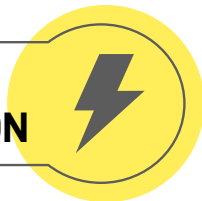
**Now, you're ready to go!**  
**May God bless the reading of His word!**



# 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



### 1 What do I learn about God?

"God is the main character of the Bible, so he should be our starting point. Every passage of Scripture reveals something about God even if he's not specifically mentioned. Look for His character, His conduct, and His concerns. Also pay attention to all three persons of the Trinity."

### 1. What do I learn about God?

- 2.
  - 3.
  - 4.
- Look out for a new question that will be released with each booklet throughout the year!*



## 4 QUESTIONS ON APPLICATION

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

"God has given us the mind of Christ, but we are still tempted to think the way we did before we knew Christ. Deep and lasting transformation begins with the renewal of our minds. Reflect on any wrong ways of thinking that the passage exposes."

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

- 2.
  - 3.
  - 4.
- Look out for a new question that will be released with each booklet throughout the year!*

# JANUARY



Law

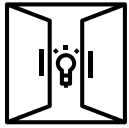


Gospels and Acts



Wisdom and Poetry

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		<div> <div>Date</div> <div>Chapter for the day</div> <div>Mark down once you've read the chapter!</div> </div> <div> <div>01</div> <div>Gen 1</div> <div>✓</div> </div> <div>Example</div>	<div>01</div> <div>Gen 1</div>	<div>02</div> <div>Gen 2</div>	<div>03</div> <div>Matt 1</div>	<div>04</div> <div>Gen 3</div>
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<div>12</div> <div>Ps 1, Ps 2</div>	<div>13</div> <div>Pr 1</div>	<div>14</div> <div>Gen 9</div>	<div>15</div> <div>Gen 10</div>	<div>16</div> <div>Matt 4</div>	<div>17</div> <div>Gen 11</div>	<div>18</div> <div>Gen 12</div>
<div>19</div> <div>Matt 5</div>	<div>20</div> <div>Gen 13</div>	<div>21</div> <div>Gen 14</div>	<div>22</div> <div>Matt 6</div>	<div>23</div> <div>Gen 15</div>	<div>24</div> <div>Gen 16</div>	<div>25</div> <div>Ps 3, Ps 4, Ps 5</div>
<div>26</div> <div>Matt 7</div>	<div>27</div> <div>Gen 17</div>	<div>28</div> <div>Gen 18</div>	<div>29</div> <div>Matt 8</div>	<div>30</div> <div>Gen 19</div>	<div>31</div> <div>Gen 20</div>	



## GETTING STARTED:

# Welcome to Genesis!

The theme of Genesis is creation, sin, judgement, and re-creation. God created the world good, but man's disobedience results in the flood. The new world after the flood is again spoiled by human sin. Is there hope? Enter Abraham and his descendants...

## TWO MAIN THEMES



### CREATION

- 1 *Creation: God's order*
- 2 *Fall: sin & chaos*
- 3 *The Flood: judgement*
- 4 *Tower of Babel: nations begin*



### THE PATRIARCHS

*(the early fathers of the Hebrew people)*

- 1 *Abraham*
- 2 *Isaac*
- 3 *Jacob*
- 4 *The Twelve Sons*

It is easy to get lost! Look out for these markers along the way.



### THE COVENANTS

*(A covenant is an agreement between God and mankind.  
This word appears no less than 25 times in Genesis.)*

- 1 **Adamic:** *God's agreement with Adam as He places him in Eden*
- 2 **Noahic:** *God's agreement with Noah after the cataclysmic Flood*
- 3 **Abrahamic:** *God's multiple agreements with Abraham at different points; renewed with his sons*

*Genesis captures the origins of the world, human race, sin, and the Jews.  
It provides the foundation for ALL of Scripture. Read on!*



*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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FROM OLD TO NEW:

# Mixing with Matthew

Matthew tells the story of Jesus of Nazareth as the long-anticipated Messiah, who brings the kingdom of God to earth and fulfils God's promise of true peace and deliverance for both Jew and Gentile.

## TWO KINDS OF READERS



### UNBELIEVING JEWS

("Meet the Messiah!")

- 1 Birth
- 2 Ministry
- 3 Death
- 4 Resurrection



### BELIEVERS

("Live out the Kingdom!")

- 1 How are citizens of Christ's kingdom to live?
- 2 How should traveling disciples behave?
- 3 What are the parables that Jesus taught?
- 4 How should Christians carry themselves in church?
- 5 How will it all end?

Follow along as Matthew skilfully presents Christ while answering these core questions!



### BRIDGE

(Matthew is a book that naturally bridges the Old and New Testaments)

- ✓ Includes more than 130 allusions made to the Old Testament
- ✓ Jesus is presented as
  - the promised Offspring of Abraham
  - the awaited Son of King David
  - the prophesied Messiah ("Anointed One")
- ✓ As the Jew's sought the restoration of the kingdom of Israel, Matthew speaks of the "Kingdom" more than 50 times

Matthew is historical – not a religious version of 'Aesop's Fables'.

**BIG QUESTION:** If the Messiah & the Kingdom has come, how must we live?



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Prayer Items

JANUARY

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### THE ANGELUS

In 1889 a painting by Jean-Francois Millet entitled ‘The Angelus’ in Paris sparked a bidding war that ended with the painting selling for 580,650 francs, an unprecedented sum of money, and in today’s currency, close to 3.25 million US dollars.

The painting showed a farming couple bowing their heads in prayer as the evening church bell tolled. Apparently in the European village farms of old, the village church bell will be rung thrice daily — morning, noon, and evening— calling followers to a prayer of gratitude for the goodness of God over their lives and their village community and pray for the daily necessities of good weather, abundant crops and protection from natural calamities.

In the painting, a community, separated from each other in the week, was united by the call of the bell and by pausing to pray and reflect on the grace of God. It is not the bell or the distant physical church that united them — it is the spiritual bond of prayer, reflection and devotion.

Over the years of leading Agape into reading the Word together as a church community, I often thought of my morning time of opening the Word, reflection and prayer like what was depicted in ‘The Angelus’. I imagined every time my phone registered a new whatsapp text from a church member on the reflection of the text of the day or prayer, that someone had responded to the invisible ringing of the “church bells” calling the church community to unite around the reading the Word in reflection and prayer, for that day. It always encouraged me that someone had deliberately paused to unite around the Word with the rest of the church community, now separated by distance in the week.



I believe this new devotional initiative seeks to be a bell in the distance, calling all Agapians to spiritual disciplines that foster unity and grant purpose and power. Imagine a church-full of people digging into the same Word together, while they are separated from each other. It is going to keep the church growing and glowing together, in step with one another, until they meet again in cells or on Sunday, in congregational worship.

Whether in a maze of cornfields, or a maze of cubicles, or a corner office, may we be called to the reading and study of the Scriptures and to prayer together as a church community by setting a chime, a reminder, or a notification on our mobile devices. At that tone, may we take a humble posture, similar to the humble peasant couple in “The Angelus” and may we open the Word to digest and reflect on it and pray. While we are absent from one another in the week and separated by distance, may we be a church community that is daily united in the Word and in prayer.

Guna Raman  
Founding Pastor

# FEBRUARY

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			Do remember to track your reading by marking down once you've read the chapter!		01 Gen 21 ✓ Example	01 Gen 21
02 Gen 22	03 Matt 9	04 Gen 23	05 Gen 24	06 Ps 6, Ps 7	07 Pr 2	08 Gen 25
09 Gen 26	10 Matt 10	11 Gen 27	12 Gen 28	13 Matt 11	14 Gen 29	15 Gen 30
16 Matt 12	17 Gen 31	18 Gen 32	19 Ps 8, Ps 9	20 Gen 33	21 Gen 34	22 Matt 13
23 Gen 35	24 Gen 36	25 Matt 14	26 Gen 37	27 Gen 38	28 Matt 15	29 Gen 39

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

Prayer Items

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<div>01</div> <div>Gen 40</div>	<div>02</div> <div>Ps 10, Ps 11, Ps 12</div>	<div>03</div> <div>Pr 3</div>	<div>04</div> <div>Gen 41</div>	<div>05</div> <div>Gen 42</div>	<div>06</div> <div>Matt 16</div>	<div>07</div> <div>Gen 43</div>
<div>08</div> <div>Gen 44</div>	<div>09</div> <div>Matt 17</div>	<div>10</div> <div>Gen 45</div>	<div>11</div> <div>Gen 46</div>	<div>12</div> <div>Matt 18</div>	<div>13</div> <div>Gen 47</div>	<div>14</div> <div>Gen 48</div>
<div>15</div> <div>Ps 13, Ps 14, Ps 15</div>	<div>16</div> <div>Gen 49</div>	<div>17</div> <div>Gen 50</div>	<div>18</div> <div>Matt 19</div>	<div>19</div> <div>Ex 1</div>	<div>20</div> <div>Ex 2</div>	<div>21</div> <div>Matt 20</div>
<div>22</div> <div>Ex 3</div>	<div>23</div> <div>Ex 4</div>	<div>24</div> <div>Matt 21</div>	<div>25</div> <div>Ex 5</div>	<div>26</div> <div>Ex 6</div>	<div>27</div> <div>Ps 16, Ps 17</div>	<div>28</div> <div>Ex 7</div>
<div>29</div> <div>Ex 8</div>	<div>30</div> <div>Matt 22</div>	<div>31</div> <div>Ex 9</div>	<div>31</div> <div>Ex 9</div>	<div>We hope you've been keeping up! Press on in the daily reading of His Word!</div>		
			Example			

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

Prayer Items

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Prayer Items

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MOVING ON:

# Enter the Exodus

Exodus tells of the fulfilment of God's promises to the patriarchs that he would make their descendants a great nation. They are opposed by mighty Egypt, and their mighty sin. Yet success comes first by the power and character of God, and second by the faithfulness and prayer of Moses.

## TWO HALVES



### REDEMPTION

(how God rescues the Hebrews)

- 1 Hears: their cries
- 2 Calls: Moses
- 3 Delivers: plagues, Passover, power
- 4 Leads: pillar of fire and cloud



### INSTRUCTION

(God imparts His instruction at Mount Sinai)

- 1 Boundaries: at the mount's base
- 2 Covenant: Commandments & confirmation
- 3 Tabernacle: God dwells among His people

Exodus can get harder as you go along. Use these markers to guide you!



### CONTINUATION

(Exodus carries on where Genesis left off. Some helpful questions to ask:)

- ✓ Where is the Seed that God promised in Eden?
- ✓ What ways does the Serpent use to keep this promise from coming to pass?
- ✓ How does God fulfil His promises to Abraham (for nation, land, and being a blessing)?

Exodus is filled with hints of Jesus & His saving work!

**Keep your eyes peeled – He's here!**

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Prayer Items

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Prayer Items

MARCH

## RESOURCES

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

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The Angelus. Digital Image. Art.com. <https://www.art.com/products/p15087782241-sa-i6876364/jean-francois-millet-the-angelus.htm>

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*Agape*



BAPTIST CHURCH