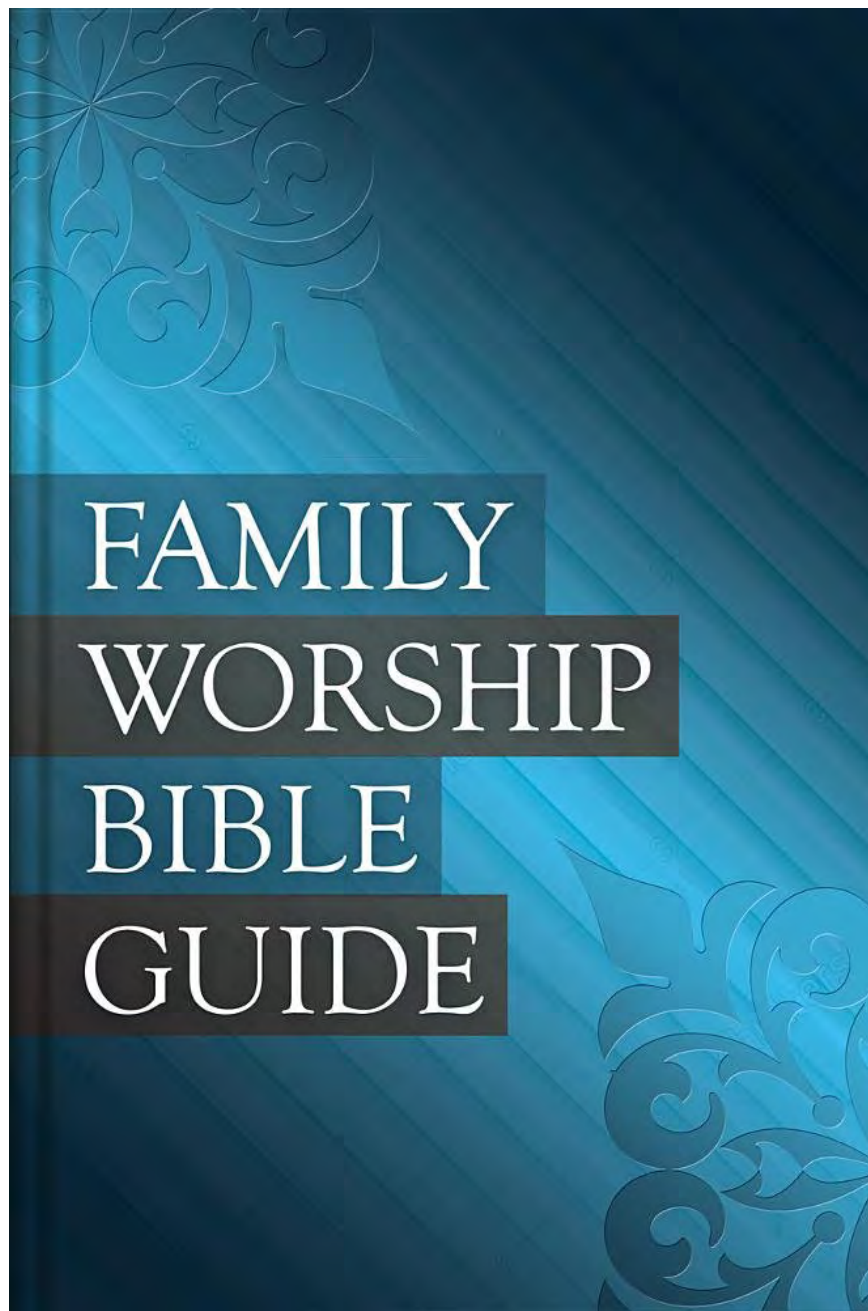


A CHAPTER A DAY

an Agape Bible Reading Plan

YEAR 2, QUARTER 2
(APR - JUN 2021)

*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 Johanan Justin (Editor)

Dear Agapian,

Greetings once again in Christ! I'm so glad to have you on this journey of reading God's word as a community. Well from one journey-er to another, here's a question: ***What is your most important reason for reading the word of God?***

Do you think about the *necessity* of it – how reading God's word feeds your soul and fuels your life of faith? Do you think of the *impact* of it – how reading God's word gives you resources to be a blessing to those around you? Do you think of the *rightness* of it – how reading God's word is an act of obedience to God and honours Him?

All these reasons are good and necessary! But many times, we do lose sight of ***delight***. Perhaps – like me – you often forget that reading God's word is about gaining more of God! That we experience the awe and wonder of the Father's love and holiness, through the word. That we see and savour more of Jesus, through the word. That we enjoy fellowship with the Holy Spirit, *through the word*.

God has given His word – now come and feast upon it,

and let His word become a joy and the delight of your heart (Jeremiah 15:16)! Come, taste and see, that His word is sweeter than honey to your mouth (Psalm 119:103)!

You might be reading through the Bible for the first time in your life.

You might be reading through the Bible for the umpteenth time in your life.

Whatever it is, read! Read out of a desire and delight for more of your God.

May God bless the reading of His word.

GLORIOUS GOD,

*It is the flame of my life to worship You,
the crown and glory of my soul to adore You,
heavenly pleasure to approach You.*

*Give me power by Your Spirit to help me worship now,
that I may forget the world,
be brought into fullness of life,
be refreshed, comforted, blessed.*

*Give me knowledge of Your goodness
that I might not be over-awed by Your greatness;*

*Give me Jesus, Son of Man, Son of God,
that I might not be terrified,
but be drawn near with filial love,
with holy boldness;*

*He is my Mediator, Brother, Interpreter,
Branch, Judge, Lamb;
Him I glorify,
in Him I am set on high.*

*Crowns to give I have none,
but what You have given I return,
content to feel that everything is mine
when it is Yours,
and the more fully mine when I have yielded it to
You.*

*Let me live wholly to my Saviour,
free from distractions,
from carking care,
from hindrances to the pursuit
of the narrow way.*

*I am pardoned through the blood of Jesus —
give me a new sense of it,
continue to pardon me by it,
may I come every day to the fountain,
and every day be washed anew,
that I may worship You always in spirit and truth.*

Amen.

WELCOME TO 'A CHAPTER A DAY'

Congratulations on making it through the first year's readings! This booklet you hold in your hands is designed to help you through this second year.

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!

Resources

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!

Credits

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 find the booklet helpful, you might want to check out some of these books and articles. They will definitely enrich your reading even further!



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 2021!



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

TIPS ON HOW TO READ THE BIBLE

Last year we learnt 8 questions to help us understand and apply the Bible. This year, we look at 4 steps to guide our reading of the Bible.

1

Investigate the **CONTEXT**

- > Who is writing this passage?
Who is this passage written to?
- > Why was this passage written?
- > From the passage, can you tell what is going on in the lives of the author & the recipients?
- > What happened in the passage just before? What is the link to the current passage?

2

Make your **OBSERVATION**

- > What "jumps out" at you from the passage? What interests or troubles you?
- > Is something repeated (word, phrase, pattern, etc.)?
- > What are the connecting words in the passage (therefore, for, but, because, etc.)?
- > What is the main point of the passage?

3

4



Look out for a new step that will be released with each booklet throughout the year! In the meantime, practice the available steps every day until it becomes natural :)

COMING SOON

TO BE RELEASED IN Q4

APRIL



Narrative History



Wisdom and Poetry



Gospels and Acts

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Date

Chapter for the day

Mark down once you've read the chapter!

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1 Sam 1

Example

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1 Ki 6

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Acts 7

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1 Ki 7

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1 Ki 8

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Acts 8

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1 Ki 9

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1 Ki 10

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Acts 9

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1 Ki 11

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1 Ki 12

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Ps 69,
Ps 70

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1 Ki 13

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1 Ki 14

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Acts 10

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Acts 11

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Acts 12

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1 Ki 19

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1 Ki 20

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Ps 71,
Ps 72

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1 Ki 21

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1 Ki 22

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Acts 13

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2 Ki 1

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2 Ki 2

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Acts 14

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2 Ki 3



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





KINGLY CONSEQUENCES: 2 Kings, 2 True


1 Kings ends with the death of the extraordinarily wicked King Ahab, who reigned over the Northern Kingdom of Israel. In the Southern Kingdom of Judah, King Jehoshaphat reigned. 6 kings of Israel, as well as another 3 kings of Judah have all perished before them. How will the coming series of kings fare? Witness the end of the Kings...


What's the point?

In 1-2 Kings, there is no comment made about the purpose of these books. So what should we make of 1-2 Kings? Here are some clues:

 **Royal examination:** The reign of each king is often evaluated with a single phrase – either “he did what was right” or “he did what was evil”. These pronouncements were made based primarily on whether a king was walking in the ways of the LORD, or in idol-worship. *The worship of God is at the heart of this book!*

 **Repeated patterns:** The state of a king's worship often had a corresponding impact on his kingdom. The kingdom whose king walked in the ways of the LORD enjoyed success and prosperity. But the kingdom whose king rejected God and served idols often faced tremendous suffering. Unfortunately, the enduring pattern is of immense suffering and defeat for both kingdoms because of the repeated wickedness of their kings. *The tone of 1-2 Kings is one of WARNING!*

 **Till the end:** One of the biggest clues of this book is that it contains a record of kings even until (spoiler alert) the downfall of both kingdoms! This tells us that 1-2 Kings was likely compiled after the Israelites were defeated and taken into exile. Very likely, *1-2 Kings were compiled primarily for these exiles!*

 **Big question:** But what was 1-2 Kings meant to do for these exiles? Well, these exiles were Israelites! And as Israelites, the promises God made to Abraham of a numerous people, a great land, and of a powerful presence of God – these promises belonged to them too! Yet they were now just a small number. They had no land. And God seemed to have abandoned them. *1-2 Kings was written to explain how these promises had ‘failed’ and to call for a return to God in true worship!*

Keeping company with Kings

Here's a simple breakdown to keep pace with 2nd Kings!

I The Death of Ahaziah (1:1-18)

II Elisha and Israel (2:1-10:36)

III The Kings of Israel and Judah until Israel's Exile (11:1-17:41)

IV The Last Kings of Judah (18:1-25:30)

Does it seem like God's promises have failed you? Look to Jesus, the True King, in whom all of God's promises are “yes and amen!” (2 Corinthians 1:19-20)

MAY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
30 Ps 76, Ps 77	31 2 Ki 23					01 2 Ki 4
02 Acts 15	03 2 Ki 5	04 2 Ki 6	05 Ps 73	06 Pr 15	07 2 Ki 7	08 2 Ki 8
09 Acts 16	10 2 Ki 9	11 2 Ki 10	12 Acts 17	13 2 Ki 11	14 2 Ki 12	15 Acts 18
16 2 Ki 13	17 2 Ki 14	18 Ps 74, Ps 75	19 2 Ki 15	20 2 Ki 16	21 Acts 19	22 2 Ki 17
23 2 Ki 18	24 Acts 20	25 2 Ki 19	26 2 Ki 20	27 Acts 21	28 2 Ki 21	29 2 Ki 22



Narrative
History



Wisdom and
Poetry



Gospels and
Acts



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

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Prayer Items

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MOUTHFUL OF MELANCHOLY:

Sombre with the Psalms (Book 3)

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 3)

-  Psalm 73 to 89 form ‘Book 3’ of the Psalms
-  Book 3 is made up mostly of the psalms of Asaph and of the sons of Korah
-  The tone of Book 3 is the darkest and most bleak in the entire book of Psalms
-  Psalm 73 opens by questioning God’s justice – but eventually finds perspective
-  Psalm 88 is the most hopeless of all the Psalms
-  Book 2 ended with hopeful, kingly ambitions, but Book 3 concludes with these ambitions badly jeopardised

**But even in the dreariness,
look out for those incisive
streams of hope that
puncture the darkness!**

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!

Let the psalm set the tone

In Book 3, you will find that most of the psalms carry a gloomy – often depressing – tone to them. Don’t be quick to turn away or move on! Linger. Stay with the psalm. Feel the emotions of the psalmists. Empathise with their brokenness and desperation. Let these psalms set the tone for your reflection and prayer.

Reflect on the Fall

The imagery, tone, and emotional language of the Psalms often make it most effective in communicating the horror of sin. If we think hell is the only real consequence of Adam and Eve’s disobedience – let the Psalms inform you otherwise. The terror of abuse and injustice! The self-serving wickedness that comes with power and wealth! The despair of war and conflict! The affliction of being without God! The list goes on...

How do you want to respond?

Can you identify with the injustices, the disappointments, the anguish, and hopelessness faced by the psalmists? Do these psalms open your eyes to the immense wickedness and brokenness of this world? Do you see that there is therefore no other hope than the God of the psalmists?

Jesus said that the Psalms are about Him (Luke 24:44). In all the heartbreak and dismay of Book 3, do you see Him there?

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Prayer Items

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Prayer Items

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"Speak, for your servant hears."

a personal testimony by Pastor Wong Guoliang

At the start of 2020, I made a commitment. I told myself that I must complete the readings for 'A Chapter A Day' (ACAD). And so I did.

In the middle of 2020 however, when the dark clouds of burnout and depression began to hit me, I found myself drifting away from spending extended time with the Lord. I still followed 'ACAD', but the heavy burdens of work often captured my attention more than the Lord Himself. It's as if each morning, I heard the voice of work bellowing my name, and I felt compelled to rush to its call like a slave.

Ironically, I was not walking closely with God when I needed His help the most.

So when I began my sabbatical, as part of my restoration and healing, I knew that I needed to repent in this part of my walk with God. *I needed to seriously wait upon the Lord.* And doing so has reinvigorated my faith.

It felt like becoming young Samuel all over again. In 1 Samuel 3, we learn that the Lord had called Samuel by name, but he mistook it thrice for Eli's call for him to work. "*Here I am, for you called me,*" he said. Here was a young man, evidently eager to serve!

The third time Samuel came to him, Eli realised what was happening – he knew it was the Lord who was calling Samuel. So he advised

Samuel not to rush to him anymore, but to respond to the Lord this way – "*Speak, for your servant hears.*" And it was *only then* with Samuel's expectant heart, when he was ready to hear the Lord's voice, that the Lord revealed His will to Samuel. That day marked the beginning of Samuel's remarkable growth as a man of God.

As I apply this lesson into my life, I've gained a precious insight. Truly, our Lord calls each of us by name; He yearns to speak to us. But are we taking the time to listen? Do we approach His Word, expecting Him to speak? Or are we so busy that we would rush to every other perceived voice in response – "*Here I am, for you called me*"?

**Open the Word
expecting the Lord
to speak to you.**


Don't rush.

If there's 1 simple thing you can do that would make a significant difference to your ACAD reading this quarter, it is this: *open the Word expecting the Lord to speak to you.* Don't rush. Take your time to hear.


If you have not been doing so, try it. Just before you open the Word each day – look to the Lord in prayer and say with heartfelt expectation: "*Speak, for your servant hears.*"

You might hear from Him in a fresh new way just as I did.


JUNE




Narrative
History



Wisdom and
Poetry



Gospels and
Acts



Epistles

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06 Acts 23	07 1 Chr 3	08 1 Chr 4	09 Acts 24	10 1 Chr 5	11 1 Chr 6	12 Ps 78
13 1 Chr 7	14 1 Chr 8	15 Acts 25	16 1 Chr 9	17 1 Chr 10	18 Acts 26	19 1 Chr 11
20 1 Chr 12	21 Acts 27	22 1 Chr 13	23 1 Chr 14	24 Acts 28	25 1 Chr 15	26 1 Chr 16
27 Ps 79, Ps 80	28 1 Chr 17	29 1 Chr 18	30 Heb 1			

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

Prayer Items

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MISUNDERSTOOD MEMBER:

1 Captivating Chronicles

1-2 Chronicles are two of the most misunderstood members of the Bible. They tend to be skimmed over due to their many lists and genealogies, and because of their similarities to 1-2 Kings. In fact, these books were once known as "the things omitted concerning the kings of Judah", giving a sense that 1-2 Chronicles were just complementary and had no message in themselves.

Prepare to experience the true Chronicles...

"Theological History"

1-2 Chronicles are historical accounts. They feature lists, genealogies, temple records, and other such documents. *However*, these sources are selectively and intentionally used to highlight certain God-related truths!

Keep your eyes peeled!

Chapters to the Chronicles

Here's an easy breakdown to keep you from getting lost!


/ **Genealogies: From Adam to Saul (1-9)**


// **The Decline of Saul and the Rise of David (10)**


/// **The Reign of David (11-29)**

Comprehending Chronicles

How can we make the most sense of this book?

 **Different Audience:** 1-2 Samuel and 1-2 Kings do seem to have significant overlap with 1-2 Chronicles. But they were written for different peoples. The Samuels and the Kings were written to a people who had experienced going into exile. However, the Chronicles were written to a 'postexilic' people who had *grown up* in exile.

 **Different Context:** For those who had experienced the exile – they had witnessed the defeat of Jerusalem, the destruction of the temple, the death of the Davidic line of kings, and the dispersion of the Israelite people. For those who had been born into the exile – they were lacking a rich sense of heritage as God's people.

 **Different Purpose:** And so the Samuels and the Kings were written to help those who had experienced the exile, make sense of the great loss they had endured. Whereas the Chronicles were written to remind these postexilic Israelites of their heritage as God's people – especially the hope that God would restore the nation, the land, the King, and the system of worship.

Do you feel that you lack a sense of Christian heritage? Let God build in you a fresh sense of hope through this book – a hope for a fulfilment of the coming King and His Kingdom!

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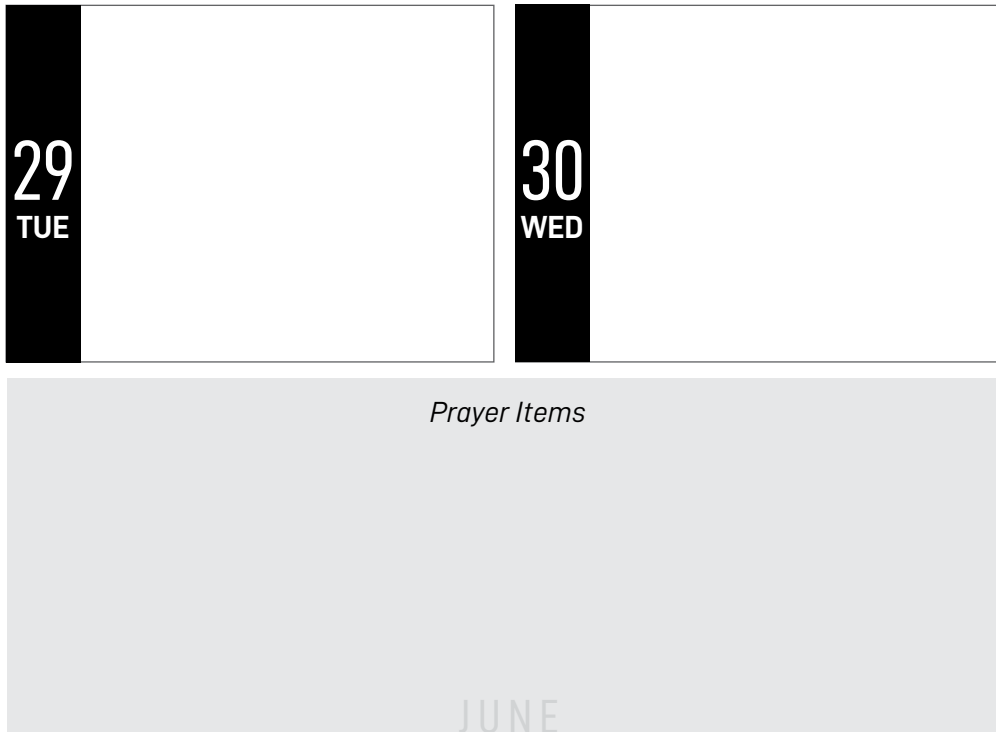
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Prayer Items

JUNE



RESOURCES

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

*Bennett, Arthur. (2007). **Valley of vision**. Retrieved from [https://
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