

**Mark** Reading complete  
 Theme: Jesus the Servant Student sign/date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Author: John Mark Summary complete  
 Date: 55-65 A.D. Leader sign/date \_\_\_\_\_

Mark's gospel emphasizes what Jesus did, showing His love for people. We read how Jesus healed many who were deaf, dumb or blind; raised a little girl to life; fed a hungry crowd of 5,000 and welcomed little children. But Mark recognized that Jesus was far more than a "do-gooder" He was God (1: 1). Mark wrote mostly for Gentile Christians in the church at Rome.

Key Verse \_\_\_\_\_ Recited Leader sign/date \_\_\_\_\_

**Luke** Reading complete  
 Theme: Christ the man Student sign/date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Author: Luke Summary complete  
 Date: A.D. 63-68 Leader sign/date \_\_\_\_\_

Luke, author of the gospel bearing his name and the book of Acts, frequently accompanied the apostle Paul on his missionary travels. The apostle referred to him as the *beloved physician*. In his gospel account, Luke portrays Christ as the human-divine One, while the gospel of John presents Christ as the divine-human One. Luke traces the genealogy of Christ back to Adam and emphasized the perfect life of Jesus Christ as the Son of Man. A detailed account is given of Mary, the mother of Christ, and the infancy and boyhood of Christ. The parables reflect the deep concern Christ had for lost mankind as expressed in Luke 19:10: *For the Son of Man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.* The key phrase is *Son of Man*.

Key Verse \_\_\_\_\_ Recited Leader sign/date \_\_\_\_\_

**Acts** Reading complete  
 Theme: history of the early church Student sign/date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Author: Luke Summary complete  
 Date: About A.D. 60 Leader sign/date \_\_\_\_\_

Acts was written by the physician, Luke, and is a continuation of the gospel of Luke. The book of Acts is the only inspired account of the beginning and early work of the church. It also records the ascension and promised return of the Lord Jesus, the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, Peter's ministry, and the conversion and ministry of the apostle Paul. The grand theme of Acts is the work of the Holy Spirit in exalting and revealing Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

Key Verse \_\_\_\_\_ Recited Leader sign/date \_\_\_\_\_

**1 Corinthians** Reading complete  
 Theme: Christian conduct Student sign/date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Author: Paul Summary complete  
 Date: AD. 59 Leader sign/date \_\_\_\_\_

The apostle Paul established the Corinthian church, which was made up of believers unusually blessed with the gifts of the Spirit. But they were also a backslidden people, and the church was carnal. Although the Christians were secure in their faith, there were divisions and contentions, disorders at the Lord's table and even immorality in their church. Paul rebukes them for their sins. Other special topics include: rewards and losses (3:11-15), love (chapter 13) and the resurrection (chapter 15).

Key Verse \_\_\_\_\_ Recited Leader sign/date \_\_\_\_\_

**2 Corinthians** Reading complete  
 Theme: Paul's apostolic authority Student sign/date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Author: Paul Summary complete  
 Date: AD. 60 Leader sign/date \_\_\_\_\_

Paul was very burdened for the Corinthian church, and he wrote this letter less than a year after completing 1 Corinthians. The Corinthian believers were now questioning Paul's sincerity and apostolic authority. In this personal letter, Paul defends his apostolic authority and demonstrates his love and concern for the Corinthians. Chapter 5 details the Christian's motivation for serving Christ.

Key Verse \_\_\_\_\_ Recited Leader sign/date \_\_\_\_\_

**Galatians** Reading complete  
 Theme: Christian liberty Student sign/date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Author: Paul Summary complete  
 Date: A.D. 55-60 Leader sign/date \_\_\_\_\_

Galatians was written by the apostle Paul to correct two errors:  
 1. Man's salvation is dependent upon his keeping parts of the law, in addition to faith in Christ.  
 2. The justified believer may become perfect by keeping the law.  
 In this epistle, Paul wrote the most severe warnings against those who preach "another gospel," and he made it clear that the law is not binding on Christians. The Christian life is not "doing things" to be saved or to gain special favor from God. The two systems, law and grace, cannot exist together.

Key Verse \_\_\_\_\_ Recited Leader sign/date \_\_\_\_\_

**1 Thessalonians** Reading complete  
 Theme: Christ's return Student sign/date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Author: Paul Summary complete  
 Date: AD. 54 Leader sign/date \_\_\_\_\_

First Thessalonians was written from Corinth and is the first of Paul's writings. Even though the apostle had only ministered with them a few weeks, the Thessalonian believers were faithfully living for Jesus Christ in spite of great persecution. The Thessalonians, though, were confused about the order of events at the Rapture and how it would affect those who had already died in the lord.

Key Verse \_\_\_\_\_ Recited Leader sign/date \_\_\_\_\_

**2 Thessalonians** Reading complete  
 Theme: The Day of the Lord Student sign/date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Author: Paul Summary complete  
 Date: A.D. 54 Leader sign/date \_\_\_\_\_

Although 1 Thessalonians had only recently been written, there was urgent need for a second letter. The Thessalonian believers, possibly through a forged letter attributed to Paul, feared that the Day of Christ had already come and that they were living in the "Day of the Lord" or the Tribulation period. Paul explains what will happen in the "Day of Christ" in relation to the "Day of the Lord." He encouraged the Thessalonian believers to stand firm in their Christian faith. He also instructed those who persisted in idleness and were living disorderly lives.

Key Verse \_\_\_\_\_ Recited Leader sign/date \_\_\_\_\_

**Philemon**

Theme: Paul's plea for Onesimus	Reading complete Student sign/date _____
Author: Paul	Summary complete
Date: 60 A.D.	Leader sign/date _____

Unusual circumstances surrounded the writing of this letter. Philemon, to whom the letter is addressed, was a believer living in Colosse. He was a man of considerable wealth. Onesimus, his runaway slave, had recently been led to the Lord by the Apostle Paul, who was imprisoned in Rome. With this letter, Paul was sending Onesimus back to Colosse, and he begged Philemon to receive his slave as a Christian brother. "If Onesimus has done you any wrong or owes you anything," Paul wrote, "you can hold me responsible." The narrative, as it unravels throughout the entire letter, is characterized by the warmth and sincerity of Paul's loving heart.

Key Verse _____	Recited Leader sign/date _____
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**1&2 Timothy, Titus**

Theme: Pastoral epistles	Reading complete Student sign/date _____
Author: Paul	Summary complete
Date: A.D. 64 to 67	Leader sign/date _____

These personal letters, written from the minister's viewpoint, are often called the Pastoral Epistles. First Timothy and Titus particularly emphasize local church order. Second Timothy emphasizes faithfulness to Christ in times of spiritual decline.

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**1,2,&3 John**

Theme: Instruction for Christian living	Reading complete Student sign/date _____
Author: Apostle John	Summary complete
Date: A.D. 85 to 95	Leader sign/date _____

The theme of 1 John is the fellowship of God's family. The writer gives instructions in righteous living to God's children. This epistle also tells the believer how he may know he is born again, and how he may have fellowship with God and with other believers. Believers are to hate sin and love one another. False teachers are strongly rebuked, and believers are warned against them. Second John is addressed either to a local church or an individual woman. Believers are exhorted to be faithful to the truth in times of spiritual decline because many deceivers are in the world. Third John is a letter addressed to a man named Gaius, who is commended for his hospitality. The exhortation is to "walk in truth" Diotrephes, a man who wanted to dominate the church, is rebuked.

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**Jude**

Theme: warnings against godless teachers	Reading complete Student sign/date _____
Author: Jude	Summary complete
Date: 65-80 A.D.	Leader sign/date _____

Jude warned believers about immoral men who were corrupting the teaching of God's grace. These men taught that since God no longer held the sins of believers against them, they were free to live any way they chose. Jude warned his readers to guard against being entrapped by such teachings and to rescue those who had already been influenced by evil men teaching this heresy.

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