

Matthew

Theme: Christ the King
 Author: Matthew
 Date: About A.D. 50

Reading complete
 Student sign/date _____
 Summary complete
 Leader sign/date _____

Matthew gives the birth, life, ministry and death of Christ, presenting Him as the Son of David and the Son of Abraham. Matthew is the gospel written especially for the Jews. Many of the events and sayings of Christ are identified with Old Testament customs and predictions. Matthew connects the old covenant very closely with the new covenant. Christ is presented as the promised Messiah as well as King of the Jews.

Key Verse _____ Recited Leader sign/date _____

John

Theme: Christ, the Son of God
 Author: Apostle John
 Date: AD. 85-90

Reading complete
 Student sign/date _____
 Summary complete
 Leader sign/date _____

The gospel of John emphasizes the teachings of Christ and how to become a child of God, rather than relating the events of Jesus' life. But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through His name (20:31). Jesus is presented as the Messiah, the Word made flesh and the Son of God. Believe is the key word. The book closes with an account of His death, resurrection and last instructions to Christ's disciples.

Key Verse _____ Recited Leader sign/date _____

Romans

Theme: righteousness of God
 Author: Paul
 Date: 60 A.D.

Reading complete
 Student sign/date _____
 Summary complete
 Leader sign/date _____

Romans was written during the Apostle Paul's third visit to Corinth. It contains the most detailed explanation in all the Bible of the gospel of Christ. Although he had not yet visited the church in Rome, the apostle had heard of the Christians' great faith in Christ, and he anticipated visiting them soon. Paul's major concern was to establish them firmly in the truths of the gospel. They needed to be taught the details of all that Christ had accomplished for them in His death and resurrection. The key phrase is the righteousness of God.

Major ideas include: the whole world guilty before God; the Christian's identification with Christ's death and resurrection; God's sovereign wisdom and grace in accomplishing His purpose through Israel's unfaithfulness; Christian life and service.

Key Verse _____ Recited Leader sign/date _____

Ephesians

Theme: the Christian's standing, walk and warfare
 Author: Paul
 Date: A.D. 60-64

Reading complete
 Student sign/date _____
 Summary complete
 Leader sign/date _____

Paul wrote Ephesians, the first of four "Prison Epistles," while imprisoned in Rome. The other "Prison Epistles" are Philippians, Colossians and Philemon. Ephesians contains the deepest truths about the Church and the believer's wonderful position in Christ. The first three chapters show the believer's standing in Christ. This standing is unalterable, whether the believer is strong or weak. Because of this wonderful truth, the last three chapters instruct the believer on how he should live the Christian life. Chapter 6 describes the believer's conflict with the forces of darkness.

Key Verse _____ Recited Leader sign/date _____

Philippians

Theme: joy in every circumstance
 Author: Paul
 Date: 61 A.D.

Reading complete
 Student sign/date _____
 Summary complete
 Leader sign/date _____

When Paul wrote to the Philippians, he was under house arrest in Rome. To encourage believers who were being persecuted, Paul wrote about his own imprisonment and how he was still able to spread the gospel. Paul stated that he did not know whether he would live on for a while and continue his ministry or die and be with the Lord. Whatever was to occur, he wasn't worried. He only wanted Christ to be glorified. He encouraged the Philippians likewise to lay aside their worries, rejoice, pray and be content with God's provision in all circumstances. Paul also urged his readers to be humble and show interest in others' needs, not just their own. By doing so, they would follow the example of Christ, who humbled Himself and came to earth as a servant to die for our sins. Paul was a man of status and achievement before he was saved, but he made it clear that his past life was worth nothing compared to knowing Christ. His goal was to know Christ better.

Key Verse _____ Recited Leader sign/date _____

Colossians

Theme: the preeminence of Christ
 Author: Paul
 Date: around A.D. 60

Reading complete
 Student sign/date _____
 Summary complete
 Leader sign/date _____

Some Colossian believers had been attracted to angel worship, while others had fallen back into legalism. Paul wanted to turn the attention of his readers to the greatness of Christ and the fullness of salvation in Him. Here are a few of the points Paul made: Christ is Head of the church; Christ lives in everyone (Gentiles and Jews) who trusts Him as Savior; and all believers are counted as perfect in God's sight. The apostle also urged believers to aim for a high standard of Christian conduct that would demonstrate their union with Christ.

Key Verse _____ Recited Leader sign/date _____

Hebrews

Theme: Warnings and encouragement
 Author: While the writer is unknown, many believe that it was the apostle Paul
 Date: A.D. 64

Reading complete
 Student sign/date _____

Summary complete
 Leader sign/date _____

Although primarily addressed to the Jewish Christians of that day, the book of Hebrews is for all believers today. Its main purposes are to demonstrate that Christianity is not a mixture of Judaism and the gospel (Judaism with its ceremonial animal sacrifices could never take away sins.); to warn believers against lapsing back into Judaism and to exhort believers against neglecting their salvation. Many warnings are given to believers not to shrink back, through unbelief or slothfulness, into their former beliefs and practices. Rather, through faith and confidence in the perfect sacrifice of Christ, they are admonished to go forward into Christian maturity and usefulness. Like the Children of Israel, it is possible for believers today to spend a lifetime wandering in the wilderness. They may fall into sin to such an extent that it brings God's hand of chastisement upon them. Hebrews, however, contains some of the most encouraging promises in all the Word concerning the completed work of Calvary and the believer's security in Christ. Hebrews 11 lists the heroes of faith.

Key Verse _____ Recited Leader sign/date _____

James

Theme: genuine Christian faith
 Author: James, half-brother of Jesus
 Date: 45-60 A.D.

Reading complete
 Student sign/date _____

Summary complete
 Leader sign/date _____

The Book of James develops the practical aspects of how a man's faith will affect his Christian living. While the Apostle Paul establishes the doctrine of justification by faith alone, James emphasizes the outworking of this faith in the believer's life and in his relationship to others. "If a man is truly saved," James argues, "his faith in Christ will produce good works." Topics discussed in this book include: testing of Christian faith; control of the tongue; brotherly love and consideration for fellow believers.

Key Verse _____ Recited Leader sign/date _____

I Peter

Theme: suffering and glory
 Author: Peter
 Date: A.D. 60

Reading complete
 Student sign/date _____

Summary complete
 Leader sign/date _____

Peter probably wrote his first epistle to Christians who had fled into Asia Minor to avoid Nero's persecution. The book encourages suffering Christians to be patient in tribulation, to rejoice with joy unspeakable because of their great hope in Christ, and to live worthy of Him who is coming again.

Key Verse _____ Recited Leader sign/date _____

2 Peter

Theme: Faithfulness to Christ
 Author: Peter
 Date: A.D. 66

Reading complete
 Student sign/date _____

Summary complete
 Leader sign/date _____

Peter was awaiting martyrdom. He warns Christian believers that false teachers and scoffers will come and seek to lead them astray, but believers must stand faithful to Christ and reject their godless errors. Because of the imminent return of Christ, Peter admonishes Christians to godly living.

Key Verse _____ Recited Leader sign/date _____

Revelation

Theme: triumph of God over Satan
 Author: Apostle John
 Date: around 95 A.D.

Reading complete
 Student sign/date _____

Summary complete
 Leader sign/date _____

Through an angel, the Lord revealed to John a picture of events that would mark the end of the world as we know it and the manifestation of the Kingdom of God. God also used John's writing to speak to seven local churches in Asia, evaluating their spiritual life and witness. As the end approaches, the world will become a place of unspeakable evil and misery. God will judge all sin and make things right. Satan will meet his final doom. Revelation depicts Jesus Christ in all His power and glory. It tells how He will return to conquer evil and set up His rule.

Key Verse _____ Recited Leader sign/date _____