

Gospel of Matthew Reading Plan

Until Easter Sunday: March 31, 2024



Read the Bible 5 days a week with the goal of finishing the Gospel of Matthew by Easter Sunday (March 31, 2024).

As you read each day, reflect on the question, "In what way did you encounter Jesus through the reading?"

Week 1: Jan 7-13

Day 1 - 1:1-25
Day 2 - 2:1-23
Day 3 - 3:1-17
Day 4 - 4:1-25
Day 5 - 5:1-48

Week 2: Jan 14-20

Day 6 - 6:1-34
Day 7 - 7:1-29
Day 8 - 8:1-17
Day 9 - 8:18-27
Day 10 - 8:28-34

Week 3: Jan 21-27

Day 11 - 9:1-17
Day 12 - 9:18-26
Day 13 - 9:27-38
Day 14 - 10:1-15
Day 15 - 10:16-31

Week 4: Jan 28-Feb 3

Day 16 - 10:32-42
Day 17 - 11:1-19
Day 18 - 11:20-30
Day 19 - 12:1-32
Day 20 - 12:33-50

Week 5: Feb 4-10

Day 21 - 13:1-23
Day 22 - 13:24-43
Day 23 - 13:44-52
Day 24 - 13:53-58
Day 25 - 14:1-12

Week 6: Feb 11-17

Day 26 - 14:13-21
Day 27 - 14:22-36
Day 28 - 15:1-20
Day 29 - 15:21-39
Day 30 - 16:1-12

Week 7: Feb 18-24

Day 31 - 16:13-28
Day 32 - 17:1-20
Day 33 - 17:22-27
Day 34 - 18:1-20
Day 35 - 18:21-35

Week 8: Feb 25-Mar 2

Day 36 - 19:1-15
Day 37 - 19:16-30
Day 38 - 20:1-19
Day 39 - 20:20-34
Day 40 - 21:1-27

Week 9: Mar 3-9

Day 41 - 21:28-46
Day 42 - 22:1-14
Day 43 - 22:15-33
Day 44 - 22:34-46
Day 45 - 23:1-12

Week 10: Mar 10-16

Day 46 - 23:13-39
Day 47 - 24:1-28
Day 48 - 24:29-51
Day 49 - 25:1-30
Day 50 - 25:31-46

Week 11: Mar 17-23

Day 51 - 26:1-16
Day 52 - 26:17-35
Day 53 - 26:36-56
Day 54 - 26:57-75
Day 55 - 27:1-14

Week 12: Mar 24-30

Day 56 - 27:15-31
Day 57 - 27:32-56
Day 58 - 27:57-66
Day 59 - 28:1-15
Day 60 - 28:16-20

Prayer Guidelines

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Pray 5 times a day with the goal of becoming more conscious and aware of God's presence and power in your life

Consider the different types of prayers you can do every day

- **Breath Prayer**

- When you wake up in the morning, take a brief moment to take deep breaths while saying "YAHWEH." Inhale "Yah" and exhale "Weh." Simply call upon Yahweh God. As you breathe be conscious of breathing in God and breathing out God and in your thoughts commit your day to God.

- **Meal Prayer**

- Before you eat, take a brief moment to say, "Thank you."
Gracious God, thank you for this food, the earth that produced it and the hands that prepared it. In Jesus' name, Amen.

- **Thank you Prayer**

- At the end of the day, thank God for all the good that took place.
Loving God, thank you for your provision and protection today. Grant me the rest that I need for tomorrow. In Jesus' name, Amen.

- **Silent Prayer**

- Sit in silence for 5 minutes and decompress before God.

- **The Lord's Prayer**

*Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name
thy kingdom come, thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil,
for thine is the kingdom,
and the power and the glory forever. Amen.*

Give Guidelines

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Do 5 random acts of kindness each week

Consider doing these random acts of kindness

• **Encouraging Notes**

- Be an encouraging voice to others
 - *Text someone an encouraging message about who they are in your life.*
 - *Send a positive text message to five people.*
 - *Leave Post-It notes with encouraging words on a mirror for your family member to see.*
 - *Email a coworker thanking them for something*

• **Names, names, names!**

- Get to know the names of people and intentionally call them by name every time you see them.
 - *Restaurant server*
 - *Mail carrier*
 - *Neighbor*
 - *Coworker*
 - *Receptionist at Dental/Medical Office*
 - *School bus driver*
 - *Restoration Church person*

▪ **Compliments**

- Find opportunities to give compliments.
 - *Compliment the first three people you see today.*
 - *At the checkout line, thank and compliment the employee who helps you. i.e. "Thank you so much. You are awesome."*
 - *Throw a party to celebrate someone for just being who they are.*

• **Helping Others**

- Notice opportunities to help others.
 - *Hold the door open for someone carrying items.*
 - *Donate blood.*
 - *Practice active listening when people share their thoughts.*

Serve Guidelines

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Participate in 5 community service opportunities

Consider getting involved in these service opportunities

- **Martin Luther King Jr. Weekend Service Opportunities**
 - We will have various opportunities to honor a social activist who understood and fought to empower the vulnerable.
 - restorationreston.org/mlk
- **The Leadership Center (Honduras) Trip Supply Drive**
 - We are collecting items to support our partnership with The Leadership Center in Honduras.
 - *Collection Date: January 14*
- **Monthly South Lakes High School Food Pantry Collection**
 - Every first Sunday, we collect food and essential items as well as financial donations to support the food pantry. Bring items or submit your financial generosity as you attend Sunday worship.
 - *Collection Dates: February 4 & March 3*
- **Monthly Hunters Woods Elementary School Packaging Event**
 - Every first Sunday, we have a packaging event to support the Hunters Woods PTA in supplying students in need with snacks. Stay after worship to participate in this packaging event.
 - *Packaging Dates: February 4 & March 3*
- **Blessing Bags for Terraset Teachers/Staff**
 - We will put together blessing bags with notes of encouragement for Terraset Elementary School teachers and staff after worship.
 - *Packaging Date: February 25*
- **The Big Serve**
 - We will serve our community partnerships throughout the season of Lent. For five Sundays, after worship we will do a service project.
 - *Dates: February 11, 18, 25, March 3, 10 & 17*

Share Guidelines

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Share your faith story with 5 people

Consider the different ways you can share your faith story.

- **Life Group**
 - Create storytelling moments in life group and share God-moments.
- **Meet up over Coffee/Tea or Meals**
 - Meet up with a fellow Restoration person to share your stories.
- **Friends/Family**
 - Tell your friend or family member about a God moment or an impactful experience of Restoration Church you had recently.
- **Write/record a reflection and share it on The Big Dare website.**
 - Write your story or record your story and share it on TheBigDare.org.
- **“How was your weekend?” conversations**
 - When someone asks about your weekend, share about Restoration.

Invite 5 people to a Restoration experience

Consider the different ways you can invite people to a Restoration experience.

- **Theology on Tap**
 - Invite folks to engage in dialogue over the intersection of faith and relevant topics at Lake Anne Brew House
- **Bread Breakers**
 - Invite folks to connect over meals and discussion across three sessions.
- **Service Project**
 - Invite folks to join you in the many service projects we do every month.
- **Sunday Worship**
 - Invite folks to an opportunity to worship with you.
- **Life Group or Bible Study**
 - Invite folks to join you and your life group or a seasonal Bible study to explore Christian faith in a deeper way with friends.
- **Outing with Restoration Folks**
 - Organize an outing with Restoration folks and invite folks to join.