

The Chapel Family Bible Reading Program – Jan 1 - 6
Doing Life Together – We are ALL Love

MONDAY: 1 Corinthians 7:19, Galatians 3:26

KEY VERSE: Galatians 3:28

OBSERVATION: The Bible teaches that God created all people in His image, so to condemn or mistreat any person who is created in God's image is really an insult to their Creator. As a Christian, I believe one of our highest callings is the promote unification among God's people throughout the nations. Jesus taught so much about this. It should be a big part of our mission, and this is why I feel it's heartbreaking to see our churches remaining some of the most segregated places in our societies. The Church should be on the front lines of racial reconciliation and unity.

TUESDAY: Matthew 7:4, Romans 2:1

KEY VERSE: Matthew 7:3

OBSERVATION: Ethnicity (or race) is permanent and out of our control. It's sacred and nothing we should critique, rank or judge. "Culture" is different. A person's culture is a learned, shared set of norms, beliefs and values. Since our culture is something that is taught, it is also something that is open to critique. We need to have the courage to have honest conversations about the cultural values we're teaching to our own kids and challenge those norms when they don't line up with wisdom and truth of God's Word. Instead of critiquing the cultures of others, we must start with our own.

WEDNESDAY: Proverbs 14:29, Proverbs 29:20

KEY VERSE: James 1:19

OBSERVATION: The moment we allow race or skin tone to draw lines of separation, we've all lost! This isn't about a loyalty to one particular race (which can lead to a false sense of supremacy and eventually to mistreatment of others). Our goal is to have unity in the midst of our beautiful diversity. Christ died for all people, so we should love all people. Seek to understand where others are coming from. Don't be so quick to get offended. We're all on the same side (or at least, we should be)!

THURSDAY: Proverbs 10:12, 1 Peter 1:22

KEY VERSE: 1 Peter 4:8

OBSERVATION: This might sound like a cheesy bumper sticker, but love is much more than just a feeling or giving someone a hug. Love is a passionate commitment given for the sake of another. Love, not politics or prejudices, is what will eventually heal the wounds of racism.

FRIDAY: Acts 11:20, Acts 11:29

KEY VERSE: Acts 6:1

OBSERVATION: Were the Hellenistic Jews being overlooked on purpose? Scripture doesn't give more insight into this situation other than how the church solved this problem. There will be times of conflict within the church—perhaps because of cultural differences. However the Lord has called His body towards peace and there should always be great effort to restore proper fellowship among believers.

SATURDAY: Acts 10:28, Ezra 4:3

KEY VERSE: John 4:9

OBSERVATION: Jesus shook up the social perceptions of His day by talking with a Samaritan woman who had a bad reputation. He looked past her cultural background and ministered to her need of Him. As a result, an entire community came to know Christ. Believers need to seek out God's vision of people's spiritual needs rather than get side tracked by their race.

Portions of this Bible Reading Program was taken from an article written by Dave Willis & Crystal McDowell