

The Chapel Family Bible Reading Program – January 30 – Feb 4
Doing Life Together – Jesus working His Plan

MONDAY: Titus 2:14; Deuteronomy 4:20; Titus 2:14

KEY VERSE: Deuteronomy 7:6

OBSERVATION: GOD WORKS THROUGH CHOSEN PEOPLE. Jesus Christ sovereignly chose people to work His Plan. First through salvation, and then to engaging with his priorities. Not through entrepreneurship, empire building or speaking their personal message. Rather, they were witnesses, relaying to others what they had seen and heard.

TUESDAY: Acts 18:9; Acts 4:19

KEY VERSE: Acts 5:29

OBSERVATION: GOD WORKS THROUGH OBEDIENT PEOPLE. As Jesus, we are never to live under self-will, but only for God's will. God's people are obedient to God's will engages us in God's mission, even if the end is not so pleasant. Peter and John says this clearly after being arrested and warned. They responded, "We must obey God rather than men". When they were beaten, they rejoiced that they had been considered worthy to suffer shame for Christ's name, and they kept right on teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ (5:41-42).

WEDNESDAY: Mark 16:17; Acts 4:8; Acts 7:55

KEY VERSE: Acts 2:1-4

OBSERVATION: GOD WORKS THROUGH SPIRIT-FILLED PEOPLE. The great difference between the disciples before the crucifixion and after the Day of Pentecost is clearly attributed to the Holy Spirit's coming upon them. Before, they were confused, often self-seeking, doubting, and fearful. After, they were clear, self-denying, bold and confident. The difference was the fullness of the Holy Spirit in their lives.

THURSDAY: Acts 10:33; Romans 2:11; Romans 3:29

KEY VERSE: Acts 10:34

OBSERVATION: GOD WORKS THROUGH ONES THAT WORKS TOGETHER. Acts shows us that God is no respecter of persons (10:34). He cares about people from every walk of life and every racial background. In Antioch, the church leaders consisted of a former Jewish priest (Barnabas, 5:36), a black man, a man from North Africa, a man brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and former Pharisee, Paul (13:1). A major theme in Acts is that the gospel is not just for the Jews, but for all people. It is to God's glory to save men and women from diverse racial and social backgrounds and to bring them together to labor for His cause. There is no place in His church for racial discrimination.

FRIDAY: Luke 8:12; 1 Peter 1:23

KEY VERSE: Luke 8:11

OBSERVATION: GOD WORKS THROUGH ONES WHO BELIEVES THE WORD. Acts is the power of God's Word. The church is to continue teaching as Jesus taught. In Luke, we saw the emphasis on the teaching ministry of Jesus. He believed in and powerfully taught God's Word. God's Word is the seed of the gospel that has within it the power to give life to dead sinners (Luke 8:11). The Book of Acts contains 40 references to God's Word. The apostles did not want to be distracted with administrative duties; they declare their priority: "But we will devote ourselves to prayer, and to the ministry of the Word" (6:4). Thus we read that "the word of God kept on spreading" (6:7). We are not committed to the ongoing work of Jesus unless we are committed to teaching and preaching God's Word.

SATURDAY: Isaiah 43:7; Psalm 51:10

KEY VERSE: Ephesians 2:10

OBSERVATION: GOD WORKS THROUGH ONES WHO ARE COMMITTED TO HIS CHURCH. While the life and ministry of Jesus Christ is the historical foundation of our faith, God didn't just send Christ, pull Him off the planet, and stop working. Jesus began the work; His church continues it. That's why He saved us and why He leaves us here on earth. This leads to a basic question that each of us needs to ask ourselves: