

**The Chapel Family Bible Reading Program – April 10-15**  
***Doing Life Together – Rock Church – You first***

**MONDAY:** John 1:14, 2 Corinthians 8:9, Galatians 4:4

**KEY VERSE:** Philippians 2:6-8

**OBSERVATION** The first step (the root) is surrender. To surrender means to relinquish possession or control to another, to submit to the power, authority, and control of another. The entire New Testament, as summarized in Philippians 2:6-8, shows us that Christ was willing to surrender His rights and prerogatives as the second person of the Trinity to the will and purpose and plan of the Father. Then, out of that surrender came the willingness to sacrifice for God's plan no matter what the plan called for. Surrender, then, is part of the pathway to maturity and effective Christ-like ministry.

**TUESDAY:** 2 Corinthians 10:1, 1 Corinthians 5:7,8, 1 Peter 2:5

**KEY VERSE:** Romans 12:1

**OBSERVATION:** These first eleven chapters of Romans instruct us in God's plan for sinful man through the saving life and death of Jesus Christ. In other words, in view of all that God has done and is doing for us in Christ, it is illogical for the Christian to do anything else but give his life back in devoted surrender and sacrifice to God.

**WEDNESDAY:** Luke 12:34, Matthew 6:22

**KEY VERSE:** Matthew 6:19-24

**OBSERVATION:** One of the obvious qualities of spiritual maturity and leadership so completely possessed by our Lord was His willingness to make sacrifices in accordance with His values, priorities, and objectives as One who was totally surrendered to the will and plan of the Father. This always included surrendering to the Father's will first, and then the blessing and well-being of others, but neither of these can exist without sacrifices, without counting the costs.

**THURSDAY:** 1 John 3:11, 2 John 1:5, John 10:11

**KEY VERSE:** John 15:12,13

**OBSERVATION:** Jesus' purpose for coming was to die. He willingly laid down His life for us. Jesus instructed them to love as they were loved and it's important to note that it was a command, not a suggestion or an option. Real love means laying down our lives for others. Not just for our friends, but for co-workers, family, and people we don't even know. We must sacrifice our lives so others can know Him.

**FRIDAY** Psalm 50:14, Isaiah 47:19, Philippians 4:18

**KEY VERSE:** Hebrews 13:15-16

**OBSERVATION:** True praise must come from the heart, and so the command implies and demands that our hearts are right before Him. We've got to deal with our hearts before we can bring a true sacrifice of praise to God. Confess your sinful grumbling to God. Seek the satisfaction and joy that comes through faith in Christ alone. Otherwise, your praises will be hollow and not heartfelt. Your good deeds will not be acceptable to God. True praise and genuine good deeds flow from a heart that is satisfied in God and His abundant grace in Christ.

**SATURDAY:** Psalm 146:9, Matthew 25:36

**KEY VERSE:** James 1:27

**OBSERVATION:** James 1:27 states, "Pure and undefiled religion in the sight of our God and Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world." James goes on to say (2:15-16), "If a brother or sister is without clothing and in need of daily food, and one of you says to them, 'Go in peace, be warmed and be filled,' and yet you do not give them what is necessary for their body, what use is that?"