

The Chapel Family Bible Reading Program – November 26-December 1
Doing Life Together – Remembering the Great things God did.

MONDAY:

KEY VERSE: Romans 5:8, 1 John 4:16

OBSERVATION: The one thing that the Bible emphasizes more than us loving God and people is that God loves us. He loves us first and most. God isn't in heaven plucking a daisy saying, "I love you" when you obey and "I love you not" when you sin. There will be consequences ... but one of them will not be that he doesn't love you.

TUESDAY:

KEY VERSE:

OBSERVATION: You not only are saved by grace, but you grow by it, too. A common trap for new and growing Christians is trying to clean up their lives without God's help. This is a false equation: The less you sin = the less you need God's grace. You can't sin less and love more without the strength of God's grace.

WEDNESDAY:

KEY VERSE:

OBSERVATION: When you confessed Jesus as the living Lord and Messiah, you never said—and will never say—anything more meaningful. Jesus is God with skin. No other "religious leader" (Moses, Buddha, Muhammad) is His equal. They were mere men; Jesus is God who became a man. He is the center and circumference—the hub and rim of all of life and creation. All of the world's greatest gifts—love, life, truth, grace, etc.—have a name. Jesus.

THURSDAY:

KEY VERSE: James 1:16

OBSERVATION: It's not my fault. I didn't deserve this. You started it. The devil made me do it. I couldn't control myself. They had it in for me. The whole thing was rigged. I've had a string of bad luck. If I were older/younger/richer/smarter/single/married/better educated/better connected, this wouldn't have happened to me. In the end all our excuses lead us back to God. He is the one with whom we have to do. He made us, he gave us life, and one day we will give an account to him. All our well-oiled excuses will be exposed as lies when we stand in the blinding light of his perfection. So don't be deceived into thinking you can blame God for the temptations you face. That's the first thing James wants us to see.

FRIDAY:

KEY VERSE: James 1:17

OBSERVATION: Do we understand that we are alive right now because God wants us alive? We breathe because he gives us air to breathe and lungs to take it in. If God withdrew his hand of blessing, not one of us would take another breath. We see and hear and move and think and laugh and clap and dream and cry all because of God. I suppose we all know that, but rarely do we think of it. Rarely do we stop to give thanks for the blessing of life itself.

SATURDAY:

KEY VERSE: James 1:18

OBSERVATION: Why do we need new life? The answer is simple. We need "new" life because the "old" life we were born with is filled with sin and disobedience. As James has just said in verses 14–15, lust leads to sin and sin leads to death. Jesus said, "You must be born again" (John 3:7). The new birth is not an option if you wish to go to heaven. Even the best among us need to be born again. It is a gift of God, given by grace and received by faith.