

20 DAYS IN GOD'S WORD

WELCOME!

Welcome to our daily bible reading and prayer guide. This booklet aims to help you build a daily habit of listening to God in his word and speaking to him in prayer.

For some people, life can easily get so busy so that we lose the habit of daily Bible reading. For others, the days can lack structure, or be filled with computer games or scrolling, with little motivation to do anything. The aim of these daily readings is to develop a habit of spending time each day in God's word.

The aims of these 20 days are:

- read God's word each day so that we get to know him better and his love for us
- read God's word each day so that we are shaped and transformed by his word
- bring our cares to him each day so that we are not anxious but depending to him
- pray each day to express our thankfulness to God and praise to him

We have started with 20 days because that's a very achievable start!

4 weeks of 5 days a week.

Once you've finished 20 days, you might like to do another 20 days to make it 40 days!

Then another 20.

But we think 20 days is a good bite sized challenge to begin with if you haven't done this before.

Some days will be hard work, your mind is wandering, or you don't understand the bit we are reading, other days will be encouraging and uplifting. We think 20 days should be long enough for you to start seeing the benefits of a daily routine and want to keep it going. How do we read the Bible?

READING THE BIBLE

The Bible is God speaking to us. We have his Spirit in us helping us to understand it. While God gives us others to encourage and teach us, his word is also given to us to read ourselves.

As we read the Bible we want to come with the attitude that God is God. He is speaking to us.

God is our good creator who loves us and we want to know him better. He is also in charge, so we want to submit to him and what we read. So as we read that's our attitude. We will come to the Bible with questions like

- **What do I learn about God?**
- **How does he want me to live?**
- **What is my heart's response to this passage?**
- **What does this lead me to pray?**

What if I don't understand it?

As you read the Bible it is normal not to understand everything. Look out for what you can understand from the section you are reading. Keep reading and slowly things will click into place over time.

PRAYING

This is not just an exercise of learning, it's spending time with our God. So it's great to pray before and after we read.

Before you read you might pray **'Father God please help me know you better as I read your word'**

After you read there might be something specific from the passage that you'd like to pray about. You might like to thank God for something, ask him for something, or pray for someone else.

Where is a good place to start reading?

It doesn't matter because we are all different. You might try a few different ways of reading - read a longer bit, read a shorter bit; read some of the Gospels (Matthew Mark Luke John); read some letters (Colossians, 1 Peter etc). Try a different Bible version, eg the NIV (New International Version) is the one we use on Sundays. If that's a bit too complicated you could try the EE version (Easy English).

In this set of 20 days we will be looking at short sections of Philippians.

We suggest you pick a set time in the day (if that works). Set aside 5 - 10 minutes. Read the passage and pray.

WEEK 1

In this first *20 days in God's Word* we will be reading the book of Philippians. You can use the index of the Bible to look it up if you don't know where it is.

In the New Testament, it goes Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Acts, Romans, Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, **Philippians**. This is what we will be looking at. It's a letter from the apostle Paul who was a follow of Jesus to the church in Philippi.

WEEK 1 - DAY 1

Pray that God will give you understanding into his word so you can know him better.

Read Philippians 1:1-6

Reflect

We learn here that this is a letter from Paul and Timothy to Christians in Philippi. How often does Paul thank God for them?

Why does Paul pray with joy?

What's he confident about?

When we pray for other Christians, what would be a good way to start?

Pray

Thank God for someone else you know who is a Christian. Reflect on how you see their partnership in the gospel lived out. Praise God for it.

Read the passage over again to finish.

WEEK 1 - DAY 2

Pray that God will give you understanding into his word so you can know him better.

Read Philippians 1:7-11

“It is right for me to feel ‘this way’ about you”
What is ‘this way’?

How else does Paul feel towards them? (v8)

What’s the relationship like between Paul and the Philippian Christians?

Whether Paul is in chains (in prison) or not, what doesn’t change? (v7)

Here we find out what Paul prays for them. There are 3 things that are all connected.

In v9 it first might sound like he's praying for them to have love, but that's not exactly what he's asking, is it? They have love - now what will make their love better? (v9)

What are 3 things that Paul wants for them in v10-11?

Overall the prayer is saying that the more we know God the more we will live a life that pleases him. Where can you see examples of this in your life?

Pray Pick someone (it could be the same person as yesterday or a different person) and pray this kind of prayer (v9-11) for them.

Read the passage over again to finish.

WEEK 1 - DAY 3

Pray that God will give you understanding into his word so you can know him better.

Read Philippians 1:12-18

Paul is in prison but he says it has 'advanced the gospel? How has the gospel gone out even though Paul is in prison?

What is most important to Paul?

What makes Paul rejoice even though he's in prison?

Are there circumstances in your life that seem to make it harder to be a Christian? How might God be at work in them?

Pray for the gospel to spread, to be preached clearly in Dubbo, Australia, all over the world. Especially pray for Christians in countries where they can be jailed or killed for following Jesus or where Christianity is illegal.

WEEK 1 - DAY 4

Pray

Read Philippians 1:19-26

Here we find out Paul's situation is actually quite bad, he might even die. Paul is tossing up between staying (living) and going (dying).

What's the thing that Paul doesn't want to happen, that would be worse than dying? (v20)

'To live is Christ' What does this mean?

'To die is gain' Why is this?

What do we learn about Jesus in these verses?

What does Paul want for the Philippians in v25-26?

For me, 'to live is Christ' might look like this ...

For me, 'to die is gain' because ...

Pray that you would not be ashamed of the gospel or following Jesus. Pray for any other Christians you know, to have courage and not be ashamed of Jesus.

WEEK 1 - DAY 5

Read Philippians 1:27-30

“Whatever happens” What 3 things might happen to the Philippians? (v28, v29 and v30)

Whether these things happen or not, how does Paul want them to live? (v27-28).

If we live in a manner worthy of the gospel, how is it a sign to those outside the church?

What do you think it means for a church to work together as one, for the faith of the gospel?

A lot of churches fight and argue, why do you think this happens? How can we not be like that?

Pray for DPC that we would work together for Dubbo to hear about Jesus, not be frightened, and live in a way that is in line with who we are in Christ.

WEEK 1 - DAY 6

(OPTIONAL)

Think back over the week, maybe read all of Philippians 1 again.

What's Paul's situation?

What's his response?

Why?

How does that change the way I view life and live now?

Pray!

WEEK 1 - DAY 7 (OPTIONAL)

Read Acts 16:11-40.

Look up Philippi on a map.

WEEK 2

For week 2 we will continue Philippians, but we have some general questions that you can use the same questions for each day. If a question doesn't seem to be answered by the passage, that's OK, just skip it.

These questions are written to help you reflect on the Bible each day. They are just thinking about what the passage is about, what we learn about God and how God wants us to respond to this part of his word.

WEEK 2- DAY 1

Read Philippians 2:1-4

What's happening in this passage? (e.g. Paul is praying for X, it's telling me to do something, it's telling me what God is like, it's describing some events etc.)

Do we learn anything about God?

Do we learn anything about what God has done or is doing or will do or what he wants?

Do we learn anything about ourselves and what we need?

Is the passage telling us to act or think in a certain way?

Is there anything I need to say sorry to God for?

Is there anything I need to ask God for?

How will this change my day today?

Pray

I praise you because you are ...

Thank you for ...

Forgive me for ...

Help me with ...

I pray for _____ that you would help them _____.

CREATIVE SPOT

Draw a diagram of how Philippians 2:1-4 fits together. Write words and arrows to show the flow of Philippians 2:1-4.

WEEK 2- DAY 2

Pray then **Read** Philippians 2:5-11

What's happening in this passage?

Do we learn anything about God?

Do we learn anything about what God has done or is doing or will do or what he wants?

Do we learn anything about ourselves and what we need?

Is the passage telling us to act or think in a certain way?

Is there anything I need to say sorry to God for?

Is there anything I need to ask God for?

How will this change my day today?

Pray

I praise you because you are ...

Thank you for ...

Forgive me for ...

Help me with ...

I pray for _____ that you would help them _____.

CREATIVE SPOT

Draw a picture of the passage. Be as creative as you want!

WEEK 2- DAY 3

Pray then **Read** Philippians 2:12-18

What's happening in this passage?

Do we learn anything about God?

Do we learn anything about what God has done or is doing or will do or what he wants?

Do we learn anything about ourselves and what we need?

Is the passage telling us to act or think in a certain way?

Is there anything I need to say sorry to God for?

Is there anything I need to ask God for?

How will this change my day today?

Pray

I praise you because you are ...

Thank you for ...

Forgive me for ...

Help me with ...

I pray for _____ that you would help them _____.

CREATIVE SPOT

Can you pick a song that has some of these ideas and listen to it or sing it?

WEEK 2- DAY 4

Pray then **Read** Philippians 2:19-23

What's happening in this passage?

Do we learn anything about God?

Do we learn anything about what God has done or is doing or will do or what he wants?

Do we learn anything about ourselves and what we need?

Is the passage telling us to act or think in a certain way?

Is there anything I need to say sorry to God for?

Is there anything I need to ask God for?

How will this change my day today?

Pray

I praise you because you are ...

Thank you for ...

Forgive me for ...

Help me with ...

I pray for _____ that you would help them _____.

CREATIVE SPOT

Highlight, underline or mark the passage in a way that helps you understand it.

Philippians 2:19-23 (NIV)

I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon, that I also may be cheered when I receive news about you. I have no one else like him, who takes a genuine interest in your welfare. For everyone looks out for his own interests, not those of Jesus Christ. But you know that Timothy has proved himself, because as a son with his father he has served with me in the work of the gospel. I hope, therefore, to send him as soon as I see how things go with me.

WEEK 2 - DAY 5

Pray then **Read** Philippians 2:24-30

What's happening in this passage?

Do we learn anything about God?

Do we learn anything about what God has done or is doing or will do or what he wants?

Do we learn anything about ourselves and what we need?

Is the passage telling us to act or think in a certain way?

Is there anything I need to say sorry to God for?

Is there anything I need to ask God for?

How will this change my day today?

Pray

I praise you because you are ...

Thank you for ...

Forgive me for ...

Help me with ...

I pray for _____ that you would help them _____.

CREATIVE SPOT

Write Philippians 2:24-30 in your own words below.

Well done - you are halfway through our 20 days in God's word.
Next week we will continue in Philippians 3.

WEEK 2 - DAY 7

(OPTIONAL)

What is this church Paul is writing to? Let's see what we can find out about this Church in Philippi that Paul is writing to.

Read Acts 16:11-12.

What are we told about the city of Philippi?

Read Acts 16:13-15.

This is when the church in Philippi started, with Lydia.

Read Philippians 4:15-16

What do we learn about the Philippian church here?

Read Philippians 4:2-3

What do we learn about the Philippian church here?

Read 1 Thessalonians 2:2

What do we learn about the city of Philippi here?

So there you have it. The church in Philippi was a new church. Paul started it when he visited. It was made up of, among other people, Eudoia, Syntyche, Clement, a trader named Lydia, and a jailer and his family. The city of Philippi was a major city in Macedonia and there were enough people in Philippi opposed to Jesus to cause trouble.

NOTES

WEEK 3 - DAY 1

Pray then **Read** Philippians 3:1-4

What's happening in this passage?

Do we learn anything about God?

Do we learn anything about what God has done or is doing or will do or what he wants?

Do we learn anything about ourselves and what we need?

Is the passage telling us to act or think in a certain way?

Is there anything I need to say sorry to God for?

Is there anything I need to ask God for?

How will this change my day today?

Pray

I praise you because you are ...

Thank you for ...

Forgive me for ...

Help me with ...

I pray for _____ that you would help them _____.

CREATIVE SPOT

WEEK 3 - DAY 2

Pray then **Read** Philippians 3:4-9

What's happening in this passage?

Do we learn anything about God?

Do we learn anything about what God has done or is doing or will do or what he wants?

Do we learn anything about ourselves and what we need?

Is the passage telling us to act or think in a certain way?

Is there anything I need to say sorry to God for?

Is there anything I need to ask God for?

How will this change my day today?

Pray

I praise you because you are ...

Thank you for ...

Forgive me for ...

Help me with ...

I pray for _____ that you would help them _____.

CREATIVE SPOT

WEEK 3 - DAY 3

Pray then **Read** Philippians 3:10-16

What's happening in this passage?

Do we learn anything about God?

Do we learn anything about what God has done or is doing or will do or what he wants?

Do we learn anything about ourselves and what we need?

Is the passage telling us to act or think in a certain way?

Is there anything I need to say sorry to God for?

Is there anything I need to ask God for?

How will this change my day today?

Pray

I praise you because you are ...

Thank you for ...

Forgive me for ...

Help me with ...

I pray for _____ that you would help them _____.

CREATIVE SPOT

WEEK 3 - DAY 4

Pray then **Read** Philippians 3:17-19

What's happening in this passage?

Do we learn anything about God?

Do we learn anything about what God has done or is doing or will do or what he wants?

Do we learn anything about ourselves and what we need?

Is the passage telling us to act or think in a certain way?

Is there anything I need to say sorry to God for?

Is there anything I need to ask God for?

How will this change my day today?

Pray

I praise you because you are ...

Thank you for ...

Forgive me for ...

Help me with ...

I pray for _____ that you would help them ____.

CREATIVE SPOT

WEEK 3 - DAY 5

Pray then **Read** Philippians 3:20-4:1

What's happening in this passage?

Do we learn anything about God?

Do we learn anything about what God has done or is doing or will do or what he wants?

Do we learn anything about ourselves and what we need?

Is the passage telling us to act or think in a certain way?

Is there anything I need to say sorry to God for?

Is there anything I need to ask God for?

How will this change my day today?

Pray

I praise you because you are ...

Thank you for ...

Forgive me for ...

Help me with ...

I pray for _____ that you would help them ____.

CREATIVE SPOT

WEEK 3 - DAY 7

(OPTIONAL)

Read Acts 9:1-31.

It's a great back story to **Paul** who wrote the letter to the Philippians.

Next week it's time to have a go on your own. Read the passage, make some comments, and pray!

WEEK 4 - DAY 1

Read Philippians 4:2-5

Notes

Pray

WEEK 4 - DAY 2

Read Philippians 4:6-7

Notes

Pray

WEEK 4 - DAY 3

Read Philippians 4:8-9

Notes

Pray

WEEK 4 - DAY 4

Read Philippians 4:10-13

Notes

Pray

WEEK 4 - DAY 5

Read Philippians 4:14-23

Notes

Pray

WHAT NEXT?

"In the morning, O Lord, you hear my voice; in the morning I lay my requests before you and wait in expectation."

Psalm 5:3

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.

Psa. 119:105

Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

Matthew 4:4

We hope that 20 days in God's word has developed a daily habit that you'd love to continue. We will have a 20 more days to follow on, but you don't need it! You can pick any book of the bible and read it, a bit each day.

Here are some suggestions of easy books to start with:

Colossians

Mark

Psalm 1, Psalm 23, Psalm 42, Psalm 127, Psalm 139, Psalm 148