**Week of December 30- January 5**

Reading Plan

Day 1-

READ: [Psalm 119:105](https://biblehub.com/psalms/119-105.htm)

REFLECT: Think back over 2018- did your relationship with God strengthen, weaken or remain the same? What practices were missing or strong (prayer, Bible reading, solitude, worship, fellowship with other believers, etc)?

PRAY: Use this as a guide to pray over yourself as you prepare to walk into 2019. Try writing it out in a journal or tuck it in your Bible to revisit through the year:

 Praise God for His great love for you, that He wants a relationship with you. Praise Him for giving us His Word, the Bible, that we might know Him and know how He sees us.

Confess any lack of faithfulness to the Lord, any lack of commitment to His Word.

Thank God that He does not leave us in our sin and shame and guilt, but pours out mercy and grace.

Ask Him to give you a desire for His Word, a desire to seek solitude with Him, a desire to grow as a fully devoted follower.

PRACTICE: What is one step you can take toward God this week?

Day 2-

WATCH: “[How to Read the Bible](https://www.rightnowmedia.org/Content/Series/240001)” is a series of short videos from The Bible Project. Watch the first two videos (5 minutes each) at Right Now Media. (If you don’t yet have a free RNM account, visit [www.whoisgrace.com/rightnowmedia](http://www.whoisgrace.com/rightnowmedia) to sign up!)

READ: [Hebrews 1:1-2](https://biblehub.com/esv/hebrews/1.htm)

REFLECT: Did anything in these videos change your perspective on the Word of God? What did you learn about the Bible as one story? What does it mean for you that your life is part of God’s story?

PRAY: Praise God for the Story He has written! Praise Jesus for coming to seek and save you and praise Him that He will come again!

PRACTICE: The sermons and reading plan through the month of January will focus on how to read and study God’s Word. In addition, there is a special event on January 12, “The Story of Scripture.” Fin more information and register [here](https://whoisgrace.com/onechurch-event/595/the-story-of-scripture/?date=2019-01-12).

Day 3-

READ: [Psalm 119:89](https://biblehub.com/psalms/119-89.htm); [John 17:17](https://biblehub.com/john/17-17.htm); [2 Timothy 3:16-17](https://biblehub.com/esv/2_timothy/3.htm); Read each verse once, then read them again.

REFLECT: “The authority of Scripture means that all the words in Scripture are God’s words in such a way that to disbelieve or disobey any word of Scripture is to disbelieve or disobey God.” –Systematic Theology, Wayne Grudem.

Consider each of the verses above in light of this statement by Wayne Grudem. What does it mean for your life if every word of God’s is true? How familiar are you with all of God’s words (the Bible)?

PRAY: Praise God that His words are true, that He is trustworthy. Confess where you struggle to believe or walk in disobedience. Thank the Lord for His faithful love and forgiveness. Ask Him to fill you with His Spirit as you read and study and learn His Words. Ask Him for a heart of belief and obedience.

PRACTICE: Choose one of the verses from today and write it on a notecard or find wallpaper for your phone. Commit to memorizing this verse- ask a friend to do it with you!

Day 4-

READ: [Deuteronomy 6:6-7](https://biblehub.com/esv/deuteronomy/6.htm); [Psalm 119:130](https://biblehub.com/psalms/119-130.htm)

REFLECT: “The clarity of Scripture means that the Bible is written in such a way that its teachings are able to be understood by all who will read it seeking God’s help and being willing to follow it.” –Systematic Theology, Wayne Grudem.

Have you ever thought that you could never understand the Bible? God says otherwise! What does it mean for you that God wants to reveal Himself and His truth to you through His Word?

PRAY: Praise God that His Words are for you! Ask Him for a humble heart toward His Word, for His Spirit to give you understanding as you read, for His Words to renew your mind and heart.

PRACTICE: Do you have someone with whom you can read and talk about the Scriptures? Finding a mentor, a trusted friend, or a life group is a great way to grow in understanding of God’s Word. If you have questions about what you’re reading, don’t hesitate to reach out to your Site Pastor or contact Grace [here](https://whoisgrace.com/contact/).

Day 5-

READ: [Matthew 4:4](https://biblehub.com/matthew/4-4.htm); [Romans 10:13-17](https://biblehub.com/esv/romans/10.htm); [Romans 1:19-21](https://biblehub.com/esv/romans/1.htm)

REFLECT: “The necessity of Scripture means that the Bible is necessary for knowing the gospel, for maintaining spiritual life, and for knowing God’s will, but is not necessary for knowing that God exists or for knowing something about God’s character and moral laws.” –Systematic Theology, Wayne Grudem

What is the gospel (the good news of Jesus Christ)? What is God’s will for your life? Where have you been looking for the answers to these questions? What would it mean for your life to consider the Bible as the main source of direction and wisdom as you make decisions and lead others?

PRAY: Tell God all the hopes, dreams and goals you have for 2019. Commit to following Him as He leads you toward those things (or others!).

PRACTICE: Commit the month of January to attending weekly Sunday services, to daily reading God’s Word and pray (“Find Your Chair”), and to connecting with a Life Group or a mentor.

**BIBLE HACKS: Week 1**

January 6, 2019

Reading Plan

This week’s reading plan looks at a handful of familiar Bible passages and peels back some of the layers for a closer look.

Day 1-

READ: [John 1:1-18](https://biblehub.com/esv/john/3.htm)

REFLECT: John 3:16 is probably the most well-known verse of the Bible. But Nicodemus is hearing these words for the first time! Read verses 16-18 over and over again and meditate on what Jesus is saying. What do His words mean for the world? What do they mean for you?

PRACTICE: Write a prayer of praise and thanksgiving to God the Father and Jesus the Son for the truths you have read in these verses.

Day 2-

READ: [Psalm 23](https://biblehub.com/esv/psalms/23.htm) (If you have time, go ahead and read Psalm 22 and 24 also!)

REFLECT: This section of psalms was written by King David and they are messianic psalms- they foreshadow Jesus. Psalm 22 foreshadows the cross and Psalm 24 foreshadows Jesus as the triumphant King. And between those, we find Psalm 23. This is Jesus dependent on His Father, trusting his Father. And this is us, for Jesus is our Good Shepherd. He was afflicted, and we find ourselves afflicted. Just as He triumphed, we too will triumph in Him. As we wait for His return, we find rest in Him in Psalm 23.

READ: [“Two Ways of Doing Life: Psalm 23 versus Antipsalm 23”](https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/blogs/justin-taylor/two-ways-of-doing-life-psalm-23-versus-antipsalm-23/) -This article from the Gospel Coalition lays out the “photographic negative” of Psalm 23.

PRACTICE: Pray your own Psalm 23 prayer today and consider how you can do life like Psalm 23 every day and steer clear of the Antipsalm 23 way of life.

Day 3-

READ: [1 Samuel 17](https://biblehub.com/esv/1_samuel/17.htm)

REFLECT: As you read this seemingly familiar story, there will be “new” facts that surprise you. Write down any questions or observations you have about the passage. Especially note the bravado with which David speaks to the Israelites and to Goliath.

READ: [1 Samuel 16:13](https://biblehub.com/1_samuel/16-13.htm)

REFLECT: Perhaps by this passage we are to admire David less and admire the power of the Spirit of God more.

READ: [Acts 1:8](https://biblehub.com/acts/1-8.htm)

REFLECT: What could the Spirit of God do in and through just one person? What could He do through you?

Day 4-

READ: [Matthew 14:13-21](https://biblehub.com/esv/matthew/14.htm) and [Matthew 15:29-38](https://biblehub.com/esv/matthew/15.htm)

REFLECT: Jesus fed 5,000… and then He fed 4,000! Look at both passages again. What do these miracles teach us about Jesus? The disciples, who had nothing to give, gave all away. Yet, how many basketfuls were leftover? How does that encourage you when you feel you have nothing to give?

PRACTICE: Praise Jesus, who provides, who multiplies. Come to him humbly and be strengthened by Him.

Day 5-

WATCH: “[Wisdom Series: Episode 2: Ecclesiastes](https://www.rightnowmedia.org/Content/Series/191667?episode=2)” from The Bible Project on Right Now Media. (To register for your free RNM account, sign up [here](https://whoisgrace.com/rightnowmedia/).)

READ: [Ecclesiastes 3:1-15](https://biblehub.com/esv/ecclesiastes/3.htm)

REFLECT: “There is a time for everything” is a popular refrain that comes from the book of Ecclesiastes. Reflect on the times laid out in chapter 3. Which of these have you experienced? Which are you experiencing right now? What encouragement do you find from the words of verse 11-15?

REFLECT: “*Today is the time of suffering and anguish, of work and pleasure, of toil and terror; tomorrow is the time of glory and judgment, of the resurrection of the body and life everlasting in world without end*.” –Reverend David Gibson, from “[You Do Not Have Much Time](https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/you-do-not-have-much-time)”

**BIBLE HACKS: Week 2**

January 13, 2019

Reading Plan

Day 1-

READ: [**Exodus 16 and 17**](https://biblehub.com/esv/exodus/16.htm)

REFLECT: What does this passage say about God? Consider the names for God in the text, what God says, and what He does.

PRAY: Praise God for who He is! Use the characteristics you found from these passages in Exodus.

TAKE IT FURTHER!

LEARN: Watch “[Exodus: Part 1](https://www.rightnowmedia.org/Content/Series/181310?episode=3)” and “[Exodus: Part 2](https://www.rightnowmedia.org/Content/Series/181310?episode=4)”, 2 short videos in the Read Scripture series from The Bible Project. Watch free on Right Now Media (Need an account? Sign up at [www.whoisgrace.com/rightnowmedia](http://www.whoisgrace.com/rightnowmedia)).

Day 2-

READ: [**Exodus 16 and 17**](https://biblehub.com/esv/exodus/16.htm)

REFLECT: What does this passage say about mankind? Consider what the characters say and do. Which of these are positive? Negative? How is the character of mankind unchanged today?

PRAY: Praise God for who He is. Confess the sin in your life.

TAKE IT FURTHER!

LEARN: “[How to Read the Bible](https://www.rightnowmedia.org/Content/Series/240001)” is a series of short videos from The Bible Project. Video #5 is about “Plot in Biblical Narrative”. Get free access through Right Now Media (Need an account? Sign up here: [www.whoisgrace.com/rightnowmedia](http://www.whoisgrace.com/rightnowmedia))

Day 3-

READ: [**Exodus 16 and 17**](https://biblehub.com/esv/exodus/16.htm)

REFLECT: What does this passage say about the relationship between God and mankind? What does God say to man? What does man say to God? How do they react to one another?

PRAY: Praise God for who He is. Confess the sin in your life. Praise God for the gift of Jesus, through whom we are made clean and holy.

TAKE IT FURTHER!

LEARN: “[How to Read the Bible](https://www.rightnowmedia.org/Content/Series/240001)” is a series of short videos from The Bible Project. Video #6 is about “Character in Biblical Narrative”. Get free access through Right Now Media (Need an account? Sign up here: [www.whoisgrace.com/rightnowmedia](http://www.whoisgrace.com/rightnowmedia))

Day 4-

READ: [**John 4**](https://biblehub.com/esv/john/4.htm)

REFLECT: What does this passage say about Jesus? What does it say about mankind? What does it say about the relationship between the two? What are the connections and parallels between the two chapters in Exodus, and this chapter in John?

PRAY: Praise Jesus for who He is. Confess any sin in your life. Thank Jesus for loving you so much. Ask Jesus to satisfy your heart, soul and mind with Him.

TAKE IT FURTHER!

LEARN: “[How to Read the Bible](https://www.rightnowmedia.org/Content/Series/240001)” is a series of short videos from The Bible Project. Video #7 is about “Setting in Biblical Narrative”. Get free access through Right Now Media (Need an account? Sign up here: [www.whoisgrace.com/rightnowmedia](http://www.whoisgrace.com/rightnowmedia))

Day 5-

READ: [**John 6**](https://biblehub.com/esv/john/6.htm)

REFLECT: What does this passage say about Jesus? What does it say about mankind? What does it say about the relationship between the two? What are the connections and parallels between the two chapters in Exodus, and this chapter in John?

PRAY: Praise Jesus for who He is. Confess any sin in your life. Thank Jesus for loving you so much. Ask Jesus to fill you with His Word and His truth.

TAKE IT FURTHER!

LEARN: “[How to Read the Bible](https://www.rightnowmedia.org/Content/Series/240001)” is a series of short videos from The Bible Project. Video #8 is about “Design Patterns in Biblical Narrative”. Get free access through Right Now Media (Need an account? Sign up here: [www.whoisgrace.com/rightnowmedia](http://www.whoisgrace.com/rightnowmedia))

**BIBLE HACKS: Week 3**

January 27, 2019

Reading Plan

Day 1-

READ: [Psalm 100:1-4](https://biblehub.com/esv/psalms/100.htm)

REFLECT: One use of poetry in scripture is to praise God. In the Bible, this scripture passage is labeled “a Psalm for giving thanks”. What are some of the specific ways in which we’re encouraged to thank God in this passage? How does the poetic writing bring you to deeper levels of praise and thanksgiving?

PRACTICE: Rewrite this passage in your own words. What is your “Psalm for giving thanks”? Once it’s written, read it out loud as a prayer.

WATCH: “[How to Read the Bible](https://www.rightnowmedia.org/Content/Series/240001)” is a series of short videos from The Bible Project. Videos #9-11 are all about poetry in the Bible. Get free access through Right Now Media (Need an account? Sign up here: [www.whoisgrace.com/rightnowmedia](http://www.whoisgrace.com/rightnowmedia))

Day 2-

READ: [Psalm 22](https://biblehub.com/esv/psalms/22.htm)

REFLECT: Another use of poetry in scripture is for lament. Lament means a “passionate expression of grief or sorrow.” The beginning chapters of the book of Psalm are full of lament. In his sermon, Pastor Derek gave three steps as a guideline toward crying out to God: 1) Be honest about the problem, 2) lay out your petition, and 3) saturate your cries with praise. Read through the passage in Psalm again. This time, mentally label each piece of the Psalm – where do you see each of those steps being reflected. What are some key phrases that the author uses in the crying out?

PRACTICE: Take a moment to reflect on your own life. What is an area in which you need to cry out to God? Before you pray, read [John 16:33](https://biblehub.com/john/16-33.htm). Jesus tells us exactly why we can pray to him in times of trouble. As you pray, structure your own prayer in a similar fashion to what you found in Psalm 22.

Day 3-

READ: [Proverbs 3: 1-12](https://biblehub.com/bsb/proverbs/3.htm)

REFLECT: The first nine books of Proverbs are considered by biblical scholars and theologians to be “wisdom literature” featuring poems specifically about wisdom. Within this passage are some familiar verses that we hear often about trusting in God (verses 6-7). Read through the passage a few times, noting the poetic language the author is using to describe the outcomes when we trust God. Underline, highlight, or write in a journal some of the phrases that stick out most to you.

PRACTICE: In your prayer time today, come before God and ask Him to give you a heart of wisdom. Ask that he would fill your mind with knowledge of His promises. Ask him to fade away the things of the world, and restore you with His wisdom.

Day 4-

READ: Listen to The Doxology: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tQUTvMtUhw4>

REFLECT: Many songs and hymns are musical poems that reference God’s love and faithfulness to his people. Songs stick with us because of the flowing words and pleasant melody. This particular song is a popular hymn that was written in the late 1700’s. It ushers us into worshipping our savior by reflecting His majesty and His worthiness of our praise. After you’ve listened to the song (a few times perhaps!), take a moment and reflect on how it makes you feel. What do the words mean? How does the addition of beautiful vocals increase your ability to hear the poem?

PRACTICE: In your quiet time today, write your own song of praise to God. No musical talent is required – just a heart of praise.

Day 5-

READ: Read [Psalm 23](https://biblehub.com/bsb/psalms/23.htm), 27, 46, 121

REFLECT: These are heartfelt cries out to God. The author is acknowledging that God’s power is greater than anything we might come up against on earth. How do the descriptive words used help you to gain a greater understanding of who God is? What are some phrases that stick with you the most? What is it about the word choices that speak to you?

PRACTICE: Choose one of these chapters in Psalm and make it your prayer for today.

**BIBLE HACKS: Week 4**

February 3, 2019

Reading Plan

Day 1-

READ: [**1 Thessalonians**](https://biblehub.com/esv/1_thessalonians/1.htm)chapters 1-5 to give you an overview of the entire letter.

READ: [1 Thessalonians 1](https://biblehub.com/esv/1_thessalonians/1.htm) more closely

PRACTICE: Grab a journal and work through the SOAP Bible Study method:

 S - Scripture: Hand write one verse that stood out to you from the passage you read.

 O – Observation: Write out observations you made about the text you just read.

 A – Application: Personalize how you can apply this to your life.

 P – Prayer: Write out a prayer to God that relates to what you just read.

(For a more detailed description of the SOAP method: <http://experiencetherock.com/downloads/SOAP.pdf>)

LEARN: Watch “[1 Thessalonians](https://www.rightnowmedia.org/Content/Series/181310?episode=58)” in the Read Scripture series from The Bible Project for an overview of Paul’s letter. Watch for free on Right Now Media (Need an account? Sign up at [www.whoisgrace.com/rightnowmedia](http://www.whoisgrace.com/rightnowmedia)).

Day 2-

READ: [1 Thessalonians 2](https://biblehub.com/esv/1_thessalonians/2.htm)

REFLECT: Here are some tips as you find the Scripture:

* Read the large portion of scripture multiple times in a 10-minute period.
* As you read, ask God to highlight a verse that speaks into your life.
* Write the verse out in your journal/notebook.
* Underline the key words, circle major points, write little notes of why you marked how you did.

PRACTICE: Apply the SOAP Bible Study method on chapter 2 in a journal/notebook.

Day 3-

READ: [1 Thessalonians 3](https://biblehub.com/esv/1_thessalonians/3.htm)

REFLECT: Here are some tips as you make observations:

* What is going on in the current text?
* What is the context of what is being said?
* Who are the group of people that are being spoken to?
* What is the background or setting for this verse?
* What is God saying to you in this passage?

PRACTICE: Apply the SOAP Bible Study method on chapter 3 in a journal/notebook.

Day 4-

READ: [1 Thessalonians 4](https://biblehub.com/esv/1_thessalonians/4.htm)

REFLECT: Here are some tips as you establish the Application:

* Personalize what you have read by asking yourself how it relates to your life right now.
* Ask yourself how you can apply what you just read to your own life and write it in your journal.
* Ask yourself how your life will be different or changed as a result of God speaking this scripture to you?

PRACTICE: Apply the SOAP Bible Study method on chapter 4 in a journal/notebook.

Day 5-

READ: [1 Thessalonians 5](https://biblehub.com/esv/1_thessalonians/5.htm)

REFLECT: Here are some tips as you move to Prayer:

* Write out a prayer to God in your journal that allows for detail and to be transparent.
* Your prayer should relate to the verse that you highlighted from the passage.
* It could be asking for help, thanking God, praising God for the truth of this scripture, worshiping God, ect.
* Write down what your heart desires to say to God in response to his word.

PRACTICE: Apply the SOAP Bible Study method on chapter 5 in a journal/notebook.

REVIEW: Take time to look back over your journal notes about the book of 1 Thessalonians. What are a few key learnings? Is there a verse you want to memorize? How can you share what you’ve learned with someone?

\*\*Well done on reading through a book of the Bible this week! Thank God for His Word and ask Him to continue to give you a heart and mind willing and eager to learn His Truth.