

# BIBLE READING SCHEDULE

## 5 Day Chronological Bible Reading Program

### Week Thirty-Two : August 4-10

**Day 1:** Hosea 1-3; Matt 16  
**Day 2:** Hosea 4-6; Psalm 58; Matt 17  
**Day 3:** Hosea 7-10; Matt 18  
**Day 4:** Hosea 11-13; Matt 19  
**Day 5:** Hosea 14; 2 Chr 26-27; Ps 61; Matt 20

### Week Twenty-Four : August 18-24

**Day 1:** Isaiah 7-10; Psalm 22; Matt 26  
**Day 2:** Isa 11-13; Psalm 118; Matt 27  
**Day 3:** Isa 14-16; Matt 28  
**Day 4:** Isa 17-19; Psalm 62; 1 Cor 1  
**Day 5:** Isa 20-22; 1 Cor 2

### Week Thirty-Three: August 11-17

**Day 1:** 2 Kings 15-16; Matt 21  
**Day 2:** Isaiah 1-3; Psalm 9; Matt 22  
**Day 3:** Isaiah 4-6; Matt 23  
**Day 4:** Micah 1-4; Psalm 10; Matt 24  
**Day 5:** Micah 5-7; Matt 25

### Week Thirty-Five : August 25-31

**Day 1:** Isaiah 23-25; 1 Cor 3  
**Day 2:** Isa 26-29; Psalm 65; 1 Cor 4  
**Day 3:** Isa 30-32; 1 Cor 5  
**Day 4:** Isa 33-35; 1 Cor 6  
**Day 5:** 2 Chr 28; 2 Kings 17; Psalm 66; 1 Cor 7

*Continued from "The Only Status That Can Satisfy"*

I was unemployed. I had no car. I was confused. I had focused much of the past four years on (imperfectly) sharing the good news about Jesus, leading and attending Bible studies, and seeking to serve others while making disciples of Jesus. It's not like I did all of this to the neglect of my studies. I graduated with a near-perfect GPA. But my friends got salaried jobs immediately after graduation. What had I done wrong? What happens when following Jesus doesn't lead us where we expected to be? How do we cope when following Jesus doesn't seem as rewarding as we thought it would?

I had been taught that following Jesus meant suffering in various ways. I knew intellectually that trusting him didn't keep me from trials. When I first began growing in my faith, I often said rather boldly, like James and John: "I will suffer for you, Jesus! I'll die for you!" Yet here I was with a dull diploma and deep debt, doubting the goodness of God. I kept wondering, What did I do wrong? Why isn't God blessing me like he's blessing my friends? I was asking the wrong questions.

What I truly needed to ask was this: Who is this Jesus I said I'd follow, and what does it really mean to follow him?

#### Who Is This Son of Man?

And that's what Jesus intended to teach me. He clarified what true greatness is and how it's achieved. True greatness is a lifestyle of serving others over yourself. This is what it means to follow Jesus.

Jesus trod the path of pain first. He told his disciples they must focus on sacrificial service to others, not just because he said so, but because he would do so. They must serve "even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many" (Matt. 20:28). When Jesus tells his disciples, "Follow me," he goes first.

Jesus would embody his own teaching when he got to Jerusalem. He had already revealed to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem to suffer, be killed, and be raised on the third day. But a suffering Christ wasn't the King they were expecting.

Perhaps this is why Jesus so often called himself the "Son of Man." With this title, Jesus could clarify his identity and mission (Dan. 7:13-14). Yes, the Son of Man was the promised King, but this meant that he must first become God's suffering servant, as the prophet Isaiah foretold (Isa. 53).

The glory and honor of the Messiah would be most fully displayed after he accomplished the humiliating, excruciating task of paying for sins with his own life. He would be humbled before he would be exalted (Phil. 2:5-11). The cross would come before the crown, even—especially—for the Christ.

His resurrection on the third day proved that Jesus truly is "the Christ, the Son of the living God" (Matt. 16:16) who paid our sin debt in full. All who put their trust in this Son of Man find freedom that no amount of money, political power, or fame can buy.

#### Way Up

Jesus's disciples eventually grasped the paradoxical character of his kingdom. Little by little, I think I'm getting there too. After about six months of post-college unemployment, I landed an administrative job at a hospital. This wasn't my dream job by any stretch of the imagination. I've never had any burning desire to work on schedules and spreadsheets in a small room tucked behind the ER. But as I worked an unglamorous job behind the scenes for three years, Jesus continued to teach me that true satisfaction will never come from recognition or the praise of people. He showed me there's no station in life so small that God can't use it for his glory if my aim is to serve him as I serve others.

I now see that while I was asking "What did I do wrong?" and "Why is this happening?" Jesus was graciously calling me into that same huddle with his disciples to answer far greater questions: "Who is this Son of Man?" and "What does it mean to be great?"

If we want the work of our hands to endure, if we want the labor of our lives to be praised, if we want the glory that comes from God, then we must follow our Savior's example of sacrificial service. He calls his followers to pursue faithfulness over fame, devotion over dominance, sacrifice over status. The humble will be exalted. The way up is down.

*Continued from Member's Corner*

and joined FBC Mena.

**Do you have a favorite verse and song or hymn?** *Neal* - Mine is Ephesians 1:4-5 and my favorite hymn is *It is Well with My Soul*. *Nina* - Ezekiel 36:26 is my favorite verse and *How Sweet and Awesome is the Place* is my favorite hymn.

**What is your favorite treat and do you have any hobbies or interests?** *Neal* - I volunteer with the Humane Society. And I really like dark chocolate. *Nina* - My favorite is strawberry shortcake. I enjoy art, reading and sewing. We have 8 cats and 3 dogs.

**Anything else that's interesting about you, you'd like to share?**

*Neal* - I traveled or lived in 47 States and 12 Foreign countries. I was also a private pilot and served as Squadron Commander in Civil Air Patrol (CAP).

*Nina* - In my teen years, I lived in Norway where my parents and brother immigrated from. I can speak Norwegian. I volunteer as publicist for the Humane Society of the Ouachitas. I am interested in Christian apologetics, theology, and witnessing to cult members. I like drawing, painting and photography.

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# THE BROADCASTER

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF FIRST BAPTIST MENA

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Bro. Russell Threet

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Associate Pastor  
of Youth & Children

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Interim Music Pastor  
Bro. Vernon Payne

*We preach Christ, and Him Crucified.*

SUNDAY  
AUGUST 11TH @ 3PM

VINE &  
DEEP ROOTS  
VOLUNTEER  
MEETING

Fellowship Hall

This is an important training meeting for all children and youth volunteers. We will have a special guest from the State Convention.

Please attend if you are able.

Vine After School begins  
Wednesday, September 4th!

## Addition and Distraction

When I study, I like to listen to music. However, I have found over the years that I have to listen to instrumental music when I study because if I listen to anything with words I find myself unable to read or write without accidentally writing down the words of the songs. So, for me instrumental music helps me to study longer without distraction, but music with lyrics quickly becomes the distraction. This comparison is a good way to assess anything in life. What are the things in your life that when added bring a net positive to your walk with Christ? What are the things that tend to creep in and distract from your focus on the mission of following Christ's commands? The answer to these questions are different for everyone. However, we should take seriously what Jesus was really saying when He said in Matthew 18:8-9, "And if your hand or your foot causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life crippled or

lame than with two hands or two feet to be thrown into the eternal fire. And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into the hell of fire". Jesus says that anything that pulls us away from God is to be discarded. Jesus was not advocating for self-amputation of limbs, but for radical separation from things that distract and tempt toward sin.

Some things, like music with lyrics, are great when kept in their proper place. We are not to be concerned first with our own desires in this world. We are to be prepared to sacrifice whatever is necessary to please God. That sounds radical in our self-centered culture, but as the old preacher said, "following Jesus ain't for wimps". Do not distract yourself, instead find things that give you strength and encouragement to better pursue the things of God.

'Til He Comes,

*Bro. Russell*

**“The Only Status That Can Satisfy”** by Quina Aragon (Writer for The Gospel Coalition)

What do you want to be when you grow up? We're asked this question often as children. My answer changed from Firefighter!" (4 years old) to "The world's greatest female soccer player!" (10 years old) to "A successful businesswoman with an office overlooking downtown" (teenager). Perhaps a helpful follow-up question would have been, "Why do you want to be that when you grow up?" I don't think it was a passion to save people from burning buildings, to train and play game after game, or to propel a business into success. It was the idea of appearing great to others, receiving praise, being in charge. Plain and simple: I wanted the glory, the honor, the power. I grew up blissfully unaware of my insatiable appetite for status. I just wanted to be great and recognized for it. So I excelled in academics. I soared in athletics. I learned how to make people laugh. As one of the few black girls in my private school, I definitely wasn't considered the prettiest. But I figured out

how to be popular. But I wasn't satisfied. I wanted to be my friends who were even more athletic, more successful, more popular. My inferiority complex haunted me. I wasn't satisfied with status, but I dared not admit it. Could life offer something more? **My First Taste of Freedom** I couldn't answer until I met a girl in my junior-year English class who seemed to possess what I didn't: peace, joy, and love. We ended up playing on the same volleyball team that year. As I spent time with her and her family, I witnessed their freedom from the tyranny of trying to seem impressive. They loved freely. I wasn't the successful student-athlete when I visited their house. I was just Quina, beloved friend. I wanted whatever they had. Soon enough, I learned this freedom could only come through a relationship with Jesus. My friend showed me what the Bible said about me: I was alienated from a perfect God by my sin. I was created to know

and love God, giving him the glory and credit in all I do. He alone could satisfy my deepest longings to be known and loved. But I had settled for the praise of people, and I had come up empty. It finally became clear to me I couldn't even impress God with my attempts at being moral and virtuous. How could I conjure up some sort of holiness to impress the Holy One? I needed him to rescue me from my sin. God let me feel the vacancy in my soul despite my attempts to fill it with worldly acclaim. That emptiness was the alarm that jerked my eyes open to see my desperate need. My friend pointed me to the God who became a man, who died for me just so I could be his child. What amazing love! I cast my life—all of my sin and all of my need—on Jesus, and I knew I wanted to live a life of service to him. I took my first sip of satisfying, living water. **Unspoken Expectations** Fast forward to my first year after college. *Continued on back page*

*Continued from Greater Obedience*

sore and hurting? It's because we've placed the weight of the world (well, at least our own personal world) on them. And that's a weight we were never intended to carry. When Jesus plainly said to put His Kingdom first He also made a promise. When we obey in putting Him first He takes care of our needs. How wonderful to think that my Heavenly Father, who knows my needs better than I do, and who sovereignly controls all of creation, promises to care for me if I will simply trust Him to! So to that nagging fear that cries "But if you don't finish this then...?" You can answer, "My Father knows what I need." We need to be responsible with the time and responsibilities we are given but never to the point where we make that the priority in our lives.

what you do rather than your relationship with God (and all those disciplines that help you grown in that relationship) then are you really worshipping Him? When God told the Israelites to take the Sabbath day and rest on it, it's no coincidence that this was the day of worship. When we can't stop our productivity to take time to spend in focused devotion to God what we are in essence saying is that we are at the center of everything, not Him. Think about it. What does a busy person's vocabulary sound like? "I've got so much to do?" "I have to get this done today!" "If I don't finish now..." There's always the "I" and very little of God. I'm not saying it's easy. Business is something I struggle with more than I'd care to admit, but dealing with our business in light of God's Word is, however messy it looks, worth it. And so I urge us to make His Kingdom our priority and to trust Him to care for us we'll. And in doing that, live a life of true worship to our God. In love, Bro. Kevin

**Attendance & Giving July 2019**

<b>Worship Services</b>	
(SUN AM/PM/WED)	152/36/50
<b>Sunday School</b>	109
<b>Vacation Bible School Kids</b>	89
<b>Vacation Bible School Adults</b>	60
<b>Vacation Bible School Offering</b>	\$270
<b>Budget Giving</b>	\$28,125.14
<b>Designated Giving</b>	\$27,832.75

**Thank You to FBC**

Thank you for the Bibles given in Charlie's Memory. From all the comments I heard at the visitation and the funeral, he had quite a testimony. — Sherry Baker & Family

**Tune in to KAWX 93.1 or 94.9 for Bro. Russell's sermon every Sunday morning at 11:00 AM. "Moments with Bro. Russell" can be heard Monday - Saturday at 5:58 AM & 5:56 PM & Sunday @ 5:26 AM & 3:27 PM.**

**Greater Obedience**

A couple weeks ago I saw a joke online that read, "I love how being an adult is just saying, 'But after this week things will slow down a bit again' to yourself until you die." I have to admit that I laughed pretty hard. Why was it so funny? Because there was a sense in which it felt true. Life is busy and it doesn't seem like it's slowing down for anybody. It can so easily seem like we're running on a giant treadmill and never actually getting anywhere. Now, I could spend this article telling you that you're simply too busy and you need to make changes. And maybe you do need to cut some things out of your regular routine. But I don't know how productive me telling you that would be. Instead, I want to point you to a few principles that I hope

will help and encourage you in the midst of your busy life. 1. First things first. Hey, I get it. Life happens and things pile up and Sunday mornings (or nights... oh yeah, and Wednesdays) start to slip away. Not to mention having time to study your Bible and pray! How on earth are you supposed to fit that in?! But here is something that we rarely, if ever, remember in the midst of our business: Jesus said to seek first the Kingdom of God and then He would provide all we need. Notice that Jesus didn't provide a caveat there about how if something comes up then it's ok. Jesus calls it like it is. Put the most important things first and let Him take care of your needs. 2. But if I don't get it done then...?! You know why our shoulders are so

*Continued on next page*

**Music Notes**

Our music program has been on hold for a few weeks to give everyone a rest. Vacation is soon over. Choir rehearsals will resume Wednesday, August 14 at 6:45. If you enjoy singing, please join us in choir! Handbells and Ensemble rehearsals will resume at a later date to be announced. The purpose of our music program is to exalt Jesus in worship. As we observe worship experiences in the Bible, it is evident that worship is more than what is seen on the outside, more than observable activities. True worship produces something in us that becomes visible, but not everything visible is worship. According to Mike Harland in his book, *Worship Essentials*, if it is true worship, it moves the worshiper toward alignment with God's purposes and God's will. Harland writes, "Humility, kindness, selflessness, compassion, personal sacrifice, self-control, empathy, love for others, and a single-minded pursuit of God's kingdom expansion are just some of the visible attributes of a worshipping disciple." Let's work together alongside God to create music and create a healthy, biblical culture of singing and worship in our church. Blessed to serve, *Bro. Vernon*



**Bible Drill is FUN!** Children learn to memorize scripture, gain confidence in their knowledge of the Bible and their ability to quickly locate significant passages with ease. We learn all this through fun games and challenges. This short season of time is one that will benefit your child forever as God uses His word to comfort, guide, and teach your child for his/her whole life! Pre-K through Youth can participate. Bible Drill begins Wednesday, September 4th at 6:00 PM during church service.

**Members' Corner**



**Neal & Nina Fosdick**

Neal & Nina joined our fellowship at FBC Mena on December 27, 2017. *Get to know the Fosdicks a little more through the questions below!*

**Where did you grow up?** Neal - I grew up in Bedford, Ohio. Nina - My hometown is Orange, New Jersey. **When were you saved?** Neal - I was drawn. I was an atheist for 43 years. God worked on my heart for 2 years until I felt like a boxer after 17 rounds...I surrendered! Ask me if you are interested. Nina - I was raised in a church going family but was lost. I became an atheist at 13 and at 38 years old God drew me. At 39 years old He saved me! **What college did you go to and what was your major?** Neal - I served 4 years in the United States Air Force. Then I attended college for 2 1/2 years majoring in psychology. I have 24 years of machinist and machine design experience and 20 years aircraft design and consulting. Nina - I graduated from Alexandria Technical College in Minnesota in Communication Art & Design. **How did you meet?** Nina - Neal was my brother's roommate in college at the University of Wyoming. I went to visit my brother, Arild, and met Neal. **What areas have you served in ministry?** Neal - I was a deacon, treasurer, Sunday School Teacher (children), youth volunteer and was on security in four churches. Nina - We both volunteered in a jail ministry in Minnesota. I was also a moderator for Christian forums on the internet. Neal and I now both volunteer in the Vine After School Kids Ministry. **Who makes up your family?** We have one son, Jonathan, who recently moved here *Continued on back*



**FBC Mena History Tidbit** — In early 2019, Ninth Street Feeding Ministry went on hiatus temporarily. After much prayer and discussion the ministry will resume operating with a new focus this month. The focus of the Ninth Street Feeding Ministry will now be to provide pre-made freezer meals for foster and adoptive families. This will be a partnership with The Call that provides a number of different services for families receiving children through the foster care system. If this ministry is sustainable, we hope to do a similar ministry with other groups to provide freezer meals for some of the most needy in our community.