



DEEPER
CONNECTION

Imaginative Prayer Reading Plans

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New to Imaginative Prayer

The following readings are relatively simple, yet rich with possibilities. Try these first if you're new to imaginative prayer, or introducing a group to imaginative prayer.

1. Mary Visits Elizabeth (Luke 1:39-49)
2. The Finding of Jesus in the Temple (Luke 2:41-51)
3. The Miraculous Catch of Fish (Luke 5:3-11)
4. The Wedding at Cana (John 2:1-10)
5. Jesus Heals a Paralyzed Man (Mark 2:1-12)
6. Jesus Calms the Stormy Sea (Mark 4:35-41)
7. Jesus Feeds the People (Matthew 14:14-20)
8. Jesus Calls Peter to Walk on Water (Matthew 14:22-33)
9. Jesus Heals a Blind Man (Mark 10:46-52)
10. Martha and Mary (Luke 10:38-42)
11. Jesus and the Little Children (Matthew 18:1-5 and 19:13-15)
12. Jesus Invites Himself to Zacchaeus's House (Luke 19:2-10)
13. In the Garden of Gethsemane (Matthew 26:34-46)
14. Peter Denies Jesus (Luke 22:54-62)
15. The Crucifixion of Jesus (Luke 23:33-43)
16. On the Road to Emmaus (Luke 24:13-35)

The Gospel of Matthew

1. Following the Star of the Messiah (Matthew 2:1–12)
 2. The Holy Family Flees to Egypt (Matthew 2:13–15, 19–21)
 3. John Baptizes Jesus in the River Jordan (Mark 1:4–11)
 4. Jesus Heals the Centurion's Servant (Matthew 8:5–13)
 5. Jesus Calls Matthew and Eats with Sinners (Matthew 9:9–13)
 6. Jesus Feeds the People (Matthew 14:14–20)
 7. Jesus Calls Peter to Walk on Water (Matthew 14:22–33)
 8. The Transfiguration of Jesus (Matthew 17:1–8)
 9. Jesus and the Little Children (Matthew 18:1–5 and 19:13–15)
 10. Jesus Cleanses the Temple (Matthew 21:12–17)
 11. In the Garden of Gethsemane (Matthew 26:36–46)
 12. The Resurrection of Jesus (Matthew 28:1–10)
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The Gospel of Luke

1. The Visitation of Mary (Luke 1:39–49)
2. The Birth of Jesus (Luke 2:1–20)
3. The Finding of Jesus in the Temple (Luke 2:41–51)
4. The Miraculous Catch of Fish (Luke 5:3–11)
5. Jesus Sends His Disciples to Proclaim the Kingdom (Luke 10:1–12, 17–20)
6. Jesus Heals the Bent Woman (Luke 13:10–17)
7. Martha and Mary (Luke 10:38–42)
8. Zacchaeus (Luke 19:2–10)
9. Jesus Enters Jerusalem (Luke 19:35–44)
10. The Last Supper (Luke 22:14–34)
11. Peter Denies Jesus (Luke 22:54–62)
12. The Way of the Cross (Luke 23:26–32)
13. The Crucifixion of Jesus (Luke 23:33–43)
14. The Death and Burial of Jesus (Luke 23:44–56)
15. On the Road to Emmaus (Luke 24:13–35)

The Gospel of Mark

1. A Busy Day in Capernaum (Mark 1:29–39)
 2. Jesus Heals a Paralyzed Man at Capernaum (Mark 2:1–12)
 3. Jesus Calms the Stormy Sea (Mark 4:35–41)
 4. The Daughter of Jairus and the Woman with a Hemorrhage (Luke 8:40–56)
 5. Jesus Heals a Blind Man (Mark 10:46–52)
 6. Betrayal and Arrest (Mark 14:43–52)
 7. Jesus Before Pilate (Mark 15:1–20)
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The Gospel of John

1. The Wedding at Cana (John 2:1–10)
 2. The Samaritan Woman at the Well (John 4:4–30, 39–42)
 3. The Woman Caught in Adultery (John 8:2–11)
 4. The Raising of Lazarus (John 11:1–7, 17–44)
 5. The Anointing of Jesus (John 12:1–8)
 6. Jesus Forgives Peter (John 21:1–19)
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Advent

Advent is a time of waiting...and preparing to welcome the Lord. In the reading plan below, the first three readings feature themes of anticipation, preparation, and welcome. The fourth reading provides an opportunity to reflect on what it means to imitate Jesus by becoming a little child, just as he did.

- **Week 1:** Zacchaeus (Luke 19:2–10)
- **Week 2:** Martha and Mary (Luke 10:38–42)
- **Week 3:** The Visitation of Mary (Luke 1:39–49)
- **Week 4:** Jesus and the Little Children (Matthew 18:1–5 and 19:13–15)

Readings plans are taken from the book If You Walked with Jesus: A Guide to Ignatian Contemplative Prayer (Our Sunday Visitor), © Jerry Windley-Daoust. More resources can be found at gracewatch.org/shop.

Christmas

Many Christians forget that Christmas is not a single day, but an entire season that ends on the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. Here is a reading plan for the Christmas season;

- **Week 1:** The Birth of Jesus (Luke 2:1-20) or Following the Star of the Messiah (Matthew 2:1-12)
 - **Week 2:** The Holy Family Flees to Egypt (Matthew 2:13-15, 19-21)
 - **Week 3:** The Finding of Jesus in the Temple (Luke 2:41-51)
 - **Week 4:** John Baptizes Jesus in the River Jordan (Mark 1:4-11)
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Lent 1

This is the first of two Lenten reading plans; the second, below, suggests doing readings from the Passion during Holy Week:

- **Week 1:** The Last Supper (Luke 22:14-34)
 - **Week 2:** In the Garden of Gethsemane (Matthew 26:36-46) and/or Betrayal and Arrest (Mark 14:43-52) and/or Peter Denies Jesus (Luke 22:54-62)
 - **Week 3:** Jesus Before Pilate (Mark 15:1-20)
 - **Week 4:** The Way of the Cross (Luke 23:26-32)
 - **Week 5:** The Crucifixion of Jesus (Luke 23:33-43)
 - **Week 6:** The Death and Burial of Jesus (Luke 23:44-56)
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Lent 2

This Lenten reading plan is designed to be used with the reading plan for Holy Week (below).

- **Week 1:** Jesus Feeds the People (Matthew 14:14-20)
 - **Week 2:** Jesus Calls Peter to Walk on Water (Matthew 14:22-33)
 - **Week 3:** Jesus Heals a Blind Man (Mark 10:46-52)
 - **Week 4:** The Woman Caught in Adultery (John 8:2-11)
 - **Week 5:** The Raising of Lazarus (John 11:1-7, 17-44)
 - **Week 6:** Jesus Cleanses the Temple (Matthew 21:12-17)
 - **Week 7:** The Anointing of Jesus (John 12:1-8)
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Holy Week

This reading plan can be used by itself during Holy Week, or in addition to the second Lenten reading plan above.

- **Palm Sunday:** Jesus Enters Jerusalem (Luke 19:35-44)
 - **Monday:** The Last Supper (Luke 22:14-34)
 - **Tuesday:** In the Garden of Gethsemane (Matthew 26:36-46)
 - **Wednesday:** Betrayal and Arrest (Mark 14:43-52)
 - **Thursday:** Peter Denies Jesus (Luke 22:54-62) and/or Jesus Before Pilate (Mark 15:1-20)
 - **Friday:** The Way of the Cross (Luke 23:26-32) and/or The Crucifixion of Jesus (, Luke 23:33-43)
 - **Saturday:** The Death and Burial of Jesus (Luke 23:44-56)
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Easter

The Easter season lasts seven weeks, from Easter Sunday through the Feast of the Ascension. The first three weeks of this plan feature stories of the Resurrection; the remaining four weeks focus on themes of healing, renewal, and the call to discipleship.

- **Week 1:** The Resurrection of Jesus (Matthew 28:1-10)
 - **Week 2:** On the Road to Emmaus (Luke 24:13-35)
 - **Week 3:** Jesus Forgives Peter (John 21:1-19)
 - **Week 4:** The Daughter of Jairus and the Woman with a Hemorrhage (Luke 8:40-56)
 - **Week 5:** Jesus Calls Matthew and Eats with Sinners (Matthew 9:9-13)
 - **Week 6:** The Wedding at Cana (John 2:1-10)
 - **Week 7:** Jesus Sends His Disciples to Proclaim the Kingdom (Luke 10:1-12, 17-20)
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30 More Readings for Imaginative Prayer

1. The Annunciation (Luke 1:26–38)
2. The Circumcision (Luke 2:21)
3. The Presentation (Luke 2:22–39)
4. The Hidden Life of Jesus (Luke 2:51–52)
5. The Temptation of Christ (Luke 4:1–13; Matthew 4:1–11)
6. Jesus Calls His First Disciples (John 1:35–51)
7. Jesus Heals on the Sabbath (Mark 3:1–6)
8. Jesus Cures a Demoniac (Mark 5:1–20)
9. Jesus Cures the Paralytic at Bethesda (John 5:1–18)
10. Jesus Cures the Canaanite Woman's Daughter (Mark 7:24–30)
11. Jesus Cures the Deaf and Mute Man (Mark 7:31–37)
12. “I Am the Bread of Life” (John 6:22–69)
13. Peter Confesses Jesus Is the Messiah (Matthew 16:13–23)
14. Jesus Cures Ten Lepers (Luke 17:11–19)
15. Jesus Raises a Young Man from the Dead (John 7:11–17)
16. Jesus Cures a Man Born Blind from Birth (John 9:1–12)
17. Jesus Forgives the Sinful Woman (Luke 7:36–50)
18. The Widow's Mite (Mark 12:41–44)
19. Jesus Washes the Disciples' Feet (John 13:1–20)
20. The Agony in the Garden and the Arrest of Jesus
(Mark 14:32–52; Luke 22:39–53)
21. The Trial Before Pilate (John 18:28–19:16)
22. The Crucifixion and Death of Jesus (John 19:16–37)
23. The Resurrected Jesus Appears to His Mother*
24. The Resurrected Jesus Appears to Three Women (Mark 16:1–11)
25. The Resurrected Jesus Appears to Peter (Luke 24:33–34)
26. The Resurrected Jesus Appears to the Disciples in the Upper Room
(John 20:19–23)
27. The Resurrected Jesus Appears to Thomas (John 20:24–29)
28. The Great Commission (Matthew 28:16–20)
29. The Ascension (Acts 1:1–12)
30. The Resurrected Jesus Appears to Paul (Acts 9:1–19)