

Through the Bible in 24 Months



WEEK 2 OF 104

Called Out

Week 2 of 104 • 2% of the way through the Bible

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

General Old Testament	Genesis 8-16
Wisdom Literature	Proverbs 2
Gospels	Matthew 2:13-3:17
General New Testament	Acts 2:14-47

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

God keeps calling people out. This week Noah steps out of a boat onto a scrubbed, silent world and builds an altar before he builds a house. Abram walks away from a comfortable address in Ur without being told where the road ends. Wisdom, in Proverbs 2, asks you to dig like a man after silver rather than wait for insight to fall in your lap. Joseph carries a toddler out of Egypt by night, and Matthew hears in it an echo older than Herod. And on a feast day in Jerusalem, three thousand people hear a fisherman preach, ask what they should do, and are called out of a crooked generation into the Lord's church. Every one of them had to leave something behind.

How to use this guide: Read all four passages during the week. Your teacher will take up two of them in class, one in each session. For the other two, work through the "Extended Class Discussion or Self-Study" questions on your own and write your answers in the space provided.

GENERAL OLD TESTAMENT Genesis 8-16

The Rainbow and the Call

WHAT YOU WILL FIND HERE

The waters recede, Noah steps out, and God hangs a bow in the clouds and promises never again. Then the old trouble returns: a drunken father, a shamed son, a tower built to make a name. So God starts again, this time with one man. Abram leaves Ur, walks the length of Canaan, lies about his wife in Egypt, rescues Lot, meets a priest-king named Melchizedek, receives a covenant sealed at sunset, and then tries to help God keep it.

FOR CLASS DISCUSSION

1. Genesis 9:8-17 records the first covenant God makes after the flood. Trace what God promises, whom He promises it to, and talk about why He chose a sign that hangs in the sky where everyone can see it.
2. In Genesis 12:1-3 God tells Abram to leave his country, his kindred, and his father's house before He ever tells him where the road ends. What would that have cost a man his age, and where is God asking you to move before you can see the whole route?
3. Genesis 15:6 says Abram believed God and it was accounted to him for righteousness. Read James 2:21-23 beside it. How do those two passages fit together, and what kind of faith is it that God counts?

EXTENDED CLASS DISCUSSION OR SELF-STUDY

1. List everything God says to Noah in Genesis 9:1–17. Which of those words are promises, which are commands, and which of them still stand over the whole human race today?
2. Read Genesis 11:1–9 beside Acts 17:26–27. What were the builders at Babel actually after, and what good was God pursuing in scattering them?
3. Trace Abram's altars in Genesis 12:7–8 and 13:4, 18. What do those markers tell you about how a man lives in a land that is promised to him but not yet his?
4. Melchizedek occupies three verses in Genesis 14:18–20 and then disappears. Read Hebrews 7:1–10 and write down every point the Hebrews writer draws out of those three verses.
5. Genesis 16 records Abram and Sarai trying to help God keep a promise He had already guaranteed. Name one situation where you are tempted to force an outcome God has told you to wait for, and decide before Sunday what faithful waiting will actually look like this week.

WISDOM LITERATURE Proverbs 2

Dig Like It Is Silver

WHAT YOU WILL FIND HERE

Chapter 2 is one long sentence built on a hinge. First come the conditions, five or six of them stacked up: if you receive, if you treasure, if you incline, if you cry out, if you seek her as silver. Then comes the turn in verse 5: then you will understand the fear of the Lord. The rest of the chapter describes what that understanding does for you, guarding you from the crooked man, from the seductive woman, and from a path that quietly runs downhill.

FOR CLASS DISCUSSION

1. Read Proverbs 2:1–5 aloud and count the conditions before the promise arrives. What sort of effort is Solomon describing, and how does it differ from the way most of us actually approach the Bible?
2. Verse 6 says the Lord gives wisdom, while verse 4 says to search for it like hidden treasure. Hold those two together: how can wisdom be both a gift from God and something we have to dig for?

3. Proverbs 2:10–19 says wisdom delivers a man from two particular dangers, the man whose words are crooked and the woman whose words are smooth. Which of those two traps is set most skillfully for the people in this room, and how does wisdom actually do the delivering?

EXTENDED CLASS DISCUSSION OR SELF-STUDY

1. Write out the chapter as one long sentence in your own words: every “if” from verses 1 through 4, then every “then” from verses 5 through 11.
2. Compare Proverbs 2:6 with James 1:5. What is alike in the two promises, and what condition does James attach that Solomon assumes?
3. List the five things said in 2:12–15 about those who leave the paths of uprightness. Which of the five begins first in a person’s life?
4. Verses 21 and 22 promise that the upright will dwell in the land while the wicked are cut off. Since a proverb states how life generally goes rather than issuing a guarantee, how should you read that promise, and what does Psalm 73:1–17 add to it?
5. Searching for wisdom costs hours you currently spend on something else. Pick the specific half hour this week that you will give to Scripture, write it on your calendar, and tell one person so that it is not a private good intention.

GOSPELS Matthew 2:13–3:17

Out of Egypt, Into the Jordan

WHAT YOU WILL FIND HERE

An angel wakes Joseph in the night and the family runs for Egypt while Herod murders the little boys of Bethlehem. Herod dies, the family returns, and Jesus grows up in a nowhere town called Nazareth. Then the narrative jumps some thirty years. A man in camel’s hair is preaching in the Judean wilderness, calling a nation to repent and be baptized, warning the religious professionals to bear fruit, and then baptizing the One whose sandals he did not feel worthy to carry.

FOR CLASS DISCUSSION

1. Matthew stops three times in this reading to say a prophecy was fulfilled (2:15, 2:18, 2:23). Walk through each one and talk about what Matthew is building toward for his Jewish readers.
2. John tells the Pharisees and Sadducees to bear fruits worthy of repentance (3:8). Put that in ordinary words: what separates being sorry from repenting, and how would the people who live with you know which one had happened to you?
3. Jesus had no sin to confess, yet He insisted on being baptized to fulfill all righteousness (3:15). Why would the sinless Son of God submit to that, and what does His answer to John say to us about obeying God before we fully understand Him?

EXTENDED CLASS DISCUSSION OR SELF-STUDY

1. List each time an angel speaks to Joseph in 2:13–22 and write down what Joseph does next and how long he waits before doing it.
2. Read Hosea 11:1 in its own setting, then read Matthew 2:15. In what sense is Jesus being presented as the true and faithful Israel where the nation had failed?
3. The baptism John preached and the baptism the apostles later preached are not identical. Read Acts 19:1–5 and write down exactly what changed and why it mattered.
4. All three Persons of the Godhead appear at the Jordan in 3:16–17. Identify each one and what each is doing, and note what that scene settles about who Jesus is.
5. Fruit is specific, never general. Name one sin you have confessed more than once, decide on one concrete change this week that would count as fruit worthy of repentance, and tell someone who will ask you about it.

GENERAL NEW TESTAMENT Acts 2:14–47

The Day the Church Began

WHAT YOU WILL FIND HERE

Peter stands up with the eleven and preaches the first gospel sermon. He explains the noise from Joel, argues from David's own psalms that the Messiah had to rise, names the men in front of him as the ones who crucified

Him, and lands on a verdict: God has made this Jesus both Lord and Christ. The crowd is cut to the heart, asks what to do, and three thousand obey that day. The chapter closes with a snapshot of what they did next.

FOR CLASS DISCUSSION

1. Peter's sermon moves from Joel to David to Jesus and lands hard in 2:36. Follow the argument step by step. What is he proving, and what evidence does he put in front of the crowd?
2. The crowd interrupts in 2:37 and asks, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?" Read Peter's answer in verse 38 slowly. What exactly does he tell them to do, and for what stated purpose?
3. Acts 2:42–47 describes the life of the church in its first days. Which of those practices is hardest for our congregation to sustain right now, and what would it take from you personally, not from the elders, to strengthen it?

EXTENDED CLASS DISCUSSION OR SELF-STUDY

1. List every Old Testament passage Peter quotes in 2:14–36 and write beside each one what he proves from it.
2. Trace the language of salvation through 2:21, 2:40, and 2:47. Who does the saving, who is added, and what are they added to?
3. Peter says the promise is to you and your children and to all who are afar off (2:39). Read Acts 2:38 beside Romans 6:3–4 and Galatians 3:26–27. Into what, and into whom, is a person baptized?
4. Acts 2:44–45 says the believers had all things in common. Read Acts 5:4 and 2 Corinthians 9:7 and decide whether this was commanded or voluntary, and what it shows about their hearts.
5. The new Christians continued steadfastly in four things (2:42). Pick the one you have grown most casual about, name the specific change you will make before the Lord's Day, and make it.

NEXT WEEK'S READING: Genesis 17–24 · Proverbs 3 · Matthew 4:1–5:12 · Acts 3:1–4:22

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