

Through the Bible in 24 Months



WEEK 75 OF 104

The House and the Heart

Week 75 of 104 • 72% of the way through the Bible

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

General Old Testament	Jeremiah 6-9
Wisdom Literature	Psalms 98-101
Gospels	Luke 21
General New Testament	Titus 1-3

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

There is a way of being religious that depends entirely on a building, and God has never thought much of it. This week Jeremiah stands in the gate of the temple and tells the worshipers streaming past that chanting the name of the place will not save them, because God had already abandoned one sanctuary at Shiloh and could abandon another. A psalm invites you through the gates with thanksgiving, and the next one has a king promising to watch what he lets through his own front door. Jesus sits across from the treasury, praises a widow nobody noticed, and then says the great stones everyone was admiring are coming down. And Paul tells Titus how a household of God is actually built: with men of proven character, sound teaching, and lives that make the doctrine beautiful.

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 Jeremiah 6-9

Stand in the Old Paths

WHAT YOU WILL FIND HERE

Jeremiah warns of an army besieging Jerusalem, then delivers his most famous sermon standing in the gate of the temple itself: stop trusting lying words, stop saying the temple of the Lord over and over, and go look at what happened to Shiloh. He exposes prophets and priests who bandage a deep wound with a cheerful word. He walks past the burning valley of Topheth. He asks whether there is no balm in Gilead, and finishes by saying the only thing worth boasting about is knowing God.

FOR CLASS DISCUSSION

1. In Jeremiah 7:1-15 the people were saying, the temple of the Lord, the temple of the Lord, as if the building guaranteed their safety. Where are we tempted to let a place, a heritage, or an attendance record stand in for obedience?

2. Twice Jeremiah says the prophets healed the hurt of God's people slightly, crying peace, peace, when there was no peace (6:14; 8:11). Describe what a shallow healing looks like in a congregation, and why people prefer it.
3. Jeremiah 9:23–24 says do not boast in wisdom, might, or riches, but boast in understanding and knowing the Lord. Listen to how people talk about themselves for one day, including yourself. What do we actually glory in?

EXTENDED CLASS DISCUSSION OR SELF-STUDY

1. Write out everything God says the people must actually do in Jeremiah 7:3–7. How many of those requirements involve how they treat other people?
2. Read 1 Samuel 4:10–11 and Psalm 78:60 to learn what happened at Shiloh. Why does Jeremiah put Shiloh in front of people who felt safe in Jerusalem?
3. Jeremiah 7:22–23 says God did not speak to their fathers concerning burnt offerings but commanded them to obey His voice. Compare 1 Samuel 15:22, Hosea 6:6, and Micah 6:6–8. What is God ranking, and what is He not denying?
4. Trace the four commands of Jeremiah 6:16: stand, see, ask, walk. What answer do the people give, and where do you hear that same answer today?
5. Jeremiah 8:20 says the harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved. Name one thing you have been meaning to do for God for more than a year. What will you do about it in the next seven days?

WISDOM LITERATURE Psalm 98–101

Enter His Gates

WHAT YOU WILL FIND HERE

Psalm 98 calls for a new song because God has made His salvation known in the sight of all nations. Psalm 99 answers with holiness, three times over, and remembers that Moses, Aaron, and Samuel called on God and were answered. Psalm 100 is the shortest and most quoted of the four: make a joyful noise, serve the Lord with gladness, know that the Lord is God, enter His gates with thanksgiving. Then Psalm 101 turns from the temple gates to the door of a king's own house.

FOR CLASS DISCUSSION

1. Psalm 100:3 says know that the Lord is God, that He made us and we are His people and the sheep of His pasture. How would a person's Monday look different if he actually believed he did not make himself?
2. Psalm 101 is David's list of what he will and will not allow in his own house and before his own eyes. Work through his list, then talk honestly about what a Christian version of that list would include in a home with screens in every room.
3. Psalm 99:8 says God forgave them and also took vengeance on their inventions. How do forgiveness and consequence sit together in the same verse, and where have you seen both in a life you know?

EXTENDED CLASS DISCUSSION OR SELF-STUDY

1. Psalm 98 gives reasons for the new song. List what God has done in verses 1 through 3, and note who is said to see it.
2. Three times Psalm 99 says He is holy or holy is He (verses 3, 5, 9). Read Isaiah 6:1–5 alongside it. Why does holiness keep getting repeated rather than explained?
3. Count the commands in Psalm 100, then name the reason given in verses 3 and 5 for each half of the psalm. Which reason do you most need on a hard week?
4. Write out every I will statement in Psalm 101. Which one would be hardest for you to keep for a month?
5. Psalm 101:3 says I will set no wicked thing before my eyes. Name one specific thing you will remove, block, or stop watching this week, and tell someone you have done it.

GOSPELS Luke 21

Two Mites and Great Stones

WHAT YOU WILL FIND HERE

Jesus watches people drop gifts into the treasury and points out a widow who gave two small coins, all she had to live on. Someone remarks how beautiful the temple is with its goodly stones, and Jesus says not one stone will be left on another. The disciples ask when. He warns of deceivers, wars, arrests, betrayal by family, and a Jerusalem surrounded by armies, tells them to flee when they see it, and says to watch and pray so their hearts are not weighed down.

FOR CLASS DISCUSSION

1. Jesus says the widow put in more than all the rich, though her two coins would not buy a meal (21:1–4). How does He measure a gift, and what would that measure say about your own giving this year?
2. The disciples are admiring the temple stones when Jesus tells them the whole thing is coming down. Why do we attach so much to impressive buildings and institutions, and how should Christians hold such things?
3. In 21:34–36 Jesus warns that hearts get weighed down with dissipation, drunkenness, and the cares of this life. Of those three, which one dulls a faithful church member most often, and how would you know it was happening to you?

EXTENDED CLASS DISCUSSION OR SELF-STUDY

1. List everything Jesus says will happen before the destruction of Jerusalem in 21:8–19. Which of those things did the apostles actually live through, according to Acts?
2. Read Luke 21:20–24 beside Luke 19:41–44. What sign does Jesus give, and what specific instruction does He give to disciples who see it?
3. Jesus promises in 21:14–15 a mouth and wisdom their adversaries cannot resist. Compare Acts 4:13 and Acts 6:10. Why is that promise not a reason for a preacher today to skip preparation?
4. Trace the contrast Luke sets up between 20:46–47 and 21:1–4. What does putting those two paragraphs next to each other say about how God evaluates religious people?
5. The widow gave everything she had to live on. Name one gift you could make this month that would actually be felt in your budget or your schedule, and set the date for it now.

GENERAL NEW TESTAMENT Titus 1–3

Setting the Church in Order

WHAT YOU WILL FIND HERE

Paul left Titus on Crete to set in order what was unfinished and to appoint elders in every city, and he lists what such a man must be: blameless, the husband of one wife, self controlled, hospitable, holding fast the faithful word. Then he gives Titus a house full of assignments: older men, older women, younger women, young men,

and servants, each with something to do so that the doctrine is adorned. The letter ends with the washing of regeneration and a warning about divisive men.

FOR CLASS DISCUSSION

1. Read the qualifications for elders in Titus 1:6–9 aloud. Almost every item concerns character rather than ability. Why would God build the leadership of His church that way, and what does it say about what leadership actually is?
2. Titus 2:10 says Christians should adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in all things. Describe what it looks like when someone's life makes the teaching attractive, and what it looks like when a life makes it repulsive.
3. Titus 3:5 says He saved us, not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit. Work through that verse phrase by phrase. What is ruled out, and what is not?

EXTENDED CLASS DISCUSSION OR SELF-STUDY

1. Sort the qualifications in Titus 1:6–9 into three groups: his household, his character, and his handling of the word. Which group is longest, and what does that tell you?
2. Titus 2:11–14 says the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared, teaching us something. List what grace teaches us to deny and what it teaches us to live.
3. Read Titus 3:1–2 and write out the duties Christians owe to people outside the church. How many of them concern speech?
4. Compare Titus 3:9–11 with Romans 16:17–18. What kind of person is to be rejected, how many warnings does he get, and what is the difference between a divisive man and a brother who simply disagrees?
5. Titus 2 gives every age and station a job. Find your own row in that chapter, write out what Paul assigns you, and name one person you will begin doing it with or for this month.

NEXT WEEK'S READING: Jeremiah 10–15 · Psalm 102–103 · Luke 22:1–30 · Philemon

More studies available on ChurchOfChristBibleStudies.com