

BIBLE READING PROGRAM 2021

MARCH 1

1 THESSALONIANS 1

Kingdom Principle: What is discipleship? How is it modelled in this passage and what does it look like? Are your actions and the way you live a good model for those around you?

MARCH 2

1 THESSALONIANS 2:1-3

Kingdom Principle: How were Paul, Silas and Timothy treated in Philippi? How can Christians expect to be treated today?

MARCH 3

1 THESSALONIANS 2:4-6

Kingdom Principle: The ancients who valued philosophy valued people speaking 'boldly' or 'bluntly' in truth rather than with 'flattery'. This was also Paul's tactic. He was not looking to be popular but to speak the truth in love. How can we speak the 'truth' without trying to soften it to make people like us? How do we tell the truth of the gospel message in a loving way? What does that look like?

MARCH 4

PROVERBS 1:1-19

Kingdom Principle: How does the wisdom in the Bible translate into our lives today? How can Christians balance reaching out to our friends without compromising ourselves?

MARCH 5

1 THESSALONIANS 2:7-20

Kingdom Principle: The ancient Greeks thought that there was no higher expression of love than to die for someone. Paul risked his own life to share the gospel with them (Acts 17:7-9). Jesus also gave up his life for us! To what extent would you go to in order to show love to the world you live in? Those you know and those you don't know.

MARCH 6

PROVERBS 1:20-33

Kingdom Principle: If we intentionally ignore wisdom, how long until we forget about it altogether? How can we tune in to God's wisdom and not the worlds?

MARCH 7

1 THESSALONIANS 3:1-5

Kingdom Principle: Being persecuted for your faith. Do you have the kind of faith that can withstand people bagging you for your Christian beliefs?

MARCH 8

1 THESSALONIANS 3:6-13

Kingdom Principle: Loving one another. How can you increase in your love for your EPIC Youth brothers and sisters?

MARCH 9

PROVERBS 2:1-15

Kingdom Principle: Solomon tells us that humbling ourselves to the Lord's wisdom has many benefits and guards our path. What are some of these benefits? What practical things can we do to actively 'apply our heart to understanding' God's wisdom?

MARCH 10

1 THESSALONIANS 4:1-8

Kingdom Principle: Living by God's standard, not the world's standards. This means living out Kingdom Culture even when it is counter-cultural! Can you identify what 'standards' God is calling us to live by in this verse? Are they similar or different to the current standards we see in society today?

MARCH 11

PROVERBS 2:16-22

Kingdom Principle: Each day, we have to make the conscious decision to follow God and 'keep to the paths of the righteous', we can't flip between following God and not. What does it look like to be righteous in today's context?

MARCH 12

1 THESSALONIANS 4:9-12

Kingdom Principle: Loving God and others but also setting an example to those around you that you have good character by the way that you work hard. How would you describe your character? What is your work ethic like?

MARCH 13

PROVERBS 3:1-12

Kingdom Principle: Trusting in God is more than just a mental exercise, it's a lifestyle that comes from a transformation in our hearts. What are some things in our lives we've been holding on to that we need to surrender to God?

MARCH 14

1 THESSALONIANS 4:13-18

Kingdom Principle: Knowing that we live for eternity. Although we still grieve those who we have lost, we have hope that it is only a temporary 'goodbye' because we will see them again in heaven. Do you live your life with an eternal perspective? Do you live as someone who has a hope of eternity?

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MARCH 15

1 THESSALONIANS 5:1-11

Kingdom Principle: Knowing that Jesus will return in the last days and he will judge all people. If Jesus were to come back today, would you be ready?

MARCH 16

PROVERBS 3:13-20

Kingdom Principle: Solomon describes having God's wisdom as greater than any material possessions or wealth. Since it's so much more valuable, how much more should we be pursuing God's wisdom over materialism? What are some things that can often get in the way of us prioritising God in our day to day? How can we put God first?

MARCH 17

1 THESSALONIANS 5:19-28

Kingdom Principle: Not quenching the spirit, but testing all things. Are there mindsets in the way of you being open to the Spirit of God? What is this verse saying?

MARCH 18

2 THESSALONIANS 1:1-4

Kingdom Principle: Persevering in your walk with Jesus even when you are under pressure from the world around you. Have you even been under pressure to do something you know was not something Jesus would have done? How can you hold firm to your ways next time you are under pressure? Why does it matter?

MARCH 19

PROVERBS 3:21-35

Kingdom Principle: When we apply God's wisdom in our lives, we can have confidence in knowing that we are on the right path. The wisdom of God isn't a secret to keep for ourselves, how can we share this with the people in our world?

MARCH 20

1 THESSALONIANS 1:5-10

Kingdom Principle: Obeying the commands, teaching and ways of Jesus. What does this verse warn about those who don't follow Jesus? Are there things you think the Holy Spirit might want to bring to your attention so you can continue your walk with Jesus as faithfully as possible? What are those things?

MARCH 21

1 THESSALONIANS 2:11-12

Kingdom Principle: glorifying God in our words and actions. What is the 'fruit' of your life? Does the way you live represent Jesus' love, mercy, sacrifice and grace?

MARCH 22

PROVERBS 4:1-19

Kingdom Principle: Solomon recalls the lessons that were taught to him by his father, King David. David encouraged Solomon to have a receptive heart and to get "wisdom". Who in our world can we turn to for encouragement and accountability in the journey of pursuing God's wisdom?

MARCH 23

2 THESSALONIANS 2:1-12

Kingdom Principle: Knowing that Jesus will return to restore all things and make all things right. Jesus will also judge the whole world. No one knows the time or day, but we all need to be ready and live with a sense of urgency. We don't need to be afraid of the return of Jesus, but we do need to be ready. This should also spark in us a sense of urgency to tell the world around us about the good news of Jesus. Who could you share the good news of Jesus with today?

MARCH 24

2 THESSALONIANS 2:13-17

Kingdom Principle: Knowing we are chosen and loved by God. Are you walking in the confidence of knowing you are loved by God today?

MARCH 25

PROVERBS 4:20-27

Kingdom Principle: We often associate wisdom with the mind and intellectual thinking, but Solomon relates it to the heart. Why? How can we guard our heart from the things around us? What are some things we need to be particularly wary of?

BIBLE READING PROGRAM 2021

MARCH 26

2 THESSALONIANS 3:1-5

Kingdom Principle: Praying that the good news of Jesus spreads throughout the world, but also participating in sharing the good news ourselves. What does this verse say about God's faithfulness? How does this encourage us to live?

MARCH 27

2 THESSALONIANS 3:6-18

Kingdom Principle: Working hard (when we can) and making sure those in need are also being looked after. Are you making sure that those in need are being looked after?

MARCH 28

PROVERBS 5:1-14

Kingdom Principle: Solomon describes adulterous sin as being like honey and oil, sweet and pleasant – but over time that sweetness turns to bitterness. The things we are tempted by are often short lived gratification. How can we have a Kingdom mindset with a focus on the future and everlasting joy of the lord as opposed to short term indulgence?

MARCH 29

GALATIANS 1

Kingdom Principle: Not live for the approval of others, but of God. If you were honest today, who would you say you a living for the approval of?

MARCH 30

PROVERBS 5:15-23

Kingdom Principle: God is our provider and we should renew our gratitude and be thankful for what we do have instead of envying others for what we don't. What are some things that we can be grateful for? How can we change our mindset to have an attitude of gratitude?

MARCH 31

GALATIANS 2:1-10

Kingdom Principle: Knowing that God accepts all people. Do you live with the same heart towards people?

APRIL 1

PROVERBS 6:1-5

Kingdom Principle: Solomon warns of guaranteeing the debts of others, which means to promise to pay the debts of someone else if they failed to pay. Though this doesn't sound like a bad thing on the surface, it does mean that you are putting someone else responsible for your own finances and it doesn't encourage that person to be responsible for their own finances either. How can we be good stewards of our finances?

APRIL 2

GALATIANS 2:11-14

Kingdom Principle: Standing up for the truth of the gospel. Here Paul rebukes Peter. Peter has an encounter with God in Acts 10 where God tells him it is ok to eat and hang out with Gentiles (people who were not Jewish). He is then influenced by seemingly well-meaning people who tell him not to. He then turns back to 'religious ways' instead of living in the freedom of Christ. Do not listen to popular opinion, but to the word of God. Are you being influenced in a negative way?

APRIL 3

GALATIANS 2:15-21

Kingdom Principle: Knowing that you are not saved by what you 'do' but by your faith in Jesus. Not continue to sin. What is sin and what is Paul saying in this passage about sinning?

APRIL 4

PROVERBS 6:6-15

Kingdom Principle: We should strive to work hard and avoid the temptation of procrastination and laziness. If we procrastinate too much and too often, the repercussions will creep up on us. How can we keep ourselves accountable to our schedules? Are there times when we procrastinate our faith?

APRIL 5

GALATIANS 3:1-14

Kingdom Principle: Living by faith. Paul is talking about the Old Testament Law and faith. What connection is he making here? Who are the Gentiles and why is it important that they are included in God's plan?

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APRIL 6

PROVERBS 6:16-19

Kingdom Principle: If we are to live our Kingdom Culture, we must do our best to avoid these six things: Pride, lies, bloodshed, maliciousness, troublemaking, false witness and lastly the result of the above: disunity. How can we love our neighbour through Kingdom Culture? How is that different from the world?

APRIL 7

GALATIANS 3:15-22

Kingdom Principle: Standing firm on the promises of God. What are the promises that Paul is talking about in this passage?

APRIL 8

GALATIANS 3:23-29

Kingdom Principle: Knowing we are all one in Christ Jesus. What is Paul saying about being 'one in Christ Jesus'? Paul is calling for us to be counter-cultural and break down barriers which hold people back from being seen as not equal. Are there any barriers between us and others that need to come down? What does this mean for us today?

APRIL 9

PROVERBS 6:20-29

Kingdom Principle: If we 'bind' God's wisdom in our hearts and memorise it, it will guide us, watch over us and speak to us. Lighting and leading the way. Are we remembering what we read in the Bible? What can we do to 'bind' God's word on our heart?

APRIL 10

GALATIANS 4

Kingdom Principle: Knowing that you are called a child of God. 'Abba, Father' is an intimate term for a Dad. This shows us how close God wants to be with us. Are you living your life fully aware of the close relationship God wants to have with you? Or are you putting him at a distance?

APRIL 11

PROVERBS 6:30-35

Kingdom Principle: When a thief steals because they're starving, people are more sympathetic to them. However, to be just, the thief still must pay back what he stole. But adultery cannot be paid back. A thief sins out of necessity, an adulterer out of desire. How can we bring accountability and wisdom into our relationships?

APRIL 12

GALATIANS 5:1-12

Kingdom Principle: Knowing that we are not saved by what we 'do' but through our faith in Jesus.

APRIL 13

PROVERBS 7

Kingdom Principle: Solomon compares the trap of sin to 'an ox going to the slaughter'. The ox doesn't know it's fate, it thinks it's heading to greener pastures and a better life, but the path it's on leads to death. What can we do to stop ourselves falling into temptation's traps.

APRIL 14

GALATIANS 5:13-15

Kingdom Principle: Having freedom in Jesus. How are you using your freedom? See Shelley's message on 'It's my right' on YouTube (20th Nov 2020) for teaching on how to use our freedom in Christ.

APRIL 15

GALATIANS 5:16-26

Kingdom Principle: Living by the Spirit and not by the flesh. This means living by God's standards and not giving into our human desires. What does living by the Spirit look like, what is its 'fruit'? What are 'acts of the flesh'? What might you need to either start or stop in order to live by the Spirit and not the flesh?

APRIL 16

PROVERBS 8:1-11

Kingdom Principle: The wisdom that God gives is open and available to everyone. It's up to us to tune in and receive it. Are you intentionally seeking quiet time to hear from God?

APRIL 17

GALATIANS 6

Kingdom Principle: Good to all people.

APRIL 18

PROVERBS 8:12-21

Kingdom Principle: The pursuit of wealth and prosperity corrupts, but in the pursuit of wisdom, wealth is given. Are we pursuing wisdom with diligence and love, or are we using it as an means to an end.