

# **Lutheran Church of Australia**

## **How to read the Bible**

### **January**

## **Read through the New Testament**

Daily Devotions with thought-starters and prayer

© Pastor Richard Haar

*Get Into It Any Way You Can!*

#### **January 1st - Hebrews 4:1-16.**

Reflect: It is not enough to hear the Gospel, we need to believe it and to live by it. Jesus, our great high priest and bearer of God's grace, enables us to do precisely that!

*Prayer: "Saviour, thank you that your mercy never fails! Amen."*

#### **January 2nd - Hebrews 5:1-14.**

Reflect: God appointed Jesus to act as high priest. In other words, God was active through Christ to bring about the necessary sacrifice (and thus forgiveness) for sin.

*Prayer: "Heavenly Father, thank you for sending Jesus to be my saviour. Amen."*

#### **January 3rd - Hebrews 6:1-20.**

Reflect: Are the elementary teachings of Christianity clear to you? Are you ready to move on to maturity in your Christian walk? Maturity means service of others!

*Prayer: "Lord Jesus, help me to know you, to trust in you and to serve you. Amen."*

#### **January 4th - Hebrews 7:1-28.**

Reflect: Jesus' priesthood is not based on the law but on a better covenant (the Gospel). Jesus is our eternal high priest who always intercedes for us before God.

*Prayer: "Lord and Saviour, thank you that you meet all my needs. Amen."*

#### **January 5th - Hebrews 8:1-13.**

Reflect: The old covenant of the Law was in itself good but could not save us because we sinners were unable to keep it! The new covenant saves sinners by forgiving them!

*Prayer: "Lord Jesus, thank you for the "better*

*promises" of the Gospel! Amen."*

**January 6th - Hebrews 9:1-28.**

Reflect: The sacrifice Jesus our high priest offers for our forgiveness is himself (his blood). His sacrifice of the cross was sufficient to win forgiveness for ALL sin.

*Prayer: "Lord Jesus, thank you that you were willing to die for me. Amen."*

**January 7th - Hebrews 10:1-18.**

Reflect: Nothing else needs to be done to win us forgiveness. Christ has **already** done it all for us on the cross! Salvation comes by trusting in what Jesus has done for us.

*Prayer: "Gracious Lord, thank you that you have won salvation for me. Amen."*

**January 8th - Hebrews 10:19-39.**

Reflect: God is faithful. This makes our hope for salvation 100% sure. This confidence in Christ is to be treasured, and to be shared and celebrated with others.

*Prayer: "Lord Jesus, use me to encourage others to grow in faith and love. Amen."*

**January 9th - Hebrews 11:1-19.**

Reflect: Without faith in Jesus, we can neither approach God nor please him. Only faith in Jesus can bridge the gap between us and God. Salvation is by faith alone.

*Prayer: "Lord, thank for all those who have encouraged my faith in you. Amen."*

**January 10th - Hebrews 11:20-40.**

Reflect: The believers in the Old Testament were saved by their faith in the coming Messiah (Christ). We are saved by our faith in Christ, who has already come.

*Prayer: "Lord, make me strong in faith too, especially in times of trouble. Amen."*

**January 11th - Hebrews 12:1-29.**

Reflect: The writer to the Hebrews suggests that the hardships of life are part of God's fatherly discipline. Troubles can be a time of spiritual growth (in trusting Jesus).

*Prayer: "Lord, sanctify me through and through and keep me faithful to you. Amen."*

**January 12th - Hebrews 13:1-25.**

Reflect: Despite what the world says, money **can't** buy happiness. Contentment in life grows out of our trust that God will faithfully take care of us in all situations.

*Prayer: "Lord Jesus, you are my helper; I will not be afraid. Amen."*

**January 13th - James 1:1-27.**

Reflect: What a great word of encouragement! "Ask God, who gives generously to all". The God we worship is generous in his love, forgiveness, and blessings!

*Prayer: "Lord, help me to always be confident about your goodness to me. Amen."*

**January 14th - James 2:1-26.**

Reflect: Faith shows itself in how you act. Faith is much more than intellectual knowledge, it is a relationship of trust towards Jesus, which bears the fruit of love.

*Prayer: "Lord, fill my heart with faith and my life with love. Amen."*

**January 15th - James 3:1-18.**

Reflect: Wisdom, like faith, is shown to be genuine by the wise **actions** that accompany it. Living by God's wisdom produces loving relationships with others.

*Prayer: "Lord God, make me wise, humble, and loving. Amen."*

**January 16th - James 4:1-17.**

Reflect: The only solution to our sinful egotism is to humble ourselves before God. Submitting ourselves to God and his will brings true joy in this life and the next.

*Prayer: "Heavenly Father, by your grace teach me humility and trust. Amen."*

**January 17th - James 5:1-20.**

Reflect: The healing we need most of all is forgiveness. For Christians to remain spiritually healthy, we have to confess our sins to each other and pray for one another.

*Prayer: "Lord, in your mercy, keep me and those I love spiritually healthy. Amen."*

**January 18th - 1 Peter 1:1-25.**

Reflect: We have an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This security in the Gospel enables us to face the troubles of life with faith, courage, and hope.

*Prayer: "Lord, when things are hard, make my faith shine even brighter. Amen."*

**January 19th - 1 Peter 2:1-25.**

Reflect: "A chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God." That's who we **are** in Christ! And that's the way we are called

to **live!**

*Prayer: "Lord Jesus, help me to "declare your praise" in all I do. Amen."*

**January 20th - 1 Peter 3:1-22.**

Reflect: Can people see the difference "the hope you have in you" makes in your life? And are you always ready to give your witness in a gentle and respectful way?

*Prayer: "Lord Jesus, may all that I do and all that I say honour you. Amen."*

**January 21st - 1 Peter 4:1-19.**

Reflect: Love covers a multitude of sins. In other words, when you deeply love another, you are able to accept them despite their failings. This is Christ-like love!

*Prayer: "Lord, help me to faithfully use my gifts in the service of others. Amen."*

**January 22nd - 1 Peter 5:1-14.**

Reflect: God cares for us. We know that he can carry our burdens better than we can. So what are you waiting for? Cast all your anxiety on Jesus, our loving Saviour!

*Prayer: "Lord Jesus, thank you for always being there when I need you! Amen."*

**January 23rd - 2 Peter 1:1-21.**

Reflect: Do you want to be effective in your Christian life? What you need is faith; goodness; knowledge; self-control; perseverance; godliness; kindness; and love.

*Prayer: "Lord, by your Spirit make all of these qualities grow in my life. Amen."*

**January 24th - 2 Peter 2:1-22.**

Reflect: We live in a world openly rebelling against the ways of God. Be warned, God's judgment is coming. So guard your faith and stay close to the Lord Jesus.

*Prayer: "Lord Jesus, keep me from being drawn away from you. Amen."*

**January 25th - 2 Peter 3:1-18.** Reflect: How ready would you be if Jesus were to return today? Every day Jesus "delays" his return is another opportunity for us to repent and prepare to meet him!

*Prayer: "Lord Jesus, today and always may I be ready for your coming. Amen."*

**January 26th - 1 John 1:1-10.**

Reflect: The bad news is that we constantly fail God and others. The good news is that God's mercy

and faithfulness are greater than our sin. We daily live by forgiveness!

*Prayer: "Heavenly Father, forgive the sins of this day, for Jesus' sake. Amen."*

**January 27th - 1 John 2:1-29.**

Reflect: Instead of loving the world, we are to love God. The practical demonstration of this love of God is our love for other people. Such love shows we belong to Christ!

*Prayer: "Lord Jesus, fill me with your love. Amen."*

**January 28th - 1 John 3:1-24.**

Reflect: 1 John 1:8 reminds us that we continue to sin as Christians. 1 John 3:6-10 also reminds us that Christians are daily called to repentance and holy living.

*Prayer: "Lord Jesus, may my love be not just talk, but be love in **action**! Amen."*

**January 29th - 1 John 4:1-21.**

Reflect: We learn to love others as we experience (and are changed by) God's great love for us in Christ! This is the power and motivation for us to be loving people.

*Prayer: "Saviour Jesus, thank you that you love me without limits! Amen."*

**January 30th - 1 John 5:1-21.**

Reflect: How do we overcome the troubles and temptations of life? Through faith in Jesus Christ! Through our faith in Christ we have forgiveness and eternal life.

*Prayer: "Lord Jesus, thank you that I have eternal life because of you. Amen."*

**January 31st - 2 John 1-13.**

Reflect: What's the Christian life all about?

Simply this: **Believe in Jesus Christ** (who reconciles us to God the Father) and **show love to one another** (as Jesus taught us to.)

*Prayer: "Lord, help me to believe in the **truth** and to live by your **love**. Amen."*

---