

Lutheran Church of Australia

How to read the Bible

July

Read through the New Testament

Daily Devotions with thought-starters and prayer

© Pastor Richard Haar

Get Into It Any Way You Can!

July 1st - Luke 23:26-43.

Reflect: Even while he was dying, Jesus reached out to save someone - the criminal crucified beside him. Jesus' death brings salvation to all who turn to him!

Prayer: "Lord Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom. Amen."

July 2nd - Luke 23:44-56.

Reflect: Close your eyes and imagine yourself at the foot of the cross. All is dark for three hours. Jesus cries out and dies. How do you feel? What would you say?

Prayer: "Lord, may my sin and pride be buried with you in your tomb. Amen."

July 3rd - Luke 24:1-35.

Reflect: Note the various reactions to meeting the risen Lord Jesus. We too encounter the risen Lord in his Word and in "the breaking of bread" (in Holy Communion).

Prayer: "Risen Lord Jesus, thank you that I too have met you. Amen."

July 4th - Luke 24:36-53.

Reflect: Jesus is alive! Jesus has won forgiveness for us! The Scriptures foretold this wonderful news and Jesus has made us witnesses to it (with the Holy Spirit's help!)

Prayer: "Lord Jesus, thank you for the privilege of witnessing about you! Amen."

July 5th - John 1:1-28.

Reflect: Because you have received Jesus; because you believe in him, you are God's child. None of this is possible because of our decision or power, but by God's grace!

Prayer: "Heavenly Father, thank you for making me your child in Jesus. Amen."

July 6th - John 1:29-51.

Reflect: Jesus is the Lamb of God (the sacrifice), who takes away the sin of the world. He takes away YOUR sin! He's someone to follow and someone to tell others about!

Prayer: "Lord Jesus, thank you for taking away my sin! Amen."

July 7th - John 2:1-25.

Reflect: Throughout his Gospel John describes Jesus' miracles as "signs". These have deeper significance than expected - they are events which call us to believe in Jesus.

Prayer: "Lord, help me to understand the "signs" and to believe in you. Amen."

July 8th - John 3:1-21.

Reflect: God loved the world so much - he loved YOU so much - that he sent Jesus to be our saviour. Believing in Jesus is the only way to receive eternal life.

Prayer: "Heavenly Father, thank you for loving me and for sending Jesus. Amen."

July 9th - John 3:22-36.

Reflect: God wants everyone to be saved. He sent Jesus to enable that to happen. If people reject Jesus, they exclude themselves from the salvation he brings!

Prayer: "Lord, you must become greater, and I must become less. Amen."

July 10th - John 4:1-30.

Reflect: To reach out to this Samaritan woman, Jesus overcame social, racial and religious barriers. There's a lesson in this for our witnessing and caring for others!

Prayer: "Lord Jesus, teach me to be more loving and accepting of others. Amen."

July 11th - John 4:31-54.

Reflect: The Samaritan woman's testimony brought her neighbours to Jesus, but they truly found faith when they themselves got to know Jesus personally.

Prayer: "Lord, help me to point to you and then to get out of the way. Amen."

July 12th - John 5:1-29.

Reflect: Jesus acts with the full authority of his Father (Jesus is God come as a human being). To believe in him means to have crossed over from death to life!

Prayer: "Lord Jesus, thank you for the new life I have in you. Amen."

July 13th - John 5:30-47.

Reflect: God's Word brings eternal life BECAUSE it testifies about Jesus! Our eternal destiny is determined by our attitude towards Jesus: To believe means to have life!

Prayer: "Lord, help me to believe what your Word says about you. Amen."

July 14th - John 6:1-24.

Reflect: Jesus asked Philip about feeding the great crowd to test him. What did Jesus want to teach Philip and the other disciples through this? What did you learn?

Prayer: "Lord Jesus, help me to trust that you can meet any challenge! Amen."

July 15th - John 6:25-59.

Reflect: Jesus is the bread of life. When we have him, we will never be spiritually hungry or thirsty again! Jesus promises not to turn away anyone who comes to him.

Prayer: "Lord, thank you that I am safe in your care, now and forever. Amen."

July 16th - John 6:60-71.

Reflect: No one can come to faith in Jesus unless God the Father enables him to. Everything we have as Christians (faith; forgiveness; eternal life), we have by grace!

Prayer: "Lord, by your life-giving grace, increase my faith in you. Amen."

July 17th John 7:1-24.

Reflect: Jesus' brothers did not believe in him. Do you face any opposition or ridicule for your faith from your family or friends? Talk to Jesus about it - he understands!

Prayer: "Lord, help me to witness more effectively to those I'm close to. Amen."

July 18th - John 7:25-52.

Reflect: People are still divided today about Jesus. The Holy Spirit (predicted here) alone can take away people's confusion and bring them to faith in Jesus.

Prayer: "Holy Spirit, pour in me your streams of living water. Amen."

July 19th - John 8:1-20.

Reflect: We are all sinners. Rather than condemning others, we ought to point our fellow sinners to Jesus, so that we might all find forgiveness in him.

Prayer: "Lord Jesus, thank you that you accept me, despite my sin. Amen."

July 20th - John 8:21-38.

Reflect: Knowing Jesus is to know the truth which sets us free! When Jesus sets us free from sin, we are *truly* free, *really* free, *totally* free! Free indeed!

Prayer: *"Lord Jesus, help me to celebrate the freedom I have in you! Amen."*

July 21st - John 8:39-59.

Reflect: Before Abraham was born, Jesus already existed. Whoever keeps Jesus' word will never see death. These are amazing claims. What's more, they're also TRUE!

Prayer: *"Jesus, help me to recognise you as my Lord and my God! Amen."*

July 22nd - John 9:1-17.

Reflect: Sickness is **not** a punishment for sin, says Jesus. Here it provides an opportunity for God's power to be displayed. It's also a call for US to show mercy!

Prayer: *"Lord, help me to trust you, in sickness and in health. Amen."*

July 23rd - John 9:18-41.

Reflect: The physical blindness of the man born blind was nothing compared to the spiritual blindness of the Jewish leaders! They didn't WANT to see!

Prayer: *"Lord Jesus, keep me from spiritual blindness and hardness of heart. Amen."*

July 24th - John 10:1-21.

Reflect: Jesus is the good shepherd who lays down his life for his sheep. Where could life be safer or more fulfilling than in Jesus' sheepfold? Nowhere!!!!

Prayer: *"Good Shepherd, I just love being one of your sheep! Amen."*

July 25th - John 10:22-42.

Reflect: Jesus' sheep listen to his voice, he knows them (personally!), and they follow him. How accurately does that describe your relationship with Jesus right now?

Prayer: *"Good Shepherd, help me to hear your voice and to follow you. Amen."*

July 26th - John 11:1-27.

Reflect: Jesus says that he is the source of resurrection and life. Through our faith in him, we too share in Jesus' resurrection and life. How does this fact change your life?

Prayer: *"Lord Jesus, help me to live and believe in you. Amen."*

July 27th - John 11:28-57.

Reflect: It's one thing to claim power over death, it quite another thing to show you really do have this power! Note that this miracle was the last straw for the Pharisees!

Prayer: "Lord, thank you that one day you will call me back to life too. Amen."

July 28th - John 12:1-26.

Reflect: Would you be willing to give up a year's wages to anoint Jesus (worship him)? Jesus, on the way to his death for us, is worthy of the absolute best we have!!

Prayer: "Lord, help me to place worshipping you above everything else. Amen."

July 29th - John 12:27-50.

Reflect: God the Father points us to the moment of Jesus' glorification: His death for us on the cross. It is this sacrificial love on the cross which draws us all to Jesus!

Prayer: "Lord Jesus, believing in you means believing in the Father also. Amen."

July 30th - John 13:1-20.

Reflect: Jesus has served us all through his life and death. He calls us to imitate his example in servanthood (in foot washing!); to give ourselves in service of others.

Prayer: "Lord, help me to be a servant to those around me, in your name. Amen."

July 31st - John 13:21-38.

Reflect: Jesus summarises for us how we should live as Christians: Our lives are to be marked by love! The more we take in Jesus' love, the more we are able to love others!

Prayer: "Lord Jesus, thank you for loving me. Help me to love others. Amen."