

Lutheran Church of Australia

How to read the Bible

May

Read through the New Testament

Daily Devotions with thought-starters and prayer

□ Pastor Richard Haar

Get Into It Any Way You Can!

May 1st - Mark 10:1-31.

Reflect: If you had to give up your riches to follow Jesus, would you do it instantly (gladly) or would you go away sad? Is money a spiritual stumbling block for you?

Prayer: "Lord, by your grace, keep me free from the love of money. Amen."

May 2nd - Mark 10:32-52.

Reflect: Jesus' suffering servanthood for our salvation is both example and motivation for our service of others! Who could you reach out to with Christ's love this week?

Prayer: "Lord Jesus, thank you that you gave your life to ransom me! Amen."

May 3rd - Mark 11:1-19.

Reflect: When Jesus came to Jerusalem, like the fig tree, the fruit he was looking for was missing! Would you greet his arrival to your home with hosannas or with fear?

Prayer: "Lord Jesus, produce in me the fruit you want me to show. Amen."

May 4th - Mark 11:20-33.

Reflect: Here's a simple recipe for prayer, which comes with Jesus' own stamp of approval: Faith in Christ and a forgiving heart for others! Which do you find harder?

Prayer: "Lord, strengthen my faith in you and fill me with your forgiving love. Amen."

May 5th - Mark 12:1-27.

Reflect: Jesus teaches us we ought to responsibly pay our taxes. Even more importantly, we ought to fulfil our obligations to God! How do you fare with each?

Prayer: "Heavenly Father, help me to be a person of honesty and

integrity. Amen."

May 6th - Mark 12:28-44.

Reflect: Loving God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength and our neighbour as ourselves is truthfully what we ought to do. But we don't! Lord, forgive us!

Prayer: "Lord, forgive me for my failings, help me to live by your grace! Amen."

May 7th - Mark 13:1-23.

Reflect: To be forewarned is to be fore-armed! The future will present us with difficult and troubled times. The only hope of surviving all this is to stay close to Jesus!

Prayer: "Lord, help me to stand firm to the very end. Amen."

May 8th - Mark 13:24-37.

Reflect: The most enduring thing of all are the words (promises) of Jesus. We can count on them and safely build our lives on them - for now and for eternity!

Prayer: "Lord Jesus, help me to know, love, and trust your Word. Amen."

May 9th - Mark 14:1-26.

Reflect: When was the last time you did something extravagant for Jesus (simply because you love him)? What would help you to become more generous?

Prayer: "Lord Jesus, move me to give my very best for you! Amen."

May 10th - Mark 14:27-50.

Reflect: Despite Peter's bold claims, Jesus knew he would fail under pressure. Jesus also knows your weaknesses (and forgives them!) How does that make you feel?

Prayer: "Lord, thank you that YOU never let me down or fail me! Amen."

May 11th - Mark 14:51-72.

Reflect: What have you done in your life which, like Peter, made you break down and weep? Jesus suffered for that sin too! Jesus' blood declares us "not guilty!"

Prayer: "Jesus, thank you for all that you went through to save me! Amen."

May 12th - Mark 15:1-20.

Reflect: Close your eyes and try to picture Jesus' silence when faced with unjust accusations, a blood-thirsty lynch mob and the mockery of his brutal torturers.

Prayer: "Lord, you gave yourself for me, now I give myself to you. Amen."

May 13th - Mark 15:21-47.

Reflect: On the cross, Jesus felt forsaken by God. He felt the full weight of God's (just) anger at our sin. Nothing now separates us from God: The debt is paid in full!

Prayer: "Lord Jesus, thank you for paying the debt of all my sin. Amen."

May 14th - Mark 16:1-20.

Reflect: The stone was rolled away and the tomb empty! Jesus is alive! Jesus promises us new life too! This is wonderful news, the best news! Who will you tell? Today?

Prayer: "Lord Jesus, thank you for the new life you give me. Amen."

May 15th - Luke 1:1-25.

Reflect: Luke's Gospel was written for Theophilus so he could be sure that the things he had been taught about Jesus were true. It still serves the same function for us!

Prayer: "Lord, open my ears and heart to hear and believe your Word. Amen."

May 16th - Luke 1:26-56.

Reflect: Even though the promise of Jesus' birth was puzzling, Mary nevertheless gave herself willingly in God's service. What a wonderful example of faith for us!

Prayer: "Lord Jesus, use me in your service. Amen."

May 17th - Luke 1:57-80.

Reflect: Which of the many promises listed in Zechariah's song speaks the most to you right now? How does this promise help your faith? your Christian living?

Prayer: "Lord, guide my feet into the path of peace. Amen."

May 18th - Luke 2:1-20.

Reflect: The angels tell us who Jesus is: He is Christ (the promised saviour), who is the Lord (God). God has come to save us - that's news worth believing and sharing!

Prayer: "Lord Jesus, help me to spread the word about you. Amen."

May 19th - Luke 2:21-52.

Reflect: Like Simeon, having seen Jesus (believing in him) we can live and die in peace. Like Anna we can praise God because of it and tell others the Good News.

Prayer: "Lord, help me, like Mary, to treasure these truths in my heart. Amen."

May 20th - Luke 3:1-18.

Reflect: John the Baptist's role was to prepare the way for Jesus. We too are called to help others to be ready for Jesus coming, so "All mankind will see God's salvation."

"Prayer: "Lord Jesus, thank you for all those who helped me to know you. Amen."

May 21st - Luke 3:19-38.

Reflect: At Jesus' baptism, God said, "You are my Son, whom I love, with you I am well pleased." God says that about us too, when we are united to Jesus in our baptism!

Prayer: "Heavenly Father, thank you for my new identity in Jesus. Amen."

May 22nd - Luke 4:1-30.

Reflect: Jesus was tempted (but without sinning). God's Word gives us guidance when we are tempted (and tells us of Jesus' forgiveness when we give in to temptation.)

Prayer: "Lord Jesus, mercifully protect me in times of temptation. Amen."

May 23rd - Luke 4:31-44.

Reflect: The demons had enough sense to recognise who Jesus was. They even did (reluctantly) what he commanded them. How about us?!

Prayer: "Lord, help me to both know you and to obey you (willingly!) Amen."

May 24th - Luke 5:1-26.

Reflect: The paralytic man finally got to meet Jesus - and was forgiven and healed - because of the persistence and faith of his friends. Your friends need Jesus too!

Prayer: "Lord Jesus, help me to bring my friends to you. Amen."

May 25th - Luke 5:27-39.

Reflect: Jesus freely mixed with the "down-and-outs". He loved them. He wants us to love them and care for them too. We're all the same: we all need forgiveness!

Prayer: "Lord Jesus, fill me with your compassion for people in need. Amen."

May 26th - Luke 6:1-26.

Reflect: Would you feel blessed if you had to endure poverty, hunger, sorrow, or persecution for your faith? The blessing is in belonging to God's kingdom!

Prayer: "Lord, keep me close to you in the midst of life's troubles! Amen."

May 27th - Luke 6:27-47.

Reflect: Jesus calls us to be more like him - to be full of love! Our heavenly Father is merciful. How much of the family resemblance [God's] can be seen in you?

Prayer: "Lord, fill my heart and life with your compassion and love."

Amen."

May 28th - Luke 7:1-28.

Reflect: Who would dare to stop a funeral procession? Jesus did! He feels the same compassion over our loss and grief. He also promises to raise us to eternal life!

Prayer: "Lord Jesus, help me to trust in you when confronted by death. Amen."

May 29th - Luke 7:29-50.

Reflect: Jesus was a friend of tax collectors and sinners. He still is! He lovingly accepts us and forgives us. Such great love moves us to love Jesus in return.

Prayer: "Lord Jesus, thank you for your love, acceptance, and forgiveness. Amen."

May 30th - Luke 8:1-25.

Reflect: What are some of the things that make you deaf to God's Word or hinder its influence on your life? God wants us to put his Word into practice!

Prayer: "Lord, make me eager to both hear and to live by your Word. Amen."

May 31st - Luke 8:26-56.

Reflect: Our coming to faith mightn't be as dramatic as this man with the demons, but we are all called to, "Return home and tell how much God has done for you."

Prayer: "Lord, thank you for saving me. Help me to tell others about it. Amen."