



# Waterford Mennonite Church

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Dear Waterford attender,

Welcome to the Year of the Bible (YOTB) at Waterford Mennonite Church! As pastors we are excited to launch this new year-long emphasis on the Bible as God's word to us and record of God's love story with humankind. YOTB at Waterford will have many different activities and entry points for you to engage with us. You will find an overview of these entry points in the three-part brochure inside this binder cover, which was also put into church boxes earlier this month.

The binder in your hands is meant to be a resource guide for you and your family as we journey together through the Bible. We are starting by giving out one binder per household. However more are available if others in your household would like their own binder. Besides the general brochure for YOTB, you will find the following in it:

- *A bookmark showing the daily passages for our collective Bible reading plan*, by which you can read through the Bible in a year
- *A larger bookmark, highlighting the Heilsgeschichte (salvation history) timeline* of Bible events, which we will be following throughout the year. This draws from material developed by Prof. Marion Bontrager for Hesston College's BibLit class.
- *A color foldout* of the same enlarged Heilsgeschichte timeline
- *A chart showing all the daily passages in the Bible reading plan* for the year
- *A chart showing dates, themes and Scriptures* that will be featured in our Sunday worship services, a quarter of the year at a time.
- *A weekly handout:*
  - The front side focuses on elements from this Sunday's worship – Scripture focus, noteworthy items, and questions for personal reflection. Some people may use this page as a personal journal of sorts from YOTB worship.
  - The back side looks ahead at the next week – the Bible reading texts for the week along with reflection questions, the current passage to take to heart (memorize), and a preview of next week's worship theme and Scriptures.
  - The handouts will be distributed for a month at a time in church boxes, and will later be available on the church website.

We pray that these resources, and YOTB as a whole, will deepen your understanding of the Bible, strengthen your faith and draw you closer to God.

In God's love,

*Neil Amstutz*

Pastor Neil Amstutz



# Through the Bible in One Year Chronological Reading Plan

## Week of Aug. 31

- Gen. 1-2
- John 1:1-3; Ps. 8, 104
- Gen. 3-5
- Gen. 6-7
- Gen. 8-9; Ps. 12
- Gen. 10-11

## Week of Sept. 7

- Gen. 12-13
- Gen. 14-16
- Gen. 17-19
- Gen. 20-23
- Gen. 24-26
- Gen. 27-29

## Week of Sept. 14

- Gen. 30-33
- Gen. 34-37
- Gen. 38-40
- Gen. 41-43
- Gen. 44-46
- Gen. 47-50

## Week of Sept. 21

- Job 1-5
- Job 6-9
- Job 10-13
- Job 14-17
- Job 18-21
- Job 22-24

## Week of Sept. 28

- Job 25-28
- Job 29-32
- Job 33-36
- Job 37:1-40:5; Ps. 19
- Job 40:6-42:17; Ps. 29
- Ex. 1-4

## Week of Oct. 5

- Ex. 5-9
- Ex. 10-13
- Ex. 14-18
- Ex. 19-21
- Ex. 22-24
- Ex. 25-28

## Week of Oct. 12

- Ex. 29-32
- Ex. 33-36
- Ex. 37-40
- Lev. 1-4
- Lev. 5-7
- Lev. 8-10

## Week of Oct. 19

- Lev. 11-14
- Lev. 15-18
- Lev. 19-22
- Lev. 23-25
- Lev. 26-27; Num. 1-2
- Num. 3-5

## Week of Oct. 26

- Num. 6-9
- Num. 10-13; Ps. 90
- Num. 14-16; Ps. 95
- Num. 17-20
- Num. 21-24
- Num. 25-28

## Week of Nov. 2

- Num. 29-32
- Num. 33-36
- Deut. 1-3
- Deut. 4-7
- Deut. 8-11
- Deut. 12-15

## Week of Nov. 9

- Deut. 16-19
- Deut. 20-23
- Deut. 24-27
- Deut. 28-30
- Deut. 31-34
- Josh. 1-2; Ps. 105

## Week of Nov. 16

- Josh. 3-6
- Josh. 7-10
- Josh. 11-14
- Josh. 15-18
- Josh. 19-22
- Josh. 23-24; Jdgs. 1

## Week of Nov. 23

- Jdgs. 2-5
- Jdgs. 6-9
- Jdgs. 10-13
- Jdgs. 14-18
- Jdgs. 19-21
- Ruth 1-4

## Week of Nov. 30

- 1 Sam. 1-3
- 1 Sam. 4-8
- 1 Sam. 9-12
- 1 Sam. 13-16
- 1 Sam. 17-20; Ps. 59
- 1 Sam. 21-24; Ps. 91

## Week of Dec. 7

- Ps. 7, 27, 31, 34, 52
- Ps. 56, 120, 140-142
- 1 Sam. 25-27; Ps. 17, 73
- Ps. 35, 54, 63, 18
- 1 Sam. 28-31; 1 Chr. 10
- Ps. 121, 123-125, 128-130

## Week of Dec. 14

- 2 Sam. 1-4
- Ps. 6, 9-10, 14, 16, 21
- 1 Chr. 1-2; Ps. 43-44
- Ps. 49, 84-85, 87
- 1 Chr. 3-5
- 1 Chr. 6; Ps. 36, 39, 77-78

## Week of Dec. 21

- Ps. 81, 88, 92-93
- 1 Chr. 7-9
- 2 Sam. 5:1-10; 1 Chr. 11-12; Ps. 133
- 2 Sam. 5:11-6:23; 1 Chr. 13-16
- Ps. 15, 23-25, 47
- Ps. 89, 96, 100-101, 107

## Week of Dec. 28

- 2 Sam. 7; 1 Chr. 17; Ps. 1-2, 33, 127, 132
- 2 Sam. 8-9; 1 Chr. 18
- 2 Sam. 10; 1 Chr. 19; Ps. 20, 53, 60, 75
- Ps. 65-67, 69-70
- 2 Sam. 11-12; 1 Chr. 20; Ps. 51
- Ps. 32, 86, 102-103, 122

## Week of Jan. 4

- 2 Sam. 13-15
- Ps. 3-4, 13, 28, 55
- 2 Sam. 16-18
- Ps. 26, 40-41, 58, 61-62, 64
- 2 Sam. 19-21; Ps. 5, 38, 42
- 2 Sam. 22-23; Ps. 57

## Week of Jan. 11

- Ps. 97-99
- 2 Sam. 24; 1 Chr. 21-22; Ps. 30
- Ps. 108-109
- 1 Chr. 23-26
- Ps. 131, 138-139, 143-145
- 1 Chr. 27-29; Ps. 68

## Week of Jan. 18

- Ps. 111-118
- 1 Kgs. 1-2; Ps. 37, 71, 94
- Ps. 119:1-88
- 1 Kgs. 3-4; 2 Chr. 1; Ps. 72
- Ps. 119:89-176
- Song of Sol. 1:1-5:1

## Week of Jan. 25

- Song of Sol. 5:2-7:13, 8:14; Ps. 45
- Pro. 1-4
- Pro. 5-8
- Pro. 9-12
- Pro. 13-16
- Pro. 17-20

## Week of Feb. 1

- Pro. 21-24
- 1 Kgs. 5-6; 2 Chr. 2-3
- 1 Kgs. 7-8; Ps. 11
- 2 Chr. 4-7; Ps. 134, 136
- Ps. 146-150
- 1 Kgs. 9; 2 Chr. 8; Pro. 25-26

## Week of Feb. 8

- Pro. 27-29
- Ecc. 1-6
- Ecc. 7-12
- 1 Kgs. 10-11; 2 Chr. 9; Ps. 30-31
- 1 Kgs. 12; 2 Chr. 10
- 1 Kgs. 13-14; 2 Chr. 11-12

## Week of Feb. 15

- 1 Kgs. 15:1-24; 2 Chr. 13-16
- 1 Kgs. 15:25-16:34; 2 Chr. 17
- 1 Kgs. 17-19
- 1 Kgs. 20-21
- 1 Kgs. 22; 2 Chr. 18-20
- 2 Kgs. 1-4

## Week of Feb. 22

- 2 Kgs. 5:1-8:15
- 2 Kgs. 8:16-29; 2 Chr. 21:1-22:9
- 2 Kgs. 9-11; 2 Chr. 22:10-23:21
- 2 Kgs. 12-13; 2 Chr. 24
- 2 Kgs. 14-15; 2 Chr. 25-27
- Jonah 1-4

**Week of March 1**

- Amos 1-5
- Amos 6-9
- Hosea 1-5
- Hosea 6-9
- Hosea 10-14
- Is. 1-4

**Week of March 8**

- Is. 5-8
- Is. 9-12
- Micah 1-4
- Micah 5-7
- 2 Kgs. 16-17; 2 Chr. 28
- Is. 13-17

**Week of March 15**

- Is. 18-22
- Is. 23-26
- 2 Kgs. 18:1-8; 2 Chr. 29-31; Ps. 48
- Is. 27-30
- Is. 31-35
- Is. 36-37; 2 Kgs. 18:9-19:37; 2 Chr. 32:1-23; Ps. 76

**Week of March 22**

- Is. 38-39; 2 Kgs. 20:1-21; 2 Chr. 32:24-33
- Is. 40-42; Ps. 46
- Is. 43-45; Ps. 80
- Is. 46-49; Ps. 135
- Is. 50-53
- Is. 54-58

**Week of March 29**

- Is. 59-63
- Is. 64-66
- 2 Kgs. 21; 2 Chr. 33
- Nahum 1-3
- Zephaniah 1-3
- 2 Kgs. 22-23; 2 Chr. 34-35

**Week of April 5**

- Habakkuk 1-3
- Joel 1-3
- Jer. 1-4
- Jer. 5-8
- Jer. 9-12
- Jer. 13-16

**Week of April 12**

- Jer. 17-20
- Jer. 21-24
- Jer. 25-28
- Jer. 29-32
- Jer. 33-37
- Jer. 38-40; Ps. 74, 79

**Week of April 19**

- 2 Kgs. 24-25; 2 Chr. 36:1-21; Jer. 52
- Jer. 41-44

- Obad. 1; Ps. 82-83

- Jer. 45-48
- Jer. 49-50
- Jer. 51; Ps. 137

**Week of April 26**

- Lam. 1:1-3:36
- Lam. 3:37-5:22
- Ezek. 1-4
- Ezek. 5-8
- Ezek. 9-12
- Ezek. 13-16

**Week of May 3**

- Ezek. 17-20
- Ezek. 21-24
- Ezek. 25-28
- Ezek. 29-32
- Ezek. 33-36
- Ezek. 37-40

**Week of May 10**

- Ezek. 41-44
- Ezek. 45-48
- Daniel 1-3
- Daniel 4-6
- Daniel 7-9
- Daniel 10-12

**Week of May 17**

- 2 Chr. 36:22-23; Ezra 1-3
- Ezra 4-6
- Haggai 1-2
- Zechariah 1-7
- Zechariah 8-14
- Esther 1-5

**Week of May 24**

- Esther 6-10
- Malachi 1-4; Ps. 50
- Ezra 7-10
- Nehemiah 1-4
- Nehemiah 5-7
- Nehemiah 8-10

**Week of May 31**

- Nehemiah 11-13; Ps. 126
- Ps. 106; John 1:4-14
- Matt. 1; Luke 1:1-2:38
- Matt. 2; Luke 2:39-52
- Matt. 3; Mark 1:1-11; Luke 3; John 1:15-34
- Matt. 4:1-22, 13:54-58; Mark 1:12-20, 6:1-6; Luke 4:1-30, 5:1-11; John 1:35-2:1-12

**Week of June 7**

- Matt. 4:23-25, 8:14-17; Mark 1:21-39; Luke 4:31-44
- John 3-5
- Matt. 8:1-4, 9:1-17, 12:1-21; Mark 1:40-3:21; Luke 5:12-6:19

- Matt. 5-7; Luke 6:20-49, 11:1-13

- Matt. 8:5-13, 11:1-30; Luke 7

- Matt. 12:22-50; Mark 3:22-35; Luke 8:19-21, 11:14-54

**Week of June 14**

- Matt. 13:1-53; Mark 4:1-34; Luke 8:1-18
- Matt. 8:18-9:38; Mark 4:35-5:43; Luke 8:22-9:62
- Matt. 10, 14; Mark 6:7-56; Luke 9:1-17; John 6
- Matt. 15; Mark 7:1-8:10
- Matt. 16; Mark 8:11-9:1; Luke 9:18-27
- Matt. 17-18; Mark 9:2-50; Luke 9:28-56

**Week of June 21**

- John 7-9
- Luke 10; John 10:1-11:54
- Luke 12:1-13:30
- Luke 14-15
- Matt. 19; Mark 10:1-31; Luke 16:1-18:30
- Matt. 20; Mark 10:32-52; Luke 18:31-19:27

**Week of June 28**

- Matt. 21:1-22, 26:6-13; Mark 11:1-26, 14:3-9; Luke 19:28-48; John 2:13-25, 11:55-12:36
- Matt. 21:23-22:14; Mark 11:27-12:12; Luke 20:1-18; John 12:37-50
- Matt. 22:15-23:39; Mark 12:13-44; Luke 20:19-21:4, 13:31-35
- Matt. 24-25; Mark 13; Luke 21:5-38
- Matt. 26:1-5, 14-35; Mark 14:1-2, 10-31; Luke 22:1-38; John 13
- John 14-17

**Week of July 5**

- Matt. 26:36-75; Mark 14:32-72; Luke 22:39-71; John 18:1-27
- Matt. 27:1-31; Mark 15:1-20; Luke 23:1-25; John 18:28-19:16
- Matt. 27:32-66; Mark 15:21-47; Luke 23:26-56; John 19:17-42; Ps. 22
- Matt. 28; Mark 16; Luke 24; John 20-21
- Acts 1-4; Ps. 110
- Acts 5-8

**Week of July 12**

- Acts 9-11
- Acts 12-14
- James 1-5
- Gal. 1-3
- Gal. 4-6
- Acts 15-16

**Week of July 19**

- Acts 17:1-18:18
- 1 Thess. 1-5
- 2 Thess. 1-3
- Acts 18:19-19:41
- 1 Cor. 1-4
- 1 Cor. 5-8

**Week of July 26**

- 1 Cor. 9-11
- 1 Cor. 12-14
- 1 Cor. 15-16
- 2 Cor. 1-4
- 2 Cor. 5-9
- 2 Cor. 10-13

**Week of Aug. 2**

- Acts 20:1-3; Rom. 1-4
- Rom. 5-8
- Rom. 9-12
- Rom. 13-16
- Acts 20:4-23:35
- Acts 24-26

**Week of Aug. 9**

- Acts 27-28
- Phil. 1-4
- Philemon 1; Col. 1-4
- Eph. 1-4
- Eph. 5-6; Titus 1-3
- 1 Tim. 1-6

**Week of Aug. 16**

- 1 Peter 1-5
- Heb. 1-4
- Heb. 5-8
- Heb. 9-13
- 2 Tim. 1-4
- 2 Peter 1-3; Jude 1

**Week of Aug. 23**

- 1 John 1-5; 2 John 1; 3 John 1
- Rev. 1-5
- Rev. 6-10
- Rev. 11-13
- Rev. 14-18
- Rev. 19-22

## Tentative worship outline

Our worship services during 2014-15 will follow the major themes and substories of the biblical story, from Genesis to Revelation, culminating in how we interpret the Bible and in how our own stories intersect with it. In June and July 2015, we will focus on the Psalms and wisdom literature, and August 2015 will likely include a Dwelling in the Word series. Interspersed throughout the telling of the Heilsgeschichte will be some special emphasis Sundays such as World Communion Sunday, All Saints Day, Christmas, etc.

Though much on this sheet (particularly on the reverse) is tentative, the following chart gives you a sense of the flow of worship throughout the year. Look for an updated schedule later in the year.

### Introduction to the Year of the Bible

Aug. 31	Joining God's Salvation Story (Joint SS: Worldviews, the Hermeneutical Bridge)	Lk. 1:1-4; Jn. 20:30-31 2 Tim. 3:16; Heb. 4:12
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### Walking through the Old Testament

Sept. 7	Creation, fall stories	Gen. 1-11
Sept. 14	Patriarchs, matriarchs stories	Gen. 12-22; (skim ch. 25-50)
Sept. 21	Exodus, Sinai	Ex. 1-20
Sept. 28	Wilderness, wanderings, conquest	Num. 11-16, 20-22, 28-29 Josh. 1-8, 20, 23, 24
Oct. 5	World Communion Sunday (with Communion)	Isa. 5:1-7; Matt. 21:33-46; Phil. 3:4b-14; Josh. 24:14-15
Oct. 12	Judges in the tribal confederacy	Judges 1-4, 6-9, 11, 14-16
Oct. 19	United monarchy/Role of the prophet	1 Sam. 1-3, 7-12:15, 15-16 2 Sam. 5-6, 11-12, 24; Jer. 1
Oct. 26	Kingdom divides/Israel & its fall to Assyria	1 Kgs 11-12, 14, 16:29-19 2 Kgs 1-6, 16-20
Nov. 2	All Saints Day	Micah 3:5-12; Matt. 23:1-12; 1 Thess. 2:9-13
Nov. 9	Judah and its fall to Babylon	2 Kgs 18-19, 22-25 Jer. 18-19, 21
Nov. 16	Exile adaptations	Jer. 7, 32-33, 39; Ps. 137 Ezek. 2-3; 11:14-21, 18, 36-37
Nov. 23	Fall Mission Sunday (and joint SS) Guest James Krabill: how we read and use the Bible	To be announced
Nov. 30	Return, attempted renewal	Ezra 5-6, 9-10; Neh. 1, 8-9
Dec. 7	Intertestamental developments	Jer. 31:31-34; Isa. 55 Mal. 4:4-6; 1 Macc. 1-2

## Later in the year

### Jesus coming to us

Dec. 14	Advent: Forerunner to the Messiah	Isa. 40:1-11; Lk. 3:1-18
Dec. 21	Advent: Announcing the coming birth	Luke 1
Dec. 28	Christmas: Celebrating Messiah's birth	Luke 2:1-20
Jan. 4	Epiphany: Christ the light of the world	Matt. 2:1-12
Jan. 11	Jesus' childhood	Luke 2:21-52
Jan. 18	Jesus' preparations for ministry	Luke 3:21-4:13
Jan. 25	Jesus' mission	Luke 4:14-30
Feb. 1	Jesus, the teacher	Matt. 5-7
Feb. 8	Jesus, the speaker of parables	Luke 15
Feb. 15	Jesus' resolute ministry in the face of opposition	Luke 9

### Lent and Easter: Walking with Jesus in Holy Week

Feb. 22	1st Passover; Jesus' Passover with his disciples	Exo. 12:1-11; Mk. 14:12-31
March 1	Jesus prays in Gethsemane; the betrayal & arrest of Jesus	Mk. 14: 32-52
March 8	Jesus before the Sanhedrin; Peter disowns Jesus	Mk. 14:53 -- 15:1
March 15	The prophesied suffering servant; Pilate hands Jesus over to be crucified; the soldiers mock	Isa. 53:7-12 JesusMk. 15:1-20
March 22	Prayers for deliverance; the crucifixion of Jesus	Ps. 22:1, 6-8, 15-18 Ps. 69:19-21; Mk. 15:20b-37
March 29	(Palm Sunday): A song of victory; the coming ruler of God's people; a flashback to Jesus' triumphal entry (texts of Jesus' death & burial to be read during the week)	Ps. 118: 19-29 Zech. 9:9-10 Mk. 11:1-11
April 5	Easter: The resurrection of Jesus	1 Cor. 15:1-10a Mk. 16:1-8

### God is with us today

April 12	How does Jesus save?	Lk. 19:1-10 Acts 16:22-34; Col. 2:6-15
April 19	Church: a new missional creation	Acts 10:1-11:18, 15
April 26	God's solution being realized in the church	Eph. 2:11-22 Gal. 3:26-29; Rom. 16:25-27
May 3	Worthy is the Lamb: Apocalyptic literature in Bible	Rev. 5; 21:1-22:7
May 10	The parables of Jesus for today	To be announced
May 17	Heilsgeschichte beyond Bible times	To be announced
May 24	Interpreting and applying the Bible today	Matt. 5:21-48; 19:1-9 Heb. 1:1-3a
May 31	MYF senior recognition Sunday	To be announced

### Psalms & Wisdom Literature

June 7	Psalms	selections from Psalms
June 14	Psalms	selections from Psalms
June 21	Psalms	selections from Psalms
June 28	Proverbs	selections from Proverbs
July 5	Ecclesiastes	selections from Ecclesiastes
July 12	Sharing/reporting from Kansas City	texts from MC-USA Convention
July 19	Job	selections from Job
July 26	Song of Songs	selections from Song of Songs

### Dwelling in the Word series

Aug. 2-30	Dwelling in the Word series	to be announced
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*Today:*  
**August 31, 2014**

**Scripture Focus:** Whole Bible

*(Please review the Heilsgeschihte timeline on the foldout sheet)*

**Notes from Worship:**

(How did God catch your attention? To what is God calling you this week?)

**Questions for Discussion:**

- Which part of the Biblical story are you most familiar with? Which part are you least familiar with?
- What parts make the most sense? What parts make the least sense?
- What do you hope to learn in this coming Year of the Bible?
- How is God still at work today bringing salvation?

# *This Week:* **September 1-6**

## Scripture Readings:

<b>Monday</b> 9/1	<b>Tuesday</b> 9/2	<b>Wednesday</b> 9/3	<b>Thursday</b> 9/4	<b>Friday</b> 9/5	<b>Saturday</b> 9/6
Genesis 1-2	John 1:1-3; Psalms 8, 104	Genesis 3-5	Genesis 6-7	Genesis 8-9; Psalm 12	Genesis 10-11

## Questions for Reflection:

### *Monday*

- What differences do you notice between the two Creation stories (Genesis 1-2)?

### *Tuesday*

- What catches your attention the most in the Creation Psalms (8 & 104)?

### *Wednesday*

- What do you make of God's curses in Genesis 3-4? Do they fit? Why or why not?

### *Thursday*

- What do you think about Genesis 6:6-8? What does it mean for God to "regret"?

### *Friday*

- God enters into covenant relationship with Noah in Genesis 9. What strikes you about this covenant?

### *Saturday*

- How do people try to make a name for themselves today? (see Genesis 11:4)

## ***Next Sunday: September 7***

**Theme: "Creation and Fall Stories"**

**Scripture Focus: *Genesis 1 through 11***



**Today:**  
**September 7, 2014**

**Scripture Focus:** Genesis 1 -- 11

*"God created human beings; he created them godlike, reflecting God's nature. He created them male and female." (Genesis 1:27, Message)*

*"God looked over everything he had made; it was so good, so very good!"  
(Genesis 1:31a, Message)*

*"When the Woman saw that the tree looked like good eating and realized what she would get out of it—she'd know everything!—she took and ate the fruit and then gave some to her husband, and he ate." (Genesis 3:6, Message)*

*"Cain had words with his brother. They were out in the field; Cain came at Abel his brother and killed him.*

*God said to Cain, "Where is Abel your brother?"*

*He said, "How should I know? Am I his babysitter?"" (Genesis 4:8-9, Message)*

*"God saw that human evil was out of control. People thought evil, imagined evil—evil, evil, evil from morning to night. God was sorry that he had made the human race in the first place; it broke his heart. God said, "I'll get rid of my ruined creation, make a clean sweep: people, animals, snakes and bugs, birds—the works. I'm sorry I made them." But Noah was different. God liked what he saw in Noah." (Genesis 6:5-8, Message)*

*"Then the people said, "Come, let's build ourselves a city and a tower that reaches Heaven. Let's make ourselves famous so we won't be scattered here and there across the Earth." (Genesis 11:4, Message)*

**Notes from Worship:**

(How did God catch your attention? To what is God calling you this week?)

**Questions for Discussion:**

- What do the creation stories teach us about God?
  
- What do they teach us about people?
  
- Which of the four "fall stories" is most troubling to you? Why?
  
- How does God show grace in each of these stories?

# *This Week:* **September 8-13**

## Scripture Readings:

<b>Monday</b> 9/8	<b>Tuesday</b> 9/9	<b>Wednesday</b> 9/10	<b>Thursday</b> 9/11	<b>Friday</b> 9/12	<b>Saturday</b> 9/13
Genesis 12-13	Genesis 14-16	Genesis 17-19	Genesis 20-23	Genesis 24-26	Genesis 27-29

## Questions for Reflection:

These Questions are to help get you thinking about the readings for each day. Feel free to also jot down other questions and insights gained through your reading.

### *Monday*

- What catches your attention about God's call to Abram in Genesis 12:1-3?

### *Tuesday*

- What are God's promises to Abram in Genesis 15? Why are these important?

### *Wednesday*

- What is Abraham to do in response to God's covenant (Genesis 17)?

### *Thursday*

- What strikes you about the story of God testing Abraham in Genesis 22?

### *Friday*

- What do you make of the story of Jacob and Esau's births and growing up years (Genesis 25:19-29)?

### *Saturday*

- What is the significance of Jacob's blessing (Genesis 27)?

## ***Next Sunday: September 14***

**Theme: "Patriarchs and Matriarchs Stories"**

**Scripture Focus: *Genesis 12-22* (skimming ch. 25-50)**

*Today:*  
**September 14, 2014**

**Scripture Focus:** Genesis 12:1-9; 17:1-27; 28:10-22; 21:1-7; 22:1-19; 41:1-40

*GOD told Abram: "Leave your country, your family, and your father's home for a land that I will show you.*

***I'll make you a great nation  
and bless you.***

*I'll make you famous;  
you'll be a blessing.*

*I'll bless those who bless you;  
those who curse you I'll curse.*

***All the families of the Earth  
will be blessed through you."***

*So Abram left just as GOD said, and Lot left with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he left Haran. (Genesis 12:1-4, Message)*

*"This is my **covenant** with you: You'll be the father of many nations. Your name will no longer be Abram, but Abraham, meaning that 'I'm making you the father of many nations.' I'll make you a father of fathers—I'll make nations from you, kings will issue from you. I'm establishing my **covenant** between me and you, a **covenant** that includes your descendants, a **covenant** that goes on and on and on, a **covenant** that commits me to be your God and the God of your descendants. And I'm giving you and your descendants this land where you're now just camping, this whole country of Canaan, to own forever. And I'll be their God." (Genesis 17:4-8, Message)*

**Notes from Worship:**

(How did God catch your attention? To what is God calling you this week?)

**Questions for Discussion:**

- What does it mean to be called by God?
  
  
- What is your role in God's covenant?
  
  
- How have you noticed providence (divine intervention) in your family?

***This Week:***  
**September 15-20**

**Scripture Readings:**

<b>Monday</b> 9/15	<b>Tuesday</b> 9/16	<b>Wednesday</b> 9/17	<b>Thursday</b> 9/18	<b>Friday</b> 9/19	<b>Saturday</b> 9/20
Genesis 30-33	Genesis 34-37	Genesis 38-40	Genesis 41-43	Genesis 44-46	Genesis 47-50

**Questions for Reflection:**

These questions are meant to help get you thinking about the readings for each day. Feel free to also use this space to jot down other questions and insights gleaned from your reading.

*Monday*

- What is most significant about Jacob "wrestling with God" in chapter 32?

*Tuesday*

- What do you think about Joseph's attitude in chapter 37?

*Wednesday*

- What catches your attention most about Joseph in these chapters?

*Thursday*

- What would it have been like for Joseph to see his brothers again?

*Friday*

- Why does reconciliation between Joseph and his family take so long?

*Saturday*

- What strikes you about Jacob's blessings for his sons in chapter 49?

***Next Sunday***

**Theme: "Exodus & Sinai"**

**Scripture Focus: *Exodus 1 to 20***

**Today:**  
**September 21, 2014**

**Scripture Focus:** Exodus 1:1-22; 2:23-25; 3:1-22; 12:1-42; 14:5-31

*" [The Lord] said further, 'I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.' And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.*

*Then the Lord said, 'I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. So come, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt.' (Exodus 3:6-10, NRSV)*

*As Pharaoh drew near, the Israelites looked back, and there were the Egyptians advancing on them. In great fear the Israelites cried out to the Lord. They said to Moses, 'Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us, bringing us out of Egypt? Is this not the very thing we told you in Egypt, "Let us alone and let us serve the Egyptians"? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness.' But Moses said to the people, 'Do not be afraid, stand firm, and see the deliverance that the Lord will accomplish for you today; for the Egyptians whom you see today you shall never see again. The Lord will fight for you, and you have only to keep still.' (Exodus 14:10-14, NRSV)*

**Notes from Worship:**

(How did God catch your attention? To what is God calling you this week?)

**Questions for Discussion:**

- What does "Exodus" mean to you?
  
- Which part of the Exodus story jumps out to you the most? Why?
  
- Who all left Egypt in the Exodus (Exodus 12:37-39)? Why might this be important?

# *This Week:* **September 22-27**

## Scripture Readings:

<b>Monday</b> 9/22	<b>Tuesday</b> 9/23	<b>Wednesday</b> 9/24	<b>Thursday</b> 9/25	<b>Friday</b> 9/26	<b>Saturday</b> 9/27
Job 1-5	Job 6-9	Job 10-13	Job 14-17	Job 18-21	Job 22-24

## Questions for Reflection:

These questions are meant to help get you thinking about the readings for each day. Feel free to also use this space to jot down other questions and insights gleaned from your reading.

### *Monday*

- What kind of calamities have you experienced, that you might have such a bitter lament like Job's in ch. 3?

### *Tuesday*

- Do you tend to see God as fundamentally "fair" (Bildad, in 8:5-7), or mysteriously fickle (Job, in 9:22)?

### *Wednesday*

- Have you ever been bold enough to bring your case directly to argue with God (ch. 13)?

### *Thursday*

- Have friends ever responded to your misfortunes with arguments like Job's friends?

### *Friday*

- Do you, like Job's friends, believe that the wicked tend to get their just desserts?

### *Saturday*

- When have you felt that God is nowhere to be found, and is perhaps deliberately hiding (23:8-9)?

## Taking Scripture to Heart:

Now that you've gotten used to a Bible reading rhythm, next week we will begin some Bible memory work as a congregation, focusing on some passages that are central to God's larger salvation story

## ***Next Sunday: September 28***

**Theme: "Wilderness, wanderings & conquest"**

**Scripture Focus: *Numbers 11-16, 20-22, 28-29; Joshua 1-8, 20, 23-24***

**Today:**  
**September 28, 2014**

**Scripture Focus:** Numbers 11-16, 20-22, 28-29; Joshua 1-8, 20, 23-24

*There was no water there for the community, so they ganged up on Moses and Aaron. They attacked Moses: "We wish we'd died when the rest of our brothers died before God. Why did you haul this congregation of God out here into this wilderness to die, people and cattle alike? And why did you take us out of Egypt in the first place, dragging us into this miserable country? No grain, no figs, no grapevines, no pomegranates—and now not even any water!"*

*Moses and Aaron walked from the assembled congregation to the Tent of Meeting and threw themselves facedown on the ground. And they saw the Glory of God.*

*God spoke to Moses: "Take the staff. Assemble the community, you and your brother Aaron. Speak to that rock that's right in front of them and it will give water. You will bring water out of the rock for them; congregation and cattle will both drink."*

(Numbers 20:2-8, Message)

*Joshua called together all the tribes of Israel at Shechem. He called in the elders, chiefs, judges and officers. They presented themselves before God. Then Joshua addressed all the people:*

*"So now: Fear God. Worship him in total commitment. Get rid of the gods your ancestors worshiped on the far side of The River (the Euphrates) and in Egypt. You, worship God. If you decide that it's a bad thing to worship God, then choose a god you'd rather serve—and do it today....As for me and my family, we'll worship God."*

*The people answered, "We'd never forsake God! Never! We'd never leave God to worship other gods. God is our God! He brought up our ancestors from Egypt and from slave conditions. He did all those great signs while we watched. He has kept his eye on us all along the roads we've traveled and among the nations we've passed through. Just for us he drove out all the nations, Amorites and all, who lived in the land. Count us in: We too are going to worship God. He's our God."*

(Joshua 24: 1,14-18, Message)

**Notes from Worship:**

(How did God catch your attention? To what is God calling you this week?)

**Questions for Discussion:**

- What are the "wilderness" experiences in your life? What got you through them?
- What might it mean for God to fight for us today? How can we put more trust in God?
- What other gods are you tempted to serve? How can you worship God alone?

*This Week:*  
**September 29 – October 4**

**Scripture Readings:**

<b>Monday</b> 9/29	<b>Tuesday</b> 9/30	<b>Wednesday</b> 10/1	<b>Thursday</b> 10/2	<b>Friday</b> 10/3	<b>Saturday</b> 10/4
Job 25-28	Job 29-32	Job 33-36	Job 37:1-40:5; Psalm 19	Job 40:6-42:17; Psalm 29	Exodus 1-4

**Questions for Reflection:**

These questions are meant to help get you thinking about the readings for each day. Feel free to also use this space to jot down other questions and insights gleaned from your reading.

*Monday*

- What do you make of Job's debate with his friends? Who makes more sense?

*Tuesday*

- In what ways do you live in the ways that Job describes in 25:11-17?

*Wednesday*

- What is different about Elihu's speech as compared to the other friends?

*Thursday*

- What strikes you most about the Lord's speech to Job?

*Friday*

- How do Psalms 19 and 29 fit with the Lord's speeches to Job?

*Saturday*

- Exodus begins with many ups and downs. What catches your attention the most?

**Taking Scripture to Heart :**

In this year, we will spend 6 weeks or more as a congregation on selected passages that we will take to heart. We will have monthly times in worship for reviewing and reciting these passages together. Our first memory text is **Deuteronomy 26:5-10a**, the "Covenant Recital". Take some time this week to begin memorizing this text as well as any other text that you would like to put to memory.

**Next Sunday: October 5**

Theme: **World Communion Sunday** (not focusing on Heilsgeschichte)

Scripture Focus (lectionary texts): **Isaiah 5:1-7; Matthew 21:33-46; Philippians 3:4b-14**