

February Daily Readings



**BIBLE
SOCIETY**
Live light

This guide provides a verse to read each day, followed by a question which you can discuss with friends or family. **Read** the verse, separately or together, and then **talk** about what it means, using the question as a conversation starter. Then **pray** together, that you may understand what God is teaching you through His Word.

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Day	Comment	Verse	Verse reference	Questions
1	<p>Augustine was a Bishop in the 4th and 5th Century, and one of the most influential early Christian theologians. His work Confessions is still widely read today, and for good reason. We begin this series with one of the most famous quotes from it:</p> <p><i>You move us to delight in praising You; for You have formed us for Yourself, and our hearts are restless till they find rest in You.</i></p>	<p>“Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”</p>	Matthew 11:28-30	<p>What parts of your life do you struggle to find rest in? What else do you go to comfort, apart from God? Pray that he alone would be your rest.</p>
2	<p>We continue our readings from the Church Fathers with Augustine, the early church bishop, theologian and writer. These quotes are taken from Confessions.</p> <p><i>“Who is God save our God? Most high, most excellent, most potent, most omnipotent; most piteous and most just; most hidden and most near; most beauteous and most strong, stable, yet contained of none; unchangeable, yet changing all things; never new, never old; making all things new, yet bringing old age upon the proud and they know it not; always working, yet ever at rest; gathering, yet needing nothing; sustaining, pervading, and protecting; creating, nourishing, and developing; seeking, and yet possessing all things.”</i></p>	<p>“Who has ever given to God, that God should repay them?” For from him and through him and for him are all things. To him be the glory forever! Amen.</p>	Romans 11:35-36	<p>Take a moment simply to praise God for who he is, and who we are before him.</p>

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3	<p>We continue our readings from the Church Fathers with Augustine, the early church bishop, theologian and writer. These quotes are taken from Confessions.</p> <p><i>“I did not know that evil is nothing but the diminishment of good to the point where nothing at all is left.”</i></p>	<p>“So I find this law at work: Although I want to do good, evil is right there with me. For in my inner being I delight in God’s law; but I see another law at work in me, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within me. What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death? Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord!”</p>	<p>Romans 7:19-20</p> <p><i>[Note from Joy, the verses shown left are from Romans 7:21-25]</i></p>	<p>What is evil? And what can we do about it?</p>
4	<p>We continue our readings from the Church Fathers with Augustine, the early church bishop, theologian and writer. These quotes are taken from Confessions.</p> <p><i>“Matters are so arranged at your command that every disordered soul is its own punishment.”</i></p>	<p>“Furthermore, just as they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, so God gave them over to a depraved mind, so that they do what ought not to be done.”</p>	<p>Romans 1:28</p>	<p>What is the punishment of sin?</p>
5	<p>We continue our readings from the Church Fathers with Augustine, the early church bishop, theologian and writer. These quotes are taken from Confessions.</p> <p><i>“When you are our strong security, that is strength indeed. But when our security is in ourselves, that is but weakness.”</i></p>	<p>But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ’s sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.</p>	<p>2 Corinthians 12:9</p> <p><i>[Note from Joy, the verses shown left are from 2 Corinthians 12:9-10]</i></p>	<p>What does it mean to be a weak Christian?</p>

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6	<p>We continue our readings from the Church Fathers with Augustine, the early church bishop, theologian and writer. These quotes are taken from Confessions, and today's describes the verse that Augustine read in his moment of conversion.</p> <p><i>"No sooner had I reached the end of the verse than the light of certainty flooded my heart and all dark shades of doubt fled away."</i></p>	<p>"Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy. Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the flesh."</p>	Romans 13:13-14	<p>What does this verse say about the source of Christian holiness?</p>
7	<p>We continue our readings from the Church Fathers with one last reading from Augustine, the early church bishop, theologian and writer. These quotes are taken from Confessions.</p> <p><i>"Let me not be my own life; from myself have I badly lived—death was I unto myself; in You do I revive. Speak unto me; discourse unto me. In your books have I believed, and their words are very deep."</i></p>	<p>"Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers, but whose delight is in the law of the LORD, and who meditates on his law day and night. That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither—whatever they do prospers."</p>	<p>Psalm 1</p> <p>[Note from Joy, the verses shown left are from Psalm 1:1-3]</p>	<p>If you mapped out the time that you spent during the week on various things, where does mediating on Scripture come in? What can you do to deepen this relationship with God's word?</p>
8	<p>This week, our daily Bible readings are alongside quotes from John Chrysostom, from the 4th Century, who had the reputation as one of the greatest preachers of his time.</p> <p><i>"Ought we not to be ashamed, we who do the opposite of what is here commanded, and set on our enemies like wolves? If we behave like lambs, we are victorious; even though ten thousand wolves should hem us in, we survive and overcome."</i></p>	<p>"I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves."</p>	Matthew 10:16	<p>How would being 'wise as a serpent' affect what you do in the world today? How about being 'innocent as a dove'?</p>

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9	<p>This week, our daily Bible readings are alongside quotes from John Chrysostom, from the 4th Century, who had the reputation as one of the greatest preachers of his time.</p> <p><i>“You cannot bind a ray of light; it was equally impossible to bind the tongue of the apostles. And the reason for this was that it was not they who spoke, but the power of the Spirit who dwelt in them.”</i></p>	<p>But Peter and John replied, “Which is right in God’s eyes: to listen to you, or to him? You be the judges! As for us, we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard.”</p>	Acts 4:19-20	What drove the apostles to speak of Jesus?
10	<p>This week, our daily Bible readings are alongside quotes from John Chrysostom, from the 4th Century, who had the reputation as one of the greatest preachers of his time.</p> <p><i>“Practise yourself in the discipline of the true religion. You see many Christians unable to resist the paroxysms of anger, and others set on fire by the flame of lust. Practise resistance against such passions; bear courageously the trials of the spirit, that you may be able also to bear bravely those of the body.”</i></p>	<p>For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love. For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.</p>	<p>2 Peter 1:5-9</p> <p><i>[Note from Joy, the verses shown left are from 2 Peter 1:5-8]</i></p>	What do you need to add to your practise of the Christian life?
11	<p>This week, our daily Bible readings are alongside quotes from John Chrysostom, from the 4th Century, who had the reputation as one of the greatest preachers of his time.</p> <p><i>“In the everyday world marks of distinction are most notable when they are conferred on one man only. But in the case of spiritual blessings the exact opposite is the case. For there honour shines brightest when it makes many others sharers in its eminence, and when the one who possesses it does not hug it to himself alone, but enables many others to share the benefit with him.”</i></p>	<p>But we do see Jesus, who was made lower than the angels for a little while, now crowned with glory and honor because he suffered death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.</p>	Hebrews 2:9	What does it mean to share that Jesus has tasted death for us? What did it mean for him?

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12	<p>This week, our daily Bible readings are alongside quotes from John Chrysostom, from the 4th Century, who had the reputation as one of the greatest preachers of his time.</p> <p><i>“Now if you ask, how is it possible for us to imitate people like Paul, hear what he says: “Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ”. He was an imitator of Christ—and you cannot summon up courage to imitate your fellow-servant? ... What defence do you think you will be able to offer for your timidity?”</i></p>	Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ.	1 Corinthians 11:1	How was Paul like Christ? How can we imitate Paul?
13	<p>This week, our daily Bible readings are alongside quotes from John Chrysostom, from the 4th Century, who had the reputation as one of the greatest preachers of his time.</p> <p><i>“Let us not then make our prayer by the gesture of our body, nor by the loudness of our voice, but by the earnestness of our mind: neither with noise and clamor and for display, so as even to disturb those that are near us, but with all modesty, and with contrition in the mind, and with inward tears.”</i></p>	“And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.”	Matthew 6:5-6	What do we learn from the reading about the heart of prayer?
14	<p>This week, our daily Bible readings are alongside quotes from John Chrysostom, from the 4th Century, who had the reputation as one of the greatest preachers of his time.</p> <p><i>“When you received the news, you crowned the marketplace with garlands; you lit torches; you strewed rushes before the shops; you celebrated high festival, as though the city had just been founded. And now, continue to do this in perpetuity, crowning yourselves not with flowers but with virtue, lighting the true light of good works as the adornment of your soul, rejoicing with spiritual joy.”</i></p>	As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life.	1 Timothy 6:17-19 (ESV)	Choose an image from today’s readings. How can you hold it in your heart today, letting it shape what you do, and who you love?

February Daily Readings (continued)

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15	<p>This week, our daily readings are accompanied by quotes from John Calvin, one of the most influential figures in the Reformation, and tireless writer, preacher and theologian. These quotes are from his commentary on the Psalms.</p> <p><i>“The whole world is a theatre for the display of the divine goodness, wisdom, justice, and power, but the Church is the orchestra, as it were—the most conspicuous part of it; and the nearer the approaches are that God makes to us, the more intimate and condescending the communication of his benefits, the more attentively are we called to consider them.”</i></p>	<p>Your name, LORD, endures forever, your renown, LORD, through all generations. For the LORD will vindicate his people and have compassion on his servants.</p>	Psalm 135:13-14	What is characteristic of the way that God treats his people?
16	<p>This week, our daily readings are accompanied by quotes from John Calvin, one of the most influential figures in the Reformation, and tireless writer, preacher and theologian. These quotes are from his commentary on the Psalms.</p> <p><i>“Let each of us ... examine his own life; let us inquire in how many ways we have provoked the wrath of God, or, rather, do we not continually provoke it, and yet he not only forbears to punish us but bountifully maintains those whom he might justly destroy.”</i></p>	He does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities.	Ps. 103:10	How often does God treat us as our sins deserve?
17	<p>This week, our daily readings are accompanied by quotes from John Calvin, one of the most influential figures in the Reformation, and tireless writer, preacher and theologian. These quotes are from his commentary on the Psalms.</p> <p><i>The more wretched and despicable our condition is, the more inclined is God to show mercy, for the remembrance that we are clay and dust is enough to incite him to do us good.</i></p>	“For he knows how we are formed, he remembers that we are dust.”	Ps 103:14	How good must we be to deserve God’s mercy?

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18	<p>This week, our daily readings are accompanied by quotes from John Calvin, one of the most influential figures in the Reformation, and tireless writer, preacher and theologian. These quotes are from his commentary on the Psalms.</p> <p><i>“The main thing in adversity is to know that we are laid low by the hand of God, and that this is the way which he takes to prove our allegiance, to arouse us from our torpidity, to crucify our old man, to purge us from our filthiness, to bring us into submission and subjection to God, and to excite us to meditate on the heavenly life.”</i></p>	<p>The LORD has chastened me severely, but he has not given me over to death. Open for me the gates of the righteous; I will enter and give thanks to the LORD.</p>	Ps 118:18-19	How is that the Psalmist can be “chastened” and still thank the Lord?
19	<p>This week, our daily readings are accompanied by quotes from John Calvin, one of the most influential figures in the Reformation, and tireless writer, preacher and theologian. These quotes are from his commentary on the Psalms.</p> <p><i>The partition which many devise—that he who has behaved himself valiantly, while he leaves the half of the praise to God may take the other half to himself, is deserving of all condemnation. The blessing of God should have the whole share and exclusively hold the throne.</i></p>	<p>Unless the LORD builds the house, the builders labor in vain. Unless the LORD watches over the city, the guards stand watch in vain.</p>	Psalm 127:1	What fraction of your life, blessing and merit do you believe is derived from yourself, and what part of it belongs to God?
20	<p>This week, our daily readings are accompanied by quotes from John Calvin, one of the most influential figures in the Reformation, and tireless writer, preacher and theologian. These quotes are from his commentary on the Psalms.</p> <p><i>We are warned, when apt at any time to forget ourselves and think we are something when we are nothing, that the simple fact of the shortness of our life should put down all arrogance and pride ... And, indeed, if our life vanish in a moment, what is there stable about us?</i></p>	<p>Lord, what are human beings that you care for them, mere mortals that you think of them? They are like a breath; their days are like a fleeting shadow.</p>	Psalm 144:3-4	What does death mean for the relationship between us and the Lord? What does it mean then, that Jesus is “the resurrection and the life”?

February Daily Readings (continued)

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21	<p>We finish our week of Calvin with one of his prayers. Tomorrow, Luther!</p> <p><i>Grant, Almighty God, that as you shine on us by your word, we may not be blind at midday, nor wilfully seek darkness, and thus lull our minds asleep: but may we be roused daily by thy words, and may we stir up ourselves more and more to fear your name, and thus present ourselves and all our pursuits, as a sacrifice to you.</i></p>	<p>Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.</p>	Romans 12:1	<p>How can you “stir up” yourself to fear his name, and offer yourself as a sacrifice to the Lord?</p>
22	<p>In our last week of readings with the Church Fathers, we turn to the writing of Martin Luther, the central figure of the Reformation. This week’s selections are from Luther’s sermons.</p> <p><i>Look at Him! He rides no stallion ... In this way He shows that He comes not to tempt men, nor to come down upon them with force and suppress them, but to help them, to bear their burden and to take it upon Himself.</i></p>	<p>As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, “Go to the village ahead of you, and at once you will find a donkey tied there, with her colt by her. Untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, say that the Lord needs them, and he will send them right away.”</p> <p>This took place to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet:</p> <p>“Say to Daughter Zion, ‘See, your king comes to you, gentle and riding on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.’”</p>	Matthew 21:1-5	<p>What kind of a king is Jesus?</p>

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23	<p>In our last week of readings with the Church Fathers, we turn to the writing of Martin Luther, the central figure of the Reformation. This week's selections are from Luther's sermons.</p> <p><i>No one is better prepared for the advent of the last day than the one who earnestly desires to be without sin ... See to it that your light is not darkness! For a heart that truly wants to be free of sin rejoices in confidence at the thought of that day which will fulfil all longings.</i></p>	Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed.	1 Corinthians 1:7	What characteristic would you apply to your "waiting" for the Lord? Are you waiting eagerly? Are you waiting?
24	<p>In our last week of readings with the Church Fathers, we turn to the writing of Martin Luther, the central figure of the Reformation. This week's selections are from Luther's sermons.</p> <p><i>If the person who offered Himself for us were not God, it would help and avail nothing before God that He was not born of a virgin, or had suffered a thousand deaths. But the fact that the seed of Abraham who gives Himself for us is also true God makes His sacrifice such a blessing for us, and conquers sin and death for us.</i></p>	In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe. The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.	Hebrews 1:1-4	If Jesus was not God, what difference would it make? Because Jesus is God, what difference does it make?
25	<p>In our last week of readings with the Church Fathers, we turn to the writing of Martin Luther, the central figure of the Reformation. This week's selections are from Luther's sermons.</p> <p><i>By faith we are in need of nothing and always have full supply; in love we are the servants of all men. By faith we receive good things from above, from God; in love we let them flow out below to our neighbour.</i></p>	No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.	1 John 4:12	How does your faith relate to your love?

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26	<p>In our last week of readings with the Church Fathers, we turn to the writing of Martin Luther, the central figure of the Reformation. This week's selections are from Luther's sermons.</p> <p><i>Here we see what a wonderful thing the Christian faith really is for it already saves us from death eternally and brings it to pass that we never die. The death and dying of a Christian is just like that of an unbeliever externally; but inwardly there is as much difference here as the difference between heaven and earth.</i></p>	<p>Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life.</p>	John 5:24	<p>What internal difference does eternal life make to you and the practice of your day?</p>
27	<p>In our last week of readings with the Church Fathers, we turn to the writing of Martin Luther, the central figure of the Reformation. This week's selections are from Luther's sermons.</p> <p><i>Faith is an ever-present reality telling me, "If sins oppress you and death terrifies you, fix your whole attention on Christ. He died and rose again for your sake; He has overcome all misfortune; what can really harm you?"</i></p>	<p>But thanks be to God, who always leads us as captives in Christ's triumphal procession and uses us to spread the aroma of the knowledge of him everywhere. For we are to God the pleasing aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are perishing. To the one we are an aroma that brings death; to the other, an aroma that brings life. And who is equal to such a task?</p>	2 Corinthians 2:14-16	<p>Think of the greatest fear that you have, and, with it in mind, "fix your whole attention on Christ". What happens to sin and fear in the presence of Christ?</p>
28	<p>Thanks for reading the Church Fathers daily readings with us this month. We couldn't help but leave you with this last exhortation from Luther, on the value of the Bible.</p> <p><i>For the heart always has the nagging feeling: "Who knows whether it is right? O that I could be quite sure!" When the heart clings to God's Word, it can say without any wavering: "This is God's Word; it cannot lie to me or mislead me. Of that I am certain." The greatest struggle in which we must engage is to keep the Word and remain steadfast in it. If this Word is torn from a man's heart, he is lost.</i></p>	<p>For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope.</p>	Romans 15:4	<p>What do the Scriptures provide?</p>