



2023-2024
Bible Readings

Introduction

- Students start by reading the book of the Bible for the month.
- Once they are finished reading the book, they will need to give an oral book report about the book to their leader.
- Students must recite the Theme, Author, Key Verse, and Date word perfect from memory.
- Students then give a summary of the book in their own words, but must include all of the key points listed in the book summary, especially any bulleted items.

Lesson 12



Ephesians 6:12-13

For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.

Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

Review Completed

Leader Signature _____ Date _____

Ephesians Verses	
Leader Initials/Date	
Lesson 7 <input type="checkbox"/> _____	Ephesians 1:3-4 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, Just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love.
Lesson 8 <input type="checkbox"/> _____	Ephesians 2:4-5,7 But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, Even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), That in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.
Lesson 9 <input type="checkbox"/> _____	Romans 8:26-27 Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. Now He [God] who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God."
Lesson 10 <input type="checkbox"/> _____	Ephesians 4:1-3 I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, With all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.
Lesson 11 <input type="checkbox"/> _____	Ephesians 4:30-32 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.



His Story Bible Readings

September

John

Theme: Christ the Son of God

Author: John

Verses: And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name (John 20:30-31)

Date: A.D. 85-90

The apostle John gives a straightforward reason for writing his Gospel: *But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name. (John 20:31).* While the other three Gospels cover many of the same events (each with its own thematic emphasis), John describes different events to present Jesus as the Messiah, the Word made flesh, and the Son of God. Believe is the key word.

Seven key miracles are recorded:

- Turning water into wine (John 2:1-11)
- Healing the official's son (4:43-54)
- Healing the lame man by the pool of Bethesda (5:1-9)
- Feeding 5,000 people (6:1-13)
- Walking on water (6:16-20)
- Healing the blind man (9:1-7)
- Raising Lazarus from the dead (11:1-44)

John, in Chapters 13-16, gives us the Lord's teaching of His disciples about His death and the coming of the Holy Spirit. The book closes with an account of Jesus Christ's prayer in the garden, arrest, trial, death, resurrection, and last instructions to His disciples.

I read the book of John: Student Signature _____

Leader Signature _____ Date _____

Galatians Verses

Leader Initials/Date

Lesson 1 <input type="checkbox"/> _____	Galatians 1:8-9 But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed. As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed.
Lesson 2 <input type="checkbox"/> _____	Galatians 2:20-21 I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me. I do not set aside the grace of God; for if righteousness comes through the law, then Christ died in vain."
Lesson 3 <input type="checkbox"/> _____	Galatians 3:11-12 But that no one is justified by the law in the sight of God is evident, for "the just shall live by faith." Yet the law is not of faith, but "the man who does them shall live by them."
Lesson 4 <input type="checkbox"/> _____	Galatians 4:6-7 And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!" Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.
Lesson 5 <input type="checkbox"/> _____	Galatians 5:1, 13 Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage. For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.
Lesson 6 <input type="checkbox"/> _____	Galatians 5:24-25 And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

Review Completed

Leader Signature _____ Date _____

Romans Lesson 7-12 Verses

Leader Initials/Date

<p>Lesson 7</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> _____</p>	<p>Romans 8:37 Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.</p>
<p>Lesson 8</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> _____</p>	<p>Romans 10:12 For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him.</p>
<p>Lesson 9</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> _____</p>	<p>Romans 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.</p>
<p>Lesson 10</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> _____</p>	<p>Romans 13:8 Owe no one anything except to love one another, for he who loves another has fulfilled the law.</p>
<p>Lesson 11</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> _____</p>	<p>Romans 15:1-2 We then who are strong ought to bear with the scruples of the weak, and not to please ourselves. Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, leading to edification.</p>
<p>Lesson 12</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> _____</p>	<p>Romans 16:25 Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery kept secret since the world began.</p>

Review Completed

Leader Signature _____ Date _____

October

Hebrews

Theme: Christ's Sufficiency

Author: Unknown (though many believe it was the apostle Paul)

Verses: Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need. (Hebrews 4:14-16)

Date: A.D. 64

Hebrews is addressed to the Jewish believers of the first century. They had been brought up in the Jewish religion, based on the Old Testament, with its rituals and sacrifices and prophecies about the coming Messiah who would restore the nation to its land. Many of them believed in God as revealed in the Old Testament — some of them even believed that Jesus Christ was the promised Messiah. They did what they were told to do. They had faith in God and obeyed His commands.

Now Paul was saying that Israel had been set aside for a time and that a new body of believers known as the Church was being assembled. The promised kingdom hadn't arrived and the believers in Jerusalem were in pretty bad shape. The Jews needed to understand how things had changed and to be encouraged to remain faithful to Christ. The Holy Spirit inspired the writer to explain the new circumstances. He systematically demonstrates the superiority of Christ over the old Jewish system. Here are just a few of the comparisons (there are many others):

- Superior messenger — Under the law, God spoke through the prophets. Now He has spoken through His Son (Hebrews 1:1-20).
- Superior priesthood — Under the law, priests had to offer sacrifices because they were men with sin natures just like everyone else. Now Jesus is our eternal priest (7:24-25).
- Superior altar — Under the law, the priests offered sacrifices in the Holy of Holies. Now we have an altar in Christ's sacrifice apart from the Jewish tabernacle (13:10, 12).

- Superior blood — Under the law, the blood of goats and bulls was shed over and over to cover sins temporarily. Now the blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us forever (9:14).

The writer shows how this new message was part of God’s eternal plan. It was hidden in the Old Testament, but now that it has been revealed, we can look back at the events of the Old Testament and see how they point to Christ. Hebrews 13:20-21 reveals the purpose of the new covenant: so that ... *the God of peace who brought up our Lord Jesus from the dead, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you complete in every good work to do His will, working in you what is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ ...*

The book also includes many warnings to the Jews not to shrink back, through unbelief or slothfulness, into their former beliefs and practices. Rather, through faith and confidence in the perfect sacrifice of Christ, they were admonished to go forward into maturity and usefulness.

I read the book of Hebrews: Student Signature _____

Leader Signature _____ Date _____

Romans Lesson 1-6 Verses	
Leader Initials/Date	
Lesson 1 <input type="checkbox"/> _____	Romans 1:16-17 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, “The just shall live by faith.”
Lesson 2 <input type="checkbox"/> _____	Romans 3:10-12 As it is written: “There is none righteous, no, not one; There is none who understands; There is none who seeks after God. They have all turned aside; They have together become unprofitable; There is none who does good, no, not one.”
Lesson 3 <input type="checkbox"/> _____	Romans 3:25-26 Whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, To demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.
Lesson 4 <input type="checkbox"/> _____	Romans 5:1 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.
Lesson 5 <input type="checkbox"/> _____	Romans 6:4 Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.
Lesson 6 <input type="checkbox"/> _____	Romans 7:6 But now we have been delivered from the law, having died to what we were held by, so that we should serve in the newness of the Spirit and not in the oldness of the letter.

Review Completed

Leader Signature _____ Date _____

Haggai

Theme: Encouragement to rebuild the temple

Author: Haggai

Verse: Go up to the mountains and bring wood and build the temple, that I may take pleasure in it and be glorified," says the Lord. Haggai 1:8

Date: Sixth century B.C.

Haggai's two chapters contain five messages. Cyrus, king of Persia, allowed the Jews to return to Jerusalem. They got off to a good start worshiping God, but after 16 years, the temple still wasn't completed. In 520 B.C., Haggai stepped forward to encourage everyone to get to work. Twenty-three days later, the people resumed constructing the temple. ... "Consider your ways! Go up to the mountains and bring wood and build the temple, that I may take pleasure in it and be glorified," says the LORD (Haggai 1:7-8). Note: Eighty years later, the Jews still hadn't rebuilt the wall around Jerusalem. It was Nehemiah who finally accomplished that task and brought about a spiritual revival in the nation.

I read the book of Haggai: Student Signature _____

Leader Signature _____ Date _____

November

Matthew

Theme: Christ the King

Author: Matthew

Verses: He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter answered and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." (Matthew 16:15-16)

Date: About A.D. 50

Matthew presents Jesus Christ as the King of Israel. His Gospel begins with a genealogy of Jesus through His legal father, Joseph, which goes all the way back to Abraham. This demonstrates His right to the throne of Israel through David. Matthew also shows how Christ fulfilled many Old Testament prophecies about the Messiah, including:

- His virgin birth
- His birth in Bethlehem
- His travel to Egypt
- His miracles
- His arrival in Jerusalem on a donkey

Matthew quotes from the Hebrew Scriptures repeatedly. The book was written to assure Jews who had believed in Jesus Christ that their faith was not in vain. He really is the Messiah, and someday He will return to set up the promised kingdom.

I read the book of Matthew: Student Signature _____

Leader Signature _____ Date _____

January

Romans

Theme: Righteousness of God

Author: Paul

Verse: But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (Romans 5:8)

Date: A.D. 58

Romans was written during the apostle Paul's third visit to Corinth. It contains the most detailed explanation of the newly revealed gospel of Christ. Although he had not yet visited the church in Rome, the apostle had heard of the believers' great faith in Christ, and he anticipated visiting them soon. Paul's major concern was to establish them firmly in the truth of his gospel. (Paul refers to it as his gospel because he was appointed by God to be the minister of this new message.) He explains it in a logical, step-by-step method.

- Humanity is sinful and separated from God. We are His enemies and deserve death.
- We are powerless and incapable of solving this problem, and we cannot obtain salvation by observing the law.
- God stepped in and offered His solution — His Son, Jesus Christ.
- We access this solution by faith — by simply believing that Christ's death is sufficient to pay for our sinfulness.
- When we do this, we are no longer slaves to sin. Christ is in us and nothing can separate us from Him.
- We still carry around our sin-corrupted bodies for now, and we still sin.
- But it's not about us anymore. *There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death (Romans 8:1-2).*
- But what about the Jews? God made them many promises in the Old Testament. Those promises will still be fulfilled. In Chapter 11,

Micah

Theme: Judgments

Author: Micah

Verse: He has shown you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you, but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God? Micah 6:8

Date: Eighth century B.C.

Micah ministered for approximately 25 years (at the same time as Isaiah), spanning the time when Israel was conquered by Assyria. He mentions the sins of both Israel and Judah and implores the people to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God (6:8b). He closes with a courtroom scene in which God brings His people to trial and finds them guilty. Micah also condemned wealthy landowners and merchants for taking advantage of the poor. Although Micah was a prophet of doom, he offered words of hope, predicting that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem. The name Micah means "Who is like the Lord?"

I read the book of Micah: Student Signature _____

Leader Signature _____ Date _____

Obadiah

Theme: Doom of Edom

Author: Obadiah

Verse: For the day of the Lord upon all the nations is near; as you have done, it shall be done to you; your reprisal shall return upon your own head. Obadiah 1:15

Date: Ninth century B.C.

Obadiah, known as the doom song, is the smallest Old Testament book. Way back in Genesis, we read about Isaac's twin sons, Jacob and Esau. Jacob's name was changed to Israel and his offspring became the 12 tribes of Israel. Esau's descendants became the Edomites, a nation located to the south of Israel. During the reign of Jehoram, around 850 B.C., the Philistines and Arabians invaded Judah. Edom joined up with Judah's enemies. Obadiah, about whom we know very little, prophesied Edom's approaching destruction: For violence against your brother Jacob, shame shall cover you, and you shall be cut off forever (1:10). In 1812, the unique ruins of this ancient nation were discovered. They stand as a silent witness to the fulfillment of Obadiah's prophecy.

Paul makes the following points: 1) A small number of Jews were still being saved as members of the Body of Christ; 2) Israel's rejection of Christ was not a surprise to God; 3) The Gentiles should realize that Israel's current situation is part of God's plan; 4) Israel has been cut off from the olive tree (Christ) but they will be grafted back in (Romans 11:23-24); 5) All of God's promises will be fulfilled in the future and Israel will resume its place as God's chosen people.

In the final five chapters of Romans, Paul explains how we should live in the light of all he's just explained.

I read the book of Obadiah: Student Signature _____

Leader Signature _____ Date _____

I read the book of Romans: Student Signature _____

Leader Signature _____ Date _____

February

Colossians

Theme: The Preeminence of Christ

Author: Paul

Verses: And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence. (Colossians 1:17-18)

Date: Around A.D. 61

Colossae was a small city not far from Ephesus. As far as we know, Paul never visited — the church was likely founded by those, like Epaphras, who heard the apostle speak in the larger city. During his first imprisonment in Rome, Paul received word that the church members were being attacked by those with ... persuasive words (Colossians 2:4). Some Colossian believers had been attracted to angel worship, while others had fallen back into legalism. Paul urges them to stay focused on Jesus Christ. As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving. Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ. For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power (Colossians 2:6-10).

As he did in Ephesians, Paul encourages the Christians to live in a manner that reflects who they are in Christ. If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth (Colossians 3:1-2)

I read the book of Colossians: Student Signature _____

Leader Signature _____ Date _____

April

Song of Solomon

Theme: Human and divine love

Author: Solomon

Verse: He brought me to the banqueting house, and His banner over me was love. Song of Solomon 2:4

Date: 11th century B.C.

Picture in your mind any music video you've seen. Chances are that you noticed a few things. The lead singer switched wardrobes several times, often returning to one or two main outfits again and again. A backup chorus danced on and off the screen a few times. The activity that was going on sometimes had very little to do with the words that were being sung.

The Song of Solomon is very like a music video - 900 B.C.-style. There are two main leads, one male and one female, who sing about their pasts, their hopes, their dreams and their feelings. There is a backup group known as the Daughters of Jerusalem. And there is a lot of symbolic, poetic language that doesn't mean exactly what it appears to say - for example, the poet compares his love's hair to a flock of goats.

The main characters include the Shulamite bride and the king. The book demonstrates that physical desire between a man and woman who are married to each other is a good thing in God's sight. We were created with our desires. Yes, sin has perverted them as it has perverted everything else in this world. But as long as we stick to God's guidelines, the physical desires He gave us are good.

I read the book of Song of Solomon: Student Signature _____

Leader Signature _____ Date _____

Nehemiah

Theme: Rebuilding Jerusalem's walls

Author: Nehemiah

Verse: Then I said to them, "You see the distress that we are in, how Jerusalem lies waste, and its gates are burned with fire. Come and let us build the wall of Jerusalem, that we may no longer be a reproach."
Nehemiah 2:17

Date: 446-434 B.C.

In 538 B.C., a small group of Jews was allowed to return to Jerusalem with Zerubbabel from their captivity in Babylon. The temple was rebuilt in 515 B.C. and Ezra called the people to spiritual restoration in 457 B.C. But in 444 B.C., almost 100 years after the first Jews had returned, much of the destruction done by the Babylonian army hadn't been repaired. Israel was surrounded by enemies and in danger.

Nehemiah, a court official under King Artaxerxes, heard about the condition of the city and asked permission to return to his homeland and rebuild the walls. His enemies did everything they could think of to discourage him. After a nighttime inspection, Nehemiah called the Jewish officials together and encouraged them to rebuild the city's defenses.

Finally, in spite of discouragement and threats, the work was finished. Nehemiah ends his work with an account of the nation's spiritual revival and the dedication of the walls. In this book, Nehemiah prays 11 times. This book records the last historical events of the Old Testament, although Malachi was probably written some 60 years later.

I read the book of Nehemiah: Student Signature _____

Leader Signature _____ Date _____

Ephesians

Theme: Christian Standing

Author: Paul

Verses: For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.
(Ephesians 2:8-9)

Date: A.D. 61

Paul visited Ephesus during his second and third missionary journeys. He wrote this letter to the believers there, but he also wanted it to be passed around to other churches in the area. This is the first of four Prison Epistles, which he wrote while imprisoned in Rome. The other Prison Epistles are Philippians, Colossians, and Philemon. Ephesians contains the deepest truths about the Church and the believer's wonderful position in Christ. The first three chapters show the believer's standing in Christ. This standing is unalterable, whether the believer is strong or weak. Paul explains that believers are:

- Blessed with every spiritual blessing in Christ (Ephesians 1:3).
- Adopted as God's sons (1:5).
- Forgiven of all sins (1:7).
- Sealed by the Holy Spirit (1:13).
- Alive in Christ by grace (2:5).
- Members of the Body of Christ (3:6).
- Able to approach God with freedom and confidence (3:12).

Because of this wonderful truth, the last three chapters instruct the believer on how he should live the Christian life. Paul encourages the readers to ... *walk worthy of the calling with which you were called (Ephesians 4:1)*. He then goes into detail about what this looks like. Chapter 6 describes the believer's conflict with the forces of darkness.

I read the book of Ephesians: Student Signature _____

Leader Signature _____ Date _____

March

Revelation

Theme: Eternal Triumph

Author: John

Verse: The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show His servants — things which must shortly take place. And He sent and signified it by His angel to His servant John. (Revelation 1:1)

Date: Around A.D. 95

Through an angel, the Lord revealed to John a picture of events that would mark the end of the world as we know it and the manifestation of the kingdom of God. These events, while prophecies in their own right, give further details about other prophecies that appear throughout Scripture. As the end approaches, the world will become a place of unspeakable evil and misery. God will judge all sin and make things right. Satan will meet his final doom. Revelation depicts Jesus Christ in all His power and glory. It tells how He will return to conquer evil and set up His rule on the new heaven and new earth.

John opens with letters to seven churches. Each church is commended for the good it has done, counseled to clean up those things it has done wrong, and given promises for the future.

The book then describes the horrors of God’s judgments on sinful man through the seven seals and the seven bowls. These are followed with a description of the Lord’s second coming to earth and the final judgments of Satan and unbelievers. There are a lot of very frightening scenes in Revelation — because God is a God of justice. But He’s also a God of grace and He had John write: ... And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely (Revelation 22:17)

In Chapters 21 and 22, we see how humans will finally realize the purpose for which we were created — to love, worship and enjoy the Lord in perfect fellowship forever.

I read the book of Revelation: Student Signature _____

Leader Signature _____ Date _____

March

Ezra

Theme: Return of the remnant

Author: Ezra

Verse: And they sang responsively, praising and giving thanks to the Lord: “For He is good, for His mercy endures forever toward Israel.” Then all the people shouted with a great shout, when they praised the Lord, because the foundation of the house of the Lord was laid. Ezra 3:11

Date: 536-457 B.C.

The two major events recorded by Ezra are the return of the Jewish remnant from Babylon to Jerusalem under Zerubbabel and the rebuilding of the temple. Ezra, a priest, returned to Jerusalem following the return of the faithful remnant. Ezra is the first of six books (Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther, Haggai, Zechariah and Malachi) written after Israel’s captivity.

After the Israelites returned to their homes, the people started marrying wives from pagan nations. Ezra was upset because this was the same sin that had resulted in the captivity in Babylon. Ezra prayed before the people, thanking God for what He’d done and for His kindness toward Israel. He confessed the nation’s sins. The gathered crowd made a covenant to rid the nation of the wives and children who worshiped other gods. Three days later, the entire nation gathered and came to an almost-unanimous decision - they would rid themselves of the sinful influence. It’s just as true today as it was in Ezra’s time - if another person is influencing you to focus on things other than the Lord, the relationship is wrong.

I read the book of Ezra: Student Signature _____

Leader Signature _____ Date _____

February

2 Samuel

Theme: History of Israel (continued)

Author: Unknown

Verse: And your house and your kingdom shall be established forever before you. Your throne shall be established forever. 2 Samuel 7:16

Date: 11th century B.C.

Second Samuel recounts the strife and struggle leading to the establishment of King David as ruler of Israel in Jerusalem. It also records David's military victories, his sin with Bathsheba and the murder of her husband, Absalom's revolt and David's disobedience in numbering the people. (The full account of David's life extends from 1 Samuel 16:12 through 1 Kings 2:11.)

I read the book of 2 Samuel: Student Signature _____

Leader Signature _____ Date _____

April

Philippians

Theme: Christian Joy

Author: Paul

Verse: Fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. (Philippians 2:2)

Date: A.D. 61

Paul visited Philippi on his second missionary journey. When he wrote this letter to the Philippians, he was under house arrest in Rome. One of his reasons for writing was to thank the believers for sending him a gift. He also wanted to encourage believers who were being persecuted. Paul wrote about his imprisonment and how he was still able to spread the gospel. Paul stated that he did not know whether he would live on for a while and continue his ministry or die and be with the Lord. Whatever was to occur, he wasn't worried. His rejoicing wasn't an act — He only wanted Christ to be glorified. He told the Philippians to follow his example, to lay aside their worries, rejoice, pray and be content with God's provision in all circumstances. Paul also urged his readers to be humble and show interest in other's needs, not just their own. By doing so, they would follow the example of Christ, who humbled Himself and came to earth as a servant to die for our sins. Paul was a man of status and achievement before he was saved, but he made it clear that his past life was worth nothing compared to knowing Christ. His goal was to know Christ more.

I read the book of Philippians: Student Signature _____

Leader Signature _____ Date _____

January

1 Samuel

Theme: History of Israel

Author: Unknown

Verse: and said to him, “Look, you are old, and your sons do not walk in your ways. Now make us a king to judge us like all the nations.” 1 Samuel 8:5

Date: 12th-11th century B.C.

First and Second Samuel, originally considered one book, cover approximately 150 years. First Samuel begins with the birth and childhood of Samuel and records his ministry as the last of the Israelite judges. Also included is Israel’s demand for a king, the anointing of Saul to the throne as Israel’s first king and David’s life prior to becoming king.

I read the book of 1 Samuel: Student Signature _____

Leader Signature _____ Date _____

November

Judges

Theme: Consequences of sin

Author: Unknown

Verse: In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes. Judges 17:6

Date: 11th century B.C.

Judges covers the chaotic time in Israel's history between Joshua's death and the beginning of an organized government under King Saul, a period of about 340 years. God intended the nation to be governed by Him alone, with priests as administrators. He promised the people great blessings if they would only trust and obey Him. He also warned them that if they turned away from Him and worshiped false gods, He would ... bring a nation against you from afar, from the end of the earth, as swift as the eagle flies ... (Deuteronomy 28:49). That's exactly what happened when Israel repeatedly turned to false idols. Other nations invaded - just as God had promised. This was intended as discipline, to teach the Israelites to trust God alone, but the people sank deeper and deeper into sin. God is just and will punish sin, but He is also a God of grace and mercy. The 12 judges were actually military leaders whom God raised up to deliver His people from their enemies. Among them were Samson and Gideon, two of the Bible's best-known heroic figures. This cycle of sin-punishment-repentance-deliverance occurred seven times. The deliverance was always temporary, and even some of the judges were sinful. The lesson to be learned is that whenever people attempt to go their own way without God's guidance, disaster will follow.

JOURNEY™

Romans

Galatians & Ephesians

Bible Readings

I read the book of Judges: Student Signature _____

Leader Signature _____ Date _____

September

Exodus

Theme: Redemption from bondage

Author: Moses

Verse: I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. Exodus 20:2

Date: 15th century B.C.

Exodus opens with the descendants of Jacob having multiplied from 70 at the time of Joseph's death to a nation of more than two million. The nation of Israel was enslaved by Egypt for many years, but God called Moses, who was raised in the pharaoh's palace, to lead his fellow Israelites out of Egypt. God brought 10 plagues on the Egyptians to pave the way for the Israelites' release. Through the miraculous parting of the Red Sea, the Israelites escaped from the Egyptian army. God showed His presence to His people with pillars of cloud and fire, but they soon began to grumble and complain against God.

Through Moses, God revealed another portion of His plan - the law and the tabernacle. When we think of the law, we tend to think of the Ten Commandments (Chapter 20), but that was only the beginning.

Did God really expect that Israel would be able to obey His laws? No, He was making a point. God knows that we need to be wholly dependent on Him, but we don't know that. So He gave the law to show us what we would have to do in order to be saved by our own efforts. None of us can keep the law, and that's the point. And that's why God included the sacrifices and ceremonies in the law. They can't rid people of sin, but they did cover the sins of the Jews until Christ's perfect sacrifice on the cross.

When Moses told the people about the law, they promised to keep it. Of course, they didn't. While Moses was on Mount Sinai talking with God, the people gave up on him and began worshipping a gold calf, as the Egyptians did.

I read the book of Exodus: Student Signature _____

Leader Signature _____ Date _____

October

Numbers

Theme: God's corrective discipline and continuing love

Author: Moses

Verse: The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face shine upon you, and be gracious to you; The Lord lift up His countenance upon you, and give you peace. Numbers 6:24-26

Date: 15th century B.C

Numbers is a sequel to Exodus. (The book is called Numbers because of two censuses, or numberings of the people, that are recorded.) It recounts the Israelites' journey from Mount Sinai to the land of Canaan, which God had promised them. It wasn't a smooth journey. The people complained almost constantly. When they reached the border of the land, 12 spies were chosen (one from each tribe) and sent to report on the land God had told them to possess. Ten of the spies reported that the people who lived in the land were too powerful. Once again, the Israelites refused to rely on God - they panicked and nearly stoned the other two spies, Caleb and Joshua, who trusted God and recommended that the Israelites enter the land.

As punishment, God would not allow them to enter because of their disobedience and lack of faith. The Israelites had to wander in the wilderness 40 years until the disobedient generation died out. A whole generation missed the blessings God had planned for them in the land. Everybody who was an adult on the day of the spies' report died in the wilderness except Caleb and Joshua. During the time in the wilderness, the people grumbled against God some more. God responded by sending poisonous snakes. Many Israelites died. On God's instruction, Moses set up a bronze serpent on a pole. Those who looked on the serpent in faith were healed. This serpent was a picture of the death of Christ on the cross.

I read the book of Numbers: Student Signature _____

Leader Signature _____ Date _____