

Fleet Methodist Church

365

Bible Reading Challenge

found in here. “The Good Samaritan” (10:25 - 37), “One sheep” (15:1-7) and “The prodigal Son” (15:11-32). Luke is the only Gospel that tells how Jesus visited the home of the tax collector Zacchaeus (19: 1- 10) and the promise of life in paradise to a dying criminal (23: 39 - 43)

Luke, like Acts, often mentions God’s Holy Spirit, (1:15, 35; 4:1, 14, 18; 10:21; 11:13); he also shows how important prayer was to Jesus (3:21; 6:12; 9:18; and 23:34,46). From Luke we learn of three stories that Jesus used in teaching about prayer (11:5-9; 18:1-8, 9-14). Jesus’ concern for the poor is an important theme in Luke. The good news is preached to them (4:18; 7:22); they receive God’s blessings (6:20); they are invited to a great banquet (14:13,21); the poor beggar named Lazarus is taken to heaven by angels (16:20,22); and Jesus commands his disciples to sell what they have and give the money to the poor (12:33).

Key Verse

“Jesus responded, Salvation has come to this home today, for this man has shown himself to be a true son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and save those who are lost”, (Luke 19: 9-10).

The Learning and Growing Team

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WHAT IS IN THE BIBLE READINGS FOR DECEMBER?

NUMBERS

The title “Numbers” comes from the Greek (Arithmoi) and Latin (Numoi) names for this book. Many lists of groups and numbers of people are included (1:20, 3:21; 7:12; 26:5; 26:57) but more important is the description of the Israelites’ desert journey toward the land God promised them. The promised land represented true freedom and escape from slavery in Egypt. They are almost there!

Numbers shows the rebellion of the people. They complain that God has brought them out to the wilderness to starve or to die of thirst. They plot to get rid of their leaders Moses and Aaron. Because of their sins God does not allow them an easy and straight path to the land of promise. Instead, all those in the older generation who left Egypt (including Moses) must wander for forty years and eventually die in the desert wilderness. Only those in the younger generation would follow the faithful leaders, Joshua and Caleb into Canaan

Numbers records the tragic story of Israel’s unbelief and should serve as a dramatic lesson for all of God’s people. God loves us and wants the very best for us, He can and should be trusted.

Those who obey and trust God will receive God 's blessings, those who don't will not.

Numbers also gives us a clear portrayal of God 's patience. Again and again He withholds judgements and preserves the nation. But His patience must not be taken for granted; His judgement will come, we must obey.

DUETERONOMY

The name Deuteronomy comes from a Greek word meaning "second law". Those who prepared the Greek version of the Old Testament (the Septuagint) thought that the "copy of God 's law" in Deuteronomy was a "second law". Deuteronomy is not to be understood as a second law, rather it is a retelling or renewal of the collection of laws God gave Moses on Mount Sinai.

The Hebrew title of the book "these are the words (that Moses) spoke" more correctly sums up what Deuteronomy is all about. The words are a series of speeches that Moses made to the people of Israel just before his death while overlooking the promised land of Canaan from across the Jordan River.

Deuteronomy is the climax of the story of God 's people of Israel as it looks back at what the Lord has done, and looks forward to guide the new generation of Israelites in their life in Canaan. God 's agreement with the people of Israel as presented in Deuteronomy forms the basis of and provides an introduction to the history of Israel found in the books of Joshua, Judges 1 & 2, Samuel and 1 & 2 Kings.

Firstly Israel can use the message of Deuteronomy to judge its national successes and failures.; obeying the terms of God 's agreements with Israel will result in good fortune, disobedience will bring death and destruction. Secondly, Deuteronomy repeats the key points throughout the book, God has chosen Israel out of love. So Israel should respond to this love by loving God in return and by remaining faithful to the terms of God 's agreement with Israel.

Key Verse

"Understand, therefore that the Lord your God is indeed God. He is the faithful God who keeps his covenant for a thousand generations and lavishes his unfailing love on those who love him and obey his commands" (Deut 7:9)

LUKE

Luke is the first of a two part volume that includes the Acts of the Apostles. The author was a co-worker of Paul he is a doctor and wrote in the style of the Greek and Roman historians and biographers of his day. Many think that he was not Jewish, lived outside of Judea and that he was writing for a Gentile audience. A key theme in Luke is that God sent Jesus to be the saviour of all people, both Jews and Gentiles.

Luke 's stories about the birth of Jesus are more detailed than those of any other New Testament book and some of the "parables" that Jesus used to teach about God 's love are only