

Fleet Methodist Church

365

Bible Reading Challenge

WHAT IS IN THE BIBLE READINGS FOR NOVEMBER?

Finally, it is time to reveal his true identity to the disciples. Do they really know who Jesus is? Peter proclaims him Messiah but then promptly shows that he does not understand Jesus' mission. After the Transfiguration, Jesus continues to teach and heal confronting the Pharisees about divorce, the Rich Young Man about eternal life and blind Bartimaeus is healed.

Events move rapidly toward a climax. The Last Supper, the betrayal, the Crucifixion and the Resurrection are dramatically portrayed along with more examples of Jesus' teachings. Mark shows us Jesus - moving, serving, sacrificing and saving!. As you read Mark, be ready for action, be open for God's move in your life, and be challenged to move into your world to serve.



The Learning and Growing Team

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EXODUS

We learnt in Genesis how Joseph moved his family to Egypt, four hundred years later these descendants of Abraham have grown to over two million strong. The new Pharaoh finds this intimidating, decides to make them his slaves and there follows years of intense suffering. The book of Exodus describes how God rescues them from the clutches of the Pharaoh and calls them His chosen people.

Through a series of strange events Moses became a prince in Pharaoh's palace and then an outcast. God calls on him to talk to Pharaoh and persuade him to set His people free. Eventually, following some terrible plagues, Moses leads his people out of Egypt, through the dead sea and into the wilderness.

God gives His laws of right living to Moses on Mount Sinai which have been important to people of the Jewish faith ever since.

Outline

God saves his people from Egypt (Chapters 1 to 15) .

God makes his covenant with his people on Mount Sinai - including the Ten commandments (Chapters 16 to 23) .

Worship of God in the tabernacle (Chapters 24 to 40)

LEVITICUS

The overwhelming message of Leviticus is the holiness of God - *" You must be holy because I, the LORD your God am holy "* (19:2) but how can unholy people approach a holy God? We must first deal with sin. The opening chapters of Leviticus give detailed instructions for offering sacrifices, which were the active symbols of repentance and obedience. Whether bulls, grain, goats or sheep, the sacrificial offerings had to be perfect, with no defects or bruises - pictures of the ultimate sacrifice to come - Jesus, the Lamb of God. Jesus has come and opened the way to God by giving up his life as the final sacrifice in our place. True worship and oneness with God begin as we confess our sin and accept Christ as the only one who can redeem us from sin and help us to approach God.



In Leviticus, sacrifices, priests and the sacred day of Atonement opened the way for the Israelites to come to God. God's people were also to worship him with their lives. Thus we read of purity laws (chapters 11 to 15). Rules for living concerning family responsibilities, sexual conduct, relationships and worldliness (chapters 18 to 20) and vows (chapter 27). These instructions involve one's holy walk with God, and the patterns of spiritual living still apply today.

The final emphasis in Leviticus is celebration. The book gives instructions for the festivals. These were special, regular and corporate occasions for remembering what God has done, giving thanks to him and rededicating our lives to His service (chapter 23).

MARK

Mark was written to encourage Roman Christians and seeks to prove beyond a doubt that Jesus is the Messiah. Mark presents a rapid succession of vivid pictures of Jesus in action - his true identity revealed by what he does not necessarily by what he says. It is Jesus on the move.

Omitting the birth of Jesus, Mark begins with John the Baptist's preaching. Then, moving quickly past Jesus' baptism, temptation in the wilderness, and the call of the disciples. Mark takes us directly into Jesus' public ministry. We see Jesus confronting a demon, healing a man with leprosy and forgiving and healing the paralysed man lowered into Jesus' presence by friends. Next, Jesus calls Matthew (Levi) and has dinner with him and his questionable associates. This initiates the conflict with the Pharisees and other religious leaders, who condemn Jesus for eating with sinners and breaking the Sabbath.

In chapter 4, Mark pauses to give a sample of Jesus' teaching of the parable of the farmer and the illustration of the mustard seed, and then plunges back into action, Jesus calms the waves, drives out demons and raises Jairus' daughter from the dead.

After returning into Nazareth for a few days and experiencing rejection in his hometown, Jesus commissions the disciples to spread the Good News everywhere. Opposition from Herod and the Pharisees increases and John the Baptist is beheaded. Jesus continues to move, feeding 5,000, reaching out to the woman from Syrian Phoenicia, healing the deaf man, and feeding 4,000.