



**Monday, May 16** Read 1 John 1:1-10

**Tuesday, May 17** Read 1 John 2:1-29

**Wednesday, May 18** Read 1 John 3:1-24

**Thursday, May 19** Read 1 John 4:1-21

**Friday, May 20** Read 1 John 5:1-21

*As you read each scripture, consider these questions:*

\*How should this encourage me?

\*Is there anything I need to start doing?

\*Is there anything I need to slow down and think about?

\*Is there anything I need to be warned about?

\*Is there anything I need to stop doing?

\*How can I pray in regards to what God is teaching me?

## **Behind the Scenes of 1 John**

### **Why read this book?**

To find out more about the love of God. This book stresses God's love as an example for us to follow in our relationships with each other. But it doesn't stop there. It goes on to encourage us to live right, learning and obeying God's commands.

### **Who wrote this book?**

The apostle John, who also wrote the Gospel of John. John was one of Jesus' disciples. An apostle was someone who had seen Jesus and been commissioned by him to teach others about him.

### **When was it written?**

Probably in the A.D. 80s, late in John's life.

### **To whom was it written and why?**

John wrote to encourage and strengthen the believers in a group of churches near Ephesus in the western half of what is today the country of Turkey.

### **What to look for in 1 John:**

Watch for several key definitions. John restores the meanings of words that some false teachers at that time had distorted. You'll also find vivid images with special significance, such as light and darkness or Father and children.

# Developing a Great Family Picture

## Reading Guide through the Book of Ephesians

Monday, May 23 Read Ephesians 1

Tuesday, May 24 Read Ephesians 2:1-10

Wednesday, May 25 Read Ephesians 2:11-22

Thursday, May 26 Read Ephesians 3:1-13

Friday, May 27 Read Ephesians 3:14-21

Monday, May 30 Read Ephesians 4:1-16

Tuesday, May 31 Read Ephesians 4:17-32

Wednesday, June 1 Read Ephesians 5:1-20

Thursday, June 2 Read Ephesians 5:21-6:9

Friday, June 3 Read Ephesians 6:10-24

*As you read each scripture, consider these questions:*

\*What does this teach me about who God is and what He has done for me?

\*Which verse encourages me the most? Why?

\*How do these verses encourage and/or challenge me in how I relate with my family?

\*What do I need to start doing in my relationship with God? My relationships with others?

\*What one thing do I need to slow down and think about?

## Behind the Scenes of Ephesians

### Why read this book?

This book offers an enormous amount of encouragement and practical tips on how to live the Christian life.

### Who wrote this book?

The apostle Paul, who also wrote several other books in the New Testament. An apostle was someone who had seen Jesus and been commissioned by him to teach others about him.

### When was it written?

About A.D. 60, from Rome, during Paul's imprisonment there.

### To whom was it written and why?

Paul wrote this letter to the church at Ephesus, and all the believers everywhere to strengthen their Christian faith by explaining the nature and purpose of the church, the body of Christ. Paul had spent over three years with the Ephesian church and as a result, he was very close to them.

### What to look for in Ephesians:

**Big Picture (Chapters 1-3):** Paul spends the first half of this letter teaching the Ephesians about who they are in Christ. Look for phrases that explain our true identity in Christ such as: We are one in Christ, we are holy and blameless, we share in the promise of Christ, we are God's work of art, we are adopted as God's children, etc.

**Practical Living (Chapters 4-6):** In the last three chapters, Paul gives them practical tips on how a Christ-follower should live. Look for specific ways God can teach you how to relate to others, specifically your family.



*Developing a Great  
Family Picture*

**Reading Guide  
through the Book of Colossians**

**Monday, June 6** Read Colossians 1:1-14

**Tuesday, June 7** Read Colossians 1:15-2:5

**Wednesday, June 8** Read Colossians 2:6-23

**Thursday, June 9** Read Colossians 3:1-25

**Friday, June 10** Read Colossians 4:1-18

*As you read each scripture, consider these questions:*

\*What does this teach me about who God is and what He has done for me?

\*Which verse encourages me the most? Why?

\*How do these verses encourage and/or challenge me in how I relate with my family?

\*What do I need to start doing in my relationship with God? My relationships with others?

\*What one thing do I need to slow down and think about?

**Behind the Scenes of Colossians**

**Why read this book?**

Some people have been surprised to discover something new about a friend they thought they knew well. That's one of the exciting things about a relationship with Christ: there's no limit to the things we can learn about him. Reading Colossians is one way we can discover a few more things about Jesus and learn how we can honor him.

**Who wrote this book?**

While under house arrest in Rome, the apostle Paul wrote to believers in the small city of Colosse, located in the southwest interior of what is now Turkey.

**When was it written?**

About A.D. 60 to 62, during the time Paul awaited trial on an appeal to the Roman emperor Nero.

**To whom was it written and why?**

The church at Colosse was under constant pressure from the numerous religious philosophies abounding in the first-century world. Paul wrote to warn about the subtle arguments and false teachings that threatened to undermine the Colossians' faith.

**What to look for in Colossians:**

Colossians looks at what Christ has done and what Christians should do. Paul clearly teaches that Christ has paid for sin, has made us right with God, and gives us the pattern and the power to grow spiritually. Because Christ is the exact likeness of God, when we learn what he is like, we see what we need to become.



## Developing a Great Family Picture

### Reading Guide through the Book of James

**Monday, June 13** Read James 1:1-27

**Tuesday, June 14** Read James 2:1-26

**Wednesday, June 15** Read James 3:1-18

**Thursday, June 16** Read James 4:1-17

**Friday, June 17** Read James 5:1-20

*As you read each scripture, consider these questions:*

\*What does this teach me about who God is and what He has done for me?

\*Which verse encourages me the most? Why?

\*How do these verses encourage and/or challenge me in how I relate with my family?

\*What do I need to start doing in my relationship with God? My relationships with others?

\*What one thing do I need to slow down and think about?

### Behind the Scenes of James

#### **Why read this book?**

The book of James gives practical ways to live as a Christian. It is possible to believe the right things and live the wrong way. But this book will show you how to turn right beliefs into right living.

#### **Who wrote this book?**

The author identifies himself as James, but no one knows for sure which James wrote this letter. Most believe the writer was James, Jesus' brother, a leader in the Jerusalem church.

#### **When was it written?**

James may have been the first New Testament book to be written—between A.D. 40 and 50.

#### **To whom was it written and why?**

James wrote to Jewish Christians who had been scattered throughout the Mediterranean world because of persecution. In their hostile surroundings they were tempted to let intellectual agreement pass for true faith. Genuine faith will inevitably produce good deeds. This is the central theme of James's letter, around which he supplies practical advice on living the Christian life.

#### **What to look for in James:**

This letter can have rich meaning for us as we are reminded that genuine faith transforms lives. We are encouraged to put our faith into action. It is easy to say we have faith, but true faith will produce loving actions toward others.