

In an effort to help us learn to read the Bible as individuals, families, and a Church, I invite you to read each of the following this week, perhaps first thing in the morning individually and then collectively at dinner. The verses listed in the middle column are designed for youth to adult disciples, but some of these might be difficult for children to understand, so we include an alternate reading for families with children.

Basic Tips: 1.) Use a translation you can understand. If new to the Bible, try the NIV or The Message, which are both available online. 2.) Use a kids Bible with kids. 3.) Keep a pencil and notebook around to write down questions, observations, and conclusions. 4.) Have fun. Use your imagination and your brain.

Week 5 – Feb 1 – Feb 7

I AM CALLED TO MATURE.

“Until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.” (Ephesians 4:13)

Day 1	Luke 8:1-15	
Day 2	Col 1:(3-8),9-14	Mark 4:30-34
Day 3	2 Peter 1:3-9	Mark 10:13-16
Day 4	Heb 5:11-15	
Day 5	Eph 4:11-16	Luke 19:1-10

Questions to Guide You:

1. What does this story teach us about Jesus? the Father? the Spirit?
2. What does this story teach us about followers of Jesus? People who reject Jesus?
3. Is there a command to obey or an example to follow? Is there a bad example to avoid?
4. What lies, truths, or circumstances cause people to live these ways?
5. What would my life, my relationships, my work, my school look like if I believed and obeyed this Jesus teaching?
6. What practical thing can I do different this week to better imitate and obey Jesus with regards to my marriage, my family, my friends, my work, and my neighbors?

Summary Declaration:

We expect people to grow spiritually.ⁱ Spiritual growth is not an option, and so I will seek to fertilize my faith by surrounding myself with more mature believers. Maturity is a slow process of growing and reproducing **FAITH** in Jesus, **KNOWLEDGE** of Jesus, and **CHARACTER** like Jesus. Therefore, I will seek opportunities to stretch my faith and my comfort zone. I will seek to know more of God’s Word and more of God’s heart.ⁱⁱ I have been called out of darknessⁱⁱⁱ, sin, and flesh. Therefore, I will seek to put to death all known sin in my life in order to live as a new creation and find real, true, and abundant life.^{iv} I will take advantage of opportunities to grow as a disciple of Christ until I believe, think, and live just like Jesus.^v

ⁱ 2 Thess 1:3-4; 2 Pet 1:3-9

ⁱⁱ 2 Pet 3:18; Gal 6:14; Col 1:9-14; Heb 5:11-14

ⁱⁱⁱ 1 Pet 2:9

^{iv} 1 Peter 2:1-2; Ephesians 4:17-32; Col 3:5-17; Matthew 5:29-30; John 10:10; Heb 10:26; 1 Thess 4:3-8

^v Luke 6:39-40; Ephesians 4:10-16; 1 John 2:6; Phil 2:5; Rom 12:2