

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 8 – Feb 22 – 28

I AM CALLED TO SEEK UNITY.

“I pray that all of them may be one.” (John 17:21)

Day 1	John 17:20-24	
Day 2	Matt 18:21-35	
Day 3	Phil 2:1-4	Luke 7:41-50
Day 4	Matt 18:15-17	
Day 5	Eph 4:2-6	Luke 23:32-34

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:

All families have their fights, disagreements.ⁱ I come into the Church as a sinner among sinners, and so I know that I will both hurt and be hurt unintentionally over personal, practical, and theological issues. Still, Jesus prayed the Church would be One just as the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are One, because our unity demonstrates the gospel to a skeptical world.ⁱⁱ So when conflict happens I will seek and give forgiveness, just as I came to Christ and received forgiveness.ⁱⁱⁱ I will never forgive someone for as much as Christ has forgiven me.^{iv} Forgiveness is not always easy, so when I do not feel I have the strength, will, or wisdom to either confront or confess, I will seek the help of the Elders of this church.^v I will do this because Jesus prayed for his Church to be one.

ⁱ Acts 15:1-11; Acts 16:36-41

ⁱⁱ John 17:20-23; 1 Cor 1:10

ⁱⁱⁱ Matt 5:23-24; Matt 18:21-35; Eph 4:2-6; Rom 15:5-7; Phil 2:1-5; Luke 7:41-50

^{iv} Luke 23:33-34; Col 3:13; Rom 5:10; Col 1:22

^v Matt 18:15-17; 2 Cor 2:5-11