

Introduction

This month is all about what we call “Epistles.” These are letters written by apostles (church leaders like Paul or Peter) to specific churches that were started in the first 100 years after Jesus’ death and resurrection. Although these letters were written to specific churches a long time ago, the truth found within each epistle is still relevant to us today. As you read through each of these letters/epistles, you can trust that what you are reading is really God’s Word and that it is still important and true for us in the church today! Below you can find a little bit of the background or “context” for each of the letters/epistles you will be reading this month.

The Prison Epistles: The first set of epistles you will read are called the “Prison Epistles” because they were written by Paul when he was imprisoned in Rome from 60-62 AD. The Jewish leaders in Jerusalem had arrested Paul because he was preaching the gospel, and they eventually sent him to Rome to stand trial before Emperor Nero. After his trial, Paul was placed under house arrest, and it was at this time that he wrote *Ephesians*, *Philippians*, *Colossians*, and *Philemon*.

The Pastoral Epistles: The second set of epistles you will read are called the “Pastoral Epistles” because they were written to instruct Timothy and Titus, who were pastors of local churches. *1 & 2 Timothy* were written to Timothy, a young pastor of a church in Ephesus. *Titus* was written to Titus, who was a pastor of a church on the island of Crete.

As you go through the reading each day, write down your answer to these questions: What did this passage teach you about God? What did it teach you about humanity? Did you see the gospel in this passage? Were there any commands given for how you should live? What is something new you learned through this passage?

Memory Challenge

Question: What happens after death to those not united to Christ by faith?

Answer: At the day of judgment they will receive the fearful but just sentence of condemnation pronounced against them. They will be cast out from the favorable presence of God, into hell, to be justly and grievously punished, forever.

Passage: “The Father loves the Son and has given all things into His hand. Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on Him.” John 3:35-36

Weekly Assignment

Each week, come up with one question that you have from that week’s reading. Once you have written down that question go and ask it to a parent, grandparent, small group leader, or any other trustworthy adult in your life.

Bible Reading

Week 1

- ☐ Day 1: Ephesians 1-2
- ☐ Day 2: Ephesians 3
- ☐ Day 3: Ephesians 4
- ☐ Day 4: Ephesians 5-6
- ☐ Day 5: Philippians 1
- ☐ Day 6: Philippians 2

Week 2

- ☐ Day 1: Philippians 3-4
- ☐ Day 2: Colossians 1
- ☐ Day 3: Colossians 2
- ☐ Day 4: Colossians 3
- ☐ Day 5: Colossians 4
- ☐ Day 6: Philemon

Week 3

- ☐ Day 1: 1 Timothy 1
- ☐ Day 2: 1 Timothy 2
- ☐ Day 3: 1 Timothy 3
- ☐ Day 4: 1 Timothy 4
- ☐ Day 5: 1 Timothy 5
- ☐ Day 6: 1 Timothy 6

Week 4

- ☐ Day 1: 2 Timothy 1-2
- ☐ Day 2: 2 Timothy 3
- ☐ Day 3: 2 Timothy 4
- ☐ Day 4: Titus 1
- ☐ Day 5: Titus 2
- ☐ Day 6: Titus 3

Parent

Name: _____

Signature: _____

Student

Name: _____

Signature: _____

Submit your completed D6 on the website by December 1

