

# 2024 BIBLE READING PLAN



*Redeemer Community Church*

MAY

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# WHERE ARE WE IN THE OLD TESTAMENT?

**KRYSTAL BRUMMITT**

We will read parts of Joshua, Judges, Ruth, and 1 and 2 Samuel this month. Each of these books tells how God's plan of redemption is moving forward through his people, the Israelites. Below are short summaries of each book that will help in understanding what's taking place in the life of God's people during that time. We will also see how each part of the story points to the coming of Jesus: Israel's and our long-awaited Savior.

## **JOSHUA**

Israel's new leader, Joshua, believed God would keep his promise to give his people the promised land. In faith, Joshua led God's people into a battle they knew they could not win on their own, and God's people prevailed! God helped his people overcome their enemies and brought them into the land of promise – a place they could finally call home. But this wasn't the end of what God was doing (even though Israel may have thought so at the time). God also promised his people that, though they were separated from his presence by their sin, one day, he would send a Warrior – a truer and better Joshua – who would bring them finally, safely, eternally home to be with him.

## **JUDGES**

Throughout much of their history, Israel flip-flopped between believing God and disbelieving him. In the book of Judges, God's people went through a cycle of disbelieving God's promises, disobeying his commands, and getting into trouble as a result. Every time they did, God sent a leader to rescue them. These leaders were called judges. The judges were instructed to lead the people in following God, and when they forgot God's law and went their own way, the judges were the men and women God used to rescue them. God had a big-picture reason for giving Israel judges, too. They were meant to remind God's people that, one day, God was going to send the perfect and final Savior who would rescue them and draw them close to him. Jesus would be the ultimate Judge who would set the perfect standard. But he would do what no earthly judge could ever do: he would take their place, stand under the judgment of God on their behalf, bear the punishment they deserved, and impart to them his righteousness.

## **RUTH**

The book of Ruth tells a true story about a woman who lost everything. Ruth lost her home, her husband, and her family (everyone except her embittered mother-in-law, Naomi). She was an outsider to the people of God, a foreigner to the promises of Yahweh. She arrived in Israel without a home, and without much hope. But God, in his kindness and mercy, gave Ruth a new home and a new family through a man who loved her named Boaz. Boaz had a special title – he was called a kinsman redeemer, because he was the person God used to take away Ruth's shame and give her a new, full life. Boaz pointed God's people forward to the Redeemer they were ultimately waiting for: the one who would take all their sadness and loneliness and give them a home with him forever. At the end of the book, God made Ruth a very special promise. He promised that, through her family, he would send the Savior the whole world had been waiting for. Ruth wasn't just welcomed into the people of God; she was grafted into the very family tree of the Messiah.

# WHERE ARE WE IN THE OLD TESTAMENT?

KRYSTAL BRUMMITT

## 1 & 2 SAMUEL

Israel was led by God; so until this point in their story, they had no human king. This is one of the ways the nation was different from nations around them. When Israel was living in their new home, they looked at the nations surrounding them and noticed that every other nation had a king ruling over them. Israel was supposed to live under God's perfect leadership, but they wanted to be just like everyone else. They demanded that God give them a king. He gave them what they wanted. They had lots of good kings and lots of bad kings, but every single king eventually let them down. Even their favorite king – David, who was good and kind and loved God - fell into grave sin. But even though Israel had demanded a king for wrong reasons, God promised David that he would give David an heir and would “establish the throne of his kingdom forever” (2 Samuel 7:13). With every king, God reminded his people that, one day, he would send a savior who would be the perfect and final King forever and ever. That's the king they were truly waiting for.

# ADDITIONAL RESOURCES FOR MAY

## INTRODUCTORY

Overviews to this month's books:

- + Bible Project: Overviews of [Joshua](#), [Judges](#), [Ruth](#), [1 Samuel](#), [2 Samuel](#)
- + Bible Project: Overview of [Acts part 1](#)

## INTERMEDIATE

Study Bible intro notes (context, themes, outlines, etc.) on:

- + [Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1 and 2 Samuel](#)
- + [Acts](#)

## DEEPER

Commentaries

- + Matthew Henry (1700s) wrote a commentary on the whole Bible that you can find chapter by chapter [here](#).
- + Alastair Roberts (modern) has a set of audio commentaries on every chapter of the Bible you can find [here](#).
- + Consider a [recommended commentary](#) on one of the books!

# PRAYER POINTS FOR MAY

## **Tuesdays: Pray for non-Christian friends, family members, neighbors, and co-workers.**

Pray that God would help you take a next step in helping them understand the gospel, and pray that he would bring them from spiritual death to spiritual life.

## **Wednesdays: Pray for single adults at Redeemer.**

- + Pray that our single adults would be known, loved, and welcomed into our communities.
- + Pray that our singles would experience contentment in Christ.
- + Pray that God would provide opportunities for service and leadership for single adults at our church.
- + Pray that we would be a true spiritual family that welcomes people from all family backgrounds into the body of Christ.

## **Thursdays: Pray for our global and local partners.**

Pray for Bekah, serving in Hungary:

- + Pray for the InterVarsity international student ministry (ISM) conference: that people working with students all over Europe will be connected, refreshed, and equipped to keep serving!
- + Pray for her ministry summit and visits from stateside partners, that more people would have a vision to be involved with God's kingdom work in Hungary.

Pray for [Red Mountain Grace](#) (and email [Lindsey Smith](#) if you'd like to get involved with them!):

- + Pray for the twenty families that are currently being housed through Red Mountain Grace. Pray that Red Mountain Grace apartments would be places of warm hospitality.
- + Pray for the social workers and medical professionals caring for the families and their loved ones currently residing with Red Mountain Grace. Pray that the Lord would give them wisdom for how best to care for their patients and loved ones.
- + Pray that the Gospel will be known and that lives will be changed through the work and words of the staff and volunteers at Red Mountain Grace. Pray that the guests would find comfort and peace through the Lord Jesus Christ as they walk through the valley of medical trials.
- + Praise God for those that support Red Mountain Grace spiritually and financially. Pray that the Lord would continue to raise up new donors, board members, and volunteers to continue to love visitors coming to our city facing medical crisis.

## **Fridays: Pray for contentment.**

Pray that God would help you be fundamentally thankful for his blessings and satisfied in his grace.

# HAPPENING AT REDEEMER

## COLLECTIVES

Our collectives are groups that gather around common stages of life or needs for fellowship, discipleship, and care. Learn more on our [website](#), and consider visiting one of the following collectives!

- + Young professionals
- + 30s-40s single adults
- + Over 50s
- + Men's recovery - for men seeking help and support with addiction

## NEXT MEMBERSHIP CLASSES

Our next membership classes are May 19 and 21. If you're interested in joining Redeemer, [register](#) for one!

## MAY COMMON MEAL

We'll have a Common Meal on May 19 after the afternoon service. Mor information to come!

## A THEOLOGY OF DISAPPOINTMENT

Our first Theology Talkback of the summer will be "A Theology of Disappointment," by Jeff Heine. Coming May 29!

## SERVE AT REDEEMER

We have many oportunites for you to **serve** at Redeemer and in our city. Follow [this link](#) to learn more.













# YEARLY PLAN OVERVIEW

## JANUARY

1. Mark 4:1-21
2. Genesis 1:1-2:3, John 1
3. Genesis 2:4-25, John 2-3
4. Genesis 3, John 4
5. Genesis 4, John 5
6. Mark 4:21-34
7. Psalms 1-3
8. Mark 4:21-34
9. Genesis 6, John 6
10. Genesis 7, John 7
11. Genesis 8:1-19, John 8
12. Genesis 8:20-9:29, John 9
13. Mark 4:35-41
14. Psalms 4-6
15. Mark 4:35-41
16. Genesis 11:1-9, John 10
17. Genesis 12:1-9, John 11
18. Genesis 15, John 12
19. Genesis 16, John 13
20. Mark 5:1-20
21. Psalms 7-9
22. Mark 5:1-20
23. Genesis 17, John 14
24. Genesis 21:1-21, John 15
25. Genesis 22 - 23, John 16
26. Genesis 24, John 17
27. Mark 5:21-43
28. Psalms 10-12
29. Mark 5:21-43
30. Genesis 25, John 18
31. Genesis 27, John 19

## FEBRUARY

1. Genesis 29:1-30:24, John 20
2. Genesis 32-33, John 21
3. Sermon Passage
4. Psalms 13-15
5. Sermon Passage
6. Genesis 35, Romans 1
7. Genesis 37, Romans 2
8. Genesis 39, Romans 3
9. Genesis 40-41, Romans 4
10. Sermon Passage
11. Psalms 16-18
12. Sermon Passage
13. Genesis 42-43, Romans 5
14. Genesis 44-45, Romans 6
15. Genesis 46-47, Romans 7
16. Genesis 48-49; 50:15-21, Romans 8
17. Sermon Passage
18. Psalms 19-21
19. Sermon Passage
20. Exodus 1-2, Romans 9
21. Exodus 3-4, Romans 10
22. Exodus 7-8, Romans 11
23. Exodus 9-10, Romans 12
24. Sermon Passage
25. Psalms 22-24
26. Sermon Passage
27. Exodus 11-12, Romans 13
28. Exodus 13-14, Romans 14
29. Exodus 16-17, Romans 15

## MARCH

1. Exodus 19:1-20:21, Romans 16
2. Sermon Passage
3. Psalms 25-27
4. Sermon Passage
5. Exodus 24:1-25:22, 1 Corinthians 1
6. Exodus 26, 1 Corinthians 2-3
7. Exodus 32-33, 1 Corinthians 4
8. Exodus 34; Exodus 40,  
1 Corinthians 5
9. Sermon Passage
10. Psalms 28-30
11. Sermon Passage
12. Leviticus 1, 1 Corinthians 6-7
13. Leviticus 4, 1 Corinthians 8-9
14. Leviticus 11, 1 Corinthians 10
15. Leviticus 16, 1 Corinthians 11
16. Sermon Passage
17. Psalms 31-33
18. Sermon Passage
19. Leviticus 19, 1 Corinthians 12-13
20. Leviticus 23, 1 Corinthians 14
21. Leviticus 25, 1 Corinthians 15
22. Leviticus 26, 1 Corinthians 16
23. Sermon Passage
24. Psalms 34-36
25. Sermon Passage
26. Numbers 1-2, 2 Corinthians 1
27. Numbers 6:1-7:17, 2 Corinthians 2
28. Numbers 9-10, 2 Corinthians 3
29. Numbers 11, 2 Corinthians 4
30. Sermon Passage
31. Psalms 37-39

# YEARLY PLAN OVERVIEW

## APRIL

1. Sermon Passage
2. Numbers 13-14, 2 Corinthians 5
3. Numbers 20, 2 Corinthians 6
4. Numbers 27:12-23,  
2 Corinthians 7-8
5. Numbers 28:1-29:11,  
2 Corinthians 9
6. Sermon Passage
7. Psalms 40-42
8. Sermon Passage
9. Deuteronomy 1:1-2:25,  
2 Corinthians 10
10. Deuteronomy 3:23-4:49,  
2 Corinthians 11
11. Deuteronomy 5-6, 2 Corinthians 12
12. Deuteronomy 7:1-9:12,  
2 Corinthians 13
13. Sermon Passage
14. Psalms 43-45
15. Sermon Passage
16. Deuteronomy 10-11, Luke 1
17. Deuteronomy 14:1-16:8, Luke 2
18. Deuteronomy 17:14-18:22, Luke 3
19. Deuteronomy 28, Luke 4
20. Sermon Passage
21. Psalms 46-48
22. Sermon Passage
23. Deuteronomy 29-30, Luke 5
24. Deuteronomy 31, Luke 6
25. Deuteronomy 32, Luke 7
26. Deuteronomy 33-34, Luke 8
27. Sermon Passage
28. Psalms 49-51
29. Sermon Passage
30. Joshua 1-2, Luke 9

## MAY

1. Joshua 3, Luke 10
2. Joshua 6-7, Luke 11
3. Joshua 23-24, Luke 12
4. Sermon Passage
5. Psalms 52-54
6. Sermon Passage
7. Judges 1-2, Luke 13
8. Judges 4-5, Luke 14
9. Judges 6:11-8:35, Luke 15
10. Judges 20-21, Luke 16
11. Sermon Passage
12. Psalms 55-57
13. Sermon Passage
14. Ruth 1-2, Luke 17
15. Ruth 3-4, Luke 18
16. 1 Samuel 1-2, Luke 19
17. 1 Samuel 3-4, Luke 20
18. Sermon Passage
19. Psalms 58-60
20. Sermon Passage
21. 1 Samuel 6-7, Luke 21
22. 1 Samuel 8-9, Luke 22
23. 1 Samuel 10-11, Luke 23
24. 1 Samuel 15-16, Luke 24
25. Sermon Passage
26. Psalms 61-63
27. Sermon Passage
28. 1 Samuel 17-18, Acts 1
29. 1 Samuel 19-20, Acts 2
30. 1 Samuel 24-25, Acts 3
31. 1 Samuel 30-31, Acts 4

## JUNE

1. Sermon Passage
2. Psalms 64-66
3. Sermon Passage
4. 2 Samuel 1:1-2:7, Acts 5-6
5. 2 Samuel 5-6, Acts 7
6. 2 Samuel 7, Acts 8
7. 2 Samuel 9, Acts 9
8. Sermon Passage
9. Psalms 67-69
10. Sermon Passage
11. 2 Samuel 11-12, Acts 10
12. 2 Samuel 23-24, Acts 11-12
13. 1 Kings 1-2, Acts 13
14. 1 Kings 3-4, Acts 14
15. Sermon Passage
16. Psalms 70-72
17. Sermon Passage
18. 1 Kings 5-6, Acts 15
19. 1 Kings 8, Acts 16
20. 1 Kings 11:1-12:24, Acts 17
21. 1 Kings 15:8-16:34, Acts 18
22. Sermon Passage
23. Psalms 73-75
24. Sermon Passage
25. 1 Kings 17:1-18:19, Acts 19
26. 1 Kings 18:20-19:21, Acts 20
27. 2 Kings 1-2, Acts 21
28. 2 Kings 17, Acts 22-23
29. Sermon Passage
30. Psalms 76-78

# YEARLY PLAN OVERVIEW

## JULY

1. Sermon Passage
2. 2 Kings 18, Acts 24-25
3. 2 Kings 19-20, Acts 26
4. 2 Kings 22-23, Acts 27
5. 2 Kings 24:1-25:21, Acts 28
6. Sermon Passage
7. Psalms 79-81
8. Sermon Passage
9. 1 Chronicles 1-2, Galatians 1:1-2:14
10. 1 Chronicles 28-29, Galatians 2:15-3:29
11. 2 Chronicles 1, Galatians 4:1-5:15
12. 2 Chronicles 5-7, Galatians 5:16-6:18
13. Sermon Passage
14. Psalms 82-84
15. Sermon Passage
16. 2 Chronicles 8-9, Ephesians 1:1-2:10
17. 2 Chronicles 29-30, Ephesians 2:11-3:21
18. 2 Chronicles 34, Ephesians 4:1-5:21
19. 2 Chronicles 35-36, Ephesians 5:22-6:24
20. Sermon Passage
21. Psalms 85-87
22. Sermon Passage
23. Ezra 1; 3, Philippians 1
24. Ezra 6-7, Philippians 2
25. Nehemiah 1-2, Philippians 3
26. Nehemiah 3-4, Philippians 4
27. Sermon Passage
28. Psalms 88-90
29. Sermon Passage
30. Nehemiah 8-9, Colossians 1
31. Nehemiah 13, Colossians 2

## AUGUST

1. Esther 1-3, Colossians 3
2. Esther 4-5, Colossians 4
3. Sermon Passage
4. Psalms 91-93
5. Sermon Passage
6. Esther 6-7, 1 Thessalonians 1:1-2:16
7. Esther 8-10, 1 Thessalonians 2:17-3:13
8. Job 1-2, 1 Thessalonians 4
9. Job 3-4, 1 Thessalonians 5
10. Sermon Passage
11. Psalms 94-96
12. Sermon Passage
13. Job 19-20, 2 Thessalonians 1:1-2:12
14. Job 38-39, 2 Thessalonians 2:13-3:18
15. Job 40, 1 Timothy 1
16. Job 41-42, 1 Timothy 2
17. Sermon Passage
18. Psalms 97-99
19. Sermon Passage
20. Proverbs 1-2, 1 Timothy 3
21. Proverbs 3-4, 1 Timothy 4
22. Proverbs 8-9, 1 Timothy 5
23. Proverbs 10-11, 1 Timothy 6
24. Sermon Passage
25. Psalms 100-102
26. Sermon Passage
27. Proverbs 15-16, 2 Timothy 1
28. Proverbs 27-28, 2 Timothy 2
29. Proverbs 31, 2 Timothy 3
30. Ecclesiastes 1-2, 2 Timothy 4
31. Sermon Passage

## SEPTEMBER

1. Psalms 103-105
2. Sermon Passage
3. Ecclesiastes 3-4, Titus 1
4. Ecclesiastes 12, Titus 2
5. Song of Solomon 1-2, Titus 3
6. Song of Solomon 8, Philemon
7. Sermon Passage
8. Psalms 106-108
9. Sermon Passage
10. Isaiah 1-2, Hebrews 1-2
11. Isaiah 5, Hebrews 3-4
12. Isaiah 6-7, Hebrews 5-6
13. Isaiah 9, Isaiah 11, Hebrews 7
14. Sermon Passage
15. Psalms 109-111
16. Sermon Passage
17. Isaiah 24-25, Hebrews 8-9
18. Isaiah 26-27, Hebrews 10
19. Isaiah 30, Hebrews 11:1-12:4
20. Isaiah 40-41, Hebrews 12:5-13:25
21. Sermon Passage
22. Psalms 112-114
23. Sermon Passage
24. Isaiah 42-43, Matthew 1-2
25. Isaiah 49-50, Matthew 3-4
26. Isaiah 52-53, Matthew 5
27. Isaiah 55-56, Matthew 6-7
28. Sermon Passage
29. Psalms 115-117
30. Sermon Passage

# YEARLY PLAN OVERVIEW

## OCTOBER

1. Isaiah 58-59, Matthew 8
2. Isaiah 60-61, Matthew 9
3. Isaiah 62-63, Matthew 10
4. Isaiah 65-66, Matthew 11
5. Sermon Passage
6. Psalms 118
7. Sermon Passage
8. Jeremiah 1-2, Matthew 12
9. Jeremiah 9-10, Matthew 13
10. Jeremiah 13-14, Matthew 14
11. Jeremiah 25, Matthew 15
12. Sermon Passage
13. Psalms 119: 1-96
14. Sermon Passage
15. Jeremiah 29-30, Matthew 16
16. Jeremiah 31, 33, Matthew 17
17. Jeremiah 52, Lamentations 1  
Matthew 18
18. Lamentations 3, Matthew 19-20
19. Sermon Passage
20. Psalms 199:97-176
21. Sermon Passage
22. Ezekiel 1, Matthew 21
23. Ezekiel 2-3, Matthew 22
24. Ezekiel 4-5, Matthew 23
25. Ezekiel 10-11, Matthew 24
26. Sermon Passage
27. Psalms 120-122
28. Sermon Passage
29. Ezekiel 15-16, Matthew 25
30. Ezekiel 33-34, Matthew 26
31. Ezekiel 36-37, Matthew 27

## NOVEMBER

1. Ezekiel 39:21-40:19; 48:30-35  
Matthew 28
2. Sermon Passage
3. Psalms 123-125
4. Sermon Passage
5. Daniel 1-2, James 1
6. Daniel 3-4, James 2
7. Daniel 5-6, James 3:1-4:12
8. Daniel 7, Daniel 12,  
James 4:13-5:20
9. Sermon Passage
10. Psalms 126-128
11. Sermon Passage
12. Hosea 1-2, 1 Peter 1:1-2:10
13. Hosea 3-4, 1 Peter 2:11-3:12
14. Hosea 10-11, 1 Peter 3:13-4:11
15. Hosea 13-14, 1 Peter 4:12-5:14
16. Sermon Passage
17. Psalms 129-131
18. Sermon Passage
19. Joel 1-2, 2 Peter 1
20. Amos 1-2, 2 Peter 2
21. Amos 5-6, 2 Peter 3
22. Amos 9, Jude
23. Sermon Passage
24. Psalms 132-134
25. Sermon Passage
26. Obadiah, 1 John 1:1-2:17
27. Jonah 1-2, 1 John 2:18-3:10
28. Jonah 3-4, 1 John 3:11- 4:21
29. Micah 1-2, 1 John 5
30. Sermon Passage

## DECEMBER

1. Psalms 135-137
2. Sermon Passage
3. Micah 4-5, 2 John
4. Micah 6-7, 3 John
5. Nahum 1, Revelation 1-2
6. Nahum 2-3, Revelation 3
7. Sermon Passage
8. Psalms 138-140
9. Sermon Passage
10. Habakkuk 1-2, Revelation 4
11. Habakkuk 3, Revelation 5-6
12. Zephaniah 1-2, Revelation 7
13. Zephaniah 3, Revelation 8-9
14. Sermon Passage
15. Psalms 141-143
16. Sermon Passage
17. Haggai, Revelation 10-11
18. Zechariah 1 and 3, Revelation  
12-13
19. Zechariah 7-8, Revelation 14
20. Zechariah 9-10, Revelation 15-16
21. Sermon Passage
22. Psalms 144-147
23. Sermon Passage
24. Zechariah 11-12, Revelation 17-18
25. Zechariah 13-14, Revelation 19-20
26. Malachi 1-2, Revelation 21
27. Malachi 3-4, Revelation 22
28. Sermon Passage
29. Psalms 148-150
30. Sermon Passage
31. End of the year reflection



# HOW TO APPROACH THE BIBLE

At Redeemer, we believe that the Holy Scriptures are the unfolding revelation of the greatness and graciousness of the Triune God, they declare the covenant promises of His Kingdom and His people, and they instruct from generation to generation the great deeds of the Lord.

Despite the fact that the Bible was written by 40 authors on 3 continents over thousands of years, it tells one coherent story. From beginning to end, the 66 books of the Bible tell the story of our all-powerful and loving King and Rescuer. This King made us in His image, but we, desiring to take His place, rebelled and incurred his just and holy wrath- but far from that being the tragic end to the story, it was merely the title page. For thousands of years, God's foreordained, perfect plan was coming to fruition. God Himself would come to earth- to live the life required of us, die the death that we deserved, and reconcile us to Himself by His own blood.

The Scriptures are one of God's means of grace to us, written under the inspiration of His Spirit so that we might know Him and enjoy Him forever. As J.I. Packer has written, "The word which God addresses directly to us is an instrument not only of government but also of fellowship. He made us with the intention that we might walk together forever in a love relationship. But such a relationship can exist only when the parties know something of each other. God, our Maker, knows all about us before we say anything; but we can know nothing of him unless he tells us. Therefore, God sends his word...to woo us as well as to instruct us."

This means that the Bible cannot merely be read merely intellectually. There is nothing given to us in the Bible simply to be known. His Word has been given to us that we might know Him through it, and, by the power of His Spirit, be changed into His likeness by it. His Word is a vehicle for your communion with the thrice-holy, living, gracious God, given to you because God wants you to know and love Him, even as He knows and loves you.

# THE HEAR METHOD

Each month, we will be including a different suggested method for reading Scripture. This month, we are including the HEAR method which is a four step method that both helps us understand and interact with each passage of scripture

The most important thing in beginning Bible study is simply to come before the Lord prayerfully, patiently, and persistently. However, whether we realize it or not, each of us has a “method” in how we approach God’s Word, and some methods are more helpful than others. The HEAR Method was developed by Robby Gallaty, and we have found it particularly useful, because it sets the table well for any Christian, providing the tools necessary to mine a spiritual gem in 10 minutes, as well as to dig deep for an hour.

## HIGHLIGHT, EXPLAIN, APPLY, RESPOND.

**Highlight:** What is the main point? Is there a verse or phrase that captures it?

**Explain:** What does this passage mean? Try to summarize its meaning in your own words. A proper interpretation of any passage must:

- Be clearly reflected in the text
- Be timeless
- Not be culturally bound
- Correspond to the rest of Scripture
- Be relevant both to the Biblical audience as well as a contemporary audience

*A few questions to ask to uncover the meaning of a passage:*

- What do the key terms mean?
- How do the verses or phrases relate to each other?
- How does this passage fit into the larger story of the book it is in?
- How does this passage relate to the story of the Bible as a whole?
- How does this passage speak about or point to Jesus or our need?

**Apply:** How should this passage apply to my life today?

- Is there an application already in the text?
- Is there sin to confess, a promise to claim, a command to obey?
- What would the main point of this verse practically look like in my life today?

**Respond:** Is there anything I need to remember, rejoice in, request, or repent of?

- How does this show me something about the character of God for which I can praise him? (What happens in my life when I forget this?)
- How does this show me something wrong with me — some sin of which this convicts me — for which I can repent? (How does my faith and salvation in Christ help me escape this?)
- How does this show me something that I need that I should be petitioning God for? (What do I lack in my life that I should seeking?)

# WHAT IS THE GOSPEL?

We use the word “gospel” a lot, because it’s the word that summarizes the basic Christian message. “Gospel” means “good news,” and the Christian gospel is the good news of what God has done for us through Jesus. Here are two ways to understand the gospel message.

## GOD SAVES SINNERS

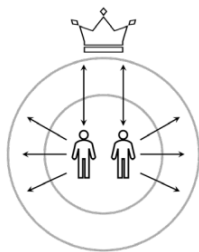
J.I. Packer offers a short definition of the gospel as “God saves sinners:”

**God** – the Triune Jehovah, Father, Son and Spirit; three Persons working together in sovereign wisdom, power and love to achieve the salvation of a chosen people, the Father electing, the Son fulfilling the Father’s will by redeeming, the Spirit executing the purpose of Father and Son by renewing.

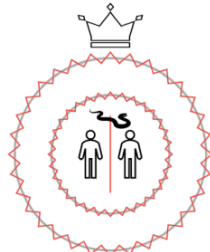
**Saves** – does everything, first to last, that is involved in bringing man from death in sin to life in glory: plans, achieves and communicates redemption, calls and keeps, justifies, sanctifies, glorifies.

**Sinners** – men as God finds them, guilty, vile, helpless, powerless, unable to lift a finger to do God’s will or better their spiritual lot. God saves sinners... sinners do not save themselves in any sense at all, but that salvation, first and last, whole and entire, past, present and future, is of the Lord, to whom be glory for ever; amen.

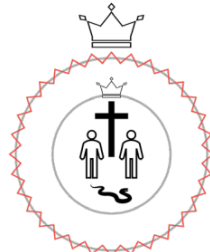
## THE GOSPEL IN FIVE CIRCLES



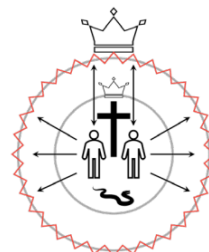
1. CREATION



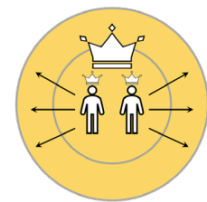
2. FALL



3. REDEMPTION



4. NEW LIFE



5. NEW CREATION

It begins with Creation: God makes us for relationship with him and to reflect his glory. God wants a relationship with his people, and he made us to cultivate his kingdom in the world by developing it and filling it with people who bear his image and live in a faithful covenant with him.

But then comes the Fall: the world (and our lives) are ruined by our rebellion. We listened to the fallen angel called the Serpent (Satan), abandoning God’s plan for our own, and as a result our souls, our relationships, and the entire world are corrupted by sin, decay, and death.

Thankfully, God doesn’t leave us there: God rescues and reconciles us through his Redeemer. God the Son entered the world as the divine-human Jesus to break the power of the Serpent, die as a sacrificial lamb to pay the price for our rebellion, and reconcile us to God.

Now in Jesus, we have New Life: God restores us to be able to reflect his glory again. When we come to belong to Jesus by faith, we are adopted into God’s family and empowered to live like God (in holiness and love) and for God’s kingdom in the world.

And it gets better! One day, God will re-create the world perfectly and rest forever with his people. There will be no more sin, suffering, or evil, and we will live in resurrected bodies in a reunited heaven and earth with God.