

Bible Reading Notes

July 2019 – John 5-12

These notes are easy to install on most phones or tablets.

Install the 'PrayerMate' App and you'll find it under 'subscribe to online feeds' and 'Devotional'. It's called St Philemon's Bible Notes. If you have any problems, email alicecornes@gmail.com

How to use these Bible reading notes

These Bible reading notes are a resource to help you dig into God's word and allow it to change your life. 'A little and often' is a good motto. If you miss a day (or several!), don't feel guilty or try to catch up; just pick up wherever the notes have got to. Here's a guide to get the most out of these notes:

1. Find a time and place where you can be quiet but awake.
2. Ask God to help you understand.
3. Use the notes to help you think about the passage:
 - *'Read' sections get you thinking for yourself about the verses.*
 - *'Apply' sections suggest how they make a difference to you and how to pray in response.*
4. Pray about what you have read.
5. Look for an opportunity to share with someone what God has told you.

Monday 1st July

The passages we'll be reading this month are dramatic! EastEnders and Corrie have nothing on these heated debates. Jesus says it as it is. He is not to be messed with. We'll know him better in a month's time.

Read John 5v1-9a

- Put yourselves in the shoes of the disabled man. How's life for him?
- How does Jesus make him well?

Read John 5v9b-15

- What is surprising about the way the Jewish leaders and the man respond to the miracle?
- Jesus unpacks the meaning of the miracle in our next episode but how does Jesus' warning (v14) hint that whatever our physical condition we need a miracle?
- How might we be similar to the Jewish leaders by nitpicking about the bits of the Bible we don't like and ignore the merciful miracle?
- How does it feel to know that Jesus words can make you spiritually well?

Tuesday 2nd July

Yesterday we read that Jesus healed an invalid on a Saturday.

Read John 5v16-18

- Why are things escalating quickly?

Read John 5v19-27

- What is Jesus doing now?
- If you've got time... How does this link with the miracle he just did?

Read John 5v28-30

- What will Jesus do in the future?
- Jesus is giving eternal spiritual life and judging by speaking through the Bible now, and he will bring physical life and condemnation by speaking in person when he comes.
- John 5v24. Which side are you on? Who could you tell about this opportunity to cross over today?

Wednesday 3rd July

Read John 5v31-v47

- Who or what testifies to Jesus?
- How does Jesus expose the Jewish leaders?

The Jewish leaders seem so religious: enforcing the law very strictly and doing their daily Bible reading but ironically they don't know the Father at all. They don't believe the Bible and they seek their own glory rather than God's glory. It's inevitable they will reject Jesus and the problem is certainly not with him. It's a sobering reminder of how religious someone can be but be way off really knowing God.

- How will v39-40 change our attitude to Bible reading?

Thursday 4th July

Sometimes we want Jesus to fit into our desires, worldview, and plans rather than the other way around. But who is Jesus that we should fit into his program?

Read John 6v1-21

- What reminds you of the Exodus here?*
- What does this show us about Jesus identity?
- What is the people's agenda for Jesus?
- How might we try to force Jesus into a mould to meet our own desires? Why is this a problem?
- Spend some time praising Jesus for his identity, and asking that you might worship him as he really is, not as an idol to meet our own interests.

*Hint: If you don't know what happened with the Exodus, here's a very brief summary: God's people were in slavery in Egypt and were rescued by the LORD through the blood of a lamb, celebrated and remembered with the Passover Festival. The Egyptians chase God's people and disaster is imminent when the Israelites have got the Egyptian army on one side and the Red Sea. But the LORD comes to the rescue again and through a prophet called Moses gets them across the Sea unscathed. The LORD leads them through some remote places and again feeds them with bread from heave. Moses goes up a mountain to receive God's word to pass on to the people. Prior to this the LORD had revealed himself to Moses as 'I am'.

Friday 5th July

Read John 6v22-35

- What are the crowd failing to see?
- What are the similarities and differences between the manna and the bread that Jesus gives?

The loaves they had just eaten were a picture of something bigger: the true bread from heaven is a person, Jesus, who gives real, eternal life to the world, and satisfies our hunger forever!

- V27-29. What will it look like for you to work for food that endures rather than food that spoils today?
- Remember to praise Jesus, the awesome bread of life!

Saturday 6th July

Read John 6v36-45

- What processes have to happen for someone to be 'raised up by Jesus at the last day'?
- Why might this be offensive?
- How does this explain why some of the Jews have been rejecting Jesus? What does their treatment of Jesus say about their relationship with the Father? (v45)

The Jews are rejecting Jesus because they don't know the Father. For someone to be saved it needs the Father to pick them out and 'give them' to Jesus and 'draw them' to himself. It's tough to hear, and it ends up leading to a mass turning away from Jesus.

- Pray: Thank God! If you know Jesus then actually it's been all God's work and none of yours. Pray for mercy for those who don't yet know Jesus, that the Father would draw them.

Sunday 7th July

Read John 6v46-59

- What is essential for life?
- What does it mean to eat Jesus flesh and drink his blood? (v55-56)

There's no indication Jesus is commanding literally eating his flesh and drinking his blood. But instead he seems to be saying we are to make his death our three times (at least) daily source of sustenance, energy, he's what we live off. Jesus death isn't something we just believe. We internalise it and 'feed' on it multiple times each day.

- Spend some time mulling over what Jesus did for us when he died. Savour the taste of his love. What will help you remember to do this halfway through the day and at the end of the day?

Monday 8th July

Read John 6v60-71

- So far we've seen the reaction of the crowd, then the Jews, and now attention turns to the disciples.
- How do the disciples react to Jesus' teaching? What particularly do the disciples seem to be reacting against?

Jesus' teaching that the only way to have life is through eating his flesh, and that no one can come to Jesus unless the Father enables them was as unpopular then as it is now.

- How does Peter respond to Jesus teaching? Why?
- When Jesus says hard things to us, what do we need to remember about him and his words?
- Why is it worth sticking with Jesus even when he says hard things?
- Pray: Praise God that Jesus has the words of eternal life! And pray that you might stick with Jesus even when he says things you find hard.

Tuesday 9th July

Read John 7v1-10

- What kind of career do his brothers tell Jesus to go for?
- What kind of figure will Jesus be? Hint: When Jesus time or hour does come (John 17v1) it's at the point he's about to die.
- What is the world's attitude to Jesus? Why?
- Lots of us want to pursue popularity above all else. Why will this be incompatible with following Jesus?
- Pray that we'd be willing to follow a saviour who is hated and unimpressive in the eyes of the world.

Wednesday 10th July

Read John 7v11-24

- What different judgements do people make of Jesus?
- If the crowds obeyed the Old Testament how would they judge Jesus?

Apply

- What judgement do you make of Jesus' and his words?
- The humility and obedience of Jesus is striking, he is 100% God, maker, sustainer, and redeemer of the universe. Surely of everyone he would have had strongest reason to seek his own glory and teach his own thoughts, but no: he always seeks his Father's glory and teaches his Father's words.
- Spend some time giving glory to Jesus and the one who sent him.

Thursday 11th July

Read John 7v25-31

- What different attitudes to Jesus are present among the crowds of Jerusalem?
- What simple testimony does Jesus' repeat?
- Why is it unsurprising that some in the crowds reject Jesus?
- What are the hints to where Jesus is heading?
What shows that Jesus is in control of this?

Apply

Knowing that Jesus has supreme authority and is in total control:

- How will this help with our worries.
- What are the areas in your life that you still need to make Jesus number 1?
- Thank God for Jesus' total control and authority.

Friday 12th July

Read John 7v32-36

- How does Jesus show he is on a different level to the Pharisees?
- Do you think the Pharisees plotting will succeed. Why?

Apply

- How do you feel when you are persecuted for Jesus?
- How do the failed attempts to persecute Jesus give you confidence?

Pray

- Thank God that Jesus can never be defeated by his enemies.
- Pray that you would have courage as you follow Jesus.

Saturday 13th July

Read John 7v37-44

- What does Jesus offer? What is the effect?
- How do we receive and experience the Holy Spirit?

Apply

- What will it look like for you to come to Jesus and 'drink'?
- How can you play a part in enabling others to believe in Jesus and receive the Spirit?

Pray

- Thank God that he comes to live in us by his Spirit!
- Pray for an opportunity to offer this to someone today by telling them about Jesus.

Sunday 14th July

Read John 7v45-52

- What shows how unreasonable the opposition to Jesus is?
- What hints are there that the opposition is likely to be unsuccessful?

Apply

- What sort of opposition might we expect for being a Christian?
- How will you be bold in the face of opposition for being a Christian?
- Ask for courage to stick with Jesus and speak for him even when we might get stick for it.

Monday 15th July

Read John 8v12-20

- What do you think Jesus means by saying he is 'the light of the world'?
- What will life look like if we follow Jesus the light?

Verse 12 doesn't mean there won't be dark times along the way, but no matter how bad things get we'll never be in the pitch black! Jesus shines a light that gives us direction, hope, and understanding.

- How does Jesus support his testimony? All in all an impressive witness to call into the box!
- How does our attitude to Jesus show our attitude to the Father?

Apply

- How can you walk by the light of Jesus in whatever you're going to face today?
- What difference will it make to know that he is still giving life, hope, direction, and understanding in a dark world?

Pray

- Praise God that we have Jesus the light in a dark world. Think how hopeless we would be without him.
- Pray that we might walk in his light.

Tuesday 16th July

Read John 8v21-29

- What does Jesus reveal about his identity?
- It's a bit subtle but the repeated use of 'I am he' is significant because this is God's name when he introduces himself in the Old Testament (Exodus 3v13-14) and other bits of the Bible tell us to expect a suffering servant who will take this name (Isaiah 43v10).
- What is the consequence of not believing in Jesus?
- What will be the effect of Jesus getting lifted up on a cross?

Apply

- Spend some time about thinking where you would be if Jesus hadn't come to die for you.
- Think about how Jesus death shows us his Jesus greatness and the extent of the world's sin.
- Praise God for Jesus' death and the different things it achieved.

Wednesday 17th July

Read John 8v30-47

- What is the difference between the Jews claims and the reality?
- What is the attitude of the Jews to Jesus' words?
- Re-read 8v31-32 Why is holding on to Jesus teaching so important?

Apply

- How can we make sure that we hold to Jesus' teaching this week?
- Pray that you would really do this.

Thursday 18th July

Read John 8v48-59

- Who do the Jews think Jesus is?
- Who is on Jesus' side?
- What does Jesus reveal about who he is? (Hint: the name that God has in the Old Testament is 'I AM' Exodus 3:14.
- The Jews had believed him v31. Now they are picking up stones to stone him v59. Why?

These Jews have made no room for Jesus' teaching. They have not held to it or obeyed it. They can't accept what Jesus reveals about himself.

Pray

- Spend some time praising God for who Jesus is.
- Pray that we would heed the warning: if we don't hold to Jesus teaching we'll end up completely rejecting him. Like yesterday, pray that we'd keep holding on to Jesus' teaching!

Friday 19th July

Read John 9v1-12

- Why is the man blind?
- How does Jesus identity relate to his mission?
- How does this miracle illustrate the works Jesus has come to do?
- When Jesus is around, it's day time because he is the light of the world who enlightens people by opening their eyes spiritually.
- How are others blind to what Jesus has done?

Apply

- Have you/your friend/family seen who Jesus is? If not, why not pray for that miracle now.
- How might God use you to answer that prayer!?

Saturday 20th July

Read John 9v13-34

- How do the man who had been blind, and others around point out the flaws in the Pharisees objections?
- Why is it the Pharisees who are truly blind?
- What is the contrast between the healed man and his parents?

We might look outwardly spiritually impressive but without Jesus' intervention we are all spiritually blind.

Apply

- How could you take opportunities to stand up for Jesus like the man who had been blind?
- Praise God for Jesus' opening of spiritually blind eyes.
- Pray for courage to bear witness to Jesus even in the face of opposition.

Sunday 21st July

Read John 9v35-41

- How does Jesus treat those who get persecuted for standing up for him?
- How do the events of chapter 9 act as a picture of what Jesus is doing in the world?
- What is the Pharisees problem?

It's not that the Pharisees can see, it's that they think they can see.

Apply

- Do you realise and accept that your natural state is spiritual blindness? What will you do about it?
- Admit your sin and guilt before God, and ask for forgiveness.

Monday 22nd July

Read John 10v1-21

- What makes Jesus the good shepherd? There's loads of reasons to pick out!

Apply

- Think about each thing that makes Jesus the good shepherd. How will you listen to the Good Shepherd's voice this week? What difference will that make?

Pray

- Thank God for each aspect of the Good Shepherd that you've noticed.
- Pray that you'd be listening and following the shepherd today.

Tuesday 23rd July

Read 10v22-42

- What are the claims that Jesus makes that the Jews find particularly offensive?
- How does Jesus provide evidence for his claims?
- Why do the Jews not believe?

Apply

- How does v27-30 provide encouragement and assurance for you?

Pray

- Thank God that Jesus has given us so much evidence that he is God.
- Pray that we wouldn't be discouraged by opposition to Jesus, and know that it won't succeed.

Wednesday 24th July

Read John 11v1-16

- What do you make of Jesus' treatment of Lazarus and his reasons for it?
- Why is Lazarus allowed to die?

Apply

- What do you find striking about how Jesus speaks about death?
- Jesus has performed signs in this book to glorify the Father and himself, and so that we might believe in him. What will it look like for you to believe in Jesus?
- Pray that you would believe in Jesus not just in a 'yeah I'd tick box to say he's God' way but in a 'I'll throw my whole life into his hands because I know he will catch me' way.

Thursday 25th July

How do your Non-Christian mates culture deal with death?

Read John 11v17-27

- What does Jesus promise?
- Why is he able to do this?

Apply:

- Do you believe this?!
- How does this change your attitude to:
Christians that you know who have died.
The prospect of your own death
- How will this change the way you live in the present?
- Praise Jesus that he has beaten death!

Friday 26th July

Read John 11v28-46

- What do we learn from the different way Jesus interacts with Mary compared to Martha?
- Why does Jesus pray to his Father?
- What was the purpose of all these events? (**Read 11v15**)
- What range of responses do we see? Is that surprising?

Apply

- What difference will it make to you to believe that Jesus has power over death?
- Pray about that now!

Saturday 27th July

Read John 11v47-54

- Why do the chief priests plot to Jesus?
- How will this happen, but in a surprising way?
- How is it possible for non-Jews to be part of God's people?

Pray

- Spend some time praising God for using human evil to achieve such good!

Sunday 28th July

Read John 11v55-12v11

- What clues do we see of what's to come for Jesus?
- Despite knowing this Jesus bravely heads to Jerusalem for the sake of me and you. Spend some time thanking God for Jesus.
- Why does Judas' complaint about Mary's action initially seem reasonable?
- Why is Mary's act completely appropriate?

Apply

- What will it mean for you to give up your treasure for Jesus?
- Pray you'd be doing this as you see how valuable Jesus death is.

Monday 29th July

Read John 12v12-19

- How does Jesus make a King's entrance?
- What clues are there to the type of King Jesus is going to be?
- What is the natural response to Jesus work?

Apply

- How could you spread the word about what Jesus has done today?
- Spend some time praising Jesus as the King who is willing to lower himself. Ask him to save yourself and others.

Tuesday 30th July

Read John 12v20-36

- What does Jesus death achieve? (v31 the prince of this world is the Devil)
- What response does Jesus death demand?
- Why is it worth it?

Apply:

- What are the areas where you currently 'love your life'? What will it look like to 'hate your life' in comparison to your love for Jesus?
- Pray for radical love for Jesus instead of loving your life.

Wednesday 31st July

Read John 12v37-50

- In this section of John so far, there have been so many people who refuse to believe. Is this evidence for or against Jesus identity as God? Why?
- Why do some people refuse to admit to following Jesus in public?
- Why are these people actually missing out? (v43-46)
- What is the consequence of rejecting Jesus and his words?

Apply

- Are there areas where you don't openly acknowledge your faith? Why is that?
- Pray that rejection of Jesus would actually reassure you even more that he is God.
- Pray that you would keep believing Jesus, following him, and obeying his commands.