

THE DAILY BIBLE READING GUIDE FROM SCRIPTURE UNION

DAILY SCRIPTURE READING

QUARTERLY
JAN | FEB | MAR | 2012

*Sermon
Outlines*

Extra

A SCRIPTURE UNION BIBLE READING PUBLICATION

Using Discovery with Your Congregation

SU's *Discovery* Bible Reading guide follows a carefully prepared reading schedule that will take people in your congregation through representative portions of every Bible book in four years, reading 10-20 verses per day. That means that if your congregation uses *Discovery* over any four year period, they'll cover the entire Bible in depth.

Of course, using *Discovery* for a four year cycle has distinct advantages for your congregation, but the reading schedule (and sermon outlines) are set up so that both congregations and individual readers can start (or stop) at any time and use it at any and all times of the year. Readings always take note of major days on the Christian calendar such as Christmas, Easter and Pentecost.

Studies have shown that reading and studying the Bible in a community setting such as a church or small group greatly aids and motivates people in establishing a pattern of reading and living by God's Word. *The Discovery Extra Sermon Outlines* which follow are part of an integrated package which also includes the *Discovery* daily readings and commentary and the weekend *Discovery Extra* group discussion questions. This package offers a church-wide program in which your people can read the same Bible passages, discuss and share about them in small groups and hear sermons based on these passages, too. It's a great way to get your entire church engaged together and growing in God's Word.

Using the Discovery Extra Sermon Outlines

The Discovery Extra Sermon Outlines are just that...outlines. They give you a basic structure on which to build your sermon. They're developed from carefully chosen passages taken from the prior week's readings in *Discovery*.

The outlines are intentionally brief. Why? Because the most important component is what you add, that is, your own insights, stories and applications. That's what will make your sermon come alive for your people. Each of *The Discovery Extra Sermon Outlines* uses the following structure:

Title: The sermon title is meant to indicate the theme of the outline and grab your people's attention, too. Of course, you should feel free to establish your own title if you wish.

Text: This is a passage or passages from the prior weeks' reading in *Discovery* chosen as the basis for the sermon.

Key Thought: This is a statement for you, the pastor. It summarizes the main idea on which the outline is built.

Sermon Outline: This is a brief set of key points you can use to create your sermon.
Again, the most important part of the outline is what you will add. Feel free to customize the outlines by cutting and pasting them into your sermon document. You can do this by using the "text" tool in Adobe® Acrobat® Reader.

Challenge: This is a statement intended for your congregation. It attempts to summarize a key application point in a memorable way.

The Original Evil

Text: Genesis 3:1-24

Key Thought: The consequences of sin continue today, but Christ has made a way past them.

- Sermon Outline:**
- 1. Background: The Lord's command (2:16).**
 - 2. The temptation (1-4).**
 - a. Challenge's God's Word (1).
 - b. Challenges God's honesty and goodness (4).
 - 3. The "fall" into sin (6,7).**
 - a. Disregard for God's Word/disobedience (6).
 - b. Desire to be "god" (wisdom like God).
 - 4. The terrible consequences (10-19,23).**
 - a. Loss of innocence (10,11).
 - b. Broken relationships between people (12,15,16).
 - c. Environmental consequences (17).
 - d. Broken relationship with God (22-24).
 - e. Give some contemporary examples of these consequences.
 - 5. Contemporary expressions of the original temptation.**
 - a. Disregard and disobedience of God's Word today.
 - b. Challenges to God's honesty and goodness.
 - c. Modern expressions of desire to be "god."
 - d. All have given in to temptation and deserve the consequences (Rom. 3:23; 6:23).
 - 6. Christ: God's answer to our dilemma.**
 - a. Christ died to conquer sin (15; Rom. 5:8).
 - b. Christ offers grace and help to overcome temptation (Heb. 4:15,16).
 - c. Christ will one day remove all the consequences of sin (Rev. 21:1-5; Rom. 8:18-22).

Challenge: The Bad News: We've all fallen. The Good News: Jesus will pick us up!

Taking Care of Business

Text: Genesis 9:1-29

Key Thought: God's commands to Noah after the flood remain relevant to us.

- Sermon Outline:**
- 1. The Background:**
 - a. The story of the Great Flood (chs. 6,7).
 - b. Coming out of the Ark and worshiping (ch. 8).
 - 2. God's commands to Noah and his family.**
 - a. "Be fruitful...and fill the earth" (1,7).
 - b. Honor and protect human life (5,6).
 - 3. God's gifts to Noah, his family and us.**
 - a. "I now give you everything" for food and "dominion" (3).
 - b. A covenant promise to never again destroy the earth by flood (11,15).
 - 4. How do God's commands apply to us today?**
 - a. Population or overpopulation concerns?
 - b. Providing food for all, abortion and related human life concerns.
 - c. Other ways?
 - 5. How do God's gifts apply to us today?**
 - a. "Creation care" and environmental concerns.
 - b. Others?
 - c. What is our individual responsibility?

Challenge: God still has important "business" for us to do for his creation today.

“Sorry” Isn’t Always Enough

Text: Luke 3:1-20

Key Thought: John shows that true repentance involves more than words.

- Sermon Outline:**
- 1. The Background:**
 - a. John the Baptist preparing the way for Jesus (4-6; John 1:19-31).
 - b. John the Baptist is preaching repentance for forgiveness of sins (3; Matt. 3:1,2).
 - 2. What does it mean to “repent”?**
 - a. More than just saying (and meaning) you’re sorry.
 - b. Classic definition of “change of heart/direction.”
 - c. John indicates real repentance has “fruit” (8).
 - 3. John gives specific examples of the “fruit” of repentance.**
 - a. Share with those in need (11).
 - b. Handle money honestly (13).
 - c. Be honest and fair in your relationships (14).
 - 4. What might repentance mean for you?**
 - a. Apologizing and “restoring trust.”
 - b. Some sort of restitution.
 - c. A clear and obvious change of life.
 - d. Others?

Challenge: If you’re really sorry, you’ll act accordingly.

Friends Helping Friends

Text: Luke 5:17-26

Key Thought: These men knew their friend needed Jesus and put out the effort to get him there.

- Sermon Outline:**
- 1. The Background:**
 - a. Pharisees and Teachers of the Law there.
 - b. Jesus was healing the sick (17).
 - 2. Some men brought their paralyzed friend to Jesus for healing.**
 - a. The large crowd made it difficult to get their friend to Jesus (19).
 - b. They removed roof tiles and lowered the man down to Jesus (19).
 - c. Note the effort and persistence they went to on their friend's behalf.
 - 3. Jesus forgave the man's sins and healed him.**
 - a. Jesus demonstrated his divine nature and authority (21,24).
 - b. The man took his mat, got up and went home (25).
 - c. Jesus healed (and heals) both soul and body.
 - d. People were amazed and praised God (26).
 - 4. We have friends who need Jesus' healing touch.**
 - a. They need healing for their souls as well as their bodies (give examples).
 - b. Effort and persistence may be needed to "bring" them to Jesus (give examples).
 - c. What are examples of ways we can bring a friend to Jesus for healing?

Challenge: Friends help friends know Jesus' healing touch—whatever it takes.

There Goes the Judge!

Text: Luke 6:37-42 and also Matthew 7:1-6

Key Thought: Jesus warns against a judgmental spirit and commends a generous one.

- Sermon Outline:**
- 1. The Background:**
 - a. This is part of the Sermon on the Mount.
 - b. Having taught about love for one's enemies, Jesus continues teaching.
 - 2. "Judging" and "condemning" are proscribed; forgiving is commended (37).**
 - a. These admonitions have a qualification or incentive ("and you will not be...") (37).
 - b. What is meant by "judging" or "condemning"?
 - i. We all must make some kinds of judgments about people.
 - ii. Jesus made judgments (Matt. 7:6).
 - 3. A generous attitude toward others is commended.**
 - a. "Give" (38).
 - b. A qualification and incentive is given here, also ("and it will be given to you") (38).
 - c. Jesus cites a direct relationship between our generosity to others and God's to us (38).
 - 4. Jesus illustrates his point with two examples.**
 - a. The parable of the blind leading the blind (39).
 - b. The sawdust and the plank in the eye (41).
 - c. The danger of hypocrisy in judging others (42).
 - 5. How does this apply to us in our lives today?**
 - a. Give examples of the "judging" Jesus proscribes.
 - b. What kind of "judging" is legitimate (if any)?
 - c. Give examples of the generosity in relationships which Jesus commends.
 - d. Give examples of the process of self-examination and proper confronting others in sin.

Challenge: There's only one Judge and it's not you or me.

Who Did You Expect?

Text: Luke 7:18-35

Key Thought: Jesus presented the evidence that he is the Messiah promised in Scripture.

- Sermon Outline:**
- 1. The Background:**
 - a. Jesus has been healing miraculously (7:1-17).
 - b. News about Jesus was spreading throughout the area (7:17).
 - 2. John the Baptist wonders about Jesus.**
 - a. He sends two disciples to question Jesus (19).
 - b. Is Jesus the One they've been expecting or not (20)?
 - 3. Jesus answers by pointing to the evidence of his ministry.**
 - a. There are many miraculous healings (21,22).
 - b. The Good News is preached to the poor (22).
 - c. This fulfills Isaiah's prophecy (61:1,2; see also Luke 4:16-21) concerning the Messiah.
 - d. Some ignore or reject the evidence for Jesus and "fall away" (23).
 - 4. Who are people looking for in a "Messiah" today?**
 - a. What do they expect Jesus to be like or do?
 - b. What evidence is in front of them that is ignored?
 - c. What causes people to "fall away" today?
 - d. Have you accepted the "verdict" that Jesus is the promised Son?
 - 5. How can we winsomely present the evidence for Jesus today?**

Challenge: The evidence is clear. The verdict is in. Jesus is the promised Messiah.

“Eat, Drink and Be...?”

Text: Isaiah 55:1-13

Key Thought: There is one true source of deep satisfaction in life: a relationship with the Lord.

- Sermon Outline:**
- 1. The Lord’s invitation to “the thirsty”:**
 - a. Come to him. His “food” is offered freely (1).
 - b. It’s futile to seek satisfaction in any other “substitutes” (2).
 - i. Discuss some prominent “substitutes.”
 - c. God offers the deepest, richest “soul food” (2).
 - 2. It is unwise to put off “seeking the Lord” (6).**
 - a. Discuss how to “seek the Lord” (forsake evil and turn to the Lord, 7).
 - b. Discuss when he “may be found” and when not.
 - 3. We will not always understand God’s ways.**
 - a. His ways and thoughts are “higher” than ours (9).
 - b. But his purposes for us are good (Rom. 8:28).
 - c. His Word will accomplish his good purposes and desires (11).
 - 4. Knowing God brings great joy and satisfaction (12).**
 - a. How not to be deceived by the many unsatisfying “substitutes” for the Lord.
 - b. How to know the joy and satisfaction in your life of a relationship with the Lord.

Challenge: Knowing the Lord is the real thing. Accept no substitutes.

Keeping Clean In a Dirty World

Text: 2 Samuel 11:1-27 and also James 4:7-10

Key Thought: The wise person won't "entertain" sinful thoughts but rather flees them.

Sermon Outline:

1. The Sorry Story: David's Folly.

- a. David saw an attractive (married) woman and wanted to get to know her (2,3).
- b. He knew she was married but slept with her anyway (4).
- c. The woman becomes pregnant (4).

2. The Sorry Story: The Foolish Cover Up.

- a. David tries unsuccessfully to get Uriah to sleep with his wife (6-11).
- b. David arranges to have Uriah die in battle (14-16).
- c. David thinks he has "won" but refer to ch. 12 (Nathan).

3. What was David's error?

- a. Thinking he could "flirt" with sin without getting caught by it ("sent someone to find out about her").
- b. Deliberately disregarding what he knew of God's Law (against adultery).
- c. Thinking he could get away with his sin (cover it up, hide it).

4. What can we learn from David?

- a. Sin is serious (Jas. 4:9) and dangerous. Don't "flirt" with it. Flee it!
- b. Keep your relationship with God close (Jas. 4:8).
- c. Resist the tempter (Jas. 4:8) and submit to God's ways (Jas. 4:7).

5. What are the 2-3 more prevalent sexual temptations today and how can they be resisted?

Challenge: When sin comes knocking, don't answer the door. Run the other way—fast!

An Appeal God Hears

Text: Psalm 51

Key Thought: Sin is serious and requires the kind of serious response David shows in this psalm.

- Sermon Outline:**
- 1. The Background:**
 - a. Briefly review the story of David and Bathsheba in 2 Samuel 11.
 - b. Briefly summarize the story of Nathan's confrontation with David and David's response in 2 Samuel 12.
 - c. Note that this psalm is David's cry of repentance and grief and plea for mercy.
 - 2. David's response to Nathan's rebuke:**
 - a. He's grieving over the realization of his sin and its effect on his relationship with God (4,8,11,12).
 - b. He now acknowledges (and no longer tries to deny or cover up) his sin and his sinfulness (3-5).
 - c. He pleads with God for mercy and forgiveness so that his relationship with God can be restored (1,2,7,9).
 - 3. Our response to sin:**
 - a. Should be similar to David's: grief, acknowledgement, confession and plea for mercy and a restored relationship with God.
 - b. Trusting in the finished work of Christ on the cross for God's mercy.
 - c. Asking the Holy Spirit to lead us into right living.
 - d. Knowing that this kind of humble, sincere repentance is pleasing to God (17).
 - 4. Our reaction to God's mercy:**
 - a. Joy and thanksgiving for the freedom from guilt and condemnation we have in Christ.

Challenge: If you take sin as seriously as God does, you'll respond as seriously as David did.

Famous Last Words

Text: 2 Samuel 23:1-7

Key Thought: One's last words present a unique opportunity that believers should prepare for.

- Sermon Outline:**
- 1. Looking back on his life, David:**
 - a. Composes this psalm (like that of ch. 22) which expresses his experience of God.
 - b. Emphasizes his self-understanding as a prophet (2) through whom God speaks.
 - c. Wants to leave a record of his perspective on his life with God.
 - 2. David celebrates God's faithfulness.**
 - a. God made a covenant with David promising blessing if David was faithful (3).
 - b. David acknowledges his right relationship with God (5).
 - c. David acknowledges that God has blessed Israel through David's righteous rule (4).
 - d. David acknowledges God's care and salvation (from his enemies) (5-7).
 - 3. What role do (or should) "last words" play for a Christian?**
 - a. A review and celebration of how God kept his promises?
 - b. A celebration and thanksgiving for a right relationship with God through Jesus?
 - c. Thanks for God's many blessings (mentioning some specifically)?
 - d. Other functions? (words of blessing, encouragement, admonition?)
 - 4. What do you want your last words to say and accomplish?**
 - a. Pastor gives some personal examples.
 - b. Read some particularly good examples from history.
 - c. Challenge congregation to compose their own last words as if they were needed now.

Challenge: Don't wait until the last minute to think about your last words!

God Gives Second Chances

Text: Jonah 3:1-10

Key Thought: Failure is no cause for despair. If our heart is right, God offers a second chance.

- Sermon Outline:**
- 1. The Background (chs. 1,2):**
 - a. God gives Jonah a commission to preach to sinful Nineveh so they repent and are spared God's wrath.
 - b. Jonah, despising the Ninevites and aware of God's compassion, refuses.
 - c. Jonah is thrown into the sea and swallowed by a great fish.
 - d. While there, he repents and praises God for saving his life.
 - 2. God was not through with Jonah.**
 - a. He gave Jonah a second chance (1).
 - b. This time Jonah obeyed God (3).
 - 3. God used Jonah greatly in Nineveh.**
 - a. The Ninevites accepted the message and repented (5-9).
 - b. God had compassion on them and spared them destruction (10).
 - 4. There's both Good News and a challenge here.**
 - a. In spite of our sin, if we repent and turn back to him, God can still use us (see example of the Apostle Paul).
 - b. We can be used of God in great ways if we are willing to obey him.
 - c. God is patient and offers a second chance to all who, like Jonah, turn back, willing to obey.
 - d. Is there someone to whom you need to offer a second chance?

Challenge: With God, failure needn't be final. If you need a second chance, God is ready with the offer.

Commerce or Worship?

Text: Luke 19:45–20:8 and also Matthew 21:12,13

Key Thought: Commercial activities can serve the church, but they can also corrupt it.

- Sermon Outline:**
- 1. The background:**
 - a. Pilgrims to the temple in Jerusalem needed to buy animals for offering a sacrifice or “change” for an offering.
 - b. The moneychangers and those selling were performing a useful function.
 - 2. Jesus clearly saw a problem.**
 - a. The commerce function had probably grown out of proportion.
 - b. Those involved in the commerce were likely overcharging and exploiting the pilgrims they were supposed to serve (46).
 - c. God’s house was no longer serving its intended purpose (46).
 - 3. Jesus took the necessary action.**
 - a. He drove out those who had corrupted the temple (45).
 - b. He reminded people what its true purpose was (46).
 - c. He reflected the prophecy of Malachi 3:1-4, which some people would recognize.
 - 4. What function, if any, should “commerce” play in your church?**
 - a. What dangers does it pose?
 - b. How can it be controlled so that it plays only its proper function?
 - 5. Discuss specific commercial functions your church has in light of the above.**

Challenge: The purpose of the church is worship. Don’t let anyone “sell” you differently.

“All They Talk About Is...”

Text: Luke 20:41–21:4 and also 2 Corinthians 8:1-15

Key Thought: The size of our gifts to God is not as important as the “spirit” in which they’re given.

- Sermon Outline:**
- 1. The background:**
 - a. Jesus is in the temple grounds exposing and condemning religious hypocrisy.
 - b. Jesus just finished warning the crowds about the teachers of the Law who exploit widows (perhaps by demanding exorbitant contributions) (see 20:45-47).
 - c. Then, he turns his attention to those who are making monetary offerings.
 - 2. Many rich people put in large amounts (1).**
 - a. This was clear for Jesus and everyone else to see.
 - b. This was probably another intentional act of self-righteous display by some (20:46,47).
 - 3. Jesus, however, commends the widow’s tiny offering (3).**
 - a. She gave two “very small” coins, perhaps the tiniest in circulation (2).
 - b. While others gave out of wealth, she gave out of poverty—all she had (4).
 - c. What motivated her sacrificial giving?
 - 4. What principals for giving can we learn here?**
 - a. It’s not necessarily the size of the gift but the proportion of one’s income it represents that pleases God (2 Cor. 8:12).
 - b. A gift is pleasing to God based on its motivation (2 Cor. 8:5).
 - c. God is not impressed with gifts given to impress others!
 - d. Other principles for giving?

Challenge: Before you write that check, check and be sure your giving is pleasing to God.

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