



AUGUST

DAILY READINGS

Welcome to August's Reading Plan. Jesus *"opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures"* (Lk 24:45). Our prayer is that you would gain understanding as a result of God opening your mind as you read His word & apply it to your life & the church."

Sunday, July 31st | Psalm of Ascent Psalm 133

- [Aug 1] Ps 133; Rom 15:5-6; Eph 4:15-16 | Why is unity good & pleasant? When the church "lives in unity", what does it look like to us & the watching world?
- [2] Ps 133 | In the body of Christ, we can be tempted to believe that our part is either irrelevant or too significant. Which do you struggle with?.
- [3] Ps 133; Jn 13:35 | What can you do in one relationship today that demonstrates God's love?
- [4] Ps 133; Heb 10:24-25 | What can you do today to encourage a brother or sister in Christ?
- [5] Ps 133; Jn 17 | What does Jesus pray for in His prayer in John 17? How did Jesus' death & resurrection make it possible for all of us to live in unity with one another?
- [6] Ps 133 | Ask the Lord to bring unity between our brothers & sisters in Christ & us by His grace & for His glory.

Sunday, Aug 7th | Psalm of Ascent Psalm 134

- [8] Ps 134 | In your prayer life, do you ever find yourself forgetting to bring blessings & thanks to God? Why is praise & blessing ultimately the only right response to God? What are 3 ways you can "bless the Lord" this week in a way that you typically wouldn't?
- [9] Ps 134 | Why do we turn away from God? Why do we think He might turn us away?
- [10] Ps 134 | What about your life indicates you are a servant of the Lord?
- [11] Ps 134; 42:8; 77:6; Ac 16:19-26 | God gives us "songs in the night" when circumstances are difficult & we can't see our way. Do you praise & bless the Lord even in your dark times (nights of suffering, trouble, bereavement, ill-health, or depression)?
- [12] Ps 134; Eph 2:13 | What has God already done so that you can glorify Him? Who can you share God's love with so they can experience His blessing?
- [13] Ps 134; 103:1-8, 19-22 | Take time to meditate on the heart of God. Praise Him for His faithfulness, His goodness. Let your heart become lost in worship & wonder.

Sunday, Aug 14th | Up

- [15] Heb 12:1-2 | What do you think it means to "fix your eyes on Jesus?" What is the significance in saying that "looking to Jesus" actually means a looking away to Jesus? Are there any things in your life that sometimes capture your attention away from Jesus?
- [16] Mt 14:22-23 | Peter enjoys a divine experience of walking on water. Suddenly he begins to sink. Why do you think that is? In what area of your life are you "sinking" because you haven't fixed your eyes on Jesus?

- [17] Heb 13:8; 1 Pet 1:15; Isa 40:8; Mt 6:19-23 | Jesus is the constant, unchanging source of truth & life in an ever-changing world amid shifting morals & fluctuating ideals. Jesus says that where our eyes are fixed, there also will be our hearts. On what are your eyes fixed?
- [18] Isa 26:3; Phil 4:6-7; Ps 27:1; 31:24; Isa 41:10 | What are some benefits of fixing our eyes on Jesus?
- [19] Dt 11:18; Prov 3:5-6; 4:24-31 | What helps you to focus on Jesus? In what practical ways can you fix your eyes on Jesus today?
- [20] Eph 4:14; Heb 12:2; Ps 119:37 | We live in danger of being "tossed back & forth by the waves" of this world. In such a tempestuous world, we can avoid making shipwrecks of our lives by "fixing our eyes on Jesus." Seek to memorize Hebrews 12:1-2.

Sunday, Aug 21st | In

- [22] Eph 2:19-22; 1 Cor 12:12-14 | Humans were created to be in community, both with each other & with God. The phrase "one another" occurs multiple times in the New Testament. Why do you think community is such an essential part of the Christian's walk with the Lord? What would be missing if we removed community from our walk with the Lord?
- [23] Eph 3:17-19; Jn 13:34-35; Gal 5:13-14; 1 Jn 4:7-12 | "Love one another" summarizes how we are to act towards one another. This love is found in God. Personalize Ephesians 3:17-19 for yourself & ask God to give you a greater understanding & appreciation of His love for you.
- [24] Rom 12:9-21 | Is there someone in your life that you have difficulty loving with an unconditional & sacrificial love? Ask God how you can show love to that person.
- [25] Jn 13:1-17; Phil 2:3-5 | Jesus set the example of how we are to treat & serve one another. His entire ministry & leadership style was one of serving & humility. In what ways have you sought to know others' interests as well as your own? How is God calling you to put another's needs before your own?
- [26] Col 3:15-17; 1 Thes 4:18; 5:9-11, 14-15; Heb 10:23-25 | What is the difference between encouraging & admonishing? How is admonishment a key part to maturing spiritually? Do you have a natural tendency toward one? What are some steps you can take to grow in these areas?
- [27] Rom 15:5-6; Jn 17:20-23; 1 Cor 1:10 | Unity is critical to the life of the church & to harmonious relationships with the body of Christ. Pray John 17:20-23 for The Gathering.

Sunday, Aug 28th | Out

- [29] 2 Pet 3:9 | God desires that no one should perish, but that all should come to repentance. Is that your heart? Who can you share the gospel with this week?
- [30] Prov 28:1 | Ask the Holy Spirit to give you boldness & courage today to stand up for Jesus.
- [31] Jn 13:34-35; 15:9-21 | What is one characteristic that out-weighs all others in our witness to the Gospel? Do others see the love of Christ in you? To whom can you show love today?