

OUR MIGHTY

2026 BIBLE READING GUIDE

God

Week 1: "Our God Of New Beginnings"

Wk 1 - Day 1: Genesis 1

Explanation: Before anything existed, God was already there. The Hebrew word for "create" (bara) means to make something out of nothing, showing that God alone brings life and order where nothing existed. The chapter describes a world that begins in darkness and chaos, but everything changes when God speaks. Light appears, land forms, and life fills the earth. God's Word brings order out of confusion. The pattern of creation also shows God's design—He forms the world first and then fills it, proving that nothing God does is random or accidental. The climax of creation is humanity. People are made in the "image of God," meaning we are designed to reflect His character and represent Him in the world. From the very beginning, God gave people dignity, value, and purpose.

Application: God is a God who brings new beginnings! He takes darkness and turns it into light. He takes emptiness and fills it with life. No matter how broken, messy, or empty something feels, God has the power to create something new. When life feels chaotic or uncertain, trust God to bring light, order, and new beginnings.

Response:

- What does Genesis 1 reveal about God's power and character?
- Where do you see His goodness in your life right now?
- What does being made in the image of God mean to you personally?
- Where in your life do you need God to bring something new out of something that feels empty or broken?

Wk 1 - Day 2: Matthew 1

Explanation: Matthew opens with a genealogy that traces Jesus' family line all the way back to Abraham and King David. While to us this may seem tedious, to Jewish readers, this was extremely important because it proved Jesus had the right to be the promised Messiah. Every name in this list represents God faithfully working through generations to bring His salvation plan to life. What makes this list even more meaningful is the people included in it. Many of which, had broken pasts and difficult stories, reminding us that God is not limited by human failure. He uses imperfect people to accomplish His perfect purposes. The chapter ends with the miraculous birth of Jesus. His name comes from the Hebrew Yeshua, meaning "The Lord saves." He is also called Immanuel, which means "God with us." This tells us that God did not stay distant—He entered the world to bring rescue, hope, and a fresh start for humanity.

Application: God is not limited by where you come from or what you have been through. The family line of Jesus includes people who were broken, sinful, overlooked, and even rejected — yet God used every one of them to bring His Son into the world. That means no story is too messy for God to redeem. Your past does not disqualify you from God's plan. God weaves grace into broken family lines, painful experiences, and imperfect choices. What feels like failure to you may become part of the story God uses to bring hope to someone else. Just as Jesus entered the world through an imperfect family, He enters our lives with grace. When you place your trust in Him, God begins turning your story into something meaningful and new.

Response:

- Why do you think God included imperfect people in Jesus' family line?
- What does the name "Immanuel—God with us" mean to you?
- How does seeing God fulfill His promises through generations in Matthew 1 help you trust Him with the promises you are still waiting on?
- How does knowing God works through brokenness encourage you personally?

Wk 1 - Day 3: Ezra 1

Explanation: Ezra records how God moved the heart of King Cyrus to allow the Jewish people to return home after years of exile, fulfilling a promise God had made through the prophets. Even though God's people had been unfaithful, He never stopped loving them and planned to restore them. God even used a pagan king to accomplish His will, showing that no one is outside His control. Cyrus provided what was needed to rebuild the temple, a symbol of God's presence. Not everyone chose to go back. Some stayed behind in Babylon, choosing comfort over calling. This reminds us that new beginnings often require leaving what is familiar and trusting God for something better.

Application: New beginnings often come with both excitement and uncertainty. God moved the heart of King Cyrus to open the way for His people to return, but the people still had to decide whether they would step into that opportunity. Restoration required courage. Staying in Babylon was easier than rebuilding in Jerusalem, but God's call was toward something better. God still works this way. He opens doors, stirs hearts, and creates opportunities for new seasons. But we must choose whether we will stay comfortable or trust Him with change. Sometimes obedience means leaving what feels safe in order to follow where God is leading. God is faithful to keep His promises, even when it takes time. When He calls us into something new, He also provides what we need to walk into it.

Wk 1 - Day 4: Acts 1

Explanation: Acts 1 marks a new chapter in God's work. After His resurrection, Jesus spends time preparing His disciples for what comes next. He promises that they will receive the Holy Spirit, who will give them the power they need to continue the worldwide scope of His witnessing mission. The Greek word for "power" here means God's supernatural ability working through them. Jesus tells the disciples to wait in Jerusalem. This reminds us that God's timing is just as important as His plan. Waiting is not wasted time—it is preparation for what God is about to do. The chapter ends with Jesus ascending into heaven. What seems like a goodbye is really a new beginning. Jesus is now reigning in heaven while His followers are sent into the world to share His message. The mission has just begun.

Application: God often begins new seasons with waiting. The disciples were told to stay in Jerusalem and wait for the Holy Spirit, even though they were eager to move forward. Waiting was not wasted time — it was preparation. God knew exactly what they needed before they stepped into their calling. Many of us struggle with waiting. We want answers, direction, and change right away. But Acts 1 reminds us that God's timing is part of His plan. What feels slow is often God building something deeper inside us — faith, dependence, and readiness. God also reminds the disciples that they are not meant to live on past experiences. Jesus ascends into heaven, but His mission continues through them. New beginnings require letting go of what was and trusting God with what is coming. When God asks you to wait, it is because something greater is coming.

Wk 1 - Day 5: Psalm 40

Explanation: Psalm 40 is a song of gratitude and hope. David begins by remembering how God rescued him from a "pit" of trouble. This word pictures a place of despair, fear, and helplessness. God did not just lift David out—He placed him on solid ground and gave him stability again. That is what God does when He brings new beginnings. David's response is worship. He realizes that God is not impressed by empty religious actions but by hearts that truly trust and follow Him. God wants obedience and faith more than rituals. As David reflects on what God has done, he also looks forward with confidence. Even though he still faces challenges, he knows the same God who rescued him before will be faithful again. New beginnings don't mean problems disappear—but they do mean God walks with us through them.

Application: God does not ignore people when they are overwhelmed, discouraged, or stuck. He reaches down and lifts them out of hard places that feel hopeless. When David says God pulled him out of the "pit," he is describing more than just trouble — he is describing despair, fear, and the feeling of being trapped. God doesn't just rescue us and leave us where we were. He puts us on solid ground. He gives us stability, hope, and direction. That means your past does not have to define your future. Even long seasons of struggle can become the starting point for something new. When God brings you through something hard, He gives you a story to tell. Your healing can become encouragement for someone else who is still in the pit. God uses restored lives to point others toward hope.

Response:

- What does this chapter show about God's power over leaders and nations?
- Why do you think some people chose not to return to Jerusalem?
- Where in your life have you seen God's provision, even in unlikely situations or ways?
- What might God be calling you to step into or leave behind as part of a new beginning?

Response:

- What are some areas of your life right now where you are waiting for God to work?
- How has waiting helped prepare you for something important in your life?
- What do you think it looks like to rely on God's power instead of your own and why is this important for us to do?
- Where might God be calling you to serve or who might you be a witness to in your daily life?

Response:

- What is a "pit" or season of difficulty that God has helped you through in your life?
- Why is it important to remember what God has done for us?
- Why do you think God values obedience more than religious rituals?

Week 2: “Our God Who Knows & Purposes Our Lives”

Wk 2 - Day 1: Genesis 2

Explanation: Genesis 2 zooms in on God’s personal care in creating humanity. God uniquely forms Adam from the dust and breathes life into him. This shows that people are not an afterthought—we are crafted by God with intention and care. God then places Adam in the garden and gives him meaningful work. Work is not a punishment; it is part of God’s good design. Adam is given responsibility and purpose before sin ever enters the world. God also declares that it is not good for man to be alone. This is the first time something is called “not good” in creation. God creates Eve to show that relationships, companionship, and community are part of His purpose for humanity. We were never meant to walk through life alone. From the beginning, God designed people to have purpose and connection—with Him and with one another.

Application: Your life is not random. You were not created by accident, chance, or convenience. God formed you with care, gave you breath, and placed you in the world with intention. That means your personality, your abilities, and even your limitations are all part of how God designed you to live out His purpose. God also gave Adam meaningful work before sin ever entered the world. That reminds us that what we do each day matters. Our work, our responsibilities, and even our routines can become ways to honor God when we see them as part of His design instead of just something to get through. God also created us for relationship. We were never meant to walk through life alone. When we isolate ourselves or try to carry everything on our own, we move away from how God designed us to live. God uses community, friendship, and love to bring healing and purpose into our lives. When life feels confusing or directionless, remember that God created you with care, placed you where you are for a reason, and is still at work shaping your story.

Response:

- Why do you think God chose to form Adam from dust instead of just speaking him into existence like the rest of creation? And what does this tell us about how God views people?
- Do you think people today still struggle with being alone in the same way Adam did? Why or why not?
- Why do you think God gave Adam work before sin entered the world?
- How does knowing God designed relationships change how you view others?
- Where do you see God’s purpose at work in your life right now?

Wk 2 - Day 2: Matthew 2

Explanation: Matthew 2 shows God actively guiding people toward His purpose. The wise men follow a star that God placed in the sky to lead them to Jesus. This was not random—it was divine direction. God used creation itself to point people to the Savior. At the same time, King Herod tries to stop God’s plan. Yet every time Herod acts, God intervenes through dreams to protect Joseph, Mary, and Jesus. Even when evil attempts to interfere, God’s purpose continues forward. This chapter reminds us that God’s plan cannot be stopped. He guides, protects, and redirects according to His greater purpose, even when the world seems dangerous or uncertain.

Application: God is guiding your steps even when you cannot see it. Just as He directed the wise men and protected Jesus, He is working behind the scenes in your life. When situations feel confusing, unsafe, or uncertain, you can trust that God’s purpose has not changed and His plan is still unfolding.

Response:

- What does this chapter teach us about God’s control over danger and opposition?
- Have you ever looked back and realized God was guiding you when you didn’t see it at the time?
- Why do you think God often leads people one step at a time instead of showing the whole plan?
- What is an area in your life you are waiting for God to reveal himself and provide direction?
- Why would God allow someone like Herod to exist if He had a good plan?

Wk 2 - Day 3: Ezra 2

Explanation: Ezra 2 is a detailed record of the families who returned from exile to rebuild Jerusalem. While it looks like a list of names, it shows something important: God knows every person involved in His work. No one is forgotten or unimportant. Each family had a role in restoring what had been destroyed. God did not just rebuild buildings—He rebuilt lives, families, and communities. Every name represents a story of faith, obedience, and hope. This chapter reminds us that God’s purpose is not just about big leaders—it includes ordinary people faithfully stepping into what God has called them to do.

Application: God never forgets His people. Even when life feels quiet, unnoticed, or ordinary, God still knows exactly who you are and where you belong in His plan. Seasons of waiting, struggle, or obscurity do not mean you have been set aside. God is still writing your story. It is easy to believe that only big, visible roles matter, but God builds His work through faithfulness, not popularity. Every small act of obedience, every step of trust, and every choice to keep going has meaning in God’s eyes. You may not see how your life fits into the bigger picture yet, but God does. You don’t have to be famous, gifted, or impressive for God to use you. You simply have to be willing.

Wk 2 - Day 4: Acts 2

Explanation: Acts 2 is not just the story of the Holy Spirit coming—it is the story of God launching His purpose for every believer. Pentecost was a Jewish feast that brought people from many nations into Jerusalem. Long before this day arrived, God had already planned that this would be the moment when the gospel would begin spreading to the world. God knew exactly who would be there and why. When the Holy Spirit came, the disciples began speaking in different languages. This was not random, but rather it was God showing that His plan included every nation, culture, and person. God was declaring, from the very beginning of the church, that His purpose was global and personal at the same time. No one was meant to be left out.

Peter stands up and preaches, even though just weeks earlier he had denied knowing Jesus. This shows something powerful about God’s purpose: God does not cancel people because of their failures. He restores them and uses them. God knew Peter’s weaknesses, but He also knew Peter’s future. What looked like failure became preparation for greater purpose. When thousands believed, they didn’t just receive forgiveness—they received direction. God formed them into a community with a shared mission. They worshiped together, learned together, and cared for one another. God wasn’t just saving individuals; He was shaping lives into something meaningful.

Application: This chapter shows that God doesn’t just know who you are—He knows what He created you to become. The Holy Spirit was given so believers could live out God’s purpose, not just know about it. His purpose for your life goes beyond your past, your mistakes, or your fears. Just like Peter and the early believers, you are called to live on mission. The Holy Spirit is God’s way of guiding, empowering, and shaping you into the person He designed you to be.

Wk 2 - Day 5: Psalm 139

Explanation: Psalm 139 is one of the clearest pictures in Scripture of how deeply God knows us. David says God knows when he sits and when he rises, his thoughts, and even his words before he speaks them. This kind of knowledge is not just awareness—it is personal, careful, and loving. God doesn’t just know facts about us; He knows us completely. David also explains that God is always present. No matter where someone goes, heaven, the depths, or the farthest place imaginable—God is already there. This shows that our lives are never outside God’s care. We are not wandering through life unnoticed or unprotected. The psalm then shifts to how God formed each person. David says God “knit” him together in his mother’s womb. The word paints the picture of a skilled craftsman weaving something with care and precision. This tells us that human life is not accidental. God designed every person intentionally, with purpose and value.

Application: Knowing that God sees everything about us can feel overwhelming, but Psalm 139 shows it is actually a gift. God knows every thought, every fear, every struggle, and every hope—and He still loves us. We do not have to hide, perform, or pretend with Him. We are already fully known. God did not create you by accident. He formed you carefully and intentionally. Every detail of your life matters to Him. Even the parts you struggle to accept about yourself were known by God before you were born. That means your life has purpose even when it feels confusing or painful. Because God is always present, you are never alone in your fear, doubt, or weakness. You cannot wander beyond His care. When life feels out of control, remember that we are still held in God’s hands and still moving inside His plan. You don’t have to prove your worth. You were created in love and for a reason.

Response:

- How does this chapter challenge how we define “importance”?
- Do you think God cares about small acts of faithfulness? Why?
- Is there someone in your life who may need to be reminded that they are not forgotten?
- Why is it important that everyone feels significance and value both to God and others?

Response:

- What does Peter’s transformation teach us about how God uses broken people?
- What gifts or opportunities has God given you that could be used for His purpose?
- Why do you think God builds a community (the church) instead of just saving individuals?
- What can churches today learn from the way believers lived in this chapter?

Response:

- Why do you think it is important that God is always present, no matter where we go?
- How does this psalm shape how we view human life and value?
- How does Psalm 139 connect to the idea that God has a purpose for every life?

Week 3: “Our God Who Restores What Sin Has Broken”

Wk 3 - Day 1: Genesis 3

Explanation: Genesis 3 tells us how everything went wrong—and how God began making it right. The serpent does not begin by openly denying God, but by questioning Him: “Did God really say...?” This is how temptation often works. It causes us to doubt God’s truth and goodness. Adam and Eve were tempted to believe that God was holding something back from them, when in reality, He had already given them everything they needed. When they disobey God, the effects of sin are immediate. Shame enters, fear replaces peace, and they hide from God. Their relationship with God is broken, and their relationship with each other begins to fracture. This shows us that sin doesn’t just break rules—it breaks relationships.

But even in judgment, God shows grace. God seeks them out rather than abandoning them. He asks questions, not because He lacks knowledge, but because He invites confession and repentance. God also clothes Adam and Eve, covering their shame. This act points forward to how God would one day cover our sin through Christ. One of the most powerful moments in this chapter is Genesis 3:15, where God promises that a future descendant of the woman will crush the serpent. This is often called the “first gospel” because it points to Jesus, who would one day defeat sin and Satan. Even in humanity’s darkest moment, God was already planning restoration.

Application: We must understand that sin doesn’t just break rules, it breaks relationships. When Adam and Eve sinned, the first thing they felt was shame, and the first thing they did was hide. That same pattern still happens today. We hide behind excuses, silence, busyness, or even religion instead of coming honestly to God. But God does not run from broken people—He runs toward them. Even after failure, God came looking for Adam and Eve. He covered their shame, promised a Savior, and began the work of restoration. That same God still seeks people today, not to condemn them, but to heal and restore. You don’t have to be perfect to come back to God. You only have to be honest. When sin is brought into the light, it loses its power. When confession replaces hiding, restoration begins. God’s grace is always greater than our greatest failure!

Wk 3 - Day 2: Matthew 3

Explanation: Matthew 3 introduces John the Baptist, whose entire message is summed up in one word: repent. The Greek word metanoia means “to change the mind” or “to turn around.” Repentance is not just feeling bad—it is choosing a new direction. John’s message was that sin had broken people’s relationship with God, but God was offering restoration. John baptizes people in the Jordan River, a place deeply tied to Israel’s history of entering the Promised Land. Going into the water symbolized leaving an old life behind and coming out ready to live differently. People were publicly admitting their sin, which was very unusual in that culture. Yet restoration begins with honesty. When Jesus comes to be baptized, it seems strange because He had no sin to confess. But Jesus chose to stand with broken people. He stepped into their place, identifying with their need for restoration. When Jesus is baptized, heaven opens and God declares Him His beloved Son. This shows that restoration is rooted in God’s grace and approval—not in our perfection.

Application: Restoration doesn’t begin with trying harder—it begins with turning back. The call to repentance is not meant to shame us; it is meant to free us. When people stepped into the Jordan River, they were choosing honesty over hiding and change over denial. God works where hearts are open. One of the most powerful moments in this chapter is when Jesus steps into the water with sinners. He didn’t wait for people to fix themselves before standing beside them. He met them right where they were, showing that God’s grace comes first, not last. When God spoke over Jesus, He declared love and approval before Jesus ever did anything. That reminds us that restoration begins with knowing we are loved by God, not trying to earn it. When we turn back to Him, He doesn’t just forgive—He restores us as His children.

Response:

- How does the serpent’s temptation in this chapter compare to how people are tempted today?
- What is a past sin or mistake you often find yourself beating yourself up over or feel deep guilt about?
- Why do we often try to “cover” our sin instead of letting God deal with it by coming clean?
- Why do you think God asks questions in Genesis 3 instead of immediately condemning Adam and Eve?

Response:

- What does this chapter teach us about God’s control over danger and opposition?
- Have you ever looked back and realized God was guiding you when you didn’t see it at the time?
- Why do you think God often leads people one step at a time instead of showing the whole plan?
- What is an area in your life you are waiting for God to reveal himself and provide direction?
- Why would God allow someone like Herod to exist if He had a good plan?

Wk 3 - Day 3: Ezra 3

Explanation: Ezra 3 records the first steps of restoration after God's people returned from exile. The city of Jerusalem was still in ruins. The walls were broken. The temple had been destroyed. Everything looked like a reminder of failure. Yet the first thing the people rebuilt was not their homes or their government—it was the altar. The altar represented forgiveness, sacrifice, and a restored relationship with God. Before anything else could be rebuilt, their worship had to be restored. This teaches us something powerful: God cares more about restoring hearts than rebuilding circumstances.

When they laid the foundation of the temple, people reacted very differently. Some shouted for joy because God was giving them a new beginning. Others wept because they remembered how glorious the old temple had been. This moment shows that restoration often brings mixed emotions. God is doing something new, but we still feel the weight of what was lost. God did not erase their past—He redeemed it. The brokenness they had experienced made this new beginning more meaningful.

Application: When the people began rebuilding, they didn't pretend the past never happened. Some rejoiced because God was doing something new. Others wept because they remembered what had been lost. God allowed both emotions, because healing often carries joy and grief at the same time. Restoration rarely looks like an instant fix. God begins restoration not by fixing everything around us, but by restoring worship within us. The people rebuilt the altar before the walls. They put their relationship with God before their circumstances. That teaches us something powerful: when sin or failure has left things broken, the first step forward is not control—it is surrender. You may not get back what was lost, but God can give you something deeper, stronger, and more meaningful. Restoration is not about going backward—it is about letting God build something new from what was broken.

Wk 3 - Day 4: Acts 3

Explanation: Acts 3 begins with a man who had been unable to walk since birth. Every day he was placed at the gate of the temple to beg. He was close to worship but unable to enter it. This is a powerful picture of what sin does—it leaves people stuck on the outside, unable to experience the fullness of God's presence. When Peter and John meet him, he asks for money. Instead, he receives something far greater—healing in the name of Jesus. Peter makes it clear that the power does not come from human effort, but from Christ. The man does not just walk—he leaps and praises God. This shows that God's restoration is not small or quiet; it is life-changing.

Peter then explains what happened. He tells the people that Jesus, whom they rejected, is the very one God used to bring healing. But instead of condemning them, Peter offers hope. He calls them to repent so their sins may be wiped away and that times of refreshing may come from the Lord. The word "refreshing" means renewal, relief, and restoration. God does not just forgive—He renews.

Application: Restoration doesn't always look like what we expect. Sometimes we ask God to make life easier, but God wants to make us whole. He doesn't just patch what is broken—He transforms it. This man had spent his entire life being overlooked. People walked past him every day. But Jesus saw him. In one moment, God restored not just his body, but his dignity, his joy, and his place in the community. That is what God does—He brings people out of the shadows and gives them new life. God's restoration also reaches deeper than circumstances. When we turn to Him, He replaces shame with joy and hopelessness with new purpose. No matter how long someone has been broken, Jesus still has the power to make them new.

Response:

- Why do you think some people cried while others celebrated?
- How does this chapter show that restoration is a process, not a moment?
- What might rebuilding look like your life today? How has God already started this process?
- How does this chapter show that healing is not simple?

Response:

- When is a time God restored something in your life?
- What does this story teach us about Jesus' heart for broken people?
- Why do people sometimes want blessings without change?
- What kinds of people in our society today tend to be overlooked or ignored?
- How might churches unintentionally overlook people who need restoration the most?

Wk 3 - Day 5: Psalm 51

Explanation: Psalm 51 was written by David after his sin with Bathsheba was exposed. Instead of making excuses, David comes to God in honest repentance. He admits that his sin was not just against people—it was against God. This shows us that sin always damages our relationship with the Lord first. David asks for more than forgiveness. He asks for a “clean heart.” The Hebrew word means something new, pure, and reshaped by God. David understands that restoration is not just about removing guilt—it is about changing what is broken inside us. David also asks God to restore the joy of salvation. Sin steals joy, peace, and closeness with God. Forgiveness brings relief, but restoration brings renewal. David longs not just to be pardoned, but to be made whole again. The psalm ends with hope. David believes God can still use him. Restoration does not mean pretending sin never happened—it means letting God turn failure into humility, worship, and obedience.

Application: God does not reject repentant hearts. No matter how deep the failure, God’s mercy is deeper. When we come to Him honestly, He not only forgives us—He restores our joy, our peace, and our purpose. Restoration is not pretending nothing happened. It is allowing God to rebuild us from the inside out. You may still remember your failure, but God wants to redefine it—not as something that disqualifies you, but as something He redeems. God is not finished with anyone who is willing to turn back to Him.

Response:

- What are some things in your life that sin has stolen from you that you have needed God to restore?
- Why is guilt sometimes harder to let go of than sin itself?
- What keeps people from believing they are truly forgiven?
- What do you think is the difference between shame and repentance?
- What kind of hope does this psalm offer to people who feel disqualified?

Week 4: “Our God Who Triumphs Over Evil”

Wk 4 - Day 1: Genesis 4

Explanation: Genesis 4 shows the next step after the fall of humanity. Sin does not stay private—it spreads. Cain and Abel both bring offerings to God, but Cain’s heart is not right. Scripture tells us that God looked not just at the offering, but at the person bringing it. Cain becomes angry, not because God was unfair, but because his pride was wounded. God lovingly warns Cain: “Sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must rule over it.” This language pictures sin like a wild animal waiting to pounce. Evil is not passive—it actively seeks control over human hearts. Yet God also tells Cain that he has a choice. He does not have to give in.

Instead of listening to God, Cain lets jealousy grow into hatred. He invites Abel into the field and kills him. This shows how unchecked sin always moves from thought to action. But even in this moment, God confronts Cain. God does not ignore evil—He brings it into the light. Even more powerful is God’s mercy. Though Cain is punished, God places a mark on him to protect him from being killed. This shows that while God judges evil, He does not abandon sinners. God remains greater than the evil in Cain’s heart.

Application: Evil rarely begins with dramatic actions—it usually starts in the quiet places of the heart. Jealousy, insecurity, bitterness, and wounded pride can slowly grow if they are not brought into the light. God warned Cain before his anger took control, showing us that God always gives people a chance to turn back. We are not powerless over what grows inside us. When we ignore hurt or resentment, it gains strength. But when we bring those feelings to God, He can heal them before they become destructive. Even after Cain failed, God still confronted him and protected him. God’s goal is not simply to punish sin but to expose it, confront it, and ultimately overcome it with grace. When we deal honestly with what is happening inside us, God can stop evil before it takes root.

Wk 4 - Day 2: Matthew 4

Explanation: Matthew 4 records Jesus being led into the wilderness to be tempted by Satan. This happens right after Jesus is baptized and declared God’s beloved Son. That is not an accident. Satan attacks identity first. Each temptation is aimed at making Jesus doubt who He is and whether God can be trusted. The first temptation is about hunger. Satan tells Jesus to turn stones into bread. On the surface it seems harmless, but the deeper temptation is to rely on His own power instead of trusting God. Jesus responds by quoting Scripture, showing that obedience matters more than comfort. The second temptation attacks God’s protection. Satan twists Scripture and challenges Jesus to throw Himself down from the temple. This is an attempt to force God’s hand. Jesus refuses, showing that true faith does not demand proof from God—it trusts Him. The third temptation offers power without suffering. Satan offers Jesus all the kingdoms of the world if He will worship him. This is the heart of evil: seeking glory without obedience. Jesus rejects Satan again, proving that God’s kingdom cannot be gained through compromise. Unlike Adam and Eve, Jesus does not give in. He stands firm, using God’s Word to defeat Satan’s lies. This chapter shows that evil is real—but God’s truth is stronger.

Application: Evil often attacks us in the same ways it attacked Jesus—through hunger for comfort, desire for control, and longing for recognition. Temptation usually comes when we are tired, vulnerable, or uncertain of who we are. Satan’s greatest strategy is not always to make us do bad things, but to make us doubt God’s goodness and our identity in Him. Jesus shows us that victory over temptation does not come from willpower alone—it comes from trusting God’s Word. When we know what God has said about us and about what is true, lies lose their power. Every time we choose truth over compromise, God’s victory over evil is lived out in our lives.

Response:

- What are some common sins that may be “crouching at the door” in a person’s heart?
- Why do people sometimes ignore God’s warnings?
- How does jealousy grow into something destructive?
- Why didn’t God immediately destroy Cain? What does God’s response to Cain teach about justice and mercy?
- How does this story show God’s desire to overcome evil rather than just punish it?

Response:

- Why do you think Satan twisted Scripture instead of ignoring it?
- Why is temptation often strongest when people are tired or weak?
- What kinds of “shortcuts” do people today get tempted to take and why is it easier to compromise than to obey?
- What does this chapter teach us about standing firm in hard moments?

Wk 4 - Day 3: Ezra 4

Explanation: Ezra 4 shows how evil often works through discouragement, deception, and delay rather than open violence. When God's people begin rebuilding the temple, their enemies first pretend to be friendly. They offer to help, but their goal is not to support God's work—it is to control it and corrupt it. When they are refused, they turn against God's people. The enemies then use lies, intimidation, and political pressure to stop the rebuilding. They write letters filled with half-truths and accusations. This reveals how evil often works: it twists facts, creates fear, and tries to make obedience seem dangerous.

For a time, the work of God is forced to stop. From a human point of view, it looks like evil has won. But God's plan is not canceled—only delayed. Ezra 4 reminds us that opposition does not mean God has lost. It often means God's work is important enough to be attacked.

Application: When you begin to follow God seriously, resistance often shows up. It may not always look like open attack. Sometimes it looks like discouragement, criticism, distractions, or even people who pretend to support you but quietly undermine what God is doing. Ezra 4 reminds us that opposition does not mean we are off track—it often means we are exactly where God wants us. It is easy to become tired when progress is slow or when others question our obedience. But God is not limited by delays. What looks like a pause is not a defeat. God is still working, even when it feels like nothing is happening. Faithfulness matters more than progress and God always honors perseverance. Even when opposition tries to weaken our confidence, God's purpose continues to move forward in ways we cannot always see. When God is building something in your life, don't let discouragement convince you to quit. His plan will outlast every obstacle.

Wk 4 - Day 4: Acts 4

Explanation: Acts 4 takes place right after God heals the lame man in Acts 3. Instead of celebrating what God has done, the religious leaders become angry. The gospel threatens their power, control, and traditions. So they arrest Peter and John and try to silence them. This is one of the clearest pictures of evil in Scripture—not just obvious sin, but people trying to stop God's truth. Peter and John are questioned by powerful leaders, yet they speak with courage. They say, "There is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved." Even though they are uneducated and ordinary, God gives them boldness that no authority can suppress.

When the leaders realize they cannot deny the miracle, they threaten the apostles and release them. But fear does not win. The believers gather and pray—not for safety, but for boldness. God responds by filling them again with the Holy Spirit, and the gospel spreads even more. This chapter shows that evil may try to intimidate, silence, or stop God's work, but God always responds with greater power, greater courage, and greater movement.

Application: Opposition is not a sign that God has failed—it is often a sign that God is at work. When Peter and John were threatened, they didn't ask God to make things easier. They asked Him to make them bolder. That reveals a deep trust that God's power is greater than any force trying to silence the truth. Fear is one of evil's greatest tools. It tries to keep people quiet, small, and obedient to the wrong things. But God responds to fear with courage. When believers pray together, God fills them with strength, unity, and boldness. Acts 4 reminds us that truth cannot be chained. No authority, no threat, and no opposition can stop what God has started. When we stand for what is right, God stands with us. Even when the world pushes back, God's kingdom moves forward.

Response:

- Why does obedience often bring resistance?
- How does this chapter show that God's plan is stronger than opposition?
- How does fear weaken obedience and why is trusting God difficult when things seem stuck?
- What does Ezra 4 teach us about perseverance?

Response:

- Why do you think the religious leaders were so threatened by the apostles?
- Why does truth often provoke resistance? What forms of pressure do believers face today?
- Why did the believers pray for boldness instead of protection and what does that tell us about their trust in God?
- How has God given you courage in difficult moments?
- How does persecution often make faith grow stronger?

Wk 4 - Day 5: Psalm 2

Explanation: Psalm 2 paints a picture of the nations of the world rising up against God. Kings, rulers, and powers try to resist God's authority, thinking they can rule without Him. But instead of being threatened, God laughs. This is not laughter of cruelty—it is the laughter of absolute authority. God is not worried because no human power can overturn His plans.

God declares that He has already installed His King—His Anointed One, the Messiah. This psalm points directly to Jesus, who would later be rejected by the world but chosen by God. The nations may rebel, but God's kingdom will still stand. The psalm ends with an invitation. Even those who oppose God are called to turn back and find refuge in Him. God's victory over evil is not just about judgment—it is about offering grace to all who will come.

Application: When the world feels chaotic, hostile, or out of control, Psalm 2 reminds us that God is not shaken. Nations rise and fall, leaders make threats, and evil seems loud—but God remains firmly on the throne. What feels overwhelming to us is never overwhelming to Him. This psalm teaches us that rebellion against God is not just political or cultural—it is spiritual. People resist God because they want control. But real freedom is not found in rejecting God's rule—it is found in trusting Him. God's victory over evil is not just about judgment; it is about refuge. Psalm 2 ends by inviting people to come to Him for safety. Even those who have resisted God are welcome to find protection and grace in Him. Because Jesus reigns, no darkness, no injustice, and no opposition can ultimately win. That means believers can live with courage, peace, and hope even when the world seems uncertain.

Response:

- Why do people resist God's authority?
- What does God's laughter in this psalm communicate about His power?
- How should believers live knowing God reigns?
- What is an area in your life that may feel chaotic but is important to remember God is still in control?