



Reading through the New Testament—Week 24

June 18-24

Reading Plan available on
YouVersion Bible App
(QR Code).



Becoming more like Jesus—growing in His Word

The book of Acts is a long one – 28 chapters. We conclude our reading in Acts this week and turn to the book of Romans. Some people feel the book of Romans is hard to understand, and maybe some sections are difficult. However, Paul’s writings in Romans had a profound effect on people like Martin Luther.

Luther wrestled with the words of Romans 1:17, “The righteous will live by faith.” However, that statement convinced Luther that it is solely by the grace and mercy of God that we have hope. In many ways, the writings of Paul in Romans was the springboard for the Reformation. Luther later wrote that it was because of Romans, “The whole Scripture took on new meaning.”

Rome was the capital of a vast empire. In Jesus’ day, as many as one hundred million people inhabited the Roman Empire. Realizing that, it’s not surprising that Paul addresses some of the issues he does in his letter to the Romans. Overall, Romans is about the Good News of Jesus Christ. But we miss the glory of His good news if we downplay the darkness of the human condition. The diagnosis is grim, and divine wrath is the inevitable result. But in Jesus Christ, there is hope!

As you begin to read through the book of Romans, you may want to watch the Bible Project video on Romans as an introduction: <https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/romans/>. If you want to dig a little deeper, you may want to look at some of the resources provided by the Gospel Coalition: <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/scripture/romans/>.

THIS WEEKEND'S SERMON OUTLINE

“Rescued in the Storm”

Acts 27:13-26

A common thread . . .

- a main character
- a boat
- a storm
- a rescue

Acts 27

- the main character: _____ (and 275 other people)
- the boat
 - an Alexandrian _____
- the storm
 - the “_____”
- the rescue: _____






Your life

- the main character: _____
- the boat: _____
- the storm: _____
- the rescue: _____
 - ***“they used helps, undergirding the ship”*** (Acts 27:17)
 - ***Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. Let us then approach God’s throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.*** (Hebrews 4:14-16)

How has God rescued you in life’s storm?

New Testament in a Year—June 18-24

Acts/Romans

Chapter 27  28  1  2  3 

Additional Reflections from this week's reading

Acts 27 The sermon this weekend focused on a portion of this chapter, vv. 13-26. However, to better appreciate what is described in those verses it will be helpful to read what comes before and after that section. As was discussed in the sermon this weekend, when have you felt caught in a “storm” in your life (not one created by the weather)? How did that go (or, how is that going)? What has God (or, what is God) showing you through this situation?

Acts 28 The final chapter of Acts continues with what happened once the people on the ship (Acts 27) arrived on land. When you consider everything that Paul went through in order to get to Rome, notice his attitude and focus once he got there. How did he spend his time?

Romans 1 Looking at Paul's words in vv. 2-4 and vv. 16-17, how might you describe the “gospel”?

Romans 2 In light of what Paul says in chapter 1, reflect on what he is saying to the people in 2:5-11.

Romans 3 In vv. 21-26, Paul uses the words “righteousness,” “redemption,” and “atonement.” These are not words we generally use in daily speech, but all three words help to tell the story of the Christian faith and the actions of Jesus. Do you know what each word means?

Blessing the World

Through Stories

Have you made it through a storm in life? Can you look back and see God's hand at work during the storm? Your story may be the encouragement and connection that someone else needs as they face their own storms. As we share our stories of how God carried us through the storms of life we faced, we are a witness to His love and mercy in action. We would love to hear your story and find ways to help you share it with others.

Belonging in Community

This week we have taken a deeper look into storms. We have all, and will, experience storms in our lives. To begin with, take a few moments to swap stories of weather storms that you have survived? (We will be sharing stories throughout our time together, so don't feel like you have to share something each time.) As you begin, 1 or 2 stories would suffice.

Storms are a good metaphor for what it is like when we go through the struggles of our daily lives. They can be overwhelming, force us to withdraw, cause loss and even threaten our lives. Take some time to ponder the storms of life below. As you look at each one, share if you have experienced this type of storm. Depending on the time you have and your willingness, take some time to share and listen to each other recount some of these seasons.

- A "relational storm?" Perhaps this was an estrangement of a family member, a broken friendship, a broken marriage, envy at work, conflict with your neighbors, and many other things.
- A "financial storm?" Maybe a large medical bill, car/house repair, caught in debt, or just unable to meet the financial needs you have.
- A "mental storm?" This could be a season where you were feeling overwhelmed, disconnected, apathetic, manic, or stressed.
- A "physical storm?" Perhaps a serious illness or injury, a chronic symptom, a surgery, or even developing an allergy.
- A "spiritual storm?" This could be a season of anger with or estrangement from God, a time of doubt, a struggle with sin, or even not taking time to grow in your relationship with God.

In a storm, finding shelter is key to survival. Let's talk about what shelter can be when we go through the storms of life.

- What were characters of God that you were able to recall and hold fast to that helped you through these storms?
- What is some key scripture that has helped you in the midst of storms?
- What is something that you might need to hear from a friend when you are going through a storm?
- Any other ways you have experienced the provision of shelter in the storms of life?

As you come to a close, take some time to thank God for how steadfast and secure He is. If anyone is experiencing a storm now, be sure to lift them up in prayer as well.