



# THE YEAR LONG BIBLE JOURNEY

UNIT 1

## GOD OF PROMISES

God made a promise to Abraham to make his children into a mighty nation. God fulfilled His promises, and He laid out expectations for those who wanted to be his children

### Memory Verse:

"Never stop reading this Book of the Law. Day and night you must think about what it says. Make sure you do everything written in it. Then things will go well with you. And you will have great success." Joshua 1:8 (NIV)

### Genesis

Genesis 17, God's Covenant with Abraham God made a promise to make Abraham's descendants a mighty nation, even though he had no children. His promise to Abraham was also a promise to us. Even though we are not perfect, God has a plan for all of our lives.

### Exodus

Exodus 14, Parting of the Red Sea The Israelites were the children of Abraham. It looked like they had met their doom at the Red Sea, but God provided a miracle for them. There is nothing that can stop God from fulfilling his plans.

### Leviticus - Numbers - Deuteronomy

Deuteronomy 5:1-22, The Ten Commandments Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy contain many instructions for living. They can all be boiled down to these Ten Commandments. God laid down rules for us to follow so we will know how to love him and love others.

### Joshua

Joshua 24, Joshua Tells Israel to Serve the Lord After the Israelites received the land God promised them. Joshua reminded the people of God's blessings and tells the people to follow God. There are consequences if we disobey God, but if we choose to follow Him, we will be blessed.

UNIT 2

## GOD BLESSES THE FAITHFUL

This next set of books show us that God humbles those who are disobedient but blesses those who faithfully obey God. God wants us to faithfully serve Him and love others.

### Memory Verse:

"Where you go I'll go. Where you stay I'll stay. Your people will be my people. Your God will be my God." Ruth 1:16b (NIV)

### Judges

Judges 6:7-24, Gideon Saves Israel Gideon was an unlikely hero. He wasn't a warrior, and he was full of self-doubt, but when he obeyed God, He saved Israel. If we are willing to obey God, He can do great things through us as well.

### Ruth

Ruth 1-2, Ruth Meets Boaz Ruth could have gone home and started over after her husband died, but she remained faithful to her mother-in-law. God blessed her faithful heart, and Ruth became part of God's plan for Israel as the great-grandmother of David and a descendant of Jesus.

### 1 Samuel - 2 Samuel

1 Samuel 16:1-13, Samuel Anoints David David wasn't the biggest of Jesse's sons, but he had a heart for God. God looks at our hearts, and He wants all of us to have a pure heart more than anything.

### 1 Kings - 2 Kings

2 Kings 15:1-7, Azariah (also known as Uzziah - an OK king); 2 Kings 16, Ahaz (a bad king); 2 Kings 18:1-8, Hezekiah (a good king) The kings in the Old Testament included the good, the bad and the ugly. Their stories show us that we can be a positive or negative influence on others. It all depends on whether or not we follow God.

### 1 Chronicles - 2 Chronicles

2 Chronicles 20:1-30, Jehoshaphat Defeats Moab and Ammon God gave Jehoshaphat some odd directions for battle, but Jehoshaphat obeyed God and gained the victory. We may not understand God's ways, but when we obey God, He will always give us victory.

UNIT 3

## PRAISING HIM IN HARD TIMES

Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther, and Job all faced challenges, but they stayed true to God and brought glory to His name. Even the Psalms show us we can praise God in hard times as well as good.

### Memory Verse:

"As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, my God." Psalm 42:1 (NIV)

### Ezra - Nehemiah

Nehemiah 2:1-10, Nehemiah Asks to go Home and Rebuild Jerusalem After his people had been humbled by the Lord, Nehemiah led Israel in rebuilding the city of Jerusalem, just as God promised. There are consequences to sin, but when we repent, God will forgive us and restore us.

### Esther

Esther 4, Esther Saves her People Esther could have remained silent, but she risked her life to save her people. She was in the right place at the right time, but she also was brave enough to do the right thing. God has a plan that only you can fulfill. Will you do the right thing?

### Job

Job 1, Job is Tested Bad things don't only happen to good people. They happen to everyone, as Job found out. God doesn't promise prosperity, but if we keep our faith, we will pass the test like Job.

### Psalms

Psalm 100 The book of Psalms was the ancient equivalent to our hymn books. It is full of songs of praise to the Lord. 150 Psalms have one overarching lesson to teach us: God wants us to sing his praises!

## THE VOICE OF WISDOM

Through wise King Solomon and the prophets, God spoke. If we listen, we can gain wisdom that will help us in every area of life.

**Memory Verse:**

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding."  
Proverbs 3:5 (NIRV)

**Proverbs - Ecclesiastes**

Proverbs 1

Written mostly by Solomon, the wisest man who ever lived, the Proverbs are filled with the wisdom of the Lord. Proverbs not only teaches wisdom, it urges us to continue seeking wisdom. God wants us to know he will grant wisdom to those who ask for it.

**Song of Solomon**

Song of Solomon 1

Song of Solomon is written like a play. It's a love story showing the beautiful love between a man and a woman. Marriage and love are gifts from God. As icky as it may seem to kids, marriage is a special gift blessed by God!

**Isaiah**

Isaiah 9:1-7, "For unto us, a child is born..." Isaiah prophesied at the time when Israel had evil kings. He told the Israelites they would be judged, but he also gave the Israelites the clearest picture of who Jesus would be. His prophecies are a continuation of the promises given to Abraham - a Savior is coming!

**Jeremiah - Lamentations**

Lamentations 1

Jeremiah was called the weeping prophet. He predicted and witnessed the punishment of Israel for their sins. Sin has real consequences, and it separates us from God. Jeremiah tells us we should feel sorry about our sins.

**Ezekiel**

Ezekiel 37:1-14, Valley of the Dry Bones  
Ezekiel spoke prophesy to a valley of bones. The prophecy was a reminder that even though Israel had sinned against God, God would forgive them. God is always forgiving to those who repent.

## GOD IS OUR PROTECTOR

Even when Israel was in exile, God still loved His people. He will always love us, and when we are faithful, He will look out for us.

**Memory Verse:**

"He sets people free and saves them. He does miraculous signs and wonders."  
Daniel 6:27a (NIRV)

**Daniel**

Daniel 6, Daniel and the Lions

Daniel was put in a bad position. Some men who were jealous of him decided to get rid of him because of his belief in God. God saved Daniel from certain death. God protects those who are faithful to Him.

**Hosea**

Hosea 1, Hosea and Gomer

God told Hosea to marry a woman named Gomer. Hosea knew Gomer would not keep her promises to him, just as Israel had not faithfully obeyed God. Hosea's forgiveness to his wife was a sign of God's forgiveness to His people.

**Joel - Amos**

Amos 9, God's Promise to Restore Israel

A good parent punishes their child for their disobedience, but they will still love and forgive them. Even though Joel and Amos delivered news of God's punishment, they also promised that God still loved and would forgive Israel.

**Obadiah**

Obadiah 1, God's Warning to Edom

Obadiah spoke not to the Israelites, but to the people of Edom, who mocked and laughed at the Israelites. Obadiah's warning is one we should heed as well. Don't judge others. Let God be the judge, and focus on your own obedience.

## PRAISING HIM IN HARD TIMES

God is gracious and merciful, as he demonstrated by sending Jesus, but He is also just. If we do not choose to obey God, there are consequences for our actions.

**Memory Verse:**

The Lord has shown you what is good. He has told you what he requires of you. You must act with justice. You must love to show mercy. And you must be humble as you live in the sight of your God.  
Micah 6:8 (NIRV)

**Jonah**

Jonah 1, Jonah Runs from God

Jonah ran as far away from God as he could, but God halted him in his tracks with a storm and a fish. Jonah disobeyed God, but God showed Jonah (and the people of Ninevah) how far He will go to give us a second chance.

**Micah**

Micah 5:1-9, Prophecies About the Messiah

The coolest thing about Micah is that his prophecy led the Magi directly to the baby Jesus. His writings show us that God's plan of salvation was set long before Jesus was born!

**Nahum**

Nahum 1, God's Promise to Judge Ninevah

Our God is a God of second chances, but when we continually disobey him there are consequences. Nahum's message to Ninevah shows us that while God is slow to judge, He will not stay silent forever. We must choose obedience and turn from sin.

**Habakkuk**

Habakkuk 1:12-2:20, Habakkuk's Conversation with God

Is it okay to question God when we have worries or doubts? Habakkuk would answer yes! Habakkuk was not afraid to ask God the hard questions, like why he refused to judge evil. In the end, God reminds him that God will judge the unrighteous and lift up the righteous.

## PREPARING THE WAY

The final Minor Prophets had two main purposes: to restore the faith of God's people and assure them a Messiah was coming!

**Memory Verse:**

"The Lord who rules over all says, 'I will send my messenger. He will prepare my way for me. Malachi 3:1a (NIRV)

**Zephaniah**

Zephaniah 3:1-5, God is Still Righteous  
Zephaniah prophesied during the days of the good king Josiah of Judah. He predicted the coming exile into Babylon, the punishment for Judah's sins. God's people had turned away from him, but God was still good. When people let us down, we can trust that God is still good. He will punish those who sin, but He will forgive those who ask Him.

**Haggai**

Haggai 2:2-9, Rebuilding Jerusalem  
Haggai prophesied during the rebuilding of the temple. He was a voice of encouragement from the Lord, a voice that urged the children of Israel to have faith. Haggai reminds us that God forgives, and when He does, He can give us a new spirit of boldness.

**Zechariah**

Zechariah 11:12-13, Zechariah Predicts the Messiah will be Rejected  
Zechariah prophesied at the same time as Haggai. He spoke about the rebuilding of the temple, but he also made many prophecies about the Messiah. He predicted that Jesus would be rejected, but because he was rejected, Jesus was able to redeem us from sin!

**Malachi**

Malachi 4, Malachi Reminds the People to Have Faith  
Malachi was the final prophet of the Old Testament era, and his book was the last to be written. Many years would pass between his time and that of the New Testament, but he was the final prophet to speak before the coming of Jesus. Malachi's message is one of encouragement. He urged the Israelites to have faith, even when the Lord seemed silent. God would fulfill his promises.

## A SAVIOR COMES

The New Testament begins with the birth of Jesus. The story of Jesus is told from four different points of view, and when Jesus returns to Heaven, His followers begin growing His church.

**Memory Verse:**

"God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son. Anyone who believes in him will not die but will have eternal life." John 3:16 (NIRV)

**Matthew**

Matthew 1:18-2:23, The Birth of Jesus  
Matthew's gospel focuses on how Jesus is the fulfillment of the prophecies about the Messiah – not the last of which is the prophecy we read in Micah! Matthew reminds his readers of many of God's prophecies to show us how God fulfills His promises.

**Mark**

Mark 6:30-56, Jesus Feeds the 5000 and Calms the Storm  
Jesus was more than a man. He was the Son of God. He could feed 5000 people with one small lunch box, and he could calm the seas with a word. Like all the gospels, Mark's book teaches us about the awesome power, and love, of Jesus.

**Luke**

Luke 23:26-43, Jesus is Crucified  
The Bible teaches us that we are all sinners and that the punishment for sin is death. Jesus was the only man who never sinned, so when He died, He defeated death so that He could give us forgiveness and eternal life!

**John**

John 21:15-19, Jesus Restores Peter  
Peter became so frightened when Jesus was arrested, he denied even knowing Jesus – three times! Jesus sought out Peter to not only forgive him, but restore him to his place as one of the leaders in Christ's new church. Jesus came to forgive our sins and give us new life.

**Acts (of the Apostles)**

Acts 10, Peter's Vision/Sharing the Good News with Gentiles  
Believe it or not, there was a time when the followers of Jesus assumed the gospel was only for the Israelites. God showed Peter and other leaders in the church that Jesus had died for everyone. God wants us to share the good news of Jesus without prejudice to the whole world!

## FOLLOWING CHRIST

The letters of Paul give many arguments and explanations about who Jesus is, why He died, and what His death means for us. They are a call to follow Jesus and to grow in our faith together.

**Memory Verse:**

"But here is how God has shown his love for us. While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." Romans 5:8 (NIRV)

**Romans**

Romans 5:1-11, Christ Died for Our Sins to Make Us Righteous  
Paul's letter to the Roman church lays out a beautiful explanation of how we were sinners and how Christ can forgive our sins. We could not save ourselves from sin, so Jesus died for us so He could give us new life.

**1 Corinthians**

1 Corinthians 12, One Body, Many Parts  
Written to end some quarrels among the church members, 1 Corinthians urges us to be united in God and in love. Paul used the illustration of a body and our body parts to show us that while we are all different, we all have a part to play in God's family.

**2 Corinthians**

2 Corinthians 9:6-15, The Importance of Giving  
Paul teaches us that we are to be cheerful and generous givers. As God has blessed us, we should give of our money and our time to show our gratitude and to spread God's love.

**Galatians**

Galatians 1, Paul Addresses the Galatians Following False Teachings  
Paul heard false teachers were leading the Galatians away from the gospel. He reminded the Galatians to be faithful to Jesus and to be on guard against such false teachings.



## STAND STRONG

This next group of letters teaches us to stand strong in the faith, to be joyful in bad times as well as good, and to have faith that Jesus will return.

**Memory Verse:**

"I can do everything by the power of Christ. He gives me strength." Philippians 4:13 (NIRV)

**Ephesians**

Ephesians 6:10-18, The Armor of God  
Paul's letter to the Ephesians is a call to arms. It's a reminder of what we believe and why. It's also a challenge to put on the full armor of God so that we can stand up for our faith!

**Philippians**

Philippians 4:4-20, Rejoice in the Lord!  
Paul had joy, even when he was in prison. He reminds us that because of Jesus, we can have joy even in difficult times.

**Colossians**

Colossians 1:15-23, Jesus Was God and Man  
Jesus wasn't just a good man or a good teacher. He was the Son of God. Whomever believes in Jesus will have their sins forgiven and be reconciled to God.

**1 Thessalonians - 2 Thessalonians**

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11, No One Knows When the End Will Come  
No one knows when Jesus will return, and no one knows when their time will be up. Paul urges us to stay faithful to God, to avoid false teachings, and to live each day as if it were our last.

## SERVE HIM WELL

Paul's final letters are great instruction books for would-be leaders in the church. All four of these leaders urge us to put God first and to live holy and blameless lives.

**Memory Verse:**

"Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young. Set an example for the believers in what you say and in how you live. Also set an example in how you love and in what you believe. Show the believers how to be pure." 1 Timothy 4:12 (NIRV)

**1 Timothy - 2 Timothy**

1 Timothy 4, Paul's Instructions to Timothy  
Paul was a great mentor to Timothy, encouraging the young pastor to have a strong faith and to lead others, even those who were older than him. Paul's instructions are useful to us as well, and they remind us how God gives us all mentors to build us up in the faith.

**Titus**

Titus 1:5-9, Paul Tells Titus to Appoint Leaders in the Church  
Paul laid out the qualifications for being a leader in the church to his young disciple, Titus. God wants us to follow these same guidelines so we cannot only lead in the church but be strong witnesses for the faith.

**Philemon**

Philemon v 10-20, Paul Encourages Philemon to Forgive Onesimus  
Paul gives us a real life example of how faith in Jesus should change the way we live our life on a daily basis. Onesimus had been a slave of Philemon and had apparently run away and possibly stolen from Philemon. Paul's letter encourages Philemon to live out his faith by reuniting and forgiving Onesimus.

**Hebrews**

Hebrews 4:14-16, Jesus is Our New High Priest  
Jesus is not a faceless deity speaking from on high. He was a real man who was tempted like we are every day. He is also the Son of God who conquered sin and death. Jesus is the Messiah, and He is the priest of the new covenant.

**James**

James 2:14-26, Faith and Deeds  
It's one thing to say we have faith. It's quite another to live it. James reminds us that actions speak louder than words. If we have a real faith, we will put that faith into action.

## JESUS IS COMING AGAIN

The Bible ends with a vision of the end times and eternity, as well as final encouragement from some of Jesus' closest friends to serve God and love others.

**Memory Verse:**

"'I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last,' says the Lord God. 'I am the One who is, and who was, and who will come. I am the Mighty One.'" Revelation 1:8 (NIRV)

**1 Peter - 2 Peter**

1 Peter 1:13-25, Be Holy!  
It's a challenge to live a godly life in an ungodly world. We need to rely on God to help us stay faithful. Peter's books urge us to study God's Word, to look out for false teachers and to be holy.

**1 John - 2 John - 3 John**

1 John 1:5-10, 4:7-8, God is Love  
In order to serve God we must be right with God. When we put God first, when we love God, we will love others. John urges his readers to put God first and reminds us that God is love.

**Jude**

Jude 1, Confront False Teachers and Stand Firm  
Jude warned the early believers to be careful whose teaching they followed. As long as the gospel has been around, there have been people spreading false teachings about Jesus. We must cling to the truth and not let false teachers lead us or others astray.

**Revelation**

Revelation 21, A New Heaven and Earth  
God promises that one day, He will make a new home for all those who believe in Him. As hard as life can be, we can live with joy knowing that our future is secure. We will spend eternity with Jesus!