

BIBLE CHALLENGE 2018

The reflections and notes for each week may be found at biblechallenge.pendletonchurch.org

WELCOME TO BIBLE CHALLENGE 2018!

This year's readings are dated Monday thru Sunday.

The primary focus of the reflections this year will be Salvation – why there is need of salvation, what salvation is, and how God is working in creation to bring it about. Observe the variety of characters in the Scriptures the LORD speaks to, and when God speaks. Notice that sometimes God speaks out, for example “Let there be light.” (Genesis 1:3). God speaks to God’s self, “Let us make humankind in our image...” (Genesis 1:26). And God speaks to a variety of human beings and others in God’s creation. You will also notice that God does not simply speak, but often participates in conversations. God is interested in a relationship of mutual love with humanity, which was, according to the Scripture, created in God’s image, therefore capable of reflecting God’s love, holiness, and righteousness. Also observe the actions of God, that God has permitted humanity choices, and how the Scriptures reveal the right and wrong use of God-given freedom. Look for the words “love,” “righteousness,” and “holiness” throughout the Scriptures.

Suggestions for study through the Bible.

Choose one or more to gain further insight from your daily reading:

1. Keep a list of the names of God and what they mean. As the Bible characters encounter God they understand more and more about Him. Often when a character discovers something new about God, God is described by that character with a name. That name also tells us something about God’s relationship with the Bible character that, as God’s people, we can apply to own relationship with God.
2. Keep a list of the names of places people encounter God, and what they mean. Like the names of God, the names of the places describe something the Bible characters have learned about who God is and how God desires to relate to people.
3. Follow the travels of Bible characters on a map, thinking about why they may have traveled as they did; why God would have lead them on a particular path.
4. Keep a journal of the insights you have received from God as you prayerfully read His Word. You could include the reference to the scripture passage, what you see happening, what you think it means to the Bible characters and their relationship to God, and how you think what you have learned about God applies to your own life. Don’t expect to have a life-changing revelation every day. God most often leads us and reveals Himself to us in small, everyday circumstances. These insights can help us grow in our faith and understand how we can better love the Lord our God with our heart, soul, mind, and strength; and more effectively love our neighbors as ourselves.