

# CHURCH RENEWAL LAB

## SCRIPTURE READING GUIDE...QUARTER 1

### “ACTS”

#### Week 1: The New Testament Church is born

- Day 1: Acts 1 Q: How does a passion for prayer shape our congregation's mission?
- Day 2: Acts 2 Q: How is our church mirroring the snap shot of the Acts 2:42-47 N.T. church and how is it not?
- Day 3: Acts 3 Q: How does Peter's instruction in Acts 3:19 provide the hope of renewal in my own life?
- Day 4: Acts 4 Q: How should Peter's words in Acts 4:12 shape our Gospel message in a pluralistic society?
- Day 5: Acts 5 Q: How does the story told in Acts 5:1-11 help us think about expectations in Spirit-birthed churches?

#### Week 2: The New Testament Church is prepared for mission

- Day 1: Acts 6 Q: How could our congregation identify opportunities, train leaders and release persons for mission?
- Day 2: Acts 7 Q: How can we maintain the sweet spirit of Stephen (vs. 59-60) when we're being mistreated?
- Day 3: Acts 8 Q: How does Philip's experience with the Ethiopian offer guidelines for our outreach to seekers?
- Day 4: Acts 9 Q: What does Jesus' call to Saul (see 7:58) suggest about who Jesus can use for his purposes?
- Day 5: Acts 10 Q: Who is our church potentially overlooking that the Spirit may have in mind for us to love & serve?

#### Week 3: The New Testament Church moves beyond her walls

- Day 1: Acts 11 Q: Acts 11:19-30 describes a disciple-making faith community...how can we make better disciples?
- Day 2: Acts 12 Q: The church in Acts 12:15 underestimated the power of prayer for mission...do we?
- Day 3: Acts 13 Q: How does the mission-minded Antioch church help us think about empowering missions?
- Day 4: Acts 14 Q: Acts 13-14 describes a persistent push for greater Gospel impact...are we persistent?
- Day 5: Acts 15 Q: The council of Jerusalem extended grace within culture...how can we be more gracious?

#### Week 4: The New Testament Church goes global

- Day 1: Acts 16 Q: The church went global with the words "come help us" (vs. 9)...who is calling us to "come & help"?
- Day 2: Acts 17 Q: Paul connected Gospel to culture in vss. 22-23...how can we do the same?
- Day 3: Acts 18 Q: How does Jesus' words to Paul in vss. 9-10 provide us with courage for our missional work?
- Day 4: Acts 19 Q: Missions moved from synagogue to lecture hall (vs. 9)...are there new locations for us as well?
- Day 5: Acts 20 Q: What lessons can we learn by listening to Paul's farewell instructions to the Ephesian elders?

#### Week 5: The New Testament Church witnesses to those in power

- Day 1: Acts 21 Q: Is the H.S. potentially redirecting our mission work by introducing unexpected events?
- Day 2: Acts 22 Q: Paul had opportunities as a Roman citizen...what opportunities do we have by our citizenship?
- Day 3: Acts 23 Q: The Romans partnered with Paul...what partnerships exist in our community for Gospel work?
- Day 4: Acts 24 Q: The Gospel made Felix uncomfortable (vs. 25)...what uncomfortable message must we speak?
- Day 5: Acts 25 Q: Paul's appeal to Caesar brought the Gospel to the heart of power...how can we do the same?

#### Week 6: The New Testament Church persists in challenging of times

- Day 1: Acts 26 Q: Vs. 29 says it was a vision that kept Paul keeping on...what is our vision that keeps us going?
- Day 2: Acts 27 Q: There seems to be no rest for the weary...how are you handling the exhausting work of mission?
- Day 3: Acts 28 Q: Sometimes challenging circumstances provides Gospel opportunities...are you leveraging those?
- [Day 4: Acts 29 Q: *You and your church are Acts 29...how is the N.T. church story being lived out in your context?*]

#### Final questions:

- What did I learn about the N.T. church while reading the book of Acts?
- The N.T. church was persistent in preaching the Gospel and making disciples...how can we do the same?
- What Holy Spirit inspired thoughts came to me while reading that I should share with the Renewal Lab team?

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# CHURCH RENEWAL LAB

## SCRIPTURE READING GUIDE...QUARTER 2

### “Ephesians and Colossians”

#### Week 1: Paul reveals God’s grace for all

- Day 1: Eph 1:1-14 Q: How does knowledge of the sovereignty of God and our being chosen by God effect our listening?
- Day 2: Eph 1:15-23 Q: How can prayer shape a community?
- Day 3: Eph 2:1-10 Q: How does the knowledge of God’s grace shape our congregation’s mission?
- Day 4: Eph 2:11-22 Q: How should Paul’s words in Eph 2:13 shape our view of those outside our church?
- Day 5: Eph 3:1-13 Q: Paul’s humility in Eph 3:8 drives his ministry...how can we develop a similar humility?

#### Week 2: God’s power within us and our response

- Day 1: Eph 3:14-21 Q: Who is the power behind the church?
- Day 2: Eph 4:1-16 Q: How can we develop a church that is unified in vision and mission?
- Day 3: Eph 4:17-5:20 Q: Do our actions as a church match that we speak to be true?
- Day 4: Eph 5:21-6:9 Q: As the bride of Christ how can we as the church serve God?
- Day 5: Eph 6:10-24 Q: How can we in the church train soldiers and equip them with the Armor of God?

#### Week 3: Life in Christ revealed

- Day 1: Col 1:1-14 Q: Paul explains the power of the gospel in Col 1:6...how can we help those in our church and outside our church come to understand the gospel?
- Day 2: Col 1:15-23 Q: How does Christ being the head of the church shape the way we pray?
- Day 3: Col 1:24-2:5 Q: How can we develop a joy to serve the church similar to that of Paul?
- Day 4: Col 2:6-15 Q: How can we continue to live our lives in Christ Jesus, and how can we help others do the same?
- Day 5: Col 2:16-23 Q: Are there places in which we have been caught up in being too legalistic?

#### Week 4: Further instructions on a life in Christ

- Day 1: Col 3:1-11 Q: Are there things in the life of the church that need repenting?
- Day 2: Col 3:12-17 Q: Is there forgiveness and grace that needs to be offered to those in our church?
- Day 3: Col 3:18-4:1 Q: How can we center ourselves to serve the Lord alone?
- Day 4: Col 4:2-6 Q: How does prayer shape our interactions with those around us?
- Day 5: Col 4:7-18 Q: Paul ends with a command to complete the ministry of the Lord...How can we keep this same mission in front of us?

#### Final questions:

- What did I learn about the meaning of abiding in Christ while reading the books of Ephesians and Colossians?
- What Holy Spirit inspired thoughts came to me while reading that I should share with the Renewal Lab team?

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# CHURCH RENEWAL LAB

## SCRIPTURE READING GUIDE...QUARTER 3

### “John (I)”

#### Week 1: Jesus' Ministry Begins

- Day 1: John 1:1-19 Q: What was John's mission in vs 7? Is this our mission as well?
- Day 2: John 1:20-34 Q: When we see Jesus in our life, do we testify about what we have seen?
- Day 3: John 1:35-50 Q: Do we follow Jesus with the same eagerness as the disciples?
- Day 4: John 2:1-12 Q: Jesus used this miracle to reveal his glory. What do we do to give God glory?
- Day 5: John 2:13-25 Q: Are there things we do that do not belong in the house of God? Gossip, Judgement, etc?

#### Week 2: Jesus Begins to Define His Mission

- Day 1: John 3:1-21 Q: For what reason did Jesus come to this world? How can we be a part of that mission?
- Day 2: John 3:22-36 Q: Are we looking at other people or places other than Jesus to provide salvation?
- Day 3: John 4:1-26 Q: Are there people you are afraid to interact with because of race, culture, social status, or economic status?
- Day 4: John 4:27-42 Q: Are we ready to sow and reap? Do you see the power of testimony and sharing what God has done for you?
- Day 5: John 4:43-54 Q: Jesus is working in our lives every day. Do we recognize and give credit to God for his work?

#### Week 3: Jesus Live Out His Ministry

- Day 1: John 5:1-15 Q: Jesus gives hope to those who don't have any. Is there anyone you know who needs hope?
- Day 2: John 5:16-30 Q: Jesus says, "I seek not to please myself but him who sent me" (vs. 30) Do you have the same desire to not please yourself, but to please God who sends you?
- Day 3: John 5:31-47 Q: Is Jesus ever right in front of you, but you fail to see him?
- Day 4: John 6:1-24 Q: Do you ever underestimate the power of Jesus like the disciples did?
- Day 5: John 6:25-59 Q: Is your church's desire to have more people in church and more money in the account or is your church's desire to further the kingdom of God?

#### Week 4: Jesus Is Not Afraid to Be Set Apart

- Day 1: John 6:60-71 Q: As a church, do you ever talk about the difficult topics? The ones that are hard to hear?
- Day 2: John 7:1-24 Q: How does vs. 18 impact your ministry?
- Day 3: John 7:25-44 Q: We receive the Holy Spirit by drinking from Jesus. What does drinking from Jesus mean, and are we drinking?
- Day 4: John 7:45-8:11 Q: Are we showing love to people even when no one else is?
- Day 5: John 8:12-30 Q: We have the light because Jesus is the light. Are we sharing this light with others?

#### Week 5: Jesus Followers are Willing to Be Set Apart

- Day 1: John 8:31-59 Q: What does it mean to be adopted into the family of God?
- Day 2: John 9:1-12 Q: When Jesus works in our lives, do we insist on letting people know what Jesus did?
- Day 3: John 9:13-41 Q: What are you willing to risk to proclaim Jesus? Would God be satisfied with that?
- Day 4: John 10:1-21 Q: Do we as sheep know the Good Shepherd? Do we know his voice? Do we know what he has done for us?
- Day 5: John 10:22-42 Q: John's testimony about Jesus had a long-term impact, are we sharing our testimonies so they can have a long-term impact?

#### Final questions:

- What can you do to pay attention to the works of Christ, and how are you going to share that with others?
- What Holy Spirit inspired thoughts came to me while reading that I should share with the Renewal Lab team?

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# CHURCH RENEWAL LAB

## SCRIPTURE READING GUIDE...QUARTER 4

### “John (II)”

#### Week 1: Jesus Works in Mysterious Ways

- Day 1: John 11:1-44 Q: Does God always do work when we want him to?
- Day 2: John 11:45-57 Q: When God works in ways that we were not expecting do we believe in him or look elsewhere for answers?
- Day 3: John 12:1-11 Q: What are you willing to give up for Jesus? Your prize possessions?
- Day 4: John 12:12-36 Q: Are you willing to give your life for God? What about your reputation?
- Day 5: John 12:37-50 Q: Do you love human praise more than praise from God?

#### Week 2: Jesus Calls His Believers into Action

- Day 1: John 13:1-17 Q: What can you do to serve those around you today?
- Day 2: John 13:18-38 Q: Do your actions match with what you say you are going to do?
- Day 3: John 14:1-14 Q: Do you believe? If yes, then are you doing the works that Jesus was doing?
- Day 4: John 14:15-31 Q: How do we show our love to God?
- Day 5: John 15:1-17 Q: How do we remain in Christ? Is this the most important aspect of our lives?

#### Week 3: Jesus Warns Following Him is Not Easy

- Day 1: John 15:18-25 Q: Are you too of the world that it does not hate you?
- Day 2: John 15:26-16:15 Q: Who is it that is working within us?
- Day 3: John 16:16-33 Q: How does our grief turning to joy affect our lives?
- Day 4: John 17:1-19 Q: What mission was Jesus given that he now passes on to us?
- Day 5: John 17:20-26 Q: What does it look like to be one with God?

#### Week 4: Jesus is Put on Trial and Crucified

- Day 1: John 18:1-18 Q: Peter first drew his sword for Jesus, and then he denied knowing him. Do you ever go from moments of great courage to being ashamed for the gospel?
- Day 2: John 18:19-27 Q: When the world starts to put Jesus on trial; will you deny knowing Jesus?
- Day 3: John 18:28-40 Q: Jesus said he came to testify to the truth; do we still carry that mission in the face of persecution?
- Day 4: John 19:1-27 Q: Jesus went under intense physical, emotional, and spiritual pain for you. How does this affect the way you live your life?
- Day 5: John 19:28-42 Q: When Jesus says, “It is finished,” what was he referring to?

#### Week 5: Jesus Rises from the Dead, and Sends the Disciples

- Day 1: John 20:1-18 Q: How does Christ’s resurrection impact your life?
- Day 2: John 20:19-31 Q: Where can you point people to look if they need to see God in order to believe?
- Day 3: John 21:1-14 Q: How does the net not being torn inspire your ministry?
- Day 4: John 21:15-25 Q: Have you ever made mistakes like Peter? What hope does Peter being reinstated give you?

#### Final questions:

- How does the death and resurrection of Jesus truly affect your life?
- What mission does Jesus pass to the Disciples? How can you be a part of this mission?
- What Holy Spirit inspired thoughts came to me while reading that I should share with the Renewal Lab team?

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# CHURCH RENEWAL LAB

## SCRIPTURE READING GUIDE...QUARTER 5

### “Nehemiah”

#### Week 1: Problem Noticed and Solution Created

- Day 1: Neh 1:1-11 Q: What is Nehemiah’s reaction when he hears about a problem? Do you have a similar reaction?
- Day 2: Neh 2:1-11 Q: Nehemiah took a risk before the King. Are you willing to take the risk to get involved?
- Day 3: Neh 2:12-20 Q: Do we take the proper amount of time assessing the problem before addressing it?
- Day 4: Neh 3:1-32 Q: Just as the people all participated, who can we empower to take part in our ministry?
- Day 5: Neh 4:1-23 Q: How have you responded to opposition, and what can we learn about how to respond?

#### Week 2: Opposition Faced

- Day 1: Neh 5:1-19 Q: Nehemiah does not get so caught up in one goal that he does not notice others. Do we?
- Day 2: Neh 6:1-19 Q: How are you engaging with others who are spreading rumors about your intentions?
- Day 3: Neh 7:1-73 Q: How is the end of this chapter a picture of the commitment to their neighbors?
- Day 4: Neh 8:1-18 Q: How can we develop a desire to hear the Word like these people have?
- Day 5: Neh 9:1-37 Q: Do you ever take time to reflect on your spiritual journey, the churches journey, and God’s faithfulness throughout?

#### Week 3: Celebration of Completed Wall

- Day 1: Neh 9:38-10:39 Q: Do we need to recommit ourselves to the Word of God?
- Day 2: Neh 11:1-36 Q: The people began to settle in and really be committed, are we settled in or are we still holding something back?
- Day 3: Neh 12:1-47 Q: How are we going to celebrate quick and long wins in our church?
- Day 4: Neh 13:1-31 Q: As we celebrate one win are we still looking towards other wins?

#### Final questions:

- Nehemiah was persistent in pursuing God’s will...how can we do the same?
- What Holy Spirit inspired thoughts came to me while reading that I should share with the Renewal Lab team?

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# CHURCH RENEWAL LAB

## SCRIPTURE READING GUIDE...QUARTER 6

### “Justice and Mercy”

#### Week 1: Justice defined as equality

- Day 1: Lev 19:9-18 Q: Are we treating ALL of our neighbors equally?
- Day 2: Deut 16:18-22 Q: Do we ever let our selfish ambitions cloud our view of true justice?
- Day 3: Ps 33:1-5 Q: If we defined justice as showing God’s love to others how would that change our approach?
- Day 4: Ps 99:1-9 Q: How does knowing that the Lord reigns and the King is mighty shape how we carry our justice?
- Day 5: Ps 106:1-5 Q: How does worship and praise fit into our view of justice?

#### Week 2: Leading up to justice and mercy

- Day 1: Ps 112:1-10 Q: How do and should we use our resources to carry out Justice?
- Day 2: Prov 21:1-31 Q: In a world with so much pain and suffering how can vs. 15 bring encouragement to us?
- Day 3: Prov 28:1-6 Q: How can we learn to do what is right? (Focus on vs. 5)
- Day 4: Prov 28:10-14 Q: Does our church or do I have as an individual have things to confess and renounce?
- Day 5: Prov 29:1-27 Q: What difference can justice and mercy make in our world today?

#### Week 3: The church called to show justice and mercy to all nations

- Day 1: Isa 1:16-17 Q: What are we doing to actively defend the oppressed?
- Day 2: Isa 30:15-21 Q: What does it mean to wait on the Lord?
- Day 3: Isa 51:1-6 Q: Who is God calling us to reach in vs. 4 through his justice?
- Day 4: Isa 58:1-14 Q: Who are you striving to serve through all your actions? Yourself or God?
- Day 5: Isa 61:1-11 Q: What does God promise to give to those who show his justice to the nations?

#### Week 4: God calls us to be a people of mercy and justice

- Day 1: Hos 12:1-6 Q: What is required with returning to God?
- Day 2: Amos 5:21-27 Q: Are we as a church ever caught in the trap of words without actions?
- Day 3: Micah 6:1-8 Q: What does God require of each of us? Do we do this?
- Day 4: Micah 7:14-20 Q: How can we strive to be people with God shows in vs. 18?
- Day 5: Zech 7:1-14 Q: In what ways are we going to “Administer true justice, show mercy and compassion to one another ...”?

#### Week 5: Taking a closer look in our own lives

- Day 1: Matt 9:9-13 Q: Are we as individuals and as a church more concerned about the healthy or the sick?
- Day 2: Luke 18:1-8 Q: How persistent are we with our prayers and actions?
- Day 3: Rom 3:21-31 Q: Have we as a church come to grasps with the concept that we are sinners? Then after we know the depth our sin do we recognize the power of the grace that justified us?
- Day 4: Rom 12:1-21 Q: How much are you willing to give up? Are you willing to give your life up?
- Day 5: Heb 4:1-16 Q: How seriously do we take confession? Personally and as a church?

#### Final questions:

- What is justice and who deserves it?
- Are you as an individual taking seriously what it means to show justice and mercy? What about your church?
- What Holy Spirit inspired thoughts came to me while reading that I should share with the Renewal Lab team?

#### Journey Maker Instructions

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# CHURCH RENEWAL LAB

## SCRIPTURE READING GUIDE...QUARTER 7

### "ROMANS (I)"

#### Week 1: The Churches Sin Revealed

- Day 1: Romans 1:1-17 Q: Do you have a Christian reputation that is being spread? Are you ashamed of the gospel?
- Day 2: Romans 1:18-32 Q: Do we as Christians ever forget to glorify God or give him thanks?
- Day 3: Romans 2:1-16 Q: Are we judging others or do we see ourselves as better than others?
- Day 4: Romans 2:17-29 Q: Are we careful to embody our message before we even speak our message?
- Day 5: Romans 3:1-8 Q: Read vs. 3-4 again. What does this mean for each of us?

#### Week 2: Christ As Our Savior

- Day 1: Romans 3:9-20 Q: Do you realize that you are no better than anyone else?
- Day 2: Romans 3:21-31 Q: How then are we considered righteous in the eyes of God?
- Day 3: Romans 4:1-12 Q: Do you trust God for your salvation or are you still trying to earn it?
- Day 4: Romans 4:13-25 Q: Re-read vs. 24b-25. What does this mean for your life?
- Day 5: Romans 5:1-11 Q: What is our nature before Christ saved us?

#### Week 3: The Battle of Good and Bad, Sin and Grace

- Day 1: Romans 5:12-21 Q: Which is greater, Sin or Grace, the work of Adam or the work of Christ?
- Day 2: Romans 6:1-14 Q: Now that we live in Christ, what should our actions be? Why?
- Day 3: Romans 6:15-23 Q: What does it mean to be free in Christ?
- Day 4: Romans 7:1-6 Q: In this past month, week, and day what have you done to bear fruit for God?
- Day 5: Romans 7:7-25 Q: Do you agree with what Paul is saying about his life? Re-read Paul's conclusion in vs 24-25. What does this mean for you?

#### Week 4: God's Love Is Greater

- Day 1: Romans 8:1-17 Q: Pick right now, do you want to live by flesh or Spirit? What do you have to do to make that happen?
- Day 2: Romans 8:18-30 Q: Which do you focus on more, the present suffering or the future glory?
- Day 3: Romans 8:31-39 Q: What comfort do you have knowing that nothing can separate you from the love of God? (Check out Q&A 1 from the Heidelberg Catechism)

#### Final questions:

- What did I learn about my sin while reading the book of Romans?
- What did I learn about God's salvation while reading the book of Romans?
- What Holy Spirit inspired thoughts came to me while reading that I should share with the Renewal Lab team?

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# CHURCH RENEWAL LAB

## SCRIPTURE READING GUIDE...QUARTER 8

### “ROMANS (II)”

#### Week 1: Remembering God’s Faithfulness

- Day 1: Romans 9:1-29 Q: What do all these fulfilled promises reveal about who God is?
- Day 2: Romans 9:30-10:21 Q: Paul emphasis a verbal profession of faith; are you regularly professing your faith?
- Day 3: Romans 11:1-10 Q: What does Paul remind us of through Elijah’s story?
- Day 4: Romans 11:11-24 Q: How do vs. 17 and 18 shape our vision of the world?
- Day 5: Romans 11:25-36 Q: What does Paul remind us of in his Doxology? How does that shape our ministry?

#### Week 2: The Role of Believers

- Day 1: Romans 12:1-8 Q: Are you serving where your gifts are? If not, how can you be?
- Day 2: Romans 12:9-21 Q: Examine your life. Examine the churches life. Is your Love sincere as Paul describes?
- Day 3: Romans 13:1-7 Q: Look at vs. 7. Do you owe anyone anything?
- Day 4: Romans 13:8-14 Q: Are there people in your homes, neighborhoods, work places, or schools that could use some Godly love?
- Day 5: Romans 14:1-12 Q: Are you unfairly judging someone else’s motives?

#### Week 3: Supporting Each Other in the Mission

- Day 1: Romans 14:13-23 Q: What could you do to help remove a stumbling block from someone else?
- Day 2: Romans 15:1-13 Q: Pray that vs. 13 will be true for you. Pray that it will be true for your neighbor.
- Day 3: Romans 15:14-33 Q: Throughout this passage, Paul encourages supporting each other with teaching, with material gifts, and with prayer. Are you taking part in supporting those around you?
- Day 4: Romans 16:1-16 Q: Remember you do not work alone. Who else is working in support of you? How can you recognize them?
- Day 5: Romans 16:17-27 Q: Through everything Paul always remembered his mission, summarized in vs. 25-27. How can you always keep your mission at the front?

#### Final questions:

- What did I learn about God’s mission while reading the book of Romans?
- What did I learn about my role in God’s mission while reading the book of Romans?
- What Holy Spirit inspired thoughts came to me while reading that I should share with the Renewal Lab team?

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