

JESUS

through the eyes of the unlikely

FEBRUARY

- Daily **readings** suggested to do at your own pace. Use shorter days to catch up and use your time in scripture to listen to God, not to “checklist” a reading assignment.
- Use **reflection questions** as you read; write down questions to discuss with your community group or mentor later in the week.
- Recite the **prayer(s)** daily or weekly. Ancient prayers provide a foundation of time-tested language to express what so often feels inexpressible. They unite us with the full body of Christ, both around the world and throughout time.
- A monthly verse is suggested to **memorize**. While it may seem daunting, the exercise of scripture memory is a proven way to cement words into our minds, so they shape our hearts and our lives. Practice writing it, reading it aloud, and reviewing it throughout the month.
- Spiritual disciplines (**practices**) help us connect with God and live out the character of Jesus. We encourage you to try out a new practice each month.¹

Read

WEEK OF	DAY 1	DAY 2	DAY 3	DAY 4	DAY 5	DAY 6
FEB 5	Luke 8:1–25	Luke 8:26–56	Luke 9:1–17	Luke 9:18–45	Luke 9:46–62	Psalms 104
FEB 12	Luke 10:1–24	Luke 10:25–42	Luke 11:1–13	Luke 11:14–28	Luke 11:29–54	Jonah 1:1–3:5
FEB 19	Luke 12:1–21	Luke 12:22–34	Luke 12:35–53	Luke 12:54–13:9	Luke 13:10–17	Hosea 6:1–6
FEB 26	Luke 13:18–30	Luke 13:31–35	Luke 14:1–14	Luke 14:15–24	Luke 14:25–35	Nehemiah 8:1–12

Reflect

- What does this passage teach you about God? About Jesus?
- How do Jesus’ actions show us the character of God?
- What does it look like to follow Jesus in this passage?

¹ Some of our practices and definitions come from the book *Spiritual Disciplines Handbook*, Adele Ahlberg Calhoun (IVP, 2015)

Pray

*Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil:
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.*²

*May our minds be like that of Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore, God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father. Amen.*³

*Grant us, O Lord, not to mind earthly things, but to love things heavenly; and even now, while we are placed among things that are passing away, to cleave to those that shall abide; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*⁴

Memorize: Luke 9:23–25

Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will save it. What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, and yet lose or forfeit their very self?

Practice: Simplicity⁵

The practice of simplicity is a “letting go” of possessions to loosen our attachment to owning and buying things. Owning possessions is not the problem, but when they distract us from more important pursuits, they become a stumbling block to following Jesus, as with the rich man who speaks with Jesus in Mark 10:17–31.

If you want to practice simplicity this month, try giving one of your friends a possession of yours that they’ve admired, or try a 3–month, 33 item capsule wardrobe. Every time you exercise that “letting go” muscle, it becomes easier to let go the next time.

² The Lord’s Prayer, common adaptation from the King James Version. The final phrase is not found in Matt 6 or Luke 11 in the original Greek; it is a liturgical addition traditionally added by the church. See <https://www.oca.org/reflections/fr.-lawrence-farley/the-lords-prayer-the-final-doxology>

³ Adapted from the *Christ Hymn*, Philippians 2, *Common Prayer* (Zondervan, 2010)

⁴ From the *Leonine Sacramentary*

⁵ For more ideas, read Joshua Becker’s book, *The More of Less: Finding the Life You Want Under Everything You Own*, or at becomingminimalist.com.