

Scripture Reading Schedule

Week 5: October 7-13

Monday	John 1:1-18
Tuesday	Genesis 1
Wednesday	John 3:1-21
Thursday	Luke 2:26-56
Friday	Ephesians 1:1-14
Saturday	Hebrews 6

Week 6: October 14-20

Monday	Genesis 22:1-19
Tuesday	Leviticus 16
Wednesday	Joshua 2
Thursday	Genesis 3
Friday	Romans 5
Saturday	Hebrews 7

Week 7: October 21-27

Monday	Ezekiel 36:16-39
Tuesday	Acts 1:9-12
Wednesday	Daniel 7
Thursday	Mark 10
Friday	Revelation 21:22:5
Saturday	Hebrews 8

Week 8: October 28 - November 3

Monday	Isaiah 60
Tuesday	1 Corinthians 15:1-11
Wednesday	Philippians 2:1-11
Thursday	Romans 8:31-39
Friday	Ephesians 2:11-22
Saturday	Hebrews 9

Scripture Reading Schedule

Week 9: November 4-10

Monday	Acts 10
Tuesday	Colossians 1:15-23
Wednesday	Galatians 3:27-29
Thursday	Colossians 3:1-17
Friday	Romans 16:20, 2 Corinthians 5
Saturday	Hebrews 10

Week 10: November 11-17

Monday	Genesis 12:1-9
Tuesday	Genesis 15
Wednesday	1 Peter 2
Thursday	Hebrews 11
Friday	Romans 1:16-17, Luke 18:9-14
Saturday	Hebrews 12

Week 11: November 18-24

Monday	Ezekiel 37
Tuesday	Matthew 27
Wednesday	Matthew 28
Thursday	1 Corinthians 15:26-27, 54-57
Friday	John 11:38-44
Saturday	Hebrews 13

What is the Gospel?



Surprisingly Good News about Jesus Christ the King

What is the Gospel?

In his autobiography *Brother to a Dragonfly*, Civil Rights activist and Baptist Preacher Will Campbell recalls how his friend P. D. East had badgered him for a succinct definition of Christianity. East did not want a long or fancy explanation. “I’m not too bright,” he told Campbell. “Keep it simple. In ten words or less, what’s the Christian message?”

Campbell obliged his friend: “We’re all scoundrels but God loves us anyway,” he said. To which East replied, “If you want to try again, you have two words left.”

Campbell and East eventually had an extended conversation provoked by Campbell’s summary. It had stuck in East’s mind. He wasn’t sure he bought it, but it gave him something to think about.

Christian faith, our community, our mission all begins and ends with the gospel. “Believe in the gospel and be saved” but that takes for granted that we know what the Gospel is.

A few years back various scholars were invited to give their own succinct seven word summaries of the gospel here are a few that stood out:

“The wall of hostility has come down...”

“In Christ, God’s “yes” defeats our “no”...”

“God was in Christ reconciling the world...”

“God gets the last word...”

“We are who God says we are...”

And the one that I am fond of quoting:

“God refuses to be God without us...”

There are many ways of answering the question “*What is the gospel?*” and I think that is a good thing.

Because the gospel is ultimately what God has been doing since before the dawn of creation.

It is as large and expansive and mysterious as God is.

Nonetheless, the gospel is something that must be shared, proclaimed, believed. So this Fall at East Zorra we want to spend time in our services and Bible studies reflecting on the various ways that scripture answers this question.

Author Fleming Rutledge writes that *the gospel is the power of God to do something...*

The question is what?

The scripture readings in this guide begin to give a rich and varied tapestry as to just what the gospel is.

What God has done, what God is doing, and what God will do.

How would you answer the question “*What is the gospel?*”

As Will Willimon writes, the question begins and ends with Jesus.

“We asked God to say something definite and God, getting personal, sent Jesus Christ. We were surprised. God was other than we imagined. We can't make God into whatever we please.

Jesus demonstrated that God is better than omnipotent, omniscient or any other high-sounding abstraction. God is love embodied: nonviolent, relentlessly seeking, convening, suffering love.

Human happiness is life lived in response to the God we've got. It's good news: Because God really was in Jesus Christ, reconciling the world to God, we can be with God.” Will Willimon

Scripture Reading Schedule

Week 1: September 9-15

Monday	1 Corinthians 1:18:31
Tuesday	John 10:1-21
Wednesday	Mark 1
Thursday	Luke 23:33-43
Friday	Ezekiel 34:11-16
Saturday	Hebrews 1

Week 2: September 16-22

Monday	Isaiah 60
Tuesday	Zechariah 3
Wednesday	Isaiah 43
Thursday	Hebrews 2
Friday	Luke 15:11-32
Saturday	Hebrews 3

Week 3: September 23-29

Monday	Exodus 3
Tuesday	Exodus 12:1-30
Wednesday	Exodus 13:17-14:31
Thursday	Exodus 15:1-19
Friday	Romans 6:1-14
Saturday	Hebrews 4

Week 4: September 30 - October 6

Monday	Deuteronomy 30
Tuesday	Jeremiah 31
Wednesday	2 Kings 5
Thursday	Romans 12
Friday	Luke 19:1-9
Saturday	Hebrews 5