



## Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1&2 Thessalonians



## Reading the Bible Together December 2014

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### What is 'In Sync' Bible Reading?

'In Sync' encourages us to read together through the Bible, and then reflect together on what we have read from God's Word. We consider the main message and the key themes of a whole book (or books) of the Bible, and then we can share with others what we have learnt through our Bible reading.

*'I meditate on your precepts and consider your ways. I delight in your decrees; I will not neglect your word.'* (Psalm 119:16)

### Questions to consider

Reading the Bible does not have to be an intellectual study. Anyone can read the Bible and by God's grace understand it. The main thing is that we pray for God's help as we read.

Here are some questions to help you think through what you are reading:

1. What have I learnt about God and about Jesus?
2. What does this teach me about humanity and myself?
3. What has most encouraged me from this book?
4. How does this teach me to love the Lord my God with all my heart, soul and mind? (Matt 22:37-40)
5. How does this teach me to love my neighbour as myself? (Matt 22:37-40)
6. Is there anything else I should learn here to be 'equipped for every good work' (2 Tim 3:17)

### Galatians

The Galatian churches included Antioch, Lystra, Iconium and Derbe. Some Jewish Christians have come and are insisting that Gentile Christians must be circumcised and submit to the Jewish law. Paul insists that salvation is by faith (not works) and urges them to live by the Spirit.

### Ephesians

This letter begins with a wonderful ascription of praise and thanksgiving to God for the gospel. Paul writes about diversity, unity and maturity in the church. He gives instructions about the Christian life and encourages Christians to stand firm against attack and to be clothed in the armour of God.

### Philippians

The theme of joy runs through this epistle. Paul writes about his desire that Christ be glorified in his life and ministry, stating that he considers everything a loss compared to knowing Christ. He urges the Philippians to have the same attitude as Christ and writes about pressing on in the Christian life.

### Colossians

In opposition to false teaching, Paul stresses the supremacy and sufficiency of Christ and his atoning work. He warns the Colossians not to be taken captive by deceptive philosophy and human wisdom. He urges them to put on the new self and to live for the glory of God.

### 1 & 2 Thessalonians

These letters refer to the return of Christ and warns about 'the man of lawlessness'. Paul commends the church for their faith, love and hope and encourages the Thessalonians to stand firm and to continue to be active in living as Christians.

### How to read?

There are 28 chapters in these 6 books so reading a chapter a day will enable you to read through these letters in a month. However, you could also read through each letter in its entirety a couple of times in the month.

**In-Sync for January : Leviticus**