

Stay dressed for action and
your lamps burning, and be
who are waiting for their m
come home from the weddi
so that they may
him at once
knock

THE DAILY READING BIBLE

LUKE 9-15

JONAH

2 TIMOTHY

60 daily readings with full Bible text

THE DAILY READING BIBLE

An all-in-one, take-anywhere package to help you feed regularly from God's word.

Time to get back into regular Bible reading? *The Daily Reading Bible* has everything you need to get started, and in one compact, portable package.

This volume contains 60 readings on Luke 9–15, Jonah and 2 Timothy. Each reading is designed to take around 15–20 minutes and contains:

- *the full text of the Bible passage for that reading*
- *some questions to get you thinking*
- *some quotes for reflection or 'points to ponder'*
- *some ideas to get you started in prayer.*

It's all here in one booklet that you can take with you anywhere—on the train, on the bus, to the park at lunchtime, or to your favourite armchair.



THE DAILY READING BIBLE

Volume 15

LUKE 9-15

JONAH

2 TIMOTHY

The Daily Reading Bible (Volume 15)

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ISBN 978 1 921441 10 3

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Cover design and typesetting by Matthias Media.

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INTRODUCTION

Readng our Bibles regularly is getting harder. That, at least, seems to be the common experience of many Christians. We could waste lots of ink speculating on the reasons for this: is it the frenetic pace of life these days? Is it spiritual laziness? Is it the impact of postmodernism on our culture and the lack of certainty when it comes to interpreting the written word?

But a better option than speculating on the reasons, we thought, was to provide a new resource for Christians to help them get back into a more regular habit of reflecting daily on God's word. So back in June 2001, we decided to start including a section called 'Bible Brief' in our monthly magazine, *The Briefing* (see www.matthiasmedia.com.au for more information about *The Briefing*). The 'Bible Brief' provided 20 short readings each month—acknowledging that there will be days we miss or days when we want to do something a bit different—with questions, thoughts to ponder, and suggestions to get started in prayer.

Now, several years later, we have a good collection of 'Bible Briefs', and it's time to offer them to a wider audience in a format that will, we hope, be even more convenient and useful.

This fifteenth volume contains 60 readings, all designed to be done in 15–20 minutes. These daily Bible readings are designed to

help you feed regularly from God's word. They won't cover every issue in each passage, nor even every passage from each Bible book. In other words, *they are no substitute for the in-depth study of the Scriptures* that you may undertake personally, in small groups or through listening to sermons.

With the kind permission of our friends at Crossway Bibles, we've been able to make this a complete package to take with you—we've included the English Standard Version Bible text with each daily study. So you can take this one book with you and have everything you need—on the train, on the bus, or to the park at lunchtime—wherever and whenever you can get 20 minutes to yourself.

How to use these readings

- *With a penitent heart*, the true prerequisite for all Bible reading. Open with prayer (perhaps using the prayer suggested at the beginning of each set of studies).
- *With 15–20 minutes* of peace and quiet. If you can take longer, and want to read and pray further—great! But we have designed the readings to be done in a fairly short space of time.
- *With an accurate modern translation*. We recommend and have included the new ESV translation. The writers of the studies refer to this translation. Contact us for further details about the ESV or visit www.matthiasmedia.com.au/ESV

- *With a pen.* Even if you only jot down brief ideas, writing focuses the mind.
- *As a guide and help, not a straitjacket.* Feel free to dig further into the passage, to notice and ponder things that the questions don't point to.
- *As a launch-pad for prayer.* Use the prayer ideas at the end of each reading as a starting point for your daily prayer. Many of the points that will arise from the readings will be things you can pray for yourself, and also for others (family, friends, neighbours, etc.). Why not compile a list of people you want to pray for (you can write them in the blank space below), and use the prayer ideas from each reading to pray for the next person on your list?

This fifteenth volume includes:

- studies on Luke 9-15 (written by Cameron Munro, Senior Associate Pastor of Trinity

Hills, Aldgate, a church plant of Holy Trinity Adelaide in Australia)

- studies on Jonah (written by Andrew Reid, Old Testament and Hermeneutics lecturer at Ridley College in Melbourne, Australia)
- studies on 2 Timothy (written by Nigel Gordon who works with City Bible Forum and St Matthew's Shenton Park in Perth, Australia).

Matthias Media

August 2008

Please note: the main section of Scripture for each study is reproduced before the questions. Other Scripture references are reproduced as footnotes at the bottom of the page, or, where the passages are too long to be included as footnotes, in the appendix.

PEOPLE TO PRAY FOR:

LUKE 9-15

INTRODUCTION

After Peter's declaration of Jesus' identity ("The Christ of God" in Luke 9:20), Jesus sets out for Jerusalem and the cross. Luke's Gospel shifts at this point and records Jesus' teaching about the need to respond to him in faithful discipleship. These readings focus on the first half of Jesus' journey to Jerusalem.

You might like to use this prayer (or your own variation of it) before each of the next 20 studies:

*Dear Father,
Show me in your word the road I am to walk as I follow in the footsteps of your Son.
Challenge me and change me so that I will live for you every day. I ask this in Christ's name.
Amen*

Notes: In this set of studies, you'll find various quotes ('What someone else said') in place of the usual 'Ponder' section. You might like to take a minute to reflect on the quote and how it summarizes the passage, deepens your understanding of the passage or spurs you on in your daily walk.

NB: Tick the box when you've completed each study ✓

READING 1

LUKE 9:51-62



When the days drew near for [Jesus] to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. ⁵² And he sent messengers ahead of him, who went and entered a village of the Samaritans, to make preparations for him. ⁵³ But the people did not receive him, because his face was set toward Jerusalem. ⁵⁴ And when his disciples James and John saw it, they said, "Lord, do you want us to tell fire to come down from heaven and consume them?" ⁵⁵ But he turned and rebuked them. ⁵⁶ And they went on to another village.

⁵⁷ As they were going along the road, someone said to him, "I will follow you

wherever you go." ⁵⁸ And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head." ⁵⁹ To another he said, "Follow me." But he said, "Lord, let me first go and bury my father." ⁶⁰ And Jesus said to him, "Leave the dead to bury their own dead. But as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God." ⁶¹ Yet another said, "I will follow you, Lord, but let me first say farewell to those at my home." ⁶² Jesus said to him, "No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God."

1. *What different responses to Jesus do you see here?*

2. *What things hold people back from committing to Jesus?*

3. *What right does Jesus have to expect such radical commitment?*

4. *If he spoke to you, what might he say is more important to you than him?*

WHAT SOMEONE ELSE SAID

"Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were an offering far too small,
Love so amazing so divine,
Demands my life, my soul, my all."
(Isaac Watts, in the hymn
'When I Survey the Wondrous Cross!')

PRAYER IDEAS Ask God to give you an undivided heart that seeks to follow him before all things and does not sacrifice the best for the good.

READING 2

LUKE 10:1-16

After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them on ahead of him, two by two, into every town and place where he himself was about to go. ² And he said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. ³ Go your way; behold, I am sending you out as lambs in the midst of wolves. ⁴ Carry no moneybag, no knapsack, no sandals, and greet no one on the road. ⁵ Whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace be to this house!' ⁶ And if a son of peace is there, your peace will rest upon him. But if not, it will return to you. ⁷ And remain in the same house, eating and drinking what they provide, for the laborer deserves his wages. Do not go from house to house. ⁸ Whenever you enter a town and they receive you, eat what is set before you. ⁹ Heal the sick in it and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near

to you.' ¹⁰ But whenever you enter a town and they do not receive you, go into its streets and say, ¹¹ 'Even the dust of your town that clings to our feet we wipe off against you. Nevertheless know this, that the kingdom of God has come near.' ¹² I tell you, it will be more bearable on that day for Sodom than for that town.

¹³ "Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the mighty works done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago, sitting in sackcloth and ashes. ¹⁴ But it will be more bearable in the judgement for Tyre and Sidon than for you. ¹⁵ And you, Capernaum, will you be exalted to heaven? You shall be brought down to Hades.

¹⁶ "The one who hears you hears me, and the one who rejects you rejects me, and the one who rejects me rejects him who sent me."

1. 1707.

1. What is the 'harvest' (v. 2)?

2. As "lambs in the midst of wolves", why can you be confident?

3. What is Jesus trying to teach his disciples when he sends them out without resources? What does this teach you?

4. Why do you think people would reject the message?

WHAT SOMEONE ELSE SAID

"And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?' Then I said, 'Here am I! Send me.'" (Isaiah, in Isaiah 6:8.)

PRAYER IDEAS

Ask God to open your eyes to his harvest and provide you with all you need to work faithfully amongst it.

READING 3

LUKE 10:17-24

The seventy-two returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in your name!"¹⁸ And he said to them, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.

¹⁹ Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt you. ²⁰ Nevertheless, do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven."

²¹ In that same hour he rejoiced in the Holy Spirit and said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. ²² All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows who the Son is except the Father, or who the Father is except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him."

²³ Then turning to the disciples he said privately, "Blessed are the eyes that see what you see!" ²⁴ For I tell you that many prophets

and kings desired to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it."

1. What have "the seventy-two" seen?

2. Why have these things happened (cf. 10:9)?

3. What does Jesus reveal to his disciples? What do they 'see'?

WHAT SOMEONE ELSE SAID

"God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to

2. "Heal the sick in it and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you!'"