

## LIFE OF JESUS READING PLAN

Our Video Devos are on summer break until Labor Day. Instead, join as we read through the life of Christ! Download the bookmark with daily readings at [tlc.org/LifeOfJesus](http://tlc.org/LifeOfJesus) or pick one up at the Info desk. This week's readings:

**Reading 6:** Luke 2:40-52. Even at a young age Jesus knew he had a mission from his Father, God. How does it encourage you to know that you have a mission too? Remember today that your life has purpose!

**Reading 7:** Luke 3:1-23. As you read, pray for the courage and passion of John the Baptist when it comes to sharing the Good News of God's grace.

**Reading 8:** Matthew 4:1-13. In what area of your life is temptation strongest? Also read Hebrews 4:14-16. Rejoice that Jesus understands and welcomes you with open arms to the throne of grace.

**Reading 9:** John 1:19-51. Two times in this passage it says, "come and see..." So much of our walk with God is being willing to come to Jesus to see what He is up to in our lives and in the lives of others. Be willing to "come and see" today!

**Reading 10:** John 2:1-25. These two different moments in Jesus' life demonstrate his power in different ways. What things have you seen Jesus do in your own life that have grown your faith in him?



### HANDLING TOUGH TIMES

JUNE 10 & 11 | SARA BENTLEY

## 1 Thessalonians 2:13-18

**Paul describes the Thessalonians with words like:**

- "suffered" (v14): to be acted upon in very unpleasant ways.
- "persecuted" (v15): driven out, expelled or rejected.
- "hostile or contrary" (v15): used of winds that blow against you.
- "hindered, blocked, or prevented" (v18): used to describe a road so broken up that travel is blocked.

**Big Question:** How do Agents of Hope respond when their faith is put to the test?



## 1. Focus on \_\_\_\_\_

“And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as a human word, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is indeed at work in you who believe.” 1 Thess 2:13

## 2. Recognize \_\_\_\_\_

“For you, brothers and sisters, became imitators of God’s churches in Judea, which are in Christ Jesus: You suffered from your own people the same things those churches suffered from the Jews who killed the Lord Jesus and the prophets and also drove us out. They displease God and are hostile to everyone in their effort to keep us from speaking to the Gentiles so that they may be saved.”  
1 Thess 2:14-16a

**NOTE:** At times in church history these verses have been taken out of context to justify anti-Semitic violence and hatred at the hands of supposed Christ-followers. There is no excuse for such sin. Certainly Paul, a Jew himself, is not anti-Semitic. As he later says to the Romans, he finds “much advantage in every way” to being Jewish. These verses could be more accurately translated, “you suffered the same things from your own Greek people as the Jewish congregations did from the Judeans....” He is not making a point about the guilt of the Jews; he is pointing out that as this new movement gains traction it also gathers opposition, in every corner of the world. We roundly condemn any attempt to use the Bible to promote anti-Semitism.

## 3. Rest in \_\_\_\_\_

“In this way they always heap up their sins to the limit. The wrath of God has come upon them at last.” 1 Thess 2:16b

## 4. Welcome \_\_\_\_\_

“But, brothers and sisters, when we were orphaned by being separated from you for a short time (in person, not in thought), out of our intense longing we made every effort to see you. For we wanted to come to you—certainly I, Paul, did, again and again—but Satan blocked our way.” 1 Thess 2:17-18

“So when we could stand it no longer, we thought it best to be left by ourselves in Athens. We sent Timothy, who is our brother and co-worker in God’s service in spreading the gospel of Christ, to strengthen and encourage you in your faith...” 1 Thess 3:1-2

## PSALMS FOR LIFE

- When you’re feeling alone, read **Psalms 23**
- When you need new resolve, read **Psalms 15**
- When your guilt won’t go away, read **Psalms 32**
- When you wonder if God even cares, read **Psalms 139**
- When the burden seems too great, read **Psalms 55**
- When you have to wait and wait, read **Psalms 40**
- When you need a joy transfusion, read **Psalms 100**
- When you’re thankful, read **Psalms 103**
- When a calamity strikes, read **Psalms 46**
- When you’re tempted to compromise, read **Psalms 1**
- When you want to restore relationships, read **Psalms 127 & 128**
- When you need to return to God after falling, read **Psalms 51**
- When you can’t hold back your praise, read **Psalms 150**