

Eat This Book

Prayer Guide: Month 2 [February 1–26]

This year, the prayer guides are following along with the Eat This Book reading plan and will give you weekly themes, based on the reading selection for that week, to pray through as you read.

Week 1 [2/1–5] – Sacrifice, Confession, & Forgiveness– Leviticus 1–15; Psalm 32–36

Animal sacrifice (as described in Lev. 1–16) in the ancient world was costly because meat was a scarce and highly valued food. The process was meant to be genuinely *sacrificial* and points to the sacrificial nature of the life of faith. Of course, God himself provided the costliest sacrifice for our atonement: His son! Thank God for His amazing sacrifice and ask Him if He might be leading you to sacrifice something for Him this week.

Confession is also a theme in our scriptures this week (cf. Lev. 5 & Psa. 32). Let's spend some time confessing our sins to God this week and rejoicing in the freedom that His forgiveness brings.

Week 2 [2/8–12] – Celebration, Service, & Help – Leviticus 21 – Numbers 6; Psalm 39–43

The festivals described in Lev. 23 provided special opportunities for Israelites to celebrate their relationship with God. When was the last time you stopped to celebrate your relationship with God? Take some time this week to do so; maybe do it with your family or friends (even digitally).

In Numbers 4, specific Levites were selected to serve the community and God by breaking down the tabernacle, carrying it to its next destination, and setting it back up again. Who do you know in your who is always serving? Pray for them this week.

Our reading from the Psalms this week focused on God's amazing deliverance of His people when they are in trouble. Are you in trouble right now? Do you need help? Cry out to God this week and experience His help.

Week 3 [2/15–19] – Wholeheartedness and God's Strength – Numbers 11–24; Psalm 46–50

In Numbers 14, God condemns the people who rebelled against Him in the wilderness and would not let them enter the promised land. Caleb, however, was allowed to enter the land because he was of “a different spirit” and followed God “wholeheartedly.” He was not afraid to enter the land because he knew that God was with him. When was the last time you took a great risk with a “spirit of confidence and joy in the Lord?”* Is God leading you into this now? Ask God that His Spirit would help you live wholeheartedly for Him this week, despite the circumstances, despite the risk.

The Psalms this week emphasize God’s strength and victory. He is mighty and rules over the nations. Praise God that amidst all of the national upheaval going on right now, that none of this is too much for God. Ask Him to help you trust in His sovereign kingship.

Week 4 [2/22–26] God’s Presence, Holiness, & Hurt – Numbers 31—Deuteronomy 4; Psalm 53–57

In Numbers 35:34, God commands the Israelites who were going into the land not to defile the land. The reason God gives for this command is that he “dwells” with the Israelites. One theme that Leviticus emphasizes over and over again is that God is with the Israelites. Just think about that. The God of the universe chose to dwell among his people! He is gracious and loving and desires relationship with His people. He is also holy (set apart), and holiness is what He expects of the people who live in his presence. In Deuteronomy 4, right before the Israelites go into the land, Moses emphasizes this as well reminding them of the mighty acts of God in their midst and exhorting them to keep God’s statutes and commandments so that they can remain long in the land. As believers in Christ, the Holy Spirit indwells us and is Jesus’ presence in our lives. Everywhere we walk, we walk in His presence. And God calls us to be holy too (cf. 1 Peter 1:13–22). Thankfully it is the Holy Spirit who enables us to live holy lives before God and we must be wholly dependent on Him. Take time this week to praise God for his presence in your life and ask the Spirit to help you walk as one set apart for God.

The Psalms this week focus on asking God for vindication and deliverance from enemies (and friends) who do wrong against you. Have you been hurt by someone in your life? Take time this week to lay your hurt before God and trust in him to vindicate you. Pray for him to help you forgive that person and pray for that person to be blessed by God (cf. Matt. 5:44).

* Ideas for this prayer guide were inspired by study notes in the *Renovare Spiritual Formation Bible* (HarperCollins, 2005).