



The Ministry of Public Bible Reading

PRACTISE PASSAGES

The following 10 passages represent different genres of Scripture from both the Old and New Testaments.

If you don't have a particular passage that you are preparing for a reading, you can use any of these passages in conjunction with other training.

You will note that each passage is produced twice on the page. The first is as you might typically see it in a printed Bible or online. The second shows Simon Camilleri's layout method for formatting the text for reading. Use whichever you find more useful.

For group workshops:

Print enough pages so that everyone attending the workshop can select a passage, with a few extras in case people change their mind. It is fine if more than one person is working on the same passage. In fact, if it fits your purposes, you can select just one of the passages that everyone will work on and disregard the rest.

Genesis 2:22-25

22 Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man.

23 The man said,

“This is now bone of my bones
and flesh of my flesh;
she shall be called ‘woman,’
for she was taken out of man.”

24 That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh.

25 Adam and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame.

Then the Lord God made a woman
from the rib he had taken out of the man,

and he brought her to the man.

The man said,

“This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh;
she shall be called ‘woman,’ for she was taken out of man.”

That is why a man
leaves his father and mother
and is united to his wife,
and they become one flesh.

Adam and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame.

Isaiah 9:6-7

- 6 For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given,
and the government will be on his shoulders.
And he will be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
- 7 Of the greatness of his government and peace
there will be no end.
He will reign on David's throne
and over his kingdom,
establishing and upholding it
with justice and righteousness
from that time on and forever.
The zeal of the LORD Almighty
will accomplish this.
-

For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given,

and the government will be on his shoulders.

And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
 Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end.

He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom,

establishing and upholding it
with justice and righteousness
from that time on and forever.

The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.

1 Kings 18:36-38

36 At the time of sacrifice, the prophet Elijah stepped forward and prayed: “LORD, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel, let it be known today that you are God in Israel and that I am your servant and have done all these things at your command. **37** Answer me, LORD, answer me, so these people will know that you, LORD, are God, and that you are turning their hearts back again.”

38 Then the fire of the LORD fell and burned up the sacrifice, the wood, the stones and the soil, and also licked up the water in the trench.

At the time of sacrifice,
the prophet Elijah stepped forward and prayed:

“Lord,
the God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel,
let it be known today that you are God in Israel

and that I am your servant
and have done all these things at your command.

Answer me, Lord, answer me,

so these people will know that you, Lord, are God,
and that you are turning their hearts back again.”

Then the fire of the Lord fell
and burned up
the sacrifice,
the wood,
the stones
and the soil,
and also licked up the water in the trench.

Ecclesiastes 1:2-7

- 2 “Meaningless! Meaningless!”
says the Teacher.
“Utterly meaningless!
Everything is meaningless.”
- 3 What do people gain from all their labors
at which they toil under the sun?
- 4 Generations come and generations go,
but the earth remains forever.
- 5 The sun rises and the sun sets,
and hurries back to where it rises.
- 6 The wind blows to the south
and turns to the north;
round and round it goes,
ever returning on its course.
- 7 All streams flow into the sea,
yet the sea is never full.
To the place the streams come from,
there they return again.

“Meaningless! Meaningless!” says the Teacher.
“Utterly meaningless! Everything is meaningless.”

What do people gain from all their labors at which they toil under the sun?

Generations come and generations go, but the earth remains forever.

The sun rises and the sun sets, and hurries back to where it rises.

The wind blows to the south and turns to the north;
round and round it goes, ever returning on its course.

All streams flow into the sea, yet the sea is never full.

To the place the streams come from, there they return again.

Psalm 139:13-16

- 13** For you created my inmost being;
you knit me together in my mother's womb.
- 14** I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made;
your works are wonderful,
I know that full well.
- 15** My frame was not hidden from you
when I was made in the secret place,
when I was woven together in the depths of the earth.
- 16** Your eyes saw my unformed body;
all the days ordained for me were written in your book
before one of them came to be.
-

For you created my inmost being;
you knit me together in my mother's womb.

I praise you
because I am fearfully and wonderfully made;

your works are wonderful,
I know that full well.

My frame was not hidden from you
when I was made in the secret place,
when I was woven together in the depths of the earth.

Your eyes saw my unformed body;

All the days ordained for me were written in your book
before one of them came to be.

Mark 3:1-6

1 Another time Jesus went into the synagogue, and a man with a shriveled hand was there. **2** Some of them were looking for a reason to accuse Jesus, so they watched him closely to see if he would heal him on the Sabbath. **3** Jesus said to the man with the shriveled hand, “Stand up in front of everyone.”

4 Then Jesus asked them, “Which is lawful on the Sabbath: to do good or to do evil, to save life or to kill?” But they remained silent.

5 He looked around at them in anger and, deeply distressed at their stubborn hearts, said to the man, “Stretch out your hand.” He stretched it out, and his hand was completely restored. **6** Then the Pharisees went out and began to plot with the Herodians how they might kill Jesus.

Another time Jesus went into the synagogue,
and a man with a shriveled hand was there.

Some of them were looking for a reason to accuse Jesus,
so they watched him closely to see if he would heal him on the Sabbath.

Jesus said to the man with the shriveled hand, “Stand up in front of everyone.”

Then Jesus asked them,
“Which is lawful on the Sabbath: to do good or to do evil, to save life or to kill?”

But they remained silent.

He looked around at them in anger
and (deeply distressed at their stubborn hearts) said to the man,
“Stretch out your hand.”

He stretched it out, and his hand was completely restored.

Then the Pharisees went out
and began to plot with the Herodians how they might kill Jesus.

John 14:1-6

1 “Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. **2** My Father’s house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? **3** And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. **4** You know the way to the place where I am going.”

5 Thomas said to him, “Lord, we don’t know where you are going, so how can we know the way?”

6 Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

“Do not let your hearts be troubled.
You believe in God;
believe also in me.

My Father’s house has many rooms;
if that were not so,
would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you?

And if I go and prepare a place for you,
I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.

You know the way to the place where I am going.”

Thomas said to him,
“Lord, we don’t know where you are going, so how can we know the way?”

Jesus answered,
“I am the way and the truth and the life.
No one comes to the Father except through me.

Romans 3:21-26

21 But now apart from the law the righteousness of God has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. **22** This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, **23** for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, **24** and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. **25** God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of his blood—to be received by faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished— **26** he did it to demonstrate his righteousness at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.

But now (apart from the law) the righteousness of God has been made known,
to which the Law and the Prophets testify.

This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe.

There is no difference between Jew and Gentile,
for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,
and all are justified freely by his grace
through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.

God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement,
(through the shedding of his blood)
to be received by faith.

He did this to demonstrate his righteousness,
because (in his forbearance) he had left
the sins committed beforehand unpunished.

He did it to demonstrate his righteousness at the present time,

so as to be just
and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.

1 Peter 5:6-11

6 Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. 7 Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.

8 Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. 9 Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings.

10 And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. 11 To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen.

Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand,
that he may lift you up in due time.

Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.

Be alert and of sober mind.
Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion
looking for someone to devour.

Resist him, standing firm in the faith,
because you know that the family of believers throughout the world
is undergoing the same kind of sufferings.

And the God of all grace (who called you to his eternal glory in Christ),
after you have suffered a little while,
will himself restore you and make you strong,
firm
and steadfast.

To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen.

Revelation 21:1-4

1 Then I saw “a new heaven and a new earth,” for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. 2 I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. 4 ‘He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death’ or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”

Then I saw “a new heaven and a new earth,”
for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away,
and there was no longer any sea.

I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem,
coming down out of heaven from God,
prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.

And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,
“Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people,
and he will dwell with them.

They will be his people,
and God himself will be with them and be their God.

He will wipe every tear from their eyes.
There will be no more death
or mourning
or crying
or pain,

for the old order of things has passed away.”