



Grace Bible Fellowship

JULY 2026

Read the Bible: How Should We Read the Gospels?

Last month, we looked at how you might pray for the preacher as he both prepares and delivers his sermons. Continuing in our key themes of 2026 of *Read the Bible*, *Pray the Bible*, and *Preach the Bible*, my continued goal is to encourage you in our mutual commitment to God and his words. This month, we will look at the theme of *Read the Bible* by looking at how we should read the gospels. There are a number of genres in the Bible, including but not limited to Law, Prophecy, Epistle, and Apocalyptic. Lord willing, we'll cover each one in time, but since we're currently going through the gospel of Matthew, I thought it appropriate to pick that genre first. The gospels, as a genre, are difficult to nail down. They're part historical biography and part theological narrative. Simply put, they are a collection of stories that tell what happened in Jesus' life while giving a theological truth about him. As a collection of stories here are some tips I would give you about how to read them.

When you have an individual story before you, such as the parable of the sower or perhaps one of Jesus' healing miracles, be sure to ask the classic 'reporter' questions (who, what, when, etc.). Look for the 'characters' that are a part of the story, what they're doing, at what time and location, and whether or not a motivation or method is given. Sometimes the author doesn't give that information, but when he does, it can be quite fruitful. You'll also need to look for other narrative clues from the author. Perhaps he offers some interpretation for you or perhaps leaves it unanswered as if to invite you to contemplate what was written. Additionally, the gospel authors often use dialogue between the characters as a way to exposit the situation. Be sure to take note of what they say. Other important literary tools to gospel authors are repetition, hyperbole, metaphorical language, irony, rhetorical questions, and parables. Jesus seems to be a fan of those last two in particular.

Continued...

July @ Grace...

July 12

Prayer Service @5pm
Leadership Mtg. @ 6pm

July 22

Semi-Annual Mtg. @ 6:30pm

July 24-25

CGN Women's Conference

July 26

Mission's Giving (Campos)

July 27

Partial Carpet Cleaning

August @ Grace...

August 9

Prayer Service @5pm
Leadership Mtg. @ 6pm

August 15

Women's Brunch @ 9am

August 21

Game Night @ 6:30pm

August 30

Mission's Giving (Peterson)

August Date TBD

Men's Breakfast

After gleaning an individual story for the above information, you're likely to have a solid idea as to what it is teaching. But to be further certain that your understanding is accurate, look to the immediate context of the passage. The gospels are collections of stories that are intentionally arranged so as to put some stories next to others. Once you've read and expounded the one story, read the connected stories both before and after. Look for connections such as common characters, roles, themes, phrases, locations, and so forth. Ask yourself how these connections develop over the course of several stories. Perhaps they stay consistent? Perhaps there is a sudden change or development? These can be incredibly helpful for understanding the original passage, especially when there is a difficult saying or parable. You should also consider why the gospel author put this particular story in this particular part of the gospel. A lot of the stories tend to sound similar, especially the healing miracles, so what is it that makes them unique in their respective positions? Again, this can go a long way to help your understanding.

From there, the main idea of the text is likely to be sufficiently clear. If not, seek out help from the church. You're hopefully discussing these truths with others anyway, so if you're stuck, feel safe knowing that you're not alone in your Bible reading discipline. Take these truths you find together, apply the message to your lives, and honor the Lord in how you read his word.

In Christ,

Pastor Nathan

Praying for Our Family...

- Pray for Pastor Nathan, Eric Bjerkaas, Jeff Schenck, and Dan Kleinau as they continue in faithful leadership of the church.
- Pray for Pastor Nathan as he weekly prepares for the Sunday School, preaching the Word, and shepherding the body.
- Pray for Angie Faux. She will be having a partial hysterectomy on July 10. Please pray for the surgery and the recovery.
- Pray for all those sick in body in the congregation.
- Pray for Jason and Amanda as they continue to press on in their cancer journey. Pray for wisdom and strength in the Lord.
- Pray for John & Mary as they press on in the battle with John's pain. Pray for Mary as she cares for John.
- Pray for Christiane & Jake Cherny as they prepare to meet new daughter who is due early July.
- Pray for the planning of and those preparing to teach and preach at the Women's Retreat here in July. Pray for all those who will attend.
- Pray for Adler Schreur who will be having his gallbladder removed. The date is still TBD.
- Pray that as we hear the Word preached, our hearts and lives would be changed. Pray that we would be desiring God's Word, growing in our love for one another, and seeking to serve the Lord well in our church and community.

Our Missionary Partners...

Sillas & Wanger Campos, Brazil
Karl & Glynn Peterson, South Africa, Mozambique
Destin & Jennifer Detwiler, To Every Tribe

Praying for those who serve...

Leadership

Pastor – Nathan Miller
Elder – Eric Bjerkaas
Deacons – Dan Kleinau, & Jeff Schenck

Ministry Volunteers

Eric & Andi, Paul & Renée, John & Mary, Dan & Christine, Matt & Rebekah, Jason & Amanda, Jeff S., Adam & Jill, Don & Angie, Aaron, Yessie, Nathan & Rylee, Valerie, Kris, Kailee, Robena, Jake & Christiane, Jeff W., Ethan, Caleb, Lydia, Marcos

Teachers

Pastor Nathan: Adult
Yessie Yanez: 2nd-6th grade
Rylee Miller: Pre-K – 1st grade
Dan Kleinau & Renee Kim: Children's Church

2026 Special Events & Dates

July

12: Prayer Service
22: Semi-Annual Meeting
24-25: CGN Women's Retreat

August:

9: Prayer Service
15: Women's Brunch
21: Game Night

September

2: Bible Study Resumes
13: Prayer Service
20: Cookout
PADS: TBD

October

CGN Men's Retreat: TBD
11: Prayer Service
17: Women's Brunch
21: Bonfire After Study

November

8: Prayer Service
18: Last Bible Study
PADS: TBD
22: Christmas Luncheon/Décor
29: Advent Begins

December

13: Prayer Service
24: Candlelight Service

Kid's Corner...

2nd-4th Grade:

Ms. Yessie's class started sitting together in the adult study starting May 24, to learn about confessions, creeds, and the 1689 London Baptist Confession of Faith. They have begun the chapters of the London Baptist Confession of Faith.

Pre-K-1st Grade:

Mrs. Rylee's class has continued in The Biggest story with lessons from Exodus, Leviticus, and Deuteronomy. They will finish the Pentateuch this week and then begin the History Books in Joshua and go through Esther.

CGN Women's Retreat 2026

July 5th is the last day to register for the women's retreat on July 24-25. The cost is only \$50 and covers 4 meals, 3 main sessions, 2 workshops, crafts, worship, and so much more. Please make plans to gather with other sisters in Christ throughout the Chicagoland Gospel Network as we seek to hear what Scripture teaches about the *Voice of Wisdom*. There are currently over 40 ladies signed up. If the \$50 is a financial burden, please talk with Pastor or Eric. We have been given a donation to help women be able to attend who cannot afford the cost.



<https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/2026-cgn-womens-retreat>

July

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
SUNDAY 5 SCHOOL- 9AM WORSHIP- 10AM	6	7 PASTOR @CGN	8	9	10	11
SUNDAY 12 SCHOOL- 9AM WORSHIP- 10AM PRAYER- 5PM LEADERSHIP @6	13	14	15	16	17	18
SUNDAY 19 SCHOOL- 9AM WORSHIP- 10AM	20	21	22 SEMI- ANNUAL MEETING @ 6:30PM	23	24 CGN WOMEN'S RETREAT	25
SUNDAY 26 SCHOOL- 9AM WORSHIP- 10AM MISSIONS GIVING (CAMPOS)	27 PARTIAL CARPET CLEANING @ 8:30AM	28	29	30	31	

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

13TH - BRAD EICHELKRAUT
 14TH - EDEN MILLER
 17TH - CHRISTINE KLEINAU
 21ST - CALEB BJERKAAS
 22ND - MARK WALLIN

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

16TH - CHRIS & ROBENA MISKANIS
 20TH - ADAM & JILL SPARKS
 24TH - MATT & REBEKAH HAYS