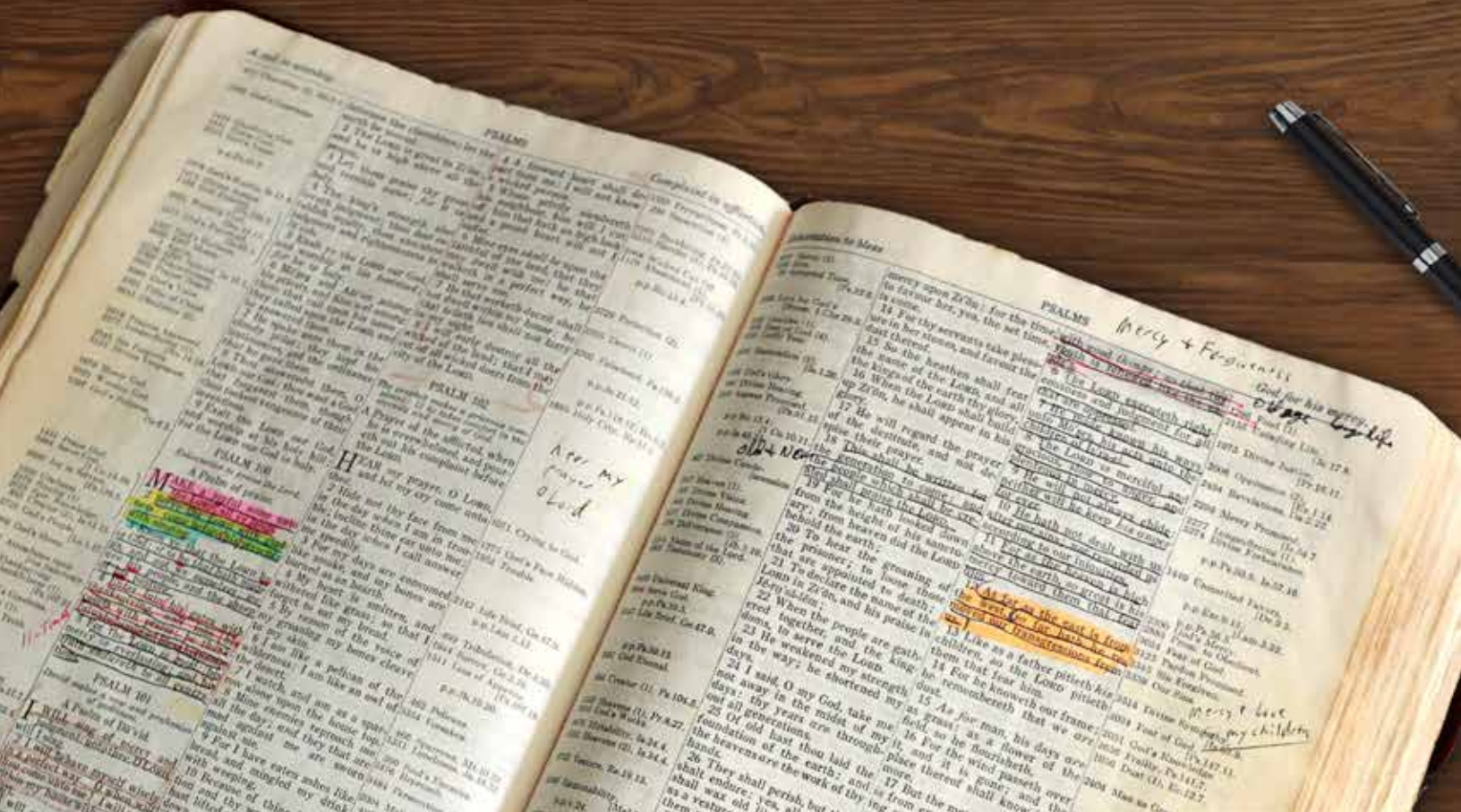


# A YEAR IN THE BIBLE

FEBRUARY



# February

While last month's readings were an exciting beginning to the year; creation of the world, family drama of all our spiritual ancestors, and God saving the Hebrew people from Egypt. This month will be a bit different. How many people do you know who say their favorite Bible verse is from either the book of Leviticus or Numbers?

These two books are difficult to read and even more difficult to connect to our lives today. However, they both give us insight into the historical context of the ancient Israelites. They show the pursuit of order and structure as the people move from the nomadic lives to settling in a primary area. In Leviticus and Numbers, the work of building a community, defined by God, continues.

## Memory Verse

*Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord; and you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might.* (Deuteronomy 6:4-5)

## Helpful Hints:

We encourage you to begin your Bible reading time by reciting the month's memory verse and then the daily Bible reading. Reflect on the reading - did it raise questions or confusion; did it inspire you or warm your heart? Then, to live in a spirit of gratitude, write down three things for which you're grateful. Finally, close your devotional time in prayer. While you might not feel the same way each day, the ongoing discipline of having a daily devotional time will have lasting impact on your life and certainly deepen your relationship with God.

# Exodus Synopsis

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The book of Exodus recounts the great epic of our faith. From bondage to freedom, orphans to redeemed, the people of God experience the mighty work of God, who delivers them from oppression and sets them free to live a full and faithful life.

The book of Exodus is connected to the first five books of the Bible, often known as the Pentateuch or the Books of Moses. Although they appear as separate books in our Bible, the story is interwoven throughout these first five books of our Bible. Exodus recounts God's mighty act of salvation as first He calls Moses to service, an act of redemption itself. God then uses Moses to lead the Hebrew people out of slavery and into the wilderness, where God will work to form them into His "treasured possession" a "priestly kingdom and a holy nation." (Exodus 19:5-6) They receive the law, the foundational teaching that shapes God's community. (Exodus 20)

Exodus not only recounts the great story of deliverance from slavery in Egypt, but it also reveals much about God. In this powerful story God reveals His name, "I Am." (Exodus 3:14) God reveals His gracious character as His compassion and strength frees the slaves and leads the people to new life in a promised land where God will dwell among the people. Exodus ends with the building of a Holy Tabernacle. Exodus is the story of God's mercy. Those who were once captives now live a new life where God's love is law and God Himself dwells among the people.

<b>Date Scripture</b>	<b>Reflections on the Scripture What surprised or inspired you? What questions do you have?</b>	<b>Three things for which I'm thankful.</b>
<b>February 1</b> Exodus 34-36 Psalms 29		
<b>February 2</b> Exodus 37-38 Psalms 30		
<b>February 3</b> Exodus 39-40 Psalms 31		

# Leviticus Synopsis

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Rules are important in life. Without them life begins to crumble and chaos reigns. Leviticus is, in a sense, a rule book of how the ancient Hebrews were to worship God and to interact with one another. The laws laid out in Leviticus and other books of the Torah (the first five books of our Bible) are what will become known as the Mosaic Code. These are hundreds of laws that not only made the people of ancient Israel a distinct people but called them to strict obedience to God. The laws and the rituals for making sacrificial offerings to God gave the Hebrews their identity as the chosen people.

When we read Leviticus, we may think many of the laws are trivial and outdated. Indeed, Jesus would later say that all the law could be summed up simply by loving God and loving your neighbor. What is important as you read Leviticus is to understand the Hebrews had been led out of Egypt into the wilderness and were struggling to understand who they were as a people. God's laws gave them structure and identity. Pay close attention to the description of the Day of Atonement in chapter 16. This was a ritual that allowed the Hebrews to cast off their sins and be reconciled to God. We will revisit this idea of atonement again in the Gospels when Jesus becomes our atonement for sin.

<b>Date</b> <b>Scripture</b>	<b>Reflections on the Scripture</b> <b>What surprised or inspired you?</b> <b>What questions do you have?</b>	<b>Three things for which</b> <b>I'm thankful.</b>
<b>February 4</b> Leviticus 1-3 Psalms 32		
<b>February 5</b> Leviticus 4-6 Psalms 33		
<b>February 6</b> Leviticus 7-9 Psalms 34		
<b>February 7</b> Leviticus 10-12 Psalms 35		

<p><b>Date</b> <b>Scripture</b></p>	<p><b>Reflections on the Scripture</b> <b>What surprised or inspired you?</b> <b>What questions do you have?</b></p>	<p><b>Three things for which</b> <b>I'm thankful.</b></p>
<p><b>February 8</b> Leviticus 13-14 Psalms 36</p>		
<p><b>February 9</b> Leviticus 15-16 Psalms 37</p>		
<p><b>February 10</b> Leviticus 17-18 Psalms 37</p>		
<p><b>February 11</b> Leviticus 19-21 Psalms 38</p>		
<p><b>February 12</b> Leviticus 22-23 Psalms 39</p>		
<p><b>February 13</b> Leviticus 24-25 Psalms 40</p>		
<p><b>February 14</b> Leviticus 26-27 Psalms 41</p>		

# Numbers Synopsis

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The book of Numbers is the fourth book of the Bible. It is part of the Pentateuch, the first five books of the Old Testament, also known as the Torah. We believe the book of Numbers gets its name from the two censuses or numberings of the Israelites that take place at the beginning and end of the Israelites' journey. Moses is traditionally considered the author of Numbers, but it is believed to have been written by scribes after the Babylonia exile. The primary audience for the Book of Numbers is the Israelites themselves.

The narrative provides a historical account of their experiences, focusing on God's guidance, the consequences of disobedience, and the fulfillment of divine promises. Numbers is part of a larger narrative that covers the Exodus in Deuteronomy, detailing the Israelites' liberation from Egypt, their covenant with God at Mount Sinai, and their preparation to enter the land promised to Abraham. Reading the books before Numbers gives one a better overview of what's happening. The book covers a wide range of themes, including the organization of the Israelite camp, the responsibilities of the Levites, the sending of spies into the Promised Land, and various laws and regulations. It highlights both moments of faithfulness and disobedience among the Israelites and emphasizes God's faithfulness in fulfilling the promises despite the people's shortcomings.

God's word isn't just a history book, although there are historical accounts; it is the living word of God for us today. Reading the book of Numbers reminds us of how often we, just like the Israelites, tend to ask God to lead us, and during the journey, we get off track and begin to complain against God, perhaps even blaming God for the things we don't like. Numbers reminds us that God is faithful; His steadfast love endures forever. For that good news, we can be thankful.

<b>Date</b> <b>Scripture</b>	<b>Reflections on the Scripture</b> <b>What surprised or inspired you?</b> <b>What questions do you have?</b>	<b>Three things for which</b> <b>I'm thankful.</b>
<b>February 15</b> Numbers 1 Psalms 42		
<b>February 16</b> Numbers 2-3 Psalms 43		
<b>February 17</b> Numbers 4 Psalms 44		

<b>Date</b> <b>Scripture</b>	<b>Reflections on the Scripture</b> <b>What surprised or inspired you?</b> <b>What questions do you have?</b>	<b>Three things for which</b> <b>I'm thankful.</b>
<b>February 18</b> Numbers 5-6 Psalms 45		
<b>February 19</b> Numbers 7-8 Psalms 46		
<b>February 20</b> Numbers 9-11 Psalms 47		
<b>February 21</b> Numbers 12-14 Psalms 48		
<b>February 22</b> Numbers 15 Psalms 49		
<b>February 23</b> Numbers 16-18 Psalms 50		
<b>February 24</b> Numbers 19-20 Psalms 51		

Date Scripture	Reflections on the Scripture What surprised or inspired you? What questions do you have?	Three things for which I'm thankful.
<b>February 25</b> Numbers 21-22 Psalms 52		
<b>February 26</b> Numbers 23-25 Psalms 53		
<b>February 27</b> Numbers 26-28 Psalms 54		
<b>February 28 (29)</b> Numbers 29-32 Psalms 55		




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## ONE CHURCH WITH MULTIPLE CAMPUSES

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