

# Read the New Testament in a Year

(Daily Devotions with thought-starters and prayer)

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## June 23rd. Acts 3:1-26.

Reflect: The apostles continued Jesus' healing ministry. This helped to authenticate their preaching about repentance and faith (about forgiveness and renewal in Jesus.) *Prayer: "Lord, help me each day to turn to you for forgiveness and renewal. Amen."*

## June 24th. - Acts 4:1-22.

Reflect: Not only did the apostles continue Jesus' healing ministry, they also underwent persecution like Jesus. This only made them more determined to follow Jesus. *Prayer: "Lord Jesus, help me to always obey God rather than people. Amen."*

## June 25th. - Acts 4:23-37.

Reflect: When we go through tough times we usually simply ask that they be taken away. By contrast, the early Christians asked for boldness [strength] to endure it! *Prayer: "Lord Jesus, help me to boldly speak your word and serve you. Amen."*

## June 26th. - Acts 5:1-26.

Reflect: You can't pull the wool over God's eyes. We need to be genuine and truthful in our life of faith! How much respect do you show God in your financial dealings? *Prayer: "Lord, help me to be genuine about my faith in all things. Amen."*

## June 27th. - Acts 5:27-42.

Reflect: The apostles continued to witness about Jesus, despite the danger. In fact they wore their persecution as a badge of honour! Are we as determined to witness as this? *Prayer: "Lord Jesus, help me to witness about you with courage and joy. Amen."*

## June 28th. - Acts 6:1-15.

Reflect: Note that the early Church had both internal strife (let **us** take heart!) and external persecution, at the very same time that their numbers were rapidly increasing! *Prayer: "Lord, use me and my congregation to spread your Kingdom. Amen."*

## June 29th. - Acts 7:1-29.

Reflect: Stephen charged the Jewish leadership with resisting God throughout the centuries. They had missed the point of God's purposes. How about you? *Prayer: "Father, help me to always remain open to your grace. Amen."*

## June 30th. - Acts 7:30-60.

Reflect: The climax of Stephen's speech made his hearers so mad they killed for it. His death was itself a witness: It paralleled Jesus' praying for his murderers. *Prayer: "Lord, give me a forgiving heart like Stephen had. Amen."*

## June 1st. - John 11:1-27.

Reflect: Jesus says that he is the source of eternal life. Through our faith in him, we too share in Jesus' resurrection and life. How does this fact change your life? *Prayer: "Lord Jesus, help me to live and believe in you. Amen."*

## June 2nd. - John 11:28-57.

Reflect: It's one thing to claim power over death, it quite another thing to show that you really do have this power! Note that this miracle was the last straw for the Pharisees. *Prayer: "Lord, thank you that one day you will call me back to life too. Amen."*

## June 3rd. - John 12:1-26.

Reflect: Would you be willing to give up a year's wages to anoint Jesus (worship him)? Jesus, on the way to his death for us, is worthy of the absolute best we have!! *Prayer: "Lord, help me to place worshipping you above everything else. Amen."*

## June 4th. - John 12:27-50.

Reflect: God the Father points us to the moment of Jesus' glorification: His death for us on the cross. It is this sacrificial love on the cross which draws us all to Jesus. *Prayer: "Lord Jesus, believing in you means believing in the Father also. Amen."*

## June 5th. - John 13:1-20.

Reflect: Jesus has served us all through his life and death. He calls us to imitate his example in servanthood (in foot washing!); to give ourselves in service of others. *Prayer: "Lord, help me to be a servant to those around me, in your name. Amen."*

## June 6th. - John 13:21-38.

Reflect: Jesus summarises for us how we should live as Christians: Our lives are to be marked by love. The more we take in Jesus' love, the more we are able to love others! *Prayer: "Lord Jesus, thank you for loving me. Help me to love others. Amen."*

## June 7th. - John 14:1-14.

Reflect: There is no other way to authentically know God than through faith in Jesus Christ! Jesus alone reveals the truth about God. He alone can bring us eternal life. *Prayer: "Lord, thank you that you have prepared a place for me in heaven. Amen."*

**June 8th. - John 14:15-31.**

Reflect: Jesus promises to send us **another** Counselor (comforter) - Jesus is himself our counselor and comforter! He comes to us through the Holy Spirit. We are not alone! *Prayer: "Lord Jesus, thank you for the peace your Holy Spirit brings me. Amen."*

**June 9th. - John 15:1-27.**

Reflect: Our union with Jesus brings us life and enables us to bear fruit (live God-pleasing lives). We need to remain in him - keep close to Jesus - at all times. *Prayer: "Lord, help me to remain in you and to embrace your love and joy. Amen."*

**June 10th. - John 16:1-15.**

Reflect: Jesus tells us here the various functions (roles or work) of the Holy Spirit. Try to list all of these. Why are each of these important? How do they help us? *Prayer: "Lord Jesus, thank you for the precious gift of your Holy Spirit! Amen."*

**June 11th. - John 16:16-33.**

Reflect: In this world we have many troubles. Christians can't escape the burdens of life. And yet we also know Jesus has overcome all of these. He can turn grief into joy! *Prayer: "Lord, when things get tough, help me to trust in your love for me. Amen."*

**June 12th. - John 17:1-26.**

Reflect: Jesus prays that we might be united in him and know his joy; that we might be kept safe from evil; that we might become holy (in him) and serve him in the world. *Prayer: "Lord Jesus, keep me united in love to you and your Church. Amen."*

**June 13th. - John 18:1-24.**

Reflect: Throughout his arrest and trial Jesus remained calm and dignified. It's almost as if he were in charge. By contrast, all those around him are anxious and confused. *Prayer: "Lord, help me to remain loyal and true to you in times of danger. Amen."*

**June 14th. - John 18:25-40.**

Reflect: Pilate doesn't quite know how to react to Jesus. There wasn't even a specific legal charge against him! In the end, Pilate simply gives in to public pressure. *Prayer: "Jesus, you are the truth, help me to listen to you. Amen."*

**June 15th. - John 19:1-22.**

Reflect: Pilate most likely intended the notice on Jesus' cross as a political slur. Nevertheless it spoke the truth: Jesus truly was the crucified King of the Jews! *Prayer: "Crucified Lord Jesus, Son of God, you are my King! Amen."*

**June 16th. - John 19:23-42.**

Reflect: What was finished? Jesus' life was finished and with it his mission of saving the world (of paying for our sins; of bringing us back to God.) was also finished! *Prayer: "Lord Jesus, thank you for saving me by your death on the cross. Amen."*

**June 17th. - John 20:1-18.**

Reflect: The women thought they had an appointment with a corpse. Instead they had an encounter with the risen Lord Jesus and became the first Christian evangelists. *Prayer: "Risen Lord Jesus, help me to tell others how I too have seen you. Amen."*

**June 18th. - John 20:19-31.**

Reflect: John wrote his Gospel so that we might not have any doubts about the truth of who Jesus is (the risen Lord!) and the salvation he brings to those who believe in him. *Prayer: "Risen Lord Jesus, I believe, make my faith in you even stronger. Amen."*

**June 19th. - John 21:1-25.**

Reflect: Peter had denied Jesus 3 times. Now Jesus gives Peter the opportunity to pledge his love and loyalty 3 times. Jesus lovingly welcomes us back like this after we fail too. *Prayer: "Saviour, thank you that you love, forgive and accept me. Amen."*

**June 20th. - Acts 1:1-26.**

Reflect: The Holy Spirit was given to empower Jesus' disciples to believe in him and to witness about him to others. Today, we have the same gift and the same calling! *Prayer: "Lord, help me both to trust in you and to share you with others. Amen."*

**June 21st. - Acts 2:1-28.**

Reflect: We today also need to proclaim the good news about Jesus' death and resurrection (by the Holy Spirit's power) in a language [way] others can understand. *Prayer: "Lord, help me to share the Gospel more and more effectively. Amen."*

**June 22nd. - Acts 2:29-47.**

Reflect: The first Christians backed up their message about Jesus with a convincing [communal] life-style. We have a lot of room for improvement with this today! *Prayer: "Lord Jesus, may my congregation be a community of faith and love. Amen."*