



***Looking for a way to keep your faith active and engaged this summer?  
Join the Living Word Bible Story Summer Reading Challenge!***

How it works:

1. **Pledge!** This summer pledge as a family, couple, or individual to read the assigned Bible Stories each week for 12 weeks beginning on Sunday June 6<sup>th</sup> and ending on Sunday August 22<sup>th</sup> (Fall Kick-Off Sunday).
2. **Get a Bible!** Story Bibles are recommended for families with small children. This challenge references the *Spark Story Bible* published by 1517 Media. If you need help getting a Bible contact Mark or Pastor Ariel. Two of the stories on our reading challenge are not in most Story Bibles, so we have included an attachment of them for you.
3. **Read!** Starting at the beginning of the list, read each weekly story individually or as a group.
4. **Track your progress!** Bible Story Maps (for children/families) & Journals (for adults) are available to help track progress.
5. **Discuss!** Use one or more of the questions listed below to discuss the stories. If you are doing this challenge solo, consider keeping a journal for reflection.
  - A. What is the story about? (Feel free to get creative! Retell the story in your own words, act it out, portray it via an artistic medium.)
  - B. What did you like best in the story? With whom did you identify?
  - C. How does this story connect with the previous one? Where do you see signs of God's covenant (promise or pledge) with God's people?
  - D. What does this story call you or your household to do as God's people?

# SUMMER READING CHALLENGE

## Children & Families

WEEK	THEME	STORIES	BIBLE TEXT	SPARK STORY BIBLE
1	Water Stories	Separation of the Water	Genesis 1:6-10	<i>Creation</i> Pg. 2
2	Water Stories	Parting of the Sea	Exodus 14:1, 5-31	<i>The Red Sea</i> Pg. 84
3	Water Stories	Baptism of Jesus	Matthew 3:13-17	<i>John the Baptist</i> Pg. 234 <i>Jesus' Baptism</i> Pg. 242
4	Water Stories	Calming of the Storm	Mark 4:35-41	<i>A Storm</i> Pg. 286
5	Plant & Food Stories	Manna & Quail	Exodus 16	<i>Manna, Quail, Water</i> Pg. 90
6	Plant & Food Stories	Feeding the 5,000	Mark 6:31-44	<i>Jesus Feed 5,000</i> Pg. 426
7	Plant & Food Stories	Rest for the Land	Leviticus 25:1-7	Attached Story
8	Plant & Food Stories	Parable of the Sower	Mark 4:1-9	<i>The Sower</i> Pg. 292
9	Animal Stories	Creation of Animals	Genesis 1:20-25	<i>Creation</i> Pg. 2
10	Animal Stories	Balaam & the Lord's Messenger	Numbers 22:22-35	Attached Story
11	Animal Stories	Jonah & the Big Fish	Jonah 1-4	<i>Jonah &amp; the Big Fish</i> Pg. 190
12	Animal Stories	Parable of the Lost Sheep	Luke 15:1-7	<i>The Lost Sheep &amp; Lost Coin</i> Pg. 374

# SUMMER READING CHALLENGE

## Adults

WEEK	THEME	STORIES	BIBLE TEXT
1	Anything But Ordinary	A Child Promised to Abraham & Sarah	Genesis 18: 1-15 (21:1-7)
2	Anything But Ordinary	Hagar & Ishmael are Cast Away	Genesis 21: 8-21
3	Anything But Ordinary	The Binding of Isaac	Genesis 22: 1-14
4	Anything But Ordinary	The Marriage of Isaac & Rebekah	Genesis 24: 1-67
5	Anything But Ordinary	The Birth of Jacob & Esau	Genesis 25: 19-34
6	Anything But Ordinary	Jacob's Dream at Bethel	Genesis 28: 10-19a
7	Anything But Ordinary	Jacob Marries Leah & Rachel	Genesis 29: 15-28
8	Anything But Ordinary	Jacob Wrestles at Peniel	Genesis 32: 22-31
9	Anything But Ordinary	Joseph's Brothers Sell Him into Slavery	Genesis 37: 1-4, 12-28
10	Anything But Ordinary	Joseph Reveals Himself to His Brothers	Genesis 45: 1-15
11	Anything But Ordinary	Moses' Birth	Exodus 1:8 – 2:10
12	Anything But Ordinary	Moses & the Burning Bush	Exodus 3: 1-15

# SUMMER READING CHALLENGE PLEDGE

At the time of baptism, all parents & sponsors pledge to place in their children's hands the Holy Scriptures and nurture them in faith & prayer. All the baptized, when they affirm their baptism, promise to hear the Word of God.

As a household, we make a commitment to become more fluent in the first language of faith, the language of Scripture, in order to live into our calling as a people of God - renewed, enlivened, & empowered by the Word, to continue being A Living Expression of Christ in the World!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Separation  
of the Water**

**Parting of  
the Sea**

**Baptism of  
Jesus**

**Calming of  
the Storm**

**Parable of  
the Sower**

**Rest for the  
Land**

**Feeding the  
5,000**

**Manna &  
Quail**

**Creation of  
Animals**

**Balaam &  
the Lord's  
Messenger**

**Jonah & the  
Big Fish**

**Parable of  
the Lost  
Sheep**

# SUMMER READING CHALLENGE

## Extra Bible Stories

### Rest for the Land – Leviticus 25: 1-7

On Mount Sinai the Lord spoke to Moses and told him – “Tell the people of Israel that when y’all arrive in the promised land that I am giving to you, you can work the land. You can grow crops and vineyards and orchards with fruit and vegetables for six straight years. But on the seventh year – the land needs a break. The earth gets tired just like we do, and it needs to rest so it can restore itself and be ready to grow more food again later. During that year you can eat anything that just naturally grows on its own, but do not plant gardens or large fields of any kind. Give the earth a break.”

### Balaam & the Lord’s Messenger – Numbers 22: 22-35

Balaam was not an Israelite, but God had a special job for him to do anyway. God wanted Balaam to deliver messages for God Himself. Balaam wasn’t so sure he wanted to be a prophet of God, so he got up one morning and saddled his donkey and went off with some important men from Moab instead.

As he was going, God got mad at him. He was not doing what God asked! So, God sent God’s angel to confront Balaam. The donkey Balaam was riding was able to see God’s angel and knew that God was mad, so the donkey tried to take a different path to avoid the angel. Balaam couldn’t see the angel and got mad at his donkey and hit it.

This happened again as they were going through a vineyard. The vineyard had a fence on each side of the path. As the donkey tried to avoid the angel, Balaam’s foot and leg ended up getting scraped by the fence.

Balaam lost his temper and hit the donkey with a stick.

God decided to speak to Balaam through the donkey. God said, “What have I done to deserve getting hit by you?”

Balaam he didn't even realize that his donkey was talking. He replied: "You've been playing tricks and not doing what you are supposed to. You keep trying to take me on the wrong paths. I should have hurt you even more than I did!"

God spoke again through the donkey: "Haven't I been your donkey for years? You've ridden me over and over again. Have I ever done anything like this before?"

Balaam said: "No."

Then God helped Balaam see what was happening. Balaam saw the angel and realized how wrong and mean he had been.

He knelt in the ground before God's angel.

The angel spoke to Balaam and said: "Why have you been so mean to your poor donkey. I came to block your way because you aren't doing what God asked of you. Your donkey saw me and was trying to protect you."

Balaam replied: "I have sinned. I had no idea you were standing there and I shouldn't have treated my donkey that way. I'll go back to where I came from."

The angel told Balaam: "Go ahead and keep traveling with the important men from Moab, but from now on you only get to say what God wants you to say. Nothing else. You are God's prophet now."