



## Reading Genesis - Deuteronomy East Hills Community Church

Winter, 2020

My Name Is:

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## THE 100 DAY ADVENTURE

### Welcome to the Adventure

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You are about to start the 100 Day Adventure and that is exciting because it means that you are committed to spending daily time in God's Word, reading it, and developing your relationship with God. The 100 Day Adventure follows our 90 Day Challenge in which we read the New Testament in 90 days.

The 100 Day Adventure finds us reading the Torah. Torah ("Instruction", "Teaching" or "Law") has a range of meanings, but here we use it to specifically mean the first five books of the Old Testament (five books of Moses or "Pentateuch"). This is commonly known as the Written Torah.

Reading these books of the Bible will be very different than when we were reading the New Testament. The reading is more narrative as the stories unfold right before our eyes. Some will find it easier to read stories, but as we read these five books together, we will read two of the harder books in the Bible: Leviticus and Numbers. This is part of the adventure... to read what probably many of you have not read and to draw out of it some meaning for us today. We will also read some of the most popular stories written to man (and maybe learn new things!).

To help you understand and follow what you are reading I have included outlines, from the NIV Study Bible, for each of the five books we are reading. I think outlines are helpful to see where you are in the story and to remember what you are reading in order to get the big picture.

I also want to remind you what was written in the book we used for the 90 Day Challenge (which I will adapt for our 100 Day Adventure)...

\*Most people we know struggle with setting aside some of the important, consistent time it takes to get better acquainted with God. Many want to know God better but don't want to invest the time it takes to learn about Him and His ways.

We want to help you know God better and grow deeper in your relationship with Him and His Word. In just over three months, you can develop a disciplined, daily approach to spending time with God and in His Word.

The 100 Day Adventure requires you to spend approximately 20 minutes reading a portion of scripture, reflecting and praying. This has been an effective program of spiritual growth and discipline for so many. Reading together challenges us to stay on schedule as we hold each other accountable and share what we are learning. We all need a little extra motivation, challenge and structure to make a daily time with God into a habit. This short program may become the stimulus you need toward developing a daily meeting with God for the rest of your life.

If 20 minutes is too much, then read at your own pace. It doesn't matter if you finish on Day 100 or 200...the goal is to make God's Word a part of your daily life. We're confident that you will not be the same person when you're done.

Twenty minutes a day is not a great deal of time when you think of the important growth that will transform your life as you get to know God better. Think of the hours we spend everyday on Facebook, YouTube, texting, TV, games, etc. that are fun but not typically aiding your spiritual life. We're not suggesting you throw away your electronics, we're just encouraging you to find time to connect deeply with God.

As you consider the challenge of the 100 Day Experience, keep in mind the powerful words in 1 Peter 1:24, *"All men are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field. The grass withers and the flower falls, but the word of the Lord stands forever."*

PASTOR JOHN

(\*starting here is adapted from Growth Unlimited by Jim Burns and Doug Fields)

# THE 100 DAY ADVENTURE

## Getting Started

A disciplined daily devotional life is not an option for Christian growth. It's a must! And, it's also a privilege. You have the opportunity for every day to spend time with your Creator and Savior. This daily quiet time with God will transform your life like nothing else can.

Let me explain what you will find in this book. You'll get an outline for each book you read. As mentioned earlier, it will help you track your reading and help you remember what is happening.

Then you have the questions. After you read, you can answer the questions by writing down your answers or just reflecting in your head what your answers might be. Remember that a devotional meeting with God is not in-depth Bible study. A devotional time with God should include Bible reading, but not necessarily in-depth Bible study. Your questions will be in two categories:

- **CONSIDERING CONTENT** questions are straightforward questions about facts. Occasionally they will prompt you to read between the lines for significant points.
- **APPLYING ACTION** questions give you the opportunity to put into practice the truths you learn each day.

Let me encourage you to approach your daily times in the Bible with a sense of adventure/expectation. Expect to meet God in a new way each day. Expect God to speak to you in a very personal way. And expect to become the person God wants you to be as you daily spend time in His word. Claim the promise of James: "Draw near to God and He will draw near to you" (4:8 NASB). Below are some important thoughts on how your devotional time can be made more meaningful.

Find a specific time each day to meet with God. If you get in the habit of meeting with God at a specific time without interruptions, it will be easier to remain faithful to this commitment.

Find a quiet place to meet with God. Where you meet with God is important. Wherever you choose, make sure that it is free from distractions.

Determine what you hope to accomplish during your meeting with God. In other words, have a method. Do not approach your quiet time in a hit and miss manner. This book and format can help.

Also save time for these things:

- **PRAYER:** New to prayer? Just pray about what you read and/or about the answers you wrote or thought about. Make sure your prayers include thanks to God, confession for your sins, and prayers for others or yourself.
- **LISTENING:** It may be hard to hear God; but try it. At the end of your reading, pray. As part of your prayer, ask God to speak to you. Then stop and be still for a couple of minutes and see what comes into your mind. Discern whether it's from God or not before moving on with your day. Remember, prayer is a two-way communication.

Now grab a copy of the Bible (I've used the New International Version here), this manual, and a pen - and enjoy the adventure.