

A New Year's READ plan
December 27, 2020

Day 1-

READ: [Isaiah 40:1-31](#)

REFLECT: In this chapter, Isaiah is looking ahead to when the Israelites will be exiles living in Babylon and sharing God's words of comfort. When times get harder than they are even today, be assured that the Creator of the world, the everlasting God, remains in control! Start a new journal page and write "God" at the top of the page. Write down everything that this chapter reveals about Him.

PRAY: Bow your head over the page and pray, "God, You are...." as you read through your notes. Confess where you struggle to believe that He is who He says He is. Use verses 29-31 to ask Him for what you need.

PRACTICE: Turn to a new page. Write "2021" and beneath that create 3 sections for HOPES, DREAMS and GOALS. Don't write anything else today. Just invite God to help you hope, dream and set goals...

Day 2-

REFLECT: Write "2020" at the top of a new journal page and set your timer for 3 minutes. Write down all the emotions and adjectives that describe you, your circumstances, the world around you in the last year.

READ: [Isaiah 40:1-31](#)

REFLECT: On day 1 you did the work of discovering the character of God in this chapter. Today, read the chapter again and hold 2020 in your mind as you read. This chapter is meant to bring comfort and assurance to God's people. In what ways do God's words bring your comfort right now? In the Bible, hope is the idea of waiting with anticipation. In light of what you've read today, does it look like to *wait* on God with anticipation?

PRACTICE: Turn to your journal page, "2021" and begin writing down your hopes for the new year.

PRAY: After a season of hard things, it can be difficult to hope. As you go to pray, surrender yourself and your circumstances to the Lord, knowing that your hope is in Him and not in anything this world throws at you.

TAKE IT FURTHER!

WATCH: The Bible Project's word study on [Hope](#) will further explore this idea of waiting in expectation.

Day 3-

READ: [Isaiah 43:1-25](#)

REFLECT: Some days you need reminded of the magnitude of who God is. This chapter covers a great deal! Read it through once quickly, then a second time more slowly. Keep your journal at hand and start a new page, "God you are..."

When you finish, sit back and review the list you made. What have you learned about God today? What hope have you found? What assurance is in those words? What peace?

PRAY/ PRACTICE: Choose a prayer posture that reflects humility in the face of such an awesome God. Bow your head and stretch out your hands or lay face down on the floor. Use the words of Isaiah to praise God for who He is. Rejoice in the wonder of His love for you- He has a purpose for you, He made a way to save you, He has forgiven you. Glory to God!

Day 4-

READ: [Isaiah 43:1-25](#)

REFLECT: After reading the entire chapter, go back and read verses 16-19 again. In 16-17 God refers to the exodus from Egypt, but in 18-19 He tells them not to focus on the past, but to look ahead. God's people thought that all of God's mighty deeds on their behalf were past tense. Not true! Not only would He bring them back from their exile, but He would fulfill all His promises and a Savior would come...

Reflect on your own life- where can you see God's hand in your past? Where can you see Him in your present? Do you believe that He will do a new thing in your future?

PRACTICE: Return to your "2021" journal page and spend some time filling in your dreams- what big prayers will you pray this year as you look for Him to do new things?

PRAY: Use the language of Isaiah 43 to praise God and to pray a big prayer for a big dream.

Day 5-

READ: [John 10:1-18](#)

REFLECT: Jesus makes two claims about His identity in this passage- "*I am ___.*" Nestled within this teaching is verse 10. Read it out loud. Who is the thief? How has he tried to steal and kill and destroy your life? In contrast, what does Jesus offer you? What might it look like to live a Jesus-filled, abundant life in 2021, come what may?

PRACTICE: In your journal start a new page by writing "Abundant Life 2021" and below that writing what abundance feels like and looks like. How will you, a child of God, seek and receive His abundance? What will you do? What will you not do? Will you start a new habit, rid yourself of a distraction, engage with a [LifeGroup](#), or take a step to serve someone?

PRAY: Praise Jesus for what you have learned about Him today. Praise Him for the abundant life that He offers you. Confess to Him how you try to control your own abundance. Surrender 2021 to Him and ask Him to increase your faith as you choose to trust Him.

TAKE IT FURTHER!

READ: Start 2021 by reading the Word of God every day. We encourage you to Find Your Chair and use the [Grace READ plan](#) every day. Or, use a great app like YouVersion or She/He Read Truth to find a reading plan. However you choose to do it, you will find truth and hope and life every day in the Scriptures. Have questions? [Please ask!](#)

FOUNDATIONS: If you're new to the Christian life, we encourage you to start [here!](#)