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fact as you read the book of Jeremiah, because of all the doom and gloom it contains.

The great prophet's unenviable job was to pronounce judgment and dash any hopes Israel may have entertained about escape. They were faithless and would suffer the consequences for persistently violating their covenant bond with God. Unpleasant as it may be, we need Jeremiah's message. He reveals truth we prefer to deny—truth about ourselves and truth about our God. Look at Jeremiah 31.

*Truth #1:* God is always faithful no matter how faithless we are. 'At that time,' declares the LORD, 'I will be the God of all the families of Israel, and they shall be My people' (31:1). Israel had quit. They totally rejected their God. But even as certain judgment hit them like an avalanche, God insisted, *You shall be My people.* Israel had given up. God had not.

*Truth #2:* Rejoicing, not sorrow, is the ultimate reality. *Then they will come and shout for joy on the height of Zion, and they will be radiant over the bounty of the LORD—over grain and the new wine and the oil and over the young of the flock and the herd. And their life will be like a watered garden, and they will never languish again* (31:12). The horrors of sin and the sorrows of life are real. But these realities do not last. Eternal reality for the people of God is eternal rejoicing with Him.

*Truth #3:* It is because God is faithful that we suffer the consequences of our sin. *I have surely heard Ephraim (Israel) grieving, 'You have punished me, I was punished like an untrained calf. Bring me back that I may be restored.'* In His covenant with Israel, God promised to punish them for breaking His covenant. In no uncertain terms, Israel demonstrated with emphatic repetition that they would not be faithful. They would not keep their side of the bargain. Unless God punished Israel's sin, He would not be true to Himself or to His covenant with them.

So, when Israel proved faithless, how could God's relationship with them remain intact? How could God be faithful to His holy self and to His sinful people? That is a good question! And the Bible has the answer.

And we'll go into that in September.

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### Prayer for ...

- **Northpoint:** Ask God to reshape our church according to His plan protect us from sin and division.
- **Local Outreach:** Don and Debi Isaacs (Awana California GoldenWest)
- **Missions:** Steven Phillips (World Harvest/Serge), *Spain*

### Need to pray with someone?

It is our privilege to pray for you personally. Share your prayer requests

- By email at [prayer@northpointcorona.org](mailto:prayer@northpointcorona.org)
- By phone, at 951.734.1335
- On a Response Card in the pew during the worship service

Prayer Team members are available after every worship service.

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# prayer *life!*

## Bible Reading Plan and Prayer Guide

(Year *THREE*) August 2018

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*If we are faithless, he remains faithful, for he cannot deny himself.*

—2 Timothy 2:13

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### Forever Faithful

It's easy to give up. Sometimes quitting seems like our only workable option. It may be our job or pursuing an education, often it's in our relationships. We reach a point where we're scrambling for the door. "I'm done!" Giving up sings the siren's song of freedom, escape, blessed release. So many people give in to the urge to quit. No wonder Solomon asks, *Who can find a faithful man* (Prov. 20:6)?

Then there's our relationship with God. Spiritual growth is fraught with difficulty. Obedience is especially hard, because in order to obey God, we have to disobey ourselves. When we find ourselves struggling again and again with the same weakness, stumbling into the same sin, we despair. Is true godly character possible? It's so foreign to our nature.

This struggle is an old reality. In fact, it's universal. An honest conversation with anyone on earth unveils this common difficulty. The aspiration to be better than we are along with our recurrent failure is proverbial. Any life we touch deals with this difficulty, usually through denial, blame, or despair. But Scripture confronts it head on.

In God's Word, there is no denial of the problem of human sin. It presents our rebellion as the central conflict of history. Nor does it let us get away with the blame game. Adam tried to blame Eve for his sin, but he couldn't evade his responsibility for his actions. Neither could Cain or David or Judas.

God deals with the struggle with despair throughout the history of Israel. There, the natural frustration with obedience plays out to its inescapable conclusion. Despite God's clear laws and His promised blessings upon obedience, His chosen people kept disobeying.

Yes there were great periods of hope—the glory days of David and Solomon, the revivals of Hezekiah and Josiah. But failure during these periods of genuine striving for obedience only accentuates the hopelessness of Israel's attempts to please God through their own efforts. First the Northern Kingdom, then Judah in the south, came to the place where they completely rejected God and His covenant relationship with them. They couldn't pull off obedience, so they quit.

But God didn't. Our God never gives up. He is forever faithful to Himself and to whoever belongs to Him. It's important to focus on this

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# Reading and Prayer Schedule (Year THREE)

August 2018

Sunday: Church & Ministry	Monday: Home & Family	Tuesday: School or Job	Wednesday: Neighbors & Community	Thursday: Nation	Friday: World & Kingdom	Saturday: Praise for God's Blessings
			<b>1) Read:</b> Jeremiah 25 <b>Pray for ...</b> The salvation of those you interact with in the community: workers at stores, gas stations, and other places you visit.	<b>2) Read:</b> Jeremiah 26 <b>Pray for ...</b> God to turn the heart of our nation to Himself. May we repent of the idolatry of materialism, self-indulgence, and self-reliance.	<b>3) Read:</b> Jeremiah 27 <b>Pray for ...</b> Northpoint's outreach in Botswana to strengthen His Church to win people to Christ and build them up in Him.	<b>4) Read:</b> Jeremiah 28 <b>Give praise for ...</b> Those who spread the Gospel faithfully in foreign lands, where Christ is not known.
<b>5) Read:</b> Jeremiah 29 <b>Pray for ...</b> Steve Flood: Non-staff Elder to have God's protection and blessing for himself and his family to walk in God's ways and grow into His image.	<b>6) Read:</b> Jeremiah 30 <b>Declare ...</b> Your commitment to Christ: <i>As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord</i> (Joshua 24:15). Ask God build your family up in Christ.	<b>7) Read:</b> Jeremiah 31 <b>Pray for ...</b> The spiritual needs of those you serve where you work or your teachers at school: May they know Jesus Christ as Lord & Savior.	<b>8) Read:</b> Jeremiah 32 <b>Pray for ...</b> God's wisdom and justice to rule in the courts in our community.	<b>9) Read:</b> Jeremiah 33 <b>Pray for ...</b> God to influence our courts to exalt Biblical righteousness in the way they apply our nation's laws. Ask God to win judges to Christ.	<b>10) Read:</b> Jeremiah 34 <b>Pray for ...</b> Spiritual and academic success for the Akaki school in Ethiopia, in leading many to worship the incarnate Christ.	<b>11) Read:</b> Jeremiah 35 <b>Rejoice in ...</b> The good work God has provided for you to do, however mundane or challenging the tasks.
<b>12) Read:</b> Jeremiah 36 <b>Pray for ...</b> Vinoj Zechariah: Non-staff Elder. Ask God for spiritual strength & protection to spread the news of Christ to those who don't know Him.	<b>13) Read:</b> Jeremiah 37 <b>Pray for ...</b> Your parents. May they love the Lord their God with all their heart, soul, mind, and strength and their neighbor as themselves.	<b>14) Read:</b> Jeremiah 38 <b>Pray for ...</b> Opportunities to express God's love for others on your job or at school.	<b>15) Read:</b> Jeremiah 39 <b>Pray for ...</b> God to use us to reach our community with the message of His love for them in Christ Jesus.	<b>16) Read:</b> Jeremiah 40 <b>Pray for ...</b> God's guidance for Congress to enact laws that honor Him and lead our nation to do what is right.	<b>17) Read:</b> Jeremiah 41 <b>Pray for ...</b> Protection, strength, and boldness for Christians in the Muslim world, especially in troubled lands: Iraq, Syria, Iran, Palestine, Libya & others.	<b>18) Read:</b> Jeremiah 42 <b>Thank God for ...</b> The relationships in your life, especially those that can be easy to overlook.
<b>19) Read:</b> Jeremiah 43 <b>Pray for ...</b> Mike Russell, non-staff elder to be animated by the conviction that God is working in Him to save souls and change lives.	<b>20) Read:</b> Jeremiah 44 <b>Pray for ...</b> Your brothers and sisters: Ask God to draw them to Himself and keep them in His care.	<b>21) Read:</b> Jeremiah 45 <b>Pray for ...</b> Wisdom and positive relationships at work or school. Ask God to make you an example of Christian love and joy.	<b>22) Read:</b> Jeremiah 46 <b>Pray for ...</b> Revival in the churches in our community, so we love God's truth and share it with others.	<b>23) Read:</b> Jeremiah 47 <b>Pray for ...</b> 1) Revival in the Church in the United States. 2) Renewal of our nation's culture to honor God. 3) Removal of godless leaders from office.	<b>24) Read:</b> Jeremiah 48 <b>Pray for ...</b> God to send laborers into His harvest field in Russia and Ukraine, where the need is great & people hunger for the Gospel.	<b>25) Read:</b> Jeremiah 49 <b>Praise God ...</b> From whom ALL blessings flow. List 20 ways God has blessed your life, and give Him praise to each one.
<b>26) Read:</b> Jeremiah 50 <b>Pray for ...</b> Terilyn Brown, Ministry Director for Children, to lead the children of Northpoint she works with to follow Christ as they see Him in her life.	<b>27) Read:</b> Jeremiah 51 <b>Pray for ...</b> Pray for God to make you & your family a light of God's truth & love to specific people whom He lays on your heart to win to Christ.	<b>28) Read:</b> Jeremiah 52 <b>Pray for ...</b> The quality and effectiveness of your work to serve others and exalt Christ.	<b>29) Read:</b> Lammentations 1 <b>Pray for ...</b> Increased prayer & spiritual power in the churches of Corona. Pray that we love God more & depend on His power, not our own giftedness.	<b>30) Read:</b> Lammentations 2 <b>Pray for ...</b> Prayer in the Church in America. Ask God to create a passion for Him that expresses itself in regular, ongoing prayer.	<b>31) Read:</b> Lammentations 3 <b>Pray for ...</b> God to send laborers into His harvest field from the United States, along with other countries throughout the world.	

*For truly, I say to you, if you have faith like a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move, and nothing will be impossible for you." –Matthew 17:20b*