

# THE PLAN



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## Learning about God's Plan for Salvation at South Shore Trinity Lutheran Church

**"Stuff They Didn't Teach Me In Sunday School" © Lutheran Hour Ministries**

## **“The Plan”**

South Shore Trinity's Bible Reading schedule for 2016

### **Introduction**

The staff was sitting around the break table eating lunch one day when the conversation turned to the books people were reading in their spare time. Mrs. Shirley Beyer, our preschool director, told us about a book she had recently picked up at the local Christian book store and how amazed she was at the content. “I can’t believe it.” she said, “It has kidnapping, murder, rape, incest, adultery, theft, child abuse, grave robbery, perjury, false imprisonment, blackmail, arson, suicide...” As she recounted the impressive list of debauchery in the book, Pastor Kollmann blurted out in amazement, “What are you reading, the Bible?!?!”

After we stopped the uncontrollable laughter and wiped the tears from our eyes, two things dawned on us. First, all those terrible things really are in the Bible. Many people, when they think of the Bible, think of the sanitized kids stories that we read as children. We forget that the Bible is a real book, recounting real people, with real sins, and the God who saved us all. The Bible doesn’t white wash the heroes of the faith or the things they did. On the contrary, it puts them right out there on display so that the world can know the seriousness of sin and the unbelievable grace of a God who would give His Son to forgive that sin.

Secondly, we realized that a majority of Christians, even if they do know the accounts, see those accounts as separate isolated stories with no real connection to each other. When in reality, all the stories of the Bible come together to tell how God put a plan into motion to save humanity. A plan that begins with Adam and Eve, then moves to Abraham, then to David, then to the prophets, then to God’s Son who was promised to all of them and foretold by many of them.

It is not a clean and tidy account. It is a plan that will use gossips, doubters, betrayers, murderers, and worse. Not because God approves of those things, he hates all sin, but because we have a remarkable God who can take sinful people and work miracles with them. A God who moves from the fall into sin through the cross to you. That marvelous story is what this reading series is about.

Before you begin, it should be noted that the best way to go through these readings is to not do them alone. All of Messiah will be going through them together over the next year and a quarter and there will be many opportunities to gather with others to discuss and study them. For instance, every Sunday, the sermon will talk about the previous week’s “Plan” readings and how they apply to us today. The Sunday Adult Bible study will break down “The Plan” readings and answer questions you might have about them. The middle school and high school youth will also be studying the weekly readings and many small groups will be discussing them too.

There are also study aids to help you stay on track and get deeper into the word. Most weeks there will be included a suggested free video to watch from Lutheran Hour Ministries called, “Stuff They Didn’t Teach Me In Sunday School” where you can learn more about certain aspects of the week’s readings. As an added help, each month an audio cd with all the readings will be available at church for use in your car or home cd player. Additionally, all the readings, videos and audio readings will be available on South Shore Trinity's website in one easy to use location.

God’s Word is an amazing and wonderful telling of God’s plan of salvation. May He bless you as you grow stronger in Him and His Word.

Christ’s servant and yours,

Rev. Kurt R. Klaus  
Senior Pastor – Messiah Lutheran

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**Week 1 - In The Beginning:** The Bible begins at...well...the beginning; a beginning where we see that God is more than just a force or an energy. He is the all-powerful, all knowing creator of everything, including us.

But that is not all the opening chapters of Genesis show us. They also show us why this world is the way it is and why a plan of salvation was needed in the first place. As you read, you will learn that God created this world as a perfect paradise and that we, by our sin, plunged the world into pain, sickness, and death; a world where suffering was the rule and brother would turn against brother. However, the opening chapters of Genesis also set the stage for God’s plan of salvation; the plan that begins with a promise to Adam and Eve and runs through the Cross to all of history.

And it all begins, “In the beginning...”

- September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2016 – Genesis 1:1-25 – God creates the heavens and the earth
- September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2016 – Genesis 1:26-2:3 – God creates man and gives dominion
- September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2016 – Genesis 2:5-25 – God puts Adam to work and creates Eve
- September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2016 – Genesis 3:1-7 – Adam and Eve eat the fruit
- September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2016 – Genesis 3:8-24 – God curses man and promises a Savior
- September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2016 – Genesis 4:1-8 – Cain kills Abel
- September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016 – Genesis 4:9-16 – God judges and protects Cain

**This week’s “*Stuff They Didn’t Teach Me In Sunday School*” suggested videos:**

- ☞ September 14<sup>th</sup> Reading - **Episode 001: Adam and Eve**
- ☞ September 15<sup>th</sup> Reading - **Episode 002: The Fall**

*These videos can be found on [www.lhmmen.com](http://www.lhmmen.com) under the “Shorts” heading or there is a link at [www.sstwbl.org](http://www.sstwbl.org) under “The Plan” page.*

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**Week 2 - Noah and the Flood:** After the fall into sin, the world plunged farther and farther from God; ultimately bringing God to the brink of destroying it all. However, because of God’s great love for us and His promise to send a Savior, He saved humanity through Noah and the ark that God had him build. The flood would remake the face of the earth, but God’s people were saved.

As an interesting side note, the flood foreshadows the salvation we receive in our Baptism, where God washes us clean from our sins by water and His Word. (1<sup>st</sup> Peter 3:18-22)

- September 19, 2016 – Genesis 6:5-22 God sees wickedness and commands Noah to build an ark
- September 20, 2016 – Genesis 7:1-24 – God sends the flood and Noah gets on the ark
- September 21 , 2016 – Genesis 8:1-12 – God remembers Noah – the dove does not return
- September 22, 2016 – Genesis 8:13-22 – Dry ground again
- September 23, 2016 – Genesis 9:8-17 – God’s covenant with Noah
- September 24, 2016 – Genesis 9:18-28 – Noah is sinful too
- September 25, 2016 – Genesis 11:1-9 – Tower of Babel

**This week’s “*Stuff They Didn’t Teach Me In Sunday School*” suggested videos:**

- September 24th Reading - **Episode 003: Noah's Vineyard**

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**Week 3 – Abraham:** This week we are going to begin reading about Abraham. Abraham was one of the most important figures in all of history, but he was also a sinful human being who, like you and me, regularly stumbled and occasionally blew it completely. The account of Abraham is the perfect example of grace because, despite Abraham’s failings, God still worked through him. God chose to create a nation through Abraham and to have the Savior come through his offspring, not because of Abraham’s amazing qualities but because of God’s undeserved love.

Abraham’s story also teaches us many things about the Christian life. It shows us that because this is a sinful world, there will always be trials and even the most faithful believer will have tragedy and problems, but our faithful God is with us even in the middle of those problems and He will bring us through. He is a God who always, despite our failures, keeps His promises.

- September 26, 2016 – Genesis 12:1-9 – The call of Abraham
- September 27, 2016 – Genesis 12:10-20 – Abraham in Egypt
- September 28, 2016 – Genesis 15:1-21 – God’s covenant – land and heir
- September 29, 2016 – Genesis 16:1-17:13 – Hagar and the Covenant of Circumcision
- September 30, 2016 – Genesis 18:1-15 – 3 visitors – Sarah laughs
- October 1, 2016 – Genesis 21:1-21 – Isaac is born, Hagar and Ishmael sent away
- October 2, 2016 – Genesis 22:1-24 – Abraham sacrifices Isaac

**This week’s “*Stuff They Didn’t Teach Me In Sunday School*” suggested videos:**

- September 25th Reading - **Episode 004: God Chose Abraham**
- September 26th Reading - **Episode 005: God's Promise**
- September 27th Reading - **Episode 006: God's Covenant with Abraham**

**Abraham sacrifices Isaac preview:** Before we read God’s Word for today, it is good for us to point out some of the important things God is communicating to us in today’s reading because it is one of the most theologically important stories in the whole Bible. There are so many things symbolized and foreshadowed in this true account that it is impossible to list them all here. However, there are some important things to look for. First, the account is an important illustration of trusting in God completely, even when we doubt or don’t understand what He is doing. Secondly, Abraham and Isaac foreshadow where God’s plan of salvation is going in the future. Abraham is a model of our heavenly Father who was willing to sacrifice His son to save us, and Isaac is an example of Christ. The lamb from the account is also a symbol of Christ, as Christ was killed in our place so that we might live.

All through the story there are ties to God’s plan of our redemption, but it is important to remember that even though there is symbolism throughout the story, it is still a historical account that recalls real events.

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**Week 4 - Isaac and Rebekah, Esau and Jacob:** This week God’s plan continues to unfold as Isaac marries Rebekah, and Jacob and Esau are born to the couple. Through this week’s readings we see that God remains faithful to His promise and continues to work even though God’s people regularly stumble and fall.

- October 3, 2016 – Genesis 24:1-28 – Abraham sends a servant to find Rebekah
- October 4, 2016 – Genesis 24:61-67 & 25:5-11 – Isaac marries Rebekah and Abraham dies
- October 5, 2016 – Genesis 25:21-34 – Esau and Jacob born, Esau sells his birthright
- October 6, 2016 – Genesis 26:1-11 – Isaac says Rebekah is his sister
- October 7, 2016 – Genesis 27:1-23 – Jacob gets Isaac’s blessing
- October 8, 2016 – Genesis 27:24-46 – Esau gets angry at Jacob
- October 9, 2016 – Genesis 28:10-22 – Jacob’s ladder

**This week’s “*Stuff They Didn’t Teach Me In Sunday School*” suggested videos:**

- October 5th Reading - **Episode 008: What's In A Name?**
- October 9th Reading - **Episode 009: Jacob's Ladder**

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**Week 5 - Jacob, Esau, and Joseph:** The readings assembled for this week cover two generations of Abraham’s descendants. First, we see Jacob and Esau reunited and reconciled and then we are introduced to Jacob’s children; Joseph being the most famous and remembered of Jacob’s kids. In the account of Joseph we see God working even in the midst of family rivalry and deceit.

- October 10, 2016 – Genesis 32:1-21 – Jacob gets ready to meet Esau
- October 11, 2016 – Genesis 32:22-32 – Jacob wrestles with God
- October 12, 2016 – Genesis 33:1-17 – Jacob meets Esau
- October 13, 2016 – Genesis 35:9-26 & 37:1-11 – Jacob’s name is changed to Israel and Joseph’s dreams
- October 14, 2016 – Genesis 37:12-36 – Joseph is sold by his brothers
- October 15, 2016 – Genesis 39:1-23 – Joseph and Potiphar’s wife
- October 16, 2016 – Genesis 41:1-14 – Pharaoh’s dreams

**This week’s “*Stuff They Didn’t Teach Me In Sunday School*” suggested videos:**

- October 11th Reading - **Episode 012: Wrestling With A Stranger**
- October 13th Reading - **Episode 021: Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor - Hey, Wait!!!**

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**Week 6 - Joseph:** Joseph’s story is a roller coaster of events. Last week he was living the highlife as Jacob’s favorite son and then he was betrayed and sold into slavery by his own brothers. As a slave he rose to the highest position possible in the house of Potiphar and then, after he was falsely accused, he was thrown into prison. Finally, he rises again to a place of prominence. The whole account is an up and down ride with twists and turns around every corner.

The important thing for us to notice for our daily lives is that in all of these readings God is always with Joseph, even in the middle of his mess. God watches over him when he is at home with his family and when he is in prison. God gives him strength when he is tempted, and as we will see this week, God gives Joseph the ability to forgive. Through all these events, God is putting Joseph in a place to make sure Abraham’s descendants survive the famine and His promise of a Savior will be fulfilled.

- October 17, 2016 – Genesis 41:14-36 – Joseph interprets Pharaoh’s dreams
- October 18, 2016 – Genesis 41:37-45 & 42:1-5 – Joseph in charge of Egypt
- October 19, 2016 – Genesis 42:6-38 – Joseph’s brothers come to Egypt
- October 20, 2016 – Genesis 43:1-34 – Joseph’s brothers return to Egypt
- October 21, 2016 – Genesis 44:1-13 – Joseph prepares a test for his brothers
- October 22, 2016 – Genesis 44:14-34 – Joseph’s brothers pass the test
- October 23, 2016 – Genesis 45:1-15 & 46:1-6 – Joseph is reunited with his family

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**Week 7 - Moses and the Exodus:** The account of Moses and the Exodus has been told and retold over and over again in books, TV, and movies. Unfortunately, it has often only been told as an isolated event in the greater history of the world and the deeper meaning of the events are missed.

There are two big things that are regularly overlooked. The first thing is that Moses is a type of Christ and foreshadows Jesus’ leading His people out of their slavery to sin. Moses is not THE Savior but he is a savior sent to save God’s people and much of his life echoes what the true Savior, God’s Son, will do in the future.

Secondly, the story of the Exodus is neither the beginning nor the end of the story. Instead, it is a chapter in God’s greater plan to save the world. The book of Exodus shows God’s continued faithfulness to His people and that He has not forgotten His promise to bring a Savior to the world through Abraham’s descendants.

- October 24, 2016 - Exodus 1:6-20 & 2:1-10 – Israel enslaved – Moses is born
- October 25, 2016 – Exodus 2:11-25 – Moses flees to Midian and God hears Israel’s plea
- October 26, 2016 – Exodus 3:1-22 – The burning bush
- October 27, 2016 – Exodus 4:1-17 – God gives Moses signs for Pharaoh
- October 28, 2016 – Exodus 7:1-25 – Moses goes to Pharaoh, the plague of blood
- October 29, 2016 – Exodus 8:1-19 – Plague of frogs and gnats
- October 30, 2016 – Exodus 8:20 - 9:7 – More plagues

**This week’s “*Stuff They Didn’t Teach Me In Sunday School*” suggested videos:**

- October 24th Reading - **Episode 023: Planting Israel's Deliverer Right in Pharaoh's House**
- October 25th Reading - **Episode 024: Deliverer In Training**
- October 28th Reading - **Episode 026: "The Beat Down by the Pyramids!"**

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**Week 8 - the Exodus and the Passover:** This week the plagues continue and finally culminate with the angel of death. Before the last plague strikes though, God gives instructions to His people for the Passover meal. The Passover meal was a meal in which a lamb was sacrificed and its blood was painted over the doorways of the Israelite families as a sign to the angel of death that the families inside the house were the Lord's. When the angel of death saw the mark, he would “pass over” that house. This Passover meal and sacrifice was to be repeated every year to remind the Israelites what God had done for them.

The Passover lamb was also a hint at God's ultimate plan for humanity's rescue from sin. At the first Passover the lamb was sacrificed so that the family would be spared from physical death. That first sacrifice foreshadowed Jesus death on Good Friday when He was sacrificed for us as the perfect Passover Lamb to save us from Eternal death. Because of Christ's blood, eternal death and damnation pass over us and we are saved.

John the Baptist saw this connection when he excitedly pointed to Jesus and told everyone, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!” (John 1:29) The whole point is driven home even further by the fact that Jesus' death takes place as the nation of Israel is celebrating Passover. Jesus even institutes communion while He and the disciples are having the Passover meal; pointing them to the fact that they are to be saved by His blood.

- October 31, 2016 – Exodus 9:8-35 – More plagues
- November 1, 2016 – Exodus 10:1-20 – More plagues
- November 2, 2016 – Exodus 10:21-29 & 11:1-10 – Plague of darkness and firstborn
- November 3, 2016 – Exodus 12:1-14 & 29-32 – The Passover
- November 4, 2016 – Exodus 12:33-42 – Israelites leave Egypt
- November 5, 2016 – Exodus 13:17-22 – Pillar of cloud and fire
- November 6, 2016 – Exodus 14:5-31 – Israel crosses the Red Sea

**This week's “*Stuff They Didn't Teach Me In Sunday School*” suggested videos:**

- November 2nd Reading - **Episode 027: The Knockout Punch**
- November 5th Reading - **Episode 028: Trapped between a Rock and a Hard Place**

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**Week 9 - Moses and the Exodus:** In this week’s readings God continues to provide for His people by bringing them food, water, and victory. But God is not just concerned about His people’s physical needs. He is even more concerned about their spiritual needs, so He gives them His law. This Law not only includes the Ten Commandments, but it also includes all the rules by which Israel was to live as a people.

God’s Law is a curb to keep us on the right path, a mirror to show us our sin and a guide for our lives; however, because of our sinful nature it is impossible for us to keep the Law perfectly as God demands. God’s plan solved our failure to keep the law by having Christ live the law perfectly for us and giving us His perfection through faith. Christ is the fulfillment of the law given at the top of the mountain. (Romans 10:4)

- November 7, 2016 – Exodus 16:1-15 – Manna and quail
- November 8, 2016 – Exodus 17:1-16 – God provides water and victory
- November 9, 2016 – Exodus 19:1-20 – Israel at Mt. Sinai
- November 10, 2016 – Exodus 20:1-17 – Ten Commandments
- November 11, 2016 – Exodus 24:3-18 – God confirms the covenant
- November 12, 2016 – Exodus 25:10-22 – God gives directions for the Ark of the Covenant
- November 13, 2016 – Exodus 32:1-20 – The Golden Calf

**This week’s “*Stuff They Didn’t Teach Me In Sunday School*” suggested videos:**

- ↻ November 7th Reading - **Episode 029: What Is It?**
- ↻ November 10th Reading - **Episode 030: They're not called the Ten Suggestions!  
& Episode 031: What's God Doing Here?**
- ↻ November 13th Reading - **Episode 034: How Did That God Slip Through?**

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**Week 10 - Leviticus:** Leviticus is a “How to” book on how Israel was to worship and live. It is highly structured and it reveals that our God is a God of order and a God who cares about how His people live and worship.

But Leviticus is much more than just a “How to” book. It is also a wonderful foreshadowing of God’s plan to save His people. The sheep and lambs that were sacrificed as sin offerings pointed, just as the Passover lamb did, to the Savior who was the ultimate Sacrifice for us. The same Savior who was promised to Adam and Eve, who was the fulfillment of the covenant made with Abraham, and who came from the people that God saved through Moses.

The fact that these laws foreshadow Christ is also important for us because, since these laws have found their complete fulfillment in Christ, we no longer sacrifice animals or follow the other ceremonial laws in Leviticus and elsewhere. Christ fulfilled them for us. He was and is the perfect sacrifice that was made once and for all. (Hebrews 10)

- November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2016 – Leviticus 1:1-17 – Laws for burnt offerings
- November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2016 – Leviticus 16:1-22 – The Day of Atonement
- November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2016 – Leviticus 19:1-18 – The Lord is holy so love your neighbor
- November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2016 - Leviticus 20:1-9 – Do not sacrifice children or turn to mediums
- November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016 - Leviticus 20:22-27 – The Lord is holy so we should be different than those around us.
- November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2016 – Leviticus 23:9-14 – Giving the first fruits to God.
- November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2016 – Leviticus 24:10-23 – Blasphemy and God puts limits on retribution.

**This week’s “Stuff They Didn’t Teach Me In Sunday School” suggested videos:**

- ☞ November 14<sup>th</sup> Reading - **Episode 035: Sometimes One Goat is Just Not Enough**

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**Week 11 – Moses and the 40 years:** We often speak of Israel being God’s chosen nation and they were. However, as we have already seen, that doesn’t mean that Israel always listened to God. This week’s readings show us that even after Israel had been saved from Egypt and had seen countless miracles, they still doubted God; doubt that would ultimately result in a punishment that would last for 40 years. We will also see that even Moses is not free from rebelling against God.

What is wonderful about this week’s readings is that once again we see God being faithful to His people even when they are unfaithful to Him. It is important to remember as you read about the punishments that God imposes on Israel that these are not eternal punishments. Israel is punished with 40 years in the desert before they can enter the Promised Land and Moses is forbidden from entering it, but neither of them are cut off from God. Just as a good parent disciplines a child but still continues to love that child, God disciplines Israel but He continues to love them. Because of God’s plan of salvation, their eternal home is still with the Lord; a fact that is very comforting for us as we struggle with the sometimes very serious consequences of our own mistakes and sins.

- November 21, 2016 –Numbers 13:1-3 & 25-33 & 14:1-10 – Twelve spies
- November 22, 2016 – Numbers 14:11-34 – Israel rebels and is punished with 40 years in the wilderness
- November 23, 2016 – Numbers 20:2-13 – Moses disobeys God
- November 24, 2016 – Numbers 21:4-9 – The Bronze Serpent
- November 25, 2016 – Deuteronomy 34:1-12 – The death of Moses
- November 26, 2016 – Joshua 1:1-3 & 2:1-24 – Spies sent to Jericho
- November 27, 2016 – Joshua 6:1-25 – The fall of Jericho

**This week’s “*Stuff They Didn’t Teach Me In Sunday School*” suggested videos:**

- ↳ November 21 Reading - **Episode 037: Are We There Yet?**
- ↳ November 23 Reading - **Episode 039: When God's Leader Lost His Cool**
- ↳ November 24 Reading - **Episode 040: Anything But Snakes!**
- ↳ November 24 Reading - **Episode 048: The End of an Era**
- ↳ November 27 Reading - **Episode 049: God's On The War Path!**

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**Week 12 – The Judges: Deborah, Gideon, and Samson:** After Moses died Joshua led the people of Israel for many years, but when Joshua died there was no longer one foundational leader to lead Israel back to God when they strayed, so God raised up the Judges. The Judges were men and women God used to move His plan of salvation forward and to save Israel at the same time.

The regular pattern throughout the book of Judges is that Israel is unfaithful to God, God sends one nation or another to punish Israel and bring them back to Him, Israel then repents and calls to God for help, and finally God sends a Judge to save them. Wash, rinse, repeat.

We see in Judges that God takes sin seriously but that He takes true repentance just as seriously. God’s punishments are meant to bring us back to Him and His forgiveness.

- November 28, 2016 – Judges 2:16-23 – Who are the Judges that the Lord raised up
- November 29, 2016 – Judges 4:1-24 – Deborah
- November 30, 2016 – Judges 6:1-24 – God calls Gideon
- December 1, 2016 – Judges 6:25-32 – Gideon tears down the altar of Baal
- December 2, 2016 – Judges 6:36 – 7:22 – Gideon and the 300, aka “THIS IS ISRAEL!!!”
- December 3, 2016 – Judges 13:1-5 & 24-25 – The birth of Samson
- December 4, 2016 – Judges 15:1-20 – Samson: 1000 to 1 odds

**This week’s “*Stuff They Didn’t Teach Me In Sunday School*” suggested videos:**

- November 28 Reading - **Episode 052: Here Comes The Judge!**
- November 29 Reading - **Episode 053: Never Trust A Woman In A Tent!**
- November 30 Reading - **Episode 054: The Cowardly Judge**
- December 3, Reading - **Episode 059: Self-Serving Superman**

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**Week 13 – Samson and Ruth:** The accounts of Samson and Ruth are perfect examples of how God uses the most unlikely people to accomplish His plan. Samson was a Judge of Israel who was given amazing strength by God. He was a Nazarite who was supposed to let his hair grow long to show his complete commitment to the Lord. However, even though his physical gifts were from God, Samson struggled to keep his heart focused on Him. Samson’s story warns us against playing with temptation but it is also a story of redemption.

In contrast to the account of Samson, we have Ruth. Ruth is an unlikely heroine because, even though she was a virtuous woman, she comes from outside the chosen people of God. She was a Moabite, a people who had been enemies of Israel from the earliest days. Nonetheless, God still used her in His plan by making her King David’s great-grandmother and, more importantly, one of Jesus’ ancestors. In her we see that God’s plan is to save all nations.

Both Samson and Ruth show us that God can use us for His purposes no matter where we come from or what our past has been. The defining factor is never how great **we** are but how great is the God that is working through us.

- December 5, 2016 – Judges 16: 1-9 – Samson and Delilah
- December 6, 2016 – Judges 16:10-22 – Samson and Delilah
- December 7, 2016 – Judges 16:23-31 – Samson dies
- December 8, 2016 – Ruth 1:1-22 – Ruth comes to Bethlehem
- December 9, 2016 – Ruth 2:1-23 – Ruth meets Boaz
- December 10, 2016 – Ruth 3:1-18 – The threshing floor
- December 11, 2016 – Ruth 4:1-22 – Boaz marries Ruth

**This week’s “*Stuff They Didn’t Teach Me In Sunday School*” suggested videos:**

- December 11, Reading - **Episode 061: Where's The Punch Line?**

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**Week 14 – Samuel:** Samuel was the last of the Judges, but he was much more than just a Judge. He was also a prophet, an intercessor, and a priest. That being said, you would think the book named for him would focus mainly on his life, however, the book focuses less on Samuel and more on how Israel moved from being a loosely affiliated band of tribes to a nation ruled by a king. One of whom would become the greatest king of Israel, an ancestor of Christ and a very important part of the plan.

- December 12, 2016 – 1<sup>st</sup> Samuel 1:1-20 – The birth of Samuel
- December 13, 2016 – 1<sup>st</sup> Samuel 1:21-28 – Samuel is dedicated to the Lord
- December 14, 2016 – 1<sup>st</sup> Samuel 3:1-21 – Samuel is called by the Lord
- December 15, 2016 – 1<sup>st</sup> Samuel 4:1-11 – The Philistines capture the Ark
- December 16, 2016 – 1<sup>st</sup> Samuel 5:1-12 – The Ark in Philistia
- December 17, 2016 – 1<sup>st</sup> Samuel 6:1-16 – The Ark is returned
- December 18, 2016 – 1<sup>st</sup> Samuel 7:3-17 – The Lord saves Israel

**This week’s “*Stuff They Didn’t Teach Me In Sunday School*” suggested videos:**

- ☞ December 14 Reading - **Episode 062: The Boy Who Stands In The Gap**
- ☞ December 16 Reading - **Episode 063: What Were They Thinking?**

*These videos can be found on [www.lhmmen.com](http://www.lhmmen.com) under the “Shorts” heading or there is a link at [www.sstwbl.org](http://www.sstwbl.org) under “The Plan” page.*

## **“The Plan”**

South Shore Trinity's Bible Reading schedule for 2016

**Week 15 – Saul:** In this week’s readings Israel asks Samuel to give them a king like the pagan nations have. It is a request that Samuel tries to talk them out of but the people demand it anyway. The problem wasn’t that having a king was evil in itself; the problem came from the people’s motivation for a king. Up until that time, God had been their king. He had been the One who had gone before them into battle. He had been the One who had been their Judge. He had been the One who had saved them and now the people wanted a human king in that place. They wanted to be as they say in 1<sup>st</sup> Samuel 8:20, “...like all the other nations.”

Samuel warned them that they had it better than any nation with a king and that a king would not be the wonderful experience they thought it would be, but the people didn’t listen. So, like a parent who knows that what their teenager wants is not going to be good for them but they demand it anyway, God lets Israel have their king. Some of their kings would be good and God-fearing men but most would be greedy, selfish tyrants who would lead Israel away from the Lord. But through it all, God was faithful to Israel and continued to move His plan to save all humanity through the descendants of Abraham.

- December 19, 2016 – 1<sup>st</sup> Samuel 8:1-22 – Israel asks for a king other than God.
- December 20, 2016 – 1<sup>st</sup> Samuel 9:1-14 – Saul is chosen to be Israel’s King
- December 21, 2016 – 1<sup>st</sup> Samuel 9:15-10:1 – Saul is made King
- December 22, 2016 – 1<sup>st</sup> Samuel 11:1-11 – Saul begins by defending God’s people
- December 23, 2016 – 1<sup>st</sup> Samuel 13:5-14 – Saul doesn’t wait for Samuel.
- December 24, 2016 – 1<sup>st</sup> Samuel 14:1 & 14:6-23 – The Lord uses Jonathan to save Israel.
- December 25, 2016 – 1<sup>st</sup> Samuel 15:1-9 – Saul disobeys God

**This week’s “*Stuff They Didn’t Teach Me In Sunday School*” suggested videos:**

- ☞ December 21 Reading - **Episode 064: Israel Will Call Him King, But God Won't**

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## **“The Plan”**

South Shore Trinity's Bible Reading schedule for 2016

**Week 16 – Saul and David:** This week Saul’s disobeying of God has resulted in him being rejected by God as king over Israel and a new king anointed to replace him. This king, King David, will also be far from a perfect king, but the difference will be in what the two kings do with their lives and their mistakes. Where Saul has been self-centered, David will be God-centered. Where Saul has made excuses for his sin and has tried to blame it on the people, David will confess his sin and repent of it. Neither man was perfect, far from it, but David tried to keep God first and confessed and repented of his sins.

- December 26, 2016 – 1<sup>st</sup> Samuel 15:10-29 – Saul is rejected by God
- December 27, 2016 – 1<sup>st</sup> Samuel 16:1-13 – David anointed king
- December 28, 2016 – 1<sup>st</sup> Samuel 16:14-23 – David serves Saul
- December 29, 2016 – 1<sup>st</sup> Samuel 17:1-18 – David goes to see his brothers
- December 30, 2016 – 1<sup>st</sup> Samuel 17:19-40 – David prepares for battle
- December 31, 2016 – 1<sup>st</sup> Samuel 17:41-58 – David defeats Goliath
- January 1, 2017 – 1<sup>st</sup> Samuel 18:1-14 – David begins to eclipse Saul

**This week’s “*Stuff They Didn’t Teach Me In Sunday School*” suggested videos:**

- ↳ December 31 Reading - **Episode 065: Battlefield Trophy**

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## **“The Plan”**

South Shore Trinity's Bible Reading schedule for 2016

**Week 17 – Saul and David:** This week we continue to look at the struggle between David and Saul. Throughout the struggle, David keeps his eyes focused on God and God’s purpose while Saul continues to go down the rabbit hole of egotistic, paranoid, self-destruction.

- January 2, 2017 – 1<sup>st</sup> Samuel 19:1-18 – Saul tries to kill David
- January 3, 2017 – 1<sup>st</sup> Samuel 22:1-5 & 24:1-22 – David spares Saul’s life
- January 4, 2017 – 1<sup>st</sup> Samuel 28:1-25 – Saul and the medium
- January 5, 2017 – 1<sup>st</sup> Samuel 31:1- 2<sup>nd</sup> Samuel 1:16 – The death of Saul
- January 6, 2017 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Samuel 2:1-32 – The house of David and Saul go to war
- January 7, 2017 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Samuel 3:6-32 – Joab murders Abner
- January 8, 2017 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Samuel 4:1-5:13 – David anointed over all Israel.

**This week’s “*Stuff They Didn’t Teach Me In Sunday School*” suggested videos:**

- ↳ January 3 Reading - **Episode 066: The Perfect Opportunity**

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