

STORYLINE

THE BIBLE IN ONE YEAR

June 2026

Lament to Kingdom: Jeremiah, Samuel, and the Early Church

June moves through the final chapters of Jeremiah, the entire book of Lamentations, and into 1 and 2 Samuel, while Acts depicts the birth and expansion of the church. We witness the fall of Jerusalem and its aftermath, yet also see the faithful witness of prophets and kings. In Acts, we see the gospel spreading from Jerusalem to the ends of the earth, with Peter, Stephen, Philip, and Paul becoming vessels of God's redemptive mission. Lament and kingdom hope intertwine throughout the month.

Day 1: Broken Covenant and Pentecost

READ

Old Testament: Jeremiah 13-15

New Testament: Acts 1:1-26

Psalm: Psalm 141

REFLECT (Observe • Interpret • Apply)

Observe: What does Jeremiah say about Judah breaking the covenant? What are the disciples waiting for before the church begins?

Interpret: Why does Jeremiah use the image of a linen belt to show God's judgment? What is the significance of choosing Judas' replacement before Pentecost?

Apply: Are you aware of how you break covenant with God? How are you waiting on the Holy Spirit?

EXPLORE (Optional Depth)

Cross-reference: Cross-reference: Jeremiah 13:23 with Acts 1:8. Can the leopard change its spots? The disciples will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon them.

Day 2: Drought and the Coming Spirit

READ

Old Testament: Jeremiah 16-18

New Testament: Acts 2:1-21

Psalm: Psalm 142

REFLECT (Observe • Interpret • Apply)

Observe: What is the state of spiritual drought Jeremiah describes? How does the Holy Spirit come upon the disciples at Pentecost?

Interpret: Why does Jeremiah's life itself become a sign to Judah? What does the Spirit's coming in wind and fire signify?

Apply: How do you experience spiritual drought? Are you open to the Holy Spirit's power?

EXPLORE (Optional Depth)

Cross-reference: Cross-reference: Jeremiah 17:8 with Acts 2:3-4. Those planted by God's river will bear fruit in heat; the Holy Spirit fills the disciples like a rushing wind.

Day 3: Potter and Witness

READ

Old Testament: Jeremiah 19-21

New Testament: Acts 2:22-47

Psalm: Psalm 143

REFLECT (Observe • Interpret • Apply)

Observe: What does God show Jeremiah at the potter's house? How does Peter witness to the resurrection and call people to repent?

Interpret: Why does God use the potter as a metaphor for His authority? How does the resurrection become the centerpiece of Peter's proclamation?

Apply: Do you trust God as the Potter? Are you witnessing to Jesus' resurrection?

EXPLORE (Optional Depth)

Cross-reference: Cross-reference: Jeremiah 18:6 with Acts 2:36. The clay is in the potter's hand; God has made Jesus both Lord and Messiah.

Day 4: Persecution and Healing Power

READ

Old Testament: Jeremiah 22-24

New Testament: Acts 3:1-26

Psalm: Psalm 144

REFLECT (Observe • Interpret • Apply)

Observe: What does Jeremiah prophesy about coming judgment? What healing does Peter perform in the temple, and what explanation does he give?

Interpret: Why does Jeremiah emphasize the coming exile? Why does Peter connect the healed beggar to the fulfillment of Scripture?

Apply: How do you understand God's judgment and mercy? Are you recognizing Jesus in the Old Testament?

EXPLORE (Optional Depth)

Cross-reference: Cross-reference: Jeremiah 23:5-6 with Acts 3:13. A righteous Branch will come; Peter glorifies Jesus as God's servant.

Day 5: False Prophets and Bold Witness

READ

Old Testament: Jeremiah 25-27

New Testament: Acts 4:1-31

Psalm: Psalm 145

REFLECT (Observe • Interpret • Apply)

Observe: How does Jeremiah distinguish true from false prophets? How do Peter and John stand boldly before the Sanhedrin?

Interpret: Why does Jeremiah warn against false prophets who proclaim peace when there is no peace? What enables the disciples to speak boldly despite threats?

Apply: Are you distinguishing truth from deception? Do you speak boldly about Jesus?

EXPLORE (Optional Depth)

Cross-reference: Cross-reference: Jeremiah 27:9-10 with Acts 4:19-20. Don't listen to false prophets; Peter and John cannot help speaking about what they have seen and heard.

Day 6: Coming Captivity and Generosity

READ

Old Testament: Jeremiah 28-30

New Testament: Acts 4:32-5:16

Psalm: Psalm 146

REFLECT (Observe • Interpret • Apply)

Observe: What is Jeremiah's message about the coming captivity, and how do the false prophets respond? What does the early church's generous sharing reveal?

Interpret: Why does Hananiah's false prophecy gain more followers than Jeremiah's truth? How does radical generosity demonstrate kingdom values?

Apply: Where do you prefer comfortable lies to difficult truth? How generous are you with your possessions?

EXPLORE (Optional Depth)

Cross-reference: Cross-reference: Jeremiah 28:8-9 with Acts 5:15. True prophets speak of war and disaster, not just peace; signs and wonders through the apostles authenticate their message.

Day 7: Hope in Exile and Ananias' Death

READ

Old Testament: Jeremiah 31-33

New Testament: Acts 5:17-42

Psalm: Psalm 147

REFLECT (Observe • Interpret • Apply)

Observe: What hope does Jeremiah offer those headed to exile? How do the apostles respond to imprisonment and flogging?

Interpret: Why does Jeremiah promise restoration even in captivity? What does Ananias and Sapphira's death teach about honesty and the Holy Spirit?

Apply: Do you have hope in difficult circumstances? Are you being honest before God?

EXPLORE (Optional Depth)

Cross-reference: Cross-reference: Jeremiah 31:33-34 with Acts 5:40-41. God will write His law on hearts; the apostles rejoice in being counted worthy to suffer.

Day 8: Restoration and Expansion

READ

Old Testament: Jeremiah 34-36

New Testament: Acts 6:1-7:16

Psalm: Psalm 148

REFLECT (Observe • Interpret • Apply)

Observe: What restoration does Jeremiah promise? How does the church organize ministry and who is Stephen?

Interpret: Why does Jeremiah's restoration message follow judgment? Why does the church need to address widows' care and select Spirit-filled leaders?

Apply: Are you involved in serving others? How are you developing in faith?

EXPLORE (Optional Depth)

Cross-reference: Cross-reference: Jeremiah 35:12-14 with Acts 6:10. Jeremiah calls Judah to follow the Rechabites' example; Stephen is full of grace and power.

Day 9: Scroll Burned and Stephen Speaks

READ

Old Testament: Jeremiah 37-39

New Testament: Acts 7:17-53

Psalm: Psalm 149

REFLECT (Observe • Interpret • Apply)

Observe: What happens when the king burns Jeremiah's scroll? How does Stephen trace Israel's history in his defense?

Interpret: Why does God tell Jeremiah to rewrite the scroll despite the king's resistance? Why is Stephen's historical review so offensive to the Sanhedrin?

Apply: How persistent are you when resistance comes? How well do you know Scripture's narrative?

EXPLORE (Optional Depth)

Cross-reference: Cross-reference: Jeremiah 36:32 with Acts 7:51-53. The scroll is rewritten with additional words; Stephen accuses his accusers of resisting the Holy Spirit.

Day 10: Fall of Jerusalem and Stephen's Stoning

READ

Old Testament: Jeremiah 40-42

New Testament: Acts 7:54-8:25

Psalm: Psalm 150

REFLECT (Observe • Interpret • Apply)

Observe: What happens to Jerusalem and Jeremiah? What happens to Stephen and how does the church respond?

Interpret: Why does Jeremiah survive Jerusalem's fall but go to Egypt? Why does Stephen's death mark a turning point in Acts?

Apply: How do you handle loss? Are you witnessing to Jesus at great cost?

EXPLORE (Optional Depth)

Cross-reference: Cross-reference: Jeremiah 40:2-3 with Acts 8:1. The captain speaks Jeremiah free; persecution scatters the church, and they proclaim the good news everywhere.

Day 11: Lamentations and Philip's Mission

READ

Old Testament: Lamentations 1-2

New Testament: Acts 8:26-40

Psalm: Psalm 1

REFLECT (Observe • Interpret • Apply)

Observe: What is the tone and focus of Lamentations? What does Philip's encounter with the Ethiopian reveal?

Interpret: Why does Scripture include a book of lament? Why does Philip explain Isaiah 53 as referring to Jesus?

Apply: Are you allowed to lament? Do you recognize Jesus in the suffering servant passages?

EXPLORE (Optional Depth)

Cross-reference: Cross-reference: Lamentations 1:12 with Acts 8:34-35. Is any suffering like my suffering? Philip explains that Isaiah 53 is about Jesus.

Day 12: Sorrow and Saul's Conversion

READ

Old Testament: Lamentations 3-4

New Testament: Acts 9:1-31

Psalm: Psalm 2

REFLECT (Observe • Interpret • Apply)

Observe: What is the depth of Lamentations' sorrow, and is there any hope? How is Saul converted?

Interpret: Why does the middle of Lamentations shift to hope even amidst devastation? Why does Jesus choose Saul, the church's persecutor?

Apply: Where is your hope in times of grief? How do you respond when God surprises you?

EXPLORE (Optional Depth)

Cross-reference: Cross-reference: Lamentations 3:22-23 with Acts 9:17. God's compassions never fail; Jesus reveals Himself to Saul in a vision.

Day 13: Plea for Restoration and Peter's Vision

READ

Old Testament: Lamentations 5

New Testament: Acts 9:32-10:23

Psalm: Psalm 3

REFLECT (Observe • Interpret • Apply)

Observe: What does Lamentations finally ask God? What does Peter see in his vision on the rooftop?

Interpret: Why does Lamentations end with a question about restoration? What does the vision of unclean foods teach Peter?

Apply: Do you persistently ask God for restoration? How are your cultural boundaries being challenged by God?

EXPLORE (Optional Depth)

Cross-reference: Cross-reference: Lamentations 5:21 with Acts 10:13-15. Restore us to Yourself; Peter sees that God has cleansed all foods and all people.

Day 14: Jeremiah's Final Words and Gentile Reception

READ

Old Testament: Jeremiah 43-45

New Testament: Acts 10:24-11:18

Psalm: Psalm 4

REFLECT (Observe • Interpret • Apply)

Observe: What final promises does Jeremiah give? How do the Gentiles receive the Holy Spirit?

Interpret: Why does Jeremiah continue prophesying even when his words are rejected? What does the Spirit falling on Gentiles mean for the gospel?

Apply: Do you trust God's promises even when rejected? How inclusive is your understanding of salvation?

EXPLORE (Optional Depth)

Cross-reference: Cross-reference: Jeremiah 44:30 with Acts 10:44-46. God will give Pharaoh into the hands of His enemies; the Holy Spirit falls on Gentiles, and they speak in tongues.

Day 15: Oracles Against Nations and Mission

READ

Old Testament: Jeremiah 46-48

New Testament: Acts 11:19-12:17

Psalm: Psalm 5

REFLECT (Observe • Interpret • Apply)

Observe: What does Jeremiah say about the surrounding nations? What is happening to the church in Jerusalem and Antioch?

Interpret: Why does God address the nations through Jeremiah? Why does Herod persecute the church and what is God's response?

Apply: How do you view God's judgment on nations? How are you experiencing His protection?

EXPLORE (Optional Depth)

Cross-reference: Cross-reference: Jeremiah 47:6-7 with Acts 12:23. Woe to the sword of the Lord; Herod is struck down by an angel for accepting divine honor.

Day 16: Edom and First Missionary Journey

READ

Old Testament: Jeremiah 49-50

New Testament: Acts 12:18-13:25

Psalm: Psalm 6

REFLECT (Observe • Interpret • Apply)

Observe: What does Jeremiah say about Edom's pride and Babylon's fall? What commission does the Holy Spirit give to Paul and Barnabas?

Interpret: Why does Jeremiah emphasize the fall of those who trust in themselves? How does the Holy Spirit specifically call Paul and Barnabas to missionary work?

Apply: Where are you proud in your own strength? How are you responding to God's call?

EXPLORE (Optional Depth)

Cross-reference: Cross-reference: Jeremiah 49:16 with Acts 13:2-3. Your pride has deceived you; the Holy Spirit says, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul."

Day 17: Babylon's Judgment and Gospel Preached

READ

Old Testament: Jeremiah 51-52

New Testament: Acts 13:26-52

Psalm: Psalm 7

REFLECT (Observe • Interpret • Apply)

Observe: What is Jeremiah's final message about Babylon? How does Paul preach the gospel and what is the response?

Interpret: Why does Jeremiah emphasize God's sovereignty over mighty Babylon? What does Paul's message about the resurrection accomplish?

Apply: Do you trust God's sovereignty over earthly powers? Are you proclaiming Jesus' resurrection?

EXPLORE (Optional Depth)

Cross-reference: Cross-reference: Jeremiah 51:48-49 with Acts 13:30-31. The heavens and earth will sing; God raised Jesus from the dead.

Day 18: Circumcision Dispute and Council

READ

Old Testament: 1 Samuel 1-3

New Testament: Acts 14:1-15:12

Psalm: Psalm 8

REFLECT (Observe • Interpret • Apply)

Observe: What is Samuel's calling, and what is his role? What dispute arises in the church about circumcision?

Interpret: Why does God call Samuel as a child? Why does the Jerusalem council need to address whether Gentiles must be circumcised?

Apply: How are you hearing God's voice? How do you handle theological disputes?

EXPLORE (Optional Depth)

Cross-reference: Cross-reference: 1 Samuel 3:9-10 with Acts 15:7-11. Samuel says "Speak, for your servant is listening"; Peter testifies that God doesn't discriminate and accepts all who believe.

Day 19: Prophet and Letter of Grace

READ

Old Testament: 1 Samuel 4-6

New Testament: Acts 15:13-16:15

Psalm: Psalm 9

REFLECT (Observe • Interpret • Apply)

Observe: What happens to the ark and what does it reveal about God? How does the Jerusalem council resolve the circumcision question?

Interpret: Why does the ark's capture show Israel's false confidence in religious objects? Why does grace triumph over law in the council's decision?

Apply: Are you trusting in external religious practices? Do you understand salvation as by grace through faith?

EXPLORE (Optional Depth)

Cross-reference: Cross-reference: 1 Samuel 4:3-4 with Acts 15:10-11. Israel relied on the ark as a guarantee; the council writes that we believe salvation comes through grace.

Day 20: David Anointed and Second Missionary Journey

READ

Old Testament: 1 Samuel 7-10

New Testament: Acts 16:16-40

Psalm: Psalm 10

REFLECT (Observe • Interpret • Apply)

Observe: What is Samuel's role and how is David chosen? What happens to Paul and Silas in Philippi?

Interpret: Why does Samuel anoint David secretly while Saul is still king? Why do Paul and Silas sing in prison?

Apply: How are you trusting God's timing? Can you praise God in difficult circumstances?

EXPLORE (Optional Depth)

Cross-reference: Cross-reference: 1 Samuel 10:1 with Acts 16:31. Samuel anoints David king in secret; the jailer asks what he must do to be saved, and Paul says "Believe in the Lord Jesus."

Day 21: Saul Rejected and Gentile Believers

READ

Old Testament: 1 Samuel 11-13

New Testament: Acts 17:1-34

Psalm: Psalm 11

REFLECT (Observe • Interpret • Apply)

Observe: What is Saul's first victory and what is his fundamental failure? What does Paul encounter in Athens?

Interpret: Why does God reject Saul for his disobedience? What does Paul's sermon about the "unknown God" reveal about the gospel meeting culture?

Apply: Are you obedient to God? How do you present the gospel to secular minds?

EXPLORE (Optional Depth)

Cross-reference: Cross-reference: 1 Samuel 13:13-14 with Acts 17:26-27. God seeks someone after His own heart; God determined the times set and the exact places where people should live, that they might reach out for Him.

Day 22: David and Goliath and Corinth Ministry

READ

Old Testament: 1 Samuel 14-16

New Testament: Acts 18:1-28

Psalm: Psalm 12

REFLECT (Observe • Interpret • Apply)

Observe: How does David defeat Goliath? What happens to Paul in Corinth?

Interpret: Why does David's trust in God overcome military might? Why does Paul stay in Corinth for 18 months?

Apply: Do you face giants with faith in God? How long are you willing to invest in ministry?

EXPLORE (Optional Depth)

Cross-reference: Cross-reference: 1 Samuel 17:45-47 with Acts 18:9-10. David fights in the name of the Lord; Jesus tells Paul not to be afraid but to speak boldly.

Day 23: Saul's Jealousy and Ephesian Miracles

READ

Old Testament: 1 Samuel 17-19

New Testament: Acts 19:1-20

Psalm: Psalm 13

REFLECT (Observe • Interpret • Apply)

Observe: Why does Saul become jealous of David? What happens when Paul encounters disciples who only know John's baptism?

Interpret: How does Saul's jealousy expose the danger of comparing ourselves to others? What does the laying on of hands accomplish?

Apply: Are you struggling with jealousy? Are you filled with the Holy Spirit?

EXPLORE (Optional Depth)

Cross-reference: Cross-reference: 1 Samuel 18:7-8 with Acts 19:11-12. Saul becomes jealous; extraordinary miracles happen through Paul's hands.

Day 24: David's Mercy and Riot in Ephesus

READ

Old Testament: 1 Samuel 20-22

New Testament: Acts 19:21-20:6

Psalm: Psalm 14

REFLECT (Observe • Interpret • Apply)

Observe: How does David show mercy to Saul in the cave? What triggers the riot in Ephesus?

Interpret: Why does David refuse to kill Saul despite the opportunity? Why do craftsmen oppose Paul's message?

Apply: How are you treating those who oppose you? Where do material interests conflict with kingdom values?

EXPLORE (Optional Depth)

Cross-reference: Cross-reference: 1 Samuel 24:10-12 with Acts 19:25-27. David spares Saul's life; Demetrius warns that Paul is turning people away from the goddess Artemis.

Day 25: Hiding and Ministry in Macedonia

READ

Old Testament: 1 Samuel 23-25

New Testament: Acts 20:7-38

Psalms: Psalm 15

REFLECT (Observe • Interpret • Apply)

Observe: What does David do while hiding from Saul? What does Paul teach the Ephesian elders?

Interpret: Why does David gather a ragged army while rejected? What is Paul's legacy and concern for the church?

Apply: Do you serve God in difficult circumstances? Are you caring for God's church?

EXPLORE (Optional Depth)

Cross-reference: Cross-reference: 1 Samuel 22:2 with Acts 20:28. Those in distress gathered to David; Paul charges the elders to shepherd God's flock and be on guard against false teachers.

Day 26: Nabal and Paul's Arrest

READ

Old Testament: 1 Samuel 26-28

New Testament: Acts 21:1-26

Psalms: Psalm 16

REFLECT (Observe • Interpret • Apply)

Observe: How does David again have a chance to kill Saul? What happens to Paul in Jerusalem?

Interpret: Why does David continue to spare Saul's life? Why does Paul submit to Jewish customs despite his freedom in Christ?

Apply: Are you patient with your enemies? How do you balance conviction with sensitivity?

EXPLORE (Optional Depth)

Cross-reference: Cross-reference: 1 Samuel 26:23-24 with Acts 21:23-25. The Lord rewards everyone for his righteousness; James suggests Paul show respect for the law by taking a vow.

Day 27: Saul's Death and Paul's Defense

READ

Old Testament: 1 Samuel 29-31

New Testament: Acts 21:27-22:16

Psalm: Psalm 17

REFLECT (Observe • Interpret • Apply)

Observe: What is Saul's tragic end? How does Paul defend himself to the crowd?

Interpret: Why does Saul's unfaithfulness lead to his downfall? What is significant about Paul recounting his conversion?

Apply: How are you finishing faithfully? Are you willing to give your testimony?

EXPLORE (Optional Depth)

Cross-reference: Cross-reference: 1 Samuel 31:4-5 with Acts 22:15. Saul falls on his sword; Paul is chosen to be a witness of what he has seen and heard.

Day 28: David's Lament and Council Hearing

READ

Old Testament: 2 Samuel 1-3

New Testament: Acts 22:17-23:11

Psalm: Psalm 18

REFLECT (Observe • Interpret • Apply)

Observe: How does David respond to Saul's death? What strategy does Paul use before the Sanhedrin?

Interpret: Why is David's lament for Saul significant despite Saul's opposition? Why does Paul mention the resurrection before the council?

Apply: How do you respond to those who oppose you? How central is the resurrection to your faith?

EXPLORE (Optional Depth)

Cross-reference: Cross-reference: 2 Samuel 1:19 with Acts 23:8. David laments the mighty have fallen; Paul appeals to the Pharisees by speaking about the hope of resurrection.

Day 29: David King and Paul's Vision

READ

Old Testament: 2 Samuel 4-6

New Testament: Acts 23:12-24:27

Psalms: Psalm 19

REFLECT (Observe • Interpret • Apply)

Observe: How does David become king of all Israel? What does the Lord promise Paul?

Interpret: Why is the transition from Saul to David significant? What does Jesus' promise to Paul reveal about His care?

Apply: How are you submitting to God's authority? Do you experience Jesus' presence?

EXPLORE (Optional Depth)

Cross-reference: Cross-reference: 2 Samuel 5:3 with Acts 23:11. All the tribes came to David and anointed him; Jesus stands by Paul and says, "As you have testified about me in Jerusalem, you must also testify in Rome."

Day 30: Ark and Appeal to Caesar

READ

Old Testament: 2 Samuel 7-9

New Testament: Acts 25:1-26:32

Psalms: Psalm 20

REFLECT (Observe • Interpret • Apply)

Observe: What eternal covenant does God make with David? How does Paul defend himself before Agrippa?

Interpret: Why does God promise David an eternal dynasty? Why does Paul appeal to Caesar and why does Agrippa find him innocent?

Apply: Do you believe in God's eternal purposes? Are you witnessing boldly?

EXPLORE (Optional Depth)

Cross-reference: Cross-reference: 2 Samuel 7:13 with Acts 26:23. David's descendant will build a house for God's name; Paul testifies that the Messiah would suffer, rise from the dead, and proclaim light to Jews and Gentiles.