

# **STORYLINE**

**THE BIBLE IN ONE YEAR**

**May 2026**

**Love, Suffering, and Resurrection: Song to Gospel's End**

May moves through Song of Solomon, Isaiah, and into Jeremiah's lament, while John's Gospel reaches its climax with Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection. We witness love celebrated, the Suffering Servant revealed, and ultimately the resurrection that conquered death. The month begins with romantic love and concludes with Jesus' post-resurrection commissioning—the foundation for all that follows.

## Day 1: Love and New Beginning

### READ

**Old Testament:** Song of Solomon 1-2

**New Testament:** John 1:1-28

**Psalm:** Psalm 111

### REFLECT (Observe • Interpret • Apply)

**Observe:** What does the Song celebrate about love and desire? How does John's prologue describe Jesus as the Word, and what does it mean that He was "before all things"?

**Interpret:** Why does Scripture celebrate romantic love in the Song? What does "the Word" (Logos) reveal about Jesus' divine nature and purpose?

**Apply:** How do you understand love—both human and divine—in light of these texts? How does Jesus as the Word reshape your understanding of creation and meaning?

### EXPLORE (Optional Depth)

**Cross-reference:** Cross-reference: Song of Solomon 2:4 with John 3:16. Love is the foundation of creation; Jesus' love sent Him to die for the world.

## Day 2: Desire and the Word Made Flesh

### READ

**Old Testament:** Song of Solomon 3-4

**New Testament:** John 1:29-51

**Psalm:** Psalm 112

### REFLECT (Observe • Interpret • Apply)

**Observe:** What imagery does the Song use to describe longing and union? What does John reveal about Jesus' identity through John the Baptist and the disciples' confessions?

**Interpret:** How does the Song present the pursuit of love as central to human experience? Why does John emphasize Jesus as "the Lamb of God" and the fulfillment of messianic promise?

**Apply:** What does it mean to pursue Jesus with the intensity the Song describes? How do you respond to His call to "follow me"?

### EXPLORE (Optional Depth)

**Cross-reference:** Cross-reference: Song of Solomon 3:1-4 with John 1:41-42. Seeking and finding beloved; Andrew finds Jesus and brings his brother Peter.

## Day 3: Union and Signs of Glory

### READ

**Old Testament:** Song of Solomon 5-6

**New Testament:** John 2:1-25

**Psalm:** Psalm 113

### REFLECT (Observe • Interpret • Apply)

**Observe:** What does the Song say about the beloved's beauty and the speaker's longing? What does Jesus' first sign (turning water to wine) reveal about His character?

**Interpret:** Why does the Song emphasize mutual desire and satisfaction? Why does Jesus perform His first miracle at a wedding, and what does it signify?

**Apply:** Are you satisfied in Christ? What does it mean that Jesus came to give abundant life, symbolized in the wine at Cana?

### EXPLORE (Optional Depth)

**Cross-reference:** Cross-reference: Song of Solomon 5:16 with John 1:14. The beloved is "altogether lovely"; Jesus' glory is full of grace and truth.

## Day 4: Separation and Rebirth

### READ

**Old Testament:** Song of Solomon 7-8

**New Testament:** John 3:1-21

**Psalm:** Psalm 114

### REFLECT (Observe • Interpret • Apply)

**Observe:** How does the Song conclude? What does Jesus teach Nicodemus about being "born again," and why is this conversation pivotal?

**Interpret:** What does the Song's ending reveal about love's permanence? Why does Jesus emphasize spiritual rebirth over religious observance?

**Apply:** Have you been born again? How does understanding your identity as loved by God reshape your priorities?

### EXPLORE (Optional Depth)

**Cross-reference:** Cross-reference: Song of Solomon 8:6 with John 3:16. Love is strong as death, jealous as Sheol; God loved the world and gave His only Son.

## Day 5: Judgment and Water of Life

### READ

**Old Testament:** Isaiah 1-2

**New Testament:** John 3:22-4:15

**Psalm:** Psalm 115

### REFLECT (Observe • Interpret • Apply)

**Observe:** What does Isaiah condemn about Judah's religious practice? What is Jesus teaching the Samaritan woman, and why is her identity significant?

**Interpret:** Why does Isaiah call for justice and righteousness rather than empty ritual? What does "living water" symbolize in Jesus' conversation?

**Apply:** Where do you rely on external religious performance rather than internal transformation? What does it mean to thirst for Jesus?

### EXPLORE (Optional Depth)

**Cross-reference:** Cross-reference: Isaiah 1:18 with John 4:14. Though sins are scarlet, they can become white; Jesus offers water that becomes a spring of eternal life.

## Day 6: Vision and New Life

### READ

**Old Testament:** Isaiah 3-5

**New Testament:** John 4:16-54

**Psalm:** Psalm 116

### REFLECT (Observe • Interpret • Apply)

**Observe:** What does Isaiah see in his vision in the temple? How does the Samaritan woman's faith contrast with her past, and what does Jesus offer the official's son?

**Interpret:** Why does Isaiah's experience of God's holiness lead to confession of sin and commission? What does the woman's testimony reveal about authentic faith?

**Apply:** Have you had a vision of God's holiness? How has encountering Jesus changed your witness to others?

### EXPLORE (Optional Depth)

**Cross-reference:** Cross-reference: Isaiah 6:5 with John 4:39. Isaiah cries out in uncleanness; the Samaritan woman becomes a witness to her whole town.

## Day 7: Judgment and Healing Authority

### READ

**Old Testament:** Isaiah 6-8

**New Testament:** John 5:1-24

**Psalms:** Psalm 117

### REFLECT (Observe • Interpret • Apply)

**Observe:** What is Isaiah called to do after his vision? What does Jesus' healing on the Sabbath reveal about His authority, and how do the religious leaders respond?

**Interpret:** Why does Isaiah's message of judgment follow his own cleansing? Why does Jesus claim authority equal to God the Father?

**Apply:** How do you respond when Jesus' authority challenges your expectations? What would it look like to trust His judgment?

### EXPLORE (Optional Depth)

**Cross-reference:** Cross-reference: Isaiah 6:9-10 with John 5:39-40. Isaiah is sent to a people who won't listen; Jesus criticizes those who search Scripture but don't come to Him for life.

## Day 8: A Child Will Lead and Life-Giving Power

### READ

**Old Testament:** Isaiah 9-10

**New Testament:** John 5:25-6:14

**Psalms:** Psalm 118

### REFLECT (Observe • Interpret • Apply)

**Observe:** What messianic promises does Isaiah make about a coming child? What does Jesus teach about the source of life and true bread?

**Interpret:** How do the titles given to the child (Wonderful Counselor, etc.) point to Jesus? What does Jesus mean by "I am the bread of life"?

**Apply:** How do you see Jesus in Isaiah's messianic predictions? What are you feeding your soul?

### EXPLORE (Optional Depth)

**Cross-reference:** Cross-reference: Isaiah 9:6-7 with John 6:35. The child born would be called these names; Jesus is the bread that gives eternal life.

## Day 9: A Righteous Branch and Bread from Heaven

### READ

**Old Testament:** Isaiah 11-13

**New Testament:** John 6:15-40

**Psalms:** Psalm 119:1-88

### REFLECT (Observe • Interpret • Apply)

**Observe:** What does Isaiah promise about a righteous branch and the peace He will bring? How do the crowds respond to Jesus, and what is He teaching about belief?

**Interpret:** How does the image of the Branch describe Jesus' reign? What does Jesus emphasize about His Father's will?

**Apply:** Do you believe in Jesus as the one sent by God? How are you aligning your will with the Father's?

### EXPLORE (Optional Depth)

**Cross-reference:** Cross-reference: Isaiah 11:1 with John 6:38. A shoot from Jesse's stump; Jesus came not to do His own will but the Father's.

## Day 10: Song of Salvation and Offended Disciples

### READ

**Old Testament:** Isaiah 14-16

**New Testament:** John 6:41-71

**Psalms:** Psalm 119:89-176

### REFLECT (Observe • Interpret • Apply)

**Observe:** What does Isaiah say about Babylon's fall? Why do many disciples find Jesus' teaching about eating His flesh and drinking His blood offensive?

**Interpret:** How does Isaiah's vision of judgment on Babylon relate to God's sovereignty? What is Jesus saying about genuine belief?

**Apply:** Are you offended by Jesus' teaching? What does it mean to truly believe in Him?

### EXPLORE (Optional Depth)

**Cross-reference:** Cross-reference: Isaiah 14:12 with John 6:70. Satan's fall from heaven; Jesus warns about one of the Twelve who is a devil.

## Day 11: Prophecy of Moab and Questioning Authority

### READ

**Old Testament:** Isaiah 17-19

**New Testament:** John 7:1-27

**Psalms:** Psalm 120

### REFLECT (Observe • Interpret • Apply)

**Observe:** What does Isaiah say about the nations surrounding Judah? Why are the Jewish leaders confused about Jesus' teaching and authority?

**Interpret:** Why does Isaiah speak judgment on multiple nations? What does Jesus reveal about the source of His teaching?

**Apply:** Where do you doubt Jesus' authority? How does trusting His teaching transform your life?

### EXPLORE (Optional Depth)

**Cross-reference:** Cross-reference: Isaiah 19:25 with John 7:28. God will bless Egypt alongside Israel; Jesus teaches that knowing the Father is essential to understanding His mission.

## Day 12: The Vineyard and Living Water

### READ

**Old Testament:** Isaiah 20-22

**New Testament:** John 7:28-8:11

**Psalms:** Psalm 121

### REFLECT (Observe • Interpret • Apply)

**Observe:** What does Isaiah's parable of the vineyard reveal about God's judgment? What does Jesus teach about living water and true judgment?

**Interpret:** Why does Isaiah use the vineyard as a metaphor for Israel's relationship with God? How does Jesus' teaching about judgment differ from the Pharisees'?

**Apply:** Are you bearing fruit for God? How do you judge others differently after encountering Jesus?

### EXPLORE (Optional Depth)

**Cross-reference:** Cross-reference: Isaiah 5:1-7 with John 8:7-11. God's vineyard failed to produce justice; Jesus shows mercy to the woman caught in adultery.

## Day 13: Comfort and Light of the World

### READ

**Old Testament:** Isaiah 23-25

**New Testament:** John 8:12-59

**Psalm:** Psalm 122

### REFLECT (Observe • Interpret • Apply)

**Observe:** What does Isaiah say about comfort for God's people? What does Jesus mean by being "the light of the world"?

**Interpret:** Why does Isaiah speak comfort after judgment? Why does Jesus' claim about light provoke such opposition from the Pharisees?

**Apply:** Do you believe Jesus is the light? How are you walking in His light?

### EXPLORE (Optional Depth)

**Cross-reference:** Cross-reference: Isaiah 25:8 with John 8:12. God will swallow up death and wipe away tears; Jesus is the light of the world, and those who follow Him won't walk in darkness.

## Day 14: Trust and the Blind Man Sees

### READ

**Old Testament:** Isaiah 26-27

**New Testament:** John 9:1-41

**Psalm:** Psalm 123

### REFLECT (Observe • Interpret • Apply)

**Observe:** What does Isaiah call Israel to do in trust? What does the blind man's healing and testimony reveal about faith and resistance?

**Interpret:** Why does Isaiah emphasize steadfast trust in God? Why does the blind man's simple faith contrast with the Pharisees' certainty?

**Apply:** Are you trusting God fully? How does blindness to spiritual truth affect your judgment of others?

### EXPLORE (Optional Depth)

**Cross-reference:** Cross-reference: Isaiah 26:3 with John 9:39. Perfect peace for those whose mind is stayed on God; Jesus came so that the blind might see and those who see might become blind.

## Day 15: Stubborn Children and the Good Shepherd

### READ

**Old Testament:** Isaiah 28-30

**New Testament:** John 10:1-30

**Psalm:** Psalm 124

### REFLECT (Observe • Interpret • Apply)

**Observe:** How does Isaiah describe Israel's stubborn resistance to God's word? What does Jesus teach about being the Good Shepherd?

**Interpret:** Why does Isaiah use harsh language to confront Israel? What does the image of a shepherd reveal about Jesus' care?

**Apply:** Are you listening to God's voice? Do you trust the Good Shepherd?

### EXPLORE (Optional Depth)

**Cross-reference:** Cross-reference: Isaiah 28:12 with John 10:27. Rest is the way of salvation; Jesus' sheep hear His voice and follow Him.

## Day 16: Strength and One Flock

### READ

**Old Testament:** Isaiah 31-33

**New Testament:** John 10:31-11:16

**Psalm:** Psalm 125

### REFLECT (Observe • Interpret • Apply)

**Observe:** What does Isaiah say about God as strength? What does Jesus teach about His flock becoming one, and what is the cost?

**Interpret:** Why does Isaiah warn against relying on horses and chariots? Why does Jesus speak of laying down His life?

**Apply:** Where are you seeking strength in the wrong places? Are you willing to follow Jesus to death?

### EXPLORE (Optional Depth)

**Cross-reference:** Cross-reference: Isaiah 31:1 with John 10:37-38. Woe to those who rely on horses; Jesus calls belief to rest on His works.

## Day 17: Justice and Resurrection Power

### READ

**Old Testament:** Isaiah 34-36

**New Testament:** John 11:17-57

**Psalm:** Psalm 126

### REFLECT (Observe • Interpret • Apply)

**Observe:** What does Isaiah say about God's judgment and restoration? What does Jesus' raising of Lazarus reveal about His power over death?

**Interpret:** How does judgment lead to restoration in Isaiah's vision? Why does the raising of Lazarus cause such polarized responses?

**Apply:** Do you believe Jesus can raise the dead—both spiritually and literally? How does this power reshape your fears?

### EXPLORE (Optional Depth)

**Cross-reference:** Cross-reference: Isaiah 35:5-6 with John 11:43-44. The blind will see, the deaf hear; Jesus calls Lazarus from death with a loud voice.

## Day 18: God's Deliverance and Anointing for Death

### READ

**Old Testament:** Isaiah 37-39

**New Testament:** John 12:1-26

**Psalm:** Psalm 127

### REFLECT (Observe • Interpret • Apply)

**Observe:** How does God deliver Judah from Assyria? What does Mary's anointing of Jesus foreshadow?

**Interpret:** Why does Isaiah emphasize God's miraculous deliverance? What does Jesus' acceptance of anointing for burial reveal about His coming death?

**Apply:** How are you anointing Jesus with your devotion? Are you prepared for His calling on your life?

### EXPLORE (Optional Depth)

**Cross-reference:** Cross-reference: Isaiah 37:35 with John 12:32. God will save the city; when Jesus is lifted up, He will draw all people to Himself.

## Day 19: Comfort and Glory Revealed

### READ

**Old Testament:** Isaiah 40-42

**New Testament:** John 12:27-50

**Psalm:** Psalm 128

### REFLECT (Observe • Interpret • Apply)

**Observe:** What is the message of comfort Isaiah brings? What does Jesus teach about His glorification and judgment?

**Interpret:** Why does Isaiah begin his message of comfort with "Comfort, comfort my people"? Why does Jesus speak of judgment through belief or unbelief?

**Apply:** Do you need God's comfort? How are you responding to Jesus' offer of salvation?

### EXPLORE (Optional Depth)

**Cross-reference:** Cross-reference: Isaiah 40:5 with John 12:41. The glory of the Lord will be revealed; Isaiah saw Jesus' glory and spoke of Him.

## Day 20: Chosen Servant and Foot Washing

### READ

**Old Testament:** Isaiah 43-45

**New Testament:** John 13:1-30

**Psalm:** Psalm 129

### REFLECT (Observe • Interpret • Apply)

**Observe:** What does Isaiah say about God's chosen servant? What does Jesus teach through washing the disciples' feet?

**Interpret:** How does the servant passage point to Jesus? Why does Jesus emphasize servanthood and humility?

**Apply:** How are you serving others? What does it mean to wash each other's feet?

### EXPLORE (Optional Depth)

**Cross-reference:** Cross-reference: Isaiah 43:1 with John 13:34-35. God calls us by name and redeems us; Jesus gives a new command: love one another as I have loved you.

## Day 21: Redemption and Preparation for Departure

### READ

**Old Testament:** Isaiah 46-48

**New Testament:** John 13:31-14:31

**Psalms:** Psalm 130

### REFLECT (Observe • Interpret • Apply)

**Observe:** What does Isaiah emphasize about God's power to redeem? What does Jesus promise about His departure and return?

**Interpret:** How does Isaiah contrast God with idols? What hope does Jesus offer in His farewell discourse?

**Apply:** Are you trusting in Jesus' promise? How are you preparing your heart for His return?

### EXPLORE (Optional Depth)

**Cross-reference:** Cross-reference: Isaiah 46:4 with John 14:6. From birth God has carried you; Jesus is the way, truth, and life.

## Day 22: Suffering Servant and the Holy Spirit

### READ

**Old Testament:** Isaiah 49-51

**New Testament:** John 15:1-27

**Psalms:** Psalm 131

### REFLECT (Observe • Interpret • Apply)

**Observe:** What does Isaiah reveal about the servant's suffering and restoration? What does Jesus teach about remaining in Him?

**Interpret:** How does the suffering servant passage point to Jesus' crucifixion? What does the vine metaphor reveal about spiritual life?

**Apply:** Are you bearing fruit? How are you remaining connected to Jesus?

### EXPLORE (Optional Depth)

**Cross-reference:** Cross-reference: Isaiah 50:6 with John 15:18-20. The servant offers his back to smiters; those who hate Jesus will hate His disciples.

## Day 23: Salvation and Persecution Warning

### READ

**Old Testament:** Isaiah 52-54

**New Testament:** John 16:1-15

**Psalms:** Psalm 132

### REFLECT (Observe • Interpret • Apply)

**Observe:** What does Isaiah say about the servant's death and exaltation? What does Jesus warn about persecution and the Holy Spirit's role?

**Interpret:** Why is the servant's death described as bearing our griefs and carrying our sorrows? How does the Holy Spirit convict the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment?

**Apply:** Do you understand Jesus' death as bearing your sin? Are you filled with the Holy Spirit?

### EXPLORE (Optional Depth)

**Cross-reference:** Cross-reference: Isaiah 53:5-6 with John 16:8-11. By His stripes we are healed; the Holy Spirit convicts of sin because people don't believe in Jesus.

## Day 24: Covenant and Peace

### READ

**Old Testament:** Isaiah 55-57

**New Testament:** John 16:16-33

**Psalms:** Psalm 133

### REFLECT (Observe • Interpret • Apply)

**Observe:** What does Isaiah say about God's covenant and peace? What does Jesus promise about joy and peace in the midst of tribulation?

**Interpret:** How does Isaiah invite the thirsty to drink freely? Why does Jesus speak of ongoing trials yet ultimate peace?

**Apply:** Are you drinking freely from God's grace? Do you have peace in Christ despite circumstances?

### EXPLORE (Optional Depth)

**Cross-reference:** Cross-reference: Isaiah 55:1 with John 16:33. Come, all who are thirsty; Jesus has overcome the world and offers His peace.

## Day 25: Justice and Jesus' Prayer

### READ

**Old Testament:** Isaiah 58-60

**New Testament:** John 17:1-26

**Psalm:** Psalm 134

### REFLECT (Observe • Interpret • Apply)

**Observe:** What does Isaiah say justice and compassion look like? How does Jesus pray for His disciples and future believers?

**Interpret:** Why does Isaiah emphasize social justice over religious ritual? What is Jesus' deepest prayer request?

**Apply:** Are you practicing justice and compassion? Do you believe Jesus' prayer for your sanctification?

### EXPLORE (Optional Depth)

**Cross-reference:** Cross-reference: Isaiah 58:6-7 with John 17:20-23. True fasting includes releasing the oppressed; Jesus prays that believers be one, brought to complete unity.

## Day 26: Splendor and the Garden

### READ

**Old Testament:** Isaiah 61-63

**New Testament:** John 18:1-27

**Psalm:** Psalm 135

### REFLECT (Observe • Interpret • Apply)

**Observe:** What is the Spirit's anointing in Isaiah 61? How does Jesus' arrest unfold, and how does Peter deny knowing Him?

**Interpret:** Why does the Spirit anoint the Lord's messenger to bring good news? Why does Peter's denial reveal his fear?

**Apply:** Have you received the Spirit's anointing? How are you staying faithful to Jesus in difficult moments?

### EXPLORE (Optional Depth)

**Cross-reference:** Cross-reference: Isaiah 61:1 with John 18:37. The Spirit anoints to preach good news; Jesus testifies to the truth, and those of truth hear His voice.

## Day 27: Vindication and Trial

### READ

**Old Testament:** Isaiah 64-66

**New Testament:** John 18:28-19:16

**Psalms:** Psalm 136

### REFLECT (Observe • Interpret • Apply)

**Observe:** What does Isaiah cry out for, and what is God's response? How does Pilate's interrogation of Jesus reveal questions about truth and power?

**Interpret:** Why does Isaiah groan for God's vindication? What does Jesus' trial reveal about the nature of truth and power?

**Apply:** Do you trust God for vindication? How do you understand power and authority?

### EXPLORE (Optional Depth)

**Cross-reference:** Cross-reference: Isaiah 64:8 with John 18:36. We are the clay, You are the potter; Jesus' kingdom is not of this world.

## Day 28: New Heavens and Crucifixion

### READ

**Old Testament:** Jeremiah 1-3

**New Testament:** John 19:17-42

**Psalms:** Psalm 137

### REFLECT (Observe • Interpret • Apply)

**Observe:** What does Isaiah promise about new heavens and earth? How does John describe Jesus' crucifixion and burial?

**Interpret:** Why does Isaiah end with a vision of restoration? What is the theological significance of the details John includes in the crucifixion?

**Apply:** Do you believe in Jesus' resurrection? How does His death reshape your eternity?

### EXPLORE (Optional Depth)

**Cross-reference:** Cross-reference: Isaiah 65:17 with John 19:30. New heavens and new earth; Jesus said "It is finished" and gave up His spirit.

## Day 29: Jeremiah's Call and Resurrection Morning

### READ

**Old Testament:** Jeremiah 4-6

**New Testament:** John 20:1-18

**Psalm:** Psalm 138

### REFLECT (Observe • Interpret • Apply)

**Observe:** What does Jeremiah struggle with in his calling? How does Jesus' resurrection appear first to Mary Magdalene?

**Interpret:** Why does Jeremiah feel inadequate for his prophetic task? What does Jesus' resurrection mean for His claims and His followers?

**Apply:** How does Jesus' resurrection transform your understanding of death? Have you encountered the risen Jesus?

### EXPLORE (Optional Depth)

**Cross-reference:** Cross-reference: Jeremiah 1:8 with John 20:22. God promises to be with Jeremiah; Jesus breathes His Holy Spirit on the disciples.

## Day 30: Judgment and Commissioning

### READ

**Old Testament:** Jeremiah 7-9

**New Testament:** John 20:19-31

**Psalm:** Psalm 139

### REFLECT (Observe • Interpret • Apply)

**Observe:** What judgment does Jeremiah bring? How does Jesus commission His disciples and respond to Thomas's doubt?

**Interpret:** Why does Jeremiah call for repentance? What is significant about Jesus' commissioning after resurrection?

**Apply:** Have you received Jesus' commission? Do you believe without seeing?

### EXPLORE (Optional Depth)

**Cross-reference:** Cross-reference: Jeremiah 7:23 with John 20:21. God calls for obedience to His voice; Jesus sends the disciples as the Father sent Him.

## Day 31: Weeping Prophet and Epilogue

### READ

**Old Testament:** Jeremiah 10-12

**New Testament:** John 21:1-25

**Psalms:** Psalm 140

### REFLECT (Observe • Interpret • Apply)

**Observe:** Why is Jeremiah known as the weeping prophet? How does John's Gospel conclude with Jesus and Peter by the sea?

**Interpret:** What does Jeremiah's anguish reveal about caring for God's people? What is the significance of Jesus asking Peter three times about love?

**Apply:** How do you love Jesus? Are you following Him faithfully?

### EXPLORE (Optional Depth)

**Cross-reference:** Cross-reference: Jeremiah 12:11 with John 21:22. Jeremiah grieves the desolate land; Jesus calls Peter to follow Him and not worry about others' paths.