



READ TOGETHER



How to embark on the *Read Together* Initiative:

STEP 1

Load the Scripture Readings into your calendar by loading this link into your browser: <https://tinyurl.com/LHMCReadTogether> OR scanning the QR code!

STEP 2

Read the passages. Read with an open heart and Jesus will give you words of encouragement, direction and correction (2 Timothy 3:16).

STEP 3

When Jesus gives you a life lesson, record what He has just shown you.

- Write today's date.
- Give your lesson a title.
- Write down the Scripture(s) of the Day. (*Scripture*)
- Write what you see in the Scripture. (*Observation*)
- Write how you will be different today because of what you have just read. (*Application*)
- Write out your prayer. (*Prayer*)

STEP 4

Conclude your daily devotional time with a prayer for the lesson you have learnt.

Example:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Title</u>
<i>Scripture</i>	<i>"What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the housetops." Matthew 10:27</i>
<i>Observation</i>	<i>If I am not hearing Him in the darkness, what will I speak in the light?! If I am not hearing Him in my ear, what will I proclaim on the housetops?!</i>
<i>Application</i>	<i>What a great word! This scripture reminds me to not only talk to God in prayer, but equally important is to hear Him in prayer!</i>
<i>Prayer</i>	<i>"Dear Jesus, help me to hear You today! I want to be still that I may hear Your marching orders for my day, for my week, for my life. Speak Lord! Your servant is listening!"</i>

FAQ

1) What is the Revised Common Lectionary?

The Revised Common Lectionary (RCL) is a three-year cycle of weekly lections (or readings) used to varying degrees by the vast majority of mainline Protestant churches in Canada and the United States. The RCL is built around the seasons of the Church Year, and includes four lections for each Sunday, as well as additional readings for major feast days. During most of the year, the lections are: a reading from the Old Testament, a Psalm, a reading from the Epistles, and a Gospel reading. During the season of Easter, the Old Testament lection is usually replaced with one from the Acts of the Apostles. The lections from the Old Testament are sometimes chosen from the Apocrypha.

The seasons of the Church Year reflect the life of Christ. Consequently, the gospel lections for each Sunday provide the focus for that day. The other lections for a given day generally have a thematic relationship to the gospel reading for that day, although this is not always the case. In Ordinary Time, the Revised Common Lectionary offers two sets of readings for the lessons from the Old Testament. One set proceeds mostly continuously, giving the story of the Patriarchs and the Exodus in Year A, the monarchial narratives in Year B, and readings from the Prophets in Year C. In the other set of readings for Ordinary Time, the readings from the Old Testament are thematically related to the gospel lections. Denominations or local churches generally use either the semi-continuous readings or the thematic readings during Ordinary Time. They do not typically move back and forth between the two over the course of a single season.

The gospel readings for each year come from one of the synoptic gospels according to the following pattern:

- Year A - Matthew
- Year B - Mark
- Year C - Luke

Readings from the Gospel of John can be found throughout the RCL.

2) When does the new lectionary year begin?

On the first Sunday of Advent. The first Sunday of Advent is four Sundays prior to the Western feast day of Christmas (December 25).

3) How is the Revised Common Lectionary structured?

The RCL offers a three-year cycle with four readings for every Sunday in the Church Year. These readings are:

- A Lesson from the Old Testament (or Acts during the Season of Easter)
- A Psalm
- A Lesson from the Epistles or Acts
- A Lesson from the Gospels

During Ordinary Time, there are two sets of Old Testament readings. One set progresses semi-continuously through the Patriarchal/Exodus narratives (Year A), the Monarchial narratives (Year B), and the Prophets (Year C). The other set is related thematically to the gospel lections for those dates. Likewise, during Ordinary Time, there are two separate Psalm readings, one that corresponds to the semi-continuous Old Testament lection and one that corresponds to the theme of the gospel lection. The Old Testament lections during the rest of the year are thematically related to the gospel lections, which are in turn connected to the seasons of the Church Year. Additional readings are provided for special feast days.