

Joy in July

Reading Plan

July 1, 2025

Nehemiah 8:1-12 (Key Verse: Nehemiah 8:10)

As the Israelites were rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem after returning from exile, Ezra read the Words of God. The people, knowing their past disobedience as a nation and as individuals, began to weep and mourn, but Ezra's encouragement is to not mourn past failures and mistakes, but find joy in the hope of a new and fresh start.

July 2, 2025

Genesis 21:1-7 (Key Verse: Genesis 21:6)

God promised Abraham and Sarah that they would conceive a child and they believed God until they didn't and chose to take things in their own hands. They may have given up on God's promise, but God never gave up on his promise to them.

July 3, 2025

Psalms 16 (Key Verse: Psalm 16:9-11)

Verse 9 in the New Living Translation begins with, "No wonder my heart is glad..." God has been there from before you were born and through every step of your life and in every step, He has been revealing his unending love for you. Stop and pause and give thanks for all the ways God has walked step in step with you.

July 4, 2025

Psalms 30 (Key Verse: Psalm 30:5)

David wrote this psalm as part of the dedication for the temple - the place where he and the people could be closest to the presence of God. Thankfully, we don't need to travel to a temple, journey to Mecca or Zion or any other place. We, as believers,

are the presence of God. His Holy Spirit lives in us. Reread this Psalm while thinking about how thankful you are that God is alive in you.

July 5, 2025

Psalm 37 (Key Verse: Psalm 37:4)

How many promises of God can you find in this psalm?

July 6, 2025

Psalm 51 (Key Verse: Psalm 51:12, 16-17)

King David wrote this psalm at one of his darkest moments. This psalm is the outpouring of his heart after he was confronted with his sins with Bathsheba. No matter what level of sin you struggle with, we all struggle BUT we all share the same God - a God of grace and mercy and forgiveness.

What does it mean to find the joy of our salvation through a broken and contrite heart?

July 7, 2025

Psalm 63 (Key Verse: Psalm 63:7-8)

Do remember what it was like trying to go to sleep on Christmas Eve? It was nearly impossible as you tried to solve the mystery of what would be waiting for you in the morning. That feeling of not being able to sleep was a longing you had for Christmas morning. This feeling is nowhere close to what David was experiencing when he wrote this psalm while hiding in the wilderness and trying to evade a certain death. Imagine needing God like needing to breath - what song would you sing to Him with your first breath?

July 8, 2025

Psalm 84 (Key Verse: Psalm 84:2)

After you finish reading this psalm, listen to "Better is One Day" by Matt Redman. What is God reminding you to be joyful for today?

July 9, 2025

Psalm 92 (Key Verse: Psalm 92:4)

In the New Living Translation, verse 4 begins with, “You thrill me, Lord, with all you have done for me.” What are some of the ways the Lord has thrilled you with all that he has done for you?

July 10, 2025

Psalm 94 (Key Verse: Psalm 94:19)

Maybe it has seemed like you have been slipping a lot lately - like you just can't seem to find your footing. In what ways, can you ask God to renew your hope and cheer as He keeps you from completely falling.

July 11, 2025

Psalm 100 (Key Verse: Psalm 100:1-2)

Truth and Dare Challenge. After you finish reading the Truth (the psalm today), go outside (or stay inside if you want) and shout out at the top of your lungs at least one thing you are joyful for.

July 12, 2025

Psalm 118 (Key Verse: Psalm 118:24)

“His Faithful Love Endures Forever.” Read it. Think it. Say it. Believe it. Repeat it. From the beginning of time, God's love has always been there. Always. Never once was his love not there. Never. Maybe you know this, but don't start your day today, until you believe this!

July 13, 2025

Psalm 119:105-112 (Key Verse: Psalm 119:111)

If you aren't in a hurry today, read all of Psalm 119 - all 176 verses. After you finish reading (whether you read only the snapshot or the entire passage) what is God saying to you today? What is He revealing to you about his character? What is He revealing to you about your identity as a child of God?

July 14, 2025

Psalm 126 (Key Verse: Psalm 126:5)

We all cry. Some more than others, but we all cry. We all experience heart break. Take a minute and think about some of the times you have experienced heart break and then take a look at what God did for you through and after that time.

July 15, 2025

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 (Key Verse: Ecclesiastes 3:4)

"To everything turn, turn, turn" sang The Byrds in "Turn! Turn! Turn!" They may have slightly changed the words, but in 1965 The Byrds made Ecclesiastes 3 a billboard hit. We all go through seasons. Good ones. Bad ones. Easy ones. Rough ones. I don't know where you are right now, but if you are in one of those tough seasons, be encouraged. God doesn't want you there forever. He is writing an amazing story in your life and in order for your story to continue, one page has to turn to the next.

July 16, 2025

Isaiah 9:1-7 (Key Verse: Isaiah 9:3)

The yoke of slavery has been broken in your life. Sin and death no longer have the right to weigh you down with their burdens. Those burdens were voluntarily taken upon Jesus so we wouldn't have to. Shout with joy - a child was given to us. A Son was given to us. He is our Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace.

As the angel to the shepherds said, "Fear not. I bring news of great joy."

Bonus Challenge: Share news of great joy with someone today!

July 17, 2025

Isaiah 55:1-13 (Key Verse: Isaiah 55:12)

Where is an area or relationship in your life where you have seen God cause the seed of the Gospel grow?

July 18, 2025

Zephaniah 3:1-20 (Key Verse: Zephaniah 3:17)

This chapter in Zephaniah is entitled, "Jerusalem's Rebellion and Redemption." If someone was to write a chapter or maybe even a song about your rebellion and redemption, what would they write?

July 19, 2025

Matthew 2:1-12 (Key Verse: Matthew 2:10)

Matthew takes a moment out of the nativity story to describe the emotional state of these wise men who had traveled to find the newly born "King of the Jews." In your own journey of finding Jesus, how would you describe your emotional state upon seeing his promises in your life?

July 20, 2025

Luke 15:1-7 (Key Verse: Luke 15:7)

This parable of the lost sheep is only one of three parables in this chapter that Jesus uses to show God's heart toward the lost. It illustrates how God reacts when people reject Him through foolish choices: He goes after them!

July 21, 2025

John 15:1-17 (Key Verse: John 15:11)

"Remain" is the theme of this passage and the most repeated word in it as well. Jesus calls us to remain in Him, not because we have to, but because we want to.

Our obedience, ultimately leads to His glory and it also happens to be the best possible thing we can do!

July 22, 2025

John 16:16-33 (Key Verse: John 16:22-24)

Some of the greatest joys don't always come very easy or without pain. Moms...I know you hear me on this one. Childbirth is far from a pain-free experience, but ultimately, the reward is worth the difficulties and pain. As Jesus shared this with his disciples, He understood the pains He would suffer in His near future, but the reward (life with you and me) made it worth it.

July 23, 2025

Romans 12:9-21 (Key Verse: Romans 12:12-15)

This passage gives us an awesome look at what the Jesus-Shaped life looks like. As believers, we must serve with enthusiasm, rejoice in our future and be patient in our present. We must love God, love others and even love our enemies.

Challenge: Ask God to give you his compassion for others today and be on the look out for someone to rejoice with or weep with!

July 24, 2025

Romans 15:8-13 (Key Verse: Romans 15:13)

In this key verse, Paul is asking the God of Hope to fill these believers with joy and peace. He isn't asking God to give them these things so that they will believe, but that through their belief, they may be filled with an overflowing amount of joy and peace.

July 25, 2025

Hebrews 11:1-12:2 (Key Verse: Hebrews 12:2)

The great cloud of witnesses in 12:1 is referring to all of the people in chapter 11 and all of the people in our lives who have demonstrated faith and encouraged us in the

faith. In 12:2, the author says that “for the joy set before Him.” The joy Jesus experienced wasn’t happiness or thrill that He was about to die. The joy Jesus felt was knowing that you and I would be able to experience eternity with Him. Specifically, his joy was (fill in your name here).

July 26, 2025

1 Thessalonians 5:12-22 (Key Verse: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)

Paul gives the church a basic formula for joy in this passage. First, be in constant relationship with God. Secondly, choose to have a grateful spirit and thankful heart. The result: living in the kind of joy God purposed for your life.

July 27, 2025

Galatians 5:16-26 (Key Verse: Galatians 5:22-23)

Did you catch that? Paul says that the “fruit” of the Spirit is, not the “fruits” of the Spirit are. They all work in unity. Joy is part of being loving. Joy is part of being peaceful. Joy is part of being patient. Joy is part of being kind. Joy is part of being good. Joy is part of being faithful. Joy is part of being gentle. Joy is part of having self-control. If you are struggling to find joy today, strive harder to be more of the other things. The result may not be that you find joy, rather that joy may find you!

July 28, 2025

Philippians 4:2-9 (Key Verse: Philippians 4:4)

No matter the circumstance or circumstances. Whether they are happening because of our choices or other reasons, having a proper focus on positive things, helps us experience peace through the power of the Holy Spirit.

July 29, 2025

James 1:2-18 (Key Verse: James 1:2-3)

This is a challenging command - “Consider it great joy.” As Christians, we need to classify hard things in our lives as joyful, because hard times help us develop a

deeper trust in God and Christians who trust God seek wisdom from Him and Him alone. There is no denying that hard times are - hard, but in those times, often God is challenging us to let something die so that more of Him can find life in us. This is what we call the Jesus-Shaped Journey.

July 30, 2025

1 Peter 1:3-12 (Key Verse: 1 Peter 1:8-9)

This passage begins with a blessing to God, but also describes how incredibly He has blessed us in Christ. Because Jesus has risen from the dead, our hope is not a wish - it is alive, just as He is alive!

July 31, 2025

1 Peter 4:13-25 (Key Verse: 1 Peter 4:13)

As Christians, we must mentally engage in settling all of our hope in God's future and current grace for us. We must choose to act as those who are God's very own people, rejecting the evil desires that once drove us. Our choices matter. Choose where you put your hope. Choose to be people of joy. Choose to be people who love.