

M	03/11	James 02
T		03
W		04
T		05
F	07/11	1 Peter 01
M		02
T		03
W		04
T		05
F	14/11	2 Peter 01
M		02
T		03
W	19/11	1 John 01
T		02
F		03
M		04
T		05
W	26/11	2 John
T		3 John
F		Jude



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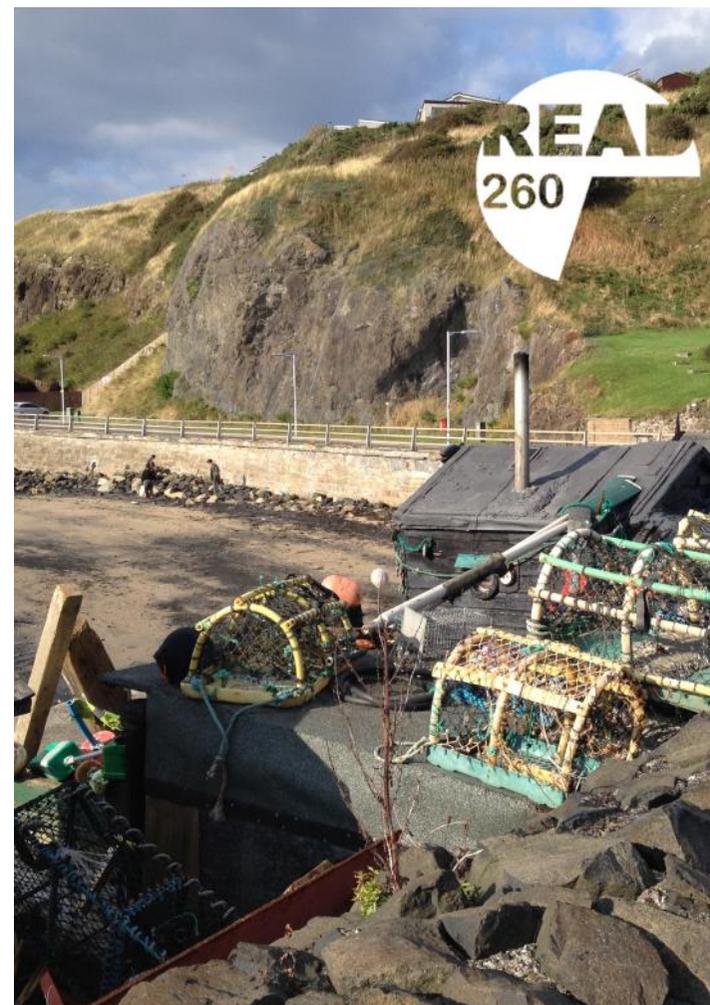
Staff

Adam Broughton (Pastor)
adam@newcraigs.co.uk
☎ 01592 204405

Elders

Adam Broughton
Gavin Struthers
Rob Weir

Newcraigs Evangelical Church
Forres Drive
Kirkcaldy, Fife
KY2 6YL



**THE NEW TESTAMENT
IN ONE YEAR**

*November : James 2
- Jude*

Web: www.newcraigs.co.uk . Tel: 01592 204405



THE NEW TESTAMENT IN ONE YEAR

Did you know there are 260 chapters in the New Testament? Did you also know that there are 260 weekdays in a year? This seemed like an opportunity too good to miss, so here at Newcraigs we're reading the whole New Testament throughout 2014, from Matthew to Revelation.

How you take part is up to you; you might read a chapter each morning before you start the day or go to work, or read together with your family around the dinner table. You might meet up with a few friends, once a week, to read and discuss that week's chapters, or catch up online during your lunch break.

What really matters is that we're listening to God, as he speaks to us through his Word. We want this to be as flexible as it can be. We don't want to stress you out by giving you another thing you "have to do", or make you feel guilty if you miss a day, but we hope that you can carve out some time this year for READ260. The aim is simple; to listen to God, as we read his Word together, and let him transform us.



So here we are; it's the penultimate month of READ260, and with Paul's epistles and Hebrews behind us we're set to gallop through the writings of James, Peter, John and Jude. Each of these authors has a style of his own and makes a unique contribution to the Bible.

I really appreciate how God has communicated, not through sterile, context-free essays, but real people, with personality and history. Each of these men would have known Jesus well, during his time on earth and their experience of him has undoubtedly shaped their writing.

JAMES

James doesn't pull his punches! At the emotional summit of the book he calls us to wholeheartedly follow God; anything less is adultery with the world. James is arguably the most misunderstood book in the New Testament. His passion for good works in the life of believers often leaves people confused; does James contradict Paul? Look a bit closer, though, and you'll see that their message is the same; a life touched by the grace of God should never be the same again. Where faith is real, fruit will grow.

PETER'S LETTERS

Next are Peter's letters. Written at the end of his life, to believers scattered throughout an alien world, Peter draws on a life lived with Jesus to encourage them to live distinctively. Holiness, persecution and Jesus' return all feature strongly in his writings. It seems that Peter's letters are particularly relevant for us today, living in a post-Christian culture, that's often aggressive to Christianity. Like his first readers, we struggle to

stand out, we're beginning to feel the pressure of a society that's moved away, but do we long like they did, above all else, for Jesus to come?

JOHN'S LETTERS

The moment you start reading 1 John you know who's pen it's from. You're taken back to his gospel, with themes of light and darkness, the Word, the world and love, this is clearly the work of John. Described as the disciple Jesus loved and charged with the care of his mother, John was very close to the Lord in his time on earth; he saw his death and experienced him in his resurrection glory, so John writes as only an eye witness could. We'll see more of John's contribution to the New Testament as we spend December in the book of Revelation.

JUDE

Jude was more than likely the brother of James and Jesus (a son of Joseph and Mary), but his humility is a striking feature of the book's opening. What a name drop; "I share the same parents as the Messiah, the Son of God!" but Jude would rather be known as a servant of Jesus. Jude calls his readers to persevere, but in almost the same breath he reminds them that it is God who is able to keep us from falling.

"to the only God our Saviour be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and for evermore! Amen." (Jude 25)

