

# INTRODUCTION

My granddaughter is about to begin college. I'm grateful for the countless ways we've seen God's faithfulness to her and I'm excited to see how he will guide her through her undergraduate years—I'm also a bit anxious. How will she cope with the different challenges of college life; will she find a welcoming and encouraging church; who will be her friends? As I've edited *Discovery* this quarter, I've been reminded that God loves us, he calms our fears, and he provides all that we need.

Our Old Testament readings begin in Leviticus, at the foot of Mount Sinai, where the tabernacle had been filled with God's glory. While the book might seem tedious, don't miss what we learn through God's dealings with the Israelites—he was present and providing everything needed to bring them to himself; he cared about everything concerning them. Good news then that remains the same today!

While Hosea is a book about God's judgment for rebellious Israel, it also tells of God's saving love and gracious forgiveness. The prophet offered a message we need today—God loves us, no matter what!

No doubt, we are all familiar with Jonah. Less than a hero, he was someone with whom many, if not all of us, at one time or another, can identify —rebellious Jonah eventually did the right thing, but was angry with God about it. God accomplished his purposes for Nineveh, but he also showed his care for Jonah in not only requiring obedience, but also lovingly changing Jonah's heart. What an important story for those of us who sometimes struggle with doing what God says!

In his gospel, Luke wrote the fullest account we have about Jesus, beginning at his birth and continuing to his resurrection. Jesus proclaimed that the gospel was meant for everyone. He loved the outcast and those treated badly. He loved the poor, the sick, small children, and different races; he showed compassion to women. Jesus had come to seek and save the lost, no matter who they were. Of course, Jesus is the same today—all of us are welcome, every one of us is valued by God!

Paul affectionately wrote a letter to the young, persecuted church in Thessalonica. Concerned for them, he encouraged them not to give up and exhorted them to live godly lives, with hope, knowing that Jesus would return. Certainly, we need that encouragement in today's world!

Paul also wrote to Titus, who was struggling with ungodly opposition from outside the church and discord within. He instructed his friend about false teachers and church leadership—and how all believers should act toward one another, as well as how they should interact with unbelievers. Certainly, we need those instructions in our churches!

So many things are related to this quarter's readings: our fears, our confusion, our temptations, and our disobedience. They also relate to God's love, his care, his perseverance, his forgiveness, and his promises for today, tomorrow, and forever. Let's find God and ourselves in their pages.

## Scripture Union's Bible Reading Method

- PRAY** that God would speak to you from the Bible passage.
- READ** the Bible passage slowly and thoughtfully, perhaps more than once.
- REFLECT** on what you've read.
- APPLY** what you learn from the Bible to the situations in your life.
- PRAY** again, using your discoveries from the Bible to guide your prayers.