

Monday: Judges 16:1-31. The Saddest Verse? 'Samson was unaware that God had left him' (v20). Samson's compromises caused him to lose God's anointing and power. How do you prevent or avoid situations that are spiritually harmful to you?

Tuesday: Ruth 1:1-22. Think: Ruth was determined to follow God regardless of past tragedy, past pagan religious beliefs from Moab, or anything that her depressed mother-in-law said to her. Ruth saw something in Naomi's God and said 'Your God will be my God' (v16). How can we live in such a way that people say that of us?

Wednesday: Ruth 2:1-20; 4:9-17. Consider: A chance meeting between Boaz and Ruth is the turning point of the whole story. From then on things seemed to fall into place for Ruth and Naomi and a sad story has a happy ending, as God can be seen working quietly behind the scenes. How has God worked quietly in your life to bring blessing?

Thursday: 1 Samuel 3:1-21. Reflect: God spoke unexpectedly to Samuel at a low period in Israel's history. Under Eli's watch the priesthood had become corrupt and so God bypasses him to speak instead to the young Samuel. In a similar situation today, how can you hear God's voice while others are bypassed?

Friday: 1 Samuel 8:1-21. Notice: Israel's reason for wanting a king is clear in verse 20 - they didn't want to be different from other nations. They failed to see what they'd got under God's leadership. What are the dangers of trying to fit in with the world and of not fully appreciating what we have in God?

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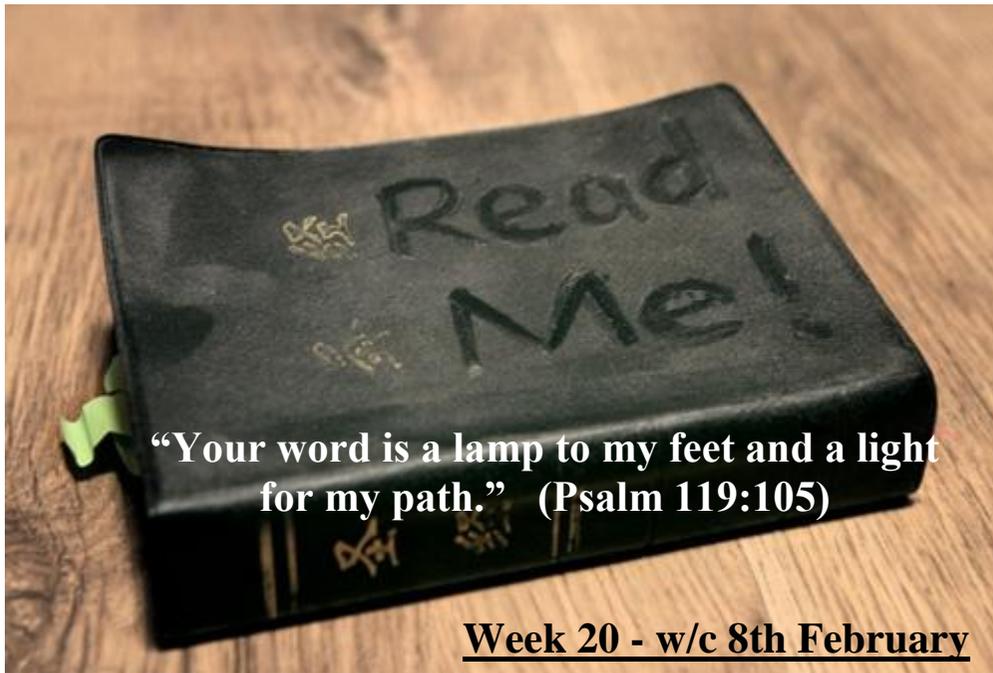
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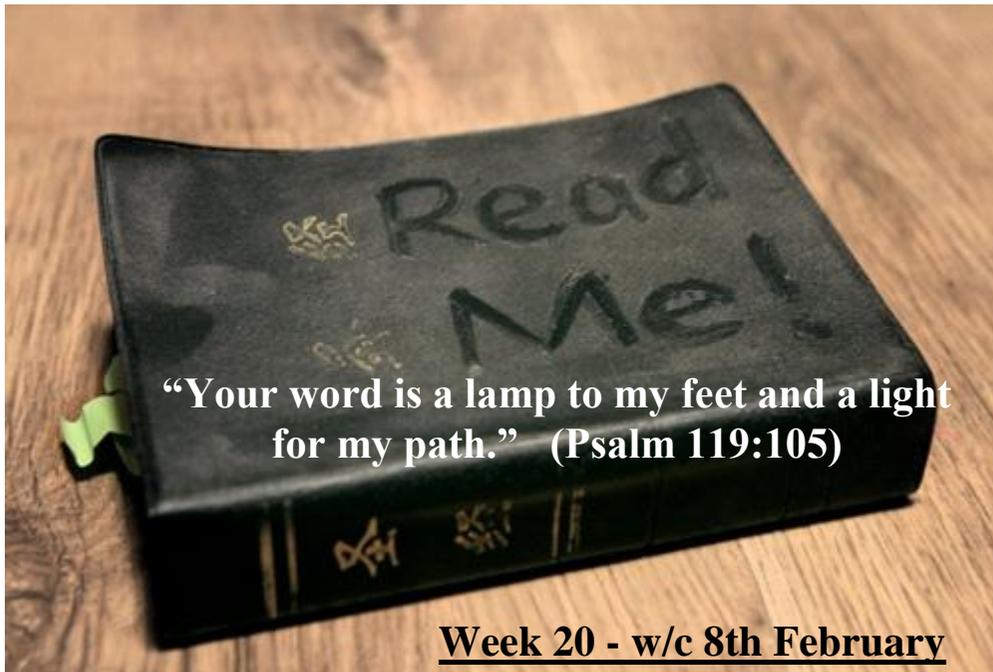
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Week 20 - w/c 8th February



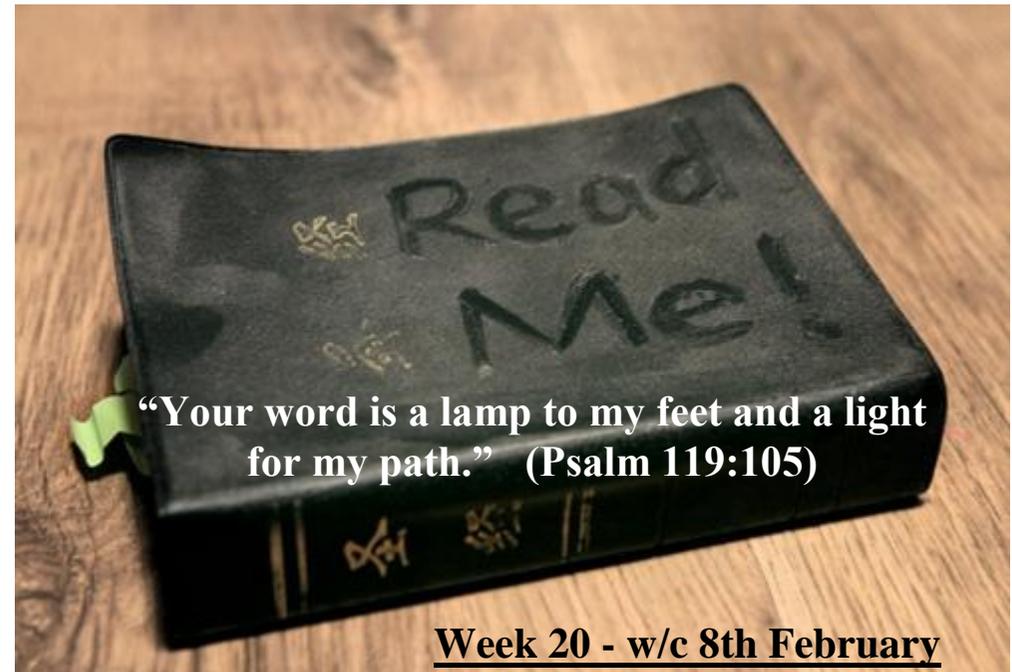
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