

Reading the Bible Together



Bible Reading Plan 2016

Bible Reading Plan

5 minutes a day | If you're not currently reading the Bible, start with 5 minutes a day. This reading plan will take you through selected books of the New & Old Testament.

5 days a week | Determine a time and location to spend 5 minutes a day for 5 days a week. It is best to have a consistent time and a quiet place where you can regularly meet with the Lord.

5 ways to dig deeper | We must pause in our reading to dig into the Bible. Below are 5 different ways to dig deeper each day.

1. **Pray:** Ask God to help you understand and benefit from reading his Word.
2. **Think:** Read the passage through a couple of times. The questions at the end of the booklet are a useful way to explore what is being said.
3. **Retain:** Write down anything that seems important or practical.
4. **Be realistic:** Some parts of the bible are more difficult to understand than others. Peter referred to some matters in Paul's letters that are hard to understand. Don't become demoralised. As we persevere the message of the whole bible will come together.
5. **Pray:** Turn what you have just read into prayer. Thank God for his mercy and ask him for the help of his Spirit to put it into practice.

Two are better than one – think about finding a Bible buddy, someone to meet with or phone or e-mail about what you have both been reading in God's word.

The Psalms.

Each week you will read a Psalm below is an introduction to the Psalter.

The Psalter, contains 150 songs and prayers and these are divided into 5 books. Book 1 (Psalms 1-41) attributes 36 of these to David. As we read these psalms we are reminded of King David and through him of his greater descendant, the Lord Jesus Christ. Their language of opposition "*Lord how many are my foes how many rise up against me..*" (Psalm 3:1) give us an insight into his pressures. Their questions and silences remind us he lived under the same constraints of faith as we do. Their expressions of trust point us to the same refuge that sustained the life of the Lord Jesus while here on earth.

MATTHEW

DATE	✓	PASSAGE
JANUARY		
4 TH	<input type="checkbox"/>	5:1-16
	<input type="checkbox"/>	5:17-47
	<input type="checkbox"/>	6:1-18
	<input type="checkbox"/>	6:19-34
	<input type="checkbox"/>	PSALM 1
11 TH	<input type="checkbox"/>	7:1-12
	<input type="checkbox"/>	7:13-28
	<input type="checkbox"/>	8:1-17
	<input type="checkbox"/>	8:18-34
	<input type="checkbox"/>	PSALM 2
18 TH	<input type="checkbox"/>	9:1-17
	<input type="checkbox"/>	9:18-34
	<input type="checkbox"/>	9:35-10:20
	<input type="checkbox"/>	10:21-42
	<input type="checkbox"/>	PSALM 3
25 TH	<input type="checkbox"/>	11:1-19
	<input type="checkbox"/>	11:20-30
	<input type="checkbox"/>	12:1-21
	<input type="checkbox"/>	12:22-45
	<input type="checkbox"/>	PSALM 4
FEBRUARY		
1 ST	<input type="checkbox"/>	12:46-13:23
	<input type="checkbox"/>	13:24-52
	<input type="checkbox"/>	13:53-14:12
	<input type="checkbox"/>	14:13-36
	<input type="checkbox"/>	PSALM 5

Matthew wrote his gospel to join the dots between Old Testament expectation and the life and work of Jesus of Nazareth. His concern was to reveal to Israel that in the death and resurrection of Jesus, their anointed prophet priest and king had come. But he does not leave it there. The arrival of the magi at his birth and the final words of the gospel make clear that Christ's authority stretches to the ends of the earth. All nations are to be called to repent and believe.

EXODUS 1-15

DATE	✓	PASSAGE
FEBRUARY (CONTINUED)		
8 TH	<input type="checkbox"/>	1:1-22
	<input type="checkbox"/>	2:1-25
	<input type="checkbox"/>	3:1-22
	<input type="checkbox"/>	4:1-17
	<input type="checkbox"/>	PSALM 6
15 TH	<input type="checkbox"/>	4:18-31
	<input type="checkbox"/>	5:1-21
	<input type="checkbox"/>	5:22-6:27
	<input type="checkbox"/>	6:28-7:13
	<input type="checkbox"/>	PSALM 7
22 ND	<input type="checkbox"/>	7:14-25
	<input type="checkbox"/>	8:1-32
	<input type="checkbox"/>	9:1-35
	<input type="checkbox"/>	10:1-29
	<input type="checkbox"/>	PSALM 8
29 TH	<input type="checkbox"/>	11:1-10
	<input type="checkbox"/>	12:1-30
	<input type="checkbox"/>	12:31-51
	<input type="checkbox"/>	13:1-16
	<input type="checkbox"/>	PSALM 9
MARCH		
7 TH	<input type="checkbox"/>	13:17-14:4
	<input type="checkbox"/>	14:5-18
	<input type="checkbox"/>	14:19-31
	<input type="checkbox"/>	15:1-21
	<input type="checkbox"/>	PSALM 10

At one level Exodus is the story of Israel's deliverance from Egyptian slavery. It is though evidence of the on-going conflict encountered at the start of the Bible between God and Satan. It is from these people that God will bring forth the seed of the women who will crush Satan's head. This will be the first but not the last attempt to annihilate this nation. At the centre of the account God is revealing himself. He is the unapproachable Lord who appears in the burning bush and comes down on the burning mountain. He needs nothing outside of himself to sustain his life. He is superior to all Egypt's so called Gods. When he comes in judgment there is no negotiation but there is provision.

HEBREWS

DATE	✓	PASSAGE
MARCH <i>(CONTINUED)</i>		
14 TH	<input type="checkbox"/>	1:1-14
	<input type="checkbox"/>	2:1-9
	<input type="checkbox"/>	2:10-18
	<input type="checkbox"/>	3:1-6
	<input type="checkbox"/>	PSALM 11
21 ST	<input type="checkbox"/>	3:7-19
	<input type="checkbox"/>	4:1-11
	<input type="checkbox"/>	4:12-5:10
	<input type="checkbox"/>	5:11-6:12
	<input type="checkbox"/>	PSALM 12
28 TH	<input type="checkbox"/>	6:13-20
	<input type="checkbox"/>	7:1-28
	<input type="checkbox"/>	8:1-13
	<input type="checkbox"/>	9:1-14
	<input type="checkbox"/>	PSALM 13
APRIL		
4 TH	<input type="checkbox"/>	9:15-28
	<input type="checkbox"/>	10:1-18
	<input type="checkbox"/>	10:19-25
	<input type="checkbox"/>	10:26-39
	<input type="checkbox"/>	PSALM 14
11 TH	<input type="checkbox"/>	11:1-40
	<input type="checkbox"/>	12:1-13
	<input type="checkbox"/>	12:14-29
	<input type="checkbox"/>	13:1-25
	<input type="checkbox"/>	PSALM 15

This letter unpacks for us the crowning achievement of the death of Jesus, the tearing of the veil in the temple. It is though a letter full of warning. The drifting, the lazy, the demoralised are all in danger. The message for the first readers is clear: there can be no going back to the safety of the synagogue. Like them we are urged throughout to turn our attention to Christ and to marvel at the huge achievements wrought for us by his death.

ISAIAH

DATE	✓	PASSAGE
APRIL (CONTINUED)		
18 TH	<input type="checkbox"/>	1:1-20
	<input type="checkbox"/>	1:21-2:5
	<input type="checkbox"/>	2:6-22 (3:1-4:1)*
	<input type="checkbox"/>	5:1-7 (5:8-30)*
	<input type="checkbox"/>	PSALM 16
25 TH	<input type="checkbox"/>	6:1-13
	<input type="checkbox"/>	7:1-25
	<input type="checkbox"/>	8:1-18
	<input type="checkbox"/>	8:18-9:7
	<input type="checkbox"/>	PSALM 17
MAY		
2 ND	<input type="checkbox"/>	9:8-10:4
	<input type="checkbox"/>	10:5-34
	<input type="checkbox"/>	11:1-12:6
	<input type="checkbox"/>	13:1-22 (14:1-32)*
	<input type="checkbox"/>	PSALM 18
9 TH	<input type="checkbox"/>	16:1-14 (ch 15,17)*
	<input type="checkbox"/>	18:1-7 (19:1-20:6)*
	<input type="checkbox"/>	22:1-25 (ch 21,23)*
	<input type="checkbox"/>	24:1-23
	<input type="checkbox"/>	PSALM 19
16 TH	<input type="checkbox"/>	25:1-12
	<input type="checkbox"/>	26:1-21
	<input type="checkbox"/>	27:1-13
	<input type="checkbox"/>	28:1-29
	<input type="checkbox"/>	PSALM 20

“The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw” (2:1)

Isaiah’s ministry was directed at Judah and her kings. His call came in the year that King Uzziah died (740BC) and he lived long enough to record the death of Sennacherib (681BC). It is sometimes viewed as a drama that unfolds in three acts. We are looking at the first act (1-39)

Isaiah’s book is a vision in that it reveals, through symbols and reasoned thought, a God centred way of seeing and living. It offers everyone the true alternative to the false appearances of this world.

** Where some of the sections are particularly long we have selected a central passage to read. If you have time you could include the additional verses (in brackets)*

ISAIAH *(CONTINUED)*

DATE	✓	PASSAGE
<i>MAY (CONTINUED)</i>		
23 RD	<input type="checkbox"/>	29:1-24
	<input type="checkbox"/>	30:1-33 (31:1-9)*
	<input type="checkbox"/>	33:1-24 (32:1-20)*
	<input type="checkbox"/>	35:1-10 (34:1-17)*
	<input type="checkbox"/>	PSALM 21
30 TH	<input type="checkbox"/>	36:1-22
	<input type="checkbox"/>	37:1-13
	<input type="checkbox"/>	37:14-38
	<input type="checkbox"/>	38:1-22 (39:1-8)
	<input type="checkbox"/>	PSALM 22

** Where some of the sections are particularly long we have selected a central passage to read. If you have time you could include the additional verses (in brackets)*

MATTHEW

DATE	✓	PASSAGE
JUNE		
6 TH	<input type="checkbox"/>	15:1-9
	<input type="checkbox"/>	15:21-39
	<input type="checkbox"/>	16:1-12
	<input type="checkbox"/>	16:13-28
	<input type="checkbox"/>	PSALM 23
13 TH	<input type="checkbox"/>	17:1-13
	<input type="checkbox"/>	17:14-27
	<input type="checkbox"/>	18:1-20
	<input type="checkbox"/>	18:21-35
	<input type="checkbox"/>	PSALM 24
20 TH	<input type="checkbox"/>	19:1-30
	<input type="checkbox"/>	20:1-16
	<input type="checkbox"/>	20:17-34
	<input type="checkbox"/>	21:1-11
	<input type="checkbox"/>	PSALM 25
27 TH	<input type="checkbox"/>	21:21-27
	<input type="checkbox"/>	21:28-46
	<input type="checkbox"/>	22:1-14
	<input type="checkbox"/>	22:15-46
	<input type="checkbox"/>	PSALM 26
JULY		
4 TH	<input type="checkbox"/>	23:1-39
	<input type="checkbox"/>	26:1-35
	<input type="checkbox"/>	26:36-75
	<input type="checkbox"/>	27:1-10
	<input type="checkbox"/>	PSALM 27
11 TH	<input type="checkbox"/>	27:11-31
	<input type="checkbox"/>	27:32-56
	<input type="checkbox"/>	27:57-28:10
	<input type="checkbox"/>	28:11-20
	<input type="checkbox"/>	PSALM 28

Matthew wrote his gospel to join the dots between Old Testament expectation and the life and work of Jesus of Nazareth. His concern was to reveal to Israel that in the death and resurrection of Jesus, their anointed prophet priest and king had come. But he does not leave it there. The arrival of the magi at his birth and the final words of the gospel make clear that Christ's authority stretches to the ends of the earth. All nations are to be called repent and believe.

2 CORINTHIANS

DATE	✓	PASSAGE
JULY (CONTINUED)		
18 TH	<input type="checkbox"/>	1:1-11
	<input type="checkbox"/>	1:12-22
	<input type="checkbox"/>	1:23-2:11
	<input type="checkbox"/>	2:12-3:6
	<input type="checkbox"/>	PSALM 29
25 TH	<input type="checkbox"/>	3:7-18
	<input type="checkbox"/>	4:1-17
	<input type="checkbox"/>	5:1-10
	<input type="checkbox"/>	5:11-6:2
	<input type="checkbox"/>	PSALM 30
AUGUST		
1 ST	<input type="checkbox"/>	6:3-13
	<input type="checkbox"/>	6:14-7:1
	<input type="checkbox"/>	7:2-16
	<input type="checkbox"/>	8:1-15
	<input type="checkbox"/>	PSALM 31
8 TH	<input type="checkbox"/>	8:16-9:5
	<input type="checkbox"/>	9:6-15
	<input type="checkbox"/>	10:1-18
	<input type="checkbox"/>	11:1-15
	<input type="checkbox"/>	PSALM 32
15 TH	<input type="checkbox"/>	11:16-33
	<input type="checkbox"/>	12:1-10
	<input type="checkbox"/>	12:11-21
	<input type="checkbox"/>	13:1-14
	<input type="checkbox"/>	PSALM 33

Paul planted the church at Corinth and clearly cared deeply for its members. But he has been subject to criticism and hostility and his authority as a leader has been called into question. The apostle seeks not merely Corinthian respect but open hearted relationships with his church. And he defends his authority not by re-coursing to threats but by referencing Gods power present in his weakness.

JAMES

DATE	✓	PASSAGE
AUGUST <i>(CONTINUED)</i>		
22 ND	<input type="checkbox"/>	1:1-11
	<input type="checkbox"/>	1:12-18
	<input type="checkbox"/>	1:19-27
	<input type="checkbox"/>	2:1-13
	<input type="checkbox"/>	PSALM 34
29 TH	<input type="checkbox"/>	2:14-26
	<input type="checkbox"/>	3:1-12
	<input type="checkbox"/>	3:13-18
	<input type="checkbox"/>	4:1-12
	<input type="checkbox"/>	PSALM 35
SEPTEMBER		
5 TH	<input type="checkbox"/>	4:13-17
	<input type="checkbox"/>	5:1-6
	<input type="checkbox"/>	5:7-12
	<input type="checkbox"/>	5:13-20
	<input type="checkbox"/>	PSALM 36

James may have been Jesus' brother who was also the first leader of the Jerusalem church. It could be the first of the New Testament letters to be written and its very practical. The main themes are: if we say we are Christians we must live like Christians; discrimination of any kind is wrong, as is oppression of the poor and weak; Christians should be self-controlled especially in what they say.

EZRA

DATE	✓	PASSAGE
SEPTEMBER <i>(CONTINUED)</i>		
12 TH	<input type="checkbox"/>	1:1-12
	<input type="checkbox"/>	2:1-70
	<input type="checkbox"/>	3:1-13
	<input type="checkbox"/>	4:1-5 & 24
	<input type="checkbox"/>	PSALM 37
19 TH	<input type="checkbox"/>	4:6-23
	<input type="checkbox"/>	5:1-17
	<input type="checkbox"/>	6:1-12
	<input type="checkbox"/>	6:13-22
	<input type="checkbox"/>	PSALM 38
26 TH	<input type="checkbox"/>	7:1-28
	<input type="checkbox"/>	8:1-36
	<input type="checkbox"/>	9:1-15
	<input type="checkbox"/>	10:1-44
	<input type="checkbox"/>	PSALM 39

HAGGAI

DATE	✓	PASSAGE
OCTOBER		
3 RD	<input type="checkbox"/>	1:1-11
	<input type="checkbox"/>	1:12-15
	<input type="checkbox"/>	2:1-9
	<input type="checkbox"/>	2:10-23
	<input type="checkbox"/>	PSALM 40

Ezra; Nehemiah; Haggai:

In 539 BC Babylon fell to the Medo-Persian empire. The following year, Cyrus the king allowed the Jews to return home and to set up a Jewish state within the Persian empire. Great difficulty was experienced in re-establishing the nation. The prophecy of Haggai and Zechariah stirred the people to complete the unfinished work on the temple.

1 SAMUEL

DATE	✓	PASSAGE	
OCTOBER (CONTINUED)			
10 TH	<input type="checkbox"/>	1:1-20	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	1:21-28	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	2:1-11	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	2:12-26	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	PSALM 41	
17 TH	<input type="checkbox"/>	2:27-36	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	3:1-20	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	4:1-11	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	4:12-22	
24 TH	<input type="checkbox"/>	PSALM 42	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	5:1-12	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	6:1-7:2	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	7:2-17	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	8:1-22	
31 ST	<input type="checkbox"/>	PSALM 43	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	9:1-27	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	10:1-8	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	10:9-27	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	11:1-15	
NOVEMBER	<input type="checkbox"/>	PSALM 44	
	7 TH	<input type="checkbox"/>	12:1-25
		<input type="checkbox"/>	13:1-15
		<input type="checkbox"/>	13:16-14:14
		<input type="checkbox"/>	13:15-23
<input type="checkbox"/>		PSALM 45	

The era of the judges continues into the books of Samuel. Samuel is a judge, but he moves THE STORY from the period of the judges into the period of the kingdom. These two books include the transition from the leadership of the last judge (Samuel) to the beginning of (under King Saul's leadership) and establishment of (under King David's leadership) the kingdom. It is also the necessary foundation to the books that follow.

1 SAMUEL *(CONTINUED)*

DATE	✓	PASSAGE
NOVEMBER <i>(CONTINUED)</i>		
14 TH	<input type="checkbox"/>	14:24-52
	<input type="checkbox"/>	15:1-35
	<input type="checkbox"/>	16:1-23
	<input type="checkbox"/>	17:1-31
	<input type="checkbox"/>	PSALM 46
21 ST	<input type="checkbox"/>	17:32-58
	<input type="checkbox"/>	18:1-30
	<input type="checkbox"/>	19:1-24
	<input type="checkbox"/>	20:1-17
	<input type="checkbox"/>	PSALM 47
28 TH	<input type="checkbox"/>	20:18-24
	<input type="checkbox"/>	21:1-15
	<input type="checkbox"/>	22:1-23
	<input type="checkbox"/>	23:1-29
	<input type="checkbox"/>	PSALM 48
DECEMBER		
5 TH	<input type="checkbox"/>	24:1-22
	<input type="checkbox"/>	25:1-44
	<input type="checkbox"/>	26:1-25
	<input type="checkbox"/>	27:1-12
	<input type="checkbox"/>	PSALM 49

The era of the judges continues into the books of Samuel. Samuel is a judge, but he moves THE STORY from the period of the judges into the period of the kingdom. These two books include the transition from the leadership of the last judge (Samuel) to the beginning of (under King Saul's leadership) and establishment of (under King David's leadership) the kingdom. It is also the necessary foundation to the books that follow.

LUKE

DATE	✓	PASSAGE
DECEMBER <i>(CONTINUED)</i>		
12 TH	<input type="checkbox"/>	1:1-4
	<input type="checkbox"/>	1:5-25
	<input type="checkbox"/>	1:26-56
	<input type="checkbox"/>	1:57-80
	<input type="checkbox"/>	PSALM 50
19 TH	<input type="checkbox"/>	2:1-7
	<input type="checkbox"/>	2:8-21
	<input type="checkbox"/>	2:22-40
	<input type="checkbox"/>	2:41-52
	<input type="checkbox"/>	PSALM 51

1 SAMUEL

DATE	✓	PASSAGE
DECEMBER <i>(CONTINUED)</i>		
26 TH	<input type="checkbox"/>	28:1-25
	<input type="checkbox"/>	29:1-11
	<input type="checkbox"/>	30:1-31
	<input type="checkbox"/>	31:1-13
	<input type="checkbox"/>	PSALM 52

Bible Reading Questions

1. What do you learn about God?
2. What do you learn about yourself?
3. What do you need to repent of and change?
4. Is there a promise to believe or a warning to heed?
5. Does this passage help you see what you love more than God? Is there something that will help you love God more?
6. Is there something in this passage that will help you love your church family or your community more?

The Swedish Method

1. A light bulb: This should be something that ‘shines’ from the passage—whatever impacts most, or draws attention.
2. A question mark: Anything that is difficult to understand in the text, or a question the reader would like to ask the writer of the passage or the Lord.
3. An arrow: A personal application for the reader’s life.
4. The speech bubble – Who do you know who would benefit from knowing what you have discovered in this passage? (They could be Christian or non-Christian.)

A template you can use for Bible study

BIBLE PASSAGE:

