

Reading the Bible Together



Bible Reading Plan 2017

# 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 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:



DECEMBER (CONTINUED)

- 11<sup>TH</sup>  48:12-22  
 49:1-7  
 49:8-26  
 50:1-11  
 51:1-16
- 18<sup>th</sup>  51:17-23  
 52:1-12  
 52:13-53:12  
 54:1-17  
 55:1-13

PSALM 68-27

DATE	✓	PASSAGE
------	---	---------

DECEMBER (CONTINUED)

- 25<sup>TH</sup>  Ps 68  
 Ps 69  
 Ps 70  
 Ps 71  
 Ps 72

Let the psalmist lead you in praise of our God.

**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?

MARK 1-8

DATE	✓	PASSAGE
------	---	---------

JANUARY

- 2<sup>ND</sup>  1:1-20  
 1:21-45  
 2:1-17  
 2:18-3:6  
 3:7-34
- 9<sup>TH</sup>  4:1-20  
 4:21-34  
 4:35-5:20  
 5:21-43  
 6:1-29
- 16<sup>TH</sup>  6:30-56  
 7:1-23  
 7:24-8:13  
 8:14-21  
 8:22-38

EXODUS 16-24

- 23<sup>RD</sup>  16:1-18  
 16:19-36  
 17:1-16  
 18:1-27  
 19:1-25
- 30<sup>TH</sup>  20:1-12  
 20:13-26  
 21:1-11 (12-26)\*  
 23:1-33 (CH22)\*  
 24:1-18

In part 1 of his Gospel (chapters 1-8) Mark wants us to get Jesus identity right. Notice the way he describes what Jesus does in order to put the spotlight on his authority.

Exodus explains redemption. Freedom for Israel is not doing as they please. This liberated people exchange the rule of an evil tyrant for a loving King. They travel to Sinai to come under his life giving word.

*\* 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)*

## PSALM 53-57

DATE	✓	PASSAGE
FEBRUARY		
6 <sup>TH</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ps 53
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ps 54
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ps 55
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ps 56
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ps 57

## TITUS

13 <sup>TH</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1:1-9
	<input type="checkbox"/>	1:10-16
	<input type="checkbox"/>	2:1-10
	<input type="checkbox"/>	2:11-15
	<input type="checkbox"/>	3:1-15

## EXODUS 25-40

20 <sup>TH</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/>	25:1-22 (23-40)*
	<input type="checkbox"/>	31:1-18
	<input type="checkbox"/>	32:1-35
	<input type="checkbox"/>	33:1-23
	<input type="checkbox"/>	34:1-14
27 <sup>TH</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/>	34:15-35
	<input type="checkbox"/>	35:1-29
	<input type="checkbox"/>	35:30-36:7 (8-38)*
	<input type="checkbox"/>	37:1-29 (CH38)*
	<input type="checkbox"/>	40:1-38 (CH39)*

\* 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)

Note the introduction at the start of each psalm that locates it in its historical context.

This letter stresses the importance of 'teaching'. Adhere to the wrong teaching and it can ruin your family (1:11) By contrast Titus provides 'sound doctrine' that strengthens marriages and makes us eager to do good.

Moses 6 week absence on Mt Sinai promotes a crisis. Israel reverts to its idolatrous ways. Whilst forgiveness is secured, for Moses the issue is not merely entry into the Promised Land but God's ongoing presence. The building of the tabernacle is the answer to this question.

## NOVEMBER (CONTINUED)

13 <sup>TH</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/>	42:18-25
	<input type="checkbox"/>	43:1-13
	<input type="checkbox"/>	43:14-28
	<input type="checkbox"/>	44:1-8
	<input type="checkbox"/>	44:9-28

## 1 PETER

20 <sup>TH</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1:1-12
	<input type="checkbox"/>	1:13-2:3
	<input type="checkbox"/>	2:4-10
	<input type="checkbox"/>	2:11-17
	<input type="checkbox"/>	2:18-25
27 <sup>TH</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/>	3:1-7
	<input type="checkbox"/>	3:8-22
	<input type="checkbox"/>	4:1-11
	<input type="checkbox"/>	4:12-19
	<input type="checkbox"/>	5:1-14

Peter writes to instruct us how to live with a holy God, how to live with one another in church, how to live in a pagan society, how to live as husband and wife in our marriages – in short how to live lives that prompt questions. *Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give a reason for the hope that you have.*

## ISAIAH 45-55

### DECEMBER

4 <sup>TH</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/>	45:1-13
	<input type="checkbox"/>	45:14-25
	<input type="checkbox"/>	46:1-13
	<input type="checkbox"/>	47:1-15
	<input type="checkbox"/>	48:1-11

These chapters cover the theme of return. God will raise up Cyrus to bring Israel back to their land. But the task of bringing the people back to the Lord will take the ministry of one described as the Suffering Servant.

DATE	✓	PASSAGE
------	---	---------

OCTOBER (CONTINUED)

- 9<sup>TH</sup>  9:10-28
- 10:1-13
- 10:14-29
- 11:1-25
- 11:26-43

PSALM 63-67

- 16<sup>TH</sup>  Ps 63
- Ps 64
- Ps 65
- Ps 66
- Ps 67

1 JOHN

- 23<sup>RD</sup>  1:1-10
- 2:1-11
- 2:12-27
- 2:28-3:3
- 3:4-10
- 30<sup>TH</sup>  3:11-24
- 4:1-6
- 4:7-21
- 5:1-12
- 5:13-21

ISAIAH 40-44

NOVEMBER

- 6<sup>TH</sup>  40:1-11
- 40:12-31
- 41:1-16
- 41:17-29
- 42:1-17

The psalms are here to enable us to sing Gods praise. Observe those things the psalmist would draw our attention to.

According to Jesus, eternal life is *'knowing you the only true God and Jesus Christ whom you have sent'* John unpacks for us fellowship with the Father and the Son. Here is how we can know we have authentic spiritual life.

The prophet writes to people far from home whose hopes seem dashed. He reveals a magnificent picture of their God and ours and spells out the implications of belonging to such a God.

DEUTERONOMY 1-5

MARCH

- 6<sup>TH</sup>  1:1-18
- 1:19-46
- 2:1-23
- 2:24-37
- 3:1-20
- 13<sup>TH</sup>  3:21-29
- 4:1-24
- 4:25-49
- 5:1-21
- 5:22-33

MARK 9-16

- 20<sup>TH</sup>  9:1-13
- 9:14-29
- 9:30-50
- 10:1-12
- 10:13-21
- 27<sup>TH</sup>  10:32-52
- 11:1-11
- 11:12-33
- 12:1-12
- 12:13-34

APRIL

- 3<sup>RD</sup>  12:35-44
- 13:1-23
- 13:24-37
- 14:1-11
- 14:12-31
- 10<sup>TH</sup>  14:32-52
- 14:53-72
- 15:1-20
- 15:21-47
- 16:1-8

These sermons were delivered at the end of the wilderness years as the nation prepared to cross the Jordan. They contain vital lessons for us all as we enter into the life God has for us.

Jesus mission is the theme of part 2 of his Gospel (9-16) The wonder of the gospel is that the one who wields divine authority has come to serve us by dying for us.

## DEUTERONOMY 6-11

DATE	✓	PASSAGE
APRIL (CONTINUED)		
17 <sup>TH</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/>	6:1-9
	<input type="checkbox"/>	6:10-25
	<input type="checkbox"/>	7:1-11
	<input type="checkbox"/>	7:12-26
	<input type="checkbox"/>	8:1-9
24 <sup>TH</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/>	8:10-20
	<input type="checkbox"/>	9:1-17
	<input type="checkbox"/>	9:18-29
	<input type="checkbox"/>	10:1-22
	<input type="checkbox"/>	11:1-32

## 1 CORINTHIANS 1-11

MAY		
1 <sup>ST</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1:1-17
	<input type="checkbox"/>	1:17-2:5
	<input type="checkbox"/>	2:6-16
	<input type="checkbox"/>	3:1-23
	<input type="checkbox"/>	4:1-21
8 <sup>TH</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/>	5:1-13
	<input type="checkbox"/>	6:1-11
	<input type="checkbox"/>	6:12-20
	<input type="checkbox"/>	7:1-16
	<input type="checkbox"/>	7:17-40
15 <sup>TH</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/>	8:1-13
	<input type="checkbox"/>	9:1-23
	<input type="checkbox"/>	9:24-10:13
	<input type="checkbox"/>	10:14-11:1
	<input type="checkbox"/>	11:2-16

Deuteronomy stresses the love of God expressed towards Israel not because they were impressive or attractive but simply because God chose to love them. The New Testament brings a similar perspective to our lives. The right response to this is loving obedience.

This letter has much to say to a church influenced by a culture of celebrity and personality. Corinth was unimpressed by the apparent weakness of the Gospel. Paul argues, "the message of the cross .... is the power of God" (1:17). He then unpacks for us what it is to live in the light of that.

## 2 THESSALONIANS

DATE	✓	PASSAGE
SEPTEMBER (CONTINUED)		
11 <sup>TH</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1:1-12
	<input type="checkbox"/>	2:1-12
	<input type="checkbox"/>	2:13-17
	<input type="checkbox"/>	3:1-5
	<input type="checkbox"/>	3:6-18

## 1 KINGS 1-11

18 <sup>TH</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1:1-27
	<input type="checkbox"/>	1:28-53
	<input type="checkbox"/>	2:1-12
	<input type="checkbox"/>	2:13-46
	<input type="checkbox"/>	3:1-15
25 <sup>TH</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/>	3:16-28
	<input type="checkbox"/>	4:1-34
	<input type="checkbox"/>	5:1-18
	<input type="checkbox"/>	6:1-38
	<input type="checkbox"/>	7:1-12
OCTOBER		
2 <sup>ND</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/>	7:13-51
	<input type="checkbox"/>	8:1-21
	<input type="checkbox"/>	8:22-40
	<input type="checkbox"/>	8:41-66
	<input type="checkbox"/>	9:1-9

In this letter we are given a glimpse of the future and encouragement to stand firm.

These chapters describe the glory of Israel. Solomon's rule brings peace and prosperity. They provide a preview of the Kingdom of the greater Son of David. But they also hint at the seeds that later will produce a poisonous harvest for the King. *Solomon made an alliance with Pharaoh and married his daughter.* (1 King 3:1)

DATE	✓	PASSAGE
------	---	---------

AUGUST (CONTINUED)

- 21<sup>ST</sup>  17:24-18:18
- 18:19-33
- 19:1-23
- 19:24-43
- 20:1-26
- 28<sup>TH</sup>  21:1-22
- 22:1-30
- 22:31-51
- 23:1-39
- 24:1-25

## HABAKKUK

SEPTEMBER

- 4<sup>TH</sup>  1:1-11
- 1:12-2:1
- 2:2-20
- 3:1-7
- 3:8-19

Here is a prophet who struggles with Gods ways but who teaches us how to meet a difficult future with faith.

## 2 SAMUEL 1-11

DATE	✓	PASSAGE
------	---	---------

MAY (CONTINUED)

- 22<sup>ND</sup>  1:1-16
- 1:17-27**
- 2:1-32
- 3:1-21
- 3:22-39
- 29<sup>TH</sup>  4:1-12
- 5:1-25
- 6:1-11
- 6:12-23
- 7:1-17

JUNE

- 5<sup>TH</sup>  7:18-29
- 8:1-18
- 9:1-13
- 10:1-19
- 11:1-27

David is established as king over Israel and Jerusalem is to become God's city where he dwells among his people. But the story rises above the politics and geography of the time as God promises to place one of David's descendants on a throne that will endure forever.

## PROVERBS 1-9

DATE	✓	PASSAGE
JUNE		
12 <sup>TH</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1:1-19
	<input type="checkbox"/>	1:20-33
	<input type="checkbox"/>	2:1-8
	<input type="checkbox"/>	2:9-22
	<input type="checkbox"/>	3:1-12
19 <sup>TH</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/>	3:13-35
	<input type="checkbox"/>	4:1-9
	<input type="checkbox"/>	4:10-27
	<input type="checkbox"/>	5:1-23
	<input type="checkbox"/>	6:1-19
26 <sup>TH</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/>	6:20-35
	<input type="checkbox"/>	7:1-27
	<input type="checkbox"/>	8:1-21
	<input type="checkbox"/>	8:22-36
	<input type="checkbox"/>	9:1-17

## 1 CORINTHIANS 11-16

JULY		
3 <sup>RD</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/>	11:17-34
	<input type="checkbox"/>	12:1-11
	<input type="checkbox"/>	12:12-31
	<input type="checkbox"/>	13:1-13
	<input type="checkbox"/>	14:1-25
10 <sup>TH</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/>	14:26-40
	<input type="checkbox"/>	15:1-11
	<input type="checkbox"/>	15:12-34
	<input type="checkbox"/>	15:35-58
	<input type="checkbox"/>	16:1-24

Proverbs has simple message: Get wisdom. This wisdom is first and foremost theological. "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom" Its effect is intensely practical protecting people from bad relationships, immorality and folly.

Unity is a problem at Corinth. Paul writes to bring some perspective to the way they serve God and relate to one another. They are to exercise their spiritual gifts with love as defined by God.

## PSALM 58-62

DATE	✓	PASSAGE
17 <sup>TH</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ps 58
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ps 59
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ps 60
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ps 61
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ps 62

## 1 THESSALONIANS

24 <sup>TH</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1:1-10
	<input type="checkbox"/>	2:1-7
	<input type="checkbox"/>	2:7-12
	<input type="checkbox"/>	2:13-16
	<input type="checkbox"/>	2:17-3:5
31 <sup>ST</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/>	3:6-13
	<input type="checkbox"/>	4:1-12
	<input type="checkbox"/>	4:13-18
	<input type="checkbox"/>	5:1-11
	<input type="checkbox"/>	5:12-28

## 2 SAMUEL 12-24

AUGUST		
7 <sup>TH</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/>	12:1-31
	<input type="checkbox"/>	13:1-22
	<input type="checkbox"/>	13:23-39
	<input type="checkbox"/>	14:1-21
	<input type="checkbox"/>	14:22-33
14 <sup>TH</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/>	15:1-12
	<input type="checkbox"/>	15:13-37
	<input type="checkbox"/>	16:1-14
	<input type="checkbox"/>	16:15-23
	<input type="checkbox"/>	17:1-23

More of David's psalms and mostly from a time in his life when he was being persecuted. Think about how Jesus might have sung these songs.

This is a letter written to a young church under pressure from opponents and concerned about believers who have died. Paul encourages them as he points to the Lords coming and to the reunion that will take place at that time for all who have trusted Christ.

The second half of 2 Samuel charts the sad story of the outworking of David's sin with Bathsheba. It's a dark picture full of warning for those tempted to treat sin lightly. It a challenge to finish well and not falter on the last lap.