

Chronological Bible Reading Plan

31,103

verses

1,189

chapters



66

books

2

testaments

365

days

1

life-changing experience

Together is better...especially when it comes to challenging ourselves, trying new things, or facing something that seems daunting! Setting out to read through the entire Bible can fit into all three of those categories if you have never done it before...or if you have done it a dozen times before. Having others come alongside to encourage you, to hold you accountable, and to share the experience with you can be the difference between (a) achieving something you once thought you would never be able to do and (b) throwing in the towel by the time you reach Leviticus!

Reading through all of God's Word is a powerful, eye-opening experience that can reveal how He has tied everything together, weaving a beautiful story of His love, righteousness, forgiveness, and salvation throughout history.

The books of the Bible are not organized in a chronological timeline, so following this ***chronological reading plan*** will be insightful and provide deeper meaning into God's Word.

LET'S GET STARTED!

Who can do this plan?

Please invite family, friends and neighbors to do this plan together. It's open for anyone.

Middle and high school students are also encouraged to participate! They can either follow the full daily reading plan or use a "shortened" daily plan with only a subset of verses selected from each day's chapters that give the "essence" of the chapter. This plan will continue to be developed, and the schedule will be updated throughout the year.

There is even a kids version that you can do with your children to make this fun for your whole family.

What should you expect?

Follow [Blue Letter Bible's](#) chronological one-year reading plan. A printable version of this plan is provided below.

We will all read independently, obviously. Everyone is encouraged to find an accountability partner or form a small accountability group. We will also make use of a few in-person meetings throughout the year to ask questions, encourage one another, hold each other accountable.

Why?

***All** Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.*

2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NIV; emphasis added)

God has provided and preserved the ***entire*** Bible to communicate His message of love and salvation to us. We all have certain portions, styles, or genres of Scripture that we prefer or that speak to us more clearly than others; however, neglecting or ignoring other parts of His Word leaves us with an incomplete picture of His Story and God Himself! Reading through the entire Bible provides us with an opportunity to experience some of the more neglected sections of the Bible each of us has.

How?

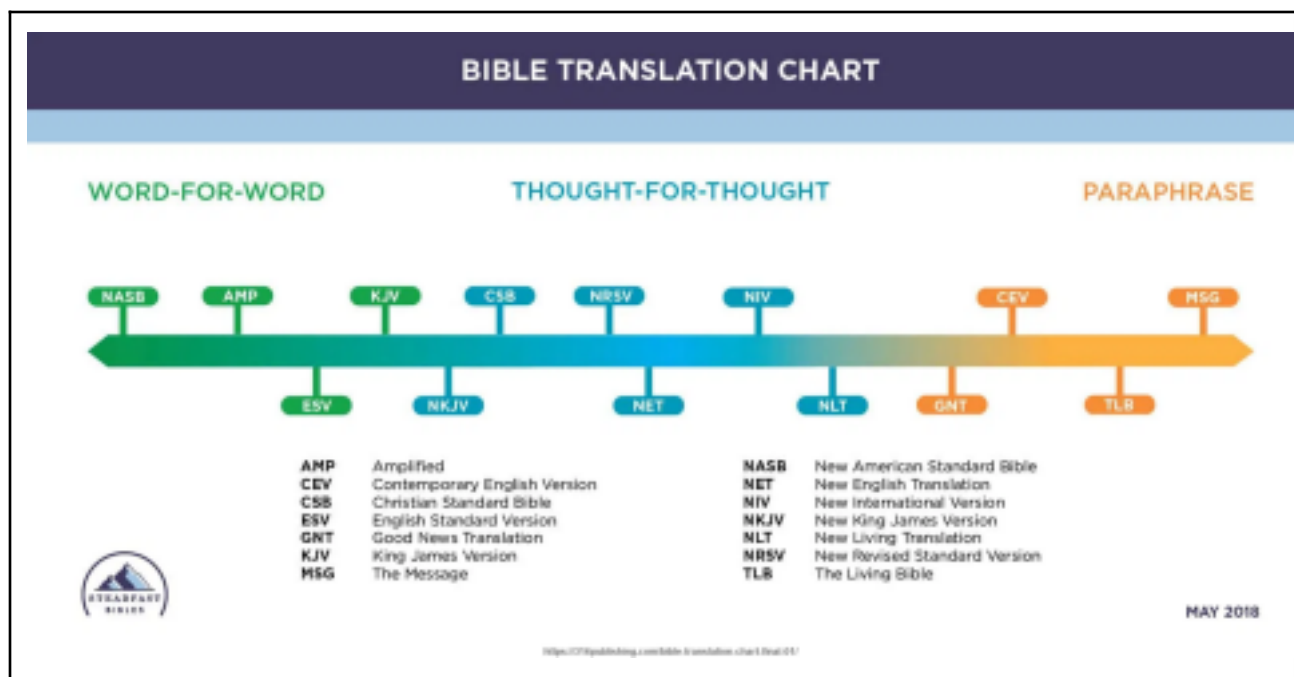
As you will it!

Reading through the Bible can be a very personal experience. From when you read each day, to which translation(s) you choose, to the level of interaction you have with each passage, to the amount of time you spend meditating on each reading, you can — and should — make this experience your own! Find what works and is most meaningful for you. There are several questions and suggestions provided in the FAQ on the following pages to help you customize this experience.

What should I read?

There are two main things to consider with respect to reading through the Bible:

1. **Translation:** Choose a Bible translation that is comfortable and easy for you to read without being too tiring or causing too much work. Our goal is to have this be an enjoyable experience rather than a tedious task. Pastor Vic generally uses NKJV translation while Pastor Mark likes to use NASB. Below is a chart to help guide you when selecting a translation.



2. **Format:** Choose a format (or combination of formats) that will work best for your eyes and your schedule. If you choose to use a computer/phone/tablet app, make sure that it will be accessible to you every day when you choose to read. If you choose to use a printed Bible, make sure that you will be able to have it with you when you need it and that it uses a text size that is comfortable for you. If you choose to use multiple formats, try to make sure that you can use the same translation across all formats. Things to keep in mind with respect to format: (1) Will you be traveling at any time during the year that will make one format better than another? (2) Where will you usually be reading?: At home? At work on your lunch break? In the airport? In the car in standstill traffic?

When should I read?

This is a very important but subjective question. Some people find it best to read first thing in the morning when they are most fresh. Others read at night as a way to focus on God at the close of the day before resting. Some people read at other times during the day (lunch breaks, before dinner, after dinner). Still others read whenever they have the opportunity, and their reading schedule changes daily.

It may be very clear to you which time(s) will definitely ***not*** work. Rule them out immediately. For those that remain, try different ones for several days each until you find a schedule that works best for you. If possible, try to use a consistent time each day, as it serves as a daily reminder and can even help to form a (good) habit. Also, try to read at a time that will not be frequently interrupted by calls, meetings, children, etc.

It is highly recommended to try “habit stacking”:

One of the best ways to build a new habit is to identify a current habit you already do each day and then stack your new behavior on top. This is called habit stacking. James Clear
(<https://jamesclear.com/habit-stacking>)

Do you already sit down first thing in the morning, excited to drink a cup of coffee or catch up on the news? Do you find a quiet place away from coworkers or kids to enjoy a peaceful lunch? Do you take some time to unwind and read before turning off the lights at night? Your daily Bible reading is a perfect new habit to “stack” on top of one of these existing routines.

Where should I read?

Again, this is totally subjective. In general, try to find someplace that is quiet and free from distractions so that you can focus on God's Word and not be interrupted. Also, try to find an environment that is comfortable. Reading in a freezing cold room while sitting on a hard, uncomfortable chair will make for a very unpleasant experience, and you will dread reading and rush to get done. Find a location that is calm, comfortable, and relaxing, but be careful! Reading in a big, comfy chair under a blanket shortly after waking up or reading while laying in bed at the end of a long, strenuous day may end in disaster. Basically, the goal is to be comfortable, alert, and focused so that your reading experience is enjoyable.

How should I read?

First, read every day! Find a reading schedule and stick to it. Use some type of calendar or checklist to keep track of your completed reading. Several apps and online resources will track your reading progress for you and send you reminders. If you don't get such reminders, consider setting up a daily repeating alarm on your computer or mobile device to help you.

Unless really necessary for your understanding, restrict yourself to the day's reading. For our purposes here, try not to follow rabbit trails or get sidetracked in a mini Bible study that leads you astray from the passage(s) at hand. It is easy to get distracted and end up off course.

Finally, stay accountable. Find someone else in the group to pair with as accountability partners. Or, ask your spouse or a friend to check in with you regularly (even if they aren't doing the reading plan with you). It is amazing how motivating and encouraging it can be to have someone ask you about your progress.

It's recommended to *keep a notebook or journal* with you so that you can write down questions or notes that you would like to refer back to.

How much do I read each day?

Most daily chronological reading plans involve about two to five chapters per day. The chapters are usually all from the same book, but occasionally the reading will jump between books to help maintain the chronological order of events. Generally, daily readings take fifteen minutes

or less for an average reader.

What resources are available?

Our pastors and elders: If you have any questions/concerns or need help, please reach out to Pastor Vic or Pastor Mark.

Websites and apps: There are many websites and apps that can be used for Bible reading and reading plans; however, using [YouVersion](#) is highly recommended. YouVersion has been found to have several features that many other sites and apps do not. Specifically, it syncs your reading progress across the website and the app on any devices where you are logged in, it offers the same Blue Letter Bible Reading Plan that we will be using, and it allows us to create a “Plan with Friends” group to go through the reading plan together and see each other’s progress.

What should I do when I fall behind?

You *will* likely fall behind in your reading at some point. As mentioned already, do your absolute best to read every day and follow the schedule. When life’s craziness, holidays, and busy schedules catch up with you, you will miss a reading...or two...or three...

When you fall behind there are some things to keep in mind:

1. Do not let guilt take over; give yourself some grace! Be diligent and enjoy your reading. Just like God loves a cheerful giver (2 Corinthians 9:7), He loves a cheerful, dedicated disciple. Reading the Bible is an act of discipleship and an act of worship. Our service to God and worship of Him should never result in or be driven by guilt. It’s OK if you miss some reading. Just keep going!
2. Do not give up! If you get behind, you may be tempted to quit. Don’t do it!
3. Get back on track. There are a few ways to do this:
 - ♦ Do two or three days’ reading at a time until you are back on schedule.
 - ♦ While the church is doing this together, we know folks have different reading speeds. Keep powering through!

What if I want to go deeper than simply reading?

If you desire more interaction with your daily readings, go for it! As stated above, just be careful that what you add doesn’t take this from an enjoyable experience to a tedious task. Consider anything added as optional and secondary to the reading so that you don’t fall behind or give up. The reading may be all you get done, which is great! Give yourself plenty of grace.

As for ways to go deeper, here are a few different ideas:

- ♦ In each chapter you read each day, mark/highlight/underline one or two verses that you find particularly interesting, you have never noticed before, are the “key”/summary verses for the chapter, or meet some other criteria you set.
- ♦ Use “The Swedish Method” for each chapter or daily reading: use a **◆** to mark anything that “shines” or stands out in the passage, a **?** to mark anything brings a question to mind or is difficult to understand, and an **➔** to mark personal application to your life.
- ♦ As mentioned above, keep a separate notebook and try one or more Bible journaling methods. You could apply these methods to either each chapter or each day’s reading as a whole. You can search for information on methods such as H.E.A.R. or S.O.A.P. Here is another:

L a Lesson in or something you Learned from the passage

E an Error you had been taught or something you had previously misunderstood

A something you can Apply to your life

R something Repeated, either within the passage or from elsewhere in scripture*

N something New (that you have never noticed, heard, or read before)

Have a great time digging into God’s word!

