

A Beginner's 52-Week Bible Reading Plan

Building a Foundation Through God's Word

The Bible is one complete story: the story of God creating, loving, rescuing, and restoring His people. From Genesis to Revelation, Scripture reveals who God is, His plan for humanity, and His desire to have a relationship with each of us.

This reading plan is designed for those who are beginning their journey with Scripture. Whether you are opening a Bible for the first time or returning after many years, this plan is designed to help you build a lifelong habit of spending time in God's Word.

The goal is not to rush through the Bible or simply complete a checklist. The goal is to know God more deeply, understand His truth, and allow His Word to shape your life.

Before reading, take time to pray, reflect on what you learn, and consider how God's Word applies to your everyday life.

Suggested Daily Practice

1. Pray Before Reading

Begin by inviting God to guide your time in Scripture.

A simple prayer:

"Lord, open my heart and help me understand Your Word."

Remember, prayer is simply a conversation with God. You do not need perfect words. God desires honesty, humility, and a willing heart.

2. Read the Assigned Passage

Read slowly and thoughtfully. Do not worry about how much you complete. Focus on understanding what God is showing you.

3. Ask Three Questions

As you read, consider:

What does this teach me about God?

What do I learn about His character, His promises, and His ways?

What does this teach me about people?

What does this reveal about our struggles, choices, and need for God?

How can I apply this truth today?

What is one way this passage can influence my thoughts, actions, or decisions?

4. Write Down What Stands Out

Keep a notebook or journal nearby. Write down:

- A verse that spoke to you
- A question you have
- Something new you learned
- A way God may be asking you to grow

Over time, these notes become a record of your spiritual journey and God's faithfulness.

Tips for Reading the Bible Daily

1. Start Today

There is no perfect time to begin reading the Bible. You do not need to wait until you know more, understand everything, or have the perfect routine.

Start where you are.

A Bible reading plan provides direction and helps you know where to begin.

2. Choose a Consistent Time

Set aside a specific time each day for Scripture.

Many people enjoy reading in the morning because it helps set their focus for the day. Others prefer evenings when life becomes quieter.

The most important thing is not the time of day—it is creating a consistent time where you can meet with God.

3. Read to Know God, Not Just to Finish a Plan

Bible reading is not a race.

The purpose is not simply to complete chapters or check a box. The purpose is to learn God's heart and grow in your relationship with Him.

Before you begin, ask the Holy Spirit for wisdom and understanding. Then allow God's Word to encourage, challenge, and transform you.

Example Prayer Before Reading

"Dear God, as I begin reading Your Word, open my eyes to see the truth You want to show me today. Remove distractions from my mind and help me focus on You in this moment.

I know Your Word is good, beautiful, and true. Help me understand what I read and apply it to my life. May Your truth fill my heart and overflow through my words and actions so that others may see You through me today.

Amen."

Additional Bible Reading Suggestions

Choose a Bible Translation You Understand

One of the most important steps in developing a Bible reading habit is choosing a translation that is clear and understandable.

Reading Scripture should not feel like trying to understand a foreign language. Choose a Bible that helps you understand God's message clearly.

THE28th.LIFE recommends the **New International Version (NIV) Study Bible** as a helpful resource for beginners, but the choice of translation is completely personal. If you need help choosing a Bible, reach out and we would be happy to help.

Don't Get Stuck on Small Details

When reading the Bible, you may encounter unfamiliar names, places, and words.

Do not allow pronunciation or small details to discourage you from continuing. Those things become easier with time.

The most important goal is learning about God, understanding the teachings of Jesus, and growing through the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

It Is Okay When You Do Not Understand Everything

There will be times when a passage is difficult to understand. That is normal.

The Bible is a deep and powerful book, and understanding grows over time.

Do not become frustrated. Ask questions, seek guidance, and continue learning.

THE28th.LIFE does not claim to have every answer, but we believe we can help you discover the right questions to ask. When we walk together, we learn together.

Keep a Notebook Nearby

Questions are a natural part of studying God's Word.

When something catches your attention, write it down and continue reading. After you finish your daily passage, return to your notes and reflect.

Ask:

- Was my question answered through the passage?
- Is there something I need to study further?
- Is God showing me something I need to apply?

Protect Your Time With God

When you make an effort to draw closer to God, distractions will often compete for your attention.

Protect your time in Scripture by limiting interruptions:

- Silence your phone
- Turn off unnecessary notifications
- Choose a quiet place
- Create a consistent routine

Building any new habit takes time, but every day you spend in God's Word strengthens your relationship with Him.

You do not have to know everything before you begin.

You simply need to begin.

One prayer.

One passage.

One day at a time.

God's Word has the power to guide your steps, strengthen your faith, and transform your life.

A Beginner's 52-Week New Testament Reading Plan

This 52-week reading plan is designed to help you build a consistent habit of spending time in God's Word while developing a deeper understanding of the life, teachings, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

The plan guides you through the entire New Testament at a steady pace by reading approximately one chapter each weekday (Monday through Friday).

Saturdays and Sundays are intentionally set aside as **Rest and Reflection Days**. These days provide an opportunity to:

- Reflect on what you have read
- Spend additional time in prayer
- Review verses that stood out
- Catch up if needed
- Consider how God's Word applies to your life

The goal is not simply to finish the New Testament. The goal is to know God more deeply, grow in your faith, and allow Scripture to shape the way you think, live, and follow Jesus.

Remember: A consistent habit of reading a small amount of Scripture each day can have a lifelong impact.

How to Use This Reading Plan

Each weekday:

1. Begin with prayer.
Ask God to give you understanding and help you apply His Word.
2. Read the assigned chapter.
Take your time and focus on understanding the message rather than simply completing the reading.
3. Reflect on what you learned.
Ask:
 - What does this teach me about God?
 - What does this teach me about Jesus?
 - What does this reveal about how I should live?
4. Write down one thought, verse, or lesson that stood out.

Over time, these daily moments become more than a reading routine—they become opportunities to know God, hear His voice through Scripture, and grow in your relationship with Him.

The 52-Week Schedule

Week	Bible Passages	Week	Bible Passages
Week 1	Matthew 1–5	Week 27	Ephesians 1–5
Week 2	Matthew 6–10	Week 28	Ephes. 6; Philippians 1–4
Week 3	Matthew 11–15	Week 29	Colossians 1–4; 1 Thess. 1
Week 4	Matthew 16–20	Week 30	1 Thessalonians 2–6
Week 5	Matthew 21–25	Week 31	2 Thessalonians 1–3; 1 Tim. 1–2
Week 6	Matthew 26–28; Mark 1–2	Week 32	1 Timothy 3–6; 2 Tim. 1
Week 7	Mark 3–7	Week 33	2 Timothy 2–4; Titus 1–2
Week 8	Mark 8–12	Week 34	Titus 3; Philemon 1; Hebrews 1–3
Week 9	Mark 13–16; Luke 1	Week 35	Hebrews 4–8
Week 10	Luke 2–6	Week 36	Hebrews 9–13
Week 11	Luke 7–11	Week 37	James 1–5
Week 12	Luke 12–16	Week 38	1 Peter 1–5
Week 13	Luke 17–21	Week 39	2 Peter 1–3; 1 John 1–2
Week 14	Luke 22–24; John 1–2	Week 40	1 John 3–5; 2 John 1; 3 John 1
Week 15	John 3–7	Week 41	Jude 1; Revelation 1–4
Week 16	John 8–12	Week 42	Revelation 5–9
Week 17	John 13–17	Week 43	Revelation 10–14
Week 18	John 18–21; Acts 1	Week 44	Revelation 15–19
Week 19	Acts 2–6	Week 45	Revelation 20–22 (Catch-up)
Week 20	Acts 7–11	Week 46	Reflection & Catch-up Week
Week 21	Acts 12–16	Week 47	Reflection & Catch-up Week
Week 22	Acts 17–21	Week 48	Reflection & Catch-up Week
Week 23	Acts 22–26	Week 49	Reflection & Catch-up Week
Week 24	Acts 27–28; Romans 1–3	Week 50	Reflection & Catch-up Week
Week 25	Romans 4–8	Week 51	Reflection & Catch-up Week
Week 26	Romans 9–13	Week 52	Final Year-End Reflection

Note: Weeks 45 to 52 give you an extended grace period at the end of the year to finish any missed readings or focus purely on deep reflection.

Weekend Tracker Prompts

Use your weekend rest days to anchor your reading into your daily life with these structured prompts:

Saturday: Deep Reflection

- **Verse Study:** Choose one verse from your weekday reading that stood out most.
- **Journal Prompt:** Write down how this week's chapters changed your understanding of Jesus.

- **Quiet Time:** Spend 10 minutes sitting in silence, focusing on God's presence without distractions.

Sunday: Worship, Rest & Prayer

- **Worship:** Attend yours or a local house of worship (church).
- **Gratitude Check:** Note three things you are thankful for from the past week.
- **Structured Prayer:** Pray intentionally for your family, your community, and your personal growth.
- **Spontaneous Heart:** End your weekend with a conversational prayer, talking to God like a friend.