

# Bible Reading Plans

*Oh how I love your law! It is my meditation all day long.*

-Psalm 119:97

This year can be your “Year of the Bible”! Make a commitment to get to know God’s Word better. Here are several plans that can help you fulfill that goal. Bible reading should be a lifelong habit. Purchase a pocket New Testament or a compact Bible to carry with you everywhere. Read while waiting in a queue, while riding in a vehicle, while walking, during lunch break. Read as a daily habit every morning and/or evening. Enjoy and enhance your relationship with God!

1. **Whole Bible.** Read the whole Bible this year. It is not necessary to read all the books in order but you should finish one book before starting another. You will have to average 5 or 6 chapters a day to finish in one year.
2. **Book Concentration.** Pick 12 books of 6 or less chapters and read the same book every day for one month. Next month go on to a different book. For instance, in January, read Ephesians once through every day. In February, do James, and so on. By the end of the month you will know that book very well. The repetition will help you meditate on it throughout the day. For variety, try reading in several different translations – including your mother tongue and various English versions.
3. **Chapter Concentration.** Every week, choose one chapter to read every day that week. For example, Week One, Psalm 19; Week Two, Romans 8; Week Three, Matthew 5, etc. Or you could work through a book at a time: Week One, Mark 1; Week Two, Mark 2; Week Three, Mark 3, etc. Continue through the year. Use several translations for variety.
4. **Gospel Concentration.** At your own speed, read in this order: Luke, Acts, Mark, Colossians, John, Titus, Matthew, Revelation. Keep repeating throughout the year. This will give you a good dose of the life of Jesus, including some Christian living for balance.
5. **History / Prophets Concentration.** To get the flow of Old Testament history, read at your own pace in this order: Genesis, Exodus, Joshua, Judges, I-II Samuel, I-II Kings, Nehemiah, Isaiah, and Jeremiah. Repeat throughout the year. Try to read at least 2 chapters a day.
6. **Morning / Evening Plan.** Every morning read 1 chapter of Proverbs until you finish the book, then go on to Psalms until finished. Every evening read one chapter of a gospel until you finish the book, then go to an epistle (letters of the apostles in the New Testament), one chapter per evening until finished. Keep alternating Proverbs and Psalms in the mornings, and gospel / epistle in the evenings throughout the year. (Epistles are the books of Romans through Jude).
7. **New Testament Concentration.** At your own speed, and in the order you choose (but always finish one book before starting another), read the New Testament, Psalms and Proverbs and repeat as necessary through the year. You’ll have to average more than one chapter a day to finish once.
8. **Bible Mix.** For a taste of history, law, gospel, epistle, prophecy, and poetry (all the major types of biblical literature) try the following. At your own speed, read in order: Genesis, Psalms, Matthew, Isaiah, Romans, Proverbs, Mark, Exodus, I Corinthians, Deuteronomy, Luke, II Corinthians, Jeremiah, Galatians, Ephesians, Daniel, Philippians, Colossians, Job, I-

II Thessalonians, I-II Timothy, Ecclesiastes, John, Titus, Philemon, Micah, Hebrews, James, I-II Peter, Zechariah, Malachi, I-II-III John, Jude, Revelation. You will have to average about 2 chapters per day to finish once.

9. **Combination Plans.** Make your own plan or use one of the above in combination with any of the following ideas:
  - A. Do all your reading out loud to yourself.
  - B. Keep a journal of your readings by writing a title or summary sentence for every chapter. E.g. Matt. 5: "Jesus compares traditions with His teachings." Romans 8: "Victorious Living."
  - C. Write down your observations, reactions, and applications to any verse that impresses you.
  - D. Memorise any key verse, at least one new one per week, from the chapters you are reading. Keep revising the old ones.
  - E. Find a hymn or chorus to sing for each chapter you read. Choose a song that has the same message as whatever you have read in the Bible. E.g., "Amazing Grace" with Ephesians 2.
  - F. Pray over what you read. Pray for what the chapter said. If you have read about Daniel's courage to stand up against evil, pray for yourself and other Christians to have that courage at your workplaces.
  - G. If you speak more than one language well, get a Bible in both languages and read your text in each language, comparing the rich meanings you get from each translation.
10. **Listening Plan.** Get scriptures on audiotape or CD or iPod and listen as you drive or do some non-concentrating type of work at home or outside (washing dishes, cleaning, exercising, walking, waiting in a queue, etc).
11. **Meditation Concentration.** Take a book of your choice that offers rich teaching (usually not narrative books; preferably epistles, Psalms, prophets, or gospels). Take 1 or 2 *sentences* at a time, read them several times, and think about their meaning. Observe what they say, draw a principle or two, determine your application, then pray through those sentences. Move on and do the same for the next sentences. Don't mind the slow pace, go for *depth*. Try to think about them during the day.
12. **Memorisation Concentration.** Choose a chapter or passage of at least 8 verses to memorise for one week. Write the passage on note cards and keep them in wallet or pocket and take them with you wherever you go. Memorise by reading over and over, then repeating without looking. Don't forget to memorise the reference too. Do this several times a day, when walking somewhere, riding in a bus, driving, in bed before falling asleep, doing routine work, etc. Having committed the passage to memory, keep repeating it in entirety at least once a day for the next week. Wait two weeks to the beginning of the next month, then memorise another passage.
13. **Buddy System.** Follow any of the above plans with a partner such as spouse or friend. Call each other or talk in person to compare how you are doing and what you are learning. Pray for each other.
14. **Family Plan.** If you are a parent of suitable-age children, adapt one of these plans to use with your children. Devise something workable for each one according to age and ability. Make it interesting and enjoyable, not like schoolwork. Parents must be doing their own plan too, so the children can see your example.