

Reading Plans

Of all the reasons people mention for not reading the Bible, simple discouragement ranks highest. The Bible's length alone is imposing. More like a self-contained library than a book, it includes 66 different books, by several dozen authors. It's not surprising people get confused and discouraged.

The 3-Course Reading Plan helps break the Bible into more manageable portions. If you're new to the Bible, begin with Course 1, then proceed to Course 2, and finally—if you're ambitious—tackle Course 3. Your understanding and appreciation for the Bible should gradually increase.

All three courses assign only one chapter a day, except in a few cases where the chapters are very short. The reading should take only about 10 minutes.

COURSE 1: Introduction to the Bible

Course 1 is a place to begin reading the Bible. These two-week reading courses take you quickly into passages every Christian should know. Of the 1189 Bible chapters, why begin with these? First, they are frequently quoted or referred to elsewhere. Second, they are relatively easy to read and understand. A sampler, Course 1, should whet your appetite for more. Many of these chapters appear also in Course 2, "Every Book of the Bible."

Time Commitment: Two Weeks

Goal: To survey basic Biblical foundations

1. Two Weeks on the Life and Teachings of Jesus

- Day 1. Luke 1: Preparing for Jesus' arrival
- Day 2. Luke 2: The story of Jesus' birth
- Day 3. Mark 1: The beginning of Jesus' ministry
- Day 4. Mark 9: A day in the life of Jesus
- Day 5. Matthew 5: The Sermon on the Mount
- Day 6. Matthew 6: The Sermon on the Mount
- Day 7. Luke 15: Parables of Jesus
- Day 8. John 3: A conversation with Jesus
- Day 9. John 14: Jesus' final instructions
- Day 10. John 17: Jesus' prayer for his disciples
- Day 11. Matthew 26: Betrayal and arrest
- Day 12. Matthew 27: Jesus' execution on a cross
- Day 13. John 20: Resurrection
- Day 14. Luke 24: Jesus' appearance after resurrection

2. Two Weeks on the Life and Teachings of Paul

- Day 1. Acts 9: The conversion of Saul
- Day 2. Acts 16: Paul's Macedonian call and a jailbreak
- Day 3. Acts 17: Scenes from Paul's missionary journey
- Day 4. Acts 26: Paul tells his life story to a king
- Day 5. Acts 27: Shipwreck on the way to Rome
- Day 6. Acts 28: Paul's arrival in Rome
- Day 7. Romans 3: Paul's theology in a nutshell
- Day 8. Romans 7: Struggle with sin
- Day 9. Romans 8: Life in the Spirit
- Day 10. 1 Corinthians 13: Paul's description of love
- Day 11. 1 Corinthians 15: Thoughts on the afterlife
- Day 12. Galatians 5: Freedom in Christ
- Day 13. Ephesians 3: Paul's summary of his mission
- Day 14. Philippians 2: Imitating Christ

3. Two Weeks on the Old Testament

- Day 1. Genesis 1: The story of creation
- Day 2. Genesis 3: The origin of sin
- Day 3. Genesis 22: Abraham and Isaac
- Day 4. Exodus 3: Moses' encounter with God
- Day 5. Exodus 20: The gift of the Ten Commandments
- Day 6. 1 Samuel 17: David and Goliath
- Day 7. 2 Samuel 11: David and Bathsheba
- Day 8. 2 Samuel 12: Nathan's rebuke of the king
- Day 9. 1 Kings 18: Elijah and the prophets of Baal
- Day 10. Job 38: God's answer to Job
- Day 11. Psalm 51: A classic confession
- Day 12. Isaiah 40: Words of comfort from God
- Day 13. Daniel 6: Daniel and the lions
- Day 14. Amos 4: A prophet's stern warning