

A Beginners' Bible Reading Plan

Second Edition – by Dwight Gingrich

Survey the Bible in one year, reading only about 15 verses a day.

What parts of the Bible will I read? Readings are included from every book of the Bible, with 8 months of Old Testament readings and 4 months in the New Testament. This plan includes 4,667 key verses out of about 31,100 verses in the whole Bible. That's over 1/7th or nearly 15% of the Bible.

How were the readings chosen? Passages were chosen that (1) trace the big story of the whole Bible with many of its central themes, (2) reflect the literary and topical diversity of the Bible, and (3) avoid some adult content that may be less suitable for younger readers. Readings are arranged mostly in chronological order, but also thematically, with descriptions and headings to guide readers.

Who should use this plan? I first created this guide for my oldest daughter when she was five years old and already an eager reader. But this plan is equally well-suited for several kinds of adults—those new to the Bible, slower readers, or anyone who wants to survey key passages of the Bible at a pace that gives plenty of time for meditation.

What is the suggested reading schedule? Each monthly handout of 25 readings can be completed using one of these suggested schedules: (1) Read 6 days a week until finished; (2) Read 5 days a week plus do one 5-reading day each month. The average length of each reading is only about 15½ verses, so if you fall behind you can easily catch up by finishing several readings per day.

When can I begin? Months are unnamed on the 12 handouts, so you can begin any time of the year. Why not start today?

Can I use this guide to read the Bible online? Yes! Each Bible reference in this PDF document is a link to the Bible Gateway website, taking you directly to each day's passage(s) in whichever Bible translation you last used when visiting Bible Gateway. Also, some PDF apps have a highlight feature you can use in this document to mark readings as you complete them.

Which Bible translation should I use? Use a translation that is trustworthy and that communicates clearly. For most English readers, the best choice may be the NIV (New International Version), which is both exceptionally readable and faithful to the original biblical texts. Similar choices include the CSB (Christian Standard Bible), NASB 2020 (the newest New American Standard Bible), and NET Bible (New English Translation). Beginning readers will find the NLT (New Living Translation) and NIRV (New International Reader's Version) helpful, though they sometimes sacrifice accuracy for readability.

Readers who prioritize a more word-for-word translation approach also have solid choices. The ESV (English Standard Version) and NKJV (New King James Version) lean in this direction and the NASB 1995—somewhat harder to read—is the most word-for-word of all the translations mentioned here. (The Bible quotations in this guide come from the ESV, which has been a good fit for our family.)

Finally, to gain the greatest benefit from this Bible reading plan, avoid translations that use archaic language or publications that are actually paraphrases rather than genuine translations.

A Beginners' Bible Reading Plan—Month 1

Name: _____ Month: _____

As you read:

1. **Pray:** Ask God to help you understand and believe what you are about to read.
2. **Read and mark:** Read one passage from the list below. Mark the box when you are done.
3. **Think:** For example—What did I learn? What puzzles me? How does this passage fit into the big story of the whole Bible? What does it teach about God and his plans for his world? Is there a reason to praise God? A promise to claim? An example to follow? A sin to avoid? A command to obey? An idea for loving God or my neighbor? A prayer to pray?
4. **Pray:** Talk to God about what you read. “Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you” (James 4:8).
5. **Share:** Talk to a family member or friend, telling one thing you learned or one question you have.

God Creates the World, but Humans Sin

- ☐ [Genesis 1:1–19](#)..... Creation week—Days 1–4
- ☐ [Genesis 1:20–2:3](#)..... Creation week—Days 5–7
- ☐ [Genesis 2:4–17](#)..... The Garden of Eden
- ☐ [Genesis 2:18–25](#)..... Adam, Eve, and God’s design for marriage
- ☐ [Genesis 3:1–13](#)..... The Fall—Adam and Eve sin
- ☐ [Genesis 3:14–24](#)..... The Fall—God’s response
- ☐ [Genesis 4:1–16](#)..... Cain murders Abel

God Destroys and Recreates the World, but Humans Sin Again

- ☐ [Genesis 6:5–22](#)..... The Flood—God commands Noah to build an ark
- ☐ [Genesis 7:11–8:1](#)..... The Flood—Everything on the dry land dies
- ☐ [Genesis 9:8–19](#)..... The Flood—God makes a covenant with all flesh
- ☐ [Genesis 11:1–9](#)..... The tower of Babel—People try to make a name for themselves

God Chooses a Family to Bless the World

- ☐ [Genesis 12:1–8](#)..... God promises to make Abram’s name great, blessing all the earth
- ☐ [Genesis 15:1–21](#)..... God’s covenant with Abram, promising descendants and land
- ☐ [Genesis 17:1–8, 15–17; 21:1–3](#).... God gives Abram and Sarai new names • Isaac is born
- ☐ [Genesis 22:1–18](#)..... God tests Abraham’s faith, telling him to sacrifice Isaac
- ☐ [Genesis 25:19–34](#)..... Isaac and Rebecah have sons • Esau sells his birthright to Jacob
- ☐ [Genesis 27:1–25](#)..... Jacob steals Esau’s blessing
- ☐ [Genesis 27:30–45](#)..... Esau plans to kill Jacob
- ☐ [Genesis 28:10–22](#)..... Jacob dreams of a ladder to heaven
- ☐ [Genesis 29:13–30](#)..... Jacob marries Rachel and Leah
- ☐ [Genesis 32:1–18](#)..... Jacob prepares to meet Esau
- ☐ [Genesis 32:22–32](#)..... Jacob wrestles with God and is given the name Israel
- ☐ [Genesis 33:1–11, 18–20](#)..... Jacob meets Esau and returns to Canaan
- ☐ [Genesis 37:1–14](#)..... Jacob’s son Joseph dreams about ruling over his brothers
- ☐ [Genesis 37:18–36](#)..... Joseph’s brothers sell him to traders going to Egypt

This plan has 25 readings per month, with about 15½ verses per reading. Month 1 has 375 verses—an average of 15 verses per reading.
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A Beginners' Bible Reading Plan—Month 2

Name: _____ Month: _____

As you read:

1. **Pray:** Ask God to help you understand and believe what you are about to read.
2. **Read and mark:** Read one passage from the list below. Mark the box when you are done.
3. **Think:** For example—What did I learn? What puzzles me? How does this passage fit into the big story of the whole Bible? What does it teach about God and his plans for his world? Is there a reason to praise God? A promise to claim? An example to follow? A sin to avoid? A command to obey? An idea for loving God or my neighbor? A prayer to pray?
4. **Pray:** Talk to God about what you read. “Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you” (James 4:8).
5. **Share:** Talk to a family member or friend, telling one thing you learned or one question you have.

God Chooses a Family to Bless the World (continued)

- ☐ [Genesis 41:1, 8–24](#) Pharaoh dreams about cows and ears of grain
- ☐ [Genesis 41:25–33, 46–49, 56–57](#) Joseph rules over the land of Egypt, preparing for famine
- ☐ [Genesis 42:1–17](#) Joseph’s brothers come to Egypt to buy food • Joseph tests them
- ☐ [Genesis 42:18–26, 35–38](#) Joseph’s brothers find money in their sacks of grain
- ☐ [Genesis 45:1–15](#) Joseph reveals himself to his brothers, inviting them to Egypt
- ☐ [Genesis 46:1–7, 26–30](#) Jacob and his family of seventy persons move to Egypt
- ☐ [Genesis 48:1–2; 48:17–49:1, 8–10; 50:22–26](#) Jacob blesses his family • Jacob and Joseph die

God Delivers a Nation to Bless the World

- ☐ [Exodus 1:8–22](#) Egypt oppresses the Israelites • God blesses the Hebrew midwives
- ☐ [Exodus 2:1–10, 23–25](#) Moses is born • God remembers his covenant with Abraham
- ☐ [Exodus 3:1–17](#) God calls Moses to bring the Israelites out of Egypt
- ☐ [Exodus 7:1–13](#) Moses and Aaron go to Pharaoh, whose heart is hardened
- ☐ [Exodus 7:14–24](#) God starts sending plagues on Egypt—The Nile turns into blood
- ☐ [Exodus 12:1–14](#) God commands the Israelites to observe the Passover
- ☐ [Exodus 12:21, 26–42](#) God kills all the firstborn in Egypt and the Israelites quickly leave
- ☐ [Exodus 14:5–10, 13–16, 21–31](#) The Israelites go through the Red Sea on dry ground
- ☐ [Exodus 15:1–21](#) The song of Moses, Miriam, and the Israelites at the Red Sea
- ☐ [Exodus 16:2–4, 11–15, 31–35](#) The hungry Israelites grumble and God sends manna

God Gives His Nation a Covenant

- ☐ [Exodus 19:1–9, 16–20](#) The Israelites arrive at Mount Sinai
- ☐ [Exodus 20:1–20](#) God speaks the Ten Commandments
- ☐ [Exodus 25:1–10, 17–22](#) God commands Moses to build a tabernacle for God to dwell in
- ☐ [Exodus 32:1–20](#) The Israelites worship a golden calf
- ☐ [Exodus 34:1–10, 27–28](#) God (“The LORD” or “Yahweh”) renews his covenant
- ☐ [Exodus 40:1–9, 12–16, 34–38](#) The tabernacle is set up and the glory of the LORD fills it
- ☐ [Leviticus 4:27–31; 17:10–16](#) Laws about sin offerings • Laws against eating blood
- ☐ [Leviticus 11:1–19](#) Laws about clean and unclean animals (1)

This plan has 25 readings per month, with about 15½ verses per reading. Month 2 has 395 verses—an average of 15.8 verses per reading.
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A Beginners' Bible Reading Plan—Month 3

Name: _____ Month: _____

As you read:

1. **Pray:** Ask God to help you understand and believe what you are about to read.
2. **Read and mark:** Read one passage from the list below. Mark the box when you are done.
3. **Think:** For example—What did I learn? What puzzles me? How does this passage fit into the big story of the whole Bible? What does it teach about God and his plans for his world? Is there a reason to praise God? A promise to claim? An example to follow? A sin to avoid? A command to obey? An idea for loving God or my neighbor? A prayer to pray?
4. **Pray:** Talk to God about what you read. “Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you” (James 4:8).
5. **Share:** Talk to a family member or friend, telling one thing you learned or one question you have.

God Gives His Nation a Covenant (continued)

- ☐ [Leviticus 11:20–25, 41–47](#) Laws about clean and unclean animals (2)
- ☐ [Leviticus 16:1–19](#) The Day of Atonement—Inside the Holy Place
- ☐ [Leviticus 16:20–34](#) The Day of Atonement—Outside the camp
- ☐ [Leviticus 19:1–4, 9–18](#) “Be holy” and “love your neighbor as yourself”
- ☐ [Leviticus 24:10–23](#) Punishment for blasphemy and the “eye for eye” law
- ☐ [Numbers 1:1–4, 44–54](#) A census of Israelite warriors and the duties of the tribe of Levi
- ☐ [Numbers 9:15–23; 10:33–36](#) Israel, led by the cloud of the LORD, leaves Mount Sinai
- ☐ [Numbers 13:1–3, 25–33](#) Spies are sent into Canaan and bring back a bad report
- ☐ [Numbers 14:1–4, 11–19](#) Israel refuses to enter Canaan and Moses prays for them
- ☐ [Numbers 14:20–35](#) God pardons but sends Israel into the wilderness for 40 years
- ☐ [Numbers 20:2–13](#) Israel grumbles about water and Moses strikes the rock
- ☐ [Numbers 22:1–6; 24:1–9, 17](#) Balaam’s prophecy—Israel is “like a lion” and “a star shall come”
- ☐ [Deuteronomy 6:1–15, 20–25](#) The greatest commandment—“Love the LORD your God”
- ☐ [Deuteronomy 12:1–12](#) God will choose a special place of worship in the promised land
- ☐ [Deuteronomy 18:15–22](#) God promises to raise up another prophet like Moses
- ☐ [Deuteronomy 28:1–14](#) Covenant blessings for obeying the LORD
- ☐ [Deuteronomy 28:15–19, 45–51, 58–63](#) Covenant curses for disobeying the LORD
- ☐ [Deuteronomy 30:1–5, 15–20](#) “God will restore your fortunes” • “Choose life”
- ☐ [Deuteronomy 31:1–8, 23–29](#) God chooses Joshua • Moses writes the Book of the Law
- ☐ [Deuteronomy 31:30–32:6, 17–20, 39–47](#) Moses’ song of witness, foretelling Israel’s future
- ☐ [Deuteronomy 34:1–12](#) “There has not arisen a prophet since in Israel like Moses”
- ☐ [Psalm 90:1–17](#) “A prayer of Moses, the man of God”

God Gives His Nation a Land

- ☐ [Joshua 1:1–11](#) God tells Joshua, “Be strong and courageous”
- ☐ [Joshua 2:1–24](#) Two Israelite spies go to Jericho, where Rahab rescues them
- ☐ [Joshua 3:7–17](#) Israel crosses the Jordan River on dry ground

This plan has 25 readings per month, with about 15½ verses per reading. Month 3 has 366 verses—an average of 14.64 verses per reading.
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A Beginners' Bible Reading Plan—Month 4

Name: _____ Month: _____

As you read:

1. **Pray:** Ask God to help you understand and believe what you are about to read.
2. **Read and mark:** Read one passage from the list below. Mark the box when you are done.
3. **Think:** For example—What did I learn? What puzzles me? How does this passage fit into the big story of the whole Bible? What does it teach about God and his plans for his world? Is there a reason to praise God? A promise to claim? An example to follow? A sin to avoid? A command to obey? An idea for loving God or my neighbor? A prayer to pray?
4. **Pray:** Talk to God about what you read. “Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you” (James 4:8).
5. **Share:** Talk to a family member or friend, telling one thing you learned or one question you have.

God Gives His Nation a Land (continued)

- ☐ [Joshua 6:1–5, 12–21](#) Israel marches around Jericho and its walls fall down
- ☐ [Joshua 7:1–12, 19–26](#) Israel is defeated at Ai because of Achan's sin
- ☐ [Joshua 11:10–23](#) Israel conquers northern Canaan and war ends
- ☐ [Joshua 24:1–15](#) Covenant renewal—“Choose this day whom you will serve”
- ☐ [Joshua 24:16–28](#) Covenant renewal—“We will serve the LORD”

God Punishes and Delivers His Sinful Nation

- ☐ [Judges 2:6–23](#) Joshua dies • Israel repeatedly breaks its covenant with God
- ☐ [Judges 6:1–6, 11–16](#) God calls Gideon to deliver Israel from the Midianites
- ☐ [Judges 7:1–8, 16–22](#) God helps Israel defeat the Midianites
- ☐ [Judges 13:1–7, 24–25](#) God chooses Samson to deliver Israel from the Philistines
- ☐ [Judges 16:4–22](#) Samson tells Delilah the secret of his strength
- ☐ [Judges 16:23–31](#) Samson wins a final victory, but it costs him his life
- ☐ [Ruth 1:1–8, 16–22](#) After famine, Naomi and Ruth the Moabite return to Israel
- ☐ [Ruth 2:1–13; 4:13–17](#) Ruth meets and marries Boaz, becoming the ancestor of David

God Gives His Nation a King

- ☐ [1 Samuel 1:1–11, 19–20, 24–28](#)... Hannah prays for Samuel and gives him to the LORD
- ☐ [1 Samuel 3:1–14, 19–21](#) God calls Samuel to be his prophet
- ☐ [1 Samuel 10:17–25; 15:1–9](#) Saul is proclaimed king, but disobeys God
- ☐ [1 Samuel 15:10–28](#) The LORD rejects Saul as king
- ☐ [1 Samuel 16:1–13; Psalm 23:1–6](#) Samuel anoints David as king • “The LORD is my shepherd”
- ☐ [1 Samuel 17:1–11, 32–37](#) David defeats Goliath in the name of the LORD (1)
- ☐ [1 Samuel 17:38–51](#) David defeats Goliath in the name of the LORD (2)
- ☐ [1 Samuel 18:6–16](#) Saul tries to kill David
- ☐ [1 Samuel 24:1–17](#) David spares Saul's life
- ☐ [1 Samuel 31:1–9](#) The Philistine army kills Saul and his sons
- ☐ [Psalm 34:1–22](#) A prayer of David, when he was afraid of his enemies
- ☐ [2 Samuel 5:1–12](#) David is anointed King over all Israel

This plan has 25 readings per month, with about 15½ verses per reading. Month 4 has 384 verses—an average of 15.36 verses per reading.
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A Beginners' Bible Reading Plan—Month 5

Name: _____ Month: _____

As you read:

1. **Pray:** Ask God to help you understand and believe what you are about to read.
2. **Read and mark:** Read one passage from the list below. Mark the box when you are done.
3. **Think:** For example—What did I learn? What puzzles me? How does this passage fit into the big story of the whole Bible? What does it teach about God and his plans for his world? Is there a reason to praise God? A promise to claim? An example to follow? A sin to avoid? A command to obey? An idea for loving God or my neighbor? A prayer to pray?
4. **Pray:** Talk to God about what you read. “Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you” (James 4:8).
5. **Share:** Talk to a family member or friend, telling one thing you learned or one question you have.

God Gives His Nation a King (continued)

- ☐ [2 Samuel 6:1–15](#)..... The ark of the covenant is brought into Jerusalem
- ☐ [1 Chronicles 16:1–18](#)..... David’s song of thanks after the ark arrives (1)
- ☐ [1 Chronicles 16:23–37](#)..... David’s song of thanks after the ark arrives (2)
- ☐ [2 Samuel 7:1–17](#)..... God’s covenant with David, promising an eternal kingdom
- ☐ [Psalm 2:1–12](#)..... “I have set my King on Zion”

God Punishes and Delivers His Sinful King

- ☐ [2 Samuel 11:1–5, 14–17, 26–27](#)... David takes Bathsheba and kills her husband Uriah
- ☐ [2 Samuel 12:1–15, 19, 24–25](#)..... Nathan rebukes David • David’s child dies but Solomon is born
- ☐ [Psalm 51:1–19](#)..... David’s prayer—“Create in me a clean heart, O God”
- ☐ [2 Samuel 15:1–6, 13–15, 24–30](#)... Absalom conspires against his father David
- ☐ [2 Samuel 18:1, 5–15, 21, 31–33](#)... Absalom is killed and David mourns
- ☐ [2 Samuel 22:1–16](#)..... David’s song of deliverance (1)
- ☐ [2 Samuel 22:17–31](#)..... David’s song of deliverance (2)
- ☐ [2 Samuel 22:32–51](#)..... David’s song of deliverance (3)
- ☐ [1 Chronicles 21:1–8, 14–17, 28–30; 22:1–5](#)..... David sins, then chooses a site for the temple
- ☐ [Psalm 103:1–22](#)..... A psalm of David—“Bless the LORD, O my soul!”
- ☐ [Psalm 139:1–24](#)..... A psalm of David—“Search me, O God, and know my heart!”

God Blesses His Nation as He Promised in His Covenant

- ☐ [1 Kings 1:28–40; 2:10–12](#)..... Solomon is crowned king and David dies
- ☐ [1 Kings 3:3–15](#)..... God gives Solomon great wisdom
- ☐ [1 Kings 3:16–28](#)..... Solomon shows his great wisdom
- ☐ [1 Kings 6:1, 7–22, 38](#)..... Solomon builds the temple
- ☐ [2 Chronicles 5:2–14; 6:12–17](#)..... Solomon brings the ark of the covenant into the temple
- ☐ [2 Chronicles 6:18–21, 36–42; 7:1–6](#)..... Solomon prays and the LORD’s glory fills the temple

God Gives His Nation Wisdom and Psalms

- ☐ [Proverbs 3:1–18](#)..... “Trust in the LORD” • “Blessed is the one who finds wisdom”
- ☐ [Proverbs 6:6–11, 16–22](#)..... “Go to the ant” • “Six things that the LORD hates”
- ☐ [Proverbs 15:1–5; 22:1–6](#)..... “A soft answer” • “A good name”

This plan has 25 readings per month, with about 15½ verses per reading. Month 5 has 412 verses—an average of 16.48 verses per reading.
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A Beginners' Bible Reading Plan—Month 6

Name: _____ Month: _____

As you read:

1. **Pray:** Ask God to help you understand and believe what you are about to read.
2. **Read and mark:** Read one passage from the list below. Mark the box when you are done.
3. **Think:** For example—What did I learn? What puzzles me? How does this passage fit into the big story of the whole Bible? What does it teach about God and his plans for his world? Is there a reason to praise God? A promise to claim? An example to follow? A sin to avoid? A command to obey? An idea for loving God or my neighbor? A prayer to pray?
4. **Pray:** Talk to God about what you read. “Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you” (James 4:8).
5. **Share:** Talk to a family member or friend, telling one thing you learned or one question you have.

God Gives His Nation Wisdom and Psalms (continued)

- ☐ [Ecclesiastes 1:1–14](#)..... “All is vanity and a striving after wind”
- ☐ [Ecclesiastes 12:1–14](#) “Remember also your Creator in the days of your youth”
- ☐ [Song of Solomon 2:8–17; 8:6–7](#) ... “The voice of my beloved” • “Love is strong as death”
- ☐ [Job 1:1–22](#) Satan tests Job—“Does Job fear God for no reason?”
- ☐ [Job 2:11–3:4, 11; 11:1–6](#) Job wishes he was never born • Zophar accuses Job of sin
- ☐ [Job 38:1–7; 40:1–9](#) God answers Job—“Dress for action... I will question you”
- ☐ [Job 42:1–17](#) “The LORD restored the fortunes of Job”
- ☐ [Psalm 1:1–6; 32:1–5](#) “Blessed is the man” who delights in God’s law and is forgiven
- ☐ [Psalm 19:1–14](#) “The heavens declare the glory of God”
- ☐ [Psalm 8:1–9; 110:1–7](#) God’s anointed king is appointed as ruler over all
- ☐ [Psalm 22:1–2, 7–18; 69:8–9, 21–25](#) God’s anointed king is put to shame
- ☐ [Psalm 118:14–29](#) “The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone”
- ☐ [Psalm 91:1–16](#) “He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High”
- ☐ [Psalm 100:1–5; 148:1–14](#) “Make a joyful noise” • “Praise the LORD!”

God Deals with His Sinful Nation—Part 1: The Northern Kingdom, Israel

- ☐ [1 Kings 11:1–13, 29–31, 42–43](#) Solomon’s heart turns away from the LORD • Solomon dies
- ☐ [1 Kings 12:1, 16–20, 25–31](#) The kingdom is divided • Jeroboam builds golden calves
- ☐ [1 Kings 16:29–17:7](#) Ahab provokes the LORD to anger • Elijah warns rain will stop
- ☐ [1 Kings 18:1–2, 17–29](#) Elijah says it will rain again and calls for a contest with Baal
- ☐ [1 Kings 18:30–46](#) The LORD proves that he is God, sending fire and a great rain
- ☐ [2 Kings 2:1–14](#) Elijah is taken to heaven and Elisha takes his place as prophet
- ☐ [2 Kings 5:1–17](#) Elisha heals the Syrian commander Naaman of his leprosy
- ☐ [Jonah 3:1–5, 10; 4:1–11](#) The LORD spares Nineveh and teaches Jonah about mercy
- ☐ [Amos 5:1–3, 14–24](#) “The day of the LORD” • “Let justice roll down like waters”
- ☐ [Hosea 11:1–11](#) “Out of Egypt I called my son”
- ☐ [2 Kings 17:6–23](#) Israel is exiled from their own land to Assyria

This plan has 25 readings per month, with about 15½ verses per reading. Month 6 has 391 verses—an average of 15.64 verses per reading.
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A Beginners' Bible Reading Plan—Month 7

Name: _____ Month: _____

As you read:

1. **Pray:** Ask God to help you understand and believe what you are about to read.
2. **Read and mark:** Read one passage from the list below. Mark the box when you are done.
3. **Think:** For example—What did I learn? What puzzles me? How does this passage fit into the big story of the whole Bible? What does it teach about God and his plans for his world? Is there a reason to praise God? A promise to claim? An example to follow? A sin to avoid? A command to obey? An idea for loving God or my neighbor? A prayer to pray?
4. **Pray:** Talk to God about what you read. “Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you” (James 4:8).
5. **Share:** Talk to a family member or friend, telling one thing you learned or one question you have.

God Deals with His Sinful Nation—Part 2: The Southern Kingdom, Judah

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|---|-------|---|
| ☐ | 2 Kings 18:1–8, 13, 28–35 | ..... | Hezekiah holds fast to the LORD • Assyria attacks Judah |
| ☐ | 2 Kings 19:15–20, 32–37 | ..... | Hezekiah prays and Isaiah prophesies of Assyria's defeat |
| ☐ | Isaiah 1:1–4, 10–20 | ..... | “Sinful nation” • “Come now, let us reason together” |
| ☐ | Isaiah 6:1–13 | ..... | Isaiah sees the LORD on his throne and is sent as a prophet |
| ☐ | Isaiah 11:1–9; 40:1–11 | | “A shoot from the stump of Jesse”
“In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD” |
| ☐ | Isaiah 40:18–31 | ..... | “To whom then will you liken God?” |
| ☐ | Isaiah 42:1–17 | ..... | “Behold my servant” |
| ☐ | Isaiah 44:9–20 | ..... | “All who fashion idols are nothing” |
| ☐ | Isaiah 53:1–12 | ..... | “He was pierced for our transgressions” |
| ☐ | Isaiah 61:1–11 | ..... | “The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me” |
| ☐ | Isaiah 65:17–66:2 | ..... | “Behold, I create new heavens and a new earth” |
| ☐ | Micah 5:1–4; 6:1–8; 7:18–20 | ..... | A ruler from Bethlehem • “What does the LORD require of you?” |
| ☐ | 2 Kings 21:1–6; 22:1–13 | ..... | Manasseh does much evil • Josiah hears the Book of the Law |
| ☐ | 2 Kings 23:1–6, 21–27 | ..... | Josiah leads Judah to renew their covenant with the LORD |
| ☐ | Psalm 119:89–105 | ..... | “Oh how I love your law!” |
| ☐ | Nahum 1:1–15 | ..... | “The LORD is a jealous and avenging God” |
| ☐ | Obadiah 1:1–4, 10–18 | ..... | “The day of the LORD is near upon all the nations” |
| ☐ | Zephaniah 1:1–6, 12–18 | ..... | “The great day of the LORD is near” for Judah |
| ☐ | Habakkuk 1:1–11; 2:4; 3:16–19 | ... | “The righteous shall live by his faith” |
| ☐ | Jeremiah 1:4–10; 7:1–2, 8–16 | | The LORD calls Jeremiah to be a prophet
“Has this house... become a den of robbers?” |
| ☐ | Jeremiah 18:1–11; 23:1–6 | ..... | “Go down to the potter's house” • “A righteous branch” |
| ☐ | Jeremiah 25:1–12 | ..... | “These nations shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years” |
| ☐ | Jeremiah 31:23–37 | ..... | “I will make a new covenant with... Israel and... Judah” |
| ☐ | Joel 2:21–32 | ..... | “I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh” |
| ☐ | 2 Kings 24:18–25:15 | ..... | Judah is taken into exile in Babylon |

This plan has 25 readings per month, with about 15½ verses per reading. Month 7 has 366 verses—an average of 14.64 verses per reading.
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A Beginners' Bible Reading Plan—Month 8

Name: _____ Month: _____

As you read:

1. **Pray:** Ask God to help you understand and believe what you are about to read.
2. **Read and mark:** Read one passage from the list below. Mark the box when you are done.
3. **Think:** For example—What did I learn? What puzzles me? How does this passage fit into the big story of the whole Bible? What does it teach about God and his plans for his world? Is there a reason to praise God? A promise to claim? An example to follow? A sin to avoid? A command to obey? An idea for loving God or my neighbor? A prayer to pray?
4. **Pray:** Talk to God about what you read. “Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you” (James 4:8).
5. **Share:** Talk to a family member or friend, telling one thing you learned or one question you have.

God Deals with His Sinful Nation—Part 2: The Southern Kingdom, Judah (continued)

- ☐ [Psalm 89:1–4, 38–52](#) “Where is your steadfast love of old, which... you swore to David?”
- ☐ [Lamentations 3:22–40](#) “The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases”

God Cares for His Exiled Nation

- ☐ [Ezekiel 1:1–10, 15–19, 26–28](#) “The appearance of the likeness of the glory of the LORD”
- ☐ [Ezekiel 8:1–6, 16–18; 10:18–19; 11:22–25](#) Abominations in the temple • The LORD’s glory departs
- ☐ [Ezekiel 34:10–24](#) “I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David”
- ☐ [Ezekiel 36:1–2, 22–28, 33–36](#) “For the sake of my holy name... I will give you a new heart”
- ☐ [Ezekiel 37:1–14](#) “O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD”
- ☐ [Ezekiel 43:1–12](#) The glory of the LORD fills the new temple
- ☐ [Daniel 6:1–13](#) Daniel’s enemies trick the king and trap Daniel
- ☐ [Daniel 6:14–28](#) “The living God... has saved Daniel from the power of the lions”
- ☐ [Daniel 7:1–14](#) Daniel’s vision—Four beasts, the Ancient of Days, the Son of Man
- ☐ [Daniel 7:15–28](#) The interpretation of Daniel’s vision
- ☐ [Esther 3:1–6; 4:1–17](#) Haman seeks to destroy the Jews • Mordecai and Esther respond
- ☐ [Esther 5:1–5; 7:1–10](#) The king welcomes Esther, hears of Haman’s plot, and hangs him

God Brings His Nation Back from Exile

- ☐ [Ezra 1:1–11; 3:8–11](#) The LORD stirs up Cyrus to proclaim that the temple be rebuilt
- ☐ [Ezra 4:1–4; 5:1–2; Haggai 1:1–11](#) Enemies oppose the returned exiles but prophets support them
- ☐ [Ezra 6:14–22](#) The returned exiles finish rebuilding the temple in Jerusalem
- ☐ [Zechariah 3:1–10](#) A vision of Joshua the high priest
- ☐ [Zechariah 8:1–17](#) “Thus says the LORD: I have returned to Zion”
- ☐ [Zechariah 9:9–17](#) “Behold, your king is coming to you... mounted on a donkey”
- ☐ [Ezra 7:1–13, 25–28](#) Ezra, “a scribe skilled in the Law of Moses,” comes to Jerusalem
- ☐ [Nehemiah 1:1–4; 2:1–6, 11–18](#) Nehemiah prays and makes plans to rebuild Jerusalem’s walls
- ☐ [Nehemiah 4:1–14; 6:15–16](#) Enemies oppose the Jews but God helps them build the walls
- ☐ [Nehemiah 8:1–12; 13:15–18](#) Ezra reads from the Law • Ezra warns Jews who break the Sabbath
- ☐ [Malachi 2:17–3:5; 4:1–6](#) “Behold, I will send my messenger... I will send you Elijah”

A Beginners' Bible Reading Plan—Month 9

Name: _____ Month: _____

As you read:

1. **Pray:** Ask God to help you understand and believe what you are about to read.
2. **Read and mark:** Read one passage from the list below. Mark the box when you are done.
3. **Think:** For example—What did I learn? What puzzles me? How does this passage fit into the big story of the whole Bible? What does it teach about God and his plans for his world? Is there a reason to praise God? A promise to claim? An example to follow? A sin to avoid? A command to obey? An idea for loving God or my neighbor? A prayer to pray?
4. **Pray:** Talk to God about what you read. “Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you” (James 4:8).
5. **Share:** Talk to a family member or friend, telling one thing you learned or one question you have.

The Life of Jesus—According to Matthew, Mark, and Luke

*God sends a new king with a new covenant to gather a new nation—
a holy kingdom, chosen from all peoples and languages, that covers the whole earth!*

- | | | |
|--|-------|--|
| ☐ Luke 1:26–38, 46–55 | ..... | The birth of Jesus is foretold to Mary • Mary’s song of praise |
| ☐ Matthew 1:1, 17–25 | ..... | The birth of Jesus is foretold to Joseph |
| ☐ Luke 2:1–20 | ..... | Jesus is born and the shepherds visit |
| ☐ Matthew 2:1–15 | ..... | The visit of the magi and the flight into Egypt |
| ☐ Luke 2:39–52 | ..... | Jesus visits the temple at age twelve |
| ☐ Mark 1:1–13 | ..... | The ministry of John the Baptist and Jesus’ baptism |
| ☐ Matthew 4:1–11, 17–22 | ..... | The temptation of Jesus • The calling of the first disciples |
| ☐ Matthew 5:1–16 | ..... | The Sermon on the Mount—Beatitudes and “Salt of the earth” |
| ☐ Matthew 5:17–20, 38–48 | ..... | The Sermon on the Mount—“You therefore must be perfect” |
| ☐ Matthew 6:1–15 | ..... | The Sermon on the Mount—“When you give,” “When you pray” |
| ☐ Matthew 6:19–34 | ..... | The Sermon on the Mount—“Seek first the kingdom of God” |
| ☐ Matthew 7:7–14, 21–29 | ..... | The Sermon on the Mount—“Enter by the narrow gate” |
| ☐ Mark 2:1–12 | ..... | Jesus heals a paralyzed man and forgives his sins |
| ☐ Matthew 9:27–38 | ..... | Jesus performs miracles and preaches the gospel of the kingdom |
| ☐ Matthew 13:1–11, 18–23, 45–50 | ..... | Parables of the kingdom—Soil, a pearl, and a net of fish |
| ☐ Matthew 16:13–23 | ..... | Peter confesses that Jesus is the Christ but then rebukes him |
| ☐ Luke 9:23–36 | ..... | Teaching about taking up the cross • Jesus’ transfiguration |
| ☐ Matthew 18:1–14 | ..... | Jesus teaches about little ones in the kingdom |
| ☐ Luke 10:25–37 | ..... | The Parable of the Good Samaritan |
| ☐ Luke 15:11–32 | ..... | The Parable of the Lost Son |
| ☐ Matthew 19:16–30 | ..... | The rich young man and the danger of wealth |
| ☐ Luke 19:1–10, 41–44 | ..... | Zacchaeus enters the kingdom • Jesus weeps over Jerusalem |
| ☐ Matthew 21:1–17 | ..... | Jesus enters Jerusalem and cleanses the temple |
| ☐ Matthew 21:33–46 | ..... | The Parable of the Tenants—Judgment on the Jewish leaders |
| ☐ Matthew 25:31–46 | ..... | The Son of Man judges the sheep and the goats |

This plan has 25 readings per month, with about 15½ verses per reading. Month 9 has 387 verses—an average of 15.48 verses per reading.
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A Beginners' Bible Reading Plan—Month 10

Name: _____ Month: _____

As you read:

1. **Pray:** Ask God to help you understand and believe what you are about to read.
2. **Read and mark:** Read one passage from the list below. Mark the box when you are done.
3. **Think:** For example—What did I learn? What puzzles me? How does this passage fit into the big story of the whole Bible? What does it teach about God and his plans for his world? Is there a reason to praise God? A promise to claim? An example to follow? A sin to avoid? A command to obey? An idea for loving God or my neighbor? A prayer to pray?
4. **Pray:** Talk to God about what you read. “Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you” (James 4:8).
5. **Share:** Talk to a family member or friend, telling one thing you learned or one question you have.

The Death and Resurrection of Jesus—According to Matthew, Mark, and Luke

- ☐ [Matthew 26:1–16](#)..... Anointing and selling Jesus—How much is he worth?
- ☐ [Matthew 26:17–29](#)..... Jesus’ last Passover and the first Lord’s Supper
- ☐ [Matthew 26:30–46](#)..... Jesus prays in Gethsemane while the disciples fall asleep
- ☐ [Matthew 26:47–56](#)..... Jesus is betrayed and arrested
- ☐ [Matthew 26:57–75](#)..... Jesus’ trial at the high priest’s house and Peter’s denial
- ☐ [Matthew 27:1–2, 11–26](#)..... Jesus’ trial before the Roman governor Pilate
- ☐ [Matthew 27:27–44](#)..... Jesus is mocked, beat, and crucified
- ☐ [Matthew 27:45–56](#)..... Jesus dies—“Truly this was the Son of God!”
- ☐ [Matthew 27:57–66](#)..... Jesus is buried and the Jewish leaders guard his tomb
- ☐ [Matthew 28:1–20](#)..... Jesus rises from the dead and commissions his disciples
- ☐ [Luke 24:13–35](#)..... Jesus appears to two disciples on the road to Emmaus
- ☐ [Luke 24:36–53](#)..... Jesus comforts his disciples and explains the Scriptures

The Signs and Teachings of Jesus—According to John

- ☐ [John 1:1–18](#)..... “The Word was God... and the Word became flesh”
- ☐ [John 3:1–18](#)..... Nicodemus—“You must be born again”
- ☐ [John 6:1–15](#)..... Jesus feeds 5000 men fish and bread
- ☐ [John 6:25–35, 48–51](#)..... Jesus says, “I am the bread of life”
- ☐ [John 10:1–18](#)..... Jesus says, “I am the good shepherd”
- ☐ [John 11:1–7, 17–27](#)..... Jesus says, “I am the resurrection and the life”
- ☐ [John 11:38–53](#)..... Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead
- ☐ [John 13:1–17](#)..... Jesus washes his disciples’ feet
- ☐ [John 14:1–14](#)..... Jesus says, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life”
- ☐ [John 14:15–27](#)..... Jesus promises the Holy Spirit
- ☐ [John 15:1–17](#)..... Jesus says, “I am the true vine”
- ☐ [John 20:19–31](#)..... These signs “are written so that you may believe”
- ☐ [John 21:15–25](#)..... Loving and following Jesus, feeding his sheep

This plan has 25 readings per month, with about 15½ verses per reading. Month 10 has 396 verses—an average of 15.84 verses per reading.
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A Beginners' Bible Reading Plan—Month 11

Name: _____ Month: _____

As you read:

1. **Pray:** Ask God to help you understand and believe what you are about to read.
2. **Read and mark:** Read one passage from the list below. Mark the box when you are done.
3. **Think:** For example—What did I learn? What puzzles me? How does this passage fit into the big story of the whole Bible? What does it teach about God and his plans for his world? Is there a reason to praise God? A promise to claim? An example to follow? A sin to avoid? A command to obey? An idea for loving God or my neighbor? A prayer to pray?
4. **Pray:** Talk to God about what you read. “Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you” (James 4:8).
5. **Share:** Talk to a family member or friend, telling one thing you learned or one question you have.

The Birth and Growth of Jesus' Church

- | | | |
|--------------------------|--|---|
| ☐ | Acts 1:1–14 | Jesus promises the Spirit and ascends into heaven |
| ☐ | Acts 2:1–8, 12–24 | The Holy Spirit comes and Peter preaches |
| ☐ | Acts 2:32–47 | Three thousand people repent and are baptized |
| ☐ | Acts 4:1–12, 23–31 | Peter and John are arrested • The believers pray for boldness |
| ☐ | Acts 6:7–10; 7:51–8:3 | Stephen is martyred and a great persecution begins |
| ☐ | Acts 8:26–40 | Philip and the Ethiopian—The gospel reaches Africa |
| ☐ | Acts 9:1–20 | Saul (Paul) is converted and appointed as an apostle |
| ☐ | Acts 10:1–20 | Peter and the Roman centurion Cornelius see visions |
| ☐ | Acts 10:34–48 | “God shows no partiality”—The gospel is for Gentiles |
| ☐ | Acts 16:9–24 | “Come over to Macedonia”—The gospel reaches Europe |
| ☐ | Acts 16:25–40 | Paul, Silas, and the jailer—“What must I do to be saved?” |
| ☐ | Acts 27:1, 13–26 | Paul, sailing toward Rome, is storm-tossed at sea |
| ☐ | Acts 27:39–44; 28:16–17, 23–31 | Shipwreck and survival • Paul preaches in Rome |

Paul's Letters to Churches

- | | | |
|--------------------------|---|---|
| ☐ | Romans 3:9–26 | All have sinned and all are made right by faith in Jesus, as a gift |
| ☐ | Romans 4:3–8; 5:1–11 | God made us right by faith, so he will surely finish saving us |
| ☐ | Romans 8:1–2, 11–21 | The Spirit makes us children of God, promising future glory |
| ☐ | Romans 8:28–39 | “If God is for us, who can be against us?” |
| ☐ | Romans 12:1–21 | How we should live, because of God's mercies to us |
| ☐ | 1 Corinthians 1:10–25 | The cross is the solution for divided churches |
| ☐ | 1 Corinthians 12:12–31 | Christ's church is one body with many members |
| ☐ | 1 Corinthians 13:1–13 | Love is the solution for divided churches |
| ☐ | 1 Corinthians 15:12–28 | The resurrection of the dead—“In Christ shall all be made alive” |
| ☐ | 2 Corinthians 4:6–5:5 | Suffering and hope—“We have this treasure in jars of clay” |
| ☐ | 2 Corinthians 9:6–15 | “God loves a cheerful giver” |
| ☐ | 2 Corinthians 11:23–29; 12:1–10 | Paul boasts—“When I am weak, then I am strong” |

This plan has 25 readings per month, with about 15½ verses per reading. Month 11 has 416 verses—an average of 16.64 verses per reading.
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A Beginners' Bible Reading Plan—Month 12

Name: _____ Month: _____

As you read:

1. **Pray:** Ask God to help you understand and believe what you are about to read.
2. **Read and mark:** Read one passage from the list below. Mark the box when you are done.
3. **Think:** For example—What did I learn? What puzzles me? How does this passage fit into the big story of the whole Bible? What does it teach about God and his plans for his world? Is there a reason to praise God? A promise to claim? An example to follow? A sin to avoid? A command to obey? An idea for loving God or my neighbor? A prayer to pray?
4. **Pray:** Talk to God about what you read. “Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you” (James 4:8).
5. **Share:** Talk to a family member or friend, telling one thing you learned or one question you have.

Paul's Letters to Churches (continued)

- ☐ [Galatians 3:1–14](#) “The righteous shall live by faith”
- ☐ [Galatians 5:1, 13–25](#) “Christ has set us free” • “Walk by the Spirit”
- ☐ [Ephesians 2:1–10; 3:14–21](#) “By grace you have been saved” • A prayer for spiritual filling
- ☐ [Philippians 2:1–16](#) Imitating Christ's example of humility
- ☐ [Colossians 3:12–4:1](#) “Put on love” • Rules for Christian households
- ☐ [1 Thessalonians 4:9–18; 2 Thessalonians 3:6–15](#) The coming of the Lord
Warnings against disorderly living

Paul's Letters to Church Workers

- ☐ [1 Timothy 2:1–15](#) How to behave in God's church—Prayer; men and women
- ☐ [1 Timothy 3:1–16](#) How to behave in God's church—Overseers and deacons
- ☐ [2 Timothy 1:1–14; 3:14–17](#) Timothy's heritage of faith and Scripture
- ☐ [Titus 2:1–14](#) God's grace teaches us how to live
- ☐ [Philemon 1:1, 8–22](#) Paul's plea to Philemon for the slave Onesimus

More Letters to Churches and a Vision of God Creating a New World

- ☐ [Hebrews 10:1–18](#) Christ, the perfect sacrifice and priest of a new covenant
- ☐ [Hebrews 10:19–31, 39](#) “Let us draw near...in full assurance of faith”
- ☐ [Hebrews 11:1–16](#) “Without faith it is impossible to please” God
- ☐ [Hebrews 12:1–14](#) “Looking to Jesus” and enduring God's discipline
- ☐ [James 2:8–24](#) “Faith apart from works is useless”
- ☐ [1 Peter 2:11–25](#) Submission to authority and following Christ in suffering
- ☐ [2 Peter 3:1–13; Jude 1:17–25](#) “The Day of the Lord will come” • “Keep... in the love of God”
- ☐ [1 John 1:5–10; 4:7–21](#) Fellowship in the light • “We love because he first loved us”
- ☐ [3 John 1–15; 2 John 1:4–8](#) Walking in truth and love • Supporting faithful brothers
- ☐ [Revelation 1:9–20; 2:1–7](#) John sees a vision of the Son of Man • To the church in Ephesus
- ☐ [Revelation 4:1–11](#) “Behold, a throne stood in heaven, with one seated”
- ☐ [Revelation 5:1–14](#) “Worthy is the Lamb” to open the scroll of God's judgments
- ☐ [Revelation 20:11–21:8](#) “A great white throne” • “A new heaven and a new earth”
- ☐ [Revelation 22:8–21](#) “Surely I am coming soon.” Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!”