



## **2017 Bible Reading Plan**

*Reading the Bible as One Story*

This booklet and reading plan  
was written by the staff at Grace Bible Church  
and was edited and used with their permission.

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## Read the Bible as ONE Story

God's rescue through Jesus is the unifying story of all 66 books of the Bible.

Genesis 3:15 promises a Rescuer and the rest of the Bible fills in the details. Jesus is the main point of the entire Bible. Pastor Yancey Arrington shows that this was Jesus' own view of the Old Testament, *"In Luke 24, Jesus was walking with men on the road to Emmaus... These men doubted the resurrection, and Jesus could have just shown them His face, but instead He showed them Himself by teaching them the Old Testament!"*

If we read the Bible as the fulfillment of Genesis 3:15, we will see that all of it is about Jesus. Every text of the Bible is about the work of Christ. Every text is either explicitly promising that He will come, or foreshadowing His provision. Every hero of the Old Testament shows us his need and our need for the true Redeemer.

This Bible Reading Plan is designed to help you read the Bible as one story.

The READ THE STORY sections are primarily narrative portions of scripture. These are arranged so you can follow scripture chronologically.

The UNDERSTAND THE STORY sections are primarily explanatory sections of scripture. These will help you connect the dots between the shadows of Christ and His later fulfillments.

The RESPOND TO THE STORY sections are mostly praise, poetry, and wisdom literature. These show us how to respond to God's revelation with emotion, prayer, and action.

If you read the 24 daily reading portions each month you will complete 90% of the Bible in a year. For those that want to make sure they have read every chapter of the Bible, additional reading portions are added at the bottom of each page.

## Try this process to study the Bible in community or alone.

*If you are seeking to read the entire Bible in a year, you will not have time to study each passage in detail. However, set aside some portions of scripture for more in-depth study and prayer.*

### 1) PRAY

**Ask** the Holy Spirit to teach you and change you.

### 2) OBSERVE

**Observe** the text. Read it and re-read it. Answer who, what, when, where, why, and how questions of the passage. Is there a structure? What is the context?

### 3) INTERPRET

**Interpret** what it says about God or the condition of mankind. Is there any mention of grace? Is our need of it implied? Are there any cross references to consider? Why was this portion written? How do other portions of scripture help to interpret this one? What do gifted teachers say about this text? How can I understand this passage in a way that makes more of Jesus?

### 4) APPLY

Consider how to **apply** the scripture to daily life. Are there any commands to obey, examples to follow, or promises to trust? Does the passage expose any error in my beliefs or behavior? How does the text lead me to interact with others? What is the passage calling me to do?

### 5) PRAY

**Pray** over the contents of the text and their application.

## Choosing A Bible Translation

The Bible is a divinely unified story of redemption in the form of multiple books. These books are written in different genres, cultures, eras, and styles. The good news of Jesus Christ is an unchanging message that is constantly translated into new languages and cultures. African scholar Lamin Sanneh says, “The original language of Christianity is translation.” Grace Bible Church uses the **ESV**; however, we are not convinced that it is the *only* translation people should read. We give thanks that we have a great heritage of scholars seeking to translate the Bible into the language of the common people. This same desire to make God’s word understandable motivated Jerome and the King James Version translators. In the words of the King James translators’ preface, “Translation it is that openeth the window, to let in the light.” The same drive to share God’s Word compels modern scholars to translate the Bible today. Below are some guidelines for choosing a Bible.

First, what *type* of translation do you prefer? There are three kinds:

1. **Word-for-word** literal translations
2. **Thought-for-thought** literal translations
3. Paraphrases (not usually referred to as a “translation”)

### ***Make your primary Bible a literal translation (type 1 or 2).***

1. **Word-for-word** translations include: ESV (English Standard Version), NASB (New American Standard Bible), NKJV (New King James Version), HCSB (Holman Christian Standard Bible), and KJV (King James Version).
2. **Thought-for-thought** translations (also called dynamic-equivalence) include: NIV (New International Version), NET (New English Translation), NLT (New Living Translation), and The Voice.
3. **Paraphrases** include: The Message, The Living Bible, J.B. Phillips. These are often helpful, but more like reading a sermon or a commentary than reading a Bible.

## Choosing A Bible Translation, Continued

When choosing between a word-for-word and a thought-for-thought translation, think about your personal reading preferences and experience. The goal is to read it!

If you want smooth reading that flows like a conversation, you may prefer a thought-for-thought translation. The trade-off is that the translators are making more interpretive decisions to smooth out the language. If you are a reader of old books, you may prefer the precision of a word-for-word translation. The NET combines thought-for-thought translation with exhaustive linguistic notes to clarify translation choices.

Take time to familiarize yourself with the philosophy of the translators. Compare favorite passages and try to understand why the translations differ. Read the prefaces to understand what their goals were. Trendy preferences like “gender-inclusive language” can influence the philosophy of the translators. This effects all modern translations to varying degrees.

There are also many “Study” Bibles that have explanations at the bottom of each page, as well as helpful summaries and introductions. Two of the best study bibles available today are the “*NIV Study Bible*” and the “*ESV Study Bible*.” The “*Gospel Transformation Bible*” is a new one that focuses on Gospel-centered application of each book of the Bible.

No matter which Bible you choose, come to the scriptures needy, and ask God to meet you there: “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.” Matthew 5:6

## JANUARY

### (READ THE STORY)

- 1. Genesis 1-3
- 2. Genesis 4-6
- 3. Genesis 7-9
- 4. Genesis 10-12
- 5. Genesis 13-16
- 6. Genesis 17-23
- 7. Genesis 24-27
- 8. Genesis 28-32

9. Genesis 33-36

10. Genesis 37-39

11. Genesis 40-42

12. Genesis 43-44

13. Genesis 45-47

14. Genesis 48-50

### (UNDERSTAND THE STORY)

15. John 1, Hebrews 11

16. Rom. 4, Gal. 4

17. Mark 1-3

18. Mark 4-6

19. Mark 7-9

20. Mark 11-12

21. Mark 13-16

### (RESPOND TO THE STORY)

22. Psalms 1-3

23. Psalms 4-7

24. Psalms 8-11

## FEBRUARY

### (READ THE STORY)

- 1. Exodus 1-3
- 2. Exodus 4-6
- 3. Exodus 7-9
- 4. Exodus 10-13
- 5. Exodus 14-16
- 6. Exodus 17-18
- 7. Exodus 19-25
- 8. Exodus 29-34

9. Exodus 39-40

10. Numbers 13-14, 18, 20

11. Leviticus 16, 19, 23

12. Leviticus 4-5

### (UNDERSTAND THE STORY)

13. Hebrews 1-3

14. Hebrews 4-5

15. Hebrews 6-7

16. Hebrews 8-9

17. Hebrews 10-13

18. Acts 7

19. Mark 13-16

### (RESPOND TO THE STORY)

20. Psalms 12-14

21. Psalms 15-18

22. Psalms 19-21

23. Psalms 22-23

24. Psalms 24-25

## MARCH

### (READ THE STORY)

- 1. Deuteronomy 1-2
- 2. Deuteronomy 3-4
- 3. Deuteronomy 5-6
- 4. Deuteronomy 7-9
- 5. Deuteronomy 10-12
- 6. Deuteronomy 13-15
- 7. Deut. 16-18, Ps. 40-41
- 8. Deuteronomy 19-21
- 9. Deuteronomy 22-24

10. Deuteronomy 25-27

11. Deuteronomy 28-30

12. Deuteronomy 31

13. Numbers. 1-12, 15-17, 19, 21-35

### (UNDERSTAND THE STORY)

14. Matthew 1-4

15. Matthew 5-7

16. James 1-3

17. James 4-5

18. Galatians 1-3

19. Galatians 4-6

### (RESPOND TO THE STORY)

20. Psalms 26-27

21. Psalms 28-29

22. Psalms 30-31

23. Psalms 32-33

24. Psalms 34-35

## APRIL

### (READ THE STORY)

- 1. Deut. 34, Joshua 1
- 2. Joshua 2-4
- 3. Joshua 5-7
- 4. Joshua 8-9
- 5. Joshua 10-11
- 6. Joshua 12-13
- 7. Joshua 14-15
- 8. Joshua 16-17

9. Joshua 18-19

10. Joshua 20-21

11. Joshua 22-23

12. Joshua 24, Judges 1

### (UNDERSTAND THE STORY)

13. Heb. 3-4, Rom. 5&8

14. 1 Corinthians 1-5

15. 1 Corinthians 6-8

16. 1 Corinthians 9-11

17. 1 Corinthians 12-14

18. 1 Corinthians 15-16

### (RESPOND TO THE STORY)

19. Deuteronomy 32-33

20. Psalms 36-37

21. Psalms 38-39

22. Psalms 40-41

23. Psalms 119 :1-24

24. Psalms 119:25-56

## MAY

### (READ THE STORY)

- 1. Judges 1-3
- 2. Judges 4-6
- 3. Judges 7-10
- 4. Judges 11-14
- 5. Judges 15-17
- 6. Judges 18-21
- 7. Ruth 1-4
- 8. 1 Samuel 1-3

9. 1 Samuel 4-6

10. 1 Samuel 7-9

11. 1 Samuel 10-12

12. 1 Samuel 13-15

13. 1 Samuel 16-18

### (UNDERSTAND THE STORY)

14. Romans 1, Acts 7

15. 2 Corinthians 1-3

16. 2 Corinthians 4-6

17. 2 Corinthians 7-10

18. 2 Corinthians 11-13

19. Colossians 1-2

20. Colossians 3-4

### (RESPOND TO THE STORY)

21. Psalms 119:57-88

22. Psalms 119:89-120

23. Psalms 119:121-152

24. Psalms 119:153-176

## JUNE

### (READ THE STORY)

- 1. 1 Samuel 19-21
- 2. 1 Samuel 22-24
- 3. 1 Samuel 25-27
- 4. 1 Samuel 28-31
- 5. 2 Samuel 1-3
- 6. 2 Samuel 4-5
- 7. 2 Samuel 6-7
- 8. 2 Samuel 8-10

9. 2 Samuel 11-13

10. 2 Samuel 14-16

11. 2 Samuel 17-21

12. 2 Samuel 22-24

13. 1 Kings 1-2

### (UNDERSTAND THE STORY)

14. Matthew 1-2

15. Hebrews 1

16. Colossians 1

17. Matthew 5

18. Matthew 6

19. Matthew 7

### (RESPOND TO THE STORY)

20. Psalms 42-45

21. Psalms 46-49

22. Psalms 50-53

23. Psalms 54-58

24. Psalms 59-62

Want to complete the Bible in a year? Also read the book of Job, Exodus 26-28, 35-38, Numbers 36, and Leviticus 1-3, 6-15, 17-18, 20-22, 24-27

To complete the Bible in a year, also read:  
Song of Solomon 1-8, Joel 1-3, Obadiah, 1 Chronicles 1-29

## JULY

### (READ THE STORY)

- 1. 1 Kings 3-5
- 2. 1 Kings 6-8
- 3. 1 Kings 9-11
- 4. 1 Kings 12-16
- 5. 1 Kings 17-19
- 6. 1 Kings 20-22
- 7. 2 Kings 1-4
- 8. 2 Kings 5-8

- 9. 2 Kings 9-12
- 10. 2 Kings 13-15
- 11. Jonah 1-4
- 12. Hosea 1-7
- 13. Hosea 8-14

### (UNDERSTAND THE STORY)

- 14. Amos 1-4
- 15. Amos 5-9
- 16. James 4-5

- 17. 1 John 1-5

### (RESPOND TO THE STORY)

- 18. Ecclesiastes 1-6
- 19. Ecclesiastes 7-12
- 20. Proverbs 1-5
- 21. Proverbs 6-10
- 22. Proverbs 11-15
- 23. Psalms 63-67
- 24. Psalms 68-70

## AUGUST

### (READ THE STORY)

- 1. 2 Kings 16-19
- 2. Isaiah 1-6
- 3. Micah 1-7
- 4. Zephaniah 1-3
- 5. Jeremiah 1-7
- 6. Jeremiah 17-20
- 7. Isaiah 7-14
- 8. 2 Chron. 32-35, 2 Kings 24-25

- 9. Isaiah 26-27, 35, 40

- 10. Daniel 1-4

- 11. Daniel 5-8

- 12. Jerem.25-38, Daniel 9-12

- 13. Ezekiel 4-10, 2 Chron. 36

### (UNDERSTAND THE STORY)

- 14. Habakkuk 1-3
- 15. Jeremiah 29-31
- 16. Isaiah 49-51
- 17. Isaiah 52-55

- 18. 1 Peter 1-5, 2 Peter 1-3

- 19. Philippians 1-4

### (RESPOND TO THE STORY)

- 20. Lamentations 1-5
- 21. Isaiah 41-44
- 22. Proverbs 16-22
- 23. Proverbs 23-28
- 24. Psalms 71-76

## SEPTEMBER

### (READ THE STORY)

- 1. 2 Kings 25, 2 Chron. 36, Isaiah 45, Ezra 1
- 2. Ezra 3-5
- 3. Haggai 1-2
- 4. Zechariah 1-4
- 5. Zechariah 5-8, Ezra 6
- 6. Esther 1-3
- 7. Esther 4-6

- 8. Esther 7-10

- 9. Ezra 7-10

- 10. Nehemiah 1-3

- 11. Nehemiah 4-6

- 12. Nehemiah 7-10

- 13. Nehemiah 11-13

### (UNDERSTAND THE STORY)

- 14. Ezekiel 33-34, 36-37
- 15. Isaiah 44-45
- 16. Isaiah 46-48

- 17. Zechariah 9-10

- 18. Zechariah 11-14

- 19. Malachi 1-4

- 20. Jeremiah 31

- 21. Hebrews 8

### (RESPOND TO THE STORY)

- 22. Proverbs 29-31
- 23. Psalms 77-78
- 24. Psalms 79-83

## OCTOBER

### (READ THE STORY)

- 1. Matthew 1, Luke 1-2
- 2. Matthew 2, Luke 3-4
- 3. Luke 5-7, Matthew 12
- 4. Luke 8-9, Matthew 14-15
- 5. Luke 10-12
- 6. Luke 13-15
- 7. Luke 16-17, Matthew 19
- 8. Luke 18-20

- 9. Luke 21, Matthew 24-25

- 10. Luke 22-24

- 11. Matthew 26-28

### (UNDERSTAND THE STORY)

- 12. Ephesians 1-3
- 13. Ephesians 4-6
- 14. Romans 1-3
- 15. Romans 4-5
- 16. Romans 6-7

- 17. Romans 8-9

- 18. Romans 10-11

- 19. Romans 12-13

- 20. Romans 14-16

### (RESPOND TO THE STORY)

- 21. Psalms 84-89
- 22. Psalms 90-96
- 23. Psalms 97-101
- 24. Psalms 102-105

## NOVEMBER

### (READ THE STORY)

- 1. Isaiah 52-53
- 2. Luke 1:1-4, Luke 24, 1 Corinthians 15:1-11
- 3. Acts 1-2
- 4. Acts 3-5
- 5. Acts 6-7
- 6. Acts 8-9
- 7. Acts 10-12

- 8. Acts 13-15

- 9. Acts 16-18

- 10. Acts 19-20

- 11. Acts 21-23

- 12. Acts 24-26

- 13. Acts 27-28

### (UNDERSTAND THE STORY)

- 14. 1 Thessalonians 1-5
- 15. 2 Thessalonians 1-3
- 16. Titus 1-3

- 17. 1 Timothy 1-3

- 18. 1 Timothy 4-6

- 19. 2 Timothy 1-4

- 20. Jude

### (RESPOND TO THE STORY)

- 21. Psalms 106-108
- 22. Psalms 109-118
- 23. Psalms 120-130
- 24. Psalms 131-138

## DECEMBER

### (READ THE STORY)

- 1. John 1-3
- 2. John 4-6
- 3. John 7-9
- 4. John 10-12
- 5. John 13-15
- 6. John 16-18
- 7. John 19-21
- 8. Rev. 1-3

- 9. Rev. 4-6

- 10. Rev. 7-9

- 11. Rev. 10-12

- 12. Rev. 13-15

- 13. Rev. 16-18

- 14. Rev. 19-22

### (UNDERSTAND THE STORY)

- 15. Isaiah 53, 9
- 16. Luke 24
- 17. Acts 7

- 18. Colossians 1-2

- 19. Colossians 3-4

- 20. Philemon

### (RESPOND TO THE STORY)

- 21. Psalms 139-143
- 22. Psalms 147-150
- 23. Ephesians 1-2
- 24. Revelation 21-22

To complete the Bible in a year, also read: 2 Kings 20-23, 2 John, 3 John, 2 Chron. 1-31, Nahum 1-3, Isaiah 15-25, 28-34, 36-39, 58-66, Jeremiah 8-16, 21-24, 39-52, and Ezekiel 1-3, 11-32, 35, 38-48

To complete the Bible in a year, also read: Matthew 3-11, 13, 16-18, 20-23