

Background

Reading through the Bible is a great opportunity to get to know God's Word. Doing it together provides accountability and support. The important thing is that we begin where we are and keep going. This year I would like to offer an abbreviated, abridged approach in reading the Old Testament. A couple of things need to be kept in mind. Spiritual formation, transformation, and growth come from being in God's Word. The goal is not just to read it, but to allow its truth to penetrate our lives, to change us and mold us. That is what I mean by "Getting into God's Word, so His Word gets into us."

One, all of the Old Testament is God's Word. Every part is important, meaningful and significant.

Second, the goal is to read about 2 chapters a day, about 10-15 minutes. Keeping it short and getting it done is better than long passages and long time and not making it through.

Third, when we read it is good to look for principles God taught His people to live by, expectation, and times of success and failure. What does God want us to learn, understand, realize or apply to our lives are themes we should be looking for.

Fourth, my goal is to provide some brief commentary and context at the beginning of each book so we can keep the story in perspective.

Fifth, it is good to have a reading partner to keep us focused, accountable and perhaps to discuss parts we do not understand.

Enjoy your reading and time with God.

Dr. Ralph Gibson, Pastor

January

READING

PLAN



“Getting into God’s Word,
so God’s Word gets into us.”

Daily Reading for January

This month we read through most of the gospel account of Jesus life. It will give us a concentrated picture of Jesus life with the repeated reading of the story of Jesus. We get to know Jesus as we spend time with Him walking the streets and roads of the cities and towns in Israel in his day. We get to see how he hands critics as well as how he cares for the sick, deals with the needs of humanity and teaches the truth of God in every situation.

This concentrated reading helps set up the rest of the New Testament. It gives as a foundation for the truth described in Paul's writing in giving explanation and application to the timeless truths of Jesus.

We are just finishing the celebration and recognition of Jesus birth at the end of December and the beginning of January and as we read through the gospels in January and early February we will review the death of Jesus which will prepare us for Lent and Easter in late March.

If you have been reading with us, please continue. If you have not been reading with us, now is a great time to start as we read through the New Testament in about 3 months. We might call this a concentrated time in 'getting to know Jesus'. The more we get to know Jesus the better off we are.

My goal is to keep the readings short and fit them into our lives. It is never too late to start. So begin today where we are and join the journey through the Scriptures.

As we read look for what is God trying to emphasis in this passage? In what ways does this apply to me? What principles do I need to take from this? What is God trying to say to me and my life?

Daily Bible Reading

January 1	Matthew 17-18	Jesus Transfigured
2	19-20	Marriage & Divorce
3	21-22	Triumphal Entry
4	23-24	Message to Scribes & Pharisees
5	25-26	Parable of the Wise & Foolish
6	27-28	Jesus handed over to Pilate
7	Mark 1-2	John the Baptist
8	3-4	Healing on Sabbath
9	5-6	Demon Possessed Man Healed
10	7-8	Defilement Comes from Within
11	9-10	Jesus transfigured on the Mount
12	11-12	Triumphal Entry
13	13-14	Jesus Predicts destruction of temple
14	15-16	Jesus faces Pilate
15	Luke 1-2	John's birth announcement
16	3-4	John prepares the way
17	5-6	Jesus calls disciples
18	7-8	Jesus heals Centurion's servant
19	9-10	Sending out the Twelve
20	11-12	Model Prayer
21	13-14	Repent or Perish
22	15-16	Parable of Lost Sheep
23	17-18	Jesus warns of offenses
24	19-20	Jesus comes to Zacchaeus house
25	21-22	Widow's Two Mites
26	23-24	Jesus handed over to Pilate
27	John 1-2	The Eternal Word
28	3-4	The New Birth
29	5-6	Man healed at the Pool
30	7-8	Jesus's brothers disbelieve
31	9-10	Man receives sight

Questions, impressions, lessons and applications.

“A chapter a day keeps the Devil away.”