

# **Inspire Family Fellowship**

## **Bible Reading Plan for Beginners**

The Christian Bible is made up of 66 books from almost as many authors written over a 1600 year span - yet tying together to tell a unified story. It is without question the most unique literary work in history. It has literally changed the lives of billions of people, as well as the course of history through the devotion given to it from many leaders. The following is a suggested approach for learning how to read the Bible, as well as a plan for surveying the big story of scripture. It is not about how much Scripture you get through - but how much Scripture gets through you! Keep in mind the following:

### **Preparation:**

1. The Bible is not casual reading. It is meant to be studied and wrestled with for the purpose of transforming your mind and heart. Not everything you read will align with your opinions, habits, behaviors or lifestyle. Allow the bible to challenge these things, and ask the Holy Spirit to help you grow as you seek to re-align your heart and life with scripture.
2. You will need an adult version of the Bible complete with study notes and introductions to each book. I suggest the NIV study bible, or the ESV, RSV or The Message (if it has study notes). The study notes are critical for helping you get the context and learn! You will also need a journal or notebook, and a pen, pencil and/or highlighter.
3. I have included links to excellent short videos about each book of the bible from the Bible Project. They are so good! Watch them - they will really help orient you as you start each listed book.
4. If possible, try to find or form a group to do bible study with. You may decide to do some study daily alone, and meet with a group once per week. This is great! I believe we often learn much better in community, as the Holy Spirit loves to connect people and give them the benefit of shared insights and connection. You will need at least 60 minutes for a group study, and 30 minutes for study if you do it alone.

### **A Method for Study:**

1. Start with a short prayer. Ask the Holy Spirit to teach you what you need to learn today.
2. Remember, if you are starting a new book, read the introductions and watch the listed videos. They will be a huge help in your understanding.
3. Don't try to read too much material! If you follow the plan listed below it will allow you to process the bible in digestible chunks. Absolutely use the study notes as you read! You will be amazed how they help the stories come alive in a fresh way.
4. After reading the verses of the day, process them by writing down your thoughts using the following questions as a guide:
  - What is the main point of this section?
  - What new light seems to shine out to me and get my attention?
  - What questions come to mind from reading these verses?

- How can I apply these verses to my life today?
5. If you are in a group, take time to discuss your thoughts with each other, making sure to give each person a chance to share their insights. Listen and learn from each other!
  6. Close in prayer: Ask the Holy Spirit to grow you from this time spent in God's Word.

### **Bible Reading Plan:**

The Bible is an epic - a large story made up of many smaller stories and characters. The following plan is a survey of the large story as experienced by reading selections from the shorter stories. It is not comprehensive, but is a good start for the first time, or inexperienced reader. The large story is listed in the following sections:

- Jesus, The Big Picture
- God, Creation & Humanity
- The Rebellion and Fall
- God's Plan for Redemption Begins
- God's Wisdom for People
- The Praises of God's People
- God's People Fail
- God's Promised Rescuer
- Jesus: God's Rescue and Redemption Arrives
- The Church: God's Rescue and Redemption Spreads
- Letters to a Church of Imperfect but Growing People
- God's Rescue and Redemption is Fulfilled

I have taken the time break up the readings in each section into small, digestible chunks. Just patiently follow the plan and you should start to see the how the big story emerges from the smaller ones - like a mosaic picture! So ... here we go!

**Jesus, The Big Picture:** (Read Intro to John and watch The Bible Project: John 1-12. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G-2e9mMf7E8>. ).  
*John 1: 1-14*

**God, Creation & Humanity:** (Read Intro to Genesis and watch The Bible Project: Genesis Ch. 1-11 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GQI72THyO5I&t=8s>.).  
*Genesis 1, Genesis 2*

**The Rebellion & Fall:**  
*Genesis 3:1-3, 3:4-7, 3:8-22* (remember: one at a time!)

**God's Plan for Redemption Begins:** Watch The Bible Project Genesis 12-50 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F4isSyennFo>.  
*Genesis 12:1-9, Genesis 15.*

(Then read the Intro to Exodus and watch The Bible Project Exodus 1-18. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jH\\_aojNJM3E](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jH_aojNJM3E).)

Exodus 1, 2:1-10, 11-26, 3:1-15, 16-22, 4:1-17, All of Ch.5, 6:1-12, 7:1-13, 14-24, 8:1-15, 16-19, 20-32, 9:1-7, 8-12, 13-35, 10:1-20, 21-29, All of Ch.11, 12:1-30, 31-42, 13:1-16, 17-22, 14:1-22, 22-31, 15:1-21 (**REMEMBER: there is a new reading after each comma - 26 in Exodus!**)

**God's Wisdom for People:** (Read Intro to Proverbs, Watch The Bible Project Proverbs <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AzmYV8GNAIM>.  
*Proverbs Chapter 1, Chapter 3, Chapter 22*

**The Praises of God's People:** (Read Intro to Psalms, Watch the Bible Project Psalms. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j9phNEaPrv8>. )  
*Psalms 1, Psalm 8, Psalm 23, Psalm 51, Psalm 139*

**God's People Fail:** (Read the Intro to Micah, Watch the Bible Project Micah. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MFEUEcylwLc>. )  
*Micah 6:1-8*

**God's Promised Rescuer:** (Read Intro to Isaiah, Watch the Bible Project Isaiah 40-66 . <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TzdEPuqqQg>. )  
*Isaiah 53*

**Jesus - God's Rescue & Redemption Arrives:** (Read the Intro to Luke, Watch Bible Project Luke 1-9, and 10-24. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TzdEPuqqQg> , [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=26z\\_KhwNdD8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=26z_KhwNdD8). )  
*Luke 1:1-4, 5-25, 26-38, 39-56, 57-66, 67-80.*  
*Luke 2:1-21, 22-40, 41-52,*  
*Luke 3:1-20, 21-38,*  
*Luke 4:1-13, 14-30, 31-37, 38-44,*  
*Luke 5:1-11, 12-16, 17-26, 27-32, 33-39,*  
*Luke 6:1-11, 17-26, 27-36, 37-42, 43-45, 46-49,*  
*Luke 7:1-10, 11-17, 18-35, 36-50.*  
*Luke 8:1-15, 16-21, 22-25, 26-39, 40-56,*  
*Luke 9:1-9, 10-17, 18-27, 28-36, 37-43, 43-50, 51-62*  
*Luke 10:1-24, 25-37, 38-42,*  
*Luke 11:1-13, 14-28, 29-32, 33-36, 37-54.*  
*Luke 12:1-12, 13-21, 22-34, 35-48, 49-53, 54-59.*  
*Luke 13:1-9, 10-17, 18-21, 22-30, 31-35,*  
*Luke 14:1-14, 15-24, 25-35,*  
*Luke 15:1-10, 11-31,*  
*Luke 16:1-18, 9-14, 15-17, 18-30, 31-34, 35-43,*  
*Luke 17:1-10, 11-19, 20-37*  
*Luke 18:1-8, 9-14, 15-17, 18-30, 31-34, 35-43*  
*Luke 19:1-10, 11-27, 28-44, 45-48,*  
*Luke 20:1-8, 9-19, 20-26, 27-40, 41-47.*  
*Luke 21:1-4, 5-28, 29-38,*  
*Luke 22:1-6, 7-38, 39-46, 47-53, 54-62, 63-71.*  
*Luke 23:1-25, 26-43, 44-49, 50-56.*  
*Luke 24:1-12, 13-35, 36-53. (Yep - thats 102 readings!)*

**The Church - God's Rescue & Redemption Spreads:** (Read Intro to Acts, Watch Bible Project Acts 1-12 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CGbNw855ksw> and Acts 13-28. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z-17KxpjL0Q>

*Acts 1:1-11, 12-26*  
*Acts 2:1-13, 14-41, 42-47*  
*Acts 3:1-10, 11-26*  
*Acts 4:1-22, 23-31, 32-37*  
*Acts 5:1-11, 12-16, 17-42*  
*Acts 6:1-7, 8-15*  
*Acts 7:1-53, 54-60*  
*Acts 8:1-8, 9-25, 26-40*  
*Acts 9:1-19, 19-31, 32-43*  
*Acts 10:1-8, 9-23, 23-48*  
*Acts 11:1-18, 19-30*  
*Acts 12:1-19, 19-25*  
*Acts 13:1-3, 4-12, 13-52*  
*Acts 14:1-7, 8-20, 21-28*  
*Acts 15:1-21, 22-35, 36-41*  
*Acts 16:1-5, 6-10, 11-15, 16-40*  
*Acts 17:1-9, 10-15, 16-34*  
*Acts 18:1-17, 18-28*  
*Acts 19:1-22, 23-41*  
*Acts 20:1-6, 7-12, 13-38*  
*Acts 21:1-16, 17-26, 27-36, 37-Acts 22:21*  
*Acts 22:22-30*  
*Acts 23:1-11, 12-22, 23-35*  
*Acts 24:1-9, 10-21, 22-27*  
*Acts 25:1-12, 13-22, 23-27*  
*Acts 26:1-23, 24-32*  
*Acts 27:1-12, 13-26, 27-44*  
*Acts 28:1-10, 11-16, 17-31*

**Letters to a Church of Imperfect But Growing People:** (Read Intro to Ephesians, Watch Bible Project Ephesians <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y71r-T98E2Q>

*Ephesians 1:1-14, 15-23,*  
*Eph. 2:1-10, 11-22*  
*Eph. 3:1-13, 14-21*  
*Eph. 4:1-16, 17-32*  
*Eph. 5:1-20, 21-33*  
*Eph. 6:1-9, 10-20*

(Read Intro to Hebrews, Watch Bible Project Hebrews <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1fNWTZZwgbs>.

*Hebrews 1 (all)*  
*Hebrews 2:1-4, 5-18*  
*Hebrews 3:1-6, 7-19,*

*Hebrews 4:1-16*  
*Hebrews 5:1-10, 11-14*  
*Hebrews 6:1-12, 13-20*  
*Hebrews 7:1-10, 11-28*  
*Hebrews 8 (All)*  
*Hebrews 9:1-10, 11-28*  
*Hebrews 10:1-18, 19-39, 17-40*  
*Hebrews 11:1-16*  
*Hebrews 12:1-3, 4-13, 14-17, 18-29*  
*Hebrews 13:1-19*

(Read Intro to James, Watch Bible Project James <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qn-hLHWwRYY>.)

*James 1:1-18, 19-27*  
*James 2:1-13, 14-26*  
*James 3:1-12, 13-18*  
*James 4:1-12, 13-17*  
*James 5:1-6, 7-12, 13-20*

**God's Rescue & Redemption Fulfilled:** (Read Intro to Romans, Watch Bible Project Video Romans 5-16. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0SVTI4Xa5fY>.)

*Romans 8:18-39*

(Read Intro to 1 Corinthians, Watch Bible Project 1 Corinthians <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yiHf8klCCc4>)

*1 Corinthians 15:1-11, 12-19, 20-28, 29-33, 35-44, 44-58*

(Read Intro to Revelation, Watch Bible Project Revelation <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qpnlrq2bKo&t=16s>)

*Revelation 21:1-8*