

Bible 805

# Bible Reading Plan

*a brief introduction to the  
Bible and the Christian  
life*



yvon prehn

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In addition, Two Bible Reading charts are included in the back of the book. You have permission to make unlimited copies and share them.

**Bible Reading Plan, a brief introduction to the Bible and the Christian Life**

Matthew	James	Luke	Acts	Romans	Ephesians	Philippians	Colossians	1st Peter	2nd Peter	John
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**About this reading plan**

This reading plan introduces you to the Bible in a way similar to how some early Christians experienced it as they read about Jesus and the practices that followed. It starts with the book of Matthew that tells the story of Jesus.


It also is a link between the Old Testament and New as it continuously sets the actions of Jesus as fulfillment of what was prophesied in the Old Testament. James continues as one of the earliest books instructing Christians how they ought to live.

Next, Luke and Acts were early explanations by a non-Jewish author to a friend about the life of Jesus and the start of the Christian church. Romans is the definitive summary of the foundational theology of the Christian faith.

Ephesians, Philippians, and Colossians explain further aspects of it along with giving believers essential advice on how to live.

First and Second Peter establish the truth of the Christian message as coming from eyewitnesses, help encourage believers in trials, and look forward to the return of Jesus. We end our reading with the last biography about Jesus, the book of John that includes His last words to His disciples in chapters 14-17.

For more to help you know, trust, and apply the Bible, go to [www.Bible805.com](http://www.Bible805.com)



## **If you are a new Christian or just starting to read the Bible, where do you start?**

Though in my Bible805 ministry, I strongly recommend that people read through the Bible in Chronological Order, that is not easy to do when you are starting out to read the Bible. Even the most enthusiastic new believer of Jesus can get discouraged when they get to Leviticus.

This was personally brought home to me by a friend who recently became a Christian and though you can use the Bible805 commentaries (videos, notes, podcasts, etc.) to guide you through the Bible in chronological order, a new Christian or someone totally not familiar with the Bible may not want to start there. I realized I wouldn't recommend that to her.

As a historian by training, I thought back to the early Christian church and how our New Testament was written to people who either knew nothing about the Old Testament or who needed to know how it foretold and applied to their new faith in Jesus. This process seemed like a good one to follow today and the reading plan that follows is the result of it.

It doesn't cover the entire New Testament as I wanted to keep it more of a short introduction to Jesus, the Christian faith, and the expected behavior of a new Christian. The plan below works out to approximately 1 chapter a day for 21 weeks. This is totally arbitrary as it was the number of weeks for my friend from when she would start until the start of the new year when she would be part of our reading through the Bible chronologically class.

Though it started out in this arbitrary manner, it has proven to be a good plan for anyone new to the Bible or the Christian faith, so I put my instructions to her into an eBook and video and am sharing it with you.

Follow I have some additional preliminary advice; then a brief overview of the New Testament books you will be reading, and finally additional resources from [www.Bible805.com](http://www.Bible805.com) that will help you continue to know, trust, and apply the Bible.

### **Along with daily Bible reading, I strongly recommend beginning a Bible-reading journal.**

It does not have to be complicated. Three short entries are a good start—though you can certainly read more if you want. Use any notebook or do them on your phone or computer.

Here are my suggestions for entries:

1. Write down the passage reference, e.g. Matthew 1. If you want to read more than one chapter at a time, that is fine.
2. Write a short summary of it.
3. Write down a thought, a question, a comment, or a prayer on it.
4. If you want, select a verse from the passage to memorize or think about more. Write that out.

**If you do not already have a Bible or have not studied it much in the past, I strongly recommend the *Life Application Bible***

It is available in a number of translations and at good prices on [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com). For a more traditional translation, the NIV is good; if you want a more readable and contemporary one, the New Living Bible is excellent.

Though many people have strong feelings about different translations since they are all translations and not the original languages they all have various strengths and weaknesses. More than anything else I agree with the statement that the best translation is the one you will read, and both the NIV and New Living are highly readable.

Translation aside, I like the *Life Application Bible* because it has excellent introductions to the books of the Bible and notes that are helpful both theologically, historically, and in suggesting applications. The comments, timelines, and charts were written by a group of theologically sound writers and provide an excellent education in the Christian faith and life. I have seen significant spiritual growth in people who read the commentary of this particular study Bible along with the books of the Bible themselves.

Again, though this is a recommendation, it is not essential. The most basic Bible with or without helpful notes is still the Bible. You do not even have to read the Bible to take in the content. You can listen to it.

The YouVersion app that you can download on your phone will read it to you. Listening to the Bible is how most God's people through the centuries took in Biblical content and it is perfectly fine to do it that way today.

## Why I selected the passages I did

I selected passages I did from the New Testament as they were some of the earliest content read after the resurrection of Jesus by the new Christian church that explained the meaning of the Christian faith as separate from, yet a fulfillment of the Jewish religion.

In addition to a solid belief system, they also needed to know how to live as Christians, differently from both what the Jewish law required and what the moral standards of their day were. That is why the letters written to the Christian church that you will be reading, and the Apostle Paul's letters are a good example of this, begin by explaining various theological teachings and then move into specific applications.

Learning how to live like Jesus is a primary application of our Bible reading. That is what it means to be His disciple, His follower. To live like Jesus we must have a thorough understanding of His life, what He said, and did for us to follow Him. Three of the four gospels or biographies of His life are included in this reading plan to give you an accurate picture of Jesus.

Following is first a short overview of the order of the books I recommend and then briefly, my very subjective reasons why I recommend reading each one in that order. If you decide to read them in another order or read other books in the Bible, that is fine—you cannot go wrong in any part of God's Word.

Next when you are finished with this, or in January of the year, as many people do, plan to join me starting in Genesis for the in-depth study of going through the Bible in Chronological order. Everything you need to do that including schedules, motivation materials, weekly lessons in video, audio, and written formats are available for you at [www.Bible805.com](http://www.Bible805.com). If you would like to do the reading through the Bible with a group, or would like to teach it, the materials to enable you to do that are at [www.Bible805Academy.com](http://www.Bible805Academy.com).

## Bible Reading list for new Christians or those new to reading the Bible

Following the initial list, are my comments on why I chose that book in that order and a short summary of the contents.

### List of included books and the recommended order to read them:

1. Matthew
2. James
3. Luke
4. Acts
5. Romans
6. Eph
7. Phil
8. Col
9. 1&2 Peter
10. John

### Short summaries of comments on why these books

**Matthew**—I wanted to start here because not only is it a comprehensive biography of Jesus, but it is an excellent bridge between the Old Testament and the New Testament. Note as you read how many times the Old Testament is quoted, and Matthew uses the phrase “this happened to fulfill....” In doing this he shows that Jesus was the long-awaited and prophesied Messiah. Jesus coming to die for our sins was not a last-minute thought of God’s nor Jesus’ death the tragic death of a popular prophet who Rome did not like. Jesus and all the aspects of his life and death had been predicted from the earliest days of human history and worked towards through the entire Old Testament. Matthew reminds us of Jesus’ pre-incarnate history and ties it to specific events in His earthly life.

**James**—another book with ties to the Old Testament. James is most likely the first letter written to the young Christian churches that were mainly filled with converts at first from the Jewish religion. The author James was the half-brother of Jesus and the leader of the church in Jerusalem. His book is intensely practical and shows how belief in Jesus should show it is genuine in how we live our lives. Some have likened the style of James to the Old Testament book of Proverbs with its succinct descriptions of how we should live.

**Luke**—is another book about the life of Jesus, but it is one sent to a non-Jewish person, who Luke, the writer wanted to tell about Jesus. Luke, traditionally understood to have been trained as a physician is also a precise historian, who records exact details of people and places that help us verify the truth of what he wrote. He also writes extensively about the

people Jesus interacted with and talks more about the women, including his mother Mary, than the other gospels do.

**Acts**—Luke continues his account of the Christian faith by talking about how the Church continued after Jesus returned to heaven. The first part of the book focuses on Peter and the church in Jerusalem, but the majority of the book talks about Paul and the spread of the faith to Gentiles. It was not an easy transition and Paul was constantly prosecuted for sharing the Christian faith. Luke does not tell us much about his personal interactions with Paul, but as Paul was continuously being beaten, stoned, and otherwise abused for this faith, it was no doubt a comfort having Luke as his physician and friend with him. The book ends with Paul under house arrest in Rome. I will recommend the letters he wrote at that time shortly, but prior to coming to Rome, he wrote the church there a letter and that is the next one I recommend you read.

**Romans**—this is Paul’s in-depth explanation of the Christian faith. He starts with creation and shows how humanity turned its back on God, which is the essence of sin, and that the result of that turning was both physical and spiritual death. He goes on to show how God did not then abandon His creation, but because of God’s grace and the death and resurrection of Jesus, when we trust Jesus for our salvation we can be in a place where there is “no condemnation” (Romans 8:1). Romans 12 and the chapters following then tell those who have trusted Jesus for Savior tells us how to live as God’s people.

**Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians**—Though these three books are often referred to as “the Prison Letters,” they were actually written when Paul was under house arrest which followed the end of the book of Acts. Though chained to a Roman guard, people from various churches could visit him and he wrote these letters for them to take back to their churches. Each of the books first gives a theological foundation to the Christian faith and then follows it with how we ought to act because of it. In brief:

Ephesians is a glorious book that starts with our salvation and glorious future in Jesus and then shows how our position “in the heavenlies” should translate into our behavior on earth from. Everything in our lives now from how we talk to our family relationships should reflect our love for and commitment to Jesus.

Philippians is often referred to as a book of joy in the midst of troubles and that is true. One of my favorite passages in the book is in the second chapter where it talks about how “Jesus, who was in very nature God, humbled himself.” It is a powerful reminder of the importance of humility and service as primary in our lives if we are truly to reflect our Lord Jesus.

Colossians is a book all about Jesus—how He is truly God and the model of our lives.

**1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Peter**—Peter was a disciple of Jesus, a close friend who denied Him at his trial and ran from his crucifixion, but who later became the leader of the church. In these books, he knows he does not have much longer to live and encourages Christians in their trials as he affirms both the reality of the life and resurrection of Jesus, but also that a time is coming when the trials of earth will be over, and God will make all things new.

**John**—we started this series of readings about Jesus and it's fitting we end with Him. Matthew showed how He was the long-awaited Messiah; Luke showed his compassionate humanity; and John shows how from all eternity Jesus is God. Note especially His Words in John 14 through 17. These are Jesus' last words to His disciples before He was crucified. They both comfort and challenge us as His disciples today, reminding us that if we love Him, we will keep His commands; that in this world we will have troubles, but that He has overcome the world and in Him we can have peace.

## Final thoughts for readers of the Bible

It is more essential than ever that we make God's Word the foundation of our lives as our world turns ever further and further away from the way our Creator intended us to live.

As believers in Jesus, we have the extraordinary opportunity to model our lives after Jesus and to live in ways that are not only pleasing to Him, but that will give us peace and fulfillment. We need God's Word to do that. There are many other resources to help you in that lifelong adventure at [www.Bible805.com](http://www.Bible805.com) plus links at the end of this material to various social media formats that will help you know, trust, and apply the Bible.

In closing, my prayer for you is that God's Word will become the foundation, the North Star, the guide, and joy of your life all your life long until you meet face-to-face, the living Word, our Lord Jesus.



## More from Yvon Prehn

I have two areas of emphasis in my online ministry, one in Bible teaching and one in Church Communications. Each has content sites and social media sites, below are various areas and links to them.

### Bible805

Bible805 website: <https://www.Bible805.com>

NEWSLETTER SIGN UP:

<https://dashboard.mailerlite.com/forms/349602/85289856777848026/share>

Bible805 Podcast: <https://anchor.fm/yvon-prehn8>

Bible805 Academy: <https://www.Bible805Academy.com>

Bible805 SUPPORT/DONATION SITE: <https://www.ko-fi.com/Bible805>

Bible805 YouTube videos: <https://www.youtube.com/Bible805>

Bible805 Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/Bible805>

Bible805 Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/yvonbible805>

Bible 805 Pinterest: <https://www.pinterest.com/Bible805>

Bible805 TikTok: <https://www.tiktok.com/@bible805yp>

Bible805 Links Bio: <https://www.withkoji.com/@Bible805>

Bibleverse Shop, printable images and social media: <https://www.Bibleverseshop.com>

Bibleverse t-shirts and more Shop: <https://www.bonfire.com/store/bibleverse-t-shirts/>

### Effective Church Communications

Effective Church Communications website:

<https://www.effectivechurchcom.com/>

Effective Church Communications YouTube videos:

<https://www.youtube.com/yvonprehn>

Effective Church Communications Library: <https://www.ECCLibrary.com>

Effective Church Communications Podcast: <https://anchor.fm/yvon-prehn>

Effective Church Communications Newsletter signup:

<https://dashboard.mailerlite.com/forms/445277/88570238777427689/share>

Effective Church Communications SUPPORT/DONATION SITE:


<https://www.ko-fi.com/effectivechurchcommunications>

ECC Pinterest: <https://www.pinterest.com/effectivechurchcom/>

ECC Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/EffectiveChurchCommunications>

ECC Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/ypeffectivechurchcom>

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