

Bible Reading Guide

Many people have asked me for a simple Bible reading guide to help them understand the Bible better and focus on the “highlights. Below is a reading plan that will help you grow in wisdom, knowledge and understanding. It will help you learn what adoration is and give you a glimpse of eternity.

Wisdom

The most important thing you can ask God for is wisdom. You can have all the knowledge and intelligence in the world, but if you don't have wisdom, it is worthless. Wisdom involves knowing how to interpret the world around you and how to apply what you learn to life's many situations.

In fact, when God told King Solomon to ask for whatever he wanted, he asked for wisdom. God was so pleased that he not only gave him wisdom but riches as well.

READ: 2 Chronicles chapter 1

It is important to realize that there is a difference between God's wisdom and the wisdom of this world. Part of your growing in faith is to be able to discern the difference. And don't expect the world to recognize your wisdom, because to the world, God's wisdom is foolishness.

READ: I Corinthians 1:18-3:23

The great news is that God wants us to have wisdom! The book of James is a short book but it is packed with wisdom.

READ: The Book of James

Now that you know a little more about what wisdom is, why don't you go ahead and read a book that is filled with wisdom – the book of Proverbs. Proverbs was written by Solomon and has so much practical advice. There are some great verses to memorize. If you remember any of Aesop's fables, you will see glimpses of those here. Think about the verses as you read them – take your time and think about the deeper meaning.

READ: The Book of Proverbs

As you embark on this journey, ask the Lord to give you wisdom as you read his Word.

Knowledge

Next you need to add to your wisdom and get some knowledge. I frequently hear people say what they think God is like and what they would do “if” they were God. But what is really important is to find out who God says he is, and what he thinks is important. In the end, that is all that really matters.

Even though it seems “backwards” to start in the New Testament, I would like you to read the book of Matthew so you know a little more about Jesus and what he taught and what happened in his life. Pay

particular attention to chapters 5, 6 and 7. These teachings were revolutionary at the time Jesus spoke them. Even for us today, these words can be hard to live by.

READ: The Book of Matthew

Now let's do some serious reading and go back to the beginning. So many Christians think that the Old Testament is not relevant, but you really can't understand the New Testament fully without a good understanding of where it all began. As you read these books, think about how FAITH played a role in God's plan for his people. To give you an intro to the people you will learn about, read the section from Hebrews first and then look for their stories in the Old Testament books below.

READ: Hebrews chapters 11 and 12

READ: Read the complete books below:

Genesis

Exodus

Joshua (Chapter 1 and chapter 24)

I Samuel

II Samuel

Now, let's go back to the New Testament to learn a little more history. First, let's get a very historical account of Jesus's life. You will recognize the traditional Christmas story that is read each year at Christmastime.

READ: The Book of Luke

Next, I want you to at least read a few chapters from the Book of John. John's book is different from the other accounts of Jesus's life, because he uses more imagery and has a slightly different purpose. If you have time to read the whole book of John, then do it! If not, just read chapters 14-17. In these chapters you will learn more about who Jesus says that he is and about the Holy Spirit.

READ: The Book of John (especially chapters 14-17)

Now, let's turn to one of my favorite books in the whole book – the book of Acts! It is also written by Luke and it is very historical in nature. You will learn about the Holy Spirit and the early church and you will be introduced to Paul, who wrote most of the books in the New Testament.

READ: The Book of Acts

Understanding

Now that you have accumulated some good knowledge, let's move on to understanding the impact and application of what you have read.

First, I want you to read the book of Romans. It is a difficult book to understand, but God will give you insight. Pay attention to Chapter 1 verses 18 and following. These verses help you to understand why all men are without excuse when it comes to understanding God and gives you an understanding of what sin is. As you continue reading, you'll learn about the role of faith in salvation and how we should live as Christians.

READ: Romans

Continue your reading in the New Testament to learn more. These books/letters are not too long and they have some excellent teachings. Colossians is a short book and one of my personal favorites, because the whole Gospel message is wrapped up in this short letter.

READ the following letters:

- Galatians
- Ephesians
- Philippians
- Colossians

You should continue through the New Testament because these are all such great letters. But if you are getting a little weary of reading Paul's letters, try moving on to see what Peter and John have to say.

READ the following letters:

- 1 Peter
- 2 Peter
- 1 John
- 2 John

Adoration

It is not just enough to know about God. God wants us to love and adore him. That might seem strange to you. Focusing on God's love and compassion almost always evokes praise. We also need to realize that God is holy and just. Knowing that God provided a way for us to be saved despite our sinful nature should fill us with gratitude and humility. In the book of Psalms, you will see short poems and hymns written by King David and others. You will see how they praise God and how intimate they were with God. These people are pouring out their hearts to God. Many times they are contrite, sorrowful, confused, angry and frustrated. I'm sure you will find some that you can relate to. You will find Psalm 139 especially meaningful, I think. It is one of the first Psalms I was taught when I first became a Christian.

Read: The Book of Psalms

Eternity

There are many books in the Bible that talk about the end times. Matthew chapter 24, 1 & 2 Thessalonians, Isaiah, Ezekiel, Daniel and Revelations. I'm going to have you read Daniel and Revelation because they are so important. Most of the book of Daniel has been fulfilled. Many believe we are in the last "sevens" or final week mentioned in Daniel. You will see some correlation to the book of Revelation. While some people fear the end of days, as Christians we look forward to it because the old order of things will pass away and we will have a new heaven and a new earth. Death will lose its sting. Everything will be made right and we will understand God's plan.

READ these books:

- Daniel
- Revelation

I hope you have found this guide to be useful. Don't be afraid to read books that I haven't mentioned. I have tried to give you the highlights and some of my favorite books so you have a better understanding of who God is. Remember, the whole Bible is actually God revealing himself to man. The more you read the Bible the more you will see the inter-related themes through the various books that all seem to understand God the same way, even though they were written by forty authors from three continents over nearly 2,000 years all from different walks of life. (<https://answersingenesis.org/the-word-of-god/3-unity-of-the-bible/>) That is because, unlike other religions where man is seeking to "find God", the Bible is about God intervening in the lives of men and revealing himself to them. That is why you will see such consistency.

Always remember Matthew 7: 7-8

"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. ⁸For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened."

My prayer for you is that you will never stop seeking for the Truth and that God will open your eyes to see as He sees.

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