

The “Summary First” Bible Read-through Plan

Many people set out to read their Bible straight through, from beginning to end. However, most soon get bogged down and frustrated. The seemingly haphazard sequence of the books within the Bible can be perplexing. And this can cause even well-intentioned commitment to fall by the wayside. Has this ever happened to you?

Thankfully, one of the greatest benefits of *The 10-Minute Bible Journey* is that it can make the “big Bible jigsaw puzzle” fit together with ease. So, for maximum enjoyment, consider starting your next Bible read-through with just ten minutes or so per day, for 30 days, in this book. Then follow the special chronological reading plan that follows you. You will have an encouraging and fresh understanding of the big picture of Scripture.

Be careful not to allow the suggested number of minutes per day, or a specific number of months, to spoil your time in God’s Word, or to turn it into a legalistic “checkoff” of verses read but not taken to heart. The biggest joy comes by reading at a pace and at a time of day that is comfortable for you. For some that is in the early morning. For others, it will be mid-day, or with their family at dinner. And for still others, an evening time frame after the rest of the family has headed to bed may be the best option.

As you begin, focus. Ask God to remove the distractions that easily come to mind. Turn off your cell phone or set it to airplane mode. If possible, read out loud. Then journal a note or two in your Bible’s margin, or on a separate notepad that you reserve as a diary of what you learn or want to study further.

Before you close for the day, take a few minutes to review and pray about that day’s passage. Ask God to help you remember and apply it to your life. After all, whether your Bible read-through takes one year or several, the goal is to honor God and become more like Jesus.

This chronological reading plan is similar to those promoted by various respected ministries. I’ve simply taken 12 months of Bible reading and squeezed it slightly to fit into 11 and added the *The 10-Minute Bible Journey* overview at the beginning. Nothing is missing.

However, if you prefer to read the Scriptures in the same order that most Bibles are laid out—where the historical books are grouped together, the poetic books are grouped together, the Epistles are grouped together, and so forth—feel free! *The 10-Minute Bible Journey* will give you the big picture overview, and that will equip you to be able to begin pretty much anywhere. Enjoy!

PHASE 1 — *The 10-Minute Bible Journey* book

In the first 30 days or so read the 52 chronological accounts in *The 10-Minute Bible Journey* to attain a solid overview of the entire Bible in the order that the events actually occurred. Consider including your spouse and/or your older children. Pray for one another, including any concerns raised during your discussion.



PHASE 2 — The Bible (20-to-40 minutes per day)

Now begin your read-through of the Holy Bible itself. Read at a pace that works with your schedule, and check off each passage as you finish it so that you can be encouraged by your progress. This also helps you not to waste time finding where you left off, for those occasions when several days go by between readings. If possible, read aloud, and use a sharp pencil to make notes in your Bible as you go!

- ___ Genesis 1–7
- ___ Genesis 8–15
- ___ Genesis 16–21
- ___ Genesis 22–26
- ___ Genesis 27–31

__ Genesis 32–37
__ Genesis 38–42
__ Genesis 43–47
__ Genesis 48–50; Job 1–5
__ Job 6–13
__ Job 14–20
__ Job 21–28
__ Job 29–34
__ Job 35–39
__ Job 40–42 ; Exodus 1–3
__ Exodus 4–9
__ Exodus 10–15
__ Exodus 16–21
__ Exodus 22–27
__ Exodus 28–32
__ Exodus 33–38
__ Exodus 39–40; Leviticus 1–4
__ Leviticus 5–10
__ Leviticus 11–15
__ Leviticus 16–21
__ Leviticus 22–25
__ Leviticus 26–27; Numbers 1–2
__ Numbers 3–6
__ Numbers 7–10

PHASE 3

__ Numbers 11–15; Psalm 90
__ Numbers 16–17
__ Numbers 18–20
__ Numbers 21–22
__ Numbers 23–25
__ Numbers 26–27
__ Numbers 28–30
__ Numbers 31–32
__ Numbers 33–34
__ Numbers 35–36
__ Deuteronomy 1–2
__ Deuteronomy 3–4
__ Deuteronomy 5–7
__ Deuteronomy 8–10
__ Deuteronomy 11–13
__ Deuteronomy 14–16
__ Deuteronomy 17–20
__ Deuteronomy 21–23
__ Deuteronomy 24–27
__ Deuteronomy 28–29
__ Deuteronomy 30–31
__ Deuteronomy 32–34; Psalm 91

__ Joshua 1–4
__ Joshua 5–8
__ Joshua 9–11
__ Joshua 12–15
__ Joshua 16–18
__ Joshua 19–21
__ Joshua 22–24
__ Judges 1–2

PHASE 4

__ Judges 3–5
__ Judges 6–7
__ Judges 8–9
__ Judges 10–12
__ Judges 13–15
__ Judges 16–18
__ Judges 19–21
__ Ruth 1–4
__ 1 Samuel 1–3
__ 1 Samuel 4–8
__ 1 Samuel 9–12
__ 1 Samuel 13–14
__ 1 Samuel 15–17
__ 1 Samuel 18–20; Psalm 11, 59
__ 1 Samuel 21–24
__ Psalm 7, 27, 31, 34, 52
__ Psalm 56, 120, 140–142
__ 1 Samuel 25–27
__ Psalm 17, 35, 54, 63
__ 1 Samuel 28–31; Psalm 18
__ Psalm 121, 123–125, 128–130
__ 2 Samuel 1–4
__ Psalm 6, 8–10, 14, 16, 19, 21
__ 1 Chronicles 1–2
__ Psalm 43–45, 49, 84–85, 87
__ 1 Chronicles 3–5
__ Psalm 73, 77–78
__ 1 Chronicles 6
__ Psalm 81, 88, 92–93
__ 1 Chronicles 7–10

PHASE 5

__ Psalm 102–104
__ 2 Samuel 5:1–10; 1 Chronicles 11–12
__ Psalm 133
__ Psalm 106–107
__ 2 Samuel 5:11–6:23; 1 Chronicles 13–16
__ Psalm 1–2, 15, 22–24, 47, 68

__ Psalm 89, 96, 100–101, 105, 132
__ 2 Samuel 7; 1 Chronicles 17
__ Psalm 25, 29, 33, 36, 39
__ 2 Samuel 8–9; 1 Chronicles 18
__ Psalm 50, 53, 60, 75
__ 2 Samuel 10; 1 Chronicles 19; Psalm 20
__ Psalm 65–67, 69–70
__ 2 Samuel 11–12; 1 Chronicles 20
__ Psalm 32, 51, 86, 122
__ 2 Samuel 13–15
__ Psalm 3–4, 12–13, 28, 55
__ 2 Samuel 16–18
__ Psalm 26, 40, 58, 61–62, 64
__ 2 Samuel 19–21
__ Psalm 5, 38, 41–42
__ 2 Samuel 22–23; Psalm 57
__ Psalm 95, 97–99
__ 2 Samuel 24; 1 Chronicles 21–22;
Psalm 30
__ Psalm 108–110
__ 1 Chronicles 23–25
__ Psalm 131, 138–139, 143–145
__ 1 Chronicles 26–29; Psalm 127
__ Psalm 111–118
__ 1 Kings 1–2; Psalm 37, 71, 94
__ Psalm 119:1–88
__ 1 Kings 3–4; 2 Chronicles 1; Psalm 72
__ Psalm 119:89–176
__ Song of Solomon 1–8

PHASE 6

__ Proverbs 1–3
__ Proverbs 4–6
__ Proverbs 7–9
__ Proverbs 10–12
__ Proverbs 13–15
__ Proverbs 16–18
__ Proverbs 19–21
__ Proverbs 22–24
__ 1 Kings 5–6; 2 Chronicles 2–3
__ 1 Kings 7; 2 Chronicles 4
__ 1 Kings 8; 2 Chronicles 5
__ 2 Chronicles 6–7; Psalm 136
__ Psalm 134, 146–150
__ 1 Kings 9; 2 Chronicles 8
__ Proverbs 25–26
__ Proverbs 27–29
__ Ecclesiastes 1–6
__ Ecclesiastes 7–12

__ 1 Kings 10–11; 2 Chronicles 9
__ Proverbs 30–31
__ 1 Kings 12–14
__ 2 Chronicles 10–12
__ 1 Kings 15:1–24; 2 Chronicles 13–16
__ 1 Kings 15:25–16:34; 2 Chronicles 17
__ 1 Kings 17–19
__ 1 Kings 20–21
__ 1 Kings 22; 2 Chronicles 18
__ 2 Chronicles 19–23

PHASE 7

__ Obadiah 1; Psalm 82–83
__ 2 Kings 1–4
__ 2 Kings 5–8
__ 2 Kings 9–11
__ 2 Kings 12–13; 2 Chronicles 24
__ 2 Kings 14; 2 Chronicles 25
__ Jonah 1–4
__ 2 Kings 15; 2 Chronicles 26
__ Isaiah 1–4
__ Isaiah 5–8
__ Amos 1–5
__ Amos 6–9
__ 2 Chronicles 27; Isaiah 9–12
__ Micah 1–7
__ 2 Chronicles 28; 2 Kings 16–17
__ Isaiah 13–17
__ Isaiah 18–22
__ Isaiah 23–27
__ 2 Kings 18:1–8; 2 Chronicles 29–31;
Psalm 48
__ Hosea 1–7
__ Hosea 8–14
__ Isaiah 28–30
__ Isaiah 31–34
__ Isaiah 35–36
__ Isaiah 37–39; Psalm 76
__ Isaiah 40–43
__ Isaiah 44–48
__ 2 Kings 18:9–19:37; Psalm 46, 80, 135
__ Isaiah 49–53
__ Isaiah 54–58
__ Isaiah 59–63

PHASE 8

__ Isaiah 64–66
__ 2 Kings 20–21
__ 2 Chronicles 32–33

__ Nahum 1-3
__ 2 Kings 22-23; 2 Chronicles 34-35
__ Zephaniah 1-3
__ Jeremiah 1-3
__ Jeremiah 4-6
__ Jeremiah 7-9
__ Jeremiah 10-13
__ Jeremiah 14-17
__ Jeremiah 18-22
__ Jeremiah 23-25
__ Jeremiah 26-29
__ Jeremiah 30-31
__ Jeremiah 32-34
__ Jeremiah 35-37
__ Jeremiah 38-40; Psalm 74, 79
__ 2 Kings 24-25; 2 Chronicles 36
__ Habakkuk 1-3
__ Jeremiah 41-45
__ Jeremiah 46-48
__ Jeremiah 49-50
__ Jeremiah 51-52
__ Lamentations 1:1-3:36
__ Lamentations 3:37-5:22
__ Ezekiel 1-4
__ Ezekiel 5-8
__ Ezekiel 9-12
__ Ezekiel 13-15
__ Ezekiel 16-17

PHASE 9

__ Ezekiel 18-19
__ Ezekiel 20-21
__ Ezekiel 22-23
__ Ezekiel 24-27
__ Ezekiel 28-31
__ Ezekiel 32-34
__ Ezekiel 35-37
__ Ezekiel 38-39
__ Ezekiel 40-41
__ Ezekiel 42-43
__ Ezekiel 44-45
__ Ezekiel 46-48
__ Joel 1-3
__ Daniel 1-3
__ Daniel 4-6
__ Daniel 7-9
__ Daniel 10-12
__ Ezra 1-3

__ Ezra 4-6; Psalm 137
__ Haggai 1-2
__ Zechariah 1-7
__ Zechariah 8-14
__ Esther 1-5
__ Esther 6-10
__ Ezra 7-10
__ Nehemiah 1-5
__ Nehemiah 6-7
__ Nehemiah 8-10
__ Nehemiah 11-13; Psalm 126
__ Malachi 1-4

PHASE 10

__ Luke 1; John 1:1-14
__ Matthew 1; Luke 2:1-38
__ Matthew 2; Luke 2:39-52
__ Matthew 3; Mark 1; Luke 3
__ Matthew 4; Luke 4-5; John 1:15-51
__ John 2-4
__ Mark 2
__ John 5
__ Matthew 12:1-21; Mark 3; Luke 6
__ Matthew 5-7
__ Matthew 8:1-13; Luke 7
__ Matthew 11
__ Matthew 12:22-50; Luke 11
__ Matthew 13; Luke 8
__ Matthew 8:14-34; Mark 4-5
__ Matthew 9-10
__ Matthew 14; Mark 6; Luke 9:1-17
__ John 6
__ Matthew 15; Mark 7
__ Matthew 16; Mark 8; Luke 9:18-27
__ Matthew 17; Mark 9; Luke 9:28-62
__ Matthew 18
__ John 7-8
__ John 9:1-10:21
__ Luke 10-11; John 10:22-42
__ Luke 12-13
__ Luke 14-15
__ Luke 16:1-17:10
__ John 11
__ Luke 17:11-18:14
__ Matthew 19; Mark 10

PHASE 11

__ Matthew 20-21

___ Luke 18:15–19:48
___ Mark 11; John 12
___ Matthew 22; Mark 12
___ Matthew 23; Luke 20–21
___ Mark 13
___ Matthew 24
___ Matthew 25
___ Matthew 26; Mark 14
___ Luke 22; John 13
___ John 14–17
___ Matthew 27; Mark 15
___ Luke 23; John 18–19
___ Matthew 28; Mark 16
___ Luke 24; John 20–21
___ Acts 1–3
___ Acts 4–6
___ Acts 7–8
___ Acts 9–10
___ Acts 11–12
___ Acts 13–14
___ James 1–5
___ Acts 15–16
___ Galatians 1–3
___ Galatians 4–6
___ Acts 17:1–18:18
___ 1 Thessalonians 1–5;
 2 Thessalonians 1–3
___ Acts 18:19–19:41
___ 1 Corinthians 1–4
___ 1 Corinthians 5–8

___ 1 Timothy 1–6
___ Titus 1–3
___ 1 Peter 1–5
___ Hebrews 1–6
___ Hebrews 7–10
___ Hebrews 11–13
___ 2 Timothy 1–4
___ 2 Peter 1–3; Jude 1
___ 1 John 1–5
___ 2 John 1; 3 John 1
___ Revelation 1–5
___ Revelation 6–11
___ Revelation 12–18
___ Revelation 19–22

Congratulations, you have
completed your total Bible
read-through!

PHASE 12

___ 1 Corinthians 9–11
___ 1 Corinthians 12–14
___ 1 Corinthians 15–16
___ 2 Corinthians 1–4
___ 2 Corinthians 5–9
___ 2 Corinthians 10–13
___ Acts 20:1–3; Romans 1–3
___ Romans 4–7
___ Romans 8–10
___ Romans 11–13
___ Romans 14–16
___ Acts 20:4–23:35
___ Acts 24–26
___ Acts 27–28
___ Colossians 1–4; Philemon 1
___ Ephesians 1–6
___ Philippians 1–4

Tips for Use in Family or Small Group Bible Studies

Questions to consider after each account

- What was the most interesting aspect of this account to you? Why did it stand out?
- Name another detail or two that you are still thinking about. Why?
- Can you think of Bible details that were not included in this summary? Let's look them up.
- Did this account reveal anything about God? His character?
- What did it make you think about regarding mankind?
- How does that apply to you? What do you feel the Lord may want you to adjust in your own life?

Small Group usage ideas

- When introducing the series, tell why you feel *The 10-Minute Bible Journey* can help your family or your group to quickly get a solid overview of the main accounts and characters of the Bible. Tell about how much easier it is to understand the Bible's full storyline by reading its main points in the chronological order that they actually took place.
- Start at the beginning and read each account aloud. Consider having two or three group members take turns. Read with emotion to increase the group's sense of the situations being highlighted.
- Place each account on a linear timeline, as each is read and discussed. Start the group study with a large, wide piece of blank paper on the wall. Draw a 6,000-year timeline with 4000 B.C. on the far left and A.D. 2000 on the far right. Emulate the timeline at the back of this book, but only the line and the millenium dates. The leader adds or has a group member add the number and title of each account as it is covered. Roll the paper up and bring it back every week. (Whiteboard not recommended.)
- Have the group open their Bibles to the passages covered (so they are also "in" their Bibles). For the accounts that are based on just a chapter or so, it is fairly easy to follow along. However, accounts based on multiple chapters or pieces from multiple books will be more cumbersome. Some group members may want to scan the long passages between meetings.
- Discuss the generic all-account questions.
- Draw or show "where" each account takes place on a map of Bible lands. Have a group member show the route or sequence of cities and other places as each is introduced.
- As part of the leader's lesson prep, be sure to read the endnotes and primary passages connected to that lesson.
- Close each discussion with a few minutes of prayer that includes a time of asking God to help the group change and grow in their relationship with Jesus, and their trust in the truth and authority of the Bible. We all need a continual heart change. Ask God to accomplish that in you!