

2-Week Guided Tour for Reading the Bible

Of all the reasons people mention for not reading the Bible, simple discouragement ranks highest. The Bible's length alone is imposing. More like a self-contained library than a book, it includes 66 different books, by several dozen authors. Little wonder people get confused and discouraged. This Reading Plan helps break the Bible into more manageable portions.

Introduction to the Bible

This is a place to begin reading the Bible. These two-week reading courses take you quickly into passages every Christian should know. Of the 1189 Bible chapters, why begin with these? First, they are frequently quoted or referred to elsewhere. Second, they are relatively easy to read and understand.

1. Two Weeks on the Life and Teachings of Jesus

- Day 1. Luke 1: Preparing for Jesus' arrival.
- Day 2. Luke 2: The story of Jesus' birth.
- Day 3. Mark 1: The beginning of Jesus' ministry.
- Day 4. Mark 9: A day in the life of Jesus.
- Day 5. Matthew 5: The Sermon on the Mount.
- Day 6. Matthew 6: The Sermon on the Mount.
- Day 7. Luke 15: Parables of Jesus.
- Day 8. John 3: A conversation with Jesus.
- Day 9. John 14: Jesus' final instructions.
- Day 10. John 17: Jesus' prayer for his disciples.
- Day 11. Matthew 26: Betrayal and arrest.
- Day 12. Matthew 27: Jesus' execution on a cross.
- Day 13. John 20: Resurrection.
- Day 14. Luke 24: Jesus' appearance after resurrection.

2. Two Weeks on the Life and Teachings of Paul

- Day 1. Acts 9: The conversion of Saul.
- Day 2. Acts 16: Paul's Macedonian call and a jailbreak.
- Day 3. Acts 17: Scenes from Paul's missionary journey.
- Day 4. Acts 26: Paul tells his life story to a king.
- Day 5. Acts 27: Shipwreck on the way to Rome.
- Day 6. Acts 28: Paul's arrival in Rome.
- Day 7. Romans 3: Paul's theology in a nutshell.
- Day 8. Romans 7: Struggle with sin.
- Day 9. Romans 8: Life in the Spirit.
- Day 10. 1 Corinthians 13: Paul's description of love.
- Day 11. 1 Corinthians 15: Thoughts on the afterlife.
- Day 12. Galatians 5: Freedom in Christ.
- Day 13. Ephesians 3: Paul's summary of his mission.
- Day 14. Philippians 2: Imitating Christ.

3. Two Weeks on the Old Testament

- Day 1. Genesis 1: The story of creation.
- Day 2. Genesis 3: The origin of sin.
- Day 3. Genesis 22: Abraham and Isaac.
- Day 4. Exodus 3: Moses' encounter with God.
- Day 5. Exodus 20: The gift of the Ten Commandments.
- Day 6. 1 Samuel 17: David and Goliath.
- Day 7. 2 Samuel 11: David and Bathsheba.
- Day 8. 2 Samuel 12: Nathan's rebuke of the king.
- Day 9. 1 Kings 18: Elijah and the prophets of Baal.
- Day 10. Job 38: God's answer to Job.
- Day 11. Psalm 51: A classic confession.
- Day 12. Isaiah 40: Words of comfort from God.
- Day 13. Daniel 6: Daniel and the lions.
- Day 14. Amos 4: A prophet's stern warning.

**More
Reading Courses**

1. Two Weeks on Becoming a Christian

- Day 1. Genesis 3: The first sin creates a need.
- Day 2. Isaiah 52: Salvation prophesied.
- Day 3. Isaiah 53: The role of the suffering servant.
- Day 4. Luke 15: Three stories about God's love.
- Day 5. John 3: Jesus explains "born again."
- Day 6. John 10: The good shepherd.
- Day 7. Acts 8: Conversions spread outside the Jewish community.
- Day 8. Acts 26: Paul testifies of his conversion before a king.
- Day 9. Romans 3: God's provision for sin.
- Day 10. Romans 5: Peace with God.
- Day 11. Galatians 3: Salvation unavailable by obeying the law.
- Day 12. Ephesians 2: New life in Christ.
- Day 13. 1 Peter 1: Future rewards of salvation.
- Day 14. 2 Peter 1: Making your salvation sure.

2. Two Weeks on Prayers of the Bible

- Day 1. Genesis 18: Abraham's plea for Sodom.
- Day 2. Exodus 15: Moses' song to the Lord.
- Day 3. Exodus 33: Moses meets with God.
- Day 4. 2 Samuel 7: David's response to God's promises.
- Day 5. 1 Kings 8: Solomon's dedication of the temple.
- Day 6. 2 Chronicles 20: Jehoshaphat prays for victory.
- Day 7. Ezra 9: Ezra's prayer for the people's sins.
- Day 8. Psalm 22: A cry to God for help.
- Day 9. Psalm 104: A prayer of praise.
- Day 10. Daniel 9: Daniel's prayer for the salvation of Jerusalem.
- Day 11. Habakkuk 3: A prophet's prayer of acceptance.
- Day 12. Matthew 6: The Lord's prayer.
- Day 13. John 17: Jesus' prayer for his disciples.
- Day 14. Colossians 1: Paul's prayer of thanksgiving.

3. Two Weeks on the Holy Spirit

- Day 1. Judges 14: The Spirit gives Samson strength.
- Day 2. 1 Samuel 10: King Saul's experience.
- Day 3. Matthew 3:1–4:10: Role in Jesus' baptism and temptation.
- Day 4. John 14: Jesus promises the Spirit.
- Day 5. John 16: The work of the Spirit.
- Day 6. Acts 2: The Spirit comes at Pentecost.
- Day 7. Acts 10: The Spirit guides Peter to accept Gentiles.
- Day 8. Romans 8: Christians' victory in the Spirit.
- Day 9. 1 Corinthians 2: Wisdom from the Spirit.
- Day 10. 1 Corinthians 12: Gifts of the Spirit.
- Day 11. 1 Corinthians 14: Gifts of tongues and prophecy.
- Day 12. Galatians 5: Life in the Spirit.
- Day 13. Ephesians 4: Unity and gifts.
- Day 14. 1 John 4: Signs of the Spirit.

4. Two Weeks on Women of the Bible

- Day 1. Genesis 2: Eve, the first woman.
- Day 2. Genesis 18: Sarah laughs at God's promise.
- Day 3. Genesis 24: Rebekah's marriage to Isaac.
- Day 4. Genesis 27: Rebekah, the manipulative mother
- Day 5. Judges 4: Deborah's leadership frees her people.
- Day 6. Ruth 1: Ruth and Naomi's deep friendship.
- Day 7. 1 Samuel 1: Hannah prays for a son.
- Day 8. 1 Kings 17: A poor widow and the prophet Elijah.
- Day 9. 1 Kings 21: Jezebel, an emblem of wickedness.
- Day 10. Esther 2: Esther is chosen as queen.

- Day 11. Esther 4: Esther's courage at the risk of death.
- Day 12. Luke 1: Mary and Elizabeth receive great news.
- Day 13. Luke 2: Mary gives birth to Jesus.
- Day 14. John 11: Mary and Martha and their brother's death.

5. Two Weeks on Men of the Old Testament

- Day 1. Judges 6: God calls Gideon to rescue his people.
- Day 2. Judges 7: Gideon conquers his fears—and his enemies.
- Day 3. 1 Samuel 3: God calls young Samuel.
- Day 4. 1 Kings 3: Solomon is given wisdom.
- Day 5. 1 Kings 19: Elijah runs for his life.
- Day 6. 2 Kings 5: Elisha heals a powerful foreign general.
- Day 7. Isaiah 6: God calls the prophet Isaiah.
- Day 8. 2 Kings 18: King Hezekiah under military siege.
- Day 9. 2 Kings 19: Isaiah speaks God's word to King Hezekiah.
- Day 10. 2 Chronicles 34: Josiah sets his nation back on course.
- Day 11. Nehemiah 2: Nehemiah courageously begins rebuilding a wall.
- Day 12. Jeremiah 38: Jeremiah, in prison, refuses to change his message.
- Day 13. Daniel 1: Daniel risks his life in captivity.
- Day 14. Daniel 5: Daniel's word to participants in a royal orgy.

6. Two Weeks on Social Justice

- Day 1. Exodus 3: God hears the cries of the slaves.
- Day 2. Leviticus 25: The Year of Jubilee, a time of economic revolution.
- Day 3. Ruth 2: A poor woman finds help.
- Day 4. 1 Kings 21: Elijah speaks to a land-grabbing, murderous king.
- Day 5. Nehemiah 5: Nehemiah demands justice for the poor.
- Day 6. Isaiah 5: Warning to fun-loving materialists.
- Day 7. Isaiah 58: Worship that God appreciates.
- Day 8. Jeremiah 34: Freedom for slaves.
- Day 9. Amos 2: Sins against God by his own people.
- Day 10. Amos 6: Warning to the complacent.
- Day 11. Micah 6: What the Lord requires.
- Day 12. Luke 3: John the Baptist tells how to prepare for Jesus.
- Day 13. Matthew 6: Jesus speaks on material things.
- Day 14. James 2: How to treat the rich and the poor.

7. Two Weeks on God and Nature

- Day 1. Genesis 1: God creates the earth.
- Day 2. Genesis 2: God creates human beings.
- Day 3. Proverbs 8: Wisdom's view of creation.
- Day 4. Genesis 7: God preserves the species.
- Day 5. Job 38: The greatness of nature.
- Day 6. Job 39: The wildness of nature.
- Day 7. Job 40: God's mastery of nature.
- Day 8. Psalm 8: Praise for the Creator.
- Day 9. Psalm 98: Nature joins in the praise.
- Day 10. Psalm 104: God sustains the earth.
- Day 11. Isaiah 40: The ruler of all creation.
- Day 12. Romans 8: The "groanings" of our present state.
- Day 13. Isaiah 65: Preview of a restored earth.
- Day 14. Revelation 22: The end of history.

Further Two-Week Courses for Personal Study

Two weeks on Abraham, Isaac and Jacob:

Genesis 12, 13, 15, 17, 18, 19, 22, 24, 27, 28, 29, 31, 32, 33.

Two weeks on Moses and the exodus:

Exodus 2, 3, 4, 7, 12, 14, 16, 19, 32; Numbers 14; Deuteronomy 1, 2, 4, 31.

Two weeks on David:

1 Samuel 16, 17, 18, 20, 21, 22, 24; 2 Samuel 6, 7, 11, 12, 13, 15, 18.