

IFCC WELLS CREEK

2014

BIBLE READING PLAN

READING THE BIBLE—ONE BOOK AT A TIME

The Bible is a big book. Actually, it is a collection of sixty-six books containing 1,189 chapters, 31,175 verses. When reading a book as big as the Bible, it is best to begin with a plan. Since Scripture was originally written as individual books and letters, focus on reading each book of the Bible, one book at a time. Many people find that if you concentrate your reading on a book-by-book plan, you will gain a better understanding of Scripture. There are other plans or approaches to Bible reading, (such as reading chronologically, or reading from the Old Testament in the morning and the New Testament in the evening). But this chapter suggests staying with one book of the Bible at a time to help you understand the original message of Scripture. Ultimately, the whole Bible will unfold for you as you master one book at a time.

Even reading just one of the sixty-six books of the Bible can be a challenging task. Several books contain more than thirty chapters. If we read a chapter a day, it would take more than a month to read these books. However, some books contain only a few chapters.

The first step in reading a book of the Bible is to gain a broad understanding of it as a whole. Later, you can examine the parts of the book in greater detail. Set aside time to read through the entire book without interruption. After completing this reading, jot down any immediate impressions. What is the author saying? What is the theme of the book in one sentence? What is unique about the way the author says things? What kind of feel did you get from the book?

Once you have recorded your first impressions, take time to read the book again. Read it in light of your theme sentence. This time, look for a sense of order in the book. Most authors develop their themes in different ways in different parts of a book. Divide the book into parts. How do they fit into the overall theme? Is there a particular verse or passage that might be viewed as a key to understanding the book? Underline the verse or highlight the passage for easy reference. Each time you read a book, you gain more understanding of it. As you reread a book, take time to write a brief title for each chapter. You can write this on a separate piece of paper, or in the margins of your Bible. Titling each chapter will help you pick up additional details in the book. You may wish to read through the book again, looking at it from a different perspective on each occasion. You might consider key people, principles emphasized, ideas proposed, geography, or unique expressions repeated throughout the book.

After reading through the book several times, try summarizing your observations in a one-page outline. You will have to be selective in what you choose to include and leave out. Try to identify each main division and subdivision in the book. This outline will be the skeleton upon which you will build the rest of your reading.

Five Steps in Personal Bible Reading

Now that you have an understanding of the book as a whole, begin looking at each paragraph in greater detail. The paragraph is the basic unit of thought in writing. As you examine each paragraph, ask questions about what you are reading: who, what, when, where, and why?

The first question relating to observation is the "Who" question. Read the text carefully to determine who is mentioned in the book. Use questions journalists might use to learn details about a news story. As you make observations, write them down on paper. It has been well said that the shortest pencil is better than the longest memory.

Your second question relates to interpretation, or the "What" question. What does this passage mean? At this point, you may want to consult a Bible commentary or other resource to look up the meaning of certain passages. You will consult a Bible dictionary to understand words, expressions, backgrounds, or events.

The third question is one of time perspective, or the "When" question. When did the events take place? What else was happening at the same time? How does your reading fit in with what the Bible says in other places? Truth always exists in balance. Sometimes a statement in one verse is better understood when related to a statement in some other verse.

The fourth question relates to location; it is the "Where" question. Where does the action take place? Again, you will want to consult a Bible dictionary to discuss the historical, geographical, and spiritual background of the places about which you read. When you understand the geographical context, you better understand the action and conversations in a paragraph.

The final question you need to ask in your Bible reading is the "Why" question. What difference is your reading going to make in your life? God wants you to be doers as well as hearers or students of Scripture (see James 1:22). What steps are involved in assimilating this principle in your life? Then, how can you best share these principles with others? The Bible tells us we are to teach one another (see Colossians 3:16). Just as the principles you learn in your Bible reading help you grow, so you can help others experience growth by sharing what you are learning with them.

READ THE BIBLE IN A YEAR - PLAN J

| JANUARY | | |
|----------------|--------------|----------------|
| PLAN DAY | DAY OF MONTH | BOOK & CHAPTER |
| 1 | 1 | John 1-3 |
| 2 | 2 | John 4-6 |
| 3 | 3 | John 7-9 |
| 4 | 4 | John 10-12 |
| 5 | 5 | John 13-15 |
| 6 | 6 | John 16-18 |
| 7 | 7 | John 19-21 |
| 8 | 8 | 1 John 1-2 |
| 9 | 9 | 1 John 3-4 |
| 10 | 10 | 1 John 5 |
| 11 | 11 | 2 John |
| 12 | 12 | 3 John |
| 13 | 13 | Genesis 1-3 |
| 14 | 14 | Genesis 4-7 |
| 15 | 15 | Genesis 8-11 |
| 16 | 16 | Genesis 12-15 |
| 17 | 17 | Genesis 16-18 |
| 18 | 18 | Genesis 19-20 |
| 19 | 19 | Genesis 21-23 |
| 20 | 20 | Genesis 24-25 |
| 21 | 21 | Genesis 26-28 |
| 22 | 22 | Genesis 29-30 |
| 23 | 23 | Genesis 31-32 |
| 24 | 24 | Genesis 33-35 |
| 25 | 25 | Genesis 36-38 |
| 26 | 26 | Genesis 39-41 |
| 27 | 27 | Genesis 42-44 |
| 28 | 28 | Genesis 45-47 |
| 29 | 29 | Genesis 48-50 |
| 30 | 30 | John 1-12 |
| 31 | 31 | John 13-21 |

| FEBRUARY | | |
|-----------------|--------------|-----------------|
| PLAN DAY | DAY OF MONTH | BOOK & CHAPTER |
| 32 | 1 | Exodus 1-3 |
| 33 | 2 | Exodus 4-6 |
| 34 | 3 | Exodus 7-9 |
| 35 | 4 | Exodus 10-12 |
| 36 | 5 | Exodus 13-15 |
| 37 | 6 | Exodus 16-18. |
| 38 | 7 | Exodus 19-21 |
| 39 | 8 | Exodus 22-24 |
| 40 | 9 | Exodus 25-27 |
| 41 | 10 | Exodus 28-29 |
| 42 | 11 | Exodus 30-32 |
| 43 | 12 | Exodus 33-35 |
| 44 | 13 | Exodus 36-38 |
| 45 | 14 | Exodus 39-40 |
| 46 | 15 | John 1-3 |
| 47 | 16 | John 4-6 |
| 48 | 17 | John 7-9 |
| 49 | 18 | John 10-12 |
| 50 | 19 | John 13-15 |
| 51 | 20 | John 16-18 |
| 52 | 21 | John 19-21 |
| 53 | 22 | Leviticus 1-4 |
| 54 | 23 | Leviticus 5-7 |
| 55 | 24 | Leviticus 8-9 |
| 56 | 25 | Leviticus 10-12 |
| 57 | 26 | Leviticus 13 |
| 58 | 27 | Leviticus 14-15 |
| 59 | 28 | Leviticus 16-18 |

READ THE BIBLE IN A YEAR - PLAN J

| MARCH | | |
|--------------|--------------|-------------------|
| PLAN DAY | DAY OF MONTH | BOOK & CHAPTER |
| 60 | 1 | Leviticus 19-21 |
| 61 | 2 | Leviticus 22-23 |
| 62 | 3 | Leviticus 24-25 |
| 63 | 4 | Leviticus 26-27 |
| 64 | 5 | Psalms 1-7 |
| 65 | 6 | Psalms 8-14 |
| 66 | 7 | Psalms 15-19 |
| 67 | 8 | Psalms 20-23 |
| 68 | 9 | Psalms 24-29 |
| 69 | 10 | Psalms 30-35 |
| 70 | 11 | Psalms 36-40 |
| 71 | 12 | Psalms 41-45 |
| 72 | 13 | Psalms 46-50 |
| 73 | 14 | Psalms 51-56 |
| 74 | 15 | Psalms 57-61 |
| 75 | 16 | Psalms 62-67 |
| 76 | 17 | Psalms 68-71 |
| 77 | 18 | Psalms 72-77 |
| 78 | 19 | Psalms 78-81 |
| 79 | 20 | Psalms 82-89 |
| 80 | 21 | Psalms 90-97 |
| 81 | 22 | Psalms 98-104 |
| 82 | 23 | Psalms 105-107 |
| 83 | 24 | Psalms 108-112 |
| 84 | 25 | Psalms 113-116 |
| 85 | 26 | Psalms 117-118 |
| 86 | 27 | Psalms 119:1-96 |
| 87 | 28 | Psalms 119:97-176 |
| 88 | 29 | Psalms 120-135 |
| 89 | 30 | Psalms 136-142 |
| 90 | 31 | Psalms 143-150 |

| APRIL | | |
|--------------|--------------|----------------|
| PLAN DAY | DAY OF MONTH | BOOK & CHAPTER |
| 91 | 1 | Matthew 1-4 |
| 92 | 2 | Matthew 5-6 |
| 93 | 3 | Matthew 7-9 |
| 94 | 4 | Matthew 10-12 |
| 95 | 5 | Matthew 13-14 |
| 96 | 6 | Matthew 15-17 |
| 97 | 7 | Matthew 18-20 |
| 98 | 8 | Matthew 21-22 |
| 99 | 9 | Matthew 23-24 |
| 100 | 10 | Matthew 25-26 |
| 101 | 11 | Matthew 27-28 |
| 102 | 12 | Mark 1-3 |
| 103 | 13 | Mark 4-5 |
| 104 | 14 | Mark 6-7 |
| 105 | 15 | Mark 8-9 |
| 106 | 16 | Mark 9-10 |
| 107 | 17 | Mark 11-13 |
| 108 | 18 | Mark 14-16 |
| 109 | 19 | Luke 1 |
| 110 | 20 | Luke 2-3 |
| 111 | 21 | Luke 4-5 |
| 112 | 22 | Luke 8 |
| 113 | 23 | Luke 9 |
| 114 | 24 | Luke 10-11 |
| 115 | 25 | Luke 12-13 |
| 116 | 26 | Luke 14-16 |
| 117 | 27 | Luke 17-18 |
| 118 | 28 | Luke 19-20 |
| 119 | 29 | Luke 21-22 |
| 120 | 30 | Luke 23-24 |

READ THE BIBLE IN A YEAR - PLAN J

| MAY | | |
|------------|--------------|-------------------|
| PLAN DAY | DAY OF MONTH | BOOK & CHAPTER |
| 121 | 1 | John 1-3 |
| 122 | 2 | John 4-6 |
| 123 | 3 | John 7-9 |
| 124 | 4 | John 10-12 |
| 125 | 5 | John 13-15 |
| 126 | 6 | John 16-18 |
| 127 | 7 | John 19-21 |
| 128 | 8 | Numbers 1-3 |
| 129 | 9 | Numbers 4-6 |
| 130 | 10 | Numbers 7-10 |
| 131 | 11 | Numbers 11-13 |
| 132 | 12 | Numbers 14-16 |
| 133 | 13 | Numbers 17-20 |
| 134 | 14 | Numbers 21-23 |
| 135 | 15 | Numbers 24-26 |
| 136 | 16 | Numbers 27-29 |
| 137 | 17 | Numbers 30-31 |
| 138 | 18 | Numbers 32-33 |
| 139 | 19 | Numbers 34-36 |
| 140 | 20 | Deuteronomy 1-2 |
| 141 | 21 | Deuteronomy 3-4 |
| 142 | 22 | Deuteronomy 5-7 |
| 143 | 23 | Deuteronomy 8-10 |
| 144 | 24 | Deuteronomy 11-13 |
| 145 | 25 | Deuteronomy 14-17 |
| 146 | 26 | Deuteronomy 18-20 |
| 147 | 27 | Deuteronomy 21-23 |
| 148 | 28 | Deuteronomy 24-26 |
| 149 | 29 | Deuteronomy 27-28 |
| 150 | 30 | Deuteronomy 29-31 |
| 151 | 31 | Deuteronomy 32-34 |

| JUNE | | |
|-------------|--------------|----------------|
| PLAN DAY | DAY OF MONTH | BOOK & CHAPTER |
| 152 | 1 | John 1-3 |
| 153 | 2 | John 4-6 |
| 154 | 3 | John 7-9 |
| 155 | 4 | John 10-12 |
| 156 | 5 | John 13-15 |
| 157 | 6 | John 16-18 |
| 158 | 7 | John 19-21 |
| 159 | 8 | Joshua 1-4 |
| 160 | 9 | Joshua 5-7 |
| 161 | 10 | Joshua 8-9 |
| 162 | 11 | Joshua 10-11 |
| 163 | 12 | Joshua 12-14 |
| 164 | 13 | Joshua 15-17 |
| 165 | 14 | Judges 1-3 |
| 166 | 15 | Judges 4-6 |
| 167 | 16 | Judges 7-8 |
| 168 | 17 | Judges 9-10 |
| 169 | 18 | Judges 11-13 |
| 170 | 19 | Judges 14-16 |
| 171 | 20 | Judges 17-19 |
| 172 | 21 | Judges 20-21 |
| 173 | 22 | Ruth 1-4 |
| 174 | 23 | Acts 1-3 |
| 175 | 24 | Acts 4-6 |
| 176 | 25 | Acts 7-8 |
| 177 | 26 | Acts 9-10 |
| 178 | 27 | Acts 11-13 |
| 179 | 28 | Acts 14-16 |
| 180 | 29 | Acts 17-18 |
| 181 | 30 | Acts 19-20 |

READ THE BIBLE IN A YEAR - PLAN J

| JULY | | |
|-------------|--------------|----------------|
| PLAN DAY | DAY OF MONTH | BOOK & CHAPTER |
| 182 | 1 | Acts 21-22 |
| 183 | 2 | Acts 23-25 |
| 184 | 3 | Acts 26-28 |
| 185 | 4 | 1 Samuel 1-3 |
| 186 | 5 | 1 Samuel 4-7 |
| 187 | 6 | 1 Samuel 8-10 |
| 188 | 7 | 1 Samuel 11-13 |
| 189 | 8 | 1 Samuel 14-15 |
| 190 | 9 | 1 Samuel 16-17 |
| 191 | 10 | 1 Samuel 18-20 |
| 192 | 11 | 1 Samuel 21-24 |
| 193 | 12 | 1 Samuel 25-27 |
| 194 | 13 | 1 Samuel 28-31 |
| 195 | 14 | 2 Samuel 1-3 |
| 196 | 15 | 2 Samuel 4-7 |
| 197 | 16 | 2 Samuel 8-11 |
| 198 | 17 | 2 Samuel 12-13 |
| 199 | 18 | 2 Samuel 14-15 |
| 200 | 19 | 2 Samuel 16-17 |
| 201 | 20 | 2 Samuel 18-19 |
| 202 | 21 | 2 Samuel 20-22 |
| 203 | 22 | 2 Samuel 23-24 |
| 204 | 23 | 1 Kings 1-3 |
| 205 | 24 | 1 Kings 4-6 |
| 206 | 25 | 1 Kings 7-8 |
| 207 | 26 | 1 Kings 9-10 |
| 208 | 27 | 1 Kings 11-12 |
| 209 | 28 | 1 Kings 13-14 |
| 210 | 29 | 1 Kings 15-17 |
| 211 | 30 | 1 Kings 18-19 |
| 212 | 31 | 1 Kings 20-22 |

| AUGUST | | |
|---------------|--------------|---------------------|
| PLAN DAY | DAY OF MONTH | BOOK & CHAPTER |
| 213 | 1 | 2 Kings 1-2 |
| 214 | 2 | 2 Kings 3-4 |
| 215 | 3 | 2 Kings 5-7 |
| 216 | 4 | 2 Kings 8-9 |
| 217 | 5 | 2 Kings 10-12 |
| 218 | 6 | 2 Kings 13-14 |
| 219 | 7 | 2 Kings 15-16 |
| 220 | 8 | 2 Kings 17-18 |
| 221 | 9 | 2 Kings 19-21 |
| 222 | 10 | 2 Kings 22-25 |
| 223 | 11 | John 1-3 |
| 224 | 12 | John 4-6 |
| 225 | 13 | John 7-9 |
| 226 | 14 | John 10-12 |
| 227 | 15 | John 13-15 |
| 228 | 16 | John 16-18 |
| 229 | 17 | John 19-21 |
| 230 | 18 | Proverbs 1-4 |
| 231 | 19 | Proverbs 5-8 |
| 232 | 20 | Proverbs 9-12 |
| 233 | 21 | Proverbs 13-16 |
| 234 | 22 | Proverbs 17-20 |
| 235 | 23 | Proverbs 21-24 |
| 236 | 24 | Proverbs 25-28 |
| 237 | 25 | Proverbs 29-31 |
| 238 | 26 | Ecclesiastes 1-3 |
| 239 | 27 | Ecclesiastes 4-5 |
| 240 | 28 | Ecclesiastes 6-8 |
| 241 | 29 | Ecclesiastes 9-10 |
| 242 | 30 | Ecclesiastes 11-12 |
| 243 | 31 | Song of Solomon 1-8 |

READ THE BIBLE IN A YEAR - PLAN J

| SEPTEMBER | | |
|------------------|--------------|---------------------|
| PLAN DAY | DAY OF MONTH | BOOK & CHAPTER |
| 244 | 1 | Romans 1-2 |
| 245 | 2 | Romans 3-5 |
| 246 | 3 | Romans 6-8 |
| 247 | 4 | Romans 9-11 |
| 248 | 5 | Romans 12-14 |
| 249 | 6 | Romans 15-16 |
| 250 | 7 | 1 Corinthians 1-4 |
| 251 | 8 | 1 Corinthians 5-7 |
| 252 | 9 | 1 Corinthians 8-11 |
| 253 | 10 | 1 Corinthians 12-14 |
| 254 | 11 | 1 Corinthians 15-16 |
| 255 | 12 | 2 Corinthians 1-4 |
| 256 | 13 | 2 Corinthians 5-8 |
| 257 | 14 | 2 Corinthians 9-13 |
| 258 | 15 | Galatians 1-3 |
| 259 | 16 | Galatians 4-6 |
| 260 | 17 | Ephesians 1-3 |
| 261 | 18 | Ephesians 4-6 |
| 262 | 19 | Philippians 1-4 |
| 263 | 20 | Colossians 1-4 |
| 264 | 21 | 1 Thessalonians 1-3 |
| 265 | 22 | 1 Thessalonians 4-5 |
| 266 | 23 | 2 Thessalonians 1-3 |
| 267 | 24 | John 1-3 |
| 268 | 25 | John 4-6 |
| 269 | 26 | John 7-9 |
| 270 | 27 | John 10-12 |
| 271 | 28 | John 13-15 |
| 272 | 29 | John 16-18 |
| 273 | 30 | John 19-21 |

| OCTOBER | | |
|----------------|--------------|----------------|
| PLAN DAY | DAY OF MONTH | BOOK & CHAPTER |
| 274 | 1 | Ezra 1-2 |
| 275 | 2 | Ezra 3-5 |
| 276 | 3 | Ezra 6-8 |
| 277 | 4 | Ezra 9-10 |
| 278 | 5 | Nehemiah 1-3 |
| 279 | 6 | Nehemiah 4-6 |
| 280 | 7 | Nehemiah 7-8 |
| 281 | 8 | Nehemiah 9-10 |
| 282 | 9 | Nehemiah 11-13 |
| 283 | 10 | Esther 1-3 |
| 284 | 11 | Esther 4-7 |
| 285 | 12 | Esther 8-10 |
| 286 | 13 | Job 1-5 |
| 287 | 14 | Job 6-10 |
| 288 | 15 | Job 11-15 |
| 289 | 16 | Job 16-21 |
| 290 | 17 | Job 22-28 |
| 291 | 18 | Job 29-33 |
| 292 | 19 | Job 34-37 |
| 293 | 20 | Job 38-40 |
| 294 | 21 | Job 41-42 |
| 295 | 22 | John 1-3 |
| 296 | 23 | John 4-6 |
| 297 | 24 | John 7-9 |
| 298 | 25 | John 10-12 |
| 299 | 26 | John 13-15 |
| 300 | 27 | John 16-18 |
| 301 | 28 | John 19-21 |
| 302 | 29 | 1 John 1-2 |
| 303 | 30 | 1 John 3-4 |
| 304 | 31 | 1 John 5 |

READ THE BIBLE IN A YEAR - PLAN J

| NOVEMBER | | |
|-----------------|--------------|--------------------|
| PLAN DAY | DAY OF MONTH | BOOK & CHAPTER |
| 305 | 1 | 2 John |
| 306 | 2 | 3 John |
| 307 | 3 | 1 Chronicles 1 |
| 308 | 4 | 1 Chronicles 2-4 |
| 309 | 5 | 1 Chronicles 5-6 |
| 310 | 6 | 1 Chronicles 7-9 |
| 311 | 7 | 1 Chronicles 10-12 |
| 312 | 8 | 1 Chronicles 13-16 |
| 313 | 9 | 1 Chronicles 17-19 |
| 314 | 10 | 1 Chronicles 20-23 |
| 315 | 11 | 1 Chronicles 24-26 |
| 316 | 12 | 1 Chronicles 27-29 |
| 317 | 13 | 2 Chronicles 1-4 |
| 318 | 14 | 2 Chronicles 5-7 |
| 319 | 15 | 2 Chronicles 8-10 |
| 320 | 16 | 2 Chronicles 11-14 |
| 321 | 17 | 2 Chronicles 15-18 |
| 322 | 18 | 2 Chronicles 19-22 |
| 323 | 19 | 2 Chronicles 23-25 |
| 324 | 20 | 2 Chronicles 26-28 |
| 325 | 21 | 2 Chronicles 29-30 |
| 326 | 22 | 2 Chronicles 31-33 |
| 327 | 23 | 2 Chronicles 34-36 |
| 328 | 24 | John 1-3 |
| 329 | 25 | John 4-6 |
| 330 | 26 | John 7-9 |
| 331 | 27 | John 10-12 |
| 332 | 28 | John 13-15 |
| 333 | 29 | John 16-18 |
| 334 | 30 | John 19-21 |

| DECEMBER | | |
|-----------------|--------------|------------------|
| PLAN DAY | DAY OF MONTH | BOOK & CHAPTER |
| 335 | 1 | 1 Timothy 1-2 |
| 336 | 2 | 1 Timothy 3-4 |
| 337 | 3 | 1 Timothy 5-6 |
| 338 | 4 | 2 Timothy 1-2 |
| 339 | 5 | 2 Timothy 3-4 |
| 340 | 6 | Titus 1-3 |
| 341 | 7 | Philemon |
| 342 | 8 | Hebrews 1-4 |
| 343 | 9 | Hebrews 5-8 |
| 344 | 10 | Hebrews 9-11 |
| 345 | 11 | Hebrews 12-13 |
| 346 | 12 | James 1-2 |
| 347 | 13 | James 3-5 |
| 348 | 14 | 1 Peter 1-3 |
| 349 | 15 | 1 Peter 4-5 |
| 350 | 16 | 2 Peter 1-2 |
| 351 | 17 | 2 Peter 3 |
| 352 | 18 | Jude |
| 353 | 19 | Revelation 1-3 |
| 354 | 20 | Revelation 4-8 |
| 355 | 21 | Revelation 9-12 |
| 356 | 22 | Revelation 13-16 |
| 357 | 23 | Revelation 17-19 |
| 358 | 24 | Revelation 20-22 |
| 359 | 25 | John 1-3 |
| 360 | 26 | John 4-6 |
| 361 | 27 | John 7-9 |
| 362 | 28 | John 10-12 |
| 363 | 29 | John 13-15 |
| 364 | 30 | John 16-18 |
| 365 | 31 | John 19-21 |