

Through the Bible in 24 Months



*A Two-Year Reading and Teaching Program
for the Whole Bible*

PROGRAM GUIDE

104 weeks · four readings each week · the entire Bible

Genesis through Revelation, with the Wisdom Literature and the Gospels read alongside, so that no part of Scripture waits two years for its turn.

More studies available on ChurchOfChristBibleStudies.com

What This Is

Most Christians intend to read the whole Bible. Fewer finish. The usual place it falls apart is somewhere in Leviticus, in February, when the reading has become a chore and nobody has asked about it in three weeks.

This program is built to solve that. It carries a congregation through the entire Bible in 104 weeks, but it does not leave anyone reading alone. Two of the four weekly readings are taught in class, which means that twice a week somebody stands up and opens the passage you read on Tuesday night. The other two readings come with questions good enough to be worth answering on your own.

It is designed for a congregation with two teaching times each week, most commonly a Sunday morning class and a midweek evening study. It works just as well for a single class that takes up one reading a week, for a family around a table, or for one person reading at the kitchen counter at six in the morning.

How the Program Works

FOUR READINGS A WEEK, ONE FROM EACH TRACK

Every week the student reads four passages, one from each of four tracks that run in parallel from Week 1 to Week 104:

■ **General Old Testament.** The narrative and the prophets, in order, from Genesis to Malachi. This is the long arc of the story, and it is the heaviest reading of the week.

■ **Wisdom Literature.** Proverbs, then the Psalms, then Ecclesiastes and the Song of Solomon. Short readings, usually a chapter or two, meant to be lingered over rather than covered.

■ **Gospels.** Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, read straight through in order. Roughly thirty to fifty verses a week, which is slow enough to notice things.

■ **General New Testament.** Acts, then the letters, then Revelation. The church in action and the church instructed.

Reading the four tracks side by side is the point, not a convenience. A week in Leviticus is easier to finish when it comes with a psalm and an hour with Jesus. And the tracks illuminate each other in ways a straight-through reading never does. You will read the promise to Abraham and the genealogy that keeps it in the same week.

TWO CLASSES A WEEK, TWO READINGS TAUGHT

The teacher chooses one reading for each of the two weekly sessions. The Teacher's Guide recommends which two, and why, but the choice belongs to the teacher and to the needs of the congregation. A class full of new Christians will want the Gospels more often. A class that has been together thirty years may be ready to spend an evening in Ezekiel.

TWO READINGS COVERED BY THE STUDENT

The two readings not taken up in class are not abandoned. Each one carries five questions under the heading "Extended Class Discussion or Self-Study," with space to write. A student who works through those questions has done real work in the passage, and the Teacher's Guide contains notes on every one of them, so anyone who gets stuck can ask and get a real answer.

For the Teacher

WHAT YOU RECEIVE EACH WEEK

- **A Student Guide.** One handout covering all four readings: a short paragraph tying the week together, then for each reading a passage overview, three discussion questions, and five extended questions with writing space. Print it and hand it out at the start of the week.
- **A Teacher's Guide.** A teaching aim for the week, a suggested plan for both sessions, and then for each of the four readings a passage overview, background and context, two paragraphs of notes on each discussion question, an answer for each of the five extended questions, and a "Handle With Care" block naming the doctrinal and pastoral pressure points in that passage.

CHOOSING WHICH TWO READINGS TO TAKE UP

A few habits are worth forming. Take the heaviest doctrinal reading of the week in the session with your strongest attendance. Do not take two readings from the same track two weeks running if you can help it, or the other tracks begin to feel optional. When a passage is genuinely difficult, that is a reason to teach it, not a reason to skip it, and the Teacher's Guide is written to give you confidence to handle it.

IF YOUR CONGREGATION HAS ONLY ONE CLASS A WEEK

Use the first session recommendation and point the class to the extended questions for the other three readings. Nothing else changes. Some congregations have found it works well to spend the first five minutes of class letting two or three people report on what they found in the readings nobody taught.

For the Student

Read all four passages sometime during the week. You do not have to read them in one sitting, and most people find it easier not to. Many read the Old Testament portion across several mornings and save the Gospel reading for a quieter time.

When your teacher announces which two readings will be taken up in class, work through the extended questions for the other two. Write your answers down. There is a difference between thinking you know an answer and having written one, and the difference shows up about four months in.

And when you fall behind, and you will, do not go back and try to make up three weeks of reading. Start with this week. The plan will come around to those chapters again in your life, and a reader who rejoins in Week 40 has read far more of the Bible than one who quit in Week 12 over the guilt of missing Numbers.

For Elders and Education Committees

A few practical notes from congregations that have run programs like this one.

- Announce a start date and begin on it. The program is undated on purpose, so you may begin any week of any year, but a program that starts "soon" does not start.
- Print several weeks ahead. Nothing kills momentum like a handout that did not get copied.
- Two years is a long time, and teachers change. Because every week is self-contained and the Teacher's Guide carries the full notes, a substitute can prepare well in an hour.

- Consider giving each family a binder at the start. Watching it fill up is its own kind of encouragement, and at the end of two years it is a record of something real.
- Recognize the finish. A congregation that reads the whole Bible together has done something worth marking.

A Few Convictions About How We Read

The questions and notes in this program reflect some settled commitments, and it is fair to state them plainly at the start.

- **Scripture is the authority.** We read the Bible expecting it to tell us what is true and what God requires, not expecting to tell it what we have already decided.
- **The Old Testament was written for our instruction.** It is not filler before the real book. But the Law given through Moses was fulfilled and taken away in Christ (Colossians 2:14–17; Hebrews 8–10), so we draw from it the character of God, the nature of faith, the seriousness of sin, and the promise of a Redeemer, without binding Old Covenant practice on Christians.
- **A proverb is a principle, not a promise.** Proverbs tells you how life usually goes under God's order. Read as guarantees, the proverbs collapse the first time a faithful person suffers, which is the very error Job's friends made.
- **The psalms are poetry, and honest.** They include laments, complaints, and appeals to God's justice against enemies. We read them as inspired prayer, not as a license for personal vengeance (Romans 12:19).
- **Prophecy is read in its own setting.** We ask first what the prophet said to the people in front of him, then how the New Testament applies it. We do not read tomorrow's headlines back into Daniel or Revelation, and we do not set dates.
- **The kingdom is here.** The promises to Abraham and to David are fulfilled in Christ and in His church. The kingdom was established on Pentecost, and Christ reigns now at the right hand of the Father (Daniel 2:44; Mark 9:1; Acts 2; Colossians 1:13).

Start Date Worksheet

This program is undated so that any congregation may begin on any week of any year. Fill in the date your congregation begins Week 1, then fill in the milestone dates below. Post it where the class can see it. Two years is long enough that people need to be able to see where they are.

Our congregation begins Week 1 on _____

MILESTONE	DATE	WHAT YOU REACH
Week 1	_____	Genesis 1-7 · the program begins
Week 13	_____	Leviticus · the first hard stretch
Week 26	_____	Deuteronomy ends · one quarter of the way
Week 30	_____	Matthew finished
Week 39	_____	the reign of David · three eighths
Week 52	_____	one full year · the halfway mark
Week 63	_____	Job finished · Isaiah begins
Week 78	_____	three quarters of the way
Week 96	_____	the Old Testament narrative ends with Daniel
Week 104	_____	Revelation 21-22 · the whole Bible read

A congregation that begins on the first Sunday of January finishes just before Christmas two years later. A congregation that begins in September finishes in late August. Neither is better. What matters is beginning.

The Complete 104-Week Reading Plan

The whole Bible, Genesis through Revelation, across 104 weeks.

WK	GENERAL OLD TESTAMENT	WISDOM	GOSPELS	GENERAL NEW TESTAMENT
1	Genesis 1–7	Proverbs 1	Matthew 1:1–2:12	Acts 1:1–2:13
2	Genesis 8–16	Proverbs 2	Matthew 2:13–3:17	Acts 2:14–47
3	Genesis 17–24	Proverbs 3	Matthew 4:1–5:12	Acts 3:1–4:22
4	Genesis 25–30	Proverbs 4	Matthew 5:13–5:48	Acts 4:23–5:16
5	Genesis 31–36	Proverbs 5–6:19	Matthew 6	Acts 5:17–6:15
6	Genesis 37–43	Proverbs 6:20–7:27	Matthew 7–8:13	Acts 7:1–53
7	Genesis 44–50	Proverbs 8	Matthew 8:14–9:8	Acts 7:54–8:40
8	Exodus 1–8	Proverbs 9–10	Matthew 9:9–38	Acts 9
9	Exodus 9–16	Proverbs 11	Matthew 10	Acts 10:1–33
10	Exodus 17–23	Proverbs 12	Matthew 11:1–12:8	Acts 10:34–11:18
11	Exodus 24–30	Proverbs 13	Matthew 12:9–50	Acts 11:19–12:25
12	Exodus 31–40	Proverbs 14	Matthew 13:1–30	Acts 13
13	Leviticus 1–7	Proverbs 15	Matthew 13:31–14:12	Acts 14
14	Leviticus 8–13	Proverbs 16	Matthew 14:13–15:9	Acts 15
15	Leviticus 14–20	Proverbs 17	Matthew 15:10–39	Acts 16
16	Leviticus 21–27	Proverbs 18–19	Matthew 16:1–17:13	Acts 17
17	Numbers 1–4	Proverbs 20	Matthew 17:14–18:20	Acts 18–19:10
18	Numbers 5–9	Proverbs 21	Matthew 18:21–19:30	Acts 19:11–20:16
19	Numbers 10–16	Proverbs 22	Matthew 20	Acts 20:17–21:26
20	Numbers 17–23	Proverbs 23	Matthew 21:1–27	Acts 21:27–22:21
21	Numbers 24–29	Proverbs 24	Matthew 21:28–22:14	Acts 22:22–23:35
22	Numbers 30–36	Proverbs 25	Matthew 22:15–46	Acts 24:1–25:12
23	Deuteronomy 1–5	Proverbs 26	Matthew 23	Acts 25:13–26:32
24	Deuteronomy 6–15	Proverbs 27–28	Matthew 24:1–35	Acts 27
25	Deuteronomy 16–25	Proverbs 29	Matthew 24:36–25:30	Acts 28
26	Deuteronomy 26–34	Proverbs 30	Matthew 25:31–26:25	Romans 1:1–2:11
27	Joshua 1–8	Proverbs 31	Matthew 26:26–56	Romans 2:12–3:20
28	Joshua 9–15	Psalms 1–3	Matthew 26:57–27:14	Romans 3:21–4:25
29	Joshua 16–24	Psalms 4–6	Matthew 27:15–56	Romans 5–6
30	Judges 1–7	Psalms 7–8	Matthew 27:57–28:20	Romans 7:1–8:11
31	Judges 8–15	Psalms 9–10	Mark 1:1–34	Romans 8:12–39
32	Judges 16–21; Ruth 1–4	Psalms 11–15	Mark 1:35–2:28	Romans 9–10
33	1 Samuel 1–8	Psalms 16–17	Mark 3	Romans 11–12
34	1 Samuel 9–15	Psalms 18	Mark 4	Romans 13–15:7
35	1 Samuel 16–23	Psalms 19	Mark 5	Romans 15:8–16:27
36	1 Samuel 24–31	Psalms 20–21	Mark 6:1–29	1 Corinthians 1
37	2 Samuel 1–10	Psalms 22–23	Mark 6:30–7:13	1 Corinthians 2–3
38	2 Samuel 11–17	Psalms 24–25	Mark 7:14–8:10	1 Corinthians 4–5
39	2 Samuel 18–24	Psalms 26–28	Mark 8:11–9:13	1 Corinthians 6:1–7:16
40	1 Kings 1–5	Psalms 29–30	Mark 9:14–50	1 Corinthians 7:17–8:13

WK	GENERAL OLD TESTAMENT	WISDOM	GOSPELS	GENERAL NEW TESTAMENT
41	1 Kings 6–10	Psalms 31	Mark 10:1–31	1 Corinthians 9:1–10:22
42	1 Kings 11–17	Psalms 32–33	Mark 10:32–11:14	1 Corinthians 10:23–11:34
43	1 Kings 18–22	Psalms 34	Mark 11:15–12:17	1 Corinthians 12–13
44	2 Kings 1–8	Psalms 35–36	Mark 12:18–13:13	1 Corinthians 14
45	2 Kings 9–17	Psalms 37	Mark 13:14–14:11	1 Corinthians 15:1–34
46	2 Kings 18–25	Psalms 38–39	Mark 14:12–50	1 Corinthians 15:35–16:24
47	1 Chronicles 1–5	Psalms 40–41	Mark 14:51–15:20	2 Corinthians 1:1–2:4
48	1 Chronicles 6–11	Psalms 42–44	Mark 15:21–16:20	2 Corinthians 2:5–3:18
49	1 Chronicles 12–19	Psalms 45–46	Luke 1:1–38	2 Corinthians 4:1–5:10
50	1 Chronicles 20–29	Psalms 47–48	Luke 1:39–66	2 Corinthians 5:11–7:16
51	2 Chronicles 1–9	Psalms 49–50	Luke 1:67–2:21	2 Corinthians 8–9
52	2 Chronicles 10–20	Psalms 51–52	Luke 2:22–52	2 Corinthians 10–11
53	2 Chronicles 21–29	Psalms 53–55	Luke 3	2 Corinthians 12–13
54	2 Chronicles 30–36	Psalms 56–57	Luke 4:1–30	Galatians 1–2
55	Ezra 1–10	Psalms 58–59	Luke 4:31–5:26	Galatians 3:1–4:20
56	Nehemiah 1–7	Psalms 60–62	Luke 5:27–6:19	Galatians 4:21–6:18
57	Nehemiah 8–13	Psalms 63–64	Luke 6:20–7:10	Ephesians 1:1–2:10
58	Esther 1–10; Job 1–3	Psalms 65–66	Luke 7:11–50	Ephesians 2:11–3:21
59	Job 4–11	Psalms 67–68	Luke 8:1–39	Ephesians 4
60	Job 12–19	Psalms 69	Luke 8:40–9:17	Ephesians 5–6
61	Job 20–30	Psalms 70	Luke 9:18–62	Philippians 1
62	Job 31–37	Psalms 71–72	Luke 10	Philippians 2
63	Job 38–42	Psalms 73	Luke 11:1–32	Philippians 3–4
64	Isaiah 1–5	Psalms 74–76	Luke 11:33–12:21	Colossians 1:1–2:5
65	Isaiah 6–10	Psalms 77	Luke 12:22–59	Colossians 2:6–4:18
66	Isaiah 11–17	Psalms 78	Luke 13	1 Thessalonians 1:1–2:16
67	Isaiah 18–26	Psalms 79–80	Luke 14	1 Thessalonians 2:17–4:18
68	Isaiah 27–32	Psalms 81–83	Luke 15	1 Thessalonians 5
69	Isaiah 33–38	Psalms 84–85	Luke 16	2 Thessalonians 1–3
70	Isaiah 39–43	Psalms 86–88	Luke 17	1 Timothy 1–2
71	Isaiah 44–49	Psalms 89	Luke 18	1 Timothy 3–4
72	Isaiah 50–59	Psalms 90–91	Luke 19:1–27	1 Timothy 5–6
73	Isaiah 60–66	Psalms 92–94	Luke 19:28–20:8	2 Timothy 1–2
74	Jeremiah 1–5	Psalms 95–97	Luke 20:9–47	2 Timothy 3–4
75	Jeremiah 6–9	Psalms 98–101	Luke 21	Titus 1–3
76	Jeremiah 10–15	Psalms 102–103	Luke 22:1–30	Philemon
77	Jeremiah 16–22	Psalms 104	Luke 22:31–71	Hebrews 1–3
78	Jeremiah 23–27	Psalms 105	Luke 23:1–43	Hebrews 4:1–6:12
79	Jeremiah 28–32	Psalms 106	Luke 23:44–24:12	Hebrews 6:13–7:28
80	Jeremiah 33–37	Psalms 107	Luke 24:13–53	Hebrews 8–9
81	Jeremiah 38–44	Psalms 108–109	John 1:1–34	Hebrews 10
82	Jeremiah 45–49	Psalms 110–113	John 1:35–2:25	Hebrews 11
83	Jeremiah 50–52	Psalms 114–117	John 3	Hebrews 12–13
84	Lamentations 1–5	Psalms 118	John 4:1–45	James 1–2

WK	GENERAL OLD TESTAMENT	WISDOM	GOSPELS	GENERAL NEW TESTAMENT
85	Ezekiel 1-5	Psalms 119:1-56	John 4:46-5:17	James 3-5
86	Ezekiel 6-11	Psalms 119:57-96	John 5:18-47	1 Peter 1:1-2:12
87	Ezekiel 12-16	Psalms 119:97-136	John 6:1-21	1 Peter 2:13-3:22
88	Ezekiel 17-21	Psalms 119:137-120:7	John 6:22-71	1 Peter 4-5
89	Ezekiel 22-24	Psalms 121-125	John 7:1-36	2 Peter 1
90	Ezekiel 25-30	Psalms 126-131	John 7:37-8:30	2 Peter 2-3
91	Ezekiel 31-35	Psalms 132-135	John 8:31-59	1 John 1:1-2:27
92	Ezekiel 36-40	Psalms 136-137	John 9	1 John 2:28-5:21
93	Ezekiel 41-45	Psalms 138-140	John 10	2 John
94	Ezekiel 46-48; Daniel 1-2	Psalms 141-143	John 11:1-27	3 John-Jude
95	Daniel 3-6	Psalms 144-146	John 11:28-12:8	Revelation 1-2
96	Daniel 7-12	Psalms 147-150	John 12:9-50	Revelation 3-4
97	Hosea 1-8	Ecclesiastes 1-2	John 13	Revelation 5-7
98	Hosea 9-14; Joel 1-3	Ecclesiastes 3-4	John 14	Revelation 8-9
99	Amos 1-9	Ecclesiastes 5-6	John 15:1-16:4	Revelation 10-11
100	Obadiah, Jonah	Ecclesiastes 7-8	John 16:5-33	Revelation 12-13
101	Micah 1-7; Nahum 1-3	Ecclesiastes 9-12	John 17:1-18:24	Revelation 14-16
102	Habakkuk 1-3; Zephaniah 1-3; Haggai 1-2	Song of Solomon 1-2	John 18:25-19:27	Revelation 17-18
103	Zechariah 1-8	Song of Solomon 3:1-5:9	John 19:28-20:18	Revelation 19-20
104	Zechariah 9-14, Malachi 1-4	Song of Solomon 5:10-8:14	John 20:19-21:25	Revelation 21-22

More studies available on ChurchOfChristBibleStudies.com