

2016 Reading Plan

JANUARY

- 1 Matthew 1:1-17
- 4 Matthew 1:18-25
- 5 Matthew 2:1-12
- 6 Matthew 2:13-23
- 7 Matthew 3:1-17
- 8 Matthew 4:1-11
- 11 Matthew 4:12-25
- 12 Matthew 5:1-12
- 13 Matthew 5:13-20
- 14 Matthew 5:21-48
- 15 Matthew 6:1-18
- 18 Matthew 6:19-34
- 19 Matthew 7:1-6
- 20 Matthew 7:7-12
- 21 Matthew 7:13-29
- 22 Matthew 8:1-17
- 25 Matthew 8:18-27
- 26 Matthew 8:28-34
- 27 Matthew 9:1-8
- 28 Matthew 9:9-17
- 29 Matthew 9:18-38

FEBRUARY

- 1 Matthew 10:1-23
- 2 Matthew 10:24-42
- 3 Matthew 11:1-19
- 4 Matthew 11:20-30
- 5 Matthew 12:1-14
- 8 Matthew 12:15-32
- 9 Matthew 12:33-37
- 10 Matthew 12:38-50
- 11 Matthew 13:1-23
- 12 Matthew 13:24-43
- 15 Matthew 13:44-52
- 16 Matthew 13:53-58
- 17 Matthew 14:1-12
- 18 Matthew 14:13-21

- 19 Matthew 14:22-36
- 22 Matthew 15:1-20
- 23 Matthew 15:21-28
- 24 Matthew 15:29-39
- 25 Matthew 16:1-12
- 26 Matthew 16:13-20
- 29 Matthew 16:21-28

MARCH

- 1 Matthew 17:1-13
- 2 Matthew 17:14-23
- 3 Matthew 17:24-27
- 4 Matthew 18:1-14
- 7 Matthew 18:15-20
- 8 Matthew 18:21-35
- 9 Matthew 19:1-12
- 10 Matthew 19:13-30
- 11 Matthew 20:1-16
- 14 Matthew 20:17-28
- 15 Matthew 20:29-34
- 16 Matthew 21:1-11
- 17 Matthew 21:12-17
- 18 Matthew 21:18-27
- 21 Matthew 21:28-46
- 22 Matthew 22:1-14
- 23 Matthew 22:15-22
- 24 Matthew 22:23-46
- 25 Matthew 23:1-12
- 28 Matthew 23:13-36
- 29 Matthew 23:37 – 24:2
- 30 Matthew 24:3-14
- 31 Matthew 24:15-31

APRIL

- 1 Matthew 24:32-51
- 4 Matthew 25:1-13
- 5 Matthew 25:14-30
- 6 Matthew 25:31-46
- 7 Matthew 26:1-16
- 8 Matthew 26:17-29
- 11 Matthew 26:30-35
- 12 Matthew 26:36-46
- 13 Matthew 26:47-56
- 14 Matthew 26:57-68
- 15 Matthew 26:69-75
- 18 Matthew 27:1-10
- 19 Matthew 27:11-31
- 20 Matthew 27:32-44
- 21 Matthew 27:45-56
- 22 Matthew 27:57-66
- 25 Matthew 28:1-15
- 26 Matthew 28:16-20
- 27 Mark 1:1-13
- 28 Mark 1:14-28
- 29 Mark 1:29-45

MAY

- 2 Mark 2:1-12
- 3 Mark 2:13-22
- 4 Mark 2:23-28
- 5 Mark 3:1-19
- 6 Mark 3:20-35
- 9 Mark 4:1-20
- 10 Mark 4:21-34
- 11 Mark 4:35-41
- 12 Mark 5:1-20
- 13 Mark 5:21-43
- 16 Mark 6:1-6
- 17 Mark 6:7-13
- 18 Mark 6:14-29

- 19 Mark 6:30-44
- 20 Mark 6:45-56
- 23 Mark 7:1-13
- 24 Mark 7:14-23
- 25 Mark 7:24-37
- 26 Mark 8:1-26
- 27 Mark 8:27-38
- 30 Mark 9:1-13
- 31 Mark 9:14-29

JUNE

- 1 Mark 9:30-41
- 2 Mark 9:42-50
- 3 Mark 10:1-12
- 6 Mark 10:13-31
- 7 Mark 10:32-45
- 8 Mark 10:46-52
- 9 Mark 11:1-14
- 10 Mark 11:15-26
- 13 Mark 11:27-33
- 14 Mark 12:1-12
- 15 Mark 12:13-40
- 16 Mark 12:41-44
- 17 Mark 13:1-23
- 20 Mark 13:24-37
- 21 Mark 14:1-25
- 22 Mark 14:26-52
- 23 Mark 14:53-65
- 24 Mark 14:66-72
- 27 Mark 15:1-20
- 28 Mark 15:21-41
- 29 Mark 15:42-47
- 30 Mark 16:1-8

JULY

- 1 Mark 16:9-20
- 4 Luke 1:1-25
- 5 Luke 1:26-38
- 6 Luke 1:39-56
- 7 Luke 1:57-80
- 8 Luke 2:1-20
- 11 Luke 2:21-40
- 12 Luke 2:41-52
- 13 Luke 3:1-22
- 14 Luke 3:23-38
- 15 Luke 4:1-13
- 18 Luke 4:14-30
- 19 Luke 4:31-44
- 20 Luke 5:1-11
- 21 Luke 5:12-26
- 22 Luke 5:27-39
- 25 Luke 6:1-11
- 26 Luke 6:12-19
- 27 Luke 6:20-49
- 28 Luke 7:1-17
- 29 Luke 7:18-35

AUGUST

- 1 Luke 7:36-50
- 2 Luke 8:1-15
- 3 Luke 8:16-25
- 4 Luke 8:26-39
- 5 Luke 8:40-56
- 8 Luke 9:1-9
- 9 Luke 9:10-17
- 10 Luke 9:18-27
- 11 Luke 9:28-45
- 12 Luke 9:46-62
- 15 Luke 10:1-16
- 16 Luke 10:17-24
- 17 Luke 10:25-37

- 18 Luke 10:38-42
- 19 Luke 11:1-13
- 22 Luke 11:14-28
- 23 Luke 11:29-36
- 24 Luke 11:37-54
- 25 Luke 12:1-12
- 26 Luke 12:13-34
- 29 Luke 12:35-48
- 30 Luke 12:49-59
- 31 Luke 13:1-17

SEPTEMBER

- 1 Luke 13:18-30
- 2 Luke 13:31-35
- 5 Luke 14:1-6
- 6 Luke 14:7-24
- 7 Luke 14:25-35
- 8 Luke 15:1-10
- 9 Luke 15:11-32
- 12 Luke 16:1-18
- 13 Luke 16:19-31
- 14 Luke 17:1-10
- 15 Luke 17:11-19
- 16 Luke 17:20-37
- 19 Luke 18:1-14
- 20 Luke 18:15-30
- 21 Luke 18:31-43
- 22 Luke 19:1-10
- 23 Luke 19:11-27
- 26 Luke 19:28-48
- 27 Luke 20:1-18
- 28 Luke 20:19-40
- 29 Luke 20:41 – 21:4
- 30 Luke 21:5-24

OCTOBER

- 3 Luke 21:25-38
- 4 Luke 22:1-23
- 5 Luke 22:24-38
- 6 Luke 22:39-46
- 7 Luke 22:47-62
- 10 Luke 22:63-71
- 11 Luke 23:1-12
- 12 Luke 23:13-25
- 13 Luke 23:26-43
- 14 Luke 23:44-56
- 17 Luke 24:1-12
- 18 Luke 24:13-35
- 19 Luke 24:36-53
- 20 John 1:1-18
- 21 John 1:19-34
- 24 John 1:35-51
- 25 John 2:1-12
- 26 John 2:13-25
- 27 John 3:1-15
- 28 John 3:16-36
- 31 John 4:1-45

NOVEMBER

- 1 John 4:46-54
- 2 John 5:1-18
- 3 John 5:19-47
- 4 John 6:1-21
- 7 John 6:22-59
- 8 John 6:60-71
- 9 John 7:1-31
- 10 John 7:32-52
- 11 John 7:53 – 8:11
- 14 John 8:12-30
- 15 John 8:31-59
- 16 John 9:1-41
- 17 John 10:1-21

- 18 John 10:22-42
- 21 John 11:1-44
- 22 John 11:45-57
- 23 John 12:1-19
- 24 John 12:20-50
- 25 John 13:1-20
- 28 John 13:21-38
- 29 John 14:1-14
- 30 John 14:15-31

DECEMBER

- 1 John 15:1-17
- 2 John 15:18-27
- 5 John 16:1-15
- 6 John 16:16-33
- 7 John 17:1-26
- 8 John 18:1-27
- 9 John 18:28-40
- 12 John 19:1-27
- 13 John 19:28-42
- 14 John 20:1-18
- 15 John 20:19-31
- 16 John 21:1-25

The Crossing Church

A ONE-YEAR JOURNEY THROUGH THE GOSPELS



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On The Journey

Join *The Journey* started as a way to help people develop the habit of reading the Bible each day and then applying its truths in their lives. For those who persevere in spending time daily in God's Word, it becomes a critical lifeline to wisdom, growth, and hope. Here are some comments from people who have benefited from reading the Bible and *The Journey* devotional. No matter what circumstances they are facing, they find a constant source of strength, guidance, and comfort in God's Word each day.

How would your life change if you made the daily commitment to read the Bible through *The Journey*? Find out in 2016!

"As a man who came to church far, far from God—I was in need of a major transformation. The Lord used His Holy Scriptures to begin renewing my mind (Romans 12:2), which changed how I lived. I am so thankful for the Bible and cannot wait to see how the Lord uses it in 2016 to continue the good work He has begun in me (Phil 1:6)."

"Reading the Bible each day has been transformational for me. I focus on the gospel. This helps me see how I can have a deeper and more intimate relationship with Jesus. As my knowledge of, and trust in, Him increases, my fear and anxiety decrease!"

"Throughout the last few years of reading the Bible with a plan like this, I have discovered that God is good and faithful and does everything with intention. Learning the truths of the Bible has become an anchor for my life and has literally transformed my motivation for living. I have changed from being a self-focused person to one who strives to honor God with every aspect of my life. Having a reading plan is an essential part of my daily routine."

"Having a Bible reading plan from our church has helped me in many ways. I love reading the Bible and connecting with others."

Six Steps to Understanding the Bible

You can understand the Bible! You do not need a graduate degree in Biblical Studies. All you need to be able to do is read. Sadly, many people feel unqualified or ill-equipped to read and interpret the Bible for themselves. Consequently, they miss out on understanding the promises God wants them to rest in knowing. Here are six easy steps for you to follow:

1 DETERMINE THE CONTEXT – To understand the meaning of a particular passage in Scripture, it is essential that you first determine its context. Each passage has a historical, cultural, literary, and theological context. Try to read every verse in context of each paragraph, each paragraph in context of each chapter, each chapter in context of each book, and each book in context with the rest of Scripture. (Apart from what the text says, additional resources to help you do this are listed in step 4).

2 GATHER THE CLUES – Because "all Scripture is inspired by God" (2 Timothy 3:16), no word or thought is insignificant. Each word needs to be examined carefully. Each passage is filled with "clues" (key words, people, contrasts, locations, etc.) that unlock its meaning. Thus, the same skills that are required of a good detective are also necessary for understanding the Bible. Like a good detective, you must ask a lot of questions. Try asking questions beginning with the words: Who, What, When, Where, How, and Why? For example, you might ask, "To whom is Jesus speaking?" and "How did they respond?" Or, "When did this event take place?" and "Why is it significant?" The number of questions you might ask is endless.

Based upon what you have discovered, summarize your thoughts by answering the following two questions:

What is the main idea (subject) of the passage? What is said about the main idea (subject) of the passage?

Make sure that your answers to these questions are not too general (broad) that they fail to deal with the specifics of the text, nor too specific (narrow) that they fail to consider the whole. Once you have identified the main idea (subject), write down everything the passage says about it. (This also serves as an excellent way to outline the text).

3 COMPARE AND CONTRAST SCRIPTURE – The best interpreter of Scripture is Scripture. Thus, one of the best ways to understand the meaning of a passage is to compare and contrast it with other passages. Often, the same ideas in one passage are repeated or restated more clearly in other parts of the Bible. One way to do this is to use a concordance. A concordance is a tool that lists all the words used in the Bible, gives the reference for where they appear, and provides the surrounding context. Concordances are found in the back of many study Bibles and on many websites such as biblegateway.org.

4 CONSULT OTHER SOURCES – After having studied the passage for yourself, it is helpful to see what other people have discovered about the text. Fortunately, there are hundreds of reference books that can help you. Some of the more popular books that will help you include a concordance, Bible dictionary, Bible encyclopedia, Bible handbook, Bible atlas, a commentary, and a good word study book. Some helpful websites that will enhance your study are netbible.org, soniclight.com, and biblegateway.org. If you are looking for just one complete resource, we recommend the ESV Study Bible for its clarity, study notes, and aids. (You can see the ESV Study Bible at ESVBible.org).

5 DRAW YOUR CONCLUSION – Once you have exhausted all your investigative efforts, it is time to draw your conclusion. To do so, try answering the question, "In one sentence, what is the universal principle this passage is teaching?"

6 COMMIT TO TAKE ACTION – The purpose of studying the Bible is to grow in godliness, not to simply gain more knowledge about a particular subject. Therefore, it is essential that you take the final step of applying what you have learned. There may be dozens of applications. The following questions are helpful to ask:

- Is there an example for me to follow?
- Is there a sin for me to avoid?
- Is there a promise for me to claim?
- Is there a prayer to repeat?
- Is there a command to obey?
- Is there a condition to meet?
- Is there a verse to memorize?
- Is there a doctrine taught that I need to better understand?
- Is there a challenge to face?

Helpful resources include Rick Warren's book, *Bible Study Methods: Twelve Ways You Can Unlock God's Word* (Zondervan) and *Talk Thru the Bible* by Wilkinson and Boa (Zondervan).

