



BIBLE READING PLAN

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Saturation in a New Testament "Letter of the Month"

Memorization

Praying through the Psalms and Proverbs

Chronological reading of the Bible

Sharing and accountability

GETTING STARTED

1. Why read the Bible? [Here](#) is a short article by John Piper. There are many ways to read the Bible. Read [My Preferred Way to Read the Bible](#) by Jim Elliff.
2. The [ESV Journaling Bible](#) (single column) is recommended. You can purchase an inexpensive hardback version which can be replaced as you fill up your Bible with notes. A leather version is also available.
3. Purchase pens that won't bleed through the paper of your Bible. [Here](#) and [here](#) are two options.
4. Pick up or print the provided card for the month. These will be available at church and at www.newlifew.com. They give the reading and memorization for the month along with places to keep track of your progress.

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THE PLAN

Step 1: READ THE "LETTER OF THE MONTH"

Read one book of the Bible (the "Letter of the Month") at least 5 days a week for one month. If it is a short book, try to read it straight through. If it is a longer book, read 5-7 chapters per day and read through the book as many times as you can each week. Longer books will be given more than one

month to complete. Set a goal to thoughtfully read each book at least 20 times. You can do more if you like, but even if you do much less, keep reading and know that it is a valuable investment. Weekends can be used for catching up, chronological reading, and memorization (see below.)

Mark your Bible and write notes in the margin, noting key words, repeated ideas, themes. Record what you learn about God, what this means to your life, questions you have, etc. If you like, you can assign different colors for different topics (i.e. blue for God, green for man, brown for questions, black for general comments, purple for suffering, pink for joy, red for stop/wait, etc., depending on what you want to highlight. Make yourself a key in the front of your Bible.) See [“Look at the Book”](#) by John Piper for ideas on how to study a passage. Read a book on how to study the Bible, such as [Women of the Word](#) by Jen Wilkin.

The ROOTED Reading Plan covers the letters of the New Testament in two years. They can be done in any order and started at any time, but a chronological order is recommended below:

Year 1

January: James

February: Galatians

March: 1 Thessalonians

April: 2 Thessalonians

May-July: 1 Corinthians and 2 Corinthians

August-September: Romans

October: Colossians and Philemon

November: Ephesians

December: Philippians

Year 2

January: 1 Timothy

February: Titus

March: 1 Peter

April-May: Hebrews

June: 2 Timothy

July: 2 Peter/Jude

August: 1 John

September: 2 John and 3 John

October-December: Revelation

Step 2: MEMORIZE

Each “Letter of the Month” comes with a passage to memorize. Feel free to choose a different passage or an additional passage or just one verse to memorize if you prefer. Work on your memorization each day. You can say it, write it, listen to it, share it, and use memorization apps, whatever helps. Use the weekends to spend extra time on your memory work. [Here](#) and [here](#) are a few memorization tips.

Step 3: PRAY THROUGH THE PSALMS & PROVERBS

Read the listed Psalm or Proverb for the day. Use it as a means to focus your praise and petitions. This plan will take you through the Psalms and Proverbs four times in two years.

Step 4: CHRONOLOGICAL READING

Read through the Bible chronologically in two years, possibly at a different time of day or on the weekends. Reading the Bible in two years is discussed [here](#) by Steven Witmer. The one year chronological plan can be found [here](#).

Step 5: SHARE

Find a partner or a group to do this with. Encourage each other; memorize with each other; discuss what you are learning about God and how God’s word is changing your life. Talk or meet weekly if you can, but do it at least once a month. It is helpful to have accountability.

FINAL THOUGHTS

This plan is very flexible. You can do one step or all five steps; try to do as many as you can. Read the “letter of the month” as many times as you can, even if it is more or less than the goal of 20. You can memorize the recommended passage, another one you prefer, or even just one verse. You can start any month of the year. You can go through this multiple times, memorizing new passages. The goal is to be rooted in God’s word daily.

One way you might order your time:

PRAY: Confess sin. Thank God. Ask God to teach you and change you through His word.

READ: Thoughtfully read through the “Letter of the Month,” marking what stands out to you today.

MEMORIZE: Spend a few minutes on the passage to memorize for the month.

PRAY: Read your Psalm or Proverb for the day and make it a starting point for your prayers.

EVENINGS OR WEEKENDS: Read the two year chronological plan.

SHARE: Meet regularly with your partner or group for discussion, encouragement, and accountability.

“I have a burden for my people right now, just like I do for myself, that we get beyond propositions and Bible verses to Christ. I do not mean “get around” Bible verses, but “through” Bible verses to Christ, to the person, the living person, to know Him, cherish Him, treasure Him, enjoy Him, trust Him, be at home with Him. I want to count Him more to be desired than all other things — wife, husband, children, success in career, leisure, vacations, health, food, sex, money. He’s more precious.”

John Piper