

Ready! Set! READ!

The READ THROUGH THE BIBLE Challenge is on. We are about to embark upon a year of read through the Bible with an emphasis on reading for content. This does not mean that you must abandon your personal Bible study or set aside your devotional time. We are adding and prioritizing an effort to read through the entire 66 books of the Old and New Testament in a calendar year. Keep in mind that only 5% of the population of the U.S. has ever completed the challenge.

Here's what you need to know to complete the task.

Rules

1. You must begin reading after January 1, 2025 and complete your reading by December 31, 2025.
2. You may use any translation or a mix of translations.
3. You may use any Bible plan or practice as long as the Bible is completely read by the due date.
 - a. Plans are available on many websites and we can provide a basic plan. Generally, you must read 5 unique chapters a day to stay on a 365-day course.
 - b. While daily reading is the best practice, you may use any practice that you deem successful for you. This may include
 - i. Weekday only reading
 - ii. Six-day plans
 - iii. Cramming a week into one day. (not recommended)
4. You may read or listen to the Scripture to accomplish the plan. So, if you want to tag-team read with your spouse or include your whole family you will all qualify. Just remember, it's about 5 chapters a day.
5. While we strongly recommend a paper Bible, Electronic APP's, websites, and computer programs are acceptable.

Resources

We have printed a simple reading plan that covers the Scripture in 365 days. You may choose to read in a 365-day Bible if you want to purchase something like this, but our goal is familiarity with Scripture, so we strongly recommend following a plan that puts Scripture in order. The Bible app YouVersion contains several good plans that will also hold you accountable.

I know that reading the Bible is going to create questions. You may crave immediate answers to your questions but resist the urge to stop reading and answer questions.

To Assist with this, we suggest...

1. Read in an unmarked Bible, i.e.. A non-study Bible or something without a chain reference system (those little letters and numbers in a center column) Not having these resources will hold back on your curiosity to chase things for the sake of chasing them.
2. Keep a pencil and a notepad handy. Write down questions when you have them, but keep reading.

3. Keep another piece of paper for your “to do” list. Your mind will remind you that you need bread and milk, or that you need to schedule an appointment for your cat while you are reading. Write it down and handle it later.
4. Try reading in the same physical location.

Reviews

Take advantage of our Q&A sessions. We will have three of these through the year on a quarterly basis to try and answer your questions and help others who may have had the same questions. These sessions are scheduled on these dates...

- a. March 30, 2025 – Questions on Genesis to Judges
- b. June 29, 2025 -- Questions on Genesis to Job
- c. September 28, 2025 – Questions on the Old Testament

At the celebratory dinner, we'll have a time to answer Old and New Testament questions

Reward

I know that we don't have to put an incentive on reading the Bible other than the intrinsic reward of having done so. To those who would read without the prize – Good for you! Knowing that only 5% of the nation has read the entire Bible and that only 17% have made it half way tells me that incentivizing the process and supporting the process is a good and positive thing. So, a reminder of the incentive is in order.

For every person who reads through or listens to the reading of all 66 books of the Old and New Testament in the calendar year of 2025 is invited to enjoy dinner prepared by me Pastor George Stephens. The dinner will consist of

- Green Salad
- Prime Rib of Beef
- Twice Baked Potatoes
- Seasonal vegetable.
- Beverage

We will accept offers of desserts as we near the event.

The date of our celebration will be

Saturday January 10, 2026, 5:00pm

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