

Read the Bible in a Year Chronologically

March

How is your Bible reading coming along? ... or... are you just now jumping into our Bible-read-thru plan? If you are on-task, great! Congratulations! If not, or if you are just joining us, don't fret – the fact that you are here is wonderful! Pick-up where we are at, and just start moving forward. In last month's installment of our read-through plan I shared some tips for 'catching up' and/or staying-on-track with the reading schedule. If you hop over to the Faith and Home Publishing website and click on "Resources" you can download that copy complete with these tips.

This month begins a trend of having very few skips! As nice as it is to jump over the redundancy of temple measurements and sacrifice requirements, it is also refreshing to just hit "cruise" and travel along through Scripture enjoying where the storyline takes us – with one catch though....

After we get done wrapping up Deuteronomy and breezing through Joshua, Judges and Ruth... 1 Samuel will begin a trek through the life of David and the subsequent kings which requires, chronologically, some tie-in to other Books and Psalms. Next month we will straddle between Samuel, Chronicles, and Kings... however, for this month, we get to enjoy the poetry of David interwoven into the historical narrative! If you haven't already, I believe you will begin to find your Bible Reading a bit more exhilarating this month!

Before we get started, the next two pages contain some housekeeping notes. If you have been following along since January, you have likely already read these, you may skip ahead to the study checklist. If this is your first time joining us, do take a minute to read about how this plan is arranged, why I chose this method, and some tips for getting the reading done on time as well as ideas for turning it into a full-on Bible study!

One final note: If you decide to share your read-through on social media, be sure to tag me, I would love to see how it is going!

I pray you grow in the knowledge of grace and Truth as you undertake this reading plan ♥

Blessings,

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Read-thru Points to Review:

In recognizing how, even with the best-laid plans and routines, LIFE can sometimes get in the way of staying on track with a Bible read-through plan, here are some tips for success:

- Set aside a good, consistent, 10-15 minute block of time each day to read your Bible
- Don't feel like it has to be a perfect quiet time in order to get your reading done each day, you can even incorporate the readings into your family time, dinner time, or over breakfast.
- LISTENING COUNTS! There are many good Bible apps out there which also give you the option to have the Scriptures read to you. You can get your readings done while driving, cleaning, or cooking. It makes the read-through so easy, you may even find you are listening ahead each day!! (that is ok too!)
- If you know you are going to miss a few days during the month, be preemptive and double-down some days or slowly filter in an extra chapter of reading each day to stay caught-up
- Does reading your Bible make your eyes slam shut or does your mind rabbit trail and get distracted, especially if it is early in the morning? Try listening AND reading along for each day's verses. It may help you stay focused and absorb more.
- Download a Bible Tracker (I will share on Instagram which tracker I use). It can propel and encourage you to check-off your progress in an app (and win virtual prizes for hitting different benchmarks!)

This read-thru is NOT intended to replace a good, deep-dig Bible study. It is merely meant to help you keep the scope of God's Word regularly planted into your mind, *especially* along with other study plans you may have during the year. Having said that, you CAN turn this read-thru into your Bible Study with a little extra time and work:

- Underline and highlight as you read. Pausing after the day's passages and doing word studies and/or looking into cross references and commentaries to understand more deeply.
- Which passages to dig into will usually boil down to things that are confusing, interesting, or repetitive.
- Journal about what you read, recording key passages you studied and what you learned about them.

If you do choose to turn your read-through into a study, don't get so distracted by the details that you discontinue daily reading – keep going, even if you are still digging in on previous passages!

As mentioned in the title, this is a Chronological reading plan meaning, we will be reading chapters in their timeline order. I personally prefer this method because it helps us see how connected all of the Scriptures are, especially in the Old Testament and Gospels. As you read, *you will notice some missing chapters*, this is one major difference between mine and most read-thru plans: I have made the difficult decision to omit long chapters of genealogy, censuses, temple building details, cleansing and garment procedures of the priests, and long lists of battles where no other details are provided. However, I want to be clear: **ALL OF GOD'S WORD IS OF SUPREME IMPORTANCE...** even the things I omitted. I omitted them for one reason only: conciseness.

This study is intended for women who are often juggling their time, down to the minute, yet still want to confidently accomplish a read-through. With that objective in mind:

- ✓ I wanted a read-through plan which didn't require a half-hour of reading every day, 7 days a week, to stay on task.
- ✓ I wanted a plan that wouldn't be overwhelming but, instead, could be easily done with high success rates each month, all the way until the year's end.
- ✓ I wanted a plan with grace margins; some heavy days, some light days, and every week a day off for rest or catch-up.

To achieve this directive, I had to cull some of the passages and cut straight to the meat. Yet, I DO encourage everyone to find some time to still read or listen to those passages which are left out. We can come to understand quite a bit about the entire scope of the Bible when we pause to see the details, even down to “cubits” measured, metals used, and the people who made the nations. I *will* put an asterisked reference in each list so you can easily see omitted Scriptures in their context and, hopefully, set some extra time aside to listen to or read through those parts on your own.

As we work through the Old Testament... Our current culture likes to pull passages from these early books of the Bible, often out of context (or in), and use them as an excuse to discredit Christianity – DON'T BE DISCOURAGED. When possible, plan extra time over these first few months to reference some good commentary on the passages you find most difficult. It will be MIND-BLOWING as you see the depth and breadth of what is truly intended through the Old Testament message. Some tips to help:

- Reference Study Bible commentary notes as you read. If you don't have a study Bible, BibleHub.com has a great line-by-line commentary section
- Use the Blue Letter Bible (BLB) app or website under “interlinear” in verse references for word studies. Here you will see the original (Hebrew for OT – Greek for NT) word usage and be able to click and read intended definitions and cultural points.
- Listened to/watch good commentators online. BLB also has some solid audio recordings of commentary on each book of the Bible.
- Read/listen to “*Is God a Moral Monster: Making Sense of the Old Testament God*” by Paul Copan *** I cannot recommend this book highly enough – it was soooooo good in helping make sense of the difficult texts and situations in the Old Testament.

In all of this: REMEMBER WHO THE BIBLE IS ABOUT. Honestly, the Bible isn't about us, it is about God. As we dig into it, and especially the Old Testament, *a lot of people lose interest because they find it 'boring' or 'unrelatable'*. This is because they are making it about themselves. However, when we dive into God's Word realizing it is a story about HIM and we have the awesome opportunity to learn more about His Character by reading, suddenly the drive to read changes. We want to know how and why things happen. We want to understand God's heart and intent in each situation – *especially* the hard ones. The more we read and the more we choose to dig, the more we understand the God we serve and His amazing, grace-filled personality – we become more humble and better equipped to understand Truth. (Interestingly, the more we take this approach, the more Scripture *will* begin to become personal)

So, with all that said, are you ready to get started?

The last page has a check list of passages to read on a Sunday-Friday schedule for the month. Reading should take 10-15 minutes per day and passages are arranged to not only make this goal attainable but also to keep the story line as connected as possible while also staying on schedule. The dates are a suggestion, feel free to use them as such. The ultimate goal is NOT to read every day on-time, rather, it is to have finished the readings by month's end, whether you read 5, 6, or 7 days a week. Modify as needed, I have tried to leave space between days for notations in this regard. *I will caution you though*, DO keep a regular plan because it is easy to fall behind and then feel like you can't catch-up (and ultimately give up). As you develop a routine and make the intake of God's Word a regular part of your spiritual diet, you will find you are hungry for more!

Also, I've tried to design the checklist in such a way that you can fold the page in half so it may serve as a bookmark in your Bible. You can even use the inside of the fold to jot down prayers or notes throughout the month.

Blessings to you in your Scripture journey♥

March 2024

- F, March 1 – Deuteronomy 20-23
- Su, March 3 – Deuteronomy 24-27
- M, March 4 – Deuteronomy 28-30
- Tu, March 5 – Deuteronomy 31-34
- W, March 6 – Joshua 1-5
- Th, March 7 – Joshua 6-8
- F, March 8 – Joshua 9-12*
- Su, March 10 – Joshua 22-24
- M, March 11 – Judges 1-3
- Tu, March 12 – Judges 4-6
- W, March 13 – Judges 7-10
- Th, March 14 – Judges 11-14
- F, March 15 – Judges 15-18
- Su, March 17 – Judges 19-21
- M, March 18 – Ruth 1-4
- Tu, March 19 – 1 Samuel 1-3
- W, March 20 – 1 Samuel 4-7
- Th, March 21 – 1 Samuel 8-11
- F, March 22 – 1 Samuel 12-14
- Su, March 24 – 1 Samuel 15-17
- M, March 25 – 1 Samuel 18-20
Psalm 59
- Tu, March 26 – 1 Samuel 21
Psalm 52, 34, 56
- W, March 27 – 1 Samuel 22
Psalm 57, 142
1 Samuel 23
- Th, March 28 – Psalm 54
1 Samuel 24-27
- F, March 29 – 1 Samuel 28-31
- Su, March 31 – 2 Samuel 1-4

*Bonus Readings:

- Joshua 13-21 □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □