



Grace Lutheran

BIBLE

READING PLAN

MAN SHALL NOT LIVE BY BREAD ALONE

MODIFIED FROM A PLAN BY GRANT HORNER, PROFESSOR AT THE MASTER'S UNIVERSITY
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The Program

Each day, you will read one chapter from each of nine reading lists as well as three Psalms. On day one, you read Matthew 1, Genesis 1, Romans 1, and so forth. On day 2, read Matthew 2, Genesis 2, etc. When you reach the last chapter of the last book in a list – start over again. Rotate all the way through all Scripture constantly. Since the lists vary in length, the readings begin interweaving in constantly changing ways. You will never read the same set of readings together again! Every year you'll read through the Synoptic Gospels five times, the Books of Moses twice, the Epistles four or five times each, the OT wisdom literature six times, all the Psalms seven times, all the Proverbs a dozen times, John and Acts seven times, and all the way through the OT History and Prophetic books about 1 ½ times. Since the interweaving is constantly changing, you will experience the Bible commenting on itself in constantly changing ways – the Reformer's principle of *Scriptura interpretans Scripturam* -- 'Scripture interpreting Scripture' IN ACTION!

“Let me tell you this. Even though you know the Word perfectly and have already mastered everything, still you are daily under the dominion of the devil, who neither day nor night relaxes his effort to steal upon you unawares and to kindle in your heart unbelief and wicked thoughts against all these commandments. Therefore you must continually keep God's Word in your heart, on your lips, and in your ears. For where the heart stands idle and the Word is not heard, the devil breaks in and does his damage before we realize it. On the other hand, when we seriously ponder the Word, hear it, and put it to use, such is its power that it never departs without fruit. It always awakens new understanding, new pleasure, and a new spirit of devotion, and it constantly cleanses the heart and its meditations. For these words are not idle or dead, but effective and living. Even if no other interest or need drove us to the Word, yet everyone should be spurred on by the realization that in this way the devil is cast out and put to flight, this commandment is fulfilled, and God is more pleased than by any work of hypocrisy, however brilliant.”
(Large Catechism: The Ten Commandments, par. 100-102)

Time Required

For those who are not used to reading their Bibles like this, it seems like a daunting task. The truth is that it is a commitment. That said, it takes a fraction of the time that most people spend staring at their phones and/or watching television. If you have time to scroll through Facebook for over an hour a day and watch a few TV shows, you have more than enough time to devote to the single most important thing God has given you on this earth... His Word.

This commitment will only take you 35-60 minutes a day. In the beginning, you will probably be on the longer side of the range. However, after you've read any particular book once or twice, your speed in that book usually doubles or triples. This is because you're familiar with it and can move quickly and confidently. Also, you are no longer merely decoding the text but are instead thinking it through in the context of all Scripture! Even after just a few days the reading gets much easier; in a month it will be a habit, and in six months you'll wonder how you ever survived before on such a slim diet of the Word.

How to Read

There are different kinds of reading: super-quick skimming, careful moderate-paced, studying the text, and deep meditation. You should be between the first and second kind. Read quickly (without "speed-reading") in order to get the overall sense. Read as fast as you comfortably can with moderate retention. You're not studying deeply or memorizing; shoot for 5-6 minutes per chapter. At the end of a chapter, move immediately to the next list. This may be difficult at first, but most people decrease their time spent reading and increase their retention in just a few days and are amazed at their own ability after just two to three weeks! Remember, you are not studying the Bible, you are reading it. Don't look up every little thing you "don't get." Real understanding will come through contextualizing by reading a LOT of Scripture over time. Get through the text!

Choosing a Bible

Because you are simply reading the Bible as opposed to studying it, I suggest that you purchase a Bible specifically for this. Having a study Bible with references and comments is great for looking something up. You should certainly have one in your home. When you read a book though, it is not set up this way. Instead, you have a single column of text, with no markings or notes. A Reader's Bible is what you are looking for. Of course, your study Bible will work as well, but you will have to be deliberate about ignoring almost 75% of what is on the page.

When it comes to different translations, there is much debate. It cannot be denied that some translations are garbage (e.g. NIV 2011 and later, The Message, and The Living Bible). Avoid them. Others are equally fine (e.g. pre-2011 NIV, ESV, and RSV). I personally recommend the English Standard Version or New King James. They are what we use on Sunday mornings. I've rarely had to make translation corrections, and are very easy to read. You can support our church by ordering from: bookshop.org/shop/gracelutherangordon .

Reading on your phone or tablet is also an option. You can search for NKJV or ESV Bibles in the Amazon Kindle Store, or search for the "Logos Bible App" on the App Store or Google Play store.

What if I miss a day [or ten]?

I'm not saying you are going to fail. But when you do, simply repent. Admit you failed, trust that Lord still loves you and that you belong to Him, and then pick your Bible back up and continue from where you were. Don't cover yourself in sackcloth and ashes. It will be ok. Also don't act like it doesn't matter. If you started doing this once, you must have believed it was important. It still is. The great thing about this, is you **just pick up where you left off** (so you don't have to make up three days to catch up to the calendar date, like on some plans).

How to Start

Pick up your Bible and read it. It's that simple. Then do it again tomorrow. I have provided a sheet with all the reading lists on one page. These can be cut into ten bookmarks with the individual reading lists on them so you can keep track of where you are on each list in your Bible. If you have some other way to keep track of where you are, that's great.

I also suggest you start with a very deliberate one-month commitment. See where it takes you. After a month, you will be surprised at how much you were starving yourself before and will want to keep going.

LIST ONE: THE SYNOPTIC GOSPELS

MATTHEW, MARK, LUKE

LIST TWO: THE BOOKS OF MOSES

GENESIS, EXODUS, LEVITICUS, NUMBERS, DEUTERONOMY

LIST THREE: EPISTLES I

ROMANS, 1&2 CORINTHIANS, GALATIANS, EPHESIANS, PHILIPPIANS, COLOSSIANS, HEBREWS

LIST FOUR: EPISTLES II

1&2 THESSALONIANS, 1&2 TIMOTHY, TITUS, PHILEMON,
JAMES, 1&2 PETER, 1,2,&3 JOHN, JUDE, REVELATION

LIST FIVE: WISDOM & POETRY

JOB, ECCLESIASTES, SONG OF SOLOMON

LIST SIX: PSALMS

3 EACH DAY

LIST SEVEN: PROVERBS

LIST EIGHT: OLD TESTAMENT HISTORY

JOSHUA, JUDGES, RUTH, 1&2 SAMUEL, 1&2 KINGS, 1&2 CHRONICLES,
EZRA, NEHEMIAH, ESTHER

LIST NINE: THE PROPHETS

ISAIAH, JEREMIAH, LAMENTATIONS, EZEKIEL, DANIEL, HOSEA, JOEL, AMOS, OBADIAH, JONAH, MICAH,
NAHUM, HABAKKUK, ZEPHANIAH, HAGGAI, ZECHARIAH, MALACHI

LIST TEN: JOHN & ACTS