



## PART FOUR: RYB

For many people, the Bible sits on a shelf collecting dust in a lonely corner of their home library. Yet inside its pages, God speaks truths that not only inform our lives, but also transform our lives. So why not be pro-active and take some steps to *RYB (Read Your Bible)*? In doing so, you put yourself in a posture to listen. And who knows—more times than not, He may speak to you in a way that changes your life.

**BIG IDEA:** By having a time, a place, and a plan—we develop a heart that can hear God speak.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What are your regular reading habits? Do you tend to skim through several books at once or read deeply through one book?
2. What obstacles keep you from reading the Bible more regularly?
3. What are some times during your day that you could consistently set apart to read the Bible? What specific place would be ideal for you to read the Bible?
4. What kinds of Bible reading plans have worked for you in the past? What impediments have gotten you off track?
5. What has been the most profound insight that you've discovered while reading the Bible? How has it transformed your life?
6. What steps can you take to read the Bible for transformation and not merely for information?

### THINK ABOUT IT

We all get feedback from a variety of sources relating to our lives, our relationships, and our decisions. The Bible is your opportunity to get feedback from your creator, the one who loves you more than anyone. It's always available... so why not RYB?

### WHAT WILL YOU DO?

This week, spend a couple minutes at a specific time at a specific place with a specific plan to read the Bible.

### CHANGING YOUR MIND

*For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.* Hebrews 4:12

### HERE ARE SOME SUGGESTIONS YOU MAY WANT TO USE FOR YOUR TIME WITH GOD THIS WEEK:

**Day 1:** Read Mark 1:35-39

**Day 2:** Read Luke 4:16-30

**Day 3:** Read Luke 5:16; Luke 6:12-16

**Day 4:** Read Psalm 42:1-2

**Day 5:** Read Psalm 23



## BIBLE READING PLANS

To gain a better understanding of the Bible's grand story, it's helpful to read through entire chapters and books of Scripture like you would any other work of literature. Included below are three different plans to help you get started. It only takes about fifteen minutes a day or two hours a week of reading to follow these plans. Don't limit yourself to only one block a day—read ahead if you want. And if you get behind, don't give up! Just start again where you last stopped. Blocks of reading are provided according to book and chapter. To locate a book, utilize the Table of Contents at the beginning of your Bible.

### *Bible Reading Plan #1: Exploring Jesus in Twenty-one Days*

There are four different accounts that tell the story of Jesus' life: the books of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. This reading plan explores two of these accounts, which are found at the beginning of the New Testament about three-quarters of the way into the Bible.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Day 1: Luke 1-2    | <input type="checkbox"/> Day 12: John 1-2   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Day 2: Luke 3-4    | <input type="checkbox"/> Day 13: John 3-4   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Day 3: Luke 5-6    | <input type="checkbox"/> Day 14: John 5-6   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Day 4: Luke 7-8    | <input type="checkbox"/> Day 15: John 7-8   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Day 5: Luke 9-10   | <input type="checkbox"/> Day 16: John 9-10  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Day 6: Luke 11-12  | <input type="checkbox"/> Day 17: John 11-12 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Day 7: Luke 13-15  | <input type="checkbox"/> Day 18: John 13-15 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Day 8: Luke 16-18  | <input type="checkbox"/> Day 19: John 16-17 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Day 9: Luke 19-20  | <input type="checkbox"/> Day 20: John 18-19 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Day 10: Luke 21-22 | <input type="checkbox"/> Day 21: John 20-21 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Day 11: Luke 23-24 |   |

### *Bible Reading Plan #2: Sampling Scripture in Ten Weeks*

This reading plan includes entire books or significant portions of books from different time periods and literary genres in the Bible. For example, it includes historical narrative, songs, prophetic messages, travel accounts and personal letters. This plan also traces the well-known stories of creation, the exodus, King David, the prophet Jonah, Jesus and the early Christian movement. By reading these blocks of Scripture, you'll begin to discover the grand storyline of the Bible. In this plan, blocks of reading are delineated by *week* rather than *day*. But don't feel the need to accomplish an entire week's reading in one sitting. Pace yourself by reading a little bit each day.

- Week 1: Genesis 1-25
- Week 2: Exodus 1-20, Ruth
- Week 3: 1 Samuel 16-31, 2 Samuel 1-7

- Week 4: Psalm 1-41
- Week 5: Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah
- Week 6: Esther, Ezra
- Week 7: Mark
- Week 8: Acts 1-12, 1 Peter
- Week 9: Acts 13-28
- Week 10: Romans, Ephesians

### ***Bible Reading Plan #3: Reading the Bible in One Year***

Many people benefit from reading through the entire Bible in a year. If you follow this plan, you'll accomplish this goal! These readings are also delineated by *week* rather than *day*. The plan begins with the Old Testament and moves into the New Testament, but does not follow the exact order of books in your Bible (which is not always chronological anyway). For example, the books of poetry and wisdom literature (Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes and Song of Songs) are interspersed into the first half of the Old Testament readings to provide some variety. Also, in the New Testament, books have been grouped according to common theme (like Matthew, Hebrews and James, which reflect a Jewish audience) or common author (such as the books and letters written by the apostle John). Reading the entire Bible in a year seems like a daunting task. Don't be intimidated! Stay focused, be patient and begin to find your place in the story.

- Week 1: Genesis 1-25
- Week 2: Genesis 26-50
- Week 3: Job 1-24
- Week 4: Job 25-42, Exodus 1-10
- Week 5: Exodus 11-34
- Week 6: Exodus 35-40, Leviticus 1-15
- Week 7: Leviticus 16-27, Numbers 1-4
- Week 8: Numbers 5-21
- Week 9: Numbers 22-36, Psalms 1-17
- Week 10: Psalms 18-55
- Week 11: Psalms 56-94
- Week 12: Psalms 95-150
- Week 13: Deuteronomy 1-19
- Week 14: Deuteronomy 20-34, Proverbs 1-7
- Week 15: Proverbs 8-31
- Week 16: Ecclesiastes, Joshua 1-10
- Week 17: Joshua 11-24, Judges 1-5
- Week 18: Judges 6-21, Ruth
- Week 19: Song of Songs, 1 Samuel 1-16
- Week 20: 1 Samuel 17-31, 2 Samuel 1-7

- Week 21: 2 Samuel 8-24
- Week 22: 1 Kings 1-18
- Week 23: 1 Kings 19-22, 2 Kings 1-16
- Week 24: 2 Kings 17-25, Isaiah 1-11
- Week 25: Isaiah 12-37
- Week 26: Isaiah 38-59
- Week 27: Isaiah 60-66, Jeremiah 1-14
- Week 28: Jeremiah 15-36
- Week 29: Jeremiah 37-52
- Week 30: Lamentations, 1 Chronicles 1-12
- Week 31: 1 Chronicles 13-29, 2 Chronicles 1-7
- Week 32: 2 Chronicles 8-38
- Week 33: Ezekiel 1-20
- Week 34: Ezekiel 21-38
- Week 35: Ezekiel 39-48, Daniel
- Week 36: Hosea, Joel, Amos
- Week 37: Ezra, Nehemiah
- Week 38: Esther, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah
- Week 39: Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi
- Week 40: Matthew 1-17
- Week 41: Matthew 18-28, Hebrews 1-8
- Week 42: Hebrews 9-13, James, Mark 1-9
- Week 43: Mark 10-16, 1 Peter, 2 Peter, Jude
- Week 44: Luke 1-15
- Week 45: Luke 16-24, Acts 1-7
- Week 46: Acts 8-21
- Week 47: Acts 22-28, Romans
- Week 48: 1 Corinthians, 2 Corinthians
- Week 49: Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 and 2 Thessalonians
- Week 50: 1 and 2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon, John 1-10
- Week 51: John 11-21, 1, 2 and 3 John
- Week 52: Revelation

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