

Kahlil Gibran: A 12-Week Guided Reading Journey

This self-guided course is designed for personal enrichment and small-group discussion. Over twelve weeks, participants read Kahlil Gibran's major works chronologically, alongside biographical and contextual materials. The goal is not academic mastery but deepened understanding, reflection, and conversation. **How to Access the Readings**

Free online texts (public domain):

- Project Gutenberg: <https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/author/129>
- Internet Archive (scanned editions): <https://archive.org/search.php?query=Kahlil%20Gibran>

Recommended print editions:

- *The Essential Kahlil Gibran* (Modern Library) – includes most works used in this course
- Individual editions of *The Prophet*, *The Broken Wings*, *Jesus*, *The Son of Man*

Available via Amazon or major booksellers by searching the exact titles above. Weekly reading averages 40–60 pages. Read slowly, reread freely, and allow space for silence and dialogue.

Week 1 – Roots: Lebanon, Loss, and the Birth of a Voice

Primary Reading:

- Spirits Rebellious: “Madja the Daughter of the Poor,” “The Cry of the Graves”

Supplementary Reading:

- Robin Waterfield, Prophet, Chapters 1–2

Discussion:

- How does injustice function as a spiritual catalyst?
- What early signs of the prophetic voice appear?
- Where do compassion and anger intersect?

Week 2 – Exile, Immigration, and Rebellion

Primary Reading:

- Spirits Rebellious: “Khalil the Heretic,” “Yuhanna the Mad”

Supplementary Reading:

- Waterfield, Prophet, Chapters 3–4

Discussion:

- When is rebellion morally necessary?
- How does exile sharpen identity?
- What authority structures are being challenged?

Week 3 – Love and Constraint

Primary Reading:

- The Broken Wings (entire book)

Supplementary Reading:

- Beloved Prophet: Letters dated 1910–1913 (pp. 39–82)

Discussion:

- Is this a love story or social critique?
- How does love awaken suffering?
- What is sacrificed in the name of tradition?

Week 4 – The Mask of the Madman

Primary Reading:

- The Madman (entire book)

Supplementary Reading:

- Waterfield, Prophet, Chapter 6

Discussion:

- Why does truth wear masks?
- Which parable lingered longest?
- How does irony function spiritually?

Week 5 – The Moral Vision Clarifies

Primary Reading:

- The Forerunner (entire book)

Supplementary Reading:

- Beloved Prophet: Letters on art and vocation (pp. 120–150)

Discussion:

- What values are non-negotiable here?
- How does Gibran define freedom?
- Where do you sense growing restraint?

Week 6 – Aphorism, Silence, and Paradox

Primary Reading:

- Sand and Foam (entire book)

Supplementary Reading:

- Waterfield, Prophet, Chapter 9

Discussion:

- Which aphorism felt personal?
- Why embrace contradiction?
- How does silence teach?

Week 7 – The Prophet Appears (Part I)

Primary Reading:

- The Prophet: “The Coming of the Ship” through “Houses”

Supplementary Reading:

- Waterfield, Prophet, Chapter 10

Discussion:

- Why must Almustafa leave to teach?
- Which teaching feels most alive today?
- How does beauty replace command?

Week 8 – The Prophet Departs (Part II)

Primary Reading:

- The Prophet: “Clothes” through “The Farewell”

Supplementary Reading:

- Short critical reflections on The Prophet

Discussion:

- How is pain redefined?
- What vision of death is offered?
- Why has this book endured?

Week 9 – The Many Faces of Christ

Primary Reading:

- Jesus, The Son of Man: Preface and first half

Supplementary Reading:

- Waterfield, Prophet, Chapter 11

Discussion:

- Why many voices?
- Which testimony felt most human?
- How is holiness portrayed?

Week 10 – Vision Beyond Doctrine

Primary Reading:

- Jesus, The Son of Man: second half

Supplementary:

- Viewing Gibran's drawings and paintings

Discussion:

- How do image and word interact?
- Why is embodiment central?
- What is sacred here?

Week 11 – Return and Completion

Primary Reading:

- The Garden of the Prophet (entire book)

Supplementary Reading:

- Waterfield, Prophet, Chapter 12

Discussion:

- How has Almustafa changed?
- Is wisdom quieter now?
- What feels unfinished?

Week 12 – Legacy and Integration

Primary Reading:

- Beloved Prophet: Letters from 1928–1931 (pp. 200–220)
- Reread: “The Farewell” from *The Prophet*

Supplementary Reading:

- Essays on Gibran’s reception in the Middle East and West

Discussion:

- Why is Gibran both loved and criticized?
- What work or idea stays with you?
- How might you live what you’ve read?