

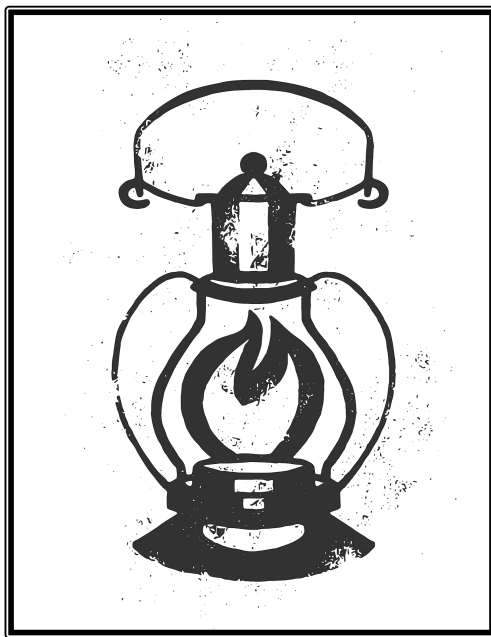
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WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

# *Bible Reading Plan*

2019 - 2022

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"Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."

- 109:105

## WPC'S BIBLE READING PLAN, 2019-2022

This Bible reading plan will guide you to leading your whole family, including children, to read - at a minimum - the entire Old Testament in four years, and the New Testament in two. It is designed with families in mind, although anyone can participate.

### READING THE SCRIPTURES

Reading the Scriptures is one of the best ways to know the Scriptures, to remember the Gospel, and to be learn to observe all that Christ commanded (Matt. 28:20). The Scriptures illuminate our path through life (Ps. 119:105), and as the very Word of God, have a primary role in our teaching, reproof, correction, and training in righteousness, so that we are equipped for every good work (2 Tim. 3:16). Most importantly, they are a witness to the Lord Jesus Christ (Lk. 24:27, Jn. 5:39). Eternal life is found in Him, and Christ is found through His word (1 Pet. 1:10-11).

All that being said... the Bible is a very large book! It's really a library of 66 different books, from different ages, languages, and people. Reading it and understanding it can be a challenge (2 Peter 3:16).

So it becomes necessary to approach our Bible reading in a thoughtful and systematic manner, remembering that *all* Scripture is breathed out by God (2 Tim. 3:16)... thus, we want to read *all* the Scriptures in a consistent manner.

### THE HEART FOR FAMILY WORSHIP

We consider our covenant children to be a part of God's people, and they have every right to hear the Word of God (Josh. 8:34-35). So we want to make sure that we read in a manner that is meaningful to them. The "Family Plan" is the core of this Bible reading plan. Of course, you don't need to have a family to read it, it's simply the basis on which everything is built. It's designed to move at a slow enough pace that even children can listen and take part. You will read through the entire Old Testament once in 4 years, and the New Testament once every 2 years. This means you'll read about 1 chapter every day.

Readings are not assigned by day, but by month, in assigned "reading blocks." Each block consists of a portion of a book, a full book, or a combination of several smaller books. Reading blocks are between 22 and 40 chapters, with an average of around 30. This allows you to double up, move at your own pace, and take time for questions.

## THE PSALMS

The Psalms are not included in the readings. They are designed to be read when time allows, as an entrance to prayer. Ideally, that would be every day, but at minimum, you have 4 years to read an extra 150 chapters. Some Psalms are very short and others are too long for one sitting with children, so we have included a page of combinations and divisions so that you have a sense of reasonable length and pace.

## ADVANCED READERS

The Advanced Readers Plan is suggested for adults' private reading, as a compliment to the family plan. By combining the two together, you will read through the OT once every two years, and the NT annually. Whenever possible, OT Family readings are paired with NT Advanced readings, so you'll be moving through both testaments. Because there is simply so much more OT than NT (929 chapters of the OT, 260 of the new), sometimes both the family and the advanced readers plans will read from the OT.

## JUNIOR READERS

We have also included a parallel plan for younger readers, again designed to work with the family plan. Recognizing that younger readers may not be able to keep up, we have culled down the Advanced Readers plan to more manageable sized bits, attempting to give a sample of whole books and highlight better known stories and passages. The junior readers' selections are about 10 chapters every month. This means that adults and children alike will be able to read the same books, while junior readers can move at a more appropriate pace.

## READING AS A COMMUNITY.

We tend to have a very individualistic approach to our spiritual lives, but you'll see in the Scriptures that nations and churches are addressed far more often than individuals. So we would like to encourage WPC to read through the Bible together, as a community. It makes for a wonderful way for us to speak to one another with encouragement and for mutual edification, and gives us a four year project to work on together.

## THE ORDER OF THE READINGS

The family plan alternates between the Old Testament and the New. The books of the OT generally follow their order in the English Bible. The New Testament features a Gospel, followed by the books most associated with that Gospel. So Matthew's Gospel, written with a Jewish audience in mind, is followed by the most Hebraic books of the NT, Hebrews and James. Mark's Gospel, written under Peter's authority, is followed by Peter's two letters and Jude. Luke travelled with Paul, so his Gospel precedes Paul's letters, and finally, John's writings are grouped together.

The Advanced readers plan has less order; it's designed to make sure that the reading of each book is spread out.

## DOESN'T THIS TAKE A LONG TIME?

Like a lot of things in life, doing something well can take a long time to complete, but you'll find it worthwhile to move at a pace with which nearly everyone can follow. There are options to move faster if you like, but one of the problems of "read the Bible in a year" is that once you miss a day, you're hopelessly behind, especially with younger children. People think about where they want to be a year from now, viewing reading the Scriptures as a race to be won. It's not a race, it's a privilege and a discipline. So let's slow down to a reasonable pace, and meditate on the Scriptures as we go. A slow and forgiving schedule ensures that everyone can participate. If you're an advanced reader, go ahead and read from the advanced plan.

It might seem like a slow pace, but just ask yourself: how many times have your children heard the entire Bible read? If you only ever did the family plan, and you started when they're 2, by the time they're 18, they'll have heard the Old Testament 4 times, the NT 8 times, and the Psalms upwards of 30 times. That's more than many adults.

## SOME HELPFUL TIPS

*Meaningful reading is key.* It's far better to read one chapter with time for questions and understanding than to drill through four chapters to be able to check it off.

*You can't make up for lost time.* Short consistency is better than long make-up sessions.

*Make family worship a joy.* Snuggle with your kids when you read. Let them interrupt with questions. Follow the rabbit trails. Let them take turns reading. Ask questions of

them. Help them feel loved. If you make a positive association between your love and family worship, they are far more likely to grow up knowing and believing that God the Father loves them too.

*If you get behind*, don't try and go back. Go through the reading block of the month, and if you don't finish, start the new block the next month. Some reading blocks are short, so you can go back and finish what was incomplete.

*Study Bibles can be a big help*: Study Bibles have a commentary built right in, to help you understand what you're reading. While it's always worthwhile to struggle with the text on your own a bit, many portions of Scripture can be hard to follow... the major prophets are notoriously difficult. The Reformation Study Bible is a wonderful Study Bible. The *Family Worship Bible Guide*, published by Reformation Heritage Books, offers a summary of every chapter in the Bible. We recommend both these resources. Other commentaries, such as Matthew Henry's famous commentary on the whole Bible, are available online for free.

*The kids might get bored*: Even adults struggle with the prophets and the law. The act of pushing through and reading the text will push *you* through to greater understanding. Remember, worthwhile endeavors are often hard won!

*Pray what you are reading*: The Psalms are especially helpful in leading you into prayer.

*Live what you are reading*: Look for opportunities to live out what you are reading, and to show your children how you're living it out as well.

*Expect great things*: This is God's Word you are reading! God has spoken! Marvel at that! Enjoy worship together as a family and as a community!

*"Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. 5 You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. 6 And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. 7 You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. 8 You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. 9 You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.*

-Deut. 6:4-9

<b>2019</b>	<b>Family Plan</b>	<b>Advanced Readers</b>
January	Genesis 1-25	Isaiah 1-33
February	Matthew	Isaiah 34-66
March	Genesis 26-50	2 Corinthians - Colossians
April	Hebrews, James	Jeremiah 1-33
May	Exodus	1 Thessalonians – Philemon
June	Mark, 1&2 Peter, Jude	Jeremiah 34-52, Lamentations
July	Leviticus	John, 1-3 John
August	Luke	Ezekiel 1-24
September	Numbers	Revelation
October	Acts	Ezekiel 25-48
November	Deuteronomy	Matthew
December	Romans, 1 Corinthians	Daniel, Hosea

*“For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.”*  
*– Heb.4:12*

<b>2020</b>		
January	Joshua	Hebrews, James
February	Judges, Ruth	Joel - Nahum
March	2 Corinthians - Colossians	Mark, 1&2 Peter, Jude
April	1 Samuel	Habakkuk - Malachi
May	1 Thessalonians - Philemon	Job
June	2 Samuel	Luke
July	John, 1-3 John	Proverbs
August	1 Kings	Acts
September	Revelation	Ecclesiastes, Song of Sol.
October	2 Kings	Romans, 1 Corinthians
November	Isaiah 1-33	1 Chronicles
December	Isaiah 34-66	2 Chronicles

*“All Scripture is breathed out by God...” -2 Tim. 3:16*

2021	Family Plan	Advanced Readers
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January	Matthew	Genesis 1-25
February	Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther	2 Corinthians - Colossians
March	Hebrews, James	Genesis 26-50
April	Job	Exodus
May	Mark, 1&2 Peter, Jude	Leviticus
June	Proverbs	1 Thessalonians - Philemon
July	Luke	Numbers
August	Ecclesiastes, Song of Sol.	John, 1-3 John
September	Acts	Deuteronomy
October	Jeremiah 1-33	Revelation
November	Romans, 1 Corinthians	Joshua
December	Jeremiah 34-52, Lamentations	Advent and Christmas

*The grass withers, and the flower falls, but the word of the Lord remains forever.” – 1 Pet. 1:23*

## 2022

January	2 Corinthians - Colossians	Judges, Ruth
February	Ezekiel 1-24	Matthew
March	1 Thessalonians - Philemon	1 Samuel
April	Ezekiel 25-48	2 Samuel
May	John, 1-3 John	Hebrews, James
June	Daniel, Hosea	1 Kings
July	Revelation	Mark, 1&2 Peter, Jude
August	Joel - Nahum	2 Kings
September	Habakkuk - Malachi	Luke
October	1 Chronicles	Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther
November	2 Chronicles	Acts
December	Advent / Christmas	Romans, 1 Corinthians

*“... if He calls you, say, ‘Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.’” -1 Sam. 3:9*

## Psalms Readings

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Smaller Psalms are combined, and longer ones divided, making readings into reasonable lengths for busy families.

1-2	35	65
3-4	36	66-67
5	37	68
6	38	69
7	39	70
8	40	71
9	41	72
10	42	73
11-12	43	74
13-14	44	75
15-16	45	76
17	46	77
18	47	78:1-39
19	48	78:40-72
20	49	79
21	50	80
22	51	81
23	52	82
24	53-54	83
25	55	84
26	56	85
27	57	86
28	58	87
29	59	88
30	60	89
31	61	90
32	62	91
33	63	92-93
34	64	94



95	116-117	133-134
96	118	135
97	119:1-16	136
98	119:17-40	137
99	119:41-64	138
100-101	119:65-88	139
102	119:89-104	140
103	119:105-128	141
104	119:129-152	142
105	119:153-176	143
106	120-121	144
107	122-123	145
108	124-125	146
109	126-127	147
110-111	128-129	148
112-113	130-131	149-150
114-115	132	

## Junior Readers

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An abbreviated version of the “Advanced Readers” plan for younger readers. Selections are from the same books as the Advanced Readers plan.

### 2019

January	Isaiah 6-10, 24-26
February	Isaiah 41-43, 52-53, 58-60
March	2 Corinthians 4, 9; Philippians, Colossians
April	Jeremiah 1, 18-20, 30-33
May	1 Thessalonians & 1 Timothy
June	Jeremiah 34-39, 45, 46, 52
July	John 1-10
August	Ezekiel 1-4, 8-10, 12, 24
September	Revelation 1-5, 20-22
October	Ezekiel 25, 33-35, 40, 43, 47, 48
November	Matthew 2-7, 25-28
December	Daniel 1-10

### 2020

January	Heb. 1-7; James 1-2
February	Joel 1-2; Amos 9; Obadiah; Jonah; Micah 5, Nahum 1
March	Mark 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7; 1st Peter
April	Habakkuk 1-2; Zephaniah 1, 3; Haggai; Zechariah 9, 11, 12; Malachi 3, 4
May	Job 1-3, 35-42
June	Luke 1-5, 19-24
July	Proverbs 1-10
August	Acts 1-4, 6-8, 9, 11-12
September	Ecclesiastes 1-3:8, 8-12; Song of Solomon 1-2
October	Romans 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 8; 1st Corinthians 1, 2, 3, 5, 9
November	1st Chronicles 11-13, 15-17, 21-22, 28-29
December	2nd Chronicles 1, 3, 6, 7, 10, 15, 18, 22:10-24, 28-29, 35

## 2021

January	Genesis 1-3, 8-9, 11, 12, 17, 21-22,
February	2nd Corinthians 2, 3; Galatians 3, 5, Ephesians 2, 4; Philippians 2, 3; Colossians 1, 3
March	Genesis 26-28, 32, 35, 37, 39, 41, 47, 49, 50
April	Exodus 1-7, 11, 12, 20
May	Leviticus 1, 6, 8, 11, 16, 17, 18, 23, 26, 27
June	1st Thessalonians 2, 5; 2nd Thessalonians 1, 2; 1st Timothy 1, 6; 2 Timothy 2, 3; Titus 1, 2; Philemon
July	Numbers 9, 12-14, 16-17, 20, 25, 31
August	John 11, 13, 17-21; 1 John 4; 2nd John; 3rd John
September	Deuteronomy 4-6, 9, 11-13, 17, 18, 30, 34
October	Revelation 1-5, 18-22
November	Joshua 1-3, 5-8, 22-24
December	Christmas and Advent

## 2022

January	Judges 1-3, 6, 7-9; Ruth
February	Matthew 7, 9, 10, 12, 13, 16, 17-19, 21, 22
March	1st Samuel 1-4, 8-10, 15-17
April	2nd Samuel 1-2, 5-7, 11-12, 15-18
May	Hebrews 8-13; James 3-5
June	1st Kings 1-3, 6-8, 11, 12, 17, 18, 21
July	Mark 9-11, 14-16; 2nd Peter 1; Jude
August	2nd Kings 2, 4, 5, 18-23, 25
September	Luke 13-15, 18-24
October	Ezra 1, 3, 7; Nehemiah 1, 2, 3; Esther 1-4
November	Acts 13, 15-19, 21, 22, 27, 28
December	Romans 9, 11, 12, 13, 14; 1st Corinthians 11-15

## Chapters per Reading Block

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Genesis 1-25 (25)  
Genesis 26-50 (25)  
Exodus (40)  
Leviticus (27)  
Numbers (36)  
Deuteronomy (34)  
Joshua (24)  
Judges, Ruth (25)  
1 Samuel (31)  
2 Samuel (24)  
1 Kings (22)  
2 Kings (25)  
1 Chronicles (29)  
2 Chronicles (36)  
Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther (33)  
Job (42)  
Proverbs (31)  
Ecclesiastes, Song of Sol. (20)  
Isaiah 1-33 (33)

Isaiah 34-66 (33)  
Jeremiah 1-33 (33)  
Jeremiah 34-52, Lam. (24)  
Ezekiel 1-24 (24)  
Ezekiel 25-48 (24)  
Daniel, Hosea (26)  
Joel – Nahum (27)  
Habakkuk – Malachi (26)  
Matthew (28)  
Hebrews, James (18)  
Mark, 1&2 Peter, Jude (25)  
Luke (24)  
Acts (28)  
Romans, 1 Corinthians (32)  
2 Cor. - Col. (33)  
1Thes. - Philemon (22)  
John, 1-3 John (28)  
Revelation (22)

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