

Bible reading plans

An Introduction to the Bible

Time needed: Four weeks

If you're new to the Bible, then this is a great place to begin! This four-week reading plan will take you through some basics of the Christian message, showing you who God is, what he has done for you, and how he wants you to respond.

The Old Testament (7 days)

The Old Testament shows us how God carefully prepared for the coming of Jesus.

- Genesis 1–2** *Creation: how God created everything perfectly*
- Genesis 3** *Sin: human disobedience and its consequences*
- Genesis 12:1–9; 15:1–6** *Faith: God puts people back into relationship with him through our faith*
- Exodus 20:1–20** *The Ten Commandments: instructions for godly living*
- Exodus 32:1–34:8** *Knowing God: Moses discovers what God is really like*
- Psalms 23** *The God who cares: King David's experience of God's provision*

The Gospels (7 days)

The four Gospels tell us about the coming, ministry, death, and resurrection of Jesus, God's promised Savior

- Luke 2** *The Savior's arrival: Jesus' birth and early years*
- Matthew 3:1–4:11** *Baptism and beginnings: Jesus obeys his Father and overcomes the devil*
- John 1:35–51** *Disciples: Jesus calls his first followers*
- Matthew 5–7** *A new way of living: The Sermon on the Mount, the heart of Jesus' teaching*
- Matthew 8:1–17; 11:1–6** *Miracles: a sign that God's Kingdom is breaking into this world through Jesus*
- Mark 14:1–52** *The time has come: preparations for Jesus' death*
- Mark 14:53–16:20** *Defeat and victory: Jesus is tried and crucified, but rises again*



The First Christians (7 days)

The book of Acts shows us how the church was born and how the first Christians lived and witnessed.

- **Acts 1:1-11; 2:1-21** *A new season: Jesus leaves, but the Holy Spirit comes*
- **Acts 2:42-47; 4:32-37; 5:12-16** *A new way of living: life in the early church*
- **Acts 5:17-42; 7:54-8:3** *Opposition: Not everyone is happy with the message of the gospel*
- **Acts 9:1-31** *New beginnings: the conversion of Saul (who becomes the apostle Paul)*
- **Acts 10** *A gospel for everyone: Peter sees that Christianity is for all peoples and nations*
- **Acts 15:1-35** *A gospel of grace: The church agrees that we are saved by Jesus' grace alone and not by what we do*
- **Acts 27-28** *The unstoppable gospel: no matter what happens, the gospel's power cannot be stopped*

New Testament letters (7 days)

The letters, written by apostles or those closely associated with them, show Christians what they should believe and how they should live.

- **Romans 3:21-4:8** *The foundation of faith: Faith, not works, is what makes us right with God and keeps us in relationship with him*
- **Romans 8:1-39** *Conquered and conquering: the blessing of living life in the power of the Holy Spirit*
- **1 Corinthians 13:1-13; 1 John 3:11-20** *The power of love: Christ's love changes the way we relate to others*
- **Galatians 5:1-26** *Free and fruitful: Christ has freed us to bear good fruit for him*
- **Ephesians 1:15-23; 4:1-16** *The body of Christ: the importance of the church*
- **1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:11** *He's coming again! Living in light of Christ's promised return*
- **Revelation 21:1-8; 22:1-5** *Hope for the future: the assurance that we will be with God forever*

