

Finish the Bible in just 15 minutes a day!

The One Year Bible Reading Tool Kit

Includes 13 Custom Bible Reading Plans



By John Arnold

Letter from the author

Do you want to read the entire Bible? Have you tried and failed?

I did – over and over again. I would start all fired up usually at the beginning of a New Year. I was the world's best reader for about two or three weeks. Genesis and Exodus were awesome -- lots of action and stories to follow. But Numbers and Leviticus, Uuugh! Slogging through them can be brutally hard. Does this sound familiar?

This story is so common that I have heard Leviticus described as the boneyard of bible reading. But, I promise you, you can get through it with the right plan.

That was my problem, I didn't have a reading schedule or any strategy for maintaining a daily discipline. Now you get to learn from my mistakes. You've got everything you need in this concise tool kit.

Your tool kit includes links to thirteen tried and true daily bible reading plans. I've even included my own personal plan developed for The Practical Disciple. You can print most of the plans as a PDF's to mark and keep in your bible.

Your kit also includes five simple strategic tips you can apply to avoid my mistakes. That means you have a rock-solid daily reading strategy from day one.

I know you can do this because I've used these tips to read everyday without fail for the last thirty-six years.

Blessings to you as you make this the year you read the Bible,

John Arnold,
The Practical Disciple



Strategic Tips

'No one plans to fail, they just fail to plan'

My turning point in bible reading was the day I picked up the book, 'How to read the Bible for Yourself' by Tim LeHaye. He gave me two critical pieces I was missing: a sound reading plan and the knowledge that I could learn anything if I just gave it fifteen minutes a day.

Since that time, I've read the Bible many times and have discovered a few tips of my own. Let's start by getting the most common mistakes out of your way.

Mistake #1 – Failing to have a designated reading time

If you decide to just read in your spare time (who has that?), then most likely other priorities will crowd out time with God.

Solution #1 – Set a specific reading time AND backup plan.

People with a set time for reading are five times more likely to be reading after thirty days. Select a specific time, for example, "I will read each morning before the kids get up." or "I will read during my lunch break."

The one plan that almost no one thinks to have, but will save their reading is a backup plan. You need a backup plan for surprises in your schedule, for example, if you happen to oversleep one morning. You also need a backup plan for weekends or travel times when your schedule is out of its norm. These are events that you know are going to happen, so be prepared. Your backup plan may be as simple as, "If I miss my reading in the morning, I will read at lunch before I eat."

Mistake #2 – Trying to read cover to cover

You can read the Bible cover to cover, but if you're new bible reader odds are you won't establish a solid enough daily practice to stay the course before you hit difficult books. (Remember the boneyard of Leviticus?) So, for that reason, avoid reading cover to cover your first time through.

The Bible is actually a collection of many books. Think of it as a mini-library. Someone once said that trying to read the Bible cover to cover is like a new reader entering a library and just reading all of the books in whatever order they appear on the shelf.

Solution #2 – Follow a daily reading plan

Many bible reading plans are strategically designed to help break up difficult portions. I personally found having a reading plan more effective than reading cover to cover as a beginning bible reader. Later on reading cover to cover was manageable and meaningful, but only after I had greater familiarity with the books of the Bible. You have thirteen proven reading plans included in this tool kit from which to choose. Select one that fits your preferences and stick with it.

Mistake #3 – Planning on catching up

Despite your best laid plans, odds are you are going to miss some days of reading. The beginning of the end for you will happen the moment you start thinking, “I’ll just catch up tomorrow.” When that thinking creeps in, the readings start stacking up until you are so far behind that catching up becomes seemingly impossible.

Solution #3 – Resume reading as if you never stopped

The absolute best thing you can do when you get behind is to pick up where you left off and just start reading again. If you feel like reading a few extra chapters at some point to catch up, that’s great. However, don’t let those chapters keep you from moving right now. What’s most important isn’t catching up. It’s establishing a habit of daily reading. Let me repeat that -- **What’s most important isn’t catching up. It’s establishing a habit of daily reading.** Establish a reading habit and you’ll read the Bible dozens of times.

Mistake #4 – Failure to persevere

Let’s face it, Sometimes you are tired and don’t want to read. Sometimes you are bored or confused by the Bible. But, as someone who has read through the Bible multiple times now, I just want to say this -- **Persevere. It is worth the effort.** My daily reading which was once a chore is now something I can’t imagine not doing. I love and look forward to it.



Solution #4 – Commit

Commitment means deciding to do whatever success takes. Commitment means never making an exception. I recall in college sitting out in my dorm hallway stretching to stay awake while reading my bible. I was in the hall because I came in late and didn’t want to disturb my roommate who was already asleep. I’m glad now that I gave that extra bit of effort so that reading everyday became a norm.

You can read through the Bible as many times as you want. It just takes commitment, but with a good plan and even a couple of these strategies commitment will be a whole lot easier to keep.

Mistake #5 – Failure to pray

Obvious Solution #5 -- Pray

Perhaps, it should go without saying, but reading scripture is a holy task. This isn’t a text book or a novel. The Word of God should be approached with reverence and expectation, for God will speak through it to you repeatedly if your heart is open and waiting. Before you read ask God to illuminate your mind. Pray for understanding. Ask God to fill your heart with a desire for His Word. When you finish reading give thanks for any insights, comfort, encouragement or other blessings you receive.

Reading Plans

The Practical Disciple Bible In One Year Plan

This plan is designed to maintain your interest. You read from one particular book each day until you complete it and then move on to another. The book selections alternate between Old and New Testament selections primarily. More difficult to read books are postponed until you establish a solid habit of daily reading.

Download: [PDF](#)

Bible Eater

This plan is inspired by the words, “Man does not live by bread alone but by every word that comes from the mouth of God” (Deuteronomy 8:3; Matthew 4:4). In it, you read two to three Old Testament chapters a day with four days off per month, alongside, one chapter of New Testament with four days off per month.

Download: [PDF](#)

The ESV (English Standard Version) Read Through the Bible Plan:

This plan features four daily readings from four lists each day: Psalms and Wisdom Literature, the Pentateuch (the first five books of the Bible), and the History of Israel, Chronicles and the Prophets, and the Gospels and the Epistles.

Download: [PDF](#)

Chronological Bible Reading Plan

Read through events of the Bible in the order that they occur chronologically.

Download: [PDF](#)

The Discipleship Journal Bible Reading Plan

Read from four different places in the scriptures each day. One attractive feature of this plan is that you only read twenty-five readings per month. Free days allow you to not read on Sundays or have opportunities to catch up should you get behind.

Download: [PDF](#)

Straight Through the Bible Reading Plan

For those of you wanting to read cover to cover this is the plan.

Download: [PDF](#)

Reading Plans (cont.)

The following five plans are not downloadable, but can be accessed online.

Back To The Bible One Year Reading Plans

The website, *BackToTheBible.com* has five one year bible reading plans. You cannot print the plans. However, you can look up passages by the month and read them online using 'read now' links. You can access the individual bible reading plans using the links below. For access and to see a description of each plan, [click here](#).

- Chronological
- Historical
- Old and New Testament Together
- Beginning to End
- Blended

The last two plans cover the entire bible, plus repeat sections.

The M'Cheyne Reading Plan:

What you'll complete: the Old Testament Once and The New Testament and Psalms Twice in one year. Robert Murray M'Cheyne was an early 19th century pastor and preacher in Scotland. His well-known scheme for daily Bible reading includes about four chapters of scripture chosen from a variety of books each day.

Download: [PDF](#)

Professor Grant Horner's Bible Reading System:

What you'll complete: the Gospels four times, the Pentateuch twice, Paul's letters four to five times, the Old Testament wisdom literature six times, the Psalms at least twice, Proverbs and Acts a dozen times, and the Old Testament history and prophetic books about one and a half times. This intensive plan requires reading ten chapters per day. To learn more about this plan and its benefits click here.

Download: [PDF](#)

In Conclusion

You have a wonderful opportunity to grow closer to God and for God to speak to you through His amazing word. Take that opportunity and do it intelligently. Select a daily reading plan and follow the five simple strategies in this tool kit. Before you close this book, choose what you will do with this opportunity. Create your reading plan by printing out this page and filling in the blanks below. Post your plan prominently to remind and trigger you to read each day. If I can be of any assistance please contact me personally at john@thepracticaldisciple.com.

Lastly, if you would like to take your bible reading a step further, consider journaling each day. Download a free bible journaling cheat sheet from The Practical Disciple by clicking [here](#). This proven four step plan will transform your reading into application and spiritual growth.

May God's riches blessings be with you as you explore His Holy Word.

John Arnold

John Arnold
The Practical Disciple

My Bible Reading Plan

Date: _____

The daily bible reading plan that I am going to follow is: _____

My set reading time will be: _____

My set reading place will be: _____

If for some reason that doesn't work my back up plan is: _____

