



Chapter 4: Reading Plan

Whether opting for a personal study plan or for a small group or church-wide application, it begins with adopting a Scripture reading plan.

Believers need to immerse themselves in the **WHOLE** Word of God. In particular the truth is that the New Testament can never be fully understood without the foundation of the Old Testament. Jesus Himself used the whole of the Old Testament to explain to His disciples the meaning of everything He revealed in the New.

Then beginning with Moses and with all the prophets, He explained to them the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures.

— Luke 24:27

In fact, labeling the two parts "Old" and "New" is a misnomer. If we had our way, we'd rename the Old Testament to "The Beginning", the New Testament to "The Middle", and include a blank page at the end titled "The End". It's really all one seamless, integrated whole.

The Basic Purpose of the Reading Plan

*"Establish Your word to Your servant,
As that which produces reverence for You."*

— Psalm 119:38

The basic purpose of the "Walk with the Word Reading Plan" is to provide a structure by which participants can read through the Bible entirely every 3.3 years. The "Walk with the Word Reading Plan" covers approximately 11 chapters per week in the Old Testament (15 chapters a week through the Book of Psalms) and an average of 3-4 chapters a week in the New Testament.

The reading is purposely kept to no more than about 2 chapters a day at the most to not only make the volume of reading manageable, but to encourage each Believer in the pursuit of hearing God's voice by being able to concentrate on achieving quality over quantity. Although the reading plan cycles through the entire Bible, this is not a "race" to read the whole Bible but an exercise to read the whole Bible meaningfully.

Should Walk with the Word be adopted by your local church and the reading schedule coordinated with other ministries, by reading the assigned chapters on one's own during the week, the believer will already understand the context for the message from Sunday morning sermons which may be on the same plan. Parents will also be able to discuss Sunday School lessons with their children because the Sunday school ministry may also be following the same plan. Additionally, assisted learning for adults may be available through an Adult Sunday School and through small group Bible studies that meet in homes during the week.

The schedule for 20this year and beyond is available on the web site by clicking on the appropriate year.

The Ultimate Purpose of the Reading Plan

*"I rise before dawn and cry for help;
I wait for Your words.
My eyes anticipate the night watches,
That I may meditate on Your word."
—Psalm 119:147-148*

The ultimate purpose of the Walk with the Word Reading Plan is not just to provide a structure for "getting through" God's Word every 3.3 years. As stated earlier, knowledge of God's Word is important and foundational, but knowledge alone does not necessarily change the heart.

The ultimate purpose of reading through God's Word is to change the heart, which in turn changes the mind, which in turn changes behavior, lifestyle and Christian walk, which in turn is destined to change relationships, the end goal being love:

"But the goal of our instruction is love from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith"
—1 Timothy 1:5

In order to fulfill the ultimate purpose of the Bible study plan, believers are encouraged to meditate on God's Word and to approach God's Word with the understanding that God speaks to the heart through His Word. We at Walk with the Word believe that the primary means by which God speaks to believers today is not through prophets or teachers or pastors, or even through "impressions" from the Holy Spirit in prayer, but through His Word. We believe every follower of Jesus Christ who approaches God's Word with a sincere heart is capable of hearing God's "voice," as it were, through His Word.

*"Remember the word to Your servant,
In which You have made me hope.
This is my comfort in my affliction,
That Your word has revived me."*
—Psalm 119:49-50

One of the best ways for individual believers to get in touch with God through His Word, we believe, is by journaling. And the best way to shepherd the flock as a whole is to implement coordinated Bible study in as many local ministries as possible.

Master Reading Plan

Listed below is the master reading plan which goes through the entire Bible every 156 weeks. (3.3 years.) Although it is downloadable by year, this may be useful for implementing a reading schedule for yourself or an organization. It follows a loose chronological order except in the New Testament where the Gospels are purposely separated and covers an average of 11 chapters a week through the

Old Testament (15 through the Psalms) and 7 chapters a week through the New Testament. The following table is organized in "week" order but also shows the current Walk with the Word schedule:

<i>Old Testament</i>			<i>New Testament</i>		
<u>Date</u>	<u>Week #</u>	<u>Reading</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Week #</u>	<u>Reading</u>
9/7/08	1	Genesis 1-11	7/1/07	95	Luke 1-6
9/14/08	2	Genesis 12-17	7/8/07	96	Luke 7-12
9/21/08	3	Genesis 18-26	7/14/07	97	Luke 13-18
9/28/08	4	Genesis 27-35	7/22/07	98	Luke 19-24
10/5/08	5	Genesis 36-41	7/29/07	99	Acts 1-7
10/12/08	6	Genesis 42-50	8/5/07	100	Acts 8-12
10/19/08	7	Job 1-7	8/12/07	101	Acts 13-20
10/26/08	8	Job 8-20	8/19/07	102	Acts 21-28
11/2/08	9	Job 21-31	8/26/07	103	James 1-2
11/9/08	10	Job 32-42	9/2/07	104	James 3-5
11/16/08	11	Exodus 1-6	9/9/07	105	Galatians 1-3
11/23/08	12	Exodus 7-12	9/16/07	106	Galatians 4-6
11/30/08	13	Exodus 13-18	9/23/07	107	Mark 1-5
12/7/08	14	Exodus 19-30	9/30/07	108	Mark 6-10
12/14/08	15	Exodus 31-40	10/7/07	109	Mark 11-13
12/21/08	16	Leviticus 1-7	10/14/07	110	Mark 14-16
12/28/08	17	Leviticus 8-17	10/21/07	111	1 Thessalonians 1-2
1/8/06	18	Leviticus 18-27	10/28/07	112	1 Thessalonians 3-5
1/15/06	19	Numbers 1-10:10	11/4/07	113	2 Thessalonians
1/22/06	20	Numbers 10:11-21	11/11/07	114	1 Corinthians 1-6
1/29/06	21	Numbers 22-36	11/18/07	115	1 Corinthians 7-11
2/5/06	22	Deuteronomy 1-11	11/25/07	116	1 Corinthians 12-16
2/12/06	23	Deuteronomy 12-26	12/2/07	117	2 Corinthians 1-7
2/19/06	24	Deuteronomy 27-34	12/9/07	118	2 Corinthians 8-13
2/26/06	25	Joshua 1-12	12/16/07	119	Ephesians 1-3
3/5/06	26	Joshua 13-24	12/23/07	120	Ephesians 4-6
3/12/06	27	Judges 1-8	12/30/07	121	Matthew 1-7
3/19/06	28	Judges 9-16	1/6/08	122	Matthew 8-13:52
3/26/06	29	Judges 17-21	1/13/08	123	Matthew 13:53-18
4/2/06	30	Ruth	1/20/08	124	Matthew 19-25
4/9/06	31	1 Samuel 1-7	1/27/08	125	Matthew 26-28
4/16/06	32	1 Samuel 8-15	2/3/08	126	Hebrews 1-4
4/23/06	33	1 Samuel 16-31	2/10/08	127	Hebrews 5-9
4/30/06	34	2 Samuel 1-6	2/17/08	128	Hebrews 10-13
5/7/06	35	2 Samuel 7-12	2/24/08	129	Romans 1-5
5/14/06	36	2 Samuel 13-24	3/2/08	130	Romans 6-8
5/21/06	37	Psalms 1-14 (Book I)	3/9/08	131	Romans 9-11
5/28/06	38	Psalms 15-28	3/16/08	132	Romans 12-16
6/4/06	39	Psalms 29-41	3/23/08	133	Philippians 1-2
6/11/06	40	1 Kings 1-10	3/30/08	134	Philippians 3-4
6/18/06	41	Proverbs 1-10	4/6/08	135	Colossians 1-2

<i>Old Testament</i>			<i>New Testament</i>		
6/25/06	42	Proverbs 11-21	4/13/08	136	Colossians 3-4
7/2/06	43	Proverbs 22-31	4/20/08	137	1 Timothy 1-3
7/9/06	44	Song of Solomon	4/27/08	138	1 Timothy 4-6
7/16/06	45	Psalms 42-56 (Book II)	5/4/08	139	Titus
7/23/06	46	Psalms 57-72	5/11/08	140	Philemon
7/30/06	47	Ecclesiastes 1-8	5/18/08	141	John 1-4
8/6/06	48	Ecclesiastes 9-12	5/25/08	142	John 5-8
8/13/06	49	1 Kings 11-22	6/1/08	143	John 9-12
8/20/06	50	2 Kings 1-10	6/8/08	144	John 13-17
8/27/06	51	2 Kings 11-14:20 & Joel	6/15/08	145	John 18-21
9/3/06	52	2 Kings 14:21-25 & Jonah	6/22/08	146	1 John
9/10/06	53	2 Kings 14:26-29 & Amos	6/29/08	147	2 John
9/17/06	54	2 Kings 15-17 & Hosea	7/6/08	148	3 John
9/24/06	55	2 Kings 18-19 & Isaiah 1-12	7/13/08	149	Jude
10/1/06	56	Isaiah 13-27	7/20/08	150	1 Peter
10/8/06	57	Isaiah 28-39	7/37/08	151	2 Peter
10/15/06	58	Isaiah 40-48	8/3/08	152	2 Timothy
10/22/06	59	Isaiah 49-57	8/10/08	153	Revelation 1-3
10/29/06	60	Isaiah 58-66	8/17/08	154	Revelation 4-9
11/5/06	61	Micah & Nahum	8/24/08	155	Revelation 10-15
11/12/06	62	2 Kings 20-21, Zeph. & Hab.	8/31/08	156	Revelation 16-22
11/19/06	63	2 Kings 22-25 & Obadiah			
11/26/06	64	Jeremiah 1-12			
12/3/06	65	Jeremiah 13-25			
12/10/06	66	Jeremiah 26-35			
12/17/06	67	Jeremiah 35-45			
12/24/06	68	Jeremiah 46-Lamen.			
12/31/06	69	1 Chronicles 1-9			
1/7/07	70	1 Chronicles 10-19			
1/14/07	71	1 Chronicles 20-29			
1/21/07	72	2 Chronicles 1-9			
1/28/07	73	Psalms 73-89 (Book III)			
2/4/07	74	2 Chronicles 10-20			
2/11/07	75	2 Chronicles 21-32			
2/18/07	76	Psalms 90-100 (Book IV)			
2/25/07	77	Ps. 101-106 & 2 Chr 33-36			
3/4/07	78	Ezekiel 1-12			
3/11/07	79	Ezekiel 13-24			
3/18/07	80	Ezekiel 25-32			
3/25/07	81	Ezekiel 33-39			
4/1/07	82	Ezekiel 40-48			
4/8/07	83	Daniel 1-6			
4/15/07	84	Daniel 7-12			

		<i>Old Testament</i>	<i>New Testament</i>
4/22/07	85	Ezra 1-4 & Haggai	
4/29/07	86	Zechariah	
5/6/07	87	Ezra 5-10	
5/13/07	88	Nehemiah	
5/20/07	89	Psalms 107-118 (Book V)	
5/27/07	90	Psalms 119	
6/3/07	91	Psalms 120-135	
6/10/07	92	Psalms 136-150	
6/17/07	93	Esther	
6/24/07	94	Malachi	